

2,000 New Observations 2011-2017

by Robert R. Pennington

Before Eternity's Judgment there will be no rationalizations. Some issues need no explanations. For others, no explanation will suffice.

For years I've been forced into silence to survive the third successive ministerial and career betrayal by my closest and best served Christian colleagues. The havoc of each in turn has devastated my family and, along with the exponential increase of modern temptation and deception, provided countless opportunities for the Enemy. Even in my own home I am permitted to "*speak the truth in love*" in so far as I major on the latter to all but the exclusion of the former. During this time writing, research and prayer have been my solace. As for God, He seems disinterested at best. Or perhaps, I have been fruitful, though rather than chosen as fancy table grapes it's the crushing heals of the Juicer for me. There's also the slight possibility I've been selected to become wine (I've certainly whined loud and long enough) and the process of fermentation is at hand.

For one ardently endeavoring to please Christ of whom it is written, "all the promises of God are yes and amen" I sure get a lot of no's.

Reasoning through the unreasonable, whether with God or man, seems as important as it does thankless.

Chess is difficult as a pawn with greater skill and aspiration than bishops.

The difference between reptiles and mammals is the former live to eat while the later eat to live. The difference between folly and wisdom is the former's focus on today and the later's on eternity.

Scripture promises humble souls who spend their days weeping over sin and the lost shall spend eternity enraptured in glory. And vice versa.

I live with the constant dread of time and eternity, running out of one and into the other.

Only a fool clings to atheism in a fox hole. This speaks volumes in regards to the wholesale abandonment of God by mortal men.

Conspiracies abound on Earth. As has been noted, government's funding of the recent financial debacle was simply "borrowing from the wealthy, to bail the wealthy out of the economic collapse the wealthy had produced."

One of Christianity's primary purposes is to cause Each of us to grow weary and uncomfortable enough with worldly comforts that "are passing away" for the "God of all comfort" to comfort us with eternal comfort. Jesus to the church of Laodicea, "Buy from Me gold tried by fire, white garments and eye salve that you might see..."

If you had a family member or friend, culture or generation sailing into danger would you pray for favorable winds or those of change?

We are God's not Gods. The apostrophe makes an eternity of difference.

There's only a single letter's difference between thorns and thrones.

Good is God with an extra "O"h.

Are such scriptural directives as "seek first the kingdom of God" and "take no thought for tomorrow" great liberating truths or slices of pie in the sky wishful thinking? Is standing on Biblical promises "the opiate" or "placebo of the people" or the best way to peace and pleasing God? By doing so some overcame great opposition, yet scripture clarifies that others found life on earth going from bad to worse, as in Hebrew's hall of fame: "But others were tortured, not accepting release, to obtain resurrection to a better life. And others experienced mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed apart, murdered with the sword; they went about in sheepskins and goatskins; they were destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (the world was not worthy of them); they wandered in deserts and mountains and caves and openings in the earth." Like so many of life's greatest questions the answer lies in death. Pursuing the momentary pleasures of worldliness makes one unfit for eternity where those "with the most toys" forever loose. (See GB 7 Great Questions, Rich Man & Lazarus...)

Life requires a certain level of denial. Distancing oneself mentally and emotionally from haunting and debilitating fears of pain and death during the performance of daily duties is healthy and wise. Foolish and perilous to the soul is the abject denial and banishment of such specters until it's too late to learn their vital lessons regarding time and eternity.

Scripture teaches we are immortal souls possessing minds and personalities temporarily alive within deteriorating mortal bodies. Experience teaches the integration and interplay of each components is designed to be so seamless that the quantum virtuality of human existence may largely go unnoticed. Even so, surrounded by life and death, we are each afforded numerous opportunities to detect and contemplate the matrix before our spiritual biochemical program terminates.

Who, in moments of silence, hasn't heard their blood pulsing or felt with boney fingers a heartbeat within their chest of flesh? How many have seen skeletons and detailed cutaways of body parts revealing the delicate intricacies of human anatomy? Modern society is privy to astonishing miracles and marvels of discovery, the likes of which no previous generation had ever glimpsed. Yet, given unprecedented levels of diversion, how quickly such pieces of the puzzle of human existence fade from memory. Nevertheless, our attention to such teachable moments may not only define our conduct during our sojourn on earth, but shape our very eternity.

Remembering our bodies, along with all that we love, are on loan from God is the beginning of wisdom. Next is understanding He demands interest.

The path to hell is filled with those who refuse to remember what ought never be forgotten while refusing to forget what ought not be remembered.

While incumbent upon the faithful to wrestle with God in prayer (See Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Psalms, Jeremiah, Habakuk, Mary, Samaritan woman, Unrighteous judge, Friend at midnight, etc...) one should keep in mind that being Trans-Rational it's unreasonable to assume Omnipotence can lightly be reasoned with.

Some downplay the need to grow in wisdom and expertise in articulating our prayers to more fully know and experience God. Many excuse themselves saying "thoughts are not feelings, what's most important is what we feel in our heart." Others say "feelings are not actions and what's most revealing is what we do." While both are essential however I've learned by experience the scriptural truth that ordering one's thoughts through loving and faithful discipline is indeed an action of the heart. One that orders both our feelings and deeds.

Many modern Christians seem to be of the "Welcome Back Kotter" school of theology. When rightly questioning God in regards to His apparent distance and silence these wrongly refuse instruction by the discipline of His answers. Their manner of doing so ranges from Horshack's annoying antics to Epstein's cultural pride. From the stylings of "Boom Boom" Washington to Barbarino's feigned stuttered ignorance of "Why? Who? What? Where?"

Their's little difference between distraction and destruction.

Most of us hope to row, row, row our boats gently down the stream of Christian life. Often, however, we find fellow travelers refusing to row, rowing in the wrong direction or pounding others with their oars.

Wisdom takes every advantage of technology and worldly wealth, and vice versa. (It also pays attention rather than being so intent on jotting down pithy sayings on an iPhone that it rides its recumbent bike into the back of a parked pickup as I just did. ;-/)

Those willing and able to endure the misery necessarily associated with the ministry of sorrow are as priceless as they are rare. (Ezekiel 9, Malachi 3:16-17, Beatitudes)

James' warning of being tossed to and fro identifies the danger and challenge of mental and emotional stability within those pursuing the silent and distant Omni God.

James' explains the necessity of seeking God "in faith without wavering" lest "as ship tossed to and fro" we "receive nothing from the Lord." While rich with meaning, perhaps the most obvious is that God's intervening hand in human affairs may often seem so natural as to largely go unnoticed.

Many theologians believe there is a practical explanation for Christ's emphatic warning against blaspheming the Holy Spirit. As the conduit of regeneration and all things accompanying salvation, short circuiting His work leaves no remedy for sin. In a same, albeit more subtle manner, believers grieving God's Spirit retard their spiritual growth.

More often than not even those Christians exercising diligence, or what passes for it these days, when seeking hard after God find themselves shut out from the transformative power of His presence. The vast majority of the small minority of those pressing on, truly endeavoring to hear the Spirit's leading, resist the discipline and training essential to having ones ear tuned to heaven's frequency.

Surrounded and taunted by such 1st World opulence, both real and imagined, few today have a taste for the blessedness promised in Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Poverty and mourning, meekness and mercy, spiritual hunger and thirst are hardly on the modern menu of our Christian world view. Few and far between are the pure in heart anxious to be peacemakers and "see God" as Stephen did. The joy we seek is lightyears from that reserved for those persecuted for righteousness.

Is it faith or folly to presume to "inherit the kingdom" and the treasures of heaven while disregarding the weightier, more costly commands of the King?

Let us beware, lest in The Last Battle we find ourselves, like Narnia's dwarfs, beyond both hearing and saving.

Who dares believe scripture's report? Inconceivably Malevolent Ageless Angels, watching and waiting, planning and plotting against mankind for BILLIONS of years. A fallen heavenly host of Lex Luthers with unlimited wherewithal to herd generations of humanity like rats in a deadly maze to further their own diabolical ends. This a species war, were we wrestle to the death for throughout time for eternity "not with flesh and blood..."

To focus myopically on Christ, to the exclusion of Satan, is to purport to possess the Cure without understanding the Disease.

Authentic Christianity embraces not only Christ's cross but our own, a Via DeLa Rosa filled with many tears over sin and the lost.

On the whole, First World Christians are hesitant to practice a faith that goes beyond themselves or "my four and no more." When it comes to forgiving others, social action and "remembering prisoners as if imprisoned with them." Few believers in developed nations take serious interest in others, adrift in a culture of Me-ism recently diagnosed as Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD). Doing so reveals a startling ignorance of the spiritual, as well as the practical, application of Biblical truth. The gospel is designed to transform fallen humanity from the inside out by overwriting our spiritual DNA in just such areas as thankfulness and preferring others above ourselves.

I feel like a freedom fighter thrown over a cliff by trusted fellow officers, left dangling by a fraying rope. Bruised and bloodied by the ordeal for years I hang on to my complaining wife and shattered career/ministry with one hand, feeling too weak to hoist myself up by the other. Worse, rather than helping to pull us up, my adult children slowly cut away at the rope, impervious to warnings and signs of the mother of all storms fast approach.

As parents may be negligent, absentee or worse, so too children.

Doting on faithful and loving pets is the purview of both the aging who never had children and those who did, yet find them failing to reciprocate the investment.

Its less fate than choice that determines our performance and therefor the fulfillment of life's roles.

It's challenging to continue doing the right thing with little or no response from men, circumstance or heaven.

Wisdom dictates we distance ourselves from those constantly complaining and/or demanding to be entertained. Such shunning outrageous the foolish, heightening their entitlement and fueling their demands.

Sorrow can be a blessing or a curse. "Godly sorrow brings life" while "worldly sorrow kills." Like rain, grief can wash in like a lamb or a lion. Into each life sorrow must fall but too much, too often leaves hope drenched and the heart dripping. Repeated storms can soak the soul, rendering us too slow and slobby to recognize and defend that which is most important to time and eternity.

There are 24 hours in every day. For most of human history, not to mention much of humanity today, 12 to 16 of those hours are required to stay alive. Long work days coupled with the lack of modern conveniences conspire to steal every hour not spent in fitful sleep. In First World Nations, though the blessings of technology and an 8 hour work day, we are given 8 hours to rest in comfort and an another entire 8 to spend however we wish. Tragically, given unprecedented opportunities for distraction, the overwhelming majority invest little or no time seeking or serving God. Given Christ's warning, "to whom much is given much is required" is it anything less than spiritual suicide to exchange careful thought and planning for eternity for trivial momentary pleasures and pursuits?

A flagrant disregard for eternity is modern man's most damning sin.

When it comes to solid faith and character, today's men are like less substantial than yesterday's women, women than children and children... God help us.

For decades I've preferred the dark, misty, even dreary face of winter over the bright, revealing, hot days of summer; the light of day proving not half as hopeful as I've prayed.

If I'm half right about how incredibly wrong and off page we are regarding the prevailing doctrines God and the requirements of Christianity, why then do so many lay claim to answered prayers. First, most doing so exaggerate, cooking the books to vault the exception above the rule. Second, scripture clarifies that God "makes His sun to shine on the just and the unjust" that the "goodness of God might lead to repentance" not presumption.

Though we do it internally all the time, it does little good to argue with those who are not there, and if they were, would not care.

Hope is borne in the prayer room.

Unanswered prayer is the chief reason for prayerlessness, and to some degree vice versa. When it comes to the fiery trial of preserving prayer in the face of loss, how few today purpose, as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego of old, that regardless of the situation to never bend the knee to doubt and despair, worldliness and sin. "When the Son of Man returns will He find this kind of faith on the earth?"

So much depends on our authentically experiencing God. Faith grows to the degree that our relationship is more than words on a page or worse, simply wishful thinking. If like Paul we could "know that which goes beyond knowledge" we too might say, "forgetting that which lies behind I press forward to the high calling in Christ Jesus" even were we whipped five times within a lash of our lives by God's own chosen people.

I've so often been betrayed and abandoned by my closest ministerial colleagues and Christian friends and family my career, and perhaps ministry, is left in ruinous tatters. With little recourse I've turned to writing, yet the taunt echoes in my souls, "for whom do you write?" My answer, "everyone" or at least anyone who cares to listen. (See GodBlog "Audience of One")

Given my current situation, these are possible scenarios . Either God is happy with me, not happy with me or indifferent. Either the Enemy is happy with me, unhappy with me or indifferent. Either my actions have been wise, foolish or indifferent. Additionally, each of these can be separated into three options, for example God may be very, moderately or slightly happy with me. Furthermore, it's likely at least one parameter from each category is true at once while all may be in flux.

Prevailing prayer may be the means to an end, or it may be both, but it is never just the latter.

Oh God, contend against those who contend against us who contend for You who contend for others.

The movie version of "The Chronicles of Riddick" was full of interesting quotes and spiritual metaphors, including the chief mantra of the Necromancers, "You keep what you kill." Christ's promise to humanity is the polar opposite, namely "you get what you give."

Jesus, as the incarnate Creator and Savior, is clearly the consummate source and authority on eternal life. While every scripture is "God breathed" all other Biblical authors, much less modern orators, by necessity must play accompaniment to the Lord's words given Him by the Father. When scriptural text outside the gospels are cited to support modern doctrines that diverge from the honest handling of Christ's teachings our interpretation is faulty. (See GB articles: Conditional Salvation by Grace, Jesus on Salvation, Living Faith, Ten Virgins, Rich Man and Lazarus, Abortion and The Good Samaritan, Jesus Judges His Seven Churches...)

Restoration of the fulness of all the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit of God are essential if He is to convict we the Church, much less the world of "sin, righteousness and judgment."

On Earth, spiritual warfare's not an imagined or pretend war. Nor is it One sided, as Churchianity supposes, with God winning every battle and Satan already a defeated foe. Such boasts are as spurious as if all of France, Austria, Albania, Belgium,, Belorussia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Guernsey, Italy, Jersey, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Ukrainian and Yugoslavia had claimed military supremacy and autonomy because the Allied invasion had established a beachhead at Normandy. While the Church has made impressive inroads over two millennia, perhaps saving hundreds of millions or more, a far greater number have suffered torturous lives and been lost for eternity. Christ's warnings, such as the broad vs narrow way, Foolish Virgins and finding faith on the earth upon His return, tell tale of sorrow and woe far different than the myriads of prematurely exultant songs and sermons sung today. Yet, all evidence to the contrary, modern Christianity's quick to triumphantly tout success while constantly turning a blind eye to object failure. Third World peoples remain enslaved to war and oppression and mired in poverty and ignorance. First World peoples live lifestyles far exceeding the wildest dreams of the Rich Man in Jesus' story of Lazarus, yet daily grow less thankful obedient. In point of fact, the Serpent's original heavenly and earthly sin of entitlement's coiled as tight as a constrictors, strangling modern society while setting the stage for the tragic fulfillment of the Bible's horrific End Time prophecies. Terrible truth be told, at the moment and for the foreseeable future, so far as humanity's concerned the battle for the soul of mankind is one sided, both ground and air superiority belonging to the "god of this world" whom the New Testament acknowledges as the *"prince and power of the air."*

Such is the cunning of our Adversary that he repeatedly bent scripture's most celebrated warrior-king, poet-prophet to his will. In the case of Bathsheba, Satan lured David, of whom God Himself declared he was "a man after My own heart" to seduce the granddaughter of his greatest counselor Ahithophel, of whom scripture declares his

words were "as wise as though they had come directly from the mouth of God." By doing so he also betrayed Eliam, her father, elsewhere noted as one of David's finest warriors, not to mention Uriah her husband of similar standing. After shameful and failed attempts to cover his adultery by recalling Uriah from the battlefield, getting him drunk and sending him home to sleep with his wife, David resorted to murder. Decades later the prophet Nathan's sentence against such Luciferian entitlement would begin to be fulfilled as David's favored son Absalom, filled with similar sin, rebelled as the first sign the kingdom David spent his lifetime building would be torn in two. Sadly, the king's refusal to be satisfied with multiple wives or marry any virgin in all of Israel proved too much for Ahithophel. Forced for years to face such dishonor to his service and family by non other than "God's anointed" he gained his revenge by counseling Absalom to sleep with all of David's wives on the palace rooftop, perhaps the same vantage point from which David once leered at Bathsheba. When the deposed fleeing king learned of Ahithophel's new allegiance, his prayer that the counselor's wisdom would be frustrated was eventually granted. In the end David's sinful betrayal would lead his embittered friend and once faithful confidant to hang himself in shame and regret. Inconceivably, one of the Bible's most tuned ears was death to the shouts of the Holy Spirit against such needless villainy. Amazingly, scripture reveals that on more than one occasion when failing to be vigilant against our spiritual Foe, its wisest most celebrated military hero sinned more foolishly and greatly than Samson. Tragically, King David's defeats eventually abetted the misery and deaths of tens of thousands he was anointed and enthroned to protect. Tellingly, the true lesson of such passages may have more to say about the nature of our deadly Enemy than even our own.

In spiritual as in earthly warfare, a blind army is no army at all. More a liability than an asset, its soldiers must soon become either captives or casualties.

What is more worth fighting for than the gift of salvation?

Miracles are not magic, but rather glimpses of warfare raging across three heaven throughout time into eternity. As such, their disappearance, or even diminishment, holds as dire consequences as soldiers without ammo.

Suffocating coils of the great Serpent constrict so tightly about mankind, and much of the modern church, as to create a light headed sense of peace and even euphoria prior to being consumed and digested.

Upon close examination, the lifestyles and even prayers (or lack of them) of modern Christians reveal most 1st World "believers" are practical agnostics. A leading reason Churchianity invests so little effort communing with Omnity or even telling God how they feel is fear it will do little good in time and may make things worse in eternity. (See GB: Issues with God series, Modern Psalms: Silence and Distance of God)

He that loves much is forgiven much, or at least that's how it works for puppies and children.

While necessary, it's small comfort to be right when those you love and care for continually chose to be wrong.

It's difficult when the only success at hand seems to be contemplating and chronicling the depths of Churchianity's and humanity's foibles and failures.

In a recent episode of "Criminal Minds" a psychopathic serial killer died violently in a car crash while fleeing the FBI. Decapitated, the agents recovered a digital recorder playing insane yet orchestrated notes from the predator's mind. For this, an officer judged the offender both deranged and delusional. Certainly so, yet who among fallen humanity fails to display traits of both? The challenge, then, becomes finding and taking the best path to sanity while encouraging and directing others along the way.

Tragically, in the face of unprecedented global temptation and deception, authentic and diligent prayer is swiftly becoming a lost art form. Prevailing prayer all the more so. Perhaps one or two in a thousand Christians are committed to engaging in regular and lengthy prayer meetings. Of these, particularly the charismatic variety, participants feel good about articulating their position and persuading those within earshot to agree. Yet if we fail to prevail with God to the point of His acting timely and demonstrably in the light of day, what have we accomplished other than momentarily consoling ourselves?

It's essential to "bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ." yet, to what end? Clearly there are numerous possible benefits, still according to the teachings and example of Christ the chief purpose of prayer is answers.

When it comes to faith, Christians would do well to learn a few lessons from science. For example, in prayer as when firing a laser, the primary requirements are concentrated energy and focus. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Science has fared far better at interpreting and implementing general revelation's Book of Nature than Churchianity has special revelation of Scripture. As is written, "for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

I'm convinced that millions from Churchianity would gladly exchanged a worldly lifestyle for a heavenly one. The problem lies with the Bible's concept of crucifying the flesh without having witnessed the power and glory of a truly resurrected life as ascribed to Jesus and His apostles. We fear to "put off" the "old man" and its "filthy garments" lest we find ourselves naked and further exposed.

Most church attending Christians will listen to a sermon. Perhaps a tenth of these may take the time to discuss the sermon. Perhaps a tenth of these may pray about putting the teaching into practice. Perhaps a tenth of these will do so. Perhaps a tenth of these may gather to pray that others do the same. Perhaps a tenth of these will honestly review their results, admitting failure where warranted. Perhaps a tenth of these will reinvest the time and effort required to meditate on and refine the process. To succeed

in reaching our potential and fulfilling Christ's Great Commission we need far better odds than one in a million honest and diligent God seekers.

Christ explains *"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life..."* The Father loved Jesus because He always did *"what is pleasing in His sight"* **and** went the extra mile by embracing a martyrdom beginning with being *"more marred than any man"* during his flogging and crucifixion and ending with resurrection after satisfying in full sin's eternal penalty for all humanity. This can hardly bode well for the apathetic or worse: *"But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars--their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."*

A quantum event, repentance unto salvation is more importantly a process. In this light, signing up is less significant than showing up for practice and our performance during the game.

How many among us "seek first the Kingdom of God" with the diligence the Apostle Paul demonstrated and ascribed to athletes, farmers and soldiers? With the less to loose, athletes, particularly non professions, would seem the least committed. Even so, even amateurs train many hours a day, many if not every day of the week. Serious ones sculpt their bodies, habits and entire lifestyles around maximizing the results of their rigorous training. And that's amateurs among the least committed of scripture's, and therefore Holy Spirit's, acceptable examples.

Perhaps first among the many challenges to seeking and serving God is the lack of immediate positive reinforcement. Not only may our feeble attempts appear pointless but they often feel so before, during and/or after. Yet, pointless may be an eternity from worthless. "For God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise (across Three Heavens) and the weak things of the world to shame the strong" in which case all that is required is to please an audience of One. (see GB's Modern Psalm "Audience of One")

Ten Puppy Commandments: 1) Only gently bite the hand that feeds you. 2) Eat nothing poisonous. 3) Stop licking disgusting things. 4) Stay out of the street. 5) When indoors, piddle on the pads. 6) Be mindful of cats. 7) Sorry, too many sweets will harm you. 8) Bark at things in the dark. 9) Don't ever loose your charm. 10) Rejoice in your Master's love... Not bad advice for Christians.

Tellingly, most who either by word or deed demand unconditional love are themselves mired in distinction, if not sin. In contrast, scripture is replete with verses enumerating reasons why God is worthy to be loved and bestows love in return. "The Father loves the Son because He always does what is pleasing in His sight." "We love Him because He first loved us."

Few things are as Quantum as sin.

What's implied by the need of Divine forgiveness? Clearly, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Yet this verse alone encompasses a dozen variations. From mankind's missing the boat to humanity itself being evil. From our inability, in our current state, to glorify God to our desperate need to be restored by God's glory.

What's the nature of sin? Is it infractions, large and small, of an endless array of Divine of do's and don'ts? Is it failure to comprehend essential moral imperatives and eternal perspectives? From heaven's vantage point what does an earthly sinner look like? An evil brute or malignant tumor within creation? Or perhaps a sick soul or malnourished spirit? Is sin the presence or absence of something and/or someone? If both, is it more one than the other?

What's sin's truest form in relation to Omnipotence? Is the underlying issue rebellion, and therefore whatever upsets the Divine Potentate? Or is it alienation, being that which grieves the Spirit of the Savior? By continual and willful sinning, do we place ourselves in harm's way, within the path of God's wrath or beyond His embrace, outside the reach of God's love?

For millennia we've discussed the question, "Are there degrees to and of sin." Is it incremental like gluttony or as immediate as poison? If poison, how toxic? Do some sins merely sicken or are all lethal? If lethal, to what degree? To ourselves? Others? For time or eternity? And what of remedies? Are there many or a single? Are there various strengths? What's the required dosage? Is there a point beyond repair?

Some have conjectured, myself among them, that faith has a variety of quantum aspects. Much more than mental assent, more even than actions arising from fervent belief, in its purest form faith may be a force. Like gravity, electromagnetism, and aerodynamics "mustard seed faith" may operate simply and reliably by laws of spiritual physics. Might the same be said for sin?

Human experience arises from sensation turned into feeling, feeling to thought, thought to attitude, attitude to word, word to action, action to habit and habit to lifestyle. For better or worse, each segment of the journey may be influenced by forces beyond us. Living in anything but a vacuum, our choices are always being acted on and shaped by any number and combination of stimuli, from situations both real and imagined, to persons both human and otherwise.

The sculptor Michelangelo noted, "Beauty is the purgation (reduction) of superfluities (excess)." Might not the same be said for holiness?

What was the "Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees" Jesus warns of? Far more than simply doubt of His claim to be Christ. Even the faith of John the Baptist, His own cousin of whom Jesus lauded as their being "no one greater born among men" was confused by the failure of Christ to immediately don the mantle of the Conquering King. Their yeast, like our own, was religious pride in the face of their desperate need. Yet their confidence in being "sons of Abraham" pale in the face of Churchianity's at being

"sons of God." Their boasting of being "no one's slaves" while daily trodden under the boot of Rome rings as hollow as do our claim of having "the righteousness of Christ" while being the most wordily and entitled generation of Christians to have walked the earth."

As some Christian authors have noted, the Gospel's Pharisees were the leaders of the "moral majority" of their day. Defenders of the faith of their fathers. With a "zeal for God" they endured many sacrifices and hardships (far more than modern clergy). Yet these, the wisest believers of their time, found the concept of the Suffering Servant utterly repellent in the face of their tradition, desire and need for the Conquering King (a tragic mistake we may well be emulating in reverse). Their insensitivity to the Spirit over this one understandable error, eventually lead them to inconceivably reject, betray and murder their own Messiah. Let us beware the rising of Pharisee yeast in our doctrine and teaching, worship and prayer, actions and lifestyle. Least we, like those, "sons of the kingdom be cast out" by the very God we think we serve.

The difference between the DNA code of men and apes is only 2.5%. So too perhaps the level of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit between Saul who watched over the cloaks of those stoning Stephen and Paul who bore 195 lash marks by his former contemporaries. We do well to carefully consider our generation's stumbling blocks.

Never a day passes nor few waking hours in row, that I'm not troubled by everything including how few Christians are prayerless, sufficiently troubled by nothing. "Is anyone troubled? Let him pray."

The ruinous testimony of human history, both outside and inside the society of the people of God, clearly indicate the difficulty of hearing the Holy Spirit's "still small voice." Willingness to obediently fine tune our lifestyles in such a way as to be full of His fruit and gifts is sorely lacking. The challenge is made more difficult by the adversarial nature of godliness and worldliness. Sometimes heated, other times subtle, battles rage above, around and within us. Even at times of apparent cease fire, both camps resupply and deploy within society as well as within our minds and hearts. With Christ's parable of The Sower in mind, let us who would develop "ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church" beware lest His instructions be snatched away like birdseed or His plantings be overrun before germination and harvest.

For millennia, direct communication was either person to person or written. Before printing, every letter of every word of every page had to be copiously copied. Before computing, every letter of every word of every page had to be meticulously set. In a single generation the floodgates have been torn from their hinges. An estimated 3,000 books are published daily, over 1,000,000 new titles annually. Couple this with other forms of print, as well as over a billion articles on nearly 200,000,000 websites and that's food for thought. Add to the deluge the ubiquitous influences of music and video and it's clear human minds are now and forever immersed, if not drowning in, a Waterworld of media. "As a man thinks, so is he."

Thinking as many as 50,000 thoughts a day, one should be about the difficulty of overcoming an entrenched army within.

If "the pen is mightier than the sword" and "a picture's worth a thousand words" it's no wonder that in a single lifetime media's campaign against traditional values has inalterably reshaped the cultural landscape.

Practically speaking, for most church attendees Christianity is at best a hobby. One that few practitioners relish enough to become proficient at.

Mirroring life, salvation's tale is not told at the beginning but at the end.

Thinking in sounds bites sharpens the mind while serving memory's digestion.

Jesus warns, "In patience possess your souls." He also directs us to be as impatiently impertinent as the widow in the parable of the Unrighteous Judge. Skeptics understandably see Biblical contradiction. Churchianity glosses over such passages, and most others, cherry picking only what supports modern doctrines of apathy. God seekers experiment, asking the quantum question, what might impertinent patience look like? Perhaps persevering in patient impertinence?

It's one thing not to win. Another not to fight.

It might be tremendously helpful to know more about what the elect will be doing in eternity that requires such troublesome earthly preparation. "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

Regarding the spiritual condition of the world and even modern church, five questions require immediate answers. Namely: Why and What? How and Who? And finally When? Why have we fallen to such a ruinous state? What can be done? How might it be accomplished? Who's responsibility is it? When must we begin?

For Christians to regain their stature and privileged position we must revisit seven vital spiritual truths. Namely, the Great Commandment and Great Commission, the Great Question and Great Decision, the Great Enemy and Great Power, and finally the Great Fight.

(1) The Great Commandment: Loving "God whom we can't see" with all our being, particularly by "loving our neighbor as ourselves."

(2) The Great Commission: Making disciples of all nations by "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

(3) The Great Question: Why aren't we, Christ's church, carrying out either of the above?

(4) The Great Decision: Having "counted the cost" will we "deny ourselves daily and take up our cross?"

(5) The Great Enemy: Adversary and persecutor of all those who do. "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

(6) The Great Power: Tri-Ominity's scriptural promise that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

(7) The Great Fight: Persevering endurance in "the good fight of faith." "Not against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age."

Jesus' encounter with the Rich Young Ruler, recorded in three out of four gospels, is telling in many ways. As to obedience Christ cites only the commandments dealing with our relationship with each other, omitting any reference to God or extended holiness.

As to cost, Jesus requires an already righteous man lacking only one thing, whom Mark declares Jesus "loved" to sell his possessions and give to the poor thereby storing up eternal treasure (a command Christ repeats to all in Luke 12). Potentially most troubling to Jesus' disciples then and now is Christ's warning that it's all but impossible for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Why should the rich be excluded from Heaven, particularly in light of modern Christian doctrine? If saving faith is simply mental assent, surely they can believe the gospel as easily as the poor. If salvation is simply a free gift, surely the rich can ask Christ for it.

In fact, to his credit, that is exactly what the Rich Young Ruler did. If service is required, who has more time, energy and money to donate than the wealthy? If praise and worship is necessary, who has more to be thankful for? Sadly, scripture reveals that the original sin of entitlement feeds on excess. From the Luciferian rebellion to David and Bathsheba, from the Rich Man and Lazarus to the Sheep and the Goats we are repeatedly warned against selfish unthankfulness. Experience tells a similar tale, our very generation's addictions to greed and vanity, lust and drug abuse representing the most tragic example of self centeredness in human history. Yet even such indictments alone cast too broad a net. Again, the Rich Young Ruler, who occasioned Jesus' comment, was none of these things. In fact, quite the opposite, Christ pronounced him lacking only one thing to be perfect. A single thing, Jesus explains, universally too costly for the rich to afford... Complete and radical obedience to Himself as Lord.

Let us ponder scriptures warning to the rich carefully. When advances in technology and business, education and healthcare, food and clothing, housing and communication, travel and entertainment are considered, the wealth of both the New Testament's Rich Young Ruler and Rich Man in the story of Lazarus pale in comparison to all but the homeless in First World Nations.

Christ tells the most interesting stories. Take the Unrighteous Judge. A cursory read suggests if uncaring rulers can be moved by persistence, how much more a loving Heavenly Father. Closer examination seems to paint God, of whom the aloof, inconsiderate judge is a type, as caring little for the affairs of man. Should the metaphor hold true, Jesus appears to be saying that even if the Judge of Heaven and Earth is, or seems to be, unconcerned with our plight, impertinence can wear Him down. "But

because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black and blue by her pounding."

Christ continues His surprising teachings on the power of persevering prayer in the Friend Who Comes At Midnight. This time God is represented by a friendly man who's household and stores are locked up for the night. Here again Jesus declares Omnipotence may be cajoled into moving on our behalf by disturbing the peace and/or waking the neighbors. "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need."

Such teachings raise many questions for prayerful and serious students of scripture, all the while reinforcing the mega New Testament theme that God seeks to intervene in human affairs, particularly when repeatedly invited to do so. The very fact that God the Son became Emmanuel, "God with us" testifies as to the Creator's passionate interest in His creation. Furthermore, many of Christ's words and deeds, including His debut miracle at the Wedding at Cana and the deliverance of the Samaritan Woman's daughter, invite reckless reliance that even Omnipotence can be reasoned with. Viewed from the vantage point of such passages, and God's word as a whole, it seems that rather than forcing God to act against His will, prevailing faith paves the path for a fuller expression of it, and is of great value to both God and man. Therefore let us be encouraged to the command to "take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong." Let us redouble our efforts to see God's revealed will fully accomplished through our lives and in those of others, remembering the promise of scripture, "Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

Observations March & April 2011

Ten Puppy Commandments: 1) Only gently bite the hand that feeds you. 2) Eat nothing poisonous. 3) Stop licking disgusting things. 4) Stay out of the street. 5) When indoors, piddle on the pads. 6) Be mindful of cats. 7) Sorry, too many sweets will harm you. 8) Bark at things in the dark. 9) Don't ever lose your charm. 10) Rejoice in your Master's love... Not bad advice for Christians.

My tiny yorkie's playful and loving demeanor easily gives way to weariness and worry. While other small dogs yap and snarl against an overwhelming world, Bentley behaves wisely, aware of his tiny place in massive and uncertain creation. Though limited, you can almost read his thoughtful expressions of excitement and ease, concern and even fear, all my care and intimacy notwithstanding. Such emotions mirror my own, which I take as a good omen when weighing myself against the elements of creation and eternity to come.

When Jalking (jog-walking) with Bentley, my Yorkie little bigger than the squirrels he good-naturedly chases, I leash him when passing through tall stands of trees having previously observed Red Tail Hawks spying their prey because he's *precious* not disobedient. Can he perceive the difference? Can we?

Every good and perfect deed arises from prayer.

By their very nature Christ's parables on persistent prayer teach persistence in every venue of life, from relationships to circumstances.

I've so often submitted to and joined, excelled and been rejected by gifted ministerial colleagues as to lead me to wonder if I'm unlucky, inept or worth Enemy resistance. The pain of repeated betrayals, particularly in regards to the far reaching costs they engender, leave me guessing whether like my friends God has rejected my work, is disciplining a child He loves or merely using less than desirable means to speed me on to more and better.

I like the movie character, but in reality there are no Rambos, the Enemy having better aim. The best we might hope for is Rocky's ability to take a punch and come back swinging.

The presumption that life's blessings will continue unabated is a trait frequently shared by both the wicked and righteous.

There are hughes of white within shades of grey. Similarly, every aspect and/or result of every individual sin may not be all bad. Yet the question remains, being commanded to *"walk in the light as He is in the light"* how damaging and damning are even the most subtle forms of darkness?

Both Old and New Testaments, including the accounts of Christ's ministry, the Acts of the Apostles and their Epistles, repeatedly confirm that teaching spiritual truth without the presence of the miraculous to demonstrate the power thereof is to present only half the Gospel. This appears to be all modern Christianity has too offer, if that. Unfortunately, when it comes to drawing a crowd, capturing their attention and commanding obedience, ours is clearly the lessor half.

The beauty and promise of streams and rivers, pools and waterfalls are enticing. But only so long as water flows. *"Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water." And "Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says."*

If it's *"impossible to tame the tongue"* how much more so the heart and mind. Serious attempts at training any or all hold the promise of perfection.

Diversion comes in many forms, particularly since the technological revolution. Like salt, a little may be better than none but too much spoils the food.

We easily exchange the profound for the pleasant. A practice if not abated assures the loss of both.

Billions have and will read books and watch movies recounting the pain and hardships that were the norm for nearly all past generations and too much of the world today. From six to seven 12 to 14 hour manual work days a week, to little or no conveniences. From substandard nutrition and housing to horrible health care and education. Nearly every advance we enjoy and take for granted was unknown and undreamt of only a lifetime or two ago. Yet how few seriously consider the meaning behind our privileged position. Rather than gobbling our blessings, and those of others, perhaps our fantastic bounty was meant to be shared. Sadly for all of us, we often greedily take advantage with hardly a look back, attributing the gifts of technology to our birthplace in the timeline of the human race. With so much at our disposal perhaps we can learn to behave better than prodigal children, unthankfully squandering our inheritance on our own pleasures. Pleasures that like Naranian Turkish Delight, not only fail to satisfy but serve to arouse insatiable and unwholesome cravings.

How critical to wisdom is memory. How quickly we tend to forget lessons learned by our own experience much less that of others, leaving us in a reverberating loop. Even costly truths seem willfully ignored when it comes to pursuing more pleasant thoughts and attitudes, words and deeds, habits and lifestyles. How often are we burned by inviting fires, various passions overriding memory's still small voice and silenced shouts? Inconceivably, not only are we afflicted with such folly as individuals, but families and communities, societies and whole generations continually display this destructive behavior.

Appreciation of the past is vital to a healthy future. As progress accelerates, substantial societal changes, once taking place over centuries or millennia, must be processed in a matter of decades. While the accomplishments of modernism are wonderful, the best of cultural heritage quickly disappears from the rear view mirror when careening up mountainous roads. Long developed abstract concepts are particularly vulnerable. Vital individual and familial, community and societal constructs such as religion and morality, character and family are forced to take a back seat, if not tossed out, for the adrenaline rush of the accelerator and the thrill of the road.

There's overwhelming evidence for intelligent design, and thus a Designer. This being said shouldn't the sheer size of the Universe, currently 93 billion light years in diameter and 292 billion in circumference, command a little respect? And what of age? Is 13,700,000,000 years something to sneeze at? For we who weigh less than 100kg, should a universe tipping the scales at 3,350,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000... (fifty four 0's) kilograms be a yawning bore? What of cosmic forces? Was the Solidarity's Big Bang unimpressive? Are galactic black holes and super novae uninteresting? Should the gravity of dark matter and energy escape us?

If the immensity of Creation fails to properly impress on us the credentials of the Creator, His design genius should give us pause. His glory, displayed throughout the cosmos culminating in mankind's intrinsic spiritual sentience, is nothing to shake a stick at. Given only the parameters we can currently detect, the required fine-tuning is so extreme (over one part in a quadrillion quadrillion quadrillion quadrillion) that if one were to remove or add a single dime's worth of mass to this vast cosmos, the balance of the observable universe would be thrown off and physical life would not be possible.

There have been, are and will be quintillions of exquisite life forms on earth, a solitary planet orbiting a single star of which there are currently fifty billion trillion in the observable universe. Realistically, what hope do I have that the Creator of the MultiVerse should respond to my prayer... None, except that offered by His Son and Spirit.

Accessing the minor successes within Churchianity requires an unusual degree of honesty, presenting the quantum dilemma of celebrating the good when clearly yet rarely discerned as being lightyears from good enough.

For the discerning Bible student, a crucial delineation exists between an unconditional Divine declaration or promise and a conditional scriptural offer or opportunity. The former are far rarer than supposed, independent on any attitude or action of mankind. For example, the Second Advent of Christ. The latter comprise the bulk of what are regarded as the Bible's 1,260 promises. These have always been and continue be God's gracious invitations to blessings reserved for those pleasing Him. With the caveat, "I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy."

We modern charismatics love scriptures declaring God's promise of imputing the righteousness of Jesus to those pleasing Him. While "binding and loosing" we're quick to quote Paul's assurance we are "seated with Him in heavenly places." Yet such passages beg a question. Who are the "we?" Clearly they include suffering 1st century believers, often rejected and persecuted for their faith, like the author of this very verse who bore the scars of 195 lash marks as evidence of his faith. But what of "we" 21st century Christians in today's modern world? Does the exalted position of this heavenly group extend to hundreds of millions of worldly and disobedient believers?

Scripture offers a passage for those mired in besetting sins of omission or commission. The Book of James describes a five step approach to restoration and answered prayer. 1) Deep contrition over our adulteress worldliness. 2) Radical submission to the Holy Spirit. 3) Rebellious resistance to the Devil. 4) Great "grief, mourning and wailing" turning our "laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom." 5) Continuing humility "before the Lord and He will lift you up." Lift us up where? Perhaps to be "seated with Christ in heavenly places" where our prayers may have the desired effect.

Might our corporate prayer meetings, when you can find one, be too full of hearty "amen" while woefully lacking in brokenhearted "O God?"

What's scripture mean when it commands, "humble yourself in the sight of the Lord?" To "admit" a Creator? To "acknowledge" Christ? To "accept" Jesus as a "personal savior?" Perhaps it's to pray a "minute or two" a day. To "attend" church an "hour or two" a week. To quote a "single happy scripture" now and again. James 4 seems to concentrate scattered Biblical references into a precise recipe for humility, though few desire the dish.

As an onion has layers, so too all virtues. Consider humility. Does one's willingness to peel a few off the top make one humble? Which one's are essential? How many's enough? Scripture suggests a great many indeed until one gets to heart of things. Even then, being "desperately wicked above all things" a Divine surgical hand's required.

The invitation to be so filled with the Holy Spirit that "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world" must be vigorously accepted and continually acted on to be true.

When compared to the glorious anatomy of even the least gloriously ancient angel, how function can the human mind be? Believing, rather than denying the implications of scripture, what if Christians decried the fact that the human race is hopelessly outmatched, calling on God to level the playing field?

Most, even among the tiny percentage of true intercessors, continually confuse what God CAN do with what He IS doing, much less WILL do. Such presumptive logical fallacies stubbornly persist in regards to issues such as salvation and provision, all evidence to the contrary. Valuing comfort above confrontation when dealing with ourselves or others, speaking the whole "truth in love" has been replaced with declaring the promises of scripture while ignoring the extent of their conditionality. Particularly that of radical obedience BEFORE judgment falls should one hope to survive seasons of extreme and prolonged deception and/or duress. (see GB's Prophetic Advice, Ten Virgins, Deceiving God's Anointed, Great Tribulation...)

Tragically, and in opposition to strong New Testament warnings culminating in the Book of James, Western Christianity's exchanged doing for hearing. Supplanting the beginning of obedience for the whole is as unwise as it is unhealthy. Sadly this trend has been encouraged rather than corrected by leadership. Failure to provide the "meat in due season" Christ demands has left the body of Christ overfed yet undernourished. Anemic and atrophied, even the vast majority of it's ardent practitioners amass teachings with the nutritional value of sugar water, rather than ardent prayers and good deeds. For popularity sake, teachers blindly promise "peace, peace where there is no peace." Even the rebuke of modern self styled prophets ring hollow. While warning of judgment, their tone and tenor is triumphant, assuring God is good, large and in charge.

All true enough, but what solace should that be to the most wicked and corrupt, apathetic and deceived generation of Laodicean believers to yet walk the earth?

Let us remember that One far greater than Paul, considered the Apostle of grace, commands, "work out your salvation in fear and trembling."

To be a true Christian is to be a treasure seeking adventurer. A spiritual Indiana Jones. Buried among the clutter of a thousand circumstances and choices are the keys to unlocking life's great mysteries along with ancient maps leading to a wealth of knowledge. Yet few know where to find them. Many who do fail to appreciate their value, discarding the means to priceless treasure for this or that. Those fortunate enough to be discerning often tire of trying to comprehend the inner workings of what they've found. It's difficult to believe one holds a key of eternal significance when it fails to open earthly doors. The Bible offers direction, but like a treasure map it's clues can be confusing. Waypoints are easily missed or misunderstood. Scripture's strange symbology mystifies. Modern mankind needs a trustworthy Leader. Jesus announced the promise of the Father to provide such a One. Someone as familiar with life as the Agent of creation. A Teacher who wrote the Book on wisdom and faith. A Guide in us, leading us "into all truth." A Protector, pointing out temptation and delivering from evil. A Counselor, providing insight. A Comforter, strengthening the weary and feeble. Thankfully, Divinity's anticipated humanity's need, yet tragically, access to the fullness of the presence and power, provision and protection of the Holy Spirit seems greatly diminished in our day. So much so that His fruit and gifts, meant to be as plentiful as "the children's bread" are in increasingly short supply. A situation that if not quickly remedied will continue to force even the enlightened mind of modern men to darken, ever more mired in shadows grown deeper and larger by failing to answer life's great questions.

The manner and occasion of Christ's first recorded miracle seems to have several deeper meanings. Among them, the veracity of Mary's intercession and quite possibly the history of the entire church age in a simple metaphor. At the incarnation of "The Bride Groom" miracles flowed like wine, exciting many into righteousness. While the "Wedding Feast" lingered for millennia the wine's "run short." Oh what joy unspeakable and full of glory would life become should our prevailing prayer once again convince Christ to turn our ceremonial water into the best wine of all! The question is, what are we willing to give in exchange for such costly vintage?

While understated, the word of God provides amazing insight into the inner workings of eternity. Even honest ameteuristic attempts at scriptural archeology and Biblical forensics reveal astonishing clues to the greatest of all mysteries. Yet few seem willing and capable of coming to terms with the clear teachings of Christianity on several crucial points, broadening Isaiah's woeful complaint, "Who has believed our report..."

Regarding the centrality of correct doctrine Martin Luther declared, "If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ." As to the importance of poverty of spirit Charles Finney stated, "And now, mark: whoever expects to be sanctified without a full and clear and heart-sickening revelation of his own loathsomeness, without being first shown how much he needs it, is very much mistaken. Till you have learned that, nothing you can do can avail aught; you are not prepared to

receive Christ as he is offered in the gospel." In similar fashion, given humanity's recent cosmic arrival, without factoring in our place in the history of eternity and the ever-present realities of the Luciferian rebellion spilling into modern life, one is incapable of comprehending the complete message of Christ and His apostles.

Hoping to understand humanity's challenges and subsequent behavior without a thorough accounting of the presence and influence of the kind of spiritual beings revealed in scripture is as impossible as playing 3D chess while analyzing only the middle board.

When it comes to comparing the arise of rebellion among the angelic vs human race, it should daily be the fulcrum point of intercession that ours was both born to and had great sin thrust upon us. Adam and Eve notwithstanding.

Telling that in perhaps the most memorable quote of the Book of Job, "though He slay me yet will I trust Him" the father of endurance attributes his troubles, or at least there outcome, to God rather than disease or calamity. While it may be argued Job had far less theology to guide him than we today, he may have understood the fundamentals far better. Considered by many scholars as the earliest scriptural text, he might well have been familiar with some of humanity's famous patriarchs, or a least their teachings, including Enoch who's extra biblical writings focused on angelology and eschatology, as mentioned in Jude.

We are told, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." Long before James' assurance, the Book of Job reveals opening dialogue in perhaps the most infamous whodunit play of all-time. *"One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.' Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied..."* The exact language used by the Lord is telling. While beginning the conversation and even directing the Devil's attention to His servant Job, God does not Himself instigate the bet that will prove so costly to Job and his family. Salient point or thinly veiled ruse?

Foolishness extends far beyond "saying in our hearts there is no God." We injure our souls by failing to perform our due diligence to discover the manner of our existence. We add insult to injury by presuming we have no Creator, and acting as if we did we'd owe the Judge of everything little or nothing, if not less.

Modernism's gifts and blessings coupled with today's temptations and deceptions conspire to create a growing subclass of emotionally and characterlogically stunted "adult children." The "Peter Pan" generation's growing entitlement assumes it's owed all its received and more, whether from well intentioned parents, siblings or extended

family, friends or society. Such an expanding narcissistic world view's a constant source of sorrow and friction, bound to wreak havoc for generations to come unless God's prodigal and/or alienated children learn to appreciate the gifts and wisdom of their Father.

I've seen senior staff of a large evangelical church attend its own sunrise prayer services less than a handful of times over the better part of decade. Following their lead, you can count the average attendance of this hour long Bible study and prayer meeting I've participated in hundred of times on the fingers of one hand. The bad news is even in the face the recent 38th Roe vs. Wade anniversary marking America's ongoing slaughter of over a million babies annually, runaway immorality even among professing Christians, a multi trillion dollar financial recession collapsing the job and housing markets, uprisings inflaming the Middle East, earthquake and tsunami torn nuclear reactors melting down in Japan, not to mention the ever present specter billions facing of lifelong poverty and/or oppression... Christians could not be troubled to even pray. The good news is that this morning there was robust turnout for a community outreach to service the cars of the needy, because what the church really needs to change is motor oil.

Without prayer, how can we have one?

Beyond their entertainment value, movies provide glimpses into alternative world views. For better or worse, usually worse, carefully crafted scripts and choreographed cinematography successfully conspire to make alternate lifestyles attractive, even irresponsible and destructive ones. Conversely, for those apt at chewing the meet and spitting out the bones, much can be learned from short forays into the media shaping modern culture. In fact, every now and then, messages of compassion and commitment, courage and heroism provide encourage for Christians to rise above the status quo, through off besetting sins and complete the great commission entrusted to us.

Well made war movies can be expressions of impressive devotion to ideology and sacrifice. Images of humanity's continual self destructive tendencies reveal the existence of spiritual dark matter and energy and it's murderous influence throughout human history. For the wise viewer, epics like Star Wars highlight devilish cunning and Lord of the Rings the aggressive nature of evil. Terminator and The Matrix pinpoint the dangers of creative genius overriding common sense. Perhaps truest of all is the the alien vs humanity genre. Better made sic-fi, from Avatar to Battle LA provides insight into the insidious nature of extra terrestrial combat, albeit in reality a spiritual species war, wreaking havoc with humanity. Outmatched in every aspect, mankind's willing enslavement must end in eternal torment unless at least some within Christianity unite to engage the entrenched Enemy with all the weapons the atonement of Christ and fulness of the Spirit affords.

A single sin begets many as its ripple effects trouble others. Some join in, enticed by the allure. Even those offended are often tempted to react by repeating the same sin in

similar or more subtle fashion. Consider the original sin of entitlement. Someone tramples on the emotions of another as if it were their right. The victim, understandably feeling entitled to better, responds angrily inwardly and/or outwardly. When the offended party is in the right, particularly when repeatedly affronted, the natural inclination is to seek restoration if not justice or even revenge. Yet from a heavenly point of view, a billion devilish dances of cause and effect all stem from insensitivity to the revealed will of God, Christ's example and leadership of the Spirit of grace.

Even given Christ's incarnation and ministry, atonement and resurrection, accession and intercession sin and suffering still have a stranglehold on mankind. Thus begs the question, Is the chief purpose of Christianity to fix things or to provide forgiveness for a world messed up beyond all repair (MUBAR)?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reveals the crux of the nature of His coming judgment of mankind. All humanity, from across time, will be herded into eternal pens of pain or pleasure based on six criteria defining what we did or failed to do for the least among us. How well are we paying attention?

It's a grave mistake to live life based on a plan looking forward from here to eternity. Reason dictates the opposite approach, one of wise reverse engineering from what we know of the requirements of eternity backwards.

"Wherever two or more are gathered in my name I will be with them" suggests a Kingdom quorum may be quite small. Two too many? James, the Lord's half brother assures, "the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Whats it mean to "humble yourself in the sight of the Lord?" To "admit" a Creator? To "acknowledge" Christ? To "accept" Jesus as a "personal savior?" Perhaps its to pray a "minute or two" a day. To "attend" church an "hour or two" a week. To quote a "single happy scripture" now and again. James 4 seems to concentrate scattered Biblical references into a precise recipe for humility, though few desire the dish.

James warns the double minded find wisdom out of reach, being like a wave blown and tossed by the wind. Clearly faith is preferable to doubt, yet even experienced sailors find themselves tempest tossed. Christians are required to follow Christ, sailing into the heart of a stormy battle to engage the Enemy and rescue survivors. When unable to command the waves, faith stays the course. The wise set sails and rudder true, calling for all hands on deck to batten down the hatches and pray for favorable winds.

Tellingly, with evidence for intelligent design rising into the heavens, denial of the existence of God escalates. Growing exponentially too big for our britches, billions ignore scripture's prediction that in the last days, "knowledge will increase." while basking in prophetic fulfillment, let us beware severe cases of societal sunburn and cultural carcinoma.

Two recently obscured self evident truths are crucial to the soul of modern society. "If there's no God you don't exist" and its corollary "If that's not a baby then your not pregnant."

In the movie "Rudy" an aging priest confesses to a his young, hardworking yet disillusioned parishioner, "I only know two things. There is a God and I'm not him." theologically succinct, this holds true for all of us. Since nothing + nothing = nothing, the creation of anything, much less everything so exquisitely fine tuned (10-1080 power) is concrete proof of the existence of God. The challenge before us, given Omnity's transcendence, is to gather enough evidence to piece together the puzzle of our Creator's identity.

Josh McDowell's compilation series, "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" provides ready access to overwhelming reasons to believe the Bible accurately identifies and reveals the nature of God. While conservative Christians may laud the work, few among even these have studied it thoroughly, much less purposed to give the Creator of 50 billion trillion stars His due. God's glory, so evidently displayed in the cosmos, demands far more than nominal acquiescence. Rather, general and special revelation agree that nothing short of total allegiance is reasonable.

Biblical eschatology depicts an end time scenario where heavenly bodies and beings assail the earth. From meteor showers to an astroid strike, prophecy predicts tribulation will convulse the planet. During this same period, Satan and his angelic army, enraged at having lost their heavenly war, are cast down to earth. According to scripture, these and scores of other natural, supernatural and man made disasters take the lives of well over half of humanity, leaving the world barren and inhospitable. Jesus in His gospel, Paul in an epistle and John the Book of Revelation pinpoint the arise of a deceptive and blasphemous global leader called the Antichrist and Beast prior to Christ's rapturing His saints. Invested with the Devils authority and power, this Man of Sin and his False Prophet deceive and enslave the vast majority of humanity, make war against the Church, and goes so far to declare himself God.

Some suspect the meteoric rise of modernism is being guided, if not propelled, by unseen forces, human and otherwise, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Should such be the case, a merger of technological wonder and devilish power may well be responsible for a variety of unprecedented temptations, leading up to and including the Mark of the Beast.

In His Olivet discourse Jesus issues several warnings to end time believers. Regarding "those days" Christ explains, "False messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." While the wise among every generation have pondered these words, ours is the first to be able to appreciate their implications. In light of the modern science and technology, imagine what kind of miracles would be required to deceive the whole world, tempting "even the elect?"

At a future preordained point it seems plausible that Satan may reveal not only his unseen hand but very nature, one infinitely more advanced and attractive than dreamed of in modern science or sociology, philosophy or even theology. Imagine the Supreme member of super race unencumbered with flesh and bone, decaying or otherwise.

Such a ultimate Arch Angel may well have been endowed at creation with millions of times the faculties of an Einstein, not to mention a capability of exponential growth over a lifetime spanning undisclosed epochs of eternal history. Even should the lifespan of the angelic only slightly predate the creation of our observable universe, or merely that of earth (which scripture strongly suggests), what might such a supra natural species learn over billions of years?

The question's been posed, "can fish know they're wet?" Similarly, could humanity be deceived? Surely a species capable of splitting the atom and calculating the paths of stars would recognize if they were being manipulated. Yet what if, compared to our unseen handlers, we were less than rats in a maze? What if history, culture and even individual choice were heavily influenced by beings of seemingly infinite intelligence, possessing resources reducing our supercomputers to abacus? Thinking a thousand steps ahead of us, what might their next step be?

Experience and scripture agree that history repeats itself and generally in ever greater degrees. This being noted, man's final temptation may well be an augmentation of the Garden of Eden's "you shall be as God." A scientific singularity, as being postulated by many futurists, might provide the necessary vehicles. From quantum computing and extreme virtual reality to DNA manipulation and nanotechnology, some foresee a brave new world on the horizon. Breakthroughs in such technologies, coupled with the breakdown of social morays, could well propel mankind into unparalleled delusions of grander.

What form might the last temptation of mankind take? While scenarios are endless, consider the movie "Limitless" where a single pharmaceutical discovery unlocks the brain's full potential for eidetic (photographic) memory with instant association and multiple streams of thought in real time. Imagine a race, or at least it's wealthy members, crunching past and present data and forecasting future events and trends with algorithms that would make a super computer blush. Might the Antichrist, invested with Satan's full power and authority, offer something similar in the form of a biologically engineered chip?

What would appear as access to limitless power to mortal man, might be the equivalent of beads and fire water when measured against the resources of ancient transcendent spiritual beings. What sort of advances might the demonic introduce to begin forwarding their devilish agenda? Intoxicating entertainment technology to replace moral conviction with drunken stupor? Ubiquitous sensuality redefining civilized society? Medical services aborting billions and drenching mankind in innocent blood? Military marvels revolutionizing war? Corporate strategies financially enslaving billions? Empire

building to facilitate the Antichrist's global reign? Nuclear expansion in preparation of the Great Tribulation? Been there, done that... Next?

In the TV series, "Star Trek The Next Generation" viewers are introduced to a variety of beings, among them the "Q Continuum." Their representative Q is a relatively omnipotent being who's power seems only limited by his inability to overcome its source. Such a scenario may be closer to Biblical teaching regarding Satan than modern doctrine diminishing the Devil identified as the "prince and power of the air" "who deceives the whole world" and has taken deceived humanity "captive to do his will" to the point of little or no concern.

The recently emerging genre of sci-fi has captured a growing market share of the entertainment industry. With such heightened interest being raised by books and movies, real or imagined UFO encounters and even global collaborations like SETI, perhaps we're being prepped for a historic extra terrestrial appearance.

Introduction to a cosmic community is a favored sci-fi theme. Might scripture's overview of eternity and the coming expulsion of the Devil and his angels from heaven to earth lend credence to such scenarios? The Bible clearly warns of the rise to world prominence of a godlike Antichrist welcomed as a miracle working savior. Could current political, social and economic unrest be the setting of the perfect stage to herald the appearance of a long awaited "man of peace?"

Measured against heavenly eons, mankind discovered and split the atom in the blink of an eye. This raises the question of what "angelic science" looks like, particularly should their lives span millions if not billions of our years. What level of "technology" must they possess? Little wonder a fallen Lucifer, once perhaps the most glorious of the archangels, can appear as transcendent light. From this perspective, what marvels will the Antichrist's reveal when the Devil gives "the beast his power, throne and great authority!" One can easily imagine a combined campaign of persuasion and wonder, coercion and might deceiving mankind into not only welcoming such a ruler but receiving him as divine. As a god incarnate, might he offer his "mark" as a token of allegiance and a vehicle to share in his divinity? If so, the final theological question on humanity's examine may not be "If... But Who?"

This short series of observations form a thread with a two fold purpose. Foremost, along with all my Christian work written or otherwise, I desire to present Omnity's case for Lordship as Creator and Redeemer. Secondly, they serve as foundational evidence for a subtle yet serious point I hesitate to explore. No blasphemy intended, it seems important to admit that in light of scripture's summary of the history of Eternity, coupled with the fallen nature of our brief lives, humanity is infinitely deceivable. This sad fact cannot be overstated. From biology and neurology, to psychology and psychopathy, mankind's incredibly brief transient state, not to mention sin above, about and within, conspire against our ability to even know the truth much less choose it. As if in appreciation of our dilemma, Christ's gospel, atonement and intercession provides vital remedies, including His merciful condensation of over 6,000 scriptural commands

into just two. Further simplification concentrates these into one reoccurring theme, simply to love one another. Tragically, our inconceivable past, present and future failure to keep such a reasonable requirement strongly suggests we are not alone, provides overwhelming evidence of humanity's gullibility and guile and is setting the stage for the final act of an eternal Shakespearian tragedy of eternal proportions.

Should the fallen angelic-human race war be as one sided as it appears, what real hope is there? Platitudes like, "God's in charge" ring true, yet provide little comfort to a willful and deceived generation racing headlong to hell. Mankind's singular hope lies in a modern look at ancient scripture. Tragically, the first generation possessing the wisdom and technology to investigate and appreciate the Bible's wonder and meaning, prepared and protected for just such a time as this, has been all but written off as mythology.

God's word's a military manual with power and authority to enlist prisoners and pow's into the army of His resurrected Christ. Any soldier worth his salt must both engage the Enemy and defend themselves and their companions. Sadly, most modern Christian are too captive to entitlement to do either.

While scripture encourages those who suffer for righteousness to entrust themselves to a "good and faithful Creator" it offers no such hope for the rebellious. Rather, the Bible is full of directives explaining the necessity of cultivating lifestyles of obedience, thankfulness and productivity. In fact, in the same chapter of his epistle, Peter warns, "Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything... Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner... It's judgment time for God's own family. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message!"

If one should "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's" then let us give God and the Devil their due.

Only a sliver of the tiniest percentage of even studious pastors, much less parishioners, show interest in comprehending the whole of scripture. Taking it's revelation of the past, present and future with a grain of salt makes the Bible a far friendlier read.

Hyper focus on the many wonderful promises of scripture seems to honor God, encouraging modern doctrine to skip over or reinterpret thousands of troubling passages as an act of faith

As beauty is only skin deep, so all appearances are by nature deceiving. Even dermatologists are required to comprehend internal medicine, chemistry and the body as a system. Yet modern clergy remain squeamish, refusing to deal with the blood and gore of spiritual biology. Dressed in polished suites and smiles, addressing parishioners from pulpits of popularity, Churchianity's leadership exchanges pleasantries and

platitudes for thorough and honest diagnosis. Yet, regardless of diplomas and personalities, buildings and programs the folly of dispensing pain relievers to treat cardiovascular disease and topical creams for carcinoma will become evident, if not in time, then in eternity.

On the battlefield, a well trained medic is preferable to a foolhardy physician.

Humanity's largely wrong about most things and always wrong about somethings. A disastrous, if not deadly combination. Entrenched erroneous opinions make it difficult, if not impossible, to even recognize the truth.

I don't know all the answers but I've got a pretty good grasp of the problems. Sadly, that may put me at the head of the class.

For all the talk of transforming our cities, name one in America. Name a single transformed church. What would a transformed church look like? Filled day and night with those desperately seeking the Person, fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit like the upper room prior to during and after Pentecost?

The wisest among the church admit there must be more. Will we find it by doing more of the same? Will we stumble into it? If not, do we need a plan? Seeing Abraham couldn't save Sodom or Paul the Jews (church of his day) and modern Churchianity is 1000 times more culpable with the stage being set for the end times it better be a good.

So who will hear our message? The World? Churchianity? The Remnant? Perhaps the Jews, signaling the fullness of the Gentiles and time itself, at once a fearful and wonderful thought.

There are 50 billion trillion suns in the observable universe with light exploding from solar nuclear furnaces at 669,700,000 miles an hour. Stars within localized galaxies average 2-3 light years in distances with galaxies 10 times as far. Dark matter and energy compose 97% of the known universe 14 billion years old, predated by the Luciferian rebellion overflowing on earth in a thousand ways. What is there to do but observe, understand and respond appropriately.

Fraudulent accountants "cook the books." False teachers cook "The Book."

Billions would rather die than give God a serious try.

Might everything, every thought and action, every body and lifespan, every growing thing and inanimate object, the placement of every rock and mountain, every raindrop and breeze had a value, numeric or otherwise be part of a Divine calculation.

Are the creation and lifespans of stars any more substantial to Omnipotence than the golden glitterings of the sun rippling on the surface of lake are to us?

Scripture reveals the Adversary deceived and enslaved ancient, glorious and holy angles within heavenly eternity itself. As the “god of this world” how easily Satan’s cunning campaign has continued, having taken mankind “captive to do his will.” Even such notable prophetic poetic warrior kings as David and Solomon fell prey to his influence. Given such a state of spiritual war, the resurrected Jesus ablaze with glory, judges His church with fiery eyes burning through all confusion and pretense. Knowing from experience what it is to endure such scrutiny, James, the half brother of Christ, offers fallen humanity and Churchianity four unnegotiable directives.

Honestly diagnosis the depth of our sin

Stop being wordily

Resist the Devil’s temptation, deception and persecution

Attain and retain a state of Godly submission until God lifts you up

Might it be the height of foolishness to overlook the “may be’s” of scripture? (see Joel 2, Zep 2, Luke 21 etc...

In regards to whom shall be saved, Christ’s comments such as “*with man it’s impossible*” and the “*narrow gate*” the “*ten virgins*” and “*when the Son of Man returns will He find faith on the earth*” should completely undo us. Yet who among us has take a single day to morn such horrific news. If Job’s “false comforters” cared enough about the dire state of a single man to “*wail loudly, tare their robes and throw dust into the air above their heads*” after which the “*sat on the ground for seven days and nights in silence for they saw his suffering was too great for words*” what kind of friends are we to either mankind, the church or God?

Those who doubt the Devil’s ability to deceive even Lord’s anointed do well to reflect on, mourn and beware Uzzah, Uriah and Ahithophel’s fate. Such is the nature of nature of the Adversary that to move a man after God’s own heart, even a warrior-prophet-psalmist-king to deathly sacrilege, murderous adultery and generational betrayal is all in a day’s work.

As penned by the apostle, the Holy Spirit’s outrage over the circumcision of gentile believers is startling. It also begs a few questions, such as the following. If God threatens the salvation of new born converts wishing to cut off their foreskin as sign of godly consecration, what will be His reaction to a generation cutting off the life a billion of their pre-born as a result of unrestrained worldliness?

The “Unrighteous Judge,” the “Friend Who Came At Midnight” and the “Prodigal Son” are just a few of the amazing teachings. Even more so given Jesus’ explanation that “*The words I speak are not my own but the Father’s.*” Who would imagine Christ painting God in such light? Care should be taken to interpret such parables accurately, yet such sayings offer surprising insight into our view of and relationship to “the Father of Light with whom there is no shadow of turning.”

Thirty years and seventy thousand hours of strategic work invested into Christian work I find myself stymied at nearly ever turn. While there have been many bright points and

modest success, repeated and devastating betrayals by my closest ministerial colleagues, friends and family darken and impede my path. Add to these challenges and sorrows the disillusionment and confusion of a hundred hopes deferred if not dashed and the sun seems all but eclipsed. Such a scenario makes it difficult to see a way through an ever broadening valley of despair. Clearly the power and presence of God is what's required, yet as much or more than faith or resolve, defeat and doubt, guilt and fear seem constant companions.

Decades of seeking and serving God in the rear view mirror's left my windshield pitted and cracked, making what's left of the weary wilderness road before me less alluring.

Once I was young, faithful and naive. As for age, much older. As for naiveté, anything but. As for faithfulness, God will judge.

At times there seems to be little or no line between excuse and explanation. Rationalizations come quickly to sinners, less so to saints. In every case, time and eternity will be the better judge.

I daily rehearse before God not only what is, but once was and that which could and should be.

Millions are mired in sin. Billions more disabled by doubt. Can He who formed fifty billion stars shed more light? Surely, but will He do so in time to save?

It's the faithfulness of our friendship, not that of our friends, that defines us.

Yelling at reasonable people is as unproductive as it is with their counterparts.

Dedicated to God before birth, I never imagined both my children would stray so far from righteousness. Have labored long and hard on their behalf, I'd hoped that my example and explanation of Christ's yet unseen Kingdom, and its reasonable requirements, would save my family from being pierced through with sorrows. Yet in the face of repeated betrayals by ministerial colleagues, abandonment by Christian friends and the ubiquitous of modern sins even hundreds of strategic conversations, thousands of prayers and a hundred thousand tickles, kisses and hugs did not keep them from falling as quickly into temptation as their godless peers.

In battle, foxholes may be the only homes a soldier can hope for.

War is hellish enough with ammo. If only God would fully answer prayer...

As with petition, prayers of thanksgiving and even complaint seem limited only by one's memory and imagination

A bumper sticker complains, "Lead me not into temptation, I can find it myself." While true, in reality mankind rarely if ever does so. Truer still, we are not by any means alone.

We're told that temptations are common to man. Yet given the rise of modern technology, some appear relatively new, at least in order of magnitude. Should things continue their progression one might envision a scenario where prior to or a result of the Devil and his angels being cast from Heaven and bound to earth, an astonishing event foretold in scripture, deception would grow far more diabolical.

While the rise of the Antichrist and miracle working False Prophet could happen in any number of ways, one might be a pseudo revelation of the fallen angelic. Having tempted and perhaps deceived as many as a third of God's ancient, glorious and holy angles from heaven itself, it's hardly a difficult to imagine Satan beguiling mankind with amazing lies or partial truth's. Even complete transparency regarding the fact that God and immortal beings exist, human suffering in time and eternity could easily be construed as ample evidence that Omnity hardly has mankind's best interest at heart. The appearance of such glorious beings would be one way of setting the stage for the apocalyptic fulfillment of scripture. Prophetic veracity might even be explained with a devilish twist as simply foreknowledge and manipulation by an extremely ancient and advanced Being meddling in human affairs.

Should the arch angel once known and honored as Lucifer make himself known and share his reason for rebellion, might fallen humanity find it as compelling as did a third of heaven's holy angels?

I've always imagined learning humility by glimpsing and/or experiencing God's glory. Sadly it would seem humiliation is my appointed teacher. Assignments vary, at present centering around living through difficulties and misunderstandings caused by others. Recognizing such troubles pale in comparison to the terrible trials billions have, are and will face does little to lessen the impact of my woes. Apparently even kindergarten sufferology is an unpopular course.

As a quote from *Batman Begins* explains, "*it's not what we are underneath but what we do that defines us.*" In the end scripture agrees, yet there's far more to an ocean beneath the reflection of it's surface. Good or bad, nearly every act is a split decision of the will. Ninety to ten or eighty to twenty, sixty five to thirty five or fifty one to forty nine, yet while in evaluation and particularly once acted up, determination's process is largely hidden. What appears to be complete commitment to attitudes and actions hardly ever are. An important lesson when laboring for the conversion of others and against our own proclivities.

In certain situations it may be wisdom for kingdom oysters to produce their pearls quietly, so as not to cast them before swine.

Perhaps one of the most neglected and often violated commandments is that wives should win their unbelieving husbands “*without a word.*” Hardly in vogue today, one wonders how many marriages and families might be spared the devastation of divorce should such this Biblical demand be taught and observed. How many more might be strengthened and sanctified should the respect due an ungodly husband be extended to their betters.

Were in scripture was the New Testament command that Christian wives should respect the authority of their husbands to the point of calling them “lord” abandoned? Today, given the effeminate nature of Churchianity, the roles have been all but reversed. Yet when did entitlement’s making a slave of husbands advance the godliness of wives or improve their sacrificial service to Christ?

When it comes to marital bliss, most husbands refuse to dance with wives refusing their lead while continually stomping on their toes.

Inwardly, most 1st World Christians are far from content with their worldly possessions. Though technology provides the equivalent of a thousand full time slaves, we envy those of others while neglecting to remember that historically, the least among us ranks in the top 1% of the wealthy of humanity. Even today, less than 10% of mankind own a car and 1.8 billion live without electricity with its countless advantages. If pressed to explain why, particularly in light of Christ, His apostles and missionaries throughout history, modern believers might honestly exclaim, “I’m not a missionary” which in and of itself is the crux of the problem.

The problem is no one thinks they’re the problem.

It’s been noted that no single snowflake feels responsible for the destruction of an avalanche. In fact, most feel proud being part of winter’s wonderland.

We rationalize anything and everything. Even believers are quick to point the finger at others while three point back at them. Even you the reader. Even I the writer.

Our earth, so singularly populated with such abundant life forms, offers compelling clues as to the goings on within the mind of God. From mammals to reptiles, birds to fish, insects to microbes, all flora and fauna not only continually testify to the glory of Omnipotence but of its plan for man. Such a massive array of intricate life and death must be anything but accidental. With fine tuning parameters exceeding 10^{1000} not only is it a certainty our 14,000,000,000 year old universe was intelligently Designed, and that for great purpose.

Those honest enough to unequivocally acknowledge the existence of God and the preponderance of evidence for Biblical authenticity are left with only two major concerns, that of Scriptural premise and context (Eternity...The Wager) and emphasis (Quantum Christianity’s 8th Rule of Interpretation).

Researchers recognize the need for and are adamant in their pursuit of a unified theory of science. Yet few Christians appear interested or qualified enough to contemplate it's spiritual equivalent. Tragically, an overwhelming majority of modern believers fail to perceive, much less embrace the big picture offered by Scripture in regards to the creation and context of human existence and thus that of the Church. "Everything should be explained as simply as possible, but no simpler." - Albert Einstein.

For those sturdy and stalwart enough to demonstrate a zealous commitment to pursue the whole truth and counsel of God, a certain level of emotional detachment may be helpful if not necessary.

Being silent, often stopping to live in each breath and leaning on the silence of God are indispensable habits of sojourners who hope against hope to piece together the puzzles of time and eternity.

Sentient and thoughtful souls provide humanity a unique plane of existence within the 1st Heaven, yet compared to the angelic, our intelligence is no doubt sorely lacking. Even so, the rapid rise of modern technology as viewed through the lens of the Law of Accelerated suggests that within a few generations mankind's mode of expression may be greatly enhanced. Rather than learning at a plodding pace, a merging of mind and machine could provide "techno-sapiens" with knowledge continuously downloaded and stored, augmented by built in visual displays constantly accessing an exponentially expanding archive of information. Thoughts and emotions, concepts and ideas might well be exchanged through instantaneous bursts conveying complete and compelling virtual experiences. While such technology seems incredible, it's likely that when measured against the capabilities of a race as ancient and glorious as angels, a species of which we are at war with it's fallen and diabolical members, even this would amount to little more than caveman rocks and fire.

Given modern societies unprecedented levels of amusement and distraction most feel serious and constant contemplation of eternity a waist of time. Yet in light of forever's duration and unknown state, what better more important waist of time could there be?

It is a strange, saddening yet necessary confession that after 70,000 hours of strategically seeking and serving God, my attitudes and/or actions, speaking and/or writing may be all wrong, mostly wrong, often wrong or should I turn out to be all, mostly or somewhat right, that I haven't the righteousness to be taken seriously by God, the Devil, men or circumstance.

Given it's intangibles, spiritual study seems pseudo science at best. Without an objective grid to test subjective experience there can be no scientific method and therefore what hope in distinguishing fact from fiction? While little or no concrete evidence presents a serious challenge to honest research, diligent minds find nothing to contain everything, seeing we both came from and must return to it?

Object observers will note that we hardly possess the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:2 of prophecy, complete knowledge or faith to cast mountains into the sea. Nevertheless, those wise enough to toil diligently achieve some results. While hardly God's best, He does seem to somewhat honor plans B, C or even D.

As both a teacher and pastor within the Church, and a activist and director of an important para church organization, I was happy enough laboring to produce the kinds of fruit such ministries may, given the signs of the times. While producing better results, it was my closest colleagues that put an end to my endeavors. The fallout has been tragic on many levels, yet it may have been just as well since my desire has never been to settle for trickles of living water, but rather to identify and tear down that which dams the flow of that river of which Christ's insures is capable of turing all the promises of God into "Yes and Amen."

It's difficult to tell were the faults of others end and ours begin.

Sin is so synergistic that in many cases it may only be untangled under the light and scrutiny of eternity.

It's hard to say in which cases and to what degree Christ holds us accountable for bad habits, faults or sins sown in our souls by the neglect, mistreatment, or abuse of others

Much depends on Him who judges from heaven with eyes of flaming fire.

Survival in the wilderness requires wisdom. Spiritually hostel environments and seasons of life can take their toll, leaving us drained and seemingly empty handed. Yet even often unmerciful human beings have pit on those forced to endure extremes. Perhaps He will do the same for those displaying a level of loyalty. "If we deny Him, He will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

There are various levels and layers of suffering and sorrow, each with it's unique pain and perspective. When death is consciously imminent time stands still, our mortal vail parting before eternity. Prior to this may be a state where death appears more distant yet inevitable in it's relentless approach. The death of one most dear, particularly if untimely, is yet another degree. Overwhelming societal tragedy such as the devistating effects of war is another. There are the cascading effects of natural or man made disasters such as drought and famine, felt most keenly in regions of excruciating poverty. Slavery, in a variety of forms, brings chains of agonizing grief. Extreme economic and political, mental and/or emotional hardships bring more subtle forms of torment. Many miseries arise from personal choice. Addictions and intoxication poison the lives of millions while self fulfilling prophecies of entitlement plague an even greater number. Others, some through no fault of their own, suffer lingering stings of betrayal by family and friends. Lessor in number yet greater in occasion are pains arising from any number of impending fears or perceived threats. Then there the lazy of mind or will, wallowing in the sorrow of self imposed malaise occasioned by foolishness or apathy. Others agree to use and abuse themselves and one another through a variety of

means. Still another substrata appear happy, pleasantly interacting with those around them, yet persistent in acts that preclude God's blessing.

From an eternal and sometimes even a temporal perspective, one of the problems with suffering is its delay. There would be no addicts if pain from the very act of poisoning the body wasn't preceded by pleasure.

Little is as it seems. Warning that *"many who are first will be last and the last first"* God warns to *"judge nothing before the time."*

Modern believers recognize the importance of including Christianity in their lives, yet more often than not remain blissfully unaware of the demands of Christ upon His Church.

Attempting to save a drowning man still flailing about is difficult and even dangerous, yet many lack the wisdom and resolve to wait.

All experience extended seasons of heavenly silence. Many leave the faith, in part or whole. Some find comfort in doctrines of distance. Others settle for pretense, imagining their own thoughts as God's. Perhaps a percent of a percent today care enough to work through difficult feelings of disappointment and abandonment by honestly admitting and investigating the problem. Fewer still address such spiritual dis-ease according to the Divine prescription of humility, enduring prayer, continually seeking His face and striving to turn from evil that He might hear from heaven, forgive sin and heal our waywardness. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Imagine inexperienced and untrained sailors setting sail across inhospitable pirate infested seas for an undiscovered country with only hearsay and intuition as guide. Such is man's spiritual state without a correct respect and understanding of scripture and a firm hand on the rudder, the resolve of a warrior and continual willingness to be taught of God.

You can't go to church, you can only become it.

In Christ's parable of the prodigal, 100% of the Father's children were either antagonistic towards their parent's values, as if all mankind including those remaining faithful were in rebellion to or distanced from God.

It's trickier when prodigal children stick around town or even bring their "riotous living" home. One wonders how such a scenario would have effected and infected the older brother. Would the Father have behaved as graciously prior to His son having coming to his senses?

Intoxicating to parents are the stares and smiles, giggles and laughter of their infants and toddlers, growing and grown children. What terrible power is there in rebellion and

sin to make strangers of friends and even enemy of family on the human and even divine level?

Awaking to unseasonable breezes cooling the blistering days of summer reminds one of the oppression of weeks or even months of intolerable heat. So too are longed is spiritual refreshing, winds of renewal signaling a seasons change coming from the presence of the Lord.

As of late, it's been the affection and shenanigans of my Yorkshire Terrier serving to remind me that he who loves much is forgiven much.

One of the greatest challenges presenting itself before mankind is that of judging with righteous judgment. Within eternity's history, in this place and time, little or nothing is at it seems. Moreover, sin above, about and within conspire to deceive, creating a modern event horizon that too few among even the sons of light escape.

Jesus warns the road to life is narrow, the gate of which few find. Perhaps the harder part is staying on course while being bombarded by destructive if not devilish influences permeating both the soul of society and or own.

It's difficult enough to discern and take one's proper place before an invisible eternal and almighty God. Much less having to do so while besieged by diabolical deceptions from a super being who successfully tempted a third of the holy angels within heaven itself.

Defining who we are by what we believe and why requires constant vigilance. Earth's a subjective spiritual battlefield were casualties die for eternity.

It's said in the end, soldiers serve, fight and die more for their comrades more than countries. Sharing their challenges and difficulties, training and pain, fears and sorrows, successes and failures forging a bond beyond words, an alliance and appreciation of one's unit stronger than most human relationships. Nearly the opposite is true for Churchianity, having evaded heaven's draft and being AWOL.

Let us beware the tendency to rationalize anything and everything.

That which does not help, hinders.

It's nice that hope springs eternal. Far better were it eternally realized.

When things go wrong for the wise or righteous in a besieged and fallen world, questions arise and decisions must be made. Why do bad things happen to good people? Who's responsible? What should be done? Will help arrive? If so, when? In the end, regardless of the answers or lack of them, the faithful soldier on. Wars are won in the face of, and sometimes wrung, from certain defeat.

Jesus often addressed the topic of answered prayer. In regards to the famous passage on asking, seeking and knocking one wonders why should there be a door between humanity's need and heaven's resource. More inconceivable still is why, given Christ's explanation and invitation, why it should remain unassailed and assaulted.

Scripture declares that Christ is the "yes and amen" to all the promises of God. His is the Kingdom men should seek, He Himself being the door. Our failure to tenaciously and successfully ask, seek and knock may be yet another of many indicators that modern belief has more to do with religious presumption than divine faith.

Man's passion and excellence in the pursuit of power and pleasure is clearly evident. The soaring skyscrapers and majestic malls of every major city in the modern world testifies as much. Oh that we were as passionate for the eternal.

True beauty is lasting. Those who would seek it must soldier on through the wilderness of sin ever mindful of its deadly deceptions. Those who do take refreshments were ever they can find it, in hopes of being enraptured by that "city who's builder and maker is God." A resting place filled with such beauty that, "eye has not seen, ear has not heard nor has it entered into the heart of man."

It's one thing to imagine and discuss, pray and teach the importance of hope and duty. Quite another to embrace them in the face of defeat and loss.

How quickly the best of intentions and resolve evaporate under the scorching heat of day, much less battle.

In His parable of the Sower, Jesus identifies the cares of this life as weeds. Yet don't most Christians cultivate such as rights and responsibilities?

For decades I've severed the interest of both holy God and fallen man, perhaps more than those who claim to either or both. Yet from the complications of having done so have arisen instances and even season of ambivalence towards first the latter and then both. Still, given Christ's repeated definitions regarding truly loving one's neighbor and Peter's second great confession addressing loving God, I find hope.

The kind of emotional intimacy often associated in the modern use of the word "love" may be the first casualties of those embroiled in the battle to understand and overcome the silence and distance of God, not to mention the foolishness and evil of men.

Studying the life of Hudson Taylor has left me feeling condemned, encourage and puzzled. Condemned in regards to commitment and holiness. Encouraged by God's answers to prayer, causing the ends to justify the means. Puzzled about the outrageous cost, personally and corporately, to he and his missionary family and friends.

While a twenty year old Hudson Taylor's opening China to the gospel was clearly an act of spiritual warfare, the premature death of his first daughter Grace at five, his first son

Samuel about the same age seems over the top given the phenomenal hardships and costs already associated with the great undertaking. All the more so when later he lost another child and his wife while giving birth. No doubt such unflinching dedication was rewarded on earth and in heaven, one wonders if this is God's best. It was reported that the Chinese who witnessed the missionary's sacrifice were moved, how much more might of been accomplished had Hudson been healing and raising the Chinese from the dead instead of burying his own family.

There may be as much distance between notorious sinners and today's average Christian as there is between such believers and myself. Even after 70,000 hours of strategically seeking and serving God, I suspect the same gap separates me from the likes of Smith Wigglesworth, Charles Finney and Hudson Taylor.

If the lifestyle challenge of wholly consecrated men and women is too great for those like myself, how then shall the luke warm and sinner appear?

If God would accept the prayers and offerings of one such as myself, perhaps the doubtful and apathetic might be spurred on to become like me and I encouraged enough to embrace the example of history's whole hearted disciples. Such a scenario might create a way station between those giving none and all, where the weary and disillusioned, confused and often rebellious could find sanctuary and renewed faith.

For better or worse we are largely creatures of inertia and synergy. Objects at rest not only tend to stay so but also atrophy and decay. Objects in motion not only tend to stay so but find buoyancy and momentum, carried along by increasing currents.

Spiritual speaking, the Second Law of Thermodynamics erodes sin from the lives of those wholly committed to righteousness and righteousness from all others.

What is sorely lacking and desperately needed are honest and wise charismatic believers possessing great character committed to missionary lifestyles for the expressed purpose of answering the Apostle Paul's, if not scripture's greatest prayer (Eph. 3:14-21) by reconciling modern Christianity to the Person of the Holy Spirit and thereby restoring, in full measure and more, His fruit and gifts so necessary to the work of evangelism and discipleship. Let us re-examine the importance of Christ's command to tarry until we receive power that we might be His witness here and abroad.

Jesus first found and then continually wowed the disciples prior to asking great sacrifice of them. It was not until after the heavenly outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that average believers were inebriated enough to consider nothing they owned as their own. All these behaved as men who, having found Christ's treasure in a field joyfully gave all they had to possess it.

I believe many of God's worldly children would gladly give all they have for heaven's sake if they felt heaven would do the same and vice versa.

It seems reasonable to hope that if we cared enough to discern our spiritual gifting and exercised the dedication and discipline of missionaries in it's pursuit, we would be spared the suffering so often the part of the discipline God employs to call the apathetic and worldly to repentance.

In light of earth's enormous need and heaven's far greater resource, it would be well for us to put into constant practice all seven modes of prayer which are:

The Prayer of Silence: Designed to clear the mind and acclimatize our souls to the importance and practice of serious prayer.

The Prayer of Repentance: Clearly a key part of approaching God at a time when the quantity and quality of personal and corporate sin is at an all time high.

Conversational Prayer: The most common form of prayer taken to a whole new level.

Contemplative Thanksgiving: Taking the time to thoughtfully give thanks and stop and smell the roses along the way.

Prayer of Petition: A new look at a old favorite. How and why to ask and keep asking as well as how develop an extensive prayer list.

Prayer of Complaint: [Wrestling with God](#) and refusing to take no for an answer. Humbly yet boldly approaching God when life and/or answers to prayer leave much to be desired. Desperation enough to ask, seek and knock until insight is given.

Prayer of Stillness: What to do when every mode has failed to bring the answers we desperately need.

At times I pray my private prayers were recorded in stone to be heard by all. At others I fear that at the Judgement I may be horrified to find they were.

The best of prayer is laden with silence.

One key to answered prayer is be the answer of another's.

Isn't love without truth just a sentimental or sensual lie?

It seems simultaneously understandable from God's point of view and unreasonable from man's to require modern men and women to relinquish total control of their lives to a God they've never met based on the directives of a Book written millennia ago.

A Thai proverb states, "It's noble to assist a rising elephant, foolish to catch a falling one." Yet, when it comes to dealing with sinners such as ourselves, without detectable and proven discernment it's difficult to know the difference.

Oddly enough, judging the difference between blessing and cursing requires skill. In Christ's story, the lot of the Rich Man seemed the former and Lazarus the latter, yet eternity revealed quite the opposite.

We do well to consider that the generation of God's people to crucify Christ were on the whole more consecrated and compassionate than our own. Billions ranging from spiritually apathetic to immortal, with nearly an equal number murdered by abortion to war, testify so.

The gospels indicate that throngs initially welcomed the words and works of Jesus. In the end He was rejected by Israel's leaders and crowds of followers. While there are many reasons for such reversal, one needs give the Devil his due in regards to deceiving God's own, both then and now.

Wishing on and even numbering the stars, scientific ambition has lifted mankind into the heavens. Sadly, spiritual insensitivity and deception seems to have prevented us from stooping down to pick up even a single mustard seed worth of miraculous faith.

If I were God I would favor the creative dreams and visions prayerfully crated by those thinking outside the box yet within the parameters of my revealed will.

Few care enough to compile and pray through, much less memorize, a daily prayer list. Some more or less admit apathy. Others rationalize God's not interested in a rote rehearsal of issues, regardless of their importance. They insist what Omnicity's really looking for are heart cry's of sentimentality and emotionalism, arguing the cost of the latter outweighs the former. If this is true, why not do both, particularly with either in such short supply? What is certain is that the process of maturity requires the wailing and demands of infants grow into reasonable and enlightened adult discussion. Surely God values and takes interest in this for a variety of reasons. Furthermore, the training and discipline required in cultivating such capabilities and habits are integral to fulfilling the Great Commandment to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind..."

The greatest snippers shape their own rounds and demolition experts their charges. The same may be true when it comes to strategic intercession.

The constant and continual foolish mindset and behavior of billions far and wide makes me spitting and cussing angry. While resisting the impulse, it can hardly be a good sign for any of us.

When viewed from eternity's vantage point are even the righteous doing anything right? Is so, are those who are doing enough?

Lord, do You recall the countless mornings I gently hugged and kissed my children awake sometimes singing Christian nursery rhymes into their tender ears? They've forgotten and I to forget. Please remember for us, honoring such moments.

Among Christians are those who care and do little and those who care and do much. Among the latter are those who put little or no strategic thought into what they are doing or why, leaving precious few who deeply consider what most needs doing and how it might be done.

In the absence of honest, gifted and trustworthy colleagues, or even willing assistances, researchers are forced to work alone.

W. Tozer's three steps for revival are:

Let a few Christians get thoroughly right with God. If this is not done the rest will come to nothing.

Let them bind themselves together until God opens the windows of heaven and comes down.

Let them put themselves at the disposal of God for His use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ.

These seem the correct steps in the perfect order. Even more so when combined with the insights from Evan Robert's, leader of the Welsh Revival:

What's it mean for Christians to get "*thoroughly right with God?*" Evan Robert's wrote, "*You must put away any unconfessed sin. You must put away any doubtful habit. You must obey the Spirit promptly*" Such would be required to woo rather than continue to grieve and thus repel the *Holy Spirit*.

What might "binding together" imply? Perhaps daily meetings of significant duration (2 hrs or more) reflecting seriously and diligently seeking God as commonly found in earthly athletes, farmers and/or soldiers (Pauline examples). Success in step one would be essential to undertake such a commitment, much less see it through "until God opens the windows of heaven and comes down" for a variety of reasons. Perhaps the most telling are: (1) Few believers have such passion for Christ or the lost. (2) Less still can stomach anything other than the milk of scripture and are thus ill prepared to address difficult yet vital truths. (3) Fewer still have the spiritual stamina regularly gather for intense molding of differing Christian world views into even something approximating the reality of our situation.

3) What would being fully "*at the disposal of God for His use as He sees fit in winning others to Christ*" cost? Beyond the three requirements already listed, Evan Robert's simply writes, "*You must confess Christ publicly.*" Regarding this we have insight from Martin Luther, the father of the Protestant Reformation who insisted, "*If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.*"

Where are the *believers* who much less understand the Biblical context of creation? For example, were Jesus to suddenly appear in a Church meeting without a glorious flood of revelation transforming the minds of all present, who among these would recognize

and worship Him not as the Suffering Servant, which He know longer is, but the Conquering King. Of those who might, the question becomes the Conquering King of what? Liberals? Muslims? Earth? Who among us appreciates the true nature and extent of the spiritual battle already wrecking havoc and about to break out into full fledged cosmic war raging across Three Heavens engulfing the earth in tribulation?

I've heard those who would pass for perfectly rational Christians commenting on the less rational choices, behaviors and lifestyles of their brothers and sisters in the faith and then ask their audience to be sure to let them know if they themselves every behave so badly. Ironically, many if not most asking for such assistance have, are and continue to reject similar and even more important advice, direction and commands from the Holy Spirit and those speaking on His behalf.

When Jesus preached, proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, it's very likely the Church of His day anticipated an immediate physical and earthly governmental realm. Churchianity may be making an opposite mistake.

Sometimes the difference between mockers and seekers of truth has less to do with the kind of questions being raised than genuine desire for answers.

The obvious universal suffering and glaring inequities that have, are and continue to be the experience of billions raise crucial questions as to the plans and nature of God. Skeptics and cynics, the apathetic and disobedient have little interest or hope in receiving satisfactory answers from Omnipotence. Unfortunately believers seem equally indifferent for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is upsetting their applecart of unexamined beliefs revealing serious doctrinal and lifestyle deficiencies and errors further contributing to the silence and distance of God.

In light of the current season of silence and distance of God, greatly compounded by the quantity and quality of sin stirring above, about and within the need has never been greater for a readable, rational and reasonable Biblical commentary. *Readable*: Being demonstrated trustworthy, what does Divinely inspired scripture really say in simple and common language. *Rational*: Does our interpretation make sense in the largess of the temporal and eternal realities in which we find ourselves? *Reasonable*: Are God's demands on us as individuals and families, groups and society understandable in light of the scripture's disclosures?

The "wicked run when non pursues them." Sadly, Churchianity appears to be running headlong into the trap set before them.

The fool may say in his heart there is no God but no heart can truly believe such foolishness.

The issue is not evidence regarding the existence of Deity but rather the overwhelming pleasures of sin for a season. To whatever degree we choose the latter we distance ourselves from the former.

A great evidence for the reality of, if not personification of evil, is how often it is chosen over good. Further proof lies in how frequently its extolled, not as a shameful or villainous act, but rather a reasonable choice and even an enlightened virtue.

If Paul's three heavens are as I suppose them in "Eternity...The Wager" then where is Hell and the Lake of Fire?

Marriage was designed as an institution to convey critical societal norms including chastity before, faithfulness during and a lifelong commitment to fidelity. Astronomical rates of promiscuity, affairs and divorce have circumvented the social purposes of such unions. Though endangered, marriage as a sacrament remains, but as always only for God fearing and obeying Christians. The current pomp and presumption of wedding ceremony flies in the face of rather than reinforces traditional Christian values. All the more so when meaningless oaths are exchanged, particularly by those evoking God's name, who no doubt grows increasingly wearied if not antagonistic, of those would draw near to Him with their mouths while their hearts, as represented by their lifestyles, are anything but.

Isolated people groups, such as Polynesian Islanders, were as far from Edenic innocence as they were from Colonial conspiracy.

Minimum Framework for Spiritual Judgement by Rob Pennington

Cognitive Habits

Honesty
Humility

Recognitions and Requirements

The following observations are meant to express the characterological development necessary to accurately recognize and interpret truth and human experience in hopes of developing a minimum framework by which spiritual realities, inherently subjective and invisible, may be discerned and researched, tested and understood).

All mortal truth is quantum in nature (as demonstrated below)

While ultimate truth is absolute, human reasoning is anything but.

Honesty concerning the strengths and weakness of the mind and will of men, like our contemplation of the nature of all sentient beings in both time and eternity, is a quantum study.

Creation's size and age, mass and force humble humanity individually and as a race.

Such overwhelming and intricate glories are proof of Intelligent Design.

While Pascal's musing that by thought we grasp creation is correct, equally if not more true is that humanity's combined intelligence has less effect on the universe (both the nearly infinite and infinitesimal) than a drop of water on the sea.

Mental faculty to look beyond the surface of the physical world and make reasonable assumptions regarding the spiritual.

Acuity enough to begin to comprehend the degree to which there is much more to life than meets the eye.

Wisdom enough to see the need and usefulness of "continuing to function as a normal person" as noted by Pascal.

Appreciation of the necessity and growth in the areas of obedience, thankfulness and productivity.

Careful consideration of the uniqueness of the Bible.

Continue examination of the growing body of social and philosophical, scientific and prophetic evidence regarding the reliability and inspiration of scripture.

Correct understanding of scripture's overall context and foundational principals.

Comprehensive understanding of the premise and context in which the Bible places humanity regarding Creation's conflict reflected in the ongoing litigation of the Luciferian Rebellion, a trial soon to escalate into angelic warfare engulfing earth.

Reliance upon and adherence to scripture's direction regarding life's most important issues and duties.

The overwhelming message of scripture is that while some level of participation in the process of perfection is required, there are several mitigating factors i.e. "mercy triumphs over judgement," "love covers a multitude of sins" etc... Nevertheless a minimum of growth in godliness as exemplified by in the fruit of the Spirit in necessary in learning to "judge with righteous judgement."

Recognition of the importance of Scriptural Emphasis, the 8th Rule of Biblical Interpretation, particularly in doctrines concerning salvation and spiritual growth, revival and judgement.

Development of an unusual degree of honesty regarding the Bible's explicit and implicit teachings, particularly when in marked disagreement with modern pervasive doctrine.

Participation in, rather than withdrawal from, the necessities of human society.

Occupying until He comes provides ample and invaluable lessons concerning the nature our Ally and Enemy and the role true Christianity's designed to play in our lives and this of others.

Christ and His apostles examples of societal confrontation juxtaposed against that of the Essenes, etc...

The accepted and implemented understanding of the requirement of Christians to be in the world, not off, it as reflected in Paul's evangelical and confrontational style rather than an esthetic or monastic example.

The historical record of worldview and lifestyles of hundreds of thousands of radically dedicated missionaries and activists

Development of the ability to think deeply yet reason and respond as a rational person.

The ability to function optimally while keep opposing views in mind. i.e. swimming in the deep end of the pool without drowning ourselves or others.

Learning to chew the meat and spit out the bones when facing a variety of life's challenges including discernment of levels of truth and responsibility.

Willingness and ability to begin and continue a disciplined regiment of rigorous appreciation and application of all the above.

May God be found by those who didn't seek Him because of those who did.

As Pascal, I find all things either tempt or vex me. Nevertheless, as the author of both the greatest story never told (Eternity...The Wager) and most timely biblical commentary ignored (Quantum Christianity), I attempt to behave appropriately.

At times I take some encouragement from a handful of prophecies I received prior to and during my ordination. The question arises why would one dare to hope in words given by colleagues, whom to a greater or lesser extent discredited themselves? While admitting a slippery slope, two reasons come to mind. First, while it's preferable that those prophesying remain faithful and grow in grace, they only deliver the word from the Lord. For example the high priest at Christ's mock trial. Second, it's more the fidelity of the receiver than the giver that tells the tale.

Most of the resources within modern Christianity are spent keeping the business of Churchianity running. Among those with more than a passing interest in the Kingdom, evangelism is the default concern. Over decades of witnessing the worldliness of 1st World Christians, wrestling with the insensitivity of leadership and mourning the inability of parishioners to distinguish right from wrong I long ago turned my attention from evangelizing those outside of the Church to focusing on the remnant within. Ironically, I invest zero time, energy or money in modern evangelistic efforts precisely because in the end evangelism is everything.

Tragically, our current methods are next to useless, for without the presence and power, provision and protection of the Holy Spirit, Whom we continue to grieve beyond measure, there can be no substantial, much less lasting, harvest. If Christ and His very apostles were dependent on the signs and wonders of power evangelism to demonstrate the veracity of the Kingdom and its tenants, how much more so we who's societies are daily deluged by unprecedented deception?

To effect the human condition, Divine truth must be reasonable, demonstrable and *"rather glorious."*

Most of humanity, Christian or not, are spiritual stuck. Most believers live their entire lives without embracing godly disciplines such as Bible study and real prayer, holiness and activism without which even regular church attenders can at best do little more than inch back and forth in the faith. Among the more committed, lack of progress resulting from our worldly entanglements is seen as 'Kingdom endurance.'

For the remnant of the remnant who struggle to experience the fullness of the Kingdom by breaking free of the inertia of apathy and unbelief, a quote from a recent movie "The Owls of Ghoul" may offer some insight. *"When you've flown as far as you can you're half way there."*

Like the errant boys in Pinocchio, are we who play with the wrong people and toys destined to bray like jackasses being led to slaughter?

While few ministries are global in nature, when addressing deceptions and sins encompassing humanity it helps to have a firm grasp on the context from which such challenges arise. It's good to promote evangelism and discipleship. Better still to serve and protect the needy and helpless. Most important and all too rare is understanding the diabolic nature of our Adversary and the precarious position posed by living and ministering aboard the Titanic.

Christian leadership conferences run the gamut from good to preposterous. This one or that may grasp a piece of the puzzle but few if any approach recognizing much less comprehending spiritual reality's big picture as framed by the simple tenants of scripture.

It's one thing to cultivate the presence of the Lord to the point of recognizing and teaching truth. Quite another to be filled with the Spirit enough to demonstrate the power thereof.

Though circumstances may align against us believers choose between being victors or victims, kicking ass having our asses kicked. Joseph clearly got a bum rap yet his situation neither reflected the man he was nor restrict him from becoming the man he was to be.

Where is the transformation promised by potential moves of God? Lost somewhere along the continuum of frustrated expectations to serious sin.

There's much talk among charismatics and evangelicals regarding transformation. Yet is there a single transformed city among America's 25,000? (A question answered by the need of the question).

Can there be a transformed world without a transformed nation? A transformed nation without a transformed state. State without a county? County without a city? City without a church? Church without a group? Group without an individual? Individual without truly transforming prayer?

Like an inverted pyramid, Christianity is comprised of ever decreasing groups of participants. Most plentiful are casual attenders. Then those who joining the community of believers. Next are the committed to causes greater than themselves. The rarest of all are those who count and pay the necessary cost of authentic Christianity.

There are 3 categories of issues relevant to authentic faith. 1) First are things forbidden. 2) Next are things commanded. 3) Last are evidences that God's pleasure and power rest upon His people. The third items are important because categories 1 and 2 are possible without the continual approval of God as demonstrated by Jesus' judgment of the Church of Ephesus in the Book of Revelation.

Acts chapters 2 and 5 offer models of transformed churches. After the unfortunate and telling deaths of Ananias and Sapphira the congregation and city experienced 7 signs of

transformation as “Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.” Additionally, “The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.” Next, “all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple...” while “no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them.” Even so, “Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women.” And, “As a result of the apostles’ work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter’s shadow might fall across some of them as he went by.” “Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.”

When attempting to judge the health and veracity of modern Christianity in 1st World Nations and beyond one must accurately understand the impact of ubiquitous deception permeating all levels of society, a feat of which few seem capable.

Is my fear of God, far greater than most, a sign of sensitivity or insensitivity? Does it daily arise from awareness of and participation in genuine righteousness or resistance to the Holy Spirit? Certainly I’ve been kept from many gross and subtle sins of commission and omission, but from enough?

Being beings of breath and blood, bodies animated by spirit and soul, shouldn’t we be on our best behavior?

How small I am when compared to the state where I live. Or the United States, much less the Earth. Or our solar system, silent and vast, much less the incomprehensibly large Milky Way. Or the inconceivably immense universe, frightfully ancient, only one of three Heavens.

Pain and death loom so large against a backdrop of sorrows and threats throughout time and eternity that humanity invariably thinks God a bully at best. Facing Divine silence and distance, if not judgement and wrath, man must question why? After all, should a microbe, even a germ, be notice by the Sun much less attract the ire of such a fiery furnace?

I prefer praying early before the light of day settles in hard, all but denying the answers I daily seek. Quantumly, who can deny modern world citizens already enjoy the answered prayers of all past generations.

Scripture might be summarized in this way, “God listens to the one who listens to Him.”

Things go from bad to worse, yet no one listens so nothing works.

God may or may not love and/or accept all His children equally, *“Jacob I loved and Esau I hated...”* *“...though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad.”* Clearly Omnity’s relationship with some was more equal than others. Abraham through whom He begot, Moses through whom He delivered. Samuel through whom He judged, David through whom He conquered. Solomon through whom He enlightened, Elijah

through whom He astounded. Isaiah through whom He prophesied and Jeremiah through whom He wept. John, through whom He baptized, Peter through whom He healed. Paul through He preached, James through whom He counseled. John through whom He revealed and I hope against hope... *Rob who through He reasoned.*

It's comforting, though perhaps inaccurate, to think of God in subjective and sentimental ways. While scripture declares Omnity's goodness, it's ambiguous when it comes to defining it. Divine goodness is lacking a simple, definitive definition. For this, the entire context and counsel of the word of God must be carefully scrutinized. Here we find a back and forth in regards to measuring Divine nature by human standards. God's creative activity would seem to be evidence of infinite goodness. Yet who can deny the incalculable suffering, pain and death rampant throughout creation. A fact scripture itself laments. The Bible's statement that creation "groans" longing to be free of futility is a euphemism for everything from cosmic events to the deaths of quadrillions of humans and animals, insects and more on Earth alone. On the other hand we have the fullness of the atonement and the promise of resurrection as well as the glories of a new Heaven and Earth. Yet mitigating this blessed hope is the specter of Hell, Judgement and the Lake of Fire awaiting the vast majority of mankind according to numerous passages including the teachings of Jesus regarding heaven's "narrow gate" that few find. For the las two millennium there's ben the presence of the Church, yet here again we find such dire prophecies as that of the Ten Virgins of which in the end half perish. Finally, there are Christ's great treaties on salvation, seeming to require that we simply love one another, assuring that whatever we've done to or failed to do for the least of His brothers we've done or failed to do for Him. Sadly, the continued suffering and untimely deaths of billions attest to our failing to keep even this gracious solitary command.

When it comes to righteousness, fewer all the time seem capable of seeing or hearing, thinking about or reading up on the subject. Worse, most act accordingly.

It's been said that faith is a gift. That our ability to believe is a synergist effort of the Creator and His creation. Quantum in nature, we are beings indued with the gift of temporary and limited free will. As such, to what extend the responsibility of righteousness falls solely on us is difficult to discern.

While I have compassion for the lost who persist i spiritual blindness with hardly a second thought, I am less troubled by their plight than that of diligent believers who seem captives. If God's hardly found by those know of and seek Him best, how then shall the rest appear?

There's little excuse not to seek the Lord an hour or two daily. Except perhaps that those who do seem to be little better off for it.

We're directed to "Seek the Lord while He may be found." Such verses place the impetus on a genuine effort to, "Draw near to God that He may draw near to you." It may be argued that our responsibility ends with our seeking and serving Omnity as delineating by scripture. We are encouraged that faith, and all that accompanies it, will

grow out of this process. As in Jesus' teaching that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who planted a seed and went to sleep and the earth of itself brought forth the harvest.

When it comes to the Kingdom, as with many of life's pursuits, that vast majority persist in various degrees of irresponsibility, as seen in Christ's telling Parable of the Sower.

Compassion has various forms of expression. From momentary pangs to laying down one's life for friends or even enemies. The question facing us in time and eternity is whether our compassion and its subsequent outgrowth is appropriate to the level of need around us? How moved are we to reflect and remember, study and pray, that need might be reduced if not eliminated? To what degree do we yield our lives time and treasure to energize our seeking and saving that which is lost? Of the remnant having thus responded, few continue doing so. Fewer still go the extra mile of honestly evaluating their success and failures in light of continual and overwhelming need. Yet for those who do, it may be at this very point of collapse, that like a worn out star, there is the greatest potential of super nova.

The greatest restriction to the growth of the Kingdom of God lies not with those who know God least but best. The call to receive the challenge of revival falls not on the shoulders of sinners but saints.

My life's work is not working.

Most aspects of my life are as if I were living out the ramifications of someone else's. Betrayed, rather than appreciated for my dedication by pastoral colleagues. Rejected, rather than applauded, by my board of directors for unprecedented program development in regards to pro-life and teen chastity issues. Opposed, rather than adored by my wife notwithstanding my godly example as once testified to by her own words. Alienated, rather than honored by my adult children for standing in God's stead against their soul threatening immorality. While no doubt far from perfect in matters of extreme holiness, in regards to these vital matters. it's as if I had neither planned, executed or accomplished any of the above.

Given a history of betrayals by those closest to me I've had difficulty in obeying the scripture, "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you." On the other hand the same other tells us, "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Tell God your needs in prayer and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. Then you will experience God's peace exceeding anything we can understand." While failing in the former, I've excelled in the later, constantly mindful of the myriad of blessings enjoyed by 1st World Citizens. Countless times I've given thanks for what equates to our having received the answered prayers of all past generations, authoring hundreds of psalms and proverbs addressing the same. Furthermore, deep repentance and intercession may also be a form of thanks as an appropriate response to scripture's many passages dealing with the hope of contrition. In this regard, even prayers of complaint, when offered rightly may be viewed as

another form of thanks, arising in response to the goodness of God and faith that all Omnipotence's promises are truly yes and amen in Christ.

In the movie "Contact" it was repeatedly advanced that if humanity were alone in such a vast cosmos it would be a *"terrible waste of space."* Among the many rebuttals of this faulty observation is an issue that looms greater than those of when, where and what. Asking and answering the ultimate question of "Why" creation exists is necessary to ascertain its meaning. Only in discovering the purpose behind the Universe can we rightly weigh the relevance of its attributes.

The Bible explains that the main intent behind the design of our observable Universe is to provide an earth as the stage for the rapid (in cosmic not to mention eternal terms) and final conquest and obliteration of evil. Equally important to the eternal counsels of God appears to be the use of Earth as a nursery for those who would gain everlasting life, thus filling Heaven for endless ages to come. Should the more than 1,000 fine tuning parameters of Planet Earth prove it unique in the cosmos, such grand and essential issues as just these two alone would more than explain and justify creation's majesty and glory.

Living under a shroud of spiritual deception dulls the sense of right and wrong. Individual and societal perception distorts and blurs, mixing white and black into swirling hues of grey turning the beauty and application of truth situational and thus lying in the eye of the beholder. One generation's liberal license becomes the standard of conservative righteousness for then next as entitlement slowly drowns character. The sin-ergy of such a situation explains why many modern "sons of light" are in one way or another generally wrong about almost everything.

Consider a simple passage from 1 John which reads, *"This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him."* Read aloud, depending on the tone and voice inflections of the speaker the message of this passage can be either one of the great comfort or chastisement. Seen in one light, one might assume this to be a promise that God's compassion overrules human misgivings. Seen in another, this may well be a warning that by virtue of Omnipotence all our shortcomings are laid bare. Interestingly, both sides have been argued on the merits of both the immediate context and the Bible as a whole. For myself, I worry scripture supports the latter though I hope in the former, mindful of Paul's command to *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling."*

Should the presence of the Lord illuminate all of my heart's secrets and intents, my minds thoughts and attitudes, my bodies words and deeds I image responding to either His comfort or chastisement in similar yet opposite ways. Overwhelmed by the former, I should joyfully shout, "of course, I had forgotten all I had done and why..." Overcome by the latter I should shout in terror, "of course, I had forgotten all I had done and why..."

As a skinny fat man I understand the disparity between good intentions and discipline. A fit, trim black belt in my teens my trained body was stronger than many with greater muscular girth. Recognizing the truth that “physical exercise profits little while spiritual exercise is of benefit in both this life and the life to come” those days are decades behind me. With the birth of my children I gained sympathy weight, now topping the scales at about 200 carried on my particular frame in a size 38 pear shaped belly with little or no fat elsewhere. I suspect this is applicable to my spiritual situation and that of many others.

Some of the best prayerful groaning arose from my wife during the first years of our precious and innocent daughters sexual rebellion. Succumbing to the wisdom of the age, and having exchanged Christian morality for a live in relationship, our now two prodigals have devastated their parents. Often encouraging my wife to record her intercessions, taking a moment to preserve them in audio if not written form she continually refuses to do so. Even after my purchasing a recorder and placing it in her hands, her reluctance resulted in decades of spiritual laziness rather than any ethical dilemma. Such lack of foresight is symptomatic for myriads of modern Christian parents enduring the same torments yet no access to honest training in the lost art of intercession.

Moments of kingdom insight and even greatness are too often followed by hours if not days and weeks of worldly worries and pleasurable pursuits.

It's hard to say at what point the lack of spiritual vision and apathy grieve away the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and those of others.

Does modern Christianity have “blind spots” or “sight pots?”

What's the definition of Christian? Those who believe in the incarnation and atonement of Christ? Demons do. Perhaps, “One whom receives the Lord as is received by Him.”
Reference: “Lord, Lord we cast out demons in your name... and the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

How many lightning strikes of answered prayer are short-circuited by unfavorable conditions?

The power of discipline lays largely in its ability “not to lead us into temptation.”

When humanity and temptation meet, the latter is usually victorious. Hence Scripture's admonition to “flee fornication.”

We are to avoid unnecessary challenges to our faith and resist the unavoidable to the “shedding of blood.”

Christ's Parable of Sower is the Rosetta Stone of evangelism. All about the condition of the soil, it reveals the primary hinderances to the gospel and therefore the very points objection that much be overcome to produce a harvest.

In the 1st Century fields were plowed by a "tribulum." Spiritually, it's the same today. Ironically, the God's blessings on 21st First Century modern peoples equates for more hardpan, shallow soil and worldly weeds. This explains the dramatic decline of genuine converts, much less disciples producing 30, 50, 100 fold returns.

The fool only perceives need when ensnared by it, if them. The wise look ahead, foresee the difficulties and plan accordingly. This includes comprehending hardships and judgments in first this life and that to come.

When sharing the gospel I begin with the ABC's of modern societies primary objections: Proving God exists: $0+0=0$ not everything with over a 1,000 points of fine tuned intelligent design. (Self existence, along with omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence and immutability being the definition of Divinity).

The importance of the eternal vs temporal: lifespan a single drop of water compared to an ocean filling the Universe and beyond.

The supremacy of scripture: The Book vs a book. (Composition, Ethics, Prophecy, Science).

Prophetic Witnessing: 1,500 fulfilled prophecies (Tyre, Sidon and Alexander the Great). The stage being set for remaining 500 prophecies (Israel's national reemergence, 200,000,000 man army...

Key verses highlighting how and why we should seek God: "*Rewarder of those who diligently: seek Him.*" Paul's soldier, farmer and athlete analogies (defining diligence).

Resources available at our fingertips largely being ignored: Bible. Six billion Bibles printed. Unlimited computer and online study helps including millions of teachings and the ability to Google any aspect of human knowledge ("*Too whom much is given much is required*").

Heaven or hell hinges on a single article. Is the Bible a book or The Book?

A large part of the "exceeding sinfulness of sin" is its diabolical propensity to exploit the least whole in our defenses, the smallest chink in spiritual armor. What then the fate of the defenseless?

Imagine an invisible constrictor coiled about the soul, ever anticipating the next slightest opportunity to tighten its grip. This is just one facet of the sin above, about and even within.

Temporal vigilance is the price of eternal freedom.

Purposeful prayer is among the most foundational of Christian principals, yet it's practice grows increasingly rare. While many of the reasons have been previously delineated, they generally fall into one or two categories. First is the looming specter of

unanswered prayer, threatening to reveal presumption masquerading as faith. Second to our issues with God are those with one another. Regular and lengthy seasons of prayer challenge and often uproot our shallow relationships with friends and even family. These Giant Goliaths have all but scattered the armies of the Lord, rendering Churchianity ineffectual if not worse.

As an expanding universe evidences dark energy and matter, so the increasing progress of foolishness to evil among otherwise good people strongly suggests Satan's influential personification.

Like Esau, modern Christianity's sold it's birthright for morsels of fleeting happiness. What birthright? The eventual outcome may be eternal life for ourselves and others. The immediate answer is being filled with the presence, as evidenced by the power, of the Holy Ghost. Becoming those of whom the New Testament warns possess a "*form of godliness without the power thereof.*"

There may be several reasons many if not most prayers go unanswered for months and years, decades and lifetimes. The challenge is all face yet few rise too is discerning among these and acting accordingly.

Trouble comes to the wise and foolish, the wise becoming a devilish target of that which the foolish heap first upon themselves and then others.

How often the incompetent and irresponsible blame their betters.

It's possible, though not particularly likely, that God waits to pour out the fullness of His Spirit on a person or persons with at least a fundamental understanding of the true nature of the Luciferian rebellion instrumental in shaping current events in time and eternity. From Creation's Supreme Court hearings, predating the creation of our observable universe, and the impending angelic war soon to spill out across three heavens to the influence of demonic conspiracies on all strata of society being forwarded by humanity's most wealthy and influential.

Jesus's questions, "Who's that faithful and wise servant that the Mater's put in charge of His people to give them their food in due season?" is all the more interesting and relevant. While truth may come through many measures and mediums, Divine direction in real time seems to require an unusual degree of faithfulness and wisdom. One should seek to find or develop a Christian community displaying an elementary comprehension and response to bare essentials of scripture's foundational tenants. For example, worthy leaders and teachers should have at least enough spiritual sensitivity to discern and appropriately respond to the abortion of over 50,000,000 American babies in a single generation. Not to mention the depth of deception necessary to move an entire generation into this and other unprecedented depravity.

Given our increasing spiritual blindness and the fact that God and angles, the Devil and demons, salvation and sin are invisible and subjective constructs, one should demand better than "*blind guides.*"

“Jesus wept,” is both the shortest verse in scripture and the longest. If the death of a single middle aged friend, whom He would momentarily raise, moved Him to drops of tears, surely He weeps still. Can a billion abortions help but produce a deluge? Surely the Trinity sobs and Heaven's soaked in tears over an Earth soaked in innocent blood crying out for a commensurate judgment too bloody to comprehend.

The difference between astronomy and astrology, science and spiritism, has as much to do with motives and methods as ability and accuracy. Before embracing a teacher's portents and prophecies, it's wise to question whether such experts can at least discern the glaring differences in heavenly bodies such as the sun, moon and stars. Shouldn't spiritual teachers grasp the significance of the devilish conspiracy eclipsing ethics and morality, increasingly engulfing earth through a variety of influences, not the least of which being continual if not total manipulation of society by the world's most influential and wealthy? Next, shouldn't we require genuine recognition of the moon's being turned to blood, as it were, by the abortion of a billion (six times the earth's population in Christ's day) of humanity's most innocent, each of which Jesus family?

“The heavens declare the glory of God” which some have suggested is a trinity of goodness, truth and beauty. Should such be the case, the instructions of ill equipped or even false teachers hold some promise of measurable results. Yet, in of themselves, partial truths can hardly suffice at this time of mass deceptive temptation. Only an authentic Biblical world view, genuinely sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, can hope to be adequate for those of us *“upon whom the end of the age has come.”*

If he who welcomes a prophet's receives a prophet's reward, then what reward will Uriah the Hittite receive having been murdered by the psalmist and prophet warrior King David after he'd seduced and slept with his faithful soldier's wife. In a similar but perhaps lesser way, what might be the reward of myriads of believers down through the centuries who have had the fruit of their life's work cut short by individuals of lesser stature and/or means?

Great Biblical threats hang over the head of the modern world having shed the innocent blood of over a billion through abortion. These include the last half of Amos 5, a fearful passage of God's railing against His own people for their idolatry. In both Old Testament and New we are told that after having been delivered by Moses' plagues against Egypt and the drowning of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea, during 40 years of being fed daily by manna and led by a miraculous pillar of fire and smoke, some the Israelites yet carried *“the tabernacle of your **Moloch** and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.”* Telling it was at the occasion of the Church's first martyr Stephen, his face flashing like an angel as he saw the very heavens open and Christ at the right of God, that this passage should be recounted, his flaming indictment against God's chosen people causing them to gnash their teeth, cover their ears and stone to death the Lord's champion.

In the final analysis, might many successful and even famous people be found to have been little more than ravens sent to feed God's secreted prophets?

We are instructed to, "practice hospitality" for by doing so some have entertained angels unaware. It's my daily prayer that given our present level of extreme deception and need, many might entertain angels aware and thereby be prepared to offer others something far exceeding earthly hospitality.

Before repeated betrayals by colleagues and friends I did many things out of love. Since, most of my thoughts and feelings, words and deeds arise out of either hope or despair, neither of which seem to do much good.

Attempting to measure God's fairness or favor by our lot in life can be tricky business. There is ample example, from Job to Jesus and his apostles, of the suffering of godly men. Furthermore, there is the testimony of the book of Hebrews as to those without number of whom the world was not worthy yet wandered through life destitute or worse.

Those of us living in the modern world are apt to rank and judge our success in life, if not our relationship to God, by our social and economic standing. Those of us in the bottom majority often feel alienated and even angry at our lot. Yet one of the hundreds, or even thousands of millions in Third World and developing nations who have so much less, not to mention those throughout history who could hardly have dreamed of having what we so quickly take for granted.

Taken in its entirety, it seems clear there was little or nothing that Job might have done to lessen the length or severity of his trial. "Word of faith" adherents mis-attribute his suffering to a supposed spiritual fault inherent in his statement, "that which I feared has come upon me." In reality, like a whodunit play where the plot is revealed in the first act, we watch this tale of woe arise from Job's righteousness, rather than any perceived lack of it. Furthermore, the end of the story states, "they comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought upon him..." This being the case, what was left for Job to do but endure patiently, thus becoming the patriarch and icon of such.

Given all that the Bible plainly reveals concerning the holiness of Almighty God, not to mention what may be a host of malevolent angelic majesties arrayed against us, wisdom might dictate silence on my part. Nevertheless I find myself too foolish and fearful to keep from speaking. Perhaps like Job, in the end my prayerful complaint will be mercifully heard.

In the end, it may all be Job and James.

In light of recently discoveries regarding our observable universe, if Pascal found the forces and dimensions of space frightful, how much more Pennington.

As for our quantumly silent and distant yet imminent and eminent God, revealed in scripture as a consuming fire, I know not how to think and feel, only how to hope and pray.

A few years before the round of my latest heart aches, I was walking along the beach crying out to God envy to repeated betrayals by Christian colleagues when I came upon a small rock with the inscription painted on it, "wait quietly on God for our hope is envy." Such sentiment is found throughout Scripture, particularly envy Psalms and Jeremiah's Lamentations. Having daily endeavored to do so for years prior end since, I admit I may not have waited, "quietly enough."

A wily crab, I've often climbed to the top of the cage only to have those nearest pinch and claw, pulling the whole lot of us down again.

Biting the hand that feed you is so pandemic as to be the rule rather than the exception.

Times without number I've been assailed by entitlement while endeavoring to show compassion and encouragement to those with a tendency to, "oppose themselves." Trillions of compliments and kindnesses are thwarted by their intended recipients, who often in mid sentence or act prove themselves resistant if not unworthy.

Like the Old Testament story of the two starving lepers walking beyond the gates of a besieged Jerusalem, I've chosen to repeatedly and passionately speak the painful, "truth in love" as I see it to God Almighty end His fearful Holy Spirit. Who knows but that the Lord will pity me end the ruinous state of churchianity.

Those of us endeavoring to work out our salvation, "with fear and trembling" envy how easily end foolishly modern Protestants easily except eternal security as there's envy for mental assent and perhaps confessing Christ now end then. Catholics, on the other hand, do so through trusting in forgiveness pronounced by a priest during communion, confession or last rites. While there are a few Scriptures that suggests that one might, and though it would be extremely nice to be able to settle the matter once end for all so simply, this is far from the complete message delivered by the New Testament.

Jesus and his apostles repeatedly explained that while salvation is a free gift, it is hardly without condition. Christ himself warns that many who believe they are "in" will find themselves "out." Such teachings include His Ten Virgins, Sheep and Goats Judgment, Vine and Branches as well as those He will reject though they cry, "Lord, Lord" insisting to have done many great works in His name.

One need only reflect on the fall of Lucifer end the arise of Satan to perceive that while, "the calling and gifts of God are without repentance" they are far from incorruptible.

Scripture declares, "God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith." Why should poverty be a catalyst for faith? Because those with less in this life feel they have less to lose and

more to gain in both this life and the next. Thus the impoverished are more willing to venture who they are and what they have.

How difficult and deadly the interim between the assurance and the occurrence of the apostle Paul's prophecy that Satan would shortly be put under the feet of the church.

The unique and priceless blessing to Mary of having been chosen by God the Father to bear God the Son can hardly be over emphasized. Here Catholics do her the better service, yet sadly at the point of violating the message of the New Testament by elevating Mary beyond her contemporaries, particularly when making her a mediatrix.

How often true it is,
from children to adults,
that those who can't would,
and those who can won't.

Of what interest or importance can the momentary concerns of mortal men, on an infinitesimal planet in outskirts of space within the decaying first heaven hold to those who dwell within and enjoy the eternal and unimaginable delights and glories of the great palaces and hollowed halls of the Heaven of Heavens?

It seems a quantum truth that in comparison with the super-beings of eternity, humanity is little more than an afterthought. On the other hand, we are told "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." Such an unique and extravagant gift strongly suggests Earth may have great significance. Genuine Biblical interpretation requires that neither such seemingly polar opposite truths should eclipse the other, but rather be integrated by the whole of Scripture. This can be done by understanding the premise and context of our fleeting existence in light of the ancient Luciferian rebellion, prophesied in the Book of Revelation to soon escalate into all-out war raging across the three heavens.

In our modern first world, if the vitality and passion of youth end young adulthood is not disturbed by misfortune, then men seem to be beings of enviable capability. Yet when the benefits of being plugged into modern technologies are removed by economic or social reversal, disease or the inevitable pangs of aging, we are faced with a different truth. One way or another it becomes clear in the end we are but sleeping beings who eat, poop, die and turn to dust.

From eternity's perspective there may be many reasons for the creation of the first heaven in which we live. From humanity's point of view, what on earth are we here for if not to figure it out.

Oh, that these insights, if whispered by God, might quickly find their full expression.

Turning 51 it's becoming increasingly clear that the hard-won gains of the past may be just that. Thousands if not tens of thousands of hopes and prayers seem to have been

unable to reverse the fact that most of the joys and successes of family and friends, ministry and career have one by one been taken from me. About the best that can be said is that in ways I have enjoyed the kinds of daily bread and modern conveniences that the rich man in the story of Lazarus could hardly have dreamed. Ironically, given the recent economic collapse orchestrated by the world's most wealthy, 50 years of life and 35 years of work have resulted in a negative net worth that could easily result in even greater poverty with just a little push.

While it is true that Scripture directs that having food and shelter we should be content, who does not hope that their life's work be rewarded? Particularly when many of the unrighteous prophets so greatly from theirs.

In a recent remake of the movie, "The Alamo" when facing certain death Col. Jim Bowie complements the commander of the regular Army, his previous nemesis, saying "you have the makings of greatness." Hearing this, the Lieut. Col. replies, "I fear I must settle for the men that I am." This may be truer than most of us care to admit.

While the Bible teaches the blessing of diminishment, it hardly seems one without a clear and convincing revelation from heaven.

Sadly, those to which I interested the greater portion of my happiness, have proved either unworthy or uninterested. Turning 51 I am increasingly faced with the revelation that the downward trend over the last few decades are likely to continue. Bound as I am to social and spiritual realities, I may have little choice but to continue my work as best I can as the sun prepares to set on many if not all of my hopes and dreams.

Micah 7, a chapter from which Jesus Himself quotes, warns of the foolishness of placing our faith in even those closest to us. Even so, isn't this the function of family?

For over two decades, my modest starter house which like much of my life is currently all but falling down around my ears, has lacked an efficient HVAC system. The deficiency was created primarily by the builders failure to install adequate ducting. With a repair price of several thousand dollars and seeing the home came equipped with an expensive fire place insert with blowers, wood burning has been our heater for the better part of 25 years. This requires the seasonal delivery and stacking of hundreds of dollars of wood as well as daily building and maintaining a fire. It's also provided a touch-stone with a long succession of past generations. Such situations, coupled with repeated ruinous betrayals but trusted ministerial colleagues have occasioned without number the consideration chores common to all only a century ago and billions even today. In part I imagine a slower paced lifestyle with simpler pleasures, including gathering around a roaring fire as the darkness of night falls outside one's hut or cabin, the wind whistling if not howling through the trees. While a romanced version of reality, I've found it comforting to contemplate and a constant reminder to give thanks for the blessings of modern technology. Happening so often, perhaps on a daily basis, I would be remiss failing to note it.

How different weekends are depending on one's lot in life. Reoccurring stints of freedom for those who hate their jobs. More of the same for those plodding along and making do. For the fortunate few embracing and rejoicing over their calling, an extension of week well spent.

Lately, about the closest I've come to real answered prayer is when someone else doesn't win the lottery... until they do.

My continual prayer is that God would return and even multiply the power of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit we see filling the first century Book of Acts to His modern twenty first century church. May great and global seasons of healing, revealing and appealing, times of refreshing come accompany the presence of the Lord allowing those who best understand and adhere to His message perform undeniable signs and wonders. Peter's shadow healed all it touched. Our emptying hospitals would be a good start.

When considering the thousands of daily thoughts and/or complaints, genuine or exaggerated, unspoken but within our own minds, how well can one person does really know another?

It may only be in fully realizing our heavenly calling that leaden earthly sorrows may be transmuted by heaven's golden glory.

In the last 40-50 years, the Left has won every social battle, completely inverting morality in a single generation. In the same period, deep pocketed members of the Right have triumphed fiscally, busting unions and the back of the middle class. Profiting at every turn, the wealthiest power brokers of both have amassed trillions, even by the creation and manipulation of astronomical debt for which they brazenly orchestrated a public bailout. Such unprecedented gains go strangely unnoticed by either side except by its ever increasingly filthy rich ruling elite.

At certain seasons and within particular relationships, our choices and behavior as individuals seems to have more impact than elsewhere. In childhood, and again when raising children, words and actions tend to land immediately, encouraging or discouraging, blessing or cursing. Friendships, depending on their depth and workplace affiliations, depending on their significance, also leave lasting impressions regarding our ability to control or at least manage our lives. Family, for better and worse, as an extension of ourselves, play a primary role in our perception of our place and purpose in the world. In time, with so many streams of circumstances flowing into our lives, currents become swift. With or without our permission, our choices, join forces with those of others, swelling the river within our soul. As tides rise, we innately question our powerlessness over influences deeply effecting us. At this point, human behavior diverges significantly. From philosophy or religion to diversion or drugs, we each chart a course, hoping to find a way to deal with or perhaps deny the tenuous nature of our existence.

Seeing our bodies are borrowed, what manner of Godly lives ought we be living?

Given the ever increasing worldliness and sin within and without the church, few concepts deserve more reflection and consideration than that of “*time* (energy and money) *well spent*.” If our individual and collective purpose is the conversion of the world to faith and obedience in Christ, it’s imperative that we immediately recognize and respond to the fact that in a single generation we’ve fumbled the ball from perhaps the 50 yard line to within inches of our own end-zone.

Given mankind’s devilish predisposition to entitlement, developing the habit of thankfulness is crucial to all aspects of life and faith. This includes gratefulness for blessings in hand as well as those promises but not yet forthcoming. As Paul notes, “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” - Phil. 4:6-7

It’s impossible to overemphasize the trinitarian expression of living faith, namely obedience, thankfulness and productivity.

With the promise of being filled with the Holy Spirit, a full and complete representative of Tri-Omnity, no other major world religion offers the opportunity to participate in controlling the direction of one’s fate and even that of others. Yet how few the adherents recognizing, much yet realize such potential.

Of those comprehending the great and precious promise of Scripture that by prayer and perseverance we might overcome all life’s obstacles, most are dismayed if not defeated by the real time need of either.

In as much as the purpose of writing is to identify the problem, I may excel. In regards to remedying the situation, I appear to be an abject failure.

As if to add insult to injury, it’s not enough to that the time and energy of well meaning and thought our persons should be infringed upon by those who are neither, but that these should have the audacity to demand that those wiser become as foolish as they.

If you would have friends, show yourself friendly. If looking to enjoy conversation, start by educating yourself with interesting and excellent information.

When assaulted by circumstances, many call to mind a friendly, even weeping, meek and mild Jesus. I rather envision what I imagine a more scripturally correct Christ, such as the One who once having rebuked the wind and waves threatening to capsize experience seamen, He then disciplined His disciples for their lack of faith. Even the singular instance the New Testament records that Jesus wept over human frailty at the death of Lazarus was immediately followed by a lightening strike of Divine power that raised the dead. “*Greater things than these shall you do.*”

Life is filled with incessant interruptions by the ramblings by relatively uniformed persons insisting their undisciplined thoughts and unrestrained emotions demand expression. In all likelihood you're reading some now.

Stop and take a look around, to death all earthly life is bound,
ever stalking without a sound, hour by hour gaining ground.
Prepare now for Hell's hound, wise, the godly will be found,
with eternal life to be crowned. Sadly, billions of fools abound.

I've attending hundreds of prayer meetings with a well educated, biblically literate lifelong minister dedicated to strategically seeking genuine revival. While interested in an attentive to my quantum Christian thinking and Biblical interpretation, I yet find praying aloud a dubious business. While inwardly entertaining, sorting through and compiling dozens of competing thoughts in a matter of moments, even given our history it would take hours to explain much less explore the interconnectedness and depth of my thoughts and feelings, hopes and fears. Nevertheless I do my best in public, jotting down notes for further development in private.

For the better part of a decade I've had the option of either attending a 6 AM Saturday morning prayer meeting or investing that time in the own pursuit of God through strategic writing, prayer and research. I've often asked myself which I would prefer, answering it doesn't really seem to matter. I appreciate components of each, feeling as if either choice would be a good use of time. Sadly, neither practice appears, "good enough" to produce tangible results in the light of day.

The authentic student of Scripture and its impact, or lack thereof, on modern society will quickly find that hundreds if not thousands of Biblical passages suggest a worldview and lifestyle in subtle if not sharp contrast to the mindset of churchianity. At times so much so that black appears gray or even white. When wrong seems acceptable or right, diligence discernment is required to tease fact, much less faith, from fiction.

Even a cursory reading of the harder sayings or "black keys" of Scripture quickly reveal what may be a disastrous deviation by first world Christianity from the willingness to embrace the all encompassing mission, much less suffering, entrusted us by Christ.

In a fallen world, and all the more so as sin increases and judgment nears, ministerial success will be found to be conversely related to one's economic and social standing.

For the most part, those having done great things for Christ suffer for it. Setting earthly pleasures aside, such plunge headlong into hand-to-hand spiritual if not mental, social and even physical battle. Win or loose, these of whom the world continues to grow unworthy embrace loss as an indispensable cost of the high calling of being prize fighters in "the good fight of faith."

Which is it, "Jesus meek and mild" or Christ, "the conquering King?" Judging by our lifestyles, most hope in the former with few seriously considering the latter. Like so

many things, the answer lies in the difference between temporary perspective and the glaring truth of eternity. One might as well ask, "Is the sun a benevolent ball of warm light or awful flaming Star, the very circumference of which will one day engulf earth?" Consider well scriptures warning that Omnipotence's not only the Creator of 50 billion trillion stars but a "consuming fire."

The moon regularly eclipses the sun, and daylight 200 billion blazing galaxies. Both impossible feats but for our momentary paradigm.

While essential if not crucial, it's simultaneously rewarding and repellent to steep oneself in the study of repentance and judgment.

Feeling good maybe overrated.

If the downward spiral of circumstances in my life continues, I fear it may be destruction rather than deliverance drawing near.

Galatians assures for freedom Christ has set us free, encouraging we stand firm against the yoke of slavery to the thoughts and desires of the flesh. Yet how sad that morality rather than immorality often appears a jailor, to the wicked as well as the righteous.

It's one thing to talk, sing and even pray about the inherent in the freedom of faith. It's another thing altogether to daily glory in such overwhelming victory over the tyranny of life. In point of fact, studying, proclaiming and sharing the potential of such promises without the walking in them feels like a kind of bondage in itself. This goes a long way in explaining why Christians are reluctant, often to the point of refusal, to share Christ with family and friends, neighbors and acquaintances.

If Samson's Nazarite calling required he be sanctified before birth how much more that of Christ-ians?

How many millions would embrace Christian disciplines such as prayer and fasting, holiness and sanctification if doing so produced tangible results in real time?

Lord, if you wait to heaven to reward the righteous there will be far fewer to reward.

The greatest challenge faced by the majority of modern first world believers is the loss of trust and companionship of family and friends. When unnecessary, and destructive behaviors repeatedly assault our sensibility and peace, it calls into question the integrity, if not the very reality, of our faith. We are easily and often dismayed by resistance to and even assault on our most holy faith by those nearest us. Yet the Bible reveals that the attack against the holiness of heaven itself came not from without but from within. Scripture repeatedly warns that one's worst enemies may arise within the ranks of those we love.

When hopes and prayers fail, particularly for loved ones, it's natural and wise to question the tenacity of our faith. This is all the more true when those opposing themselves have received a lifetime of service and Christian example. Beyond this, a posture of deep repentance along the lines of Psalms 51 may be required. Here we find the great poet-prophet, warrior king crying out after having seduced the married granddaughter of his greatest counselor Ahithophel, not to mention the daughter and wife of two of his most faithful warriors. Having added the murder of Bathsheba's husband to his sins, in repentance David rehearses the madness behind his behavior. If such prayer by the betrayer brought forgiveness for such a heinous act of betrayal, what might it achieve when employed by victims of loss pleading for those most dear?

Christianity was literally born from, in and for adversity. The purpose of the incarnation was first of all that Christ might, "*Destroy the works of the evil one.*" His appearing providing salvation for humanity by redeeming and delivering "*whosoever will*" from the deceptive power of sin, Satan and the ever growing spirit of antichrist.

The apparent contradiction to the understanding of modern science found within the Bible's first few chapters beginning with the creation account and running through the story of Noah are sufficient to understand today's all but wholesale rejection of the narrative. As the foundation of Jewish and Christian faith, such seeming discrepancies undermine, if not completely discredit both Judaism and Christianity. Educated men, as well as the societies they influence, use what they view as just another creation myth to reasonably reject the whole of Scripture. Others, for various reasons, justify sweeping liberal interpretations on similar grounds. Finally, there are those using such arguments to dismiss the concept of religion itself, thereby justifying any or all human behavior from immorality to violence. Such ostensible departures from common sense conspire with a dozen or so other problem passages to present a rational excuse for disregarding the entire Bible. These include Moses' parting of the Red Sea, Joshua's sun standing still and Isaiah's reversing sundial, not to mention the virgin birth, resurrection and ascension of Christ. What seems to be incidentally or purposefully overlooked are two clear and undeniable facts. Namely, there is a God and we are not him. That God exists is unquestionably seen by the existence and intelligent design of creation (see Quantum Christianity). The conclusion that we are not God speaks for itself.

I know of no other organization that has done half as much to bridge the gap between modern science and problematic biblical passages, such as the creation account in Genesis, as Reasons To Believe. Leaders in developing an old earth creationist point of view, their explanation of Old Testament Hebrew in regards to scientific points of contention is unparalleled. Happily deferring to their expertise, I nonetheless take exception to finer yet crucial points of their acceptance of modern theology.

It appears Abraham's original wealth was a result of his lying about his relationship with his wife. Afraid that her beauty would be his demise. we are told he commanded her to pretend to be his sister. Hearing of her loveliness, the Pharaoh of Egypt took her as his own, showering riches upon Abraham whom he thought her brother. Finding his palace plague, Pharaoh uncovered the deception and sent them away far the richer.

Interestingly, only a chapter or two later we find a much changed Abraham. Having rescued his nephew Lot, along with the people and treasure of Sodom he meets and pays a tithe of the spoils to Melchizedek, whereupon he refuses any and all of the booty rightly offered him lest it should be said the King of Sodom had made him rich.

Consciously or not, all mankind seeks power over the human condition. Power to understand the past. Power to control the present. Power to preserve the future. While perfectly reasonable in light of limited free will and the specter of mortality, sin twists the pursuit of power into every form of evil, enslaving the human race. Even so, I suspect millions if not billions would gladly trade pursuing earthly power for genuine heavenly revelation. All the more should the teachings of Christ prove demonstrable in light of day. Even weightier instructions that seem counterintuitive such as, "it is more blessed to give than receive" and "he that loses his life for My sake will find it."

As the love of many continues to grow cold, those wishing to practice righteousness will bear the brunt. I myself have spent the better part of a decade housing and picking up after an ungodly and irresponsible adult son hardly willing to lift a finger when it comes to shouldering responsibility. Such duty would be far more tolerable were he growing into the godly, or at least moral man he was raised to be. I would've ended this subtle tyranny the day it began were it not for his mother's insisting otherwise, even to the point of threats. The situation was less disappointing prior to his precious, sensitive and godly sister's walking out the door he had opened into gross immorality.

Accumulating past disappointments, their present persistence and inevitable future entropy conspire to slow if not halt the forward progress of my life. Surrounded, as it were, by the foolish choices of drunkards, I find it ironic that it is I rather than they who must live, *"one day at a time."*

There is an interesting dichotomy or at least dynamic tension between the Old Testament's commendation of the planning of the wise and prudent, particularly as recorded in Proverbs, when juxtaposed against the teachings of Jesus against worry. These include the uselessness of worry, direction to take no thought for tomorrow and observations regarding God's provision for flowers and birds that neither, *"toil nor spin."*

Fools find wisdom demeaning, regarding advice and education as criticism and rejection, they negate truth and thereby any hope of substantial change.

Attempts to solve the mysteries behind unanswered prayer and the relative silence and distance of Omnipotence requires a steady mind and hand. First, as if increasing the magnification of a microscope, one must be willing and able to distinguish the nuances of personal and corporate sin through the pretense of temptation and deception. Honest Biblical inquiry reveals a hierarchy of sin able to separate believers and unbelievers alike from the provision and protection graciously offered by God. Next, as if viewing the cosmos with a telescope, researchers must discover and comprehend the grand design of mankind's true context within time and eternity as revealed by scripture. Like the physics behind our increasingly expanding universe, it becomes clear humanity's

growing entitlement and sin must be driven by the presence of massive spiritual dark energy and matter.

The heavenly courtroom drama and subsequent conflict recorded in chapter twelve of the Book of Revelation offers incredible insight into the past, present and future of time and eternity. Satan, once known as Lucifer, acting as chief prosecutor in Creation's Supreme Court strongly suggests his angelic rebellion has yet to be fully judged. Possibly predating our observable universe, the continued presence of a fallen angelic army speaks volumes in regards to Divine patience not to mention human history.

Mankind's sin seems to pale compared to that of once ancient, holy and glorious angels. What is the infancy, naiveté and mortality of the human race, individually or collectively, when compared with the combined resources of such magnificently equipped malevolent combatants?

The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, exposes the devilish nature and extent of an angelic conspiracy arising from before the annals of antiquity. Seen in such light, intercessory prayer takes on a new dimension. Even those resisting extravagant charismatic impulse must admit our Adversary's cunning as witness throughout the pages of scripture. When fully factored in, the dilemma of unanswered prayer may be as much or more about the success of the sin from above (demonic) as that from about (societal) and within (individual).

Its interesting that in regards to Noah's flood, God's expressed anger and disappointment rages against men rather than the revealed malicious influence of fallen angels. This may be accounted for in a variety of ways, including the fact that Scripture's summaries may be largely one-sided, intended primarily for humanity. Nonetheless it may present a compelling precedent.

I am saddened and mystified that having studied and pursued Scripture's great and precious promises, so few answers to prayer seem to have been forthcoming. While in some ways fulfilling, a lifetime of strategically seeking and serving God has left me with the distinct impression of being unable to pry open the Lord's clinched hand, well on its way to forming a fist.

Decades of daily seeking miracles has yielded only the saddest of proverbs.

If accurate, or more so than others, when compared to competing contemporary ideologies the biblical exegesis of Quantum Christianity seems to me to be the difference between sentimentality and nonsense verse content and context.

Given modern levels of self and demonic deception, my inspiration may well arise from "*the flesh*" rather than the Spirit. Nevertheless, are we not all responsible to diligently seek to know and make known the truth?

The Sabbath was instituted to build into the work week time to develop understanding if not a relationship with God. Taken as a whole the day allots 1/7th of our time to this pursuit, though daily demands might reduce our disposable time on any given day to 1/10th. Even so, how few are willing to invest even 8 quality hours out of 168.

All experience sickness and death. Preceding the final great hurricane of mortality, various disabilities are to be expected. From times of steady downpours to drenching monsoons, foul weather is inevitable. Depending on intensity and duration, such seasons challenge faith's progression. Wisdom dictates the use of Springtime and Summer to prepare for a Fall harvest and harsh Winter. Let us plant and harvest with all haste prayers and good deeds against the onset of Winter's darker days and death. As Jesus aught we not *"work the works of him who sent me while it his day, for the night comes when no man can work."*

In coming across a man born blind the disciples asked Jesus who was at fault for his difficult lot in life. Christ explained the fault lied with neither the man nor his parents but rather *"This happened so that God's work could be shown in his life."* He further stated *"While it is still day, we must do the work of the One who sent me. Night is coming. Then no one can work."* Spitting on the ground Jesus put the mud in the mans eyes, perhaps to replace malformed eyeballs, and sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam, which means *"Sent."* This text raises several important questions, not least among them is whether this was an isolated case or is Jesus teaching that debilitating illnesses and/or injuries are intended to be the clay in which miracles revealing the glorious mercy of God are publicly and routinely wrought? If so, does not the *"fault"* for such needless suffering rest squarely on the shoulders of unwilling or inept sculptors among Christ's disciples?

The Bible repeatedly warns of a time when the quantity and quality of evil and unbelief, deception and judgment will rise to such an intensity that *"the sun will become dark and the moon will turn red like blood."* An apt description of the fate of both our physical and spiritual world, all the more so should the advance of sin continue its relentless march unimpeded.

Even Jesus was prevented from performing miracles in regions eclipsed by the sin of unbelief.

As mankind's descent into the gathering darkness of judgment and tribulation steepens, the final skirmishes over the eternal fate of the souls of men seem all but lost. Resupply is a crucial aspect of any war, much less a cosmic one. Tragically for millions if not billions, without weapons and ammo, training and intel, the outcome of coming battles seem largely a foregone conclusion.

The teachings of Jesus are as interesting as they are crucial in regards to prevailing prayer. Consider Christ's parable of the friend who comes at midnight. Who is he who comes? Who are those on whose behalf he comes? What do the three loaves represent? What is the meaning of midnight? What is the door? Why and how is it

locked? Who are the children? What kind of, "shameless audacity" (NIV) is promised to gain the desired response? Whom are the neighbors who might notice? Why should intercessors need go to such lengths rather than merit the generosity of friendship?

Solomon's complaint of finding only one in a thousand men upright or wise and no women seems more than poetic license. In an time of comparatively few distractions and temptations, of relative innocence and naive deceptions one wonders at his lament. During the apex of Israel's golden age, what moves the victorious king to such melancholy? Among other things, might it have been a lack foresight among his people to see beyond temporal needs and earthly splendor to the application of excellence in seeking the eternal? If so, might his calculations be increased by a factor of 1,000 today?

Though undoubtedly unreasonable if not indulgent, I am daily disappointed if not angry with God and the Devil, mankind and myself that the vast resources and influence of humanity should be squandered or worse by foolish if not evil unbelievers and their religiously apathetic if not apostate counterparts within Churchianity.

A common complaint, this success of the worldly is a contention woven throughout the Old Testament. This concern is overwhelmingly addressed in the New by the incarnation and humility, ministry and crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Christ which occasioned God "*giving gifts to men*" at Pentecost. Here, thee long-awaited "*promise of the Father*" was fulfilled by the indwelling and empowering of ordinary men and women by Person, fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. While the full message of scripture holds the perfect cure, something must be done about the world's rapid decent into moral oblivion. After decades of having failed to experience anything approaching the promised fullness myself, and being surrounded by millions if not billions of Christians of lesser faith, I am compelled to continually "*ask, seek and not*" on humanity's behalf for an immediate and global reversal of this unacceptable and soon to be eternal tragedy.

If Omnity's plan includes using incredulity to reduce me to stunned silence, it's working.

A beautiful and wise family transmute the chores of daily life from burden to joy. Hypothetically.

Billions have found their most precious faith bludgeoned and bloodied by worldly disappointment and disaster. Many give up. Others give in, becoming shades of their former spiritual selves. Some, digging in, resist the tide though too few do so strategically.

Preeminently apparent in the powerless of the prayers of myself and others, I've lamented the overwhelming silence and distance of God in innumerable ways. It seems important to note that while the seriousness of the problem is undeniable, I continue to daily pray earnestly for breakthrough (see Rob's Daily Prayer). Constantly assailed by doubt, the wisdom of continuing such apparently fruitless pursuit is ever with me.

Nevertheless, I find two things worse than facing the fact of our disastrous situation. One, foolishly refusing to do so. Two, surrendering the good fight of faith.

Rob's Personal Daily Prayer

Over decades I've refined and memorized my personal prayer. While often improvising by adding additional points I try not to skip any. Every word has been crafted to be extremely meaning to me and I hope to God.

The exacting nature of my first prayer of the day creates the groundwork I use to pray more freely thereafter. I start by humbling myself through laying an extensive foundation of repentance. Next I begin the process of interceding in detail on behalf of the people and issues I care most deeply about. Once these first two aspects of prayer are accomplished I move into serious intercession for issues great and small, weaving in and out of repentance, adoration and petition. As you will see, I directly and indirectly employ dozens of scriptures, daily exploring their meaning and the power they contain.

I feel more confident to continue employing several if not all [Seven Modes of Prayer](#) throughout the day.

While the length and detail of my personal prayer list may seem overwhelming but I strongly recommend investing the time and energy to create and daily pray one of your own. If you hope to move or prevail in prayer with God, the Devil, Circumstances and Men on behalf of people you care for it would be wise to "care enough" to create a list of things to ask daily ask God for. In the Biblical parable of the persistent widow, Jesus promises God will speedily vindicate or answer prayer but only of those who "cry out day and night."

Starting with Repentance

Beginning -- Dear God, I ask you to forgive our sins of [omission](#) and [commission](#), often willful and repeated. A myriad of them unknown to us. Vices extolled as virtues. Virtues suppressed by vices. Condemning to idol words. Debts owed to You and others. Please continue to deliver and protect us from every evil thing and danger, from sin, self, [Satan](#) and the spirit of [Antichrist](#) to accidents, incidents, illnesses and injuries by the [blood of Jesus Christ](#) may there be no ill effect.

I ask you to forgive my sins, the sin of my wife Cathy, my son Derek and my daughter Bethany as well as all those people, places and things I have been, am and will be praying for including my mother, my brother and his wife, Shelby Jakie and Daily.

Provision and Influence

I ask you to bless my ministry, career and business. Please bless '[Eternity...The Wager](#)' and Series. Bless [God Blog](#) and [Quantum Christianity](#), [Praying Parents](#) and [Truth Talk](#). All the projects I have in my heart and mind to do. Bless [Care Consulting](#) and [Accurate Painting](#), restoring their income to what they were in better days.

(Here I ask for blessings on a handful of friends)

Asking really BIG! (Note: single quote denotes scripture quotation or paraphrase)

I ask for 'the gift of prophecy. That we would understand all mysteries and have all knowledge and all faith, all working by love. To speak in all tongues of men and angels and be prepared for all good deeds.' (1 Corinthians 13)

And that we might not be alone, but that 'all God's people would be prophets' 'filled with all the fullness of God' from this moment forevermore.

That you would send us into 'all the world to preach all your gospel to all those *You Yourself* have created learning together to obey all the things *You Yourself* have commanded and that all *Your signs and wonders* would accompany *Your* message including the healing of all the sick, raising of all the dead, casting out of all devils and demons. Giving sight to all the blind, hearing to all the deaf, speech to all the mute both physically and spiritually." For it is written, "Surely as I Live, says the Lord, I am not willing that any should perish" but that all should come to the knowledge of truth, repentance and salvation. To which I would ask for immediate and massive global seasons of healing, revealing and appealing, "times of refreshing coming from the presence of Lord." Not by the judgment we deserve but rather by mercy and grace, grace grace.

Corporate and Personal Concerns

"I ask for these Seven things:

A New 'Pentecost' with an immediate global impact of a Million Upper Rooms.

"Power from on High" for myself and family, friends and colleagues. All Christians everywhere and our descendants forever.

Provision: a 5 to 6 figure salary for myself annually and 6 to 7 figure budget for Quantum Christianity both secured, retroactive for doing the best work I've done in the Kingdom.

Passion for the 'wife of my youth.' That she be wise, virtuous and beautiful filled with all the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

For my 'prodigal son' Derek, that he might instantly and fully come to his senses and grant you the full honor due the Tri-Omni God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords and grant me the honor due a father and leader this very moment while I am 'yet speaking.'

That my precious daughter Bethany would do the same, coming to her senses and coming home and neither her or her brother ever leaving again until they were ready to do so spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally. That they would quickly learn to fear and obey God and 'honor their father and mother' that it might go well with them in time and eternity. That together our family and friends would be filled with 'the Holy Ghost and fire.' That we 'would be preserved entirely blameless spirit, soul and body to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

For a beautiful new premises on a wonderful new property, preferably in a forest perhaps above the snow line overlooking an ocean, lake or tinkling city that I might do my work in peace, sin less and prepare myself and others for that [which is to come](#)."

Forgiveness, Restitution and Resource

Please forgive our sins and help us 'forgive those who sin against us.' Issues real and imagined, past, present and future. Sins of omission and commission, willful and repeated, unknown and ongoing.

Help us not to be vindictive by 'vindicated,' immediately in this life and eternity. For myself I ask for 2, 10, 1,000, 1,000,000 fold the resources I had previous to and would have had without the subsequent [betrayals](#) of ministries and colleagues. Wealth, salary, district, title, product, productivity, resource, receptivity, lack of resistance and lasting results.

Health, *family blessings, family blessings, family blessings...* 'Love, peace, joy, faith, hope, righteousness and glory in the [Holy Ghost](#).'

Thank You for and please continue to deliver and protect from all debt and taxes, loss of income, repossessions and foreclosures, bankruptcy and divorce. Please increase my fortunes that I might pay out of a small percentage all that is owed and owe 'no debt but [that of love](#)' and be fully paid on that account."

Love and Glory of God Ephesians 3

"I pray these things to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom all the families of Heaven and Earth are named. That You might grant by You glory that we should be strengthened with all might by Your Spirit which dwells in us by faith. That being rooted in Your love we might comprehend the length, depth, width and height and know the love of God that passes knowledge.

And that we might be *filled with [all the fullness of God](#)...*
with All The Fullness Of God...

Now unto You who are able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all we can ask or think, according to the power that works within us *which I prayed repeatedly would be immediate and unlimited*. May there be glory in [Your church](#), in every Christian and family, group and organization, church and denomination, through Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, including this present dark and evil one and that which is coming, world without end.

Have mercy and grace, grace, grace..."

Prostration and Intercession

Dear God I confess once again that I and the entire human race, perhaps a hundred billion past, present and future are but 'dust in the balance' before any aspect of Your Omnity or even Your [creation of space, time or matter](#).

We are 'as a mist, here in the morning and burnt off by mid morning.' We are thinking *feeling sinful* reeds to whom a little water added or withheld can mean life or death. We are soulish spirits in bloody meatcycles on skeletal sticks, '[fearfully and wonderfully made](#)' yet with little or no concern over the demands of our Maker to be obedient, productive and thankful. And this, even though for the most part we are born between feces and urine and for all our pomp will die as dogs.

Nevertheless, it is written that even we might become beloved dust, 'heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ.' 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'

So I pray that You would help us 'come today and [reason together](#), though our sins be as scarlet that we might be washed white as wool.' That through [abortion](#) and other acts of global violence and evil we have covered the Earth in crimson, reaching to Heaven and filling it with scandal to our shame, that we might be washed white as snow. By the love and will of God the Father. By the blood and work of God the Son. By the fruit and gifts of God the Holy Spirit. Blessed Omnity, Three in One.

I ask that You would [speak to us](#) immediately, forgivingly and gloriously and that we 'would not harden our hearts against Your voice' and that You Oh Great, [Awesome](#) and [Awful God](#) would do the same, hearing and answering our prayers today while yet on our lips, even those which from our perspective seem [long delayed](#).

That you would help us to come humbly and boldly, successfully and repeatedly, victoriously, joyously and gloriously 'before Your throne of grace to obtain mercy, help and resource at this time of need.'

For while we stand before You utterly condemned for our sin, particularly my generation and the next in First World Nations and beyond and are **without excuse, even our behavior is [not without explanation](#)!** For is it not written that he formally known as [Lucifer](#) or in Hebrew הילל בן־שחר **Helel Ben-Shachar**, who stands accusing and condemning us first tempted and deceived us after having led a myriad of angels astray Ancient, holy and glorious angels from Heaven above. To which end I would ask what chance do we have dear God against so great an [Adversary](#) and [his army](#) given that in comparison the entire human race was born yesterday and dies tomorrow, balanced if and when at all on toes of flesh. Praying if and when at all as lungs expel air strumming vocal cords to the tune of two to three pounds of brain matter, without an unprecedented global outpouring of Your Spirit's presence and power, provision and protection? So I pray along the lines the Lord taught:

Our Father in Heaven, Your name is Holy. Your Kingdom come and [will be done](#) on Earth, [today](#), as it is in Heaven. Thank You for [giving us so much](#). Please give us [far](#)

[more](#) as well as [wisdom](#) on how best to use it, particularly on behalf of those with the greater need. Please forgive our sins, trespasses and debts and help us forgive those who sin and trespass against us and are indebted to us as previously prayed. Particularly I ask that You lead us not into but out of all [temptation](#). All sin, above, about and within. All evil, the [evil One](#), the evil Him and his for Yours is the Kingdom, [Power](#) and [Glory](#) forever, of which we know little but I suspect they are to be [feared](#), revered and desired above all things in appropriate ways. -- *End*

Who is the muse whom haunts with such thoughts?

When it comes to modern Christianity, I am the "Amplified Version"

For better or worse human memory his short-lived. Fools quickly forget, if ever even recognizing, their attitude and actions. The wise suffer short term memory loss as well, repeatedly casting new pearls before old swine in hope of better outcomes.

Many who find themselves alone deserve to be so. Others are isolated by circumstance or betrayal. Of the latter, most can find new friendship should they choose to do so. Finally there are those who like eunuch, choosing the resistance of the path less traveled in hope of obtaining help in this time of need.

Biological sinners, we always forget our vices and often our virtues.

As successor and heir of the Old Testament, and again in it's own right, Biblical Christianity is far from the simplistic and sentimental religion nostalgically packaged and sold to modern day masses.

Could there be a greater more eternal tragedy than that of billions of parishioners, Bibles in hand, spending their lives scripturally illiterate?

After the death of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the book of Genesis uses the phrase, "gathered to his people." This may simply be a reference to the grave. On the other hand, such passages might have been intended as evidence of the afterlife. If so, it's interesting that when arguing with the Sanhedrin regarding the reality of eternal life Jesus chooses rather to point out the verb tense in the phrase, "I **am** the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob."

Of the greatest sadness to me his the fact that at any time any one of us has at our disposal any number of acts of foolishness and evil capable of immediately devastating if not destroying every act of kindness and goodness achieved in our lives and those of others. As surely as there are scores of ways to both instantaneously and without remedy take a life, either or that of another, so too our prayers, hopes and dreams can be all but ended in a single sinful stroke. Making matters worse is the inability to perform godly acts with equivalent opposite impact and demonstrable effects in real time without walking in the power of Pentecost as revealed in the Book of Acts.

One can hardly be reminded often enough that the Super-Natural beings with whom the apostle Paul reveals mortal men wrestle to the death with, are themselves immortal. Such a distinction means far more than for nearly endless ages simply not to have suffered their. Scripture declares the now fallen Angels warring against us were originally created in a glorious state, befitting the citizenry of heaven. Least among the list of countless incredible attributes of our enemies would be perfect memory and recall of every bit of information acquired by the blazing speed, accuracy and depth afforded in heaven has been perfectly sealed within their nearly ageless minds. Greater still would be the strategies arising from eons of evil genius inspired and enhanced by what when compared to us would seem unlimited levels of data connections along the crude lines portrayed in the movie "Limitless." By comparison, would not the greatest among us be as morons before unimaginable chess grand masters, unable to think more than a few moves beyond what we are capable of seeing in a single dimension of a multi dimensional board filled with unimaginable pieces moving in imperceptible ways?

Having attended thousands of Christian meetings and reviewed as many or more teachings of Christian leaders, I've yet to hear a single believer complain to the Lord of the numerous and fantastic inequities between our Adversaries and ourselves, much less use such clear and unfair advantage to petition if not even demand anything even approaching immediate and commensurate resource. (See Rob's Daily Prayer)

For better or worse, or perhaps both, I took my wife out to a movie and dinner on the eve of New Year's Eve 2011. We saw a \$100 million Hollywood remake of a Swedish film, "Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" (GWTDT) based on the first of a trilogy of best selling Swedish novels dealing with the topic of violence against women. Featuring Daniel Craig, a rising superstar and the current 007, it was not only extremely well written and acted, directed and produced, but I suspect a foretaste of things to come. From the opening credits, an unprecedented immersion into the allure of blackness as dark images of sensuality morphed with sci-fi and art, it was apparent a new genre was emerging. So much so a point or two of scriptural sociology may be in order before summarizing some of the aspects of a style of moviemaking I suspect will be adopted by filmmakers and come to be expected by the viewing public. First, any adept student of scripture and culture the that premise regarding continual escalation of worldly temptation and sin throughout modern society. In regards to entertainment, both the music and movie industry have gradually increased in sensual and even violent content. The beginning innuendoes of decades past seem innocent enough, particularly when compared with modern standards, yet over time particularly television and movies have become inundated with immoral if not abhorrent behaviors. As with so many forms of deception, the progress of public addiction to such content has been as relentless as it has been incremental. So much so, the entire entertainment landscape has radically changed within a few decades. Sadly, we are all effected by such changes, yet the slow yet steady shifts in societal norms have the deepest impact on those growing up under their normalization. This being be case, future generations of entertainment seekers will find themselves exposed to increasingly sophisticated forms of sex and violence accompanied with an overt and covert array of compelling arguments encouraging and then demanding the dismantling of all restraints imposed by religion as well as the

nuclear family it was designed to protect. Beyond the credits, some aspects of the GWTDT worth noting include the following: (1) The interweaving of two compelling plots, either of which sufficient for their own storyline. (2) Juxtaposition of the expert and exploitive sides of lower, middle and upper class society including rape, torture and incest. (3) Stunning scenes of coerced sex and violence by and then against an abusive social worker. (4) The introduction of a new form of dark isolated, radical victim-heroine, at once with and without morals. Black leathered, spiked mohawk hair, tattooed and pierced, bi-sexual gothic 20 year old genius declared a ward of the state on the grounds of mental incompetence for having burned her father to death for some form(s) of undisclosed abuse. (5) Upper middle class divorced investigative reporter in a long standing civilized affair with a married co-editor as hero on the basis of handsome crusading journalistic integrity. (6) Shockingly violent yet warranted revenge. (7) Darkly serendipitous merging of past, present and future circumstances, persons and events to dramatize the invisible dysfunctional power structures inherent within all stratus of society. (8) Awakening, exploitation, development and betrayal of hero-heroine relationship. (9) Decades of exquisitely developed serial rape and torture by social successful, intelligent and vastly wealthy murderer uncovered by genius insight and investigation. 10) Successful ruining and multi billion dollar robbery of robber baron. (11) Triumph of lower and middle class against the world's most wealthy. (12) The seductive-repellent nature of all the above.

When scripture warns of the apathy and evil of men, particularly in the end times, most assume it speaks of "them" and could hardly refer to us, much less me or mine.

Few things fill earth so completely as irony.

What do I really know about anything? What do you?

Imagine the Church as an institution of learning where attendance appeared voluntary. Imagine the Holy Spirit the School Master who's assignments seemed less than compulsory. Within such a subjective environment, certain students from kindergarten to doctoral candidates would likely be more in tune with the program. Many might remain in the most basic of levels. Some would graduate on schedule while others repeated courses for years or even decades. Given challenging curriculum, a pyramid would form with fewer ascending to higher and more difficult levels of learning. Fewer still would continue moving upwards should there be great temptation and deception, much less strategic attempts to divert the attention and attendance of classmates. The more subjective the studies, without compelling evidence and personal instruction from the Professor, one can easily imagine that many if not most would leave for less abstract pursuits. Should students be falsely assured that diplomas were assured upon registration, would many embrace the rigorous study and discipline demanded by the Head Master on pain of expulsion?

During the Saturday morning prayer meeting I've attended for the better part of a decade, my sole remaining prayer partner Paul excitedly showed me the website of the church of 700 he currently attends featuring an invitation by the pastor to a 21 day fast.

The attendance of the informational meeting for those interested in joining the staff's fasting for third year in a row could literally be counted on the fingers of one hand. The 5 minute video sermonette defined fasting in as broad of terms as possible, describing the giving up of anything for any period. From absolute to partial fasts of food, media or even shopping. We agreed the effort was better than can be found within most churches. We then discussed the Quantum Christian view of what constitutes an "appropriate response" to scripture and the Lordship of Christ. Described directly elsewhere and indirectly in all my writings, in the end our success or failure in time and eternity hinges on the level of our response, individually and collectively, to that which is most important. In this case, it may be helpful to examine this rare call to fasting in light of the often used analogy of Christianity as a military campaign (with the disclaimer that, far from simply a metaphor, cosmic warfare raging across three heavens is a greater reality than our mundane worldly concerns). While offering such a program once a year is good, as is the fact that 250 parishioners had signed up for a daily email encouraging involvement, the question remains, is it good enough? For example, would it fulfill the requirements of God's acceptable fast as described in Isaiah? (see Quantum Christianity and Godblog.net). Even viewed from a more common frame of reference, with less half of 1% of the church attending the kick off meeting, how many would be making a serious effort (which is the point of fasting). In fact, in light of such a dismal turnout, the effectiveness of even this pastor among pastor is suspect. What kind of a drill sergeant in basic training, or a platoon leader in conflict, settle for recruits or soldiers not only shrugging their duty but refused to show up for training? This being said, it's noteworthy that men of such faithfulness lead congregations of billions while I lead nothing and no one.

The difference between heaven and hell lies in thinking well.

From the birth of my wonderful firstborn son, I found him worthy of all my best efforts and worldly possessions. With the birth of his beautiful sister, I found my feelings growing, rather than diminishing, in intensity. While far from perfect, my appreciation and enjoyment for both of my children continued to only deepen through their early teen years. Up to this time I found their innocent foibles and foolishness endearing. Knowingly ever increasing levels of temptation and deception that lie before them, from before birth I dedicated them daily to Lord, careful to beseech Him in one way or another, that they might be recipients of His mercy and grace themselves and heralds of such to their generation. Sadly, while entering his mid teens, for some unknown reason, the heart of my son turned from me and from God. As his secret acts of rebellion were discovered to be growing in quantity and quality, I used the occasion to explain and reinforce the training he had received regarding the "fear and admonition of the Lord." In light of tens of thousands of kisses, tickles and hugs, not to mention as many words of encouragement instruction and warning, I was hopeful that his juvenile rebellion could be turned around before adulthood. Instead, even before his 18th birthday, it became apparent he would grow to embrace more fully the role of a prodigal. Such behavior was as unacceptable as it was hard to understand. Nevertheless, I continued to pray and work diligently that he might come to his senses. During this time, his sister, always been the more sensitive the two, seem to be learning if not profiting from her brother's

mistakes. She not only grew in wisdom, but as a comfort and delight to her troubled parents. Tragically, while living at home prior to her 21st birthday, she made an almost instantaneous break with the Christian values she had spent a lifetime developing. Inconceivably, she first dated and then quickly moved in with a newly divorced older man. Having lived through the better part of a decade with first the rebellion of the son of my love, then that of the daughter of my delight, reluctantly my feelings have changed substantially for my once beloved children. Thousands of prayers and tears latter, I find them unworthy of all but the required attention and limited affection required of a parent. While I have and am determined to remain steadfast in prayer and intercession. daily seeking God on their behalf, their abuse of my love so freely given, not to mention the costly grace of God, has opened a void between us equal to that experienced by the loving father in Christ's story of the Prodigal Son who said upon the return of his wayward boy, *"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."* With continue sorrow, like a bleeding wound refusing to heal, I long for days gone by before the traitorous actions of my closest ministerial colleagues and Christian friends had herded my family to such a ruinous state... I record this personal sorrow to raise a series of questions. Convinced the original impartation of love I received at the birth of my son was from God, I wonder if He feels as I? Aware of the Bible's use of the word "if" over 1,400 times, not to mention an additional 6,000 recorded commands, I understand that God's love, while clearly a gift, is hardly unconditional. Jesus even said of Himself, *"the Father loves the Son because He always does that with is pleasing in His sight."* If God feels something like I do in regards to my children, where does He draw the line? Who in fact does He receive rather than reject. Might I be among the millions if not billions who consider themselves the former when in actuality are among the latter? Nonetheless I'm hopeful that the over 70,000 hours of strategically seeking and serving the cause of Christ will culminate in the saving of my household, and more.

When I consider the outpouring of compassion, direction and support I would have lavished on my prodigal adult children had they had continued in a handful of the most basic tenants of our most holy faith, I wonder if Churchianity too has contented itself with the fodder for pigs rather than our Heavenly Father's offer of eternal rings, robes and fatted calves?

I'm grieved when my virtues and gifts are repeatedly taken for granted and even vilified, a trait no doubt shared with Divinity.

For better and worse, humans tend to overlook and even grow accustomed to acts of indiscretion and sin, sometimes a little too easily. While the virtues and vices of unexamined forgiveness in regards to attitudes and words, actions and habits of be unrepentant may be argued, it's important to keep in the that God may not. When it comes to habitual sin, our own or that of others, let us carefully consider Jesus' warning that we shall give account for *"every idle word"* and the apostle Paul's admonition that we should do be same for every *"deed done in the body."*

Few cultivate an acknowledgment, much less appreciation for, life's brevity. Who among us routinely counts the number of our heartbeats for a given day, hour or even a

minute? How many have done so even once? During the first moments of consciousness, while lying still in our beds, if we are quiet enough we may hear the blood coursing through our veins. Given a finite number of heartbeats, ought they not be invested with infinite care and wisdom?

Of my over 30 years of kingdom training, service and research, about a decade has been as a professional, with about half being salary positions. Throughout 70,000 hours of strategic investment, my underlying goal has always been to break through to God, for myself and others, aware of the fact that scripture reassures Omnipresence is *"never far from any of us."* Explaining, *"In Him we live, move and have our being."* Given a series of betrayals by my closest ministerial colleagues, family and friends, I'm facing third down and long entering the third quarter of my adult life. Win or lose, it's my intention to finish the game with as few further foolish fumbles, turnovers or penalties as possible. With so few demonstrable and decisive answers to prayer the days, most choose to fend for themselves rather than remain constant, vigilant in daily prayer, if ever they were. It's true best under such circumstance it's painful to continually expose the unmet desires of one's heart. Yet it remains the only rational response to an unreasonable situation. How much can it hurt to do both?

At 51 and watching the results of my life's work in regards to family, ministry and career caving in about me, I can understand how adverse circumstances and realities of life demolish the dreams of youth. I have long laid up daily prayers against such eventualities, including that God should not lead me *"not into temptation"* but deliver me from all sin, about above and within, all evil, the evil One (literally rendered the evil Him) and His. Nevertheless I sense the growing presence of disappointment and deception, like that of a wrecking ball and crew, threatening to demolish that which remains and that which may yet arise, from the rubble of my life's work.

Lord, when nothings assured to work, or even likely to, how many will even begin to try much less preserve and perfect their doing so?

Proverbs declares *"its better to get wisdom than much fine gold and intelligence than silver."* I've yet to experience the fulfillment of this verse but I keep hoping.

Have you ever turned off the heat during the cold of winter, awaking to the pillowed softness and warmth of your bed and reflections on all we have to be thankful for? Imagine living in a tribal community of the past or present, living in a tent or hut, without any of the comforts or advantages of modern society. What would it be like to lie covered with skins or blankets of woven hair or cloth during the chill of winter? Snow covering the ground, if you were fortunate enough to have enough supply for the day or season you might have food and warmth. Lacking the privacy of separate rooms, for better and worse, family and possessions would be crowded together, day after day, year after year. In areas of deep snow, movement would be cold and wet, lacking modern transportation or even winter gear. Think deeply for a moment, adding to this scenario the limited personal, family and community choices inherit in living a lifetime without the blessings of modern employment and education, diet and health care, travel

and communication. Imagine never even imagining a convenience store, much less a supermarket, shopping mall or Amazon. Imagine living under the constant threat of loss and violence with a military or police force and court system. Imagine little or no health care, entertainment or travel opportunities... The things one might imagine being without are endless, as are the things we ought to repeatedly give thanks for, particularly in light of Christ's warning, "to whom much is given much is required."

Perhaps the church is "out of order" because the attitudes and actions of its parishioners are out of order.

Were not the apostolic authors of the New Testament simultaneously bond slaves of Christ and the freest men of all? Can we be one without the other? Which of us, throughout all churchianity, are truly either?

Passages such as Psalm 39 and 13 provide solace and inspiration for quantum Christians.

When the wealthy or influential attempt to communicate the principles behind their success the explanation is almost universally oversimplified and one-dimensional. A person's experience is shaped by an innumerable number of factors, including an endless array of potential encouragements or disappointments. Beneficial or adverse relationships and circumstance play a large part in the success or failure of any individual or enterprise. Complicating matters is the fact that worldly and eternal views of success are at odds with one another. Furthermore, while scripture explains all that is hidden will be revealed, we are directed to "*judge nothing before the time*" seeing that the good and evil deeds of some are apparent now while those of others will only be revealed on Judgment Day.

Given the many explicit and implicit scriptures dealing with the heavenly persons identified as angels, numerous characteristics and traits may be extrapolated regarding such extraordinary beings. These likely include:

Created in perfection: predating earth's formation (Job 38:7) and possibly the singularity Eons of sublime society prior to Luciferian rebellion

Beyond line of sight

Beyond proximity limitations

Beyond time limitations: simultaneous interactions

Perfect recall and connection recognition: "Limitless"

Exponential multi layer strategic planning

Experiential communication

Ageless exponential intelligence

Teleportation: dimensional space and perhaps time

Matter transmutation

Without decay: food and sleep unnecessary

Heightened communal relationships

Emotional satisfaction and stability

Waistless society: time, energy and matter

Never confused or idle
Undistracted and unwavering in purpose
Access to heavenly resources including unimaginable technology
Enhanced relationship to God

It's impressive that the average person thinks 10,000 to 50,000 thoughts a day, and tragic that so few reach full development much less expression.

The Bible's first recorded first great session of intercession seems that of Abraham pleading the case of Sodom. Several details of this auspicious meeting between the father of the faith and the Angel of the Lord, most likely the pre-incarnate Christ, merit consideration. First of all, the fact that God seemed unwilling to proceed without discussing Sodom's judgement with Abraham though it was Lot who lived within harms way. This may be a result of scripture's distinction between the two, Abraham as a man of God and Lot merely a godly man, undoubtedly reflecting varying commitment levels. Next is Abraham's opening gambit when wrestling with God for the sake of his extended family and any righteous within the marked city. Notice his robust argument if not attack by declaring, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" This is rather a risky strategy to use. One I've often employed, yet only after laying a deep foundation of humility and repentance, and never in the direct presence of the Almighty. Many other issues are apparent ending with this, that even the prayers of Abraham were unable to save Sodom. They may, however, have factored into the deliverance of Lot and his daughters, if not his wife and son's in law, though the verse in Peter seems to suggest Lot would have been saved by his righteousness. What is certain is that the intercession was important enough to be included in the Book of Genesis. As with all of scripture's historical accounts, this passage both reveals the heart of Abraham, the friend of God, as well as reveals a significant principal in the art of prayer.

As with Abraham in his intercessions for Lot's family and whatever righteous might have been found in Sodom, Moses's pleadings for idolatrous Israel were skillfully chosen. Coerced, Aaron had cast a golden calf at the foot of Mount Sinai while above the very finger of God emblazoned on tablets the Ten Commandments previously given beginning with "You shall have no other god's before me." At this point the glorious Creator of heaven and earth and deliverer of the children of Israel had had enough. Identifying the revelers as "Moses' people" He commanded His prophet to stand aside that he destroy them, making a new nation from Moses' descendants. Hearing this, Moses redirects the conversation by pointing out that the children of Israel were God's people, whom He had brought out of Egypt in the sight of all the surrounding nations who would judge the Lord by His treatment of them. Finally, Moses prays that should God choose not to show mercy by staying His hand, that the Lord should blot Moses' name out of His book (presumably the Book of Life). Interestingly, both points of view were accurate. The children of Israel were both God's people and Moses' as well. Part of the quantum art of intercession is doing the same by continually acknowledge the depth of our sin while pinpointing it's underlying causes. Hopefully this will inspire mercy, if not act as testimony in Heaven's Supreme Court were humanity as a whole and the church in particular is being accused by Satan "day and night." An example of

this can be found in my daily prayer, were after 15-20 minutes of back and forth I explain that, “while we stand before You utterly condemned for our sin, particularly my generation and the next in First World Nations and beyond and are *without excuse, even our behavior is [not without explanation!](#)* For is it not written that he formally known as [Lucifer](#) or in Hebrew הלל בן-שחר *Helel Ben-Shachar*, who stands accusing and condemning us first tempted and deceived us after having led a myriad of angels astray. Ancient, holy and glorious angels from Heaven above. Lord, what chance do we stand against so great an [Adversary](#), [his army](#) and [demonic resistance](#) without an unprecedented global outpouring of Your Spirit's presence and power, provision and protection? So I pray along the lines the Lord taught ‘*Our Father in Heaven...*’”

The brightest of the starry pantheon are Venus and Jupiter, yet they have no light but the sun's. So too holiness is a shield absorbing and reflecting the glory of God.

How much brighter is Heaven than our sun O Lord? How I long for Your Son's brilliance to shine on Earth.

While it's been noted that the secret of focus is elimination, strategic accumulation is also required. As to revival, this means obviating that which grieves the Holy Spirit while like a transformer, amassing and dispensing the power of His presence, provision and protection.

Its tragic that when it comes to seriously serving God and men, most fail to do even the least they might while for most of us in the minority, the least we can do is about as much as we find ourselves doing.

In an inhospitable world and even church, may God mark the difference between the burying and theft of one's talent, between hiding it under the bed and endeavoring to see it develop in the prayer closet.

For those interested or familiar with the concepts of Quantum Christianity allow me to state for the record I strongly suspect the Lord to be far different than I imagine. Either far more demanding, far more merciful, or both.

Does it bowed well that twice in a single gospel (Matthew 5:30 and 18:8) Jesus commands Christians to cut off their offending hand and pluck out the enticing eye? A single reference would seem to suffice for simple a metaphor. Twice in the same gospel indicates Jesus felt the warning crucial enough to need reinforcing. As did Matthew, considering what must have been hundreds if not thousands of Christ's teaching he omitted for the sake of brevity. Further troubling is the inconsistency of such scriptures with modern doctrines of “grace.” In fact, the Savior's repeated statements are about as far as possible from teachings like “don't sweat it, it's under the blood” or “confess it and forget it.”

As is my habit, yesterday I observed the Sabbath (strategically not religiously) by fasting Friday to Saturday night, attending 6am and 7pm prayer meetings, and directly seeking

God a total for about eight hours. Nonetheless I awoke Sunday feeling somewhat depressed and guilty. I wonder if this is more evidence of the untrustworthiness of emotions or of a faulty plan or performance?

It's a good idea to routinely set aside a Sabbath fast, not just from certain foods or distractions but also from habitual patterns of thought. Like the movie, "What About Bob?" it's good to take a holiday from ones worries. Better still is making time to entertain thoughts outside of the rut of or routine. From time to time both secular and sacred thoughts and emotions, words and actions, hopes and prayers deserve a closer look from alternative perspectives. Particularly by those striving to break free of mundane and imperfect habits into the perfection of God's presence and power, provision and protection.

I strive to "*awake the dawn*" rather than being woken by it, in hopes of getting ahead and working through my concerns and troubles rather than being overrun. Seeking God early "*while He may be found*" is explicitly and implicitly taught throughout scripture as is Benjamin Franklin's quote, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

How can we hope to discover the nuances of God's nature? Many if not most would suggest such an endeavor is destined to prove futile, at best end in frustration. While sympathetic in regards to the inherent difficulties involved I decent from abandoning the search, buoyed but such passages as, "*the secret things belong to the Lord our God but the things revealed belong to us...*" Next, there are those who would argue that scripture is enough to make such distinctions. Yet the existence of hundreds if not thousands of sects among the faith strongly suggest otherwise. Finally there are those who, consciously or not, maintain it's enough to be found pleasing God, to be know by Him rather than vice versa. Such thinking is Biblically correct and the basis of the QC theory that according to the simple understanding of Christ's three greatest treaties on the subject of salvation, were we to keep even the second great commandment and love our neighbors as ourselves all would be well in time and eternity. Nevertheless, even when reducing the thousands of commands and conditions of scripture to one, we're anything but blameless. Additionally we are faced with interpreting the true meaning of these crucial words. Who are our neighbors? What does loving them entail? Thankfully Jesus answers these very question in His real life story (not parable) of the Good Samaritan. Again sadly we fall fall short of all Christ requires. This passage along with the Sheep and Goats Judgment and the Rich Man and Lazarus (only Biblically recorded conversation of human beings in eternity) reveal most will be unpleasantly surprised. Other explanations by Jesus, such as the Narrow Road, support the need for greater understanding: "*For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*" Other passages, such as the Ten Virgins, reinforce our need of an accurate picture of God and His requirements. Speaking of His kingdom in the last day, the Savior warns that half would fail to make the cut though they all:

Were called Virgins (had a degree of holiness)

Believed in the Bridegroom (Christ)

Awaited His return (believed the scriptures)

Went to meet Him (possessed some degree of sanctification)
Had burning lamps (a testimony of Christ and some measure of the Holy Spirit)
The burning question that arises is why? Perhaps these failed to be diligent enough to determine the true character of God.

So how might we proceed perhaps even a verifiable model regarding the nature of God? First we must admit that while the scripture may be perfect our interpretations are anything but. Clearly almost any concept can be supported by overemphasizing or misinterpreting certain Biblical passages. Thus forewarned, extreme care must be taken to correctly utilize the accepted Seven Rules of Biblical Interpretation with the addition of QC's Eight Rule of Emphasis. Then, while clearly subjective, it's wise to inquire of the Author of scripture how the directives, promises and warnings combine into a unified whole. Recognizing that the meaning of scripture must be "*spiritually discerned*" the Quantum or Prophetic Christian invests large quantities of quality time, looking to the Lord for understanding of His revelation. Here it's best to be ruthlessly honest in the effort to distinguish thoughts and emotions arising from us, or worse, rather than quickly embracing whatever seems to be compatible with comforting explanations of favored verses. So armed, we are ready to enter the fray for this heavily defended territory, seeing the more we understand Him, the more likely we are to be found pleasing and being transformed into His image.

The fact that scripture must be "*spiritually discerned*" is true on many levels. From "higher criticism" and liberal interpretations to fundamental and evangelical theology. From cessationist views of miracles and spiritual gifts to charismatic. This also includes understanding the Bible's thousands of commands and warnings, promises and conditions in light of rapid changes in the modern world. As well as learning the language of the Spirit to be led in matters great and small in hopes of walking as close as possible to the center of God's will for the benefit of ourselves and others in this life and the next.

It's unreasonable for the unreasonable to continue to demand reason for the reasonable whom they continue to ignore or worse.

Soldiers and athletes know "pain is weakness leaving the body." What then is the Christian view of fear?

George Bernard Shaw's observation, "I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pigs. You get dirty, and besides, the pigs like it" is a humorous take on Jesus' warning of castings pearls before swine. Of course few hogs consider themselves thus, therefore great care must be taken lest we find ourselves wallowing in the mire of unrecognized truth.

It seems another inescapable limitation of human nature that the best of us "*see through a glass darkly*" or as the Message puts it, "*We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist...*" If the wise and righteous "*know in part*" imagine a world filled and led by the folly of the foolish and rebellious. Such a scenario

seems unavoidable and therefore acceptable. Yet given the intensity of the temporal and eternal stakes, is it? Were you to hear the cries of eternal lament and see Hell's billions weeping hand gnashing their teeth would you think so? Would you remain stoic having glimpsed heaven's glories, the likes of which *"no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no mind has imagined"* only to realize the agony of such loss must heat the very Lake of Fire in which *"They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever."*

It's easy to corrupt predestination. Simply spend less of yourself to save the lost than Calvin.

Might a New Pentecost globally yielding a thousand Upper Rooms unite the best within Christendom? Could the heat of heavenly fire burn away the dross, melting pieces of the truth and the lives of believers together into a faith pure and glorious enough to be of undeniable worth?

David said, *"I will not offer the Lord that which costs me nothing."* What's Christianity cost you?

I concur with Psalm 19: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb."* All the more true given the glorious events and teachings of the New Testament. What better scenario than to have Christ, the Son of Man and God the Son seated and interceding for us on the throne of heaven? Add to this the fulfillment of the promise of the Father to fill believers by His very Spirit with *"all the fullness of God."* Surely such resource is more than enough to obliterate any need or threat, including that arising from the cosmic angelic war raging across three heavens and engulfing earth. Nevertheless who can honestly deny that two thousand years after receiving such *"exceeding great and precious promises"* mankind and even churchianity remain POWs? One myself, I long for the logistical fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit, enabling God's perfect plan to be executed, before we are.

Christ's teachings on importunity are interesting to say the least. His "Persistent Window" and "Friend Who Comes at Midnight" suggest that while the metaphorical persona of God may be unmoved by friendship, tenacity may do the trick. The implication is that prevailing prayer may be less about sentimentality than strategic diligence.

I wonder if like me, Omnicity prefers those who've tried and failed than the prudent refusing to do either.

Ever changing circumstances and relationships, along with the uncertainties of mortality may necessitate those wishing to be saved or rewarded in this life or the next choose a service to God and man independent of such considerations.

It's best to over prepare to meet life's challenges. Wisdom dictates we hope and pray for God's provision and protection while, like "*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*" readying ourselves to endure difficulty without either if necessary. This requires careful and continuing planning along with the realization that the task may be humanly improbable if not impossible. Such a lifestyle may be intended to create an upward spiral of reliance and obedience to God.

The difference between enabling and serving can be difficult to discern. Following Jesus' command to go the extra mile for family and friends, not to mention enemies, is difficult at best. As when backpacking in steep terrain, the hike may be made easier by focusing merely on the next few steps. "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*"

Many continually go the extra mile with little or no lasting notice. One can think of, and even for, speak and act on behalf of others with little or no effect except that of increased frustration. Such scenarios suggest the importance of developing a malleable strategy when trying to walk the path of faith, hope and love.

Disappointment is such common fare, it's best digested in the closet of prayer.

When officing from home, my faithful five pond Yorkie spends his time nestled at my feet. When working from a recliner, he punches in, lying snuggled between my legs just behind my laptop. Ever couple of hours we take a short walk, I to stretch and he to check his "pee mail." Should I loose track of time or if something exciting's happening outside Bentley jumps down sweetly whimpering. Next he adds gently growls, awaiting my full attention. If I remain negligent, he makes his way to my chest to lick my nose, again briefly waiting for response. Should all else fail, he climbs above my head and descends, twisting and yelping while gnawing my nose. As my laughter erupts, he jumps down, turing to look at me as only a Yorkie can. If a tarry a minute or too longer, her whines, repeating the process until prevailing. Daily this same tiny dog lys on his back, groveling and hoisting a hind leg in submission Oh, that in such love and reverence we might find the lap and face of God...

Pound for pound my little Yorkie can paw some ground.

When Jalking (jog-walking) with Bentley, my Yorkie little bigger than the squirrels he good-naturedly chases, I leash him when passing through tall stands of trees having previously observed Red Tail Hawks spying their prey because he's *precious* not disobedient. Can he perceive the difference? Can we?

Whenever running the water, gathering towels and pet shampoo, my Yorkie hides under the couch. Sweetly peering out from underneath, he hopes the moment will pass but alas is too soon found out and getting his bath in the sink. So too God.

The fruit and gifts of the Spirit are intended to free us from tyranny of the mundane, transcending human nature, that we might see *“all things work together for good...”*

Such a tiny planet, such a big world.

It's easy to see why many think God a tyrant, wielding coercive if not punitive power over humanity in this life and the next. While certainly true, it may be far from the whole truth, in light of Christ's costly atonement. On the other hand, the insightful may recognize God's responsibility to redeem mankind having allowed the Luciferian Rebellion to envelop the whole earth. This raises an interesting point. While we know little about the angelic race, using the pieces of the puzzle given in Scripture it would appear they have yet to suffer retribution resulting from their insurrection now *billions of years old*. Should this be true, such divine restraint seems anything but tyrannical.

It appears we have two races, the angelic and human, long at war with one another and themselves. One seemingly beyond pain, and the other knowing little else. Tragically a third of the former and far more than two thirds of the latter seem hell-bent on rebellion which must end in first Judgment, then the Lake of Fire, and that for ever.

The unprecedented blessings given this generation provide an opportunity and responsibility to serve one another and answer questions long asked by fallen humanity. Rather than using our freedom to indulge the flesh, it falls to us to invest our great resource into piecing together the puzzle of mortal life lest we find like the rich man in Jesus's story of Lazarus our massive wealth condemning and consuming.

As both New Testament writers James and John point out, it's more difficult to love God whom we can't see than our neighbor who we can. Recognizing and approaching much less loving an intangible invisible God is humanity's greatest challenge, particularly when admittedly or not each of us bear such unresolved issues as to leave us at once fearful and furious with our Creator and even Savior.

Men are such biological sinners we miss 99% of what's happening in and around us only to forget 99% of the 1% we noticed. Recognizing this, one might imagine each of us taking copious notes of those things which are important in time and eternity. Yet precious few do.

Daily praying over the same issues, even when from differing vantage points, seems unnecessarily onerous. Yet even as days pass into weeks and months, and years into decades what is the lifespan of a man in comparison to eternity, or even the glorious beings inhabiting it.

That the thousands of commands and promises, requirements and assurances of Scripture appear to have so little effect in the light of day should be a matter of ultimate concern to all of us.

It's odd that within humanity, where the need for control is paramount, so few have given concise much less comparative religious thought to the paralytic sting of death and grave.

Few Bible believing Christians have taken notice of the new Testaments frequent use of the word "fear." Appearing over 100 times, almost always as an admonition that we should, work out our salvation with "fear and trembling." In fact, the Spirit through Paul takes that very New Testament directive from Psalms 2 where even kings are so directed.

Perfect synergy of our 5 senses makes it easy to overlook their exquisite nature. Take hearing for example. Anyone ever attempting to train speech recognition software soon realizes the nuances involved in human communication. From the filtering of background noise to the recognition of similar sounding words, not to mention pattern recognition which allows the filling in of gaps left by mumbled or even unspoken words, the gift of hearing is remarkable. It would take volumes to extol the virtue and mental and emotional social and hopefully religious impact of this single sense on humanity collectively and individually. Add to this the accomplishments and misuse of our senses and again one can see the importance of Christ's warning, "to whom much is given much is required."

Unlike the apostle Paul and the leaders of the church of his generation, today's Christian teachers risk and suffer little. In fact it might be said, "If there be no resurrection from the dead than we are of all men 'pretty well off.'"

If "*he who suffers ceases from sin*" then how wise is it to pray for ease?

When it comes to enjoying and working alongside fellow Christians, the choice is generally between quantity or quality, if quality is even on the table. As has been noted, "Eagles don't flock." Just imagine if they did.

Other than Giver and Judge, what role does God play in the Parable of the Talents?

By definition, "hopeless" may not be the same as "pointless."

Unlike God's conversation with Satan, one about me might go more like this. "Have you considered my unprofitable servant Rob, when it comes to pointing out the obvious, of which most are oblivious, there are few like him in all the earth."

Scripture suggests that the tears of the righteous are a valuable commodity in heaven's economy. This may provide a partial answer to the mystery of why God doesn't reveal the end from the beginning to all of those trying to love and serve Him. It might well be

argued that being mesmerized by glory should lessen the passion of our prayers, causing our tears to be few. On the other hand, greater revelation might provide the occasion for deeper sorrow and mourning when considering Jesus is warning that the highway to hell is broad and tragically well traveled.

All or nothing thinking is a tell tale sign of both immaturity and addiction. This behavior displays itself in a variety of ways, even among the best of us. For example, the biblically literate understand entitlement to be not only the original sin, but the root of all others. As such, a strong case can be made for the importance of thankfulness. The polar opposite of entitlement, development of this habit is as important among the virtues as is mortar to a stone or brick wall. Even so, who among us has spent a single entire day counting our blessings in hopes of strengthening this vital attitude, particularly in light of the phenomenal blessings of modern life? The same can be said for any number of crucial considerations, from comparing the size and age of the universe with our own to carefully contemplating the inconceivable realities of an eternal heaven and hell. Amazingly, and to their credit, we are told Job's "false friends" stood for 7 days in compassionate silence when first beholding the sufferings of the patriarch of patience. While few if any have replicated such a feat for even the dearest of family or friends, a single day may be doable. If not, perhaps a few hours... Starting small and working our way up may be preferable to continually jettisoning such important spiritual exercise.

Secular biologists acknowledge the obvious age of the universe and the apparent role of evolution as the means of advancing life on earth, yet deny the undeniable evidence of an Intelligent Designer. Young Earth creationists acknowledge the obvious existence of God and the Divine role of fine tuning in advancing life on earth, yet deny the undeniable evidence of old earth creationism.

What's implied by the time periods necessary in an old earth creation model? That God's in no hurry for starters.

Science's best theory is that our moon was created by a perfectly executed planetary impact by a Mars sized object designated "Theta" about 300,000,000 years after earth's formation. The collision would need to have been incredibly precise in speed and trajectory, neither too direct and thus annihilating either or both planets nor to glancing a blow with Theta largely deflected. Such a cataclysm appears to have blown off enough of the toxic early atmosphere to set the stage and allowing for the formation of life as we know it. Creation by catastrophe may speak volumes regarding the nature and plans of God, including that when making an omelet He's willing to break a few eggs.

After decades of being an evangelical and charismatic, intercessor and activist so few lasting gains have been made that for better and/or worse I've receded into prayerful writing as research. My goal has always been to break through to God before experiencing a further breakdown of His revealed will. Daily crying out for and carefully consider the requirements to restore to the Church the authentic fruit and gifts of the

Spirit that Mark's version of the great commission might be fulfilled: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

Thinking and writing, praying and waiting is all I can do until I can do more.

When it comes to punching through to God, if done right it only takes one.

For the genuinely oppressed or feeling to overwhelmed by life to take if more than a day at a time, it's difficult if not impossible to accomplish long term goals with having and working a good plan.

The challenge's not so much knowing what to do and not do, rather how to motivate ourselves to do and not do it.

Times without number I've been troubled by fear, wishing to again pour out to God my disappointment and despair, but not before finishing my twenty minute daily prayer. Once finishing every meticulously scripted confession and request, almost without fail the burden lifts. Whether from exercising faith, feelings of futility or both, only time or the end of it will tell.

I use memorized daily prayer as both paddle and sail, sexton and rudder.

I had no father to speak of and never anything resembling a Christian home. As a believing parent, not to mention an ordained one, it was a top priority to give my children the care and stability, love and admonition their mother and father had missed. I happily invested over 100,000 kisses, tickles and hugs between the two, accompanied by hundreds if not thousands of teachable moments. Going the extra mile, I took pains to ensure such efforts weren't short circuited by neglect or abuse, certain that such loving equity combined with strategic planning would bind the hearts and minds of my son and daughter to their family and the God of their father. Inconceivably to me, I seem to have been sadly mistaken. At least thus far.

Lord, for us everything's backwards and upside down. Fill us with Your uprightness, a gyro defining right side up.

Most either secretly fear or intuitively know that simply understanding our situation will do little to improve. Nevertheless, where else can we begin?

Rewarding that which is beautiful and pleasing to the eye, or good and pleasing to the heart, is naturally satisfied. Unfortunately, billions if not trillions of compliments and

words of affection are lost to abuse and neglect. So much so, that many seek solace in pets, often finding them more worthy than their human counterparts.

Openly develop a working philosophy without a thorough appreciation for Omnipotence and its commands is infinitely more disastrous than engaging in science while ignoring the universe and its laws.

Consider how when it comes to making toast the difference between deliciously golden brown and unusably burnt may be a matter of seconds. In many of life's most important pursuits there may be similar margins.

One wonders, from eternal perspective, what makes the mastery of the virtue of patience so necessary that its development should be tried and tested dozens of times a day?

Most are prepared to face modest challenges too see out plans come to fruition. When our goals are obscured or even in retreat, the true challenge arises. Do we endure, trimming the sails and batten down the hatches or adjust course?

Have there ever been beings so free and so bound?

I continue to thank the Lord I'm not in pain, and have all I need and more. Nevertheless I daily reminding Him of what I've lost, what others are squandering and what I believe is essential to save the whole unprofitable lot of us.

To the uninitiated, scripture can be as deceiving as it is revealing. Drafted in and for a time of war, what appear to be biblical promises are in fact offers of induction, training and supply for the purpose of outfitting Kingdom soldiers not placating sinful civilians. Distinctions too few care to make.

Consider the story of a handful of entrenched and isolated Japanese combatants who never knew that World War II ended and thus continued standing their post for years. Now imagine a completely opposite scenario in which nearly an entire army laid down arms and began to living as civilians at the height of a species war between humans and demons raging throughout three heavens.

Thoughts and experiences, from the sublime to the Satanic, vie for our attention and allegiance from moment to moment. Fixating, our desires become habits shaping our world view. How we think or feel is largely dependent upon the intensity of the pursuit of the object of our passions. Consciously or not, perhaps 100 times a day by choosing this thought or emotion, word or deed we construct and build upon a vast array of worthy or unworthy choices. Over time, for better and/or worse, what we were and might have been gives way to who we are and are becoming. Living in anything but a vacuum, our lifestyles affect and are affected by society, as individually and collectively we spiral up or down towards and unknown eternal fate. Such a scenario suggests the need of introspection before and reflection during and after the crucial exercise of our vastly

limited free will, acknowledging the wisdom of the scriptural directive, *“Above all guard your heart with diligence for it determines the course of your life.”*

Time is filled with beauty and horror. Eternity with heaven and hell. Caught in the gravity well of the former, are we not moment by moment rising or falling towards the event horizon of the latter?

The fact that billions of mortal beings of breath and blood should think so highly of themselves is compelling evidence we are not alone. As dark energy and matter are detectable in the gravitational constant and expansion of the universe, so the overwhelming influence of the fallen angelic and demonic is evident in humanity’s overly preposterous attitudes and actions.

Given the intangible transcendence of Omnipotence, it’s understandable the vast majority have given up on prayer, many before seriously entering into the process. While disappointing, might that not move the few of us remaining towards the head of the line?

On a practical level, when it comes to intercession the imperceptible presence of God may be both a negative and positive. Negative, seeing few are willing to go the extra mile without a sense of immediate positive reinforcement or acknowledgment. Positive, since such a scenario allows for a broad development and expression of idea and emotion. Consider two of the greatest examples of intercession in the Gospels. The “Persistent Widow” would seem to have been certain of the existence of the Judge, that He was indeed presiding at court, and was presumably aware of her complaint. Nevertheless, after day she would’ve faced the pain of personal dismissal if not rejection. In the case of the “Samaritan Woman” who please not only fell on deaf, but hostile ears, as her just complaint was repeatedly dismissed if not denied by the apostles and then Christ himself. In these as well as other New Testament passages, the Holy Spirit seems to be encouraging intercessors to find a way to be heard, respectfully yet emphatically refusing to take no for an answer.

Christ’s instructions regarding and examples of prevailing prayer appear to have far more to do with strategic thinking and willpower than with sentimentality or hyper emotionalism. Such is generally the case with all of Jesus’s teachings. From the Beatitudes and the entire sermon on the Mount to the vast majority of his parables, Christ repeatedly demonstrates the need of thoughtful consideration over and above unrestrained emotions. Take for example His “Parable of the Soils.” In which the closest thing to an emotional outburst would be the seed that falls on “shallow soil” which springs up immediately yet withers quickly having no root. Juxtapose this with seed that falls on deeper more fertile soil having no doubt been broken up and enriched by frequent tilling.

Heartily seeking if not serving God, particularly for extended periods, should make a demonstrable difference in real time. Otherwise, how can things go but from bad to worse?

For those living in at least modest comfort and security, the stages of awakening awareness can be important repeat reminders of the transient nature of our existence. Lying in one's bed, encompassed by the darkness before dawn, dreams fade as the operating system of life begins loading. Quiet enough, we may hear our breath and perhaps that of another. Quieter still, we may detect the very blood pulsing through our veins. If the cares of the day are not too demanding we may have a few moments before thoughts of family or work, needs or desires replace the stillness enhancing our awareness of the fearful and wonderful underpinnings and workings of human mortality. Should the magic of the moment be unbroken by undue concern, our minds awareness gently expands filling the room and house, slowly touching on its occupants from family and friends to pets. Should the temptation to short-circuit awakening cognizance be resisted, remembrance of our surroundings continues to grow throughout and beyond the limits of our own property and perhaps neighborhood. Some may go so far as to allow for a momentary heavenly vantage point, appreciating our fleeting place on our unique planet and its tiny place in the such a vast and wondrous cosmos... Appearing to have little value in facing the realities in the light of day, most disregard such metaphysical thinking as useless exercise. Yet in reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Without embracing the challenge of understanding the meaning inherent in our natural and spiritual, temporal and eternal form of being, we face much of life and all of eternity ill-prepared.

"The fool has said in his heart. 'There is no God.'" This is extremely evident in the glorious size and age, forces and fine tuning of the observable universe, as well as our momentary place and form within it.

Christ's warning, *"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"* seems rather ominous. Introduced by *"I tell you the truth"* the importance of the directive is further emphasized by the threat of eternal loss for those failing to heed His admonition. Yet few understand, much less embrace, the concept of becoming *"like little children."* Most imagine Jesus to be alluding to the mystery of childlike faith in regards to a willingness to believe without seeing based on testimony from a trusted, particularly parental source. Obviously true, even such a simple explanation is anything but when considering the demands placed on each of us by the expanded teaching of Christ not to mention the whole of Scripture.

I'm thankful for the grace of God that has prompted me to attend well over 1,000 corporate prayer meetings, the majority of them beginning at or before dawn for His mercy and grace on behalf of myself and others, family and friends, ministry and career, my generation and the next. Sadly, the vast majority of my prayers seem to have gone unheard or worse, leading me to trust that it is greater Grace still, rather than presumption, allowing me to rise again over and over continuing to do the same.

In the remake of the movie "Taking of Pelham 123" John Travolta the antagonists declares, "we all owe God a death." Truer still, what we owe is a crucifixion, *"I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ lives in me..."* Easier said than done.

Regarding crucifixion, Romans chapter six explains, *“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.”* And, *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”* I find such passages both encouraging and troubling. Encouraging in so far as they promise a reward for decades of resistance to sins such as pornography and promiscuity, adultery and divorce, alcohol and drug abuse etc... epidemic throughout the modern world. On the other hand, troubling inasmuch as they are reminders of various “besetting sins” yet unconquered. Of further concern is churchianity’s increasing unwillingness or inability to recognize and confront apathy and sin as society spirals downward, careening out of control. Lastly, and perhaps most troubling, is the lack of resurrection power among even the remnants of the remnant to demonstrate the veracity of the claims of Christ regarding justice and judgment, the reality of the Spirit and Satan, as well as that of an eternal heaven and hell.

Daily living with the fallout of repeated betrayals, the most famous quote of the recently deceased founder of Apple Steve Jobs resonates strongly with me, “Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.” While this certainly seems wisdom from earth’s perspective while from a heaven’s we are all called to live Someone Else’s life: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”*

There are various forms of crucifixion. Some of less pain but longer duration. *“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.*

Just prior to leaving my home for a job in L.A. my 26 year old son ask if I was going to “miss the boy.” I didn’t have the heart to tell him again that I already miss him every day, and that for the better part of a decade.

During the first thirty years of my adult life I’ve spent thousands of hours worrying over and preparing for future challenge and trouble. Ironically, the sorrows I’ve lived through and with are things that I never thought would, while those I feared have yet to appear.

All Christians have ambivalent feelings regarding scripture. Why else are most church attending believers biblically illiterate, generally unable to quote even five or ten verses in a row, much less interpret and implement them correctly on behalf of themselves and lost generations?

When it comes to the finer points of the art of intercession, there may be a thin line between standing firm, militantly and even defiantly cajoling God for real time actualization of biblical promises and presuming to be Omnipotent’s counselor or critic.

“What is necessary is never unwise” Leonard Nimoy as Spock Prime “Star Trek” 2009.

What church routinely sets aside a single hour a week to mourn before the Lord the ruinous state of their world or nation, congregation or families? How few believers privately invest even a cumulative hour a week strategically doing so?

Stillness and mournful silence before God is the natural response to even a moments serious thought regarding the plight of mankind. Failing to do reveals the degradation of modern thinking.

Wearing black constantly is both sliming and an act of mourning. For what? Everything.

Attempting to secularize, “*our most holy faith*” is risky enough without disregard to the vital importance of self sacrifice inherent in the pursuit of holiness through Christian disciplines such as the constant study of Scripture combined with deep and soul-searching prayer. We do well to admit both the slippery slope of secularization into profanity as well as the supremacy of the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit over and above human attempts of friendship evangelism.

When it comes to reaching the lost, both outside and inside the church, nothing can replace the miraculous nature of genuine Christianity when at its best. A lack of understanding or honesty in regards to this point has proven disastrous to both secular society and the modern church called to be the salt and light of the world. God and sinners alike look to us to care enough for either or both to set aside habitual apathy, sin and puny pursuits for the high calling of seeing the power of Pentecost, and therefore the glory of gospel, fully restored.

I was inspired decades ago by the *Pensées*, literally “thoughts” of Blaise Pascal to record my own observations. Perhaps chief among them was his musing. “All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.” For various reasons, over these many years I practiced the art of stillness in a variety of forms. I credit the development of such habits to revealing to me the importance of some of the most important ministries in modern times, as well as my unique successes in them. Ironically, while my faithfulness was rewarded with achievements beyond those of my peers, repeated betrayals by my closest ministerial colleagues, Christian friends and even family has left me with little or nothing but to once again sit quietly at home alone. While recognizing such things are, “common to man” I’ve often wondered whether in my case such unfortunate circumstances have arisen from bad luck or choices on my part, spiritual attack and/or discipline from the Lord. It seems likely that God uses, if not arranges, such situations to purify and refine the thoughts and attitudes of His children. As it is written, “*For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*”

For those enduring the hardship of disappointment scripture encourages, “*For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but*

rejoicing comes in the morning.” For those long awaiting the promise of joy the question of what is meant by “night” and “morning?” Clearly the *Dark Night of the Soul (La noche oscura del alma)* was immortalized by psalmists long before St. John of the Cross’s famous poem and treatise on those sorrowful seasons of life seemingly necessary in the development of sanctification leading to victorious faith. Countless scriptures explicitly and implicitly assure that for the faithful even the blackest midnight holds the promise of a glorious dawn, if not in this life certainly in the next. Might such periods be very scalpel God employs when deepening His circumcision of our heart?

One of the many invaluable lessons of the Book of Job is that God draws the lines in both on time and eternity. By definition neither humanity or angels possess the permanence of form or mind to enforce our will beyond the scope granted by the grace of God.

Our souls become that which we fill our hearts and minds with as surely as our bodies grow out of whatever we eat and drink. Regardless of appearance and taste, all food is chemical in origin and reaction. So too, our souls digest all we see and hear into thought and emotion. As what our bodies ingest may be physically beneficial or not, that which we feed our spirits is either helpful or harmful. In either case, the effects may be immediately evident or take time to develop. Those genuinely interested in the welfare of themselves and others do well to note that far more than physical development, our spiritual condition deeply impacts the quality of our lives and those around us, and that not just for time and but eternity.

Pains should be taken to ensure that attaining the necessities of daily life and the pursuit of greater desire doesn’t constantly overwhelmed our developing awareness and sensitivity to that which matters most.

Even spiritual disciplines may be used as shields against that which we refuse to face or diligently deal with. In the very act of noting as much I may be doing so.

The spiritual benefits of a 24-hour fast can be lost in a minute by a premature handful of cookies.

Spiritual denial is a fact of life. Labor to be sure that when the bill is due you have the wherewithal to pay.

The daily and lifelong journey of developing who we are and will become largely depends on what we choose to want and do. This in turn is developed by that which is in and around us. As birds must fly through Spring and hurricane conditions alike, it falls to us to find our way whether under sunny or cloudy skies. The question is will who we want to be, things that wish we had or our daily routine define us?

We who frequently and deeply feeling the pain of sorrow and loss do well to keep in mind the coaching and example of Paul who said, *“you have yet to resisted sin to the shedding of blood.”* To make scripture’s encouragement more poignant, imagine

exploring with your fingertips the scars of 195 lashes stacked one upon the other covering the back of the apostle as he penned such advice, each one a gift from his own people for striving to save the church of his day.

Christ's direction to settle matters on the way to court lest the judge throw you into prison is good advice for dealing with both perceived and real adversaries, not the least of which may be God Himself.

Though I wish it otherwise, the failings of the world and religion, colleagues and friends, family and my own shortcomings create greater inner resonance with the psalms than the epistles.

Romans 8 & 9 are two of the most fearful and a hopeful chapters in all of Scripture.

How dreadful the Numbers 31's account of the slaughter of Midian. Commanded to obliterate the entire nation in revenge for having seduced Israel to sin, the soldiers killed every man including the rogue prophet "*Balaam son of Beor*." Plundering the dead and looting the cities, they captured livestock and took women and children as slaves. Upon returning, the army's leaders were rebuked, forced to execute all the women, non virgin girls and every boy... Historically, such genocide has been all too common. Additionally, scripture explains the rationale behind the purification of this territory about the size of a single county in southern California. The Midianites had already led God's fledgling people into judgment for immorality and idolatry. Furthermore, God's warning that the cohabitation with Canaanites would lead to the same proved true on numerous occasions. Nevertheless, it takes little effort to imagine ourselves and those we love as Midianites under God's blade, never having benefited from the training in godliness Abraham's descendants were given generations to absorb.

Those hoping to appreciate the full nature of God and His dealings with mankind must search out, rather than shy away from, puzzling passages of scripture not easily fitted together.

When endeavoring to evangelize and disciple those outside and even inside the church, it may be as disingenuous as it is unwise to gloss over problematic scriptures. Remember, our God is yet "*a consuming fire*."

Evidence abounds that mankind's achieved a new magnitude of madness since Blaise Pascal wrote, "Men are so inevitably mad that not to be mad would be to give a mad twist to madness." Ironically, one must be sane to see it.

Those objecting to God's apparent brutality against sinners in the Old Testament should find solace when the situation is reversed in the New.

The shrewd student of Scripture notes that the Godhead dwelling bodily in Christ suffered horribly at the hands of its creation. The question is why? While the answers are many, the full premise and context of the biblical narrative reveals that Omnipotence does

so principally as a result of choosing not to immediately enforce absolute summary judgement against the Luciferian rebellion which then spilled out of eternity onto earth. While it may be incumbent upon God's to "cleanup heaven's mess" one could hardly have imagine Divinity instigating the inconceivable suffering and humility inherent in such extraordinary events as the Incarnation and Atonement.

Scripture explains that in light of the glory and holiness of God, sin is less forgiven than paid for. This strongly suggests that Christ, of whom we are told, "*God made him who had no sin to **be sin** for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" may well have experienced suffering equivalent to the combined agony of the entire human race, sinners and saints alike, being eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. today's modern physics reveals such a fee could be accomplished by a super being with access to at least 2 or 3 dimensions of time. (See GodBlog's Atonement's Price)

I admit that when it comes to lesser besetting sins I lack discipline. Yet for the most part I seem to have far more than most. Nevertheless, Christ's warning "*For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven*" concerns me. Churchianity sidesteps the issue by maintaining such comments refer to imputed positional rather than conditional righteousness. While Emphasis, my additional rule of biblical interpretation seems to preclude it, for all our sakes I hope to heaven their right.

Memories are the product of past thoughts and feelings, words and actions for each of which Scripture declares we shall give account. This being the case it would seem what we remember lives on enough to matter to God at the judgment and from there throughout eternity. Little wonder then that the hearts of men are daily wounded when it seems our memories mean little today.

Adopted at around 6 years old, I inherited a step family of two brothers and one sister approximately my own age. That marriage ending shortly for reasons of neglect and abuse, had little or no contact with my step siblings for the better part of 3 decades. This is in part because while the children were raised as charismatic Christian, all 3 largely rejected the faith in adulthood. I understand my slightly younger stepsister married, had children and among other things became a nurse. About a year ago she was diagnosed with what may be a critical form of MS. After no doubt many prayers her condition improved but is left her a shadow of her former self. Here again is another example of what might be billions of lost opportunities to share the fullness of the gospel of Christ because we His church have lost the ability to miraculously heal the sick as well as the all the other genuine and powerful gifts of the Spirit.

Imagine the furtherance of the Great Commission were clergy, much less the laity able were we to fulfill Christ's prophecy in the Gospel of Mark's version, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Depending on the severity and complications of the illness, it's quite likely entire families would be initially converted or brought back to the church. Think of the effect such genuine and heartfelt praise would have as it energized the flagging or failing faith of an ever increasing circle of those touched by

such personal attention from the Almighty. The ability to heal the sick is only one of the critical weapons missing in the arsenal of evangelism and discipleship, the lack of which equates daily to perhaps billions of missed opportunities to not only declare that demonstrate the love and goodness of God to hurting and harassed humanity.

Psalm 24 asks “*Who can climb Mount God? Who can scale the holy north-face? Only the clean-handed, only the pure-hearted...*” It’s likely that to fully restore the gifts of the Holy Spirit to our “*adulterous and sinful generation*” will require cleaner hands and pure hearts than ours. Knowing this, much of my life’s work has been twofold. First to pinpoint and publish our most grievous rebellion in hopes of repentance. Secondly, confident that hands that heal the sick would be slow to sin, to persuade God to anoint the best of our generation with the power of Pentecost.

Ironically, it’s taken a thousand pages to point out that our Christian experience’s deteriorated from The Book of Acts to a book of words.

My goal in writing about Christianity and the human experience is to set thought and emotion into crevices of truth as rock climbers set anchors and clamps into the face of mountains.

Too few appreciate the lost art of writing. If what separates sinner from saint is wisdom, then knowledge is an vital commodity. Better still, those who are able to live out and express it too others. What better way to start than writing down our thoughts that we may recall and refine them for our benefit and that of those willing to listen.

Teachers often hope to instruct themselves as much as others. I endeavor to do the same, nonetheless the style and content of my work is written with readership in mind. Unfortunately, fewer and fewer these days have the stomach for such subject matter, strongly suggesting I’m writing for an audience of one. This may be a mitigated tragedy depending upon whom that solitary Reader turns out to be. (See QC’s Modern Psalm “Audience of One.”)

Being of some Irish decent and adapting a line from Mel Gibson’s *Braveheart*, I find it both tragic and comedic that “to be understood an Irishman’s forced to converse with the Almighty.”

There may be an eternity’s worth of difference between “appeasing” and “pleasing” God.

I teach by writing rather than speaking because no one’s listening. Yet, as “Dilbert” points out, “There’s no kill switch on awesome.”

Unlike my own which seems to fail, my Yorkie’s love oft prevails.

There is literally a “grave” difference between denial or even flashes of honesty verse cultivating the habit or lifestyle.

Few Christian leaders speak humbly. Among those who do, almost no one teaches in such a way as to “be humbled.” Yet, God declares, *“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”* Imagine the transformation were even a few, if not most Christian teachers, transparent regarding their own doubts and issues with God, temptations and besetting sins. How many parishioners would appreciate and respond to such refreshing honesty from their shepherds, being invigorated and inspired to assail together life’s day-to-day challenges to overcoming faith?

Many fail to realize how odd it is to live suspended between heaven and hell. A lifetime of walking a tightrope balance between happiness and horror takes its toll. A vast majority reflexively shut their eyes and take their chances. Even the wise among us suffer bouts of vertigo, rightly find themselves confused if not overwhelmed. The strangeness of it all speaks volumes about who God is, we are and the nature our adversary. No wonder Jesus advises *“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Each morning I awake, hoping and praying that this should be the day of my deliverance and freedom. Not only has it ever been, but my circumstance continues deteriorating. Soldiering on, like the psalmist of old I appeal to the God... *“How long, Lord ? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death...” Then I will “...trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoicing in your salvation. I will sing the Lord 's praise, for he has been good to me.”*

Angered on a daily basis, my frustration’s balanced by an equal number of reminders of our precarious place and order in creation, mindful *“human anger does not produce the righteousness of God.”*

Can even those with reason to be angry afford the luxury?

It’s wiser to count one’s blessing than continually rehearse points of contention.

I’m thankful sinners are converted by the goodness of God. Rejoice when stumbling saints are strengthened by blessings. More joyful still would be watching those having endured without faltering receive greater reward.

There’s no such thing as a preoccupation with death, only this life.

Who knows better than You Lord that it’s nearly too late. I’m running out of time, mankind’s running out of time. I’m begging You, help me, help You, help us.

Here’s the problem in a nutshell. We’re army of AWOL soldiers ill-prepared to engage in a war for eternity we refuse to either truly believe or fight in.

It's telling how quickly changes in desire affect perception. For better, though most often worse, alterations in our worldview can cause a spiraling up, though more often down and out of control.

Billions are in or on their way to hell for the failure to appreciate scriptures proverb, *"There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak."* My soul and spirit continually wrestle, working out my *"salvation with fear and trembling"* lest I too should fail in this regard.

One may build the best of barns, fill it with Grade A livestock and carefully store provision for the future, yet failure to lock the door or carelessness with a single candle risks the entire enterprise.

In his love epistle of 1 John the apostle emphasizes the importance of not being condemned by our heart, particularly in regards to answered prayer. Paul agrees, stating *"The goal...is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith"* and again *"My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide."* Most fail to earnestly educate their conscience, much less do so accurately. Fewer still fully appreciate Jeremiah's lament *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

According to Christ, worldly wealth is the leading risk to one's eternal portfolio, if not our very place in heaven. (See GB's "Rich Man and Lazarus")

Influence requires resource. Revelation, or insightful understanding is essential. The power to prove one's point through genuine signs and wonders is preferable. Lacking that, some worldly wealth is helpful. Few, if any today, have the former while those with the latter lack vision. I myself have neither, though having long sought both.

On average we spend 30 to 40% of our income on housing. Even more is invested in filling homes with opulent furnishing. Yet Christ's sole use of them was as a metaphor for the soul.

Madonna's quadruple platinum album "Like a Prayer" has sold over 15 million copies worldwide. In the first words of the title song the pop philosopher admits, "Life is a mystery, everyone must stand alone." Too bad she didn't add "before a Holy God, our sins to atone."

To fully picture God's nature and interactions with mankind, we must seek out rather than avoid difficult pieces of the puzzle. Less vigilance not only leaves gaps in our theology but invites filling wholes in our understanding with misplaced and misshapen pieces.

Decades of striving to develop a mental aptitude and acuity for scripture has left me confident that should the Lord be made fully known I would be found wanting on any

umber of issues. For example the original sin of entitlement. Billions have, are and will face difficulties and challenges the likes of which we fortunate know little. By nature such obstacles instill a degree of humility and thankfulness for simple blessings easily missed. A little food for the day. Some warm clothing and shelter. Momentary health and protection. Acceptance and safety of a tribe or village. Juxtapose such meager necessities against the ever increasing overflow of modern civilization. From the bed and bedding in which we awaken to the opulent homes and technology of which we are accustom. Imagine our lives should all we take for granted had never been. No running water or electricity, tissue or plastic, carpeting or appliances. No pen or paper, radio or TVs, smart phones or laptops. No sidewalks or roads, cars or trains, ships or planes. No grocery or hardware stores, restaurants or malls, theaters or amusement parks. No post office or police stations, schools or welfare, doctors or dentists. No five-day work week or paid vacation, sick leave or insurance, SSI or retirement. No photos or art, science or technology, Wikipedia or Google... Taking the time to carefully consider the blessings of modern life has inspired thousands of my better thoughts and conversations, prayers and articles, modern psalms and proverbs arising from appreciation for what we've been given. Moreover, such habitual thankfulness has been reflected in action and inaction, ministry and self restraint. Cognizant of having been spared the daily drudgery and lifetime of suffering imposed on impoverished and indigenous people throughout time, I purposefully give thanks to God's for such kindness to my family and society. Mindful of the past, present and future plight of those less fortunate, from worn torn refugees and farmers scratching a living from arid land to soldiers forced to kill and be killed, I continually reflect on providence. I am also fearfully reminded of Christ's warning *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* I've taken to heart the Apostle Paul's admonition *"each man's work will become known. There will be a day when it will be tested by fire. The fire will show what kind of work it is."* I'm painfully aware scripture reveals we will each give account of every word and deed, perhaps even every thought and inclination. Such training has made me for more careful than most yet woefully unchanged. While guilty of no gross sin, sadly I remain a "mere man" apparently too foolish to completely or even substantial experience the required transformation into the freedom and joy reserved for those fully obeying and relying on the **Holy** Spirit. Such folly leaves me ill prepared for the very encounter so desperately needed.

When overcome by unexpected heartbreak or tragedy, the righteous are faced with a number of challenging choices. Particularly so when sorrows arise at the hands of friends or loved ones, threatening our past, present and future relationships. Myriads of cherish memories haunt, rather than help reinforce our happiness. Some having the resource and wherewithal choose to move on to new friends and even family. Others, lacking the assets and fortitude, or from well or misplaced loyalties choose to suffer indignities on behalf of what once was and may be again.

I daily pray memorized prayers to God while working through task lists that I might better perform my duties before men. While the system is far from perfect, it helps maintain and promote body and soul, structuring the time and energy necessary for

modest spiritual gains. It also seems helpful to schedule time to daydream that such efforts might be fully resourced from above and crowned with some measure of success. All the more so as the erosion of my hopes seem to testify to the contrary.

In Star Wars Episode 1, “the Phantom Menace” the Jedi master Qui-Gon Jinn explains to the young Anakin Skywalker “Your focus determines your reality.” It’s largely true that Our focus determines Our reality, at least in regards to subjective matters such as thoughts and emotions, words and deeds, actions and habits. When society and majority of individuals within it turned their focus from God to worldly pleasures or worse, inevitably judgment rather than blessings becomes reality. When Christians do much the same, there is little hope for any of us.

Without “believers” resurrecting the spiritual disciplines of honest and earnest Bible study and prayer, the mission of Christianity to call this generation to genuine repentance is all but doomed.

The choice to frequently and fervently intercede for lost family and friends is our only hope of setting up the kind of heavenly harmonic necessary for prevailing prayer.

Failure to acknowledge the perilous spiritual condition of those we know and love placates and deceives rather than informs and enlightens those entrusted to us. Refusal to discern and respond to alarming and even disheartening evidence of rebellion and sin all but insures greater loss. Pretending we neither do or can know the unfortunate spiritual state of those disobedient to Christianity’s prime directives isn’t an attitude of compassion but license. While not called to condemn believers are clearly commanded to discern and confront spiritual attacks against or even friends and loved ones.

Scripture makes clear the spiritual state of those involved in gross sin, regardless of past Christian confession or affiliation. Refusal to speak the truth in love is an active worldly concession rather than a demonstration of Divine patience. It’s human foolishness rather than heavenly wisdom to deny the full counsel of God regarding the present and future perils of those participating in sins clearly and repeatedly forbidden in Scripture. As the Apostle Paul warns the Corinthian church, *“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

The Bible records Job would *“get up early in the morning and sacrifice a burnt offering for each of his children, thinking, ‘Maybe one of them sinned by defying God inwardly.’ Job made a habit of this sacrificial atonement, just in case they’d sinned.”* As a 21st-century Christian parent with similar concerns I shudder to think of the overwhelming difference between the temptations faced by our children versus those of

a preindustrial agrarian culture. Consider the assault day and night by pictures and advertisements, music and videos the likes of which had never been. If such parental dedication was necessary in more innocent times, how much more is required of us *“upon whom the end of the age has come.”*

Consider the murder of Job’s original seven sons and three daughters. Is it likely that all ten of the adult children of such a paragon of righteous patience were sinners without reason to hope in protection God? What of the bulwark of thousands of offerings and prayers offered on their behalf by such a conscientious father? If not, how do we explain the ease with which they were dispatched? Are we to believe people are nothing more than poker chips? As perhaps the oldest Book of the Bible, Job no doubt holds a plethora of lessons. Not least among them may be God’s purposes supersede our own and that we have an Adversary extremely involved in human outcomes.

When contemplating the goodness of God one can only speculate through experience and reason. For example the fabulous fine tuning of the observable universe clearly testifies to the unfathomable Majesty of Omnipotence. Nevertheless, biblical revelation that Lucifer’s rebellion spoiled perhaps a third of heaven’s glorious angels, not to mention over two thirds of mankind, merits additional albeit careful consideration. Close examination of this explanation places the blame for the origin of evil and suffering squarely on the shoulders of fallen heavenly beings. So much so, the fuller premise and context of Scripture suggests the creation of our cosmos is largely part Divinity’s plan to bring about the rapid conquest of evil throughout three heavens. Should this be the case, it may be argued that the ends justify the means. Yet such rationalizations raise additional questions less easily answered. Why would so brilliant a Creator design beings capable of insurrection and such subsequent devilish behavior? Even were such a design be desirable, why should any, much less so many, holy and resplendent beings rebel against Glory Itself? There is of course the pedantic apologetic of “free will.” Yet this defense is more suited to the thinking and limited resources of mortals than that of the omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence of God. Even so, while we are regrettably privy to only a few of the details of Omnipotence’s ultimate aim, the fact that the Godhead should so graciously offer hapless and helpless humanity the opportunity to figure so prominently throughout the unfolding of eternity seems more than fair. As does the manner in which Christ’s costly atonement makes such eternal glory and bliss possible. Taken together, such Good News should close the book on man’s deliberations. Yet in reality nothing could be farther from the case. Sadly, without better answers it appears the combined attraction of worldly pleasure and demonic deception continues to prove an endless event horizon with a gravity well too great for billions to escape.

There are two kinds of righteous men and women. Among the first are those whose lives are pleasing enough to God to inherit eternal life. A much smaller group have developed lifestyles enabling them to prevail with God and the devil, men and circumstances. The former is required of saints. *“Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees you shall by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”* The latter in hope of saving sinners. *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

Literature should be a conflux of philosophy and religion, science and art. The writing process like Michelangelo's, perceiving and freeing truth quarried from the secret things of heaven and earth.

Some follow bliss and others peace. I follow the path of least anxiety. Ironically, the wrath of God being chief concern, I find myself contending with just about everything and everyone. Often including Omnipotence, the origin of all hope and fear.

If I seem upset because I am. All day every day. Angry as hornet and perhaps mad as a Hatter.

Holiness is a shield against the brilliance of the glory of God.

Without the light of truth mankind is left groping in the dark. And that not alone. From religion to culture, politics to war the Bible warns we blindly wrestle to the death with transcendent principalities and powers. Yet how few are ready to welcome Sunshine in its full strength as offered in scripture.

Seeking to comprehend, much less experience the immortal invisible only wise God, at once transcendent and immanent throughout His creation of this the first of three heavens is no small task. Dwelling in "*unapproachable light*" as a "*consuming fire*" pursuing Omnipotence is far more challenging than discovering the unifying Theory of Everything.

What if one could find a new life, happy free and clear without the weight and oppression of internal conflicts such as shame, sorrow and fear? What would such blessings be worth? Might one feel as if they had found "a treasure hid in a field?"

I write a better story than I live. It's not that the two narratives are disconnected but rather a way for my reach to exceed my grasp.

Thankfulness may present as subtlety a virtue as entitlement a vice. Consider the sentimental drunk slurring declarations of love while failing to appreciate the blessings and responsibilities of sobriety. Other forms of intoxication may be equally or even more spiritually damaging individuals, families and whole societies.

OneCry.com has done an excellent job in marketing our need to awaken the church in regards to calling on God for revival. A well-crafted website and video begin to address the privilege and responsibility entrusted to Christians to break through to God and reach their fellow man. Such movements carrying the seed of genuine repentance on a level that would be necessary to fulfill their message, though tragically most neglect the prophetic advice of weightier scriptures explaining how and why.

It's been pointed out that generally it's better to seek God's face than His hand. In what hopefully is an upward spiral, both are necessary. One may begin with either or, and in

time realize the other is essential in relating to both God and man. Most start by approaching God to ask for forgiveness and salvation. Many go on to ask for personal and family blessings. In time some may admit that genuine answers to prayer are few and far between. Of these, a percentage dig in, redoubled their efforts to prevail with God or the devil, man or circumstances. Should such efforts proved unsatisfactory the wise again seek God's face in a wiser and deeper manner, looking for explanation and comfort, guidance and power.

It's essential for those promoting the Kingdom to have met, if not come to know, the King. Only to the degree one is done the latter may one accomplish the former.

Generally even Christian leaders comprehend so little of the context of Scripture they're ill-prepared to discern either the voice or hand of God in their own lives or those of others. There are many Christ's but only one true. Furthermore, Christ's face has many expressions. Thus Paul instructs Timothy to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Yet neither individual joy or mourning tell the whole tale. The challenge is to not only understand the times and the seasons, but what the Lord requires of us living in them.

Too few modern believers have rightly distinguished whether the church is a cruise or battleship. Having recognized the latter, fewer still understand how the church militant should best engage the enemy or even where and how the battle rages.

It's been said, "When the student is ready the teacher will appear." God I hope so.

So much to do and so little time, energy or money. For years I daily cried out to the Lord to resource this work with no reply. Admittedly, I could and should have done more with what I've been given. On the other hand, I'm sure I've done more than most and pretty well considering my broken heart.

During life's good moments preparation we dismiss death as unreal or insignificant. Yet when it arrives we are rudely awoken to the fact the finality of eternity was anything but.

Still yourself, listen hard and you can sense the approaching eternal moment when every mind will reveal its thoughts, heart its feelings, tongue its words, hand its actions and inactions. Oh that fools would become wise, notorious sinners sanctified and all Christians turned to saints.

While some follow their bliss, I work my lists, mindful that each of us shall give account "*before the judgment seat of Christ.*" Hoping to balance the books by acts of obedience, productivity and thankfulness, I seek to gain scripture's promise "*mercy triumphs over judgment.*"

Athletes know "pain is weakness leaving the body." Yet, most modern Christians prefer the path of least resistance in every aspect of faith. Regrettably, this includes such basic disciplines as Bible study and prayer. Cherry picking favorite verses the weightier

passages of Scripture are ignored or worse, to the point of perverting if not persecuting the truth.

We fail, fearing regular seasons of passionate intercession and travail, unwilling to press and be pressed by God.

The discipline of spiritual life coaching is indelicate business at best.

Regarding prayers of sorrow and even complaint consider the Book of Job. Thirty seven chapters of trial and testing, protest and debate made it into hallowed annals of Scripture. Possibly as the oldest book, it ranks as not only the first but the longest conversation in the Bible. True, the last five chronicle God setting the record straight, nevertheless Job's honest character is crown with renewed health and life, family and friends, wealth and influence: *"God blessed Job's later life even more than his earlier life. He ended up with fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand teams of oxen, and one thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first daughter Dove, the second, Cinnamon, and the third, Darkeyes. There was not a woman in that country as beautiful as Job's daughters. Their father treated them as equals with their brothers, providing the same inheritance. Job lived on another 140 years, living to see his children and grandchildren—four generations of them! Then he died—an old man, a full life."*

I was thinking of something. If the thought was from you Lord, please bring it back to mind. If not it's hardly worth the trouble.

If You help me write, thanks. If not, I apologize. Either way, Oh that You would hear and answer prayer. That together we might do a better work than Artaxerxes and Nehemiah, once again rebuilding Zion's walls.

My younger brother converted my mother's garage into a house. I converted Churchianity into Christianity as a doctrinal home for her and others. Sadly, no one's interested.

How I long to wake up to answer to prayer. Nevertheless, Your unprofitable, disobedient servant's grateful to wake up at all.

In the movie, "The Happening" localized suicidal genocide followed the chemical suppression of genes responsible or self preservation. Slow the progression of the attack and you have quite a metaphor for humanity's spiritual situation.

One of Scripture's greatest principles involves timing. A theme of which may be sampled in three passages from Zephaniah, Joel and Luke. Zephaniah prophesied: *"I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth, declares the Lord. "I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the Lord... Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, before the*

*appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, **before** the fierce anger of the Lord comes upon you, **before** the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon you. Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger." Joel pleads: "Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins! Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, This most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your God! Jesus warns: "Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man."*

Another often overlooked biblical directive is that of "more." Marginalized at our peril, the Savior Himself reputedly reinforced the refrain. Jesus directs: *"I warn you--unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!"* Consider also Christ's terrible parable of the Ten Virgins. All ten are identified as virgins. all believe in the Bridegroom. All actively anticipate His return. All possess sanctification in that they *"go out to meet Him."* All have testimony of Christ described as *"burning lamps."* Nevertheless, half run out of oil and we are told: *"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."* Peter also stresses the importance of pursuing additions to faith: *Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

One must rightly and routinely remind oneself and others of the judgments of God to be delivered from them.

It's likely that throughout the generations Christians have been hesitant if not resistant to place the bar of holiness beyond the easy reach of the societies in which they lived. While there are weighty Scripture suggesting such a strategy is always a mistake, such behavior is far more foolish today than ever before. Just as copies can degrade over time, the ever decreasing influence of Christian salt and light has and must culminate in the greatest reprobate culture in human history.

When immorality becomes a marketable inalienable right, how can Christian standards of holiness remotely resemble what the world finds acceptable?

“It’s good to live a quiet Christian life, finding a way to please and serve God while avoiding the deception of one’s generation. Better is to continually expose and confront such evil including its roots entwined in erroneous Christian doctrine and apathy. Better still is to develop an insightful and useful strategy exposing why those doing so make little or no headway. Best of all would be to break through to God, receiving revelation and power to demonstrate the wisdom and blessedness of scriptural directives.

In 1st Corinthians Paul explains that a failure to appreciate the sacrament of communion was the underlying cause so many were weak and sick among them, and some had fallen asleep or died. This passage may provide one or more of the following lessons. First, they may have been experiencing God’s direct discipline for irreverence. Another possibility is that having grieved the Holy Spirit, His gifts of empowerment and healing had diminished. A greater meaning still may have to do with the miraculous yet unrealized power and glory inherent in such a blessed sacrament. Consider that the predecessor of Christian communion’s was the Passover, which we are told not only provided protection from the angel of death and deliverance from the oppression of Pharaoh but such universal healing that millions of Israelites, including what must have been tens of thousands of infirm and elderly, arose and walked out of Egypt without a *“feeble man among them.”* Might such miracles be a type and foreshadowing of greater still should Christians live in such a way as to access communion’s full potential?

What can I, who am and have nothing, offer God who is and has everything?
Repentance, thanks and hope against hope.

Have You not created countless beautiful things. And for every one a terror.

You capitalized on the betrayal of Joseph by his brothers, sending him ahead *“to preserve life.”* Oh that this might be my day of deliverance. That if nothing else I might capitalize on a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent of the wealth of the wicked for righteousness.

If *“God is love”* surely no one’s kind, much less decrepit grandparent is destined for hell. Neither our considerate, much less generous parents, aunts or uncles. No one’s sweet, much less innocent nephews or nieces need ever fear the wrath of God. Neither are goofy, much less beloved siblings. Above all, certainly our own spouse, much less children and grand children have places reserved in heaven. Of course this begs the question, why Jesus warns *“the road to perdition is wide”* while salvation’s path is so narrow and gated that few find it. One might also wonder why, when addressing the judgment He so often warns, *“there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* rather than *“tearful and joyous family reunions.”* Unless of course He’s referring to only the family’s of others.

If sin is defined by scripture rather than arbitrarily or through situational ethics, it's little wonder Christians are warned against being respecters of persons.

From a temporal perspective, pressing much less condemning sinners for their sin seems to do more harm than good. Yet from the vantage point of eternity, it's easy to imagine that those sentenced to everlasting weeping will gnash their teeth at we who for the sake of interest or convenience failed to do so.

Regardless of effect, Christians by definition are required to confront sin. All the more so when perpetrators are family or friends for whom we are response-able. Admittedly, most efforts of doing so fall on death ears or worse. Rather than giving up or in to rationalization or deception, it behooves believers to escalate such cases by prayer and fasting, Bible study and strategic thinking.

Do we genuinely believe God's kingdom will come and His will shortly be done "*on earth as it is in heaven?*" Do we expect Revelation's prophecy of a Great Tribulation to destroy most life on planet Earth? Are we anticipating the rise and fall of the Antichrist and his False Prophet, both whom Christ vanquishes with the brightness of His appearing? Have we considered life on earth with Satan bound in a bottomless pit for a thousand years? Do we appreciate the implications of the Devil immediately deceiving mankind into making war against Christ upon his release after his miraculous benevolent millennial reign? Have we visualized the descent of God's White Throne as earth's dead area raised for judgement and sentencing? Do we fear the very elements "*melting with a fervent heat*" as our universe is "*rolled up like a scroll*" and replaced by a "*new heaven and earth?*" Have we pondered where and what the righteous will be do during such a vast re-creation?

Mankind's past, present and future state justifies the doubt and denial of atheists and agnostics in the existence or influence of a good God in human affairs. Yet such hasty conclusions omit two mitigating factors. First, the creation of anything, much less our miraculously finely tuned observable universe, is proof of a Designer. Second, scripture reveals the presence of a Deceiver, the architect of heaven's Luciferian Rebellion, the earthly impact of which can hardly be overstated.

Scripture as a whole is laden with the theme that man has little to be proud of. Even such pillars as Peter and John, James and particularly Paul reinforce the truth of the human condition. Caught in the convergence of such mitigating factors as the power and glory of Omnipotence and resource and strategy of Satan, the mortality and depravity of man excludes boasting.

I much prefer winter hours. "Early to bed, early to rise..."

When the potential or even existence of our achievements go unnoticed, disappointment and doubt set in. Consciously or not, such seeds germinate into resentment. The trick is discern and hold to truth in all matters of life, including the

efficiency or deficiency of our contributions towards saving of our souls and those of others.

Paul's identification of individual Christians collectively as various parts of the Body of Christ is interesting and telling. The reassurance that parts of greater necessity are the most modest should comfort those whose contributions go unrecognized. The metaphor becomes increasingly interesting given bodily parts lack sentience which so defines their human counterparts. Could organs express feelings, might livers lament or sphincters complain? Perhaps yet another reason for Christ's revelation that in eternity, *"many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."*

I hoped to be Rambo. I'd settle for Rocky.

Paul's most famous passage states, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs...**"* On the other hand, his same epistle ends with, *"If anyone does not love the Lord, **let that person be cursed!**"* Clearly not the words of one advocating cheap salvation. Elsewhere in the same letter he writes, *"For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."* And again, *"The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments."* Taken together it would seem we do well to note our actions and those of others. Particularly we who should and do know better. Rather than being shackled by sentimentality, genuine faith's designed to be a conduit of tough love and mercy, engaging rather enabling a degenerating generation addicted to sin.

Cognizant of the overwhelmingly successful campaign of the Deceiver/Accuser, I recognize our deep and abiding need for repentance by daily confessing before God the greater charges brought against us. After rehearsing a long list I pray God would "...help us 'come today and [reason together](#), though our sins be as scarlet that we might be washed white as wool.' While through [abortion](#) and other acts of global violence and evil we have covered the Earth in crimson, reaching to Heaven and filling it with scandal to our shame, that we might be 'washed white as snow.' By the love and will of God the Father. By the blood and work of God the Son. By the fruit and gifts of God the Holy Spirit. Blessed Omnipotence, Three in One." For most who find thirty minutes of any kind of daily prayer too costly, the concept of memorizing a daily meditation/mediation charged with contrition and complaint interwoven with scriptural point and counterpoint is out of the question.

Were I Judge, all sinners on planet earth would be pardoned. Like Peter and Paul, I daily pray all men might be saved, coming to the knowledge of truth and repentance. The fact is most find everlasting torment a harsh sentence for a few years of earthly foolishness and sin. Yet I for better reason, keenly aware of the evil arrayed and perpetrated against the human race. Even the worst of mankind's sins are seemed mitigated by the fact they every devilish act was conceived and encouraged by the treachery of fallen angels.

Horrific and gruesome, it's possible the wholesale slaughter of the Canaanites during the Exodus foreshadows God's final verdict regarding heavenly and earthly rebellion. One sympathizes with Israel's hesitancy to comply with God's demand of genocide against the former inhabitants of the Promised Land. Nevertheless, Omnity's prophecy that failure to do so would lead the people of Israel into repeated temptation and deception, sin and judgment was accurate. Should God spare sinners hell, might this pattern again prove true in eternity?

If for doing well in this life you are blessed, good. If your reward awaits in eternity, better still.

When assessing pain and pleasure of earthly endeavors, both here and in the hereafter, let us remember, "all is well that ends well."

That the universal threats and inevitable mortality hounding humanity so often fail to motivate us to genuinely seek God, or at the very least to treating one another kindly, is proof positive of a Devil among if not within us.

No one listens so nothing works.

Men are either barbarians or fools.

Wouldn't the excess of modern Churchianity made even ancient Laodiceans gasp?

Habitually stopping to smell the roses, giving thanks and taking deep breaths keeps me from gnashing my teeth away.

Upon waking, my first words to God include a short confession of my sins, those of my wife as children as well as that my colleagues and closest Christian friends which have *"helped to herding my family, ministry and career into this ruinous state."* Moving on I ask Omnity to *"forgive the whole unprofitable lot of us. Healing, filling, recruiting, training, deploying, monitoring and nurturing, glorifying Yourself on Earth at this time by saving first Churchianity and through us humanity."* I include this phraseology when beginning my requests and work of the day to acknowledge that while the glory of God is clearly a chief refrain of scripture in general and its petition passages in particular, the Lord Almighty has little need of our recognition. The glory of His nature and fame throughout eternity, the majesty displayed by creating and reigning over the Third, Second and First Heaven (our universe) attest to and command everlasting honor. Nonetheless, though we be less of a spec of a spec of a spec...for many resounding reasons including our being ground zero for the ultimate defeat of the Luciferian Rebellion, for the moment the Earth and humanity upon it have drawn and therefore merit the attention of God.

Few understand the importance of continually crying to God for mercy, all the more so given the Biblical revelation that Heaven's rebellion is engulfing the earth. Daily appealing the injustice of Satan's unprovoked and unmitigated attacks against hapless

humanity presents a hopeful defense. While it should be noted that Habukkuk logged a similar and ultimately unsuccessful complaint, the record of his intercession is inscribed in scripture for a reason.

Everything hinges on the intent of God. Take for example John 3:16, perhaps the most beloved of all scriptures, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* The next verse adds to the wonderful news, *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* Isolated, this pair of scriptures strongly suggest God’s gift of Christ’s atonement will save all mankind. Yet reading on we find, *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe stands condemned already** because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”* Here, as so often throughout the Bible, we find a promise mitigated by conditionality. The next few verses further delineate the stipulation, *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”* The completed passage paints quite a different picture than does a single favored verse or two. While clearly offering hope to all mankind, it raises several crucial questions. What is meant by “believe?” How does one “come into the light?” To what extent must we “live by the truth?” According to the syntax, only by correctly answering such questions can the actual intent of God’s gracious promise be realized. So too with all of scripture.

Another example of the importance of Divine intent is seen when dealing with the sensitive issues surrounding the apparent silence of God. If salvation is provided in such a way that there’s nothing we must either do nor avoid doing to be saved, what more is there for God to say? Such a conclusion would suggest heavenly silence as evidence of blissful peace preceding a glorious eternity, a sentiment often associated with such pleasant passages as that found in Romans 8, *“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”* While such promising prose should inspire praise, seen in the context of the entire chapter, epistle and complete writings of Paul not to mention the whole of the New Testament, the following questions must be answered by the thoughtful student of scripture. Who does Paul, who for preaching and living an uncompromising gospel was lashed 195 times by God’s people the Jews, mean by the word “us?” Why are “we” and “sin” omitted from such a detailed list? Why are we warned earlier in the same chapter *“There is therefore now no condemnation **to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...** He condemned sin in the flesh, that the*

righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in “us” who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, “if” indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Noticing the lack with an Churchianity I became a pro-life activist. Noticing the lack within the pro-life movement I became a director. In both cases, particularly the latter, in the midst of making substantial progress I was overtaken by the foolishness, is not treachery, of my colleagues and comrades. Mine was a mistake similar to that made by the Rescue Movement, namely underestimating the Enemy above and about, and their cumulative cunning exploitation the faults in what would appear to be even the best of us.

Discovering truth is more like peeling an onion than a banana.

Consider the many layers of understanding and experience inherent in the discipline of prayer. In my case I choose to daily invest 20-30 minutes rehearsing a litany of repentance and contrition, petition and complaint, strategically developed over many years out of a sense of commitment and obligation. Generally at some point along the way, I’m encouraged at the identification and development of many critical issues being forwarded by scripturally based points and counterpoints. Such a feeling is frequently followed by disappointment, if not despair, that so many of my request go unanswered and worse. Nonetheless, I’m bolstered by knowing only a fraction of a percent of Christians reach this point in the trail. Those who do must continually decide whether to quit or press on. Taking a spiritual breath of rarified air, I finish praying through to a sense of brokenhearted joy at having at least been faithful to again complete this leg of my daily course. Faith expelled, I have reason to hope that perhaps today or sometime soon God might respond by opening a portal of heavenly light in a land filled with ever darkening deception.

Half David’s lifetime was filled with dramatic ups and downs, yet in the end triumph.

As with all journeys, the road of intercessory prayer is filled with intersections and waypoints. When daily faced with the challenge of persevering in the face of a growing mountain of unanswered prayer, many having chosen the path less traveled opt for an easier path or drop out entirely. Others, confusing well meant presumption for faith, declare premature victory. Those staying the course soldier on blindly. Few pay the additional cost of evaluating their performance. It’s one thing to pray. Another to pray strategically. Another still to daily do so over a period of years. In the same way it’s one thing to ask God why our prayers go unanswered. Another to be willing to hear His reasons. Another still to embrace the discipline of His explanation.

Those hoping to grasp the grand scheme of things should avoid two pitfalls regarding the minutiae of everyday life. Paying too much attention and/or not enough.

In Paul's epistle to the Ephesians he writes: *"If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need."* Paul, the ultimate example of his own advice spent his life and even body doing so. Having stolen the freedom, if not the lives of early Christians he became the embodiment of embracing persecution and even martyrdom for the faith He once terrorized.

Honest humility and repentance are precursors to prevailing prayer. The problem arises when the quantity and quality of these crucial components remain matters of personal interpretation. I myself practice the use of continual disclaimers before both God and man. Whether this is enough, time or the end of that will tell. Nevertheless, two things are certain. First, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* Second, while acknowledging the sin above, about and within us, not to mention our vastly limited understanding, we must jump in somewhere.

Regarding prayer, are we being "heard" or "humored?" It's dire indeed when our prayers go ignored or worse, and not just by God but by fellow believers, family and even we ourselves.

The least we can do is wisely wait on the Lord.

When appearing before Omnipotence it's best not to come empty handed.

What do you bring when waiting silently before God? I bring 70,000 hours of strategic service, a thousand public prayer meetings and many times that number of private sessions. Thousands of observations, hundreds of articles, scores of media interviews and a dozen books.

After 30 years of dedicated at strategic service and leadership, Bentley, my young Yorkie, is the sole follower I have left on earth.

Lord, permission to speak freely. If You fail to answer the prayers of those seriously seeking You, yet frequently and overwhelmingly blessing those paying You little attention or worse, how many will diligently seek You? As Saint Teresa observed at a moment of disheartenment, "If this is how You treat Your friends no wonder You have so few." Yet You seem to continue blessing the rich and famous who oppose Your Kingdom while withholding from Your most ardent supporters. How is this different from David, who upon hearing the news of the death of his horribly traitorous son Absalom, failed to bless his army that had committed their lives in support of his kingdom. Your own Word records it this way: *"Joab was told that David was weeping and lamenting over Absalom. The day's victory turned into a day of mourning as word passed through the army, "David is grieving over his son." The army straggled back to the city that day demoralized, dragging their tails. And the king held his face in his hands and lamented loudly, O my son Absalom, Absalom my dear, dear son! But in private Joab rebuked the*

king: "Now you've done it—knocked the wind out of your loyal servants who have just saved your life, to say nothing of the lives of your sons and daughters, wives and concubines. What is this—loving those who hate you and hating those who love you? Your actions give a clear message: officers and soldiers mean nothing to you. You know that if Absalom were alive right now, we'd all be dead—would that make you happy? Get hold of yourself; get out there and put some heart into your servants! I swear to God that if you don't go to them they'll desert; not a soldier will be left here by nightfall. And that will be the worst thing that has happened yet."

Should we rage “against” or to “comprehend” the “dying of the light?”

At first blush there would seem to be a great difference between Christ and His promise that nothing is impossible to he who believes and James, the Lord’s brother, who directs that we should preface our statements if not our very thoughts with “if the Lord wills.” More likely, they are part and parcel of the same life lived in the presence and power of God the Spirit.

More than with any other discipline, in prayer “our reach should exceed our grasp.”

Most believers experience such profound and/or repeated disappointment in regards to unanswered prayer and unrealized intimacy with God that they become condition to expect, and therefore ask, little or nothing. Perhaps this is part of the process of humility where we, having embraced Scriptures great and precious promises, learn the hard way that most if not all are for eternity. On the other hand, seeing how often and with such swelling rhetoric, Biblical passages explicitly or implicitly extend such offers as to be “filled with all the fullness of God” genuine faith may exercise of the present imperative in so much so that we “ask” and keep asking, “seek” and keep seeking, “knock” and keep knocking.

Unmet desires and expectations, not to mention unrealized hopes and dreams, shape our interactions with ourselves and others, circumstances and God. When attempts to do good are frustrated or reversed, unappreciated or worse, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Ought we doubt our motives or ability? Do we concede to apathy or evil? Should we allow gaps of bitterness to grow between ourselves and others or even God? “So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit.”

As with all enterprise, evaluation and reevaluation are essential elements to spiritual growth. Perhaps more so in light of its subjective nature. Nevertheless, for those having plotted a good course, there comes a point of diminishing returns. Discouragement breeds self-doubt, which in unmerited doses is an enemy to productive faith. Having diligently developed a spiritual strategy, we do well to “set our face like flint” and see it through. Such choices may be lonely ones. Our strength may falter. Even so, by God’s grace, we may yet stumble forward.

Wise biblical students appreciate the difference between searching the Scriptures for formulas verse principles.

With careful planning and some trial and error we can search for those likeminded. Some seasoned and well placed words within church and para-church meetings, work and family relationships may yield strategic networking. Through the interconnection of technology, the world is growing smaller. The addition of social media websites and blogs, Facebook and messaging provide additional resources to aid in the discovery of those with similar interests and concerns beyond our immediate social circle.

Even for those recognizing the precarious state of Churchianity, attending traditional meetings may prove beneficial. These include a large quantity of elementary teaching and fellowship opportunities, albeit wanting in quality. This holds particularly true for those refusing to seriously study Scripture themselves and thereby educate their conscience as well as those who fail to seek out better opportunities such as on the job training through para-church organizations. Other benefits include a sense of family and peers for children to spiritually immature adults. Furthermore, local church attendance offers innumerable opportunities for R&D into the perilous sate of Christ's "foolish virgins" should immorality not disqualify us from even this description.

Churchianity's tendency is to choose kindness over truth. Wisdom might dictate such decisions were it not for Christ's stark example to the contrary. This is not to suggest that the ministry of Jesus was without a dynamic "friendliness factor." Yet rather than compromising the integrity of His message, it was by demonstrating the love and mercy of the Kingdom of God through signs and wonders that mesmerized and then won the hearts of His audience. Adding to the impact of healing the sick and raising the dead, freeing the oppressed and feeding multitudes was the uniqueness of offering forgiveness and heavenly citizenship to spiritual untouchables. Still, we do well to note Christ's denunciation of the shortsighted religious right of His day, through repeated and caustic warnings which were about as far from friendly as one can get.

There's a vast difference between the charismagical words of modern Christianity and strategically honed and memorized daily prayer. The former employes swelling words of emotional wishful thinking and sentimentality as well as exciting and overly generous personal prophecy to invoke a prosperous future that in reality they neither see or understand. The latter, nearly the polar opposite, being troubled chooses prayer and fasting over hugging and singing. Through a litany of confessed awe and sin, petition and complaint, the wise humbly yet boldly approach the throne of grace for mercy and resource for present and future need.

It's a natural and understandable progression to first seek God on His own merit and then that of His Kingdom. Discovering "*the words of the Lord are pure; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times*" excites many to embrace and promote Biblical principals. Over time, resistance and opposition takes it's toll, often bringing soldiers of the faith full circle, returning once again to be consoled and enthralled by the Glory of Omny.

The faith of anyone half paying attention will be tried by disillusionment. Such challenges should be answered with all due haste and diligence seeing Christ's explanation that the Kingdom of God was designed to suffer violence by those who would take it by force.

When assaults against our understanding of scriptural principals seem successful, wisdom dictates a redoubling of effort towards seeking the *"kingdom of God and His righteousness."* Should this prove less than fruitful we have little recourse but to humble ourselves before the King awaiting the sovereignty His ruling.

When reason fails to overturn the foolishness and pain of others and/or circumstances. Who better to complain to than the Almighty? Creator and Father, Lord and Savior... All titles suggesting we may draw near, casting our cares on Him who cares for us. Should doing so fail to meet expectations, our fall back position should be that of learning to be still and know that He is God in hopes of receiving better judgement.

A wise wife is like a exotic and fruitful tree. Unlike an unkept and bitter vine, she blesses and inebriates, cheers and encourages her fortunate spouse. Pleasant to the eye, the touch and desirable to make one wise, she's as compelling as the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Godly and rare, she's a wellspring of Living Water. A Tree of Life, she resists fear and entitlement, providing and protecting a Garden of Eden for those of her immediate family and beyond.

Paul explains that *"with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."* Yet elsewhere Paul and Peter, James and John agree with Jesus that salvation requires far more than wishful thinking and speaking. When it comes to defining the minimum parameters of Biblical salvation, it falls to modern Churchianty to defend their reduction of the New Testament's numerous directives to easy believism. While simplification can be advantageous, inaccurate oversimplification has produced dire results.

Any summary of the event and/or process of salvation must be inconclusive enough to accommodate all scripture on this all important topic while simultaneously aiding in practical understanding and adherence. Thankfully, many common experiences provide analogies that encompass Biblical teachings regarding living faith. For example flying on a plane. Doing so requires that one "believe" in and desire to journey to a particular destination. In this case, "confession" would be accomplished throughout the process of travel. From purchasing a ticket (*"Treasure Hid in a Field"* and *"Pearl of Great Price"*) and checking in baggage to complying with airport security and flight regulations (*"Ten Virgins," "Sheep and the Goats"* and *"Revelation's 'Letter to Laodecia'"*).

Few Christians demonstrate the willingness of heart or mind to accurately assess our social–spiritual condition. It's long been recognize that "wealth is power" and who can deny that the top 1% of the world's wealthiest possess and/or leverage the vast majority of human influence. So much so, that should a strategic thinking believer win a billion dollar lottery it would be but chump change compared to the tens if not hundreds of trillions directly or indirectly arrayed against the message of the gospel. Additionally,

were the financial situation reversed, the campaign of the unrighteous in circumventing millennia of ethical and moral advances have proven so successful that temptation and deception have a stranglehold on the modern world.

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Daily rehearsing strategically crafted memorized prayer fuels my writing, and writing prayer.

Wind takes many forms. From a gentle and refreshing ocean breeze to the torrent and terror of a hurricane. From the barer of Christmas snow flakes to the harbinger of desert siroccos. So too the Ruach Elohim, the breath and Spirit of God.

Carl Sagan stated science embraces hypothesis without fear of corruption given the self correcting mechanism of re-search. While the same should be true for theology, we are lightyears from wise postulating, much less honest evaluation.

Entropy applies to more than physics. Spiritually, it's more difficult to build than tear down. Scripture agrees with Mother Teresa and Martina McBride: do it "Anyway."

How much more valuable a person than a planet or even star, fifty billion trillion discovered in the observable universe so far. While a sun may burn billions of years, what is this compared to a sentient soul ablaze with glory or agony for eternity?

Smiling is an odd tradition. How is it we choose to demonstrate friendliness by showing our teeth?

Consider the grandeur and glory of just this planet. From soaring mountains to grand canyons. From polar ice caps to fruited plains. From tropical rain forests to the driest deserts. From the incredible breadths to the vast depths of seas covering 70% of the earth's surface. Consider then the greatness and majesty of just our observable universe. From the intricacies of the infinitesimal to the cosmic forces of the nearly infinite. What rapture to favorably know and be known, much less love and be loved, by so wise and glorious a Designer and Creator.

It's less the faultiness of our observations than our presuppositions that make fools of us.

Rejection of common sense makes nonsense of intelligence.

Rationalizations perpetually degenerate into justification. Those wishing to learn and instruct others in the art of honest and reasonable living with God, themselves and others should constantly be on guard against this de-evolutionary process. At first, subtle distinctions in understanding may be nearly indistinguishable from fair, equitable and even merciful logic. Over time the gaps broaden, splintering and dividing thoughts, emotions and relationships to the point of disheartening, damaging and destroying individuals, families and more. Regrettably, to one extent or another, such scenarios are more the rule than the exception.

We feel it a crying shame when for lack of character or control the small and simpleminded set fire to a beautiful and ancient forest for the delight of watching it burn. How much a greater a crime when the dull or demonized tempt and deceive themselves and others into everlasting torment for sake of momentary earthly pleasure.

Though paling in comparison with that of the world, Christian denominations possess sizable holdings. Sadly, with the lion's share of its members and their resources being devoured by the apathetic doctrine and distorted message of Churchianity. So much so the net effect of our sphere of influence may be more a help, rather than hinderance, to the plans of the Opposition. More troubling still, were not the machinations of our Adversary enough, his strategy of setting the whole of mankind in opposition to God's warnings and directives must soon culminate in apocalyptic judgment. Even now the stage is being set for Revelation's tale of woe to commence, culminating in the death of billions and the ruination of the planet in conjunction with the fury of Satan and his angels being cast down to earth for the final act.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the sincere study and interpretation of Scripture is hardly for the faint of heart.

It's amazing how few, if any, routinely meet to accurately discuss the gathering storm of the End Times. Clearly the signs of the season are upon us, yet one is hard pressed to find a single regularly scheduled meeting of informed minds willing and able to recognize and reason through the obvious and dire warnings of Scripture. With the "handwriting on the wall" all but evident, it's inconceivable there should be so little interest in honest Biblical appraisal and critical analysis. In twenty years I've found only one or two men open to contemplating even half the truth and then for only about an hour week

To whom does *"the God of all comfort"* extend the offer of Divine consolation? According to Christ's debut sermon *"those who mourn in Zion."* This promise is predicated a willingness to grieve in and over righteousness. Jesus's half brother James adds additional clarification: *"But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.' Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."*

The Colorado shooting at a theater showing "The Dark Knight Rises" was only miles from Columbine, both of which afford the opportunity to ponder Christ's recorded response to tragic current events of His day. Responding to the news that Pilate had mingling the blood of Galileans with their sacrifices His concern centered neither on the victimizer or victims. Rather He directed his concern and comments at His audience of which we readers are part: *"I tell you... unless you repent, you too will all perish."*

Generally Christian multimedia suffers from the same deficiencies and disease of modern doctrine. One exception is a short yet stirring call from long time missionary-activist Jackie Pullenger entitled "Go." Her simple production and grasp of Christ and His apostle's great example and directive to "love your neighbor as yourself" to the point of "life to the recipient and death to the giver" is flawless. Nevertheless, by omission or design one thing is lacking. The reality that while a supernatural component is not required to comply with Christ's command, any hope of being fully effective does. When it comes to being willing and able to hear and head God's call, what's needed most are men and women as dedicated to sparking a New Pentecost with the Church as Jackie, Brother Yun (the Heavenly Man) and Hudson Taylor in regards to evangelism.

While a cut above many contemporary Christian songs, Bob Bennett's "Come and See" might have been less well received had it been aptly entitled, "Come and Die."

When it comes to fasting there are a variety of forms and functions. As seen in Christ's judgement of the Church of Philadelphia vs Laodicea and the wise vs foolish virgins, what separates the men from the boys is strategy and severity of discipline.

Given Churchianity's resemblance to Christ's description of Revelation's deceived and lukewarm Church of Laodicea, it unfortunate Scripture's cannon doesn't include the letter Paul references he wrote them. Nevertheless, Jesus' compliant and advice coupled

with undeniable traits and trends within the First World Church suggest our modern Laodecia services might be plagued by some or all of the following failings:

Presumption mistaken as living faith.

Beauty of form over function: facilities and grounds, fellowship and attire, productions and materials.

Marketing: buildings and programs, materials and volume over substance.

Fellowship: prayers and worship, words and teaching that at best accentuate the promises of Scripture with little or no thought as to their corresponding conditions.

Offerings accentuated over obedience

Lauding Christ's cross to the exclusion of our own.

Vaunting the attribute of God's mercy above that of His holiness.

Exchanging an hour or two a week of "service" for the remaining 167.

Messages that comfort and condone rather than confront and convict.

Breast milk (colostrum) over the meat of Scripture.

Writing and performing the most intimate choruses in human history professing faith and love, service and adoration while investing little or no time seriously seeking or serving God.

Declarations of God's presence and power in the face of compelling evidence to the contrary.

Wishful thinking artfully spoken as personal prophecy.

The exception of answered prayer exaggerated as the rule.

Clergy's acceptance and accommodation of Biblically illiterate congregations lest membership find something amiss.

Leadership promoted by title rather than proven faith(fullness). Example: Elders unable to heal the sick... Teachers Scripturally mistaken.

Ordination of trained and skilled orators rather than discerners and implementors of Holy Spirit's truth and direction much less power and authority.

Blessings counted as miracles and elevated as evidence of God's approval.

Referencing the Book of Revelation as little as possible.

Insistence that Christ's warning to the Church of Laodecia was meant for others not themselves. (Something I myself may be guilty of even as I write these words)

Perhaps do to the intersection of God's permissive will and the successes of Satanic strategy "divine appointments" appear to bound in regards to a myriad of issues save that which is most important.

Consider the song "*Shekinah Glory*, in my opinion a cut or two above most of today's choruses. While far from leading modern Laodecian's into the kind of James Chapter 4 repentance and brokenness necessary to cultivate, or even survive the genuine manifest presence of God (Acts 5) it's otherwise well written:

1. We wait for You. We wait for You. We wait for You. To walk in the room.

(Here we have the crux of the matter. While the cannon of Scripture is an incredible gift, the Bible itself declares "the Kingdom of God is not words..." Without the perception and power of a New Pentecost, Churchianity is all but lost.)

2. Here we are standing in Your presence. Here we are standing in Your presence. Shekinah glory come down. Shekinah glory come down.

(Jesus explained, "wherever two or more of you gathered in My name I will be in your midst." It would seem a quantum fact that God is present, as Christians wait on and beckon a greater infilling of Holy Spirit's fruit and gifts.)

3. Release the fullness of Your spirit. Shekinah glory come. Shekinah glory come.

(The Glory of God is the only answer to the ubiquitous level and diabolical nature of modern deception and temptation.)

4. You move, and we want more. You speak, and we want more. You move, and we want more. We want the fullness.

(While this and the previous section could be interpreted as present rather than future tense, the language itself lends itself more to request than presumption.)

5. Release the fullness of Your spirit. Shekinah glory come. Shekinah glory come.

(Again, this language could be taken in a couple different ways, it still seems more passionate pray than presumptive pronunciation.)

6. I can't get enough of Your presence, presence. I can't get enough of Your presence, presence. I can't get enough of Your presence, presence. I can't get enough, can't get enough...

(We certainly need more of God.)

7. The Lord has given us freedom. Given us freedom. Given us joy.

(This final stanza not only disappoints, and could be seen as reinterpreting the song in its entirety. Bound by any number of besetting sins, modern Churchianity is anything but free. In fact, given Jesus's judgment of His seven churches in Revelations, the best we might expect is the rod of correction.)

In the small church service where the above song was drawn out in a 5 to 10 minute performance by youthful somewhat talented performers, the Pastor use the occasion to first pray for and then confidently declare healing, deliverance and provision. **Such a move from praise through prayer to presumption is all too common in today's charismatic church.**

Across the board, one of life's most challenging yet critical endeavors is to continually access the difference between faith and fantasy.

I met my first Grandchild, Madison Harper (though I lobbied for Charis-Biblical Greek for Grace) two days ago. Three weeks premature, she was thankfully born healthy and happily, petite and precious. Quiet and more beautiful than most, her just under six pounds of exquisite sleepy softness has pierced and anchored itself into my heart through brokenhearted joy. Joy at the beauty of her arrival, brokenness over the 200 miles that separate us.

Few today grasp the Bible or our perilous conditional well enough to comprehend what God is capable of either good or bad.

Better genuine fear, sorrow or anger than presumptuous faith, hope or love.

While having addressed scores of Biblical topics in some detail, I've addressed three areas above all.

Scripture's simple teaching on salvation: Christ's narrowing of nearly 8,000 commands and conditions to a single directive, *"love your neighbor as yourself."*

Abortion and the Church: Identifying the slaughter of over 1,000,000,000 (5 times the world's population in Christ's day) as the pinnacle sin of mankind.

The premise and context behind the Gospel from Genesis to Revelation: Satan's diabolical strategy to first deceive and then condemn mankind and particularly the Church in Creation's Supreme Court were he accuses us *"day and night."* Humanity's sin against God and one another has reached Heaven, filling it with such scandal as to aborted our very prayers if not salvation. Yet, while our ghastly behavior is without excuse, it's not without explanation. This same *"accuser of the brethren"* first tempted and deceived us and *ancient, holy and glorious angels from heaven above.* What chance does mankind have against such ancient malevolence when by comparison the entire human race was born yesterday and dies tomorrow? *These points can not be overemphasized for they represent the perfect point of intercession. A crowbar with which me may yet prevail against the "gates of hell" impeding our access to "the thrown of grace."*

Appropriate interpretation and implementation of scripture hinges on understanding three verses of scripture: 1) *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a **rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**"* 2) *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, **much more will be asked.**"* 3) *"Stop judging by appearances, but **judge with righteous judgment!**"*

Some precepts bare repeating. All the more so should they be instrumental to the core doctrines crucial to defending *"the faith once for all delivered to the saints"* which itself is essential to the eternal survival of billions.

Eternity is clarity. Truth there will be gloriously clear as crystal and transparent gold. Here the process of discernment is anything but. More like sifting through silt and mud, at best we're earthly panhandlers seeking perpetual fortune.

It appears the hindrances of temptation and deception, so prevalent in earthly life, fall like scales from our eyes from at moment of death. Like the rich man in Christ's story of Lazarus, no sooner are we free from their tyranny than we wake to find ourselves forever bound by their torment. May such wretches las we be quick to heed wisdom's call: *"So, my dear friends, listen carefully; those who embrace these my ways are most blessed. Mark a life of discipline and live wisely; don't squander your precious life. Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me, awake and ready for me each morning, alert and responsive as I start my day's work. When you find me, you find life, real life, to say nothing of God's good pleasure. But if you wrong me, you damage your very soul; when you reject me, you're flirting with death."*

More so than most authors, Biblical commentators must be sensitive to the nuances between the true meaning of the word or phrase, and that which an audience believes or would like to.

Time and/or eternity may reveal my endeavors to expose Churchianity's insensitivity and toxicity to vital doctrine have been all but wasted. Arguably such efforts would've been better spent helping this one or that come to terms with the fundamental reality and claims of Christ. To my thinking there are millions doing this already, yet few if any with enough vision or expertise to take the road far less traveled.

The best attempts of modern Christianity at evangelism and discipleship seem analogous to the story of a child strolling along a shoreline littered with beached starfish. Rather than attempting to comprehend the true nature of the dilemma, we manage to toss a few back into the sea, unconcern with the futility of such strategy much less scripture's warning that the entire ocean is on its way to becoming blood.

Oh that the army of God included special forces dedicated and capable of "blowing the dam" holding back the living water of the presence and power, provision and protection of the Holy Spirit vital to replenishing and revitalizing the Church and world, both in dire need of saving.

"Many are called by few are chosen" because few are willing to answer heavens call. As Søren Kierkegaard noted *"The matter is quite simple. The bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined. How would I ever get on in the world? Herein lies the real place of Christian scholarship. Christian scholarship is the Church's prodigious invention to defend itself against the Bible, to ensure that we can continue to be good Christians without the Bible coming too close. Oh, priceless scholarship, what would we do without you? Dreadful it is to fall into the hands of the living God. Yes it is even dreadful to be alone with the New Testament."*

It may take as massive a revelation to turn a Laodecia to a Philadelphian as it did to turn Saul to a Paul.

The wise believer understands the importance of embracing the process of spiritual maturation. Like pluripotent stem cells, such Christians stand ready and willing to adapt their thinking and lifestyle, becoming whatever is most helpful to the body of Christ at any given time. Sadly, the reverse is more often the case.

It's both interesting and telling how like embryonic stem cells, young well-meaning and devoted Christian leaders quickly hard into this or that point of view. On the one hand, this seems a perfectly natural process, one perhaps even ordained by God so that each part of the body would come into its own. On the other hand, given the scores if not hundreds or even thousands of various denominations and schisms within the church,

not to mention even more subtle disagreements between members of any given faction, one might imagine those interested in honestly seeking and serving God would keep their minds open quick to recognize that among myriad's of opinions there is only one God and one truth. Furthermore, given the undeniable fact that so few of our prayers, hopes and dreams are realized, staunchly defending untenable belief systems seems all the more foolish.

Christianity is neither conceived or receive in a vacuum. As with all aspects of life, only in context do we fully comprehend and experience reality. Consider the example of sailing at sea. Imagine the inherent difficulties of naval officers conducting military drills and maneuvers aboard a cruise ship. Conversely, how might drunken and carousing civilian fare on a battleship? Or what tragedies would result from parasailing and dancing on deck just prior to or during hurricane? It's the true nature of the situation in which we find ourselves, not that which we tell ourselves, that should define and shape our mindset and behavior.

Where among the ekklesia are those willing to exchange or add to their Sunday Christian performances the thousands of hours required secreted prayer and self abasement due the Lord of Hosts (Angel armies)?

“Good morning Lord” if I may be so informal and bold to say either good, morning or Lord to the likes of TriOmnity.

Most today refuse to admit the vital scriptural imperative of good deeds and working hard to merit blessing if not breakthrough. Those who do should keep in mind that some of our most heartfelt prayers might be partially realized if not answered entirely by greater spiritual and personal discipline on our parts.

For decades I've often risen before dawn looking for God with little or no great success. Strange the entire human race should misplace Omnity.

Scripture explains *“the kingdom of God is not words...”* to which I reply “that’s what I’ve been saying.”

When it comes to seeking the face of God *“let us not grow weary in well doing.”* Darkness may be long and deeply entrenched yet dawn shall dispel it even before the Son fully rises.

After thinking or praying, speaking or writing I often offer disclaimers. For example “Thanks Lord if you blessed my writing, otherwise I apologize.” Sadly, it seems there is so little of Holy Spirit’s presence and genuine discernment today that the honest must continually confess difficulty in discerning the difference between blessing and blasphemy.

Those undertaking an extended fast from food often set aside sinful or even questionable behavior so as to make the most of their sacrifice. Such dedication often engenders a feeling of congruity and acceptance in our seeking and service to God.

Rather than each dawn bringing a new beginning as habitual sins of the previous day are confessed only to be repeated, morning by morning our sense of God presence grows unabated. True discipleship may require similar commitment. Rather than allowing besetting sins and doubtful habits to daily reset the clock to the point that we end up with a single day's experience 365 times a year, we should strive for uninterrupted holiness and devotion in hopes of attaining full years of experience, each day building into the next.

Christ commands the Rich Young Ruler to sell all he has and give to the poor that he might have true and lasting treasure in heaven. In another gospel he says as much to all. Elsewhere, in the case of the infamous tax collector, Jesus pronounces salvation has come when the despised Zacchaeus promises half his possessions to the poor and four fold repayment of dishonest gain. Of course in this case, it may have amounted to much the same thing.

Compared to the lifespan of 50 billion trillion stars within the observable universe, death comes to the whole of the human race in less than a nano second on the cosmic clock. On the other hand, given Scripture's invitation of everlasting salvation to "*whosoever will*" in the end it's creation that will wear out, "*rolled up as a scroll*" being replaced by "*a new heaven and earth*" fit for the eternal habitation of the "*heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.*"

When considering the size and age, power and forces of the observable universe along with the incalculable cost of Christ's incarnation and atonement preordained by God, You have to ask yourself one question, is Omnipotence really something you want to "frack" around with.

How did believers in the Book of Acts become unified to point of a Holy Spirit singularity? Were they not compelled and compressed by the immediate and extended effects and implications of the Messiah's torture and crucifixion, resurrection and ascension? During the 50 days from Passover to Pentecost, spiritual and societal circumstances drove them to their knees. In the physical absence of Christ, the gravity of both Jew and Gentile seeking to extinguish their movement and very lives exerted sufficient force to collapse individual psyches into a single mindset of one accord. The question is, outside of encountering the event horizon of the Great Tribulations, what would motivate modern 21st century Gentile believers to adopt such a serious and strenuous strategy as that of their 1st century Jewish counterparts?

There are many strengths to the Enemy's stronghold against effective and unified prayer. One such facet is the modern hyper-Laodicean belief that possessing the righteousness of Christ, as well as the wealth of nations, we believe "*I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,*" oblivious that in fact we're "*pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless.*" Another is that prayers of such, if and when prayed, have little effect on our own behavior much less that of God and the Devil, men or circumstance. We presume to possess not only the "*righteousness of Christ*" but the "*fullness of the Spirit*" thereby negating the necessity of seeking either much less both. In fact doing so is often taught to be tantamount to doubt if not deception. Sadly, traps

and snares await even forward thinking Christians, should they be found. What's lacking is men and women caring and committed enough to in accordance with scripture invest hours weekly waiting quietly if not silently upon the God in hopes He may yet be found. The weakness with this wise strategy lies in the Porcupine Principle. No sooner should such rare individuals arise and agree to invest the time but that before long they are driven apart by prickly points of disagreements.

At this stage perhaps our best if not only option is to develop the discipline of waiting long hours in stillness before God in hopes the He might gather and shape intercessors willing and able to endure the process of reformation and reduction required to effectively tarry until receiving genuine *"power form on high."*

What tongue can tell the damage done over time by the repetition of even the tiniest of sins. Of vices extolled as virtues and virtues suppressed by vice. *"It's the little foxes that spoiled the vine."* *"A little leaven leavens the lump."*

How different things would be if, like in Pinocchio, horns grew on the head of sinners and halos on the righteous.

That *"the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; judging the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* is true and observable in a variety of ways. Perhaps the most telling is which Scriptures we choose to over or under emphasize and why.

So numerous and offensive are the hard and barbed sayings of Christ that most readers flee for shelter to the centuries-old practice of diluting Scripture's plain and obvious meaning. Furthermore, according to Jesus, *all His words* including those brash and impolite were not only inspired but required by the Father and delivered through leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. So it would appear the entire Godhead has a penchant for plain speaking.

The Bible testifies that the whole of Scripture is God breathed by the untamed and often impolite Spirit or breath of God (Rauch Elohim רוח אלוהים). Small wonder then that the Gospels are full of inopportune directives. A strong case can be made that the rest of the New Testament objectifies such a viewpoint..

After a recent series of conversations spent reasoning from the Scripture that the pre and post resurrected Christ is anything but "meek and mild" I herd of and downloaded the e-book "Jesus Mean and Wild" for its provocative and intuitive title.

The purpose for reasoning through, rather than avoiding, problematic scriptures is threefold. 1) That we, as well as those we know and love, may be saved from the trials and tribulation of life being *"accounted worthy to escape all these things."* The second in two fold. 2) That in areas of rebellion, as with Paul, God would remove the scales from our eyes. 3) That in those places where we are willing to obey yet resist understanding, Christ might make our hearts burn within us, opening our minds as with His disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The parables of Jesus regarding commitment to prayer clearly reveal facts in evidence. Chief among these is that Omnipotence's default answer to prayer is "no" rather than "yes." While Scripture assures that, *"the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ"* our daily experience leaves much to be desired. Sadly, when it comes to Bible study, most throw the baby out with the bathwater over what appear to be such glaring apparent inconsistencies. Others imagine receiving a Kingdom requiring little or no effort, misconstruing everyday blessings which God extends to *"the just and unjust"* as evidence of acceptance and favor.

In "The Great Divorce" C.S. Lewis envisions an afterlife where the ungodly can have whatever they imagine yet without true substance. Hell's homes fail to keep out the cold and rain, it's fading day perpetually the twilight before black of midnight. Ironically, a similar spiritual scenario exists for millions of believers, including evangelicals and charismatics, who possess "a form of godliness" while failing to pursue its genuine power.

Few choose to grasp much less grapple with the reality that if promises of God are true then we've been overcome by either anemic faith and/or demonic resistance. Either scenario calls for an increased degree of diligence accompanied by ruthless honesty and genuine hope.

In the modern world, it's rare to find individuals willing to admit the importance of continued brokenheartedness before God. Few prove able to face the subtle realities behind such a requirement. Fewer still have a heart to Scripturally proceed. In isolated instances where worshipers are willing to admit our perilous state, repentance and sorrow are too soon supplanted with declarations of righteousness and joy.

Such pronouncements sharply contrast to direction found in the Book of James. Here the half-brother of Jesus explains that strife arises from our lack of experiencing the presence and power, provision and protection of the Spirit of God. Exemplified by unanswered prayer, he reveals *"You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."* James continues *"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."*

While perhaps a remnant of a remnant of a remnant of the church admits to worldliness. Even then we do so more as a besetting fault than serious sin. More along the lines of weakness rather than betrayal. Yet James makes it clear that for such our standing before God is hardly that of the *"righteousness of Christ"* but rather as *"adulterers and adulteresses."* Rather than godly men and women of God awaiting blessing we may in fact be enemies of God awaiting judgment. Fortunately, he offers a remedy to such a dire diagnosis, *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he*

will lift you up.” Unfortunately few are willing to avail themselves of such a costly prescription.

I’ve suffered through thousands of nonsensical teachings, often enthusiastically offered by incompetent teachers. Hoping to redeem the time, as well as the futile efforts of often well-meaning believers, I’ve offered as many observations inspired from such error in recognition that the wise find failure’s as a good an instructor as success. Particularly so when formidably outnumbered.

The meaning of Scripture must be flushed out if we are to grasp its subtleties. The crucial step is admitting the importance of considering passages we find confusing or even offensive. All the more so when addressing topics of such vital interest as salvation and evangelism, discipleship and revival as well as the effectiveness of Satanic deception and resistance.

Nehemiah’s opening prayer reveals the spiritual reality of a closed door between the blessing of God and His people. Such resistance is evidenced throughout the Bible including Jesus’s admonition to *“ask, seek and knock”* as well as the *“Parable of the Friend who Comes at Midnight”* not to mention and Christ’s critique of the Church of Laodicea. Nehemiah employs a heightened degree of godly compassion and repentance along with Scriptural promise as a crowbar in hopes of prying open heavens door.

In the first chapter of Nehemiah we see the would-be activist questioning travelers to find out the condition of the city of Jerusalem and the remnant of God’s people having long been scattered if not destroy by the judgment of God. Heartbroken over their report, he weeps and mourns, fasts and prays. Those familiar with this kind of care and concern understands effective intercession is process of repeated events. No doubt Nehemiah had spent days and weeks, months and years doing much the same prior to and in preparation for this particular time and season, which yielded such a resounding result as to merit it’s record in Scripture.

When it comes to issues such as unanswered prayer, is misery a prerequisite to mission?

Partial truths can result in serious departures from the whole truth. Unfortunately, few have the stamina to seek and/or stomach the true nature of our situation in time much less eternity.

If one is careful not to veer off into charrsimagic, the use of a prayer language may prove beneficial. Particularly when nothing else works, and our best strategic thinking and planning seems to come to naught. In such cases our *“minds being unfruitful”* when yielding our tongues in hopes of praying in the Spirit seems a small price to pay in light of the shortfall of our best thinking.

Taking a page from Scripture, I've oft prepared myself as if I were the cup bearer to the King of Creation in hopes of finding my petition for resource and further revelation granted. So far little or no luck.

Given the plethora and centrality of 1,546 "ifs" found within Scripture, one might say they are as necessary to the language of the Spirit as vowels to our alphabet. Constantly overlooked and underrated, one might as well try speaking with only consonants. Our foolishness becomes all the more apparent when noting the Bible's 6,468 commands outweigh its 1,260 promises five to one. Such math suggests its Scripture's conditions that are the consonants.

It's the *Spirit* stupid.

Temptation's deceit is as fluid as mercury. It's constant state of flux eluding our grasp, if not our notice. A reality often lost on those long in the faith.

Not all obligations are pleasant, including many of owed God.

Paul's statement he preached the gospel at his own expense that he might have a reward in heaven seems nearly incomprehensible. His zealous and miraculous ministry to both Jew and Gentile resulted in 195 scars covering his back, not to mention being literally being stoned to death. Add to this five beating with rods and a myriad of other difficulties and persecutions, one could hardly imagine someone with a larger heavenly bank account. On the other hand, few if any ever had such heavenly revelations as he. Perhaps this is in partial fulfillment of Christ's comment, "*Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*"

While the impediment is not identified in Scripture, perhaps the quandary of which Paul speaks when explaining he prayed three times that the "*thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me*" might be removed was the hostility of the Jewish people to the Gospel of a crucified, resurrected and ascended Messiah. One hopes for better from the people of God...

Jeremiah described a time when the people of God ignored His warnings, claiming rather "*Peace, Peace the say were there is no peace.*" To this Scripture records "*God's Message yet again: 'Go stand at the crossroads and look around. Ask for directions to the old road, The tried-and-true road. Then take it. Discover the right route for your souls. But they said, 'Nothing doing. We aren't going that way.' I even provided watchmen for them to warn them, to set off the alarm. But the people said, 'It's a false alarm. It doesn't concern us.'*" Refusing direction, Jeremiah's contemporaries continued on a path of terrible destruction. Such passage speak to an alarming trend in Modern Churchianity. Failing to realize "*to whom much is given much is required*" easy believism has overturned honest New Testament doctrine to the point of teaching Christ abolished the law, therefore we needn't worry much less "*work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*"

The duties and distractions of ancient life required the faithful to rise before and “*awaken the dawn*” in prayer and meditation, hoping to glimpse or even grasp vital Kingdom truths obscured if not hindered by the demands daily life. What’s to become of our and subsequent generations who know less and less of discipline, having all but replaced deep personal prayer and Bible study with worldly and Christian entertainment. Unfortunately, we’re quick to substitute the “*ancient paths*” for doctrines and lifestyles of ever increasing worldliness and immorality, even as society literally goes to hell and the Great Tribulation hastens its approach.

God, thus His word, is “*...living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*”

Mankind’s sense of isolation or even alienation from Omnipotence is as likely a result of God’s immanence as transcendence.

There are a variety of personal prayer styles and modes, all having their place. For my initial salvo I have chosen to daily begin with a photon torpedo spread of repentance and petition, glorification and complaint. Each thought carefully crafted, taken together I cast my requests like “*bread upon the waters*” hoping to find God’s leading within Heaven’s answers.

At times it seems difficult, even impossible, to discern the difference between the stout heart of the pioneer and that of a stubborn fool.

Oh that there was a place one might flee to be free of the bitterness of confusion.

Understandably, many object to prayer because of its painful discipline. True adherers must face difficult truths, not to mention the reality that most prayer goes unanswered. On the other hand, perhaps we should adopt the mindset of the psalmist and prophet, warrior and King David who declared he would not offer the Lord that which cost him nothing.

Cosmologists have found hundreds of EXO-planets in our galaxy, most within solar systems but some in the empty space in between. It’s believed that many such cosmic wanderers are deflected from the original paths by the decaying solar orbits of “hot Jupiters.” So too the journey of many a godly person.

If it doesn’t last it doesn’t matter.

Dealing with 10 to 20,000 thoughts a day, it’s easy to see why we cast and catalog the vast majority into familiar forms and function. While such filing maybe necessary, it’s all too often reinforces faulty thinking. Repeating routines day after day, month after month, year after year can create deep ruts making new insight all but impossible. One of many reasons wisdom necessitates continual self examination. Life’s silent pauses, such as the stillness of night or upon first awakening provide opportune times. “*In a dream, for*

instance, a vision at night, when men and women are deep in sleep, fast asleep in their beds — God opens their ears and impresses them with warnings. To turn them back from something bad they're planning, from some reckless choice. And keep them from an early grave, from the river of no return.” Job 33:15-18

There's a grave difference between knowing what's wrong, or even what's right, and being able to do much if anything about it.

Lord, I don't know how to proceed if my best efforts are crowned little or no success.

Scripture's primary contention with earthly glory is that it's *“passing away.”* From an eternal viewpoint it's madness to *“gain the world at the cost of one's soul.”* Wisdom dictates the pursuit of godliness and sanctification, even at the price of undeserved suffering, rather than enjoying the fleeting *“pleasures of sin for a season.”* in duration and intensity heavenly glory outshines worldly joy as the Sun does a wildfire. The most beautiful human form or opulent dwelling must be as dung and dust compared to it's least eternal counterpart the likes of which *“no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived...”*

Interestingly the Bible's case against the preoccupation with and misuse of worldly wealth hinges more on the it's transitory nature rather than the surpassing grandeur of the eternal. While the latter is far more compelling, the former is stressed because of earth's unfamiliarity with heavenly glory. Juxtaposing temporary riches against those which are everlasting should resinate with mortals who have, are or soon will be assaulted with the pain of loss and death.

Truly prophetic Christian of this age may find an unexpected rest, encountering a kind of *“Cancer Grace”* upon discovering the full extent of metastasis of the *“spirit at work in the sons of disobedience”* attested by this generation's predilection for lawlessness and sin. Worldwide judgment a certainty, what of brazen America who's coins still boast *“In God We Trust”* while shamefacedly staining earth crimson with innocent blood. What of California were Hollywood alone has fulfilled the Apostle John's prophesy of the Great *“Whore of Babylon”* who makes the nations of the world *“drunk on the wine of her adulteries.”* Such provocation and insolence against the commands of the *“Lord and of his Christ”* must be soon and terribly judged, ending with Revelation's unparalleled plagues and woes. Having all but sealed our fate, those who *“are in anguish over the outrageous obscenities being done”* may find temporary solace in the calm before the final storm, as praying to be counted *“worthy to escape all these things”* they continually seek righteousness and humility in hopes of being *“hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.”* Such peace, predicated on a willingness to *“labor to enter God's rest”* is all the more poignant when faced with Peter's warning: *“For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? And also. ‘If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?’”*

Meeting weekly for discipleship with a pastoral friend many decades ago I inquired how we might best discern the voice of God. His principal answer was to trust the still small

voice we hear in our heart. When asked about other voices vying for our attention the minister suggested that since the Spirit lives within and the demonic without, God's voice reaches us first. A year or so after our sessions he was forced from his pastorate by a power struggle within leadership. Later, divorced by a beautiful yet unfaithful wife, he remarried and returned to the area, living a blessed and admirable life. Eventually taking his place as associate pastor, my ministry suffered the same fate, causing me to question how so many Christians, leadership and laity alike continue to make so many mistakes. The answers eventually required a more honest handling of Scripture and experience which I called Quantum Christianity. Thirty years in the making, over a hundred QC's articles on vital Biblical topics detail the descent of modern Christianity into Churchianity where our failures and flaws in faith and lifestyle are masked with the cosmetics of contemporary pop doctrine and worship. Add to gross sins those of omission, from prayerlessness to the issue of abortion, and the charges against us of worldly apathy, if not Biblical apostasy, are all but certain. Such evidence strongly suggests that my ministerial colleague's answer regarding discerning God's voice was naive at best. Rather, besieged by sin above, about and within, it may be the Voice we avoid, the Voice being drowned out by worldly and even Christian wishful thinking that belongs to Omnipotence.

Accurately assessing and praying through our human condition serves several purposes. Reminding God of the details of our dilemma and that of others far less fortunate not only functions as petition but provides the first in a series of necessary daily inoculations against the ravages of the universal plague of entitlement.

How complex the human psyche. On the one hand incredibly adaptive to an extreme range of conditions. On the other, so weak our self perception seems in a constant state of flux, as if defined by circumstance. How radically different our self image were our condition substantially altered for better or worse. Would a radically richer version of ourselves even recognize a poorer one? The same may be asked in regards to health or popularity, beauty or love. Yet shouldn't who we are, rather than what we have, define us? Sadly, graduation from such an elemental mental-emotional-spiritual state seems predicated on relentless hours of Christian consciousness raising. Few indeed choose the rigorous curriculum of prayer and meditation along with extreme obedience to the Holy Spirit and Scripture over the growing list of elective pleasures and distractions offered by modern life.

When it comes to aptly interpreting and comprehending even the simplest of scripture, much less the great mysteries of time and eternity, one must endeavor to understand the who and what before the why. (See GB: Eternity...The Series, Original Sin, Satan...)

Truth be told, the Bible is riddled with hundreds of Scriptural inconsistencies and worse. Beyond what appear as obvious discrepancies are scores of passages, particularly in the major and minor prophets, that seem to be saying one thing when for all intents and purposes they mean another. Some are easily reconciled, such as "Out of Egypt I called

my son.” Here, as in many cases, there is a dualistic meaning. An initial fulfillment in regards to the Exodus, and later a prophecy concerning Christ’s parents return from Egypt in the aftermath of having fled Herod’s slaughter of the innocence. Numerous other passages are far more difficult to sort through. Many dealing with the state of Israel speak of judgment and then glorious and even eternal restoration, yet history reveals the passage of millennia has not only yet to see such verses fulfilled but records horrifying suffering and atrocities committed against the Jews by Gentiles and Christians alike. Even so, there is amazing evidence for Scriptural inspiration and authority, not to mention the stage being set for the fulfillment of the Book of Revelation before our very eyes. Ironically, the very generation having forsaken the challenge of reasoning through Scripture, choosing rather to throw the Bible under the bus, may not only see many problematic passages fulfilled but have front row seats to the final act.

Quantum Christianity was designed to encourage honest Bible students to become Scriptural archeologists, sifting through the sands of time and eternity carefully so as to reveal rather than conceal truth.

Only by appreciating the context and mega themes of the whole of Scripture, can we hope to employ Biblical forensics and allow the evidence to piece together a more authentic picture of Earthly and Heavenly history.

Who can withstand the scrutiny and terror of the Major and Minor Prophets? Most students of Scripture, much less the average Christian, sidestep such spiritually and emotionally charged and intensive Books altogether. That is to say except when it suits us, to pull out individual phrases divested from both the unity and context in which they were delivered and forever embedded. Seeking emotional high ground against a flood of God’s justice and wrath, most return the Bible to the shelf or seek solace in the New Testament. Yet here too we find a plethora of versus, if not whole chapters, from the Gospels and Book of Acts, to the Epistles and Book of Revelation requiring a fully submitted life. Far from throwing out the Old Testament commands of God, Jesus and his apostles raise the bar by demanding even greater allegiance and obedience to the Holy Spirit in light of the incarnation and life, message and ministry of Jesus. This, in addition to Christ’s passion and atonement, resurrection and ascension, intercession and imminent return are the basis of Omnipotence’s authority and future “rod of iron” rule over mankind beginning with the Church. Superseding even God’s right as Creator, the responsibility and privilege of following the directives and example of Christ are magnified exponentially given the eternal realities of heaven or hell, rewards or judgment.

A just rendering of the whole Bible is a far different read than we are generally led to believe. Scripture is a commentary of a cosmic war raging through both eternity and time across three Heavens. Rather than continual sunshine bookended between a brilliant dawn and glorious sunset, the Bible is as or more full of death than life, cursing than blessing. Because of its often violent nature, Scripture goes so far as to reveal that the way to perdition is broad and that of salvation narrow. When asked by his disciples “*who then can be saved*” Jesus answered “*With man this is impossible... but all things*

are possible with God.” Dozens, if not hundreds of similar verses illustrate the need for diligence and discernment. The serious and strenuous effort of a soldier is implied in Christ’s command and explanation *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”*

How heaven must wonder of earth. A world filled with beings of such delicacy and weakness they weary within a single day, sleeping a third of it away.

As a reward for his faithfulness, I frequent a large local city park where my Yorkie runs free. Jalking (jog-walk) near dawn together we get some much needed exercise as we chase our quarry, squirrels and God. Should either apprehend our prey, it remains to be seen what we might actually do or find done to us.

Soft and soundness are summer sprinkles gently falling on a lonely lake. So, from time to time, are unexpected yet welcomed blessings of God.

If Christianity is a pleasure cruise and why does Revelation warn that the *“cowardly”* are excluded with the *“unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”* Wouldn’t it be the captain and crew’s job to put the fearful at easy, encouraging them to join in the festivities? On the other hand, on a battleship aren’t those who cringe or shirk their duty headed for the brig?

In regards to the cosmic conflict between God and Satan, all members of humanity and particularly Christianity fall into three categories. Scripture and experience paint the majority of mankind as **collaborators**, with the largest part of those remaining being **sympathizers** with a minority willing to embrace the lifestyle of **resistance fighters**. While what constitutes each role seems a matter of opinion, one Day the Truth will be known by all.

Godly discernment flows from the content and context of 2 Chronicle 7:14: *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* This is best illustrated by the following inverted pyramid:

Those honest enough to acknowledge God’s existence and our true desperate situation.

Those investing serious time identifying God and the nature of His revelation to man.

Those who’ve studied and understand the uniqueness and inspiration of the Bible.

Those learning the crucial conditions associated with the promises of Scripture.

Those comprehending the true devilish nature and work of Satan and sin.

Those taking a stand for Christ by diligently seeking and serving Him.

Those willing to face the hard truth that the battle is going badly.

Those truly understanding just how badly the battle is going.

Those rightly interpreting the Times and Seasons.

Those grasping the cost of true Revival.

Those willing to pay it.
Those who do.

Many whom eternity will reveal as a part of the problem fancy themselves as part of the solution.

There is no monopoly on stupid.

Double-mindedness is the greatest of all spiritual maladies. Frequently responsible for short circuiting the best of intentions, it runs the gamut from sinner to saint. The intoxicated rantings and sober confessions of the addict repeatedly begging forgiveness and swearing off sin are not altogether unlike the Apostle Paul's writing in Romans "*I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate... I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.*" As befitting its ubiquitous nature, the expression of this condition is found in a myriad of forms, all revealing a fundamental lack of understanding and/or discipline. Such "*divided loyalty*" leaves us "*as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind*" and is the likely reason we receive so little from the Lord.

Bolstered by the sin above, around and within it seems all but impossible to elude or slip the grasp of double-mindedness. It mocks our intentions while impeding our progress. Masquerading as wisdom, we yield to and even embrace its mindset as a friend. An uninvited yet continual companion, it remains so constant in our thoughts as if to make its voice our own. Still, if this live stream of often counter productive thought in me is me then who is listening?

There is a subtle yet vast disconnect between who we imagine we are and reality. Wishing away unpleasant circumstances, we trust anemic faith will miraculously part tempests of temptation and deception, granting smooth sailing. Though graveyards of broken and sunken vessels attest otherwise we cling to hope that merely wishing things would change will be somehow be enough while leave the weightier work of faith undone. For example, how many tens if not hundreds of millions of Christians have watched their families shipwrecked by sin and rebellion, trusting that short and powerless prayer might break chains and anchors being daily forged and reinforced by unrepentant spouses and offspring? How few weekly, if not daily, rally together to pray through painful realities until Christ be formed in the lives of their families, not to mention those of perishing neighbors much less the rest of the world. Rather we console ourselves we've done our part, all the while leaving our posts as genuine intercessors empty and our jobs as godly spouses and parents, friends and neighbors half undone.

Perhaps the only things more stubborn than the hearts and wills of rebellious teenagers who were raised to know better is the hearts and knees of their Christian parents who

refuse to meet even an hour a week to cry out to God for the salvation of their family and friends and those of others.

Personal prayer is better than no prayer, so long as it doesn't usurp the kind of quality and quantity desperately needed. When Scripture declares God looked for an intercessor and found none, surely it's not to suggest that no one in Israel ever prayed. Rather He sought those who understood the times and the seasons, praying and living accordingly. Believers in the Book of Acts praying in one accord until Pentecost fell were meant as examples not historical icons.

Those who can pray so God will hear are what is and has always been needed. Against the heat of temptation, deception and imminent judgment few today could even be considered thermometers much less thermostats.

A true catch-22, unanswered prayer is far and away the leading cause of prayerlessness. Sadly, a shrinking minority appreciate the ancient lesson of *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*. Deliverance, like answers to prayer, may or may not come on earth yet ours it to raise the standard of heavenly faith. We are privileged to join "*so great a cloud of witnesses*" by continually crying out for lost family and friends, neighbors and even enemies overcome by Satanic temptation and sin. Though falling to our knees seems futile. Though our requests go unrequited. Though our ministries be unraveled. Like Jesus, let us learn that embracing Gethsemane is as much about giving as getting. As much about sacrifice as celebration. As much about fear as faith. Let us follow the example of Him "*who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, was heard because of His godly fear. Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*" Should we not be willing to endure emotional pain that leads to spiritual life? Let us not forget Paul's admonition: "*In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*"

After serving as a lay leader and pastor I invested a decade seeking the presence and power of the Spirit for a revival of evangelism and discipleship. As one by one my colleagues fell away I came to see how Malachi's warning of cursed blessings is being partially fulfilled. The next decade I wandered the wilderness seeking the cause(s). Coming to understanding far better than most we were abortion our own prayers, worship and salvation I spent the next decade developing compelling ways to call the Churchianity to prayer and repentance over the innocent blood of a billion, again with little or no lasting success. Marginalized by by Christian leaders and friends, my dishearten children fell victim to the worldliness and promiscuity overwhelming hundreds of millions of modern believers. Their embracing the very sin we had previously confronted head on by developing and presenting the first of its kind peer driven multimedia pro life and pro chastity presentations (250 to 25000 teens before my pro life ministry and career was ironically aborted by my colleagues) was inconceivable as it was common. Here again I called Christians to pray, thinking surely believing parents would be motivated enough to see their children safely in heaven to invest an hour or two a week corporately crying out to God over the spiritual slaughter of an entire

generation lost on our watch. Sadly, the same spirit of apathy at war against prevailing prayer for evangelism and discipleship, revival and abortion continues to persistent predomination.

My longing for the companionship and strength of Christian community has frequently been thwarted. Investing 30 years and 70,000 hours of strategic service, often requiring traveling a road less traveled, my solitary course seems inadvertently “laid in and plotted.” I’m happy to enjoy the company and gracious understanding of a handful of friends to the degree we can “walk together” at least to the point of discussing portions of the hard truths facing our untoward generation.

In the process of reaching goals and even setting benchmarks, the foolishness and betrayal of others has been a constant companion. Add to this personal areas of undisciplined if not rebellious thoughts and behaviors and it should be clear why I refrain from over emphasizing myself or ministry. For better and worse I continually and ruthlessly examine the fruit and gifts of the Spirit evident in my life. While I think, write and teach prophetically (or perhaps pathetically, whichever the case may be) I neither call myself a man of God or even a godly man. Give the wholesale apostasy today and far greater still looming on the horizon, I should be content to find myself among those working out their salvation (and that of others) in “*fear and trembling.*”

Failure and even sin aside, I wholeheartedly believe in the work feel entrusted with constantly though far from perfectly endeavoring to press myself and others, God and devils to see it completed.

From Samson to Solomon, examples of the exceeding deceitfulness of sin abound. Such is Satan’s craft as to have not only have deceived the whole earth, but even those Omnipotence had reserved for Itself. Times without number godly leaders, as well as the entire nation of Israel, fell willing victims to doctrines of demons, yet their failures pale in comparison with those of the present day. Such a woeful scenario is as shocking as it is expected for a variety of reason, not the least of which is Lucifer’s successful campaign to enticed perhaps a third of eternity’s ancient, holy and glorious angels to rebel against God while actually in heaven!

The evidence and goal of revival is significant and lasting lifestyle change often accompanied, if not preceded by, “signs and wonders” energizing and focusing individuals, if not entire communities, by demonstrably identifying the truth and way to Life. James explains that such spiritual power, even over the very elements, is available to modern day Elijah’s who endure the Spirit’s call, disciple and training to the point of becoming “effectual,” “fervent” and “righteous” (obedient) KJV.

The offer of “whosoever will” is as applicable to revival as salvation. Nevertheless Jesus warns, “Many are called but few are chosen.” Why? Because when it comes to diligently seeking revival, as did His disciples in the days proceeding Pentecost, few today choose to answer His call.

Seeking modern revival within 1st World Nations is a noble yet daunting enterprise. Consider the model of birth and death repeatedly mirrored in Scripture. For the Jews it was the Exodus (Birth) after which two millennia of falling away came the Exile (Death). For the Church it was Pentecost (Birth) after which two millennia growing apathy and sin prophecy predicts will come an end to the *“the times of the Gentiles”* (Spiritual Death) followed the woes and persecution of the Tribulation period (Christian Martyrdom and Global Death toll of over 3 billion) *during, not before*, Christ will Rapture the remaining faithful left alive.

Imagining that churchianity can sit on it's hands and worse for decades while modern formally Christian Nations all but usher in the reign of the Antichrist is all but inconceivable. In a single generation apathy and worldliness has condoned if not produced unprecedented levels of promiscuity and abortion, homosexuality and humanism, demonism and gore in both real life and a constant theme of movies and TV, books and video games. Add to this trillions in dishonest gain marketing all the above as well as illegal gambling and drugs and Divine judgement seems a far more credible scenario. Let's not forget the recent manipulation and collapsing of whole economies not to mention the thousands of billion in bailouts given very perpetrators rather than addressing and eliminating global poverty...

Given the facts at hand, hope for genuine revival without an equally massive and unprecedented pre-revival repentance may be at the very least naive and perhaps bordering on heresy. Even so I daily pray in detail for *New Pentecost with an immediate global yield of a million upper rooms.*”

Clearly obedience is a vital key to experiencing and expressing the presence and power of the Spirit of revival. Sadly, obedience is a term so over applied as to have become virtually meaningless. The vast majority of God's people, while perhaps “partially obedient” have historically fancied themselves accepted and favored by God, even when being so radically off page as to merit judgement in this life and the life to come.

Obedience is in many ways synonymous with anointing. Yet as with so many issues in life, the challenge of discerning and demonstrating the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the essence of obedience, requires traversing many layers and levels. Recognizing some truth is not the same as coming face to face with the whole Truth (Saul on the road to Damascus). Acknowledgement is far easier than the radical and enduring lifestyle change of genuine repentance. Christians frequently step in and out of minor and even major sins rather than meeting the demanding requirements of walking in Spirit. Furthermore, embracing God's will, even in difficult situations, differs greatly from being a conduit of Omnipotence (Elijah vs God's seven thousand).

What remains to be seen is the quantity and quality of both. While few today are, one may be obedient and anointed enough to rightly earn the title “godly man” as did Lot. Yet notice his apparent cluelessness and horrifying loss in comparison to Abraham the “man of God.”

Millions today count themselves among the remnant of those faithful and insightful enough to be watchman over the house of God after the order of Ezekiel. Often unstudied and rarely comprehending the full context of Scripture by offering the occasional obvious warning laced with a handful of overused verses they thereby considering themselves no longer “*accountable for the blood*” of others. Yet how few appreciate the New Testament’s example of the same paradigm. In Acts 20 Paul takes his leave of Elders of the church of Ephesus declaring among other things “*You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*”

Referencing Ezekiel 33 Paul clarifies the lengths to which a watchman and/or leader must go to be truly be innocence of the spiritual blood of those whom they serve:

Face the full Truth: In this case facing the full truth meant accepting that fact that God’s own people, Paul (formally Saul) included, not only rejected but crucified the long awaited Messiah as well as were actively persecuting those the resurrected Christ had sent to turn them from such madness back to the living God. (Note: As often discussed, modern “Churchianity” stands equally deceived and guilty of a litany of doctrinal and lifestyle failures.)

Live the full Truth: Adopting a lifestyle of brokenness and repentance Paul “*served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.*” He chose to live and demonstrate the necessity of a life of prayer and fasting rather than mindless praise and feasting so common today.

Proclaim the full Truth: Paul embraced the cost of confronting misguided believers with the error of their ways. Through poverty to persecution (195 lashes, beaten with rods, stoned to death...) he continued proclaiming the Truth choosing rather to please God than men.

Defend the full Truth: Paul warned his new converts of future betrayals regarding those who would “*distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them*” even from among the faithful within their own ranks. (Note: With hundreds if not thousands of Christian schism and sects today are we any less guilty?)

Raise disciples willing and able to do the same: Paul not only accomplished all the above but even in the face of overwhelming Satanic and human opposition he mentored disciples to defend and promote the Truth “*once for all delivered to the saints.*”

Pay the ultimate price: Though warned by the Spirit of hardship and worse Paul was able to truthfully say “*I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me.*” In suffering and martyrdom Paul proved himself worthy of the Truth and innocent of the blood of those he served.

Perhaps we fail so miserably in evangelism, and even discipleship, for lack of having “bound the strong man” before attempting to plunder his house.

In the Discovery reality TV show “Out Of The Wild” nine men and women of differing ages and ethnicities from various walks of life are flown into an Alaskan frontier where they must face harsh conditions as they make their way back to civilization. Drawing on a short class in survival training, they carry makeshift Yukon bags loaded with supplies provided for the experiment. Navigating by map and compass from one shelter to another, each day members have the choice to continue traversing the pristine wilderness in ever worsening weather or press a GPS transmitter for immediate helicopter rescue. In season 2 the final five spend a month, often with little or nothing to eat, braving the elements as winter fully sets in, never knowing when their journey might end. Less than 24 hours from success five turns to four prior to the group stumbling upon rail road tracks leading to an eventual train ride and reunion with family and friends. Analogies abound but some of the most obvious regarding the end of journey are:

While some of team fell away for particular reasons, for example an injury, the greatest challenge the final members faced was exertion against a *combination of relentless challenges* including constant freezing cold and wet weather, severe and prolonged hunger, heavy loads and difficult terrain all in the face of an unknown or certain journey’s end.

By mid trek wisdom dictated adopting a “one day at a time” if not a “one task at a time strategy.” One snowbound foot in front of the other. Wood gathering and cutting. Pairing up for hunting or fishing. Huddling together for warmth and protection. A few words of consolation and encouragement.

Working together was far more advisable than working alone. A process through which strangers became family.

The comforts of home were seen for the blessings they truly are.

Finishing the course was exquisite. Having survived such hardship and knowing them to be forever behind combined for inexpressible peace and joy.

The immediate unexpected reunion with family and friends was glorious.

The apostle Paul describes an experience in which he is taken to the “Third Heaven” and shown wonders, some of which he’s forbidden to reveal. Such a passage

presupposes a First and Second Heaven. Some have interpreted the First Heaven to be our atmosphere, leaving the Second to denote the physical universe. Others, including myself in "Eternity...The Wager" posit that the designation First Heaven is representative of the entire physical universe while the Third Heaven is the abode of God, angels and the souls of the righteous departed. In this scenario, the Second Heaven would appear to be an inter-dimensional realm and gateway between the other two, with at least some points militarized as discussed in the Book of Daniel chapter ten.

Having created our physical universe, clearly Omnity dwells outside the confines of space-time, matter and/or energy. To a lesser extent, the angelic race seems to enjoy immortality, inhabiting eternity without time yet not without temporality as defined and discussed by Hugh Ross of Reasons To Believe.

It would be interesting to know why and how long the Luciferian Rebellion took to foment.

The costly Atonement of Christ, from the unimaginable journey of God the Son's Incarnation to the Son of God's inconceivable Passion and Crucifixion followed by His glorious Resurrection and Ascension can be said to have accomplished much indeed. Among the benefits to the human race is the promise of resurrection from death, which is why Scripture declares Jesus the "*savior of all men especially those who believe.*" Sadly, it appears most adults receive immortality only to find themselves eternally damned to the Lake of Fire along with Satan and his fallen angels.

God gracious gift of salvation is all the more so, seeing it so often paired with the solitary requirement that we earnestly love one another as explained in Christ's resurrection parable of the Sheep and the Goats. On the other hand, His fearful parable of the Ten Virgins demands pause and utmost concern.

In a certain sense, the entire process of mankind's earthly redemption is God's way of cleaning up the aftereffects of heaven's previous angelic insurrection. From eternity's point of view, filling and perhaps even superseding the void created by the loss of such ancient and advanced, holy and glorious beings may be more the focal point than human sentiment may allow.

Philippians chapter three's 3's warning by the apostle Paul against legalism may seem somewhat puzzling to modern believers sensitive to the profound worldliness and lack of self restraint running rampant throughout so much of Christendom. Clearly Scripture was written in such a way as to be relevant to diverse people groups throughout various periods of history. One can imagine that prior to the scientific era, particularly for those living during or before even the 1st Century, there might well have been a predisposition towards mysticism and religiosity. Prior to modern understanding, not to mention the predominance of today's technological temptations permeating the psyche of the 1st World, self-righteousness may well have played a principal role in spiritual society. Among such, pinning one's only hope for salvation on Someone rejected and crucified by His own people's conspiracy with Imperial Rome would present a great challenge.

So much so the same apostle elsewhere explained that preaching the gospel of the Messiah as the Suffering Servant rather than Conquering King was *“to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.”* **Tragically, 21st Century Churchianity has succumbed to an equal yet opposite deception as that which plagued the Jews during the New Testament period by constantly overemphasizing Jesus as “meek and mild.”** Any honest rendering of Scripture reveals even His earthly ministry to be marked by equal parts “mean and wild” not to mention the full homage due the resurrected and glorified Christ. As Paul testifies by experience *“we know him thus no longer.”* So too John, *“the disciple whom Jesus loved”* having been entrusted by Jesus while on the Cross with the care of His own mother Mary, *falls as dead before the Lord of Glory in the Book of Revelation.* To such as we, lethargy and license seem far more damning sins than legalism. Perhaps it is for the likes of us that Paul issues his final warning in the same chapter: *“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”*

When studying the minutia of Scripture I refer to the New King James version above all others given it’s translational accuracy. Next I look at the New International Version for recent nuances and then finally The Message for a “modern thought” for “ancient thought” transliteration from the original languages. Take 1 John 5: 6-9 for example:

The New King James states: “This is He who came by **water and blood**—Jesus Christ; **not only by water, but by water and blood.** And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit;** and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: **the Spirit, the water, and the blood;** and these three agree as one.”

The Message renders the same passage this way: “Jesus—the Divine Christ! He experienced a **life-giving birth and a death-killing death.** Not only **birth from the womb, but baptismal birth of his ministry and sacrificial death.** And all the while the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God’s presence at Jesus’ baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us. A triple testimony: **the Spirit, the Baptism, the Crucifixion.** And the three in perfect agreement.” Message

While much if not all of Scripture has layers of meaning (such as “Out of Egypt I called My Son”) there is generally at least the primary and secondary purpose. In this passage The Message helps but does not fully clarify the most likely meaning behind the usage of the words **water and blood.** John explains the purpose of this passage is to identify and testify to Christ being the only begotten Son of God in verse 13: *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*

Such being the case it would follow that *“the three that bear witness on earth”* that is to say *“the Spirit, the water, and the blood”* may be unique to Jesus alone in one if not more of the following ways:

Referencing the Incarnation. The Spirit: *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.”* **The Water:** Scripture foretelling the Virgin birth of the Messiah *“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”* **The Blood:** For a variety of reasons the blood of Christ, from the incarnation through atonement was divinely holy as testified by a myriad of both Old and New Testament passages including *“The life of the soul is in the blood.”*

Referencing the Baptism. The Spirit: *“And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased.”* **The Water:** *“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that when Jesus also was baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened...”* **The Blood:** Again what made Jesus God’s *“beloved Son”* was Incarnation marked by Divine blood.

Referencing the Crucifixion. The Spirit: *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* **The Water:** This could again reference Biblical prophecy as well as the literally water spilled during the crucifixion. *“But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and immediately came there out blood and water.”* **The Blood:** This could again reference Christ’s Divine blood type as well as His blood shed from the garden of Gethsemane to Golgotha.

It’s telling that both David before Goliath and Elijah before Carmel proved their spiritual prowess before putting it to a public test.

Modern Christianity is far and away too worldly minded to be any heavenly good.

It’s hard to argue with what works, even when it’s wrong.

Being *“God breathed”* it makes perfect sense that Scripture is simultaneously *“spiritually discerned”* as well as *“useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”* One the one hand, genuine interpretation and successful application requires growing in our understanding of the language and leading of the Holy Spirit. On the other, even simpletons who practice its most basic tenants find themselves lifted above many of life’s self inflicted trials.

The Bible, in and of itself, carries an anointing graciously transferrable. For all, from the casual reader to the ardent student, the quality and quantity of spiritual transference is dependent on several factors not the least of which is to what degree hearers become doers. This in turn hinges on gleaning understanding and growing in obedience.

Within Churchianity few things are as commonplace as mistaking modern and even imagined blessings for God’s specific presence and approval. In a similar way, many believers confuse the good and gracious Word of God with personalized words of favor and direction. This is not to suggest that the former doesn’t offer an offer of the latter. Rather, the observation is offered in hopes of pointing out that just as *“the Father*

causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good" and every gradient in between, so too the rays of Scripture offer enlightenment to whosoever will read it. Nonetheless, Omnity, reserves and imparts the truest blessing only insofar as we are willing to exchange earthly pursuits for that which is eternal.

It's odd that in Christ's parable of the Sheep and Goats, even after millennia prior notice neither group seem aware that Jesus would so personally identify with what was done or left undone in regards to the least among mankind. While in no small part this may well be attributed to the majesty of the moment, it nevertheless bodes ill for Biblical literacy.

The difference between reading and believing is response.

According to Scripture, the righteousness required by God finds its final fullest expression in the imputed positional righteousness of Christ. Nevertheless, every New Testament orator and author, from the Gospels to the Book of Revelation, implicitly and explicitly explain the critical need to meet the minimum conditions necessary to be counted worthy of receiving God's extravagant and lavish free gift. In what may be an eternal tragedy for billions, the Bible requires much more from recipients than the mere mental assent propagated by Churchianity.

In "The Passion Of The Christ" Jesus is beaten with such severity it's nearly impossible to watch *even on screen*. Far from excessive gore, this seems in keeping with Isaiah's prophecy that *"his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness."* Amazingly Scripture states that the Apostle Paul bore even more numerous wounds than Jim Caviezal did as Jesus, having received 195 lashes from the Jews on five separate occasions, not to mention beatings with rods and being stoned. Such realization would seem to deepen Paul's directive, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."*

In the Sermon On The Mount Jesus states, *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* His injunction against worry suggests those blessed with the physical and mental, spiritual and social time and energy to fret over the future ought to give thanks for having the wherewithal to afford such a life of leisure.

Christ warned: *"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards"* The Message. Into which of these two examples might those of us having watched thousands of hours of TV fit?

My first thoughts in the early morning hours often bring a conscious awareness concerning unfortunate lifestyle choices both great and small. Lessor incidents include wasted time watching inappropriate TV shows, though my entertainment habits are far more timid than most. Even so, a couple of hours a day add up significantly over time, both in thousands of hours spent as well as a inhibited growth in sanctification.

Mankind's Four Fears:

Circumstance: Economic and social impoverishment

Calamity: Disease, accident and injury

Catastrophe: War and violence, famine and drought, injustice and inhumanity

Cessation: Death and afterlife, annihilation and eternal damnation

Humanity is born, lives and dies in a quandary. Temporarily existing in time, eternity looms just beyond reach until death reverses the situation.

The immateriality of eternity and even Omnity Itself presents life's greatest challenge. Facing a faceless Infinite, modern man finds nearly every pursuit more compelling than reasonably addressing the Ultimate Question regarding the primary purpose of existence. The atheist deals in absurdities. The agnostic sidesteps the issue. Even the deeply religious reveal an aversion to honesty in identifying our Creator and/or handling difficult doctrine. While such responses may be understandable, each remains unexceptionable.

What is evidenced about God:

Omnity by definition is self existing and immutable, omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent.

Our universe is astonishingly ancient and vast, gloriously explosive and silent, majestic in aspect and intricacy.

Normative mortal experience of Transcendent Immanence is that of silence and distance.

Omnity has demonstrated patience regarding the proliferation of false religion and sinful behavior even though *"His invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that people are without excuse."*

The Bible is *"God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..."*

The Word of God answers a myriad of questions while raising others difficult to understand.

Omnity's actions and inactions may be part of Divine Wager as part of an Agreement subsequent to the Luciferian Angelic Rebellion.

God selected the decedents of Abraham as a chosen people and the followers of Christ to be a *"royal priesthood, a holy nation."*

Regarding reward and punishment: *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

Regarding time: *“With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”*

Christ’s two great commandments, particularly the latter reveal that *“no one is righteous, no not one.”*

Divinity addresses human inequity and injustice through the unfathomable context and riches of Christ’s costly Incarnation and Atonement, Ascension and Intercession as well as prophesied Second Advent and Millennial Reign.

Regarding salvation: Grace transformed the *“chief of sinners”* into the greatest of apostles that all might take hope.

Regarding eternal damnation: *“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”*

Regarding eternal reward: *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

“God is not willing that any should perish” yet most are.

Christ completely identifies with the treatment of least of humanity.

“Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Eternity is filled with children for *“such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

The Holy Spirit will *“not always strive with men.”*

Lord, I’m sorry for repeatedly failing to heed Your warnings, particularly those with the greatest consequence. I’m sorry as well that the vast majority of mankind is paying even less attention.

To the degree of spiritual inebriation we miss the forest for the trees.

The human proclivity to rapid acclimatization to a variety of physical and social, spiritual and economic circumstance may be boon or bane. As it is written, *“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”* Ambivalence or acquiescence to foolishness or sin, on the other hand, not so much.

During the last few decades, Churchianity’s miserable failure to rightly confront temptation and deception, apathy and sin has afforded a redefining of what was once considered obvious medical or mental behavioral disorder or disease. Such a costly misstep by modern Christianity may well escalate to the point where the Biblically moral are those labeled inappropriate and unacceptable by a newly enlighten and debased society.

For fallen and depraved humanity, harried and harassed by fallen angelic and demonic, spiritual sanity is best achieved and maintained by beholding and contemplating Truth, Goodness and Beauty. Inseparable, discerning and incorporating these three principal aspects of God’s glory requires appreciation of how each interprets and relates to the other. Beauty is defined by Goodness and Truth and so on. For example, consider the impact of various lusts such as greed and pleasure on the beauty and innocence of newborn and toddlers as when becoming children and teens they’re continually exposed to subtle and gross forms temptation and deception. Irradiated, the mindset

and judgement of young single adults and parents of new families, the middle aged and elderly erodes until foolishness and worse becomes *beautiful*.

The course and value of our life's work is best determined prior to entering the fiery crucible of temptation and judgment.

From the onset and through the progression of many serious maladies, including an array of physical and spiritual, mental and social disease, there may be incubation times of asymptomatic peace and even euphoria. Without often drastic remedy, uninterrupted each in turn may end in pain and anguish, disability or death.

In times of great and gathering darkness, when it comes to seeking God's goodness and Spirit of Revival it's good to quote verses like Isaiah 59:19 "*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*" Better still to do so remembering Isaiah's difficult and tragic ministry and martyrdom, the stubbornness and rebellion of the people of God in regards to the message of the major and minor prophets, not to mention the horrendous suffering and horror of the Diaspora and Exile.

A specific value of the prayer of silence, particularly in the face of inconceivable nonsense and worse, is that it's the most likely method by which God opens the human mind to *enough* understanding and heart to *enough* compassion for the will to engage in ways previously deemed too costly.

There are Four Gospels:

The liberal gospel of the higher critics.

The greedy gospel of tele-evangelists.

The apathetic and misguided gospel of conservative and/or charismatic evangelicals.

The gospel of the cross (Christ's and OURS) as exemplified by Jesus and the Apostles, martyrs throughout millennia and extolled by the likes of Søren Kierkegaard, Charles Finney, George Müller, Hudson Taylor, Brother Yun, Jackie Pullinger...

Saturday I invested 6-8 hours seeking God, bringing my cumulative total to near or above 70,000, without a thing in the *world* to show for it. In *eternity*...?

While considering the nature of Omnity it's good to keep in mind the glory of our expansive universe with a radius of over 100,000,000,000 light years of space time as well as the explosivity of 50 billion trillion suns. While considering Omnity's relationship with man it's good to keep in mind the inconceivable incarnation and atonement of the "*only begotten Son*" as well as impact trajectory of Revelation's "*great mountain burning with fire*" inexorably closing the gap.

When it comes to revival it's best to be a *realistic* optimist. We *really* need it. We *really* deserve anything but. We *really* should seek it immediately. Anything less than whole hearted efforts are *really* unlikely to succeed.

Stories like Christ's parable of the fig tree in Luke 13: 6 carry some hope of averting judgment. Yet let my contemporaries bare in mind its been forty "years" since the global slaughter of the innocent unleashed by Roe v Wade. Fifty "years" since the deluge of 60's Sexual Revolution having turned the entire planet into a water world of promiscuity and worse. Also the passage begs the question what *"I'll dig around and fertilize it"* might entail.

In regards to our relationship with God, invariably we act when we should listen and listen when we should act.

As for wisdom and holiness, foolishness and evil there are innumerable levels of nuances and subtleties.

In wrestling with God for resource I've often quoted John the Baptist, *"What has a man except it come to him from heaven?"* Quantum, as are all Scripture's, one does well to keep in mind John's martyrdom at the hands of a drunken king, plotting adulteress and the seductive dance of her daughter. Nevertheless, Jesus eulogizes *"I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John..."*

Faith is generally as full or hollow, deep or shallow as our understanding.

Scripture is replete with declarations and examples of the mercy of God, a refrain that will echo throughout eternity, everlastingly proclaimed by those fortunate enough to *"inherit eternal life."* On the other hand, the Bible is equally full of passages and persons attesting to the judgment of God, a requiem that will arise *"forever and ever"* endlessly hissed through *"weeping and gnashing teeth"* by those unfortunate enough to be *"cast into the lake of fire."*

Cessationism contends that the caliber of miracles attributed to Christ in the Gospels and the Apostles in the Book of Acts *ceased*, dying out with the apostles and church fathers. This faulty doctrine further postulates that New Testament "signs and wonders" so central to the writing and writers of the New Testament was replaced by the completed Bible after the canonization of Scripture. Such reasoning flies in the face of numerous passages, as well as the Biblical historicity of empowerment so often accompanying the message and ministry of holy and anointed men and women of God.

In his Epistle, James, the Lord's half brother and presiding Apostle of the Church of Jerusalem at the First Church Council recorded in the Book of Act's answers the age old question regarding the place of such miraculous gifts of the Spirit as healing the sick. *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."* Rather than suggest that miraculous healing will cease with the apostolic age, James states the standard prescription for Christians suffering illness or disease is the *"prayer of faith"* and anointing by Church elders. From this passage and others it would

seen the cessation of miraculous healing has less to do with the canonization of Scripture than ignorance of it.

Having reinforced the centrality of miraculous “*signs and wonders*” within the community of believers, James immediately addresses the question of how? “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*” His explanation seems to hang on three conditions: **effectivity, fervency and righteousness**. Some sources render the word “**effective**” as “insistent” or in Greek ἰσχύω denoting strength, force and power. The Greek word ἐνεργέω pronounced en-erg-eh’o (such as energetic) rendered here as “**fervent**” denotes activity, work and might. “**Righteous**” in this passage is from the Greek δίκαιος meaning innocent, holy and just in character and action.

The problem of unanswered prayer among sincerely devoted intercessors may stem from a variety of causes. Those remaining diligent yet continually finding themselves stymied may wish to thoroughly investigate advice found in James 4 and 5. Encouraging rather than dissuading his readers to pursue even the loftiest of prayer, he explains the secret of Elijah’s success was not his Prophetic status but rather his devotion to being **effective, fervent and righteous**. Like a three legged stool or better still, the three points of the cross, the prayer of faith that overcomes the world and worldliness seems to require that we be “*crucified with Christ.*” Are we nailed to the cross at all points or might we have a hand or two free busy over indulging, channel surfing or God knows what?

Misunderstanding regarding the contexts and conditions of the promises of God can prove dangerous to both the apathetic believer and disingenuous skeptic. The former presumes to appropriate Biblical promises without giving due attention to their associated commands. The latter dismisses Christianity as nonsense, pointing to apparent contradictions within the pages of Scripture and glaring inconsistencies in the experience and behavior of the vast majority of those comprising Churchianity.

With alarming regularity, those falling under the judgment of God consider themselves persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

The problem with contemporary worship is two fold. The songs and the singers.

Modern worship songs are far too and falsely intimate given unprecedented levels of apathy and worldliness. Worshipers also fail the Pauline challenge to those who would draw near and commune with the Living God, “*Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.*”

For millennia there's been understandable debate as how best to relate to God, others and even ourselves. For example, in regards to worshiping and honoring the Lord, such recent notables as David Wilkerson have maintained that modern trends of overly casual treatment of holy things is both sacrilegious and a chief explanation for our lack of experiencing the presence and power of God. On the other hand, millions of well-meaning Christians strive to make Jesus relevant to the average person. Attempting to bridge the gap between God and the unreached, or even downcast parishioners, modern worship leaders have composed incredibly intimate choruses to replace ancient hymns. They do so noting that some of our most honored traditional songs once pushed the envelope of their day by employing popular and even unsacred melodies. Perhaps the real problem arises when replacing the latter (unsacred melodies) with the former (unsacred words).

Given the inattention to learning, much less discerning, the meaning of Scripture the spoiled milk of song has replaced the solid meat of doctrine.

When it comes to "*deep calling unto deep*" someone's not responding. Humanity's relationship with God grows increasingly shallow. Far from the meaty and significant hymns of the past, Churchianity's modern worship is filled with superficial platitudes and presumptions of intimacy meant to placate, rather than challenge participants.

Compared to the eternal, not to mention temporal realities of our situation, modern Christian worship more closely resembles nursery rhymes and preschool melodies than adult adoration and supplication. (Example: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God")

Even such a beloved hymn as "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" can be misleading to those unskilled in dealing with Scripture as a whole. The central text of this uplifting song was itself "cherry picked" from Lamentations 3, the title of which Book literally means "the passionate expression of grief, sorrow or weeping." While by definition none of Lamentation's chapters are cheerful or even happy, Chapter 3 is maybe one of the harshest in the entire Bible. My objection is not that such passages go unsung, far from it. To the contrary of contemporary doctrine, Biblical passages resound with warnings of justice and judgment two to one over more seeker friendly themes. By all means let Scripture ring out, ***but in its entirety*** and the chips fall where they may.

Without first and foremost developing a deep foundation of "*fear and trembling*" casual Christianity is at best a grave mistake. We would never dare treat so familiar or cavalier a human potentate much less a Cosmic Being demonstrating a centillionth of the majesty and power explicit in the creation of the observable universe, much less the Omnity implied by such achievement. The loose doctrine and lifestyle, presumptive prayer and worship of Gentile Christendom has bred an unscriptural and unfortunate familiarity, if not unexpressed or actualized contempt for creation's quantumly silent and distant yet immanent and imminent Source and Judge.

Though long having wished it otherwise, time and study have repeatedly demonstrated that hearing and heeding the voice of the Lord in such an artfully and demonically orchestrated time as ours is no easy matter. Far more than simply rehearsing a handful

of favorite and favorable scripture while humming and singing “me centric” songs and choruses is required. It falls to the most serious and sincere prophetic Christian, dedicated to being the Church rather than merely attending, to begin the process of true discernment. Even these must constantly be mindful of Satan’s past, present and future success in deceiving God’s anointed. Only fasted and prayerful lifestyles immersed in repentance and discipline, study and observation, application and evaluation hold the hope discovering and then realizing God’s power and presence, provision and protection in this life and eternity.

Last week marked the 30 year anniversary of Keith Green’s death. Through song he wove a unique message of repentance and worship interlaced with seriousness and humor.

“Familiarity breeds contempt.” More so for blessings than people.

Those serious, or at least semi-serious, about seeking God and/or revival too often describe their efforts and subsequent results in catchall phrases. While perhaps fine for conversation, real research, much less progress, into the crucial spiritual issues facing mankind requires clear and concise language. Those exhibiting charismatic tendencies are frequent offenders, generalizing in regards to real or imagined personal experiences of God’s encouragement and direction. Charismatic or not, millions of leaders and participants of Christian meetings make assurances of the Lord’s “presence” and “promises” based on fragmented Scripture (if that) parceled out through well meaning yet fleeting thoughts and feelings. Better that we were radically honest, continually mindful of our successes and failures. A good start would be replacing phrases like “*God is saying...*” with “*I’m thinking or feeling...*”

By default authentic revival is the business of every genuine Christian. All believers are called to continually confront the nearly wholesale deception of humanity by “*Satan, who is the god of this world, who has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe*” that “*they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*” Those answering the call will find organizing concepts and experiences into primary, secondary and tertiary importance helpful. The serious minded understand momentary and fleeting thoughts and feelings of individuals are at best tertiary concerns. Promoting the occasional righteous act and lifestyle change, while good, is of secondary importance. Our primary purpose must always be achieving an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit’s fruit and gifts, presence and power equivalent to that of a new Global Pentecost.

Three enemies resist growth in godliness. Nearest and dearest, yet perhaps least among our adversaries is the *sin within*. Next is societal and even familial *sin around us*. Last but not least is the ubiquitous influence of fallen angelic and demonic *sin above*.

Consider the deplorable state of the world in Elijah’s day. Hundred’s of millions enslaved to spiritual darkness, out of which all but 7,000 of the few million Israelites chosen to

know and serve God Almighty, had not *“bowed the knee to Baal.”* Here we find the principal three levels of commitment to God. **Elijah:** called, devout and **empowered**, able to publicly withstand and overcome the evil of his day. **The 7,000: called and devout**, yet seemingly a powerless remnant privately resisting evil (at least unknown and of little or no use to Elijah). **Israel: called** to be a light to the Gentiles yet apostate, AWOL in regards to the great war for the soul of humanity. Given both the current state of affairs and the gathering darkness of the swiftly approaching *“Day of the Lord,”* one wonders if presently things are better or worse.

There are a myriad of Scripture’s of special interest to modern day revivalists. Of these perhaps none more so than the resurrected and glorified Christ’s final words to the seven churches of Revelation. Here we’re privy to the pronouncements of *“the Son of Man, in a robe and gold breastplate, hair a blizzard of white, Eyes pouring fire-blaze, both feet furnace-fired bronze, His voice a cataract, right hand holding the Seven Stars, His mouth a sharp-biting sword, his face a perigee sun.”* For those interested in casting a broad net, the details of each church, archetype and age are of great interest. For others seeking to save Churchianity throughout the modern world, Jesus’ judgments of and against *“Laodicea”* hold the key. Primarily Christ offers five aspects of advice: *“Buy your gold from me, gold that’s been through the refiner’s fire. Then you’ll be rich.”* *“Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You’ve gone around half-naked long enough.”*

“And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really see.”

The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they’ll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God!

“Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I’ll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That’s my gift to the conquerors!”

Jesus’ assessment and directives regarding Laodicea are as interesting and telling in order as content. A plethora of questions come to mind:

If mere mental assent is sufficient for salvation why are does Christ threaten to spit Laodicean *believers* out of His mouth? Does this verbiage reflect some form of resistance to to Divine digestion?

How does a church (Grk: ἐκκλησία or *ekklesia* “the called out assembly”) become so completely deceived as to believe the absolute opposite of their actual spiritual condition?

How exactly does one go about buying *gold tried by fire from the Almighty*? What is *Omnity’s exchange rate*?

If before God all Christians are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, why was the congregation of the *“church in Laodicea”* naked? What earthly boutiques sell genuine heavenly apparel (*Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.* - *Revelation 19:8*) and at what price?

How is it that those acknowledging *“Christ and him crucified”* are yet considered blind the resurrected Messiah? What eye-salve did they fail to purchase and apply? Might it sting?

How long and through what means had Jesus been attempting to prod and correct Laodicea? What all is entailed in the command “*be zealous therefore, and repent?*”

With curtain separating the people of God and the Holy of Holies both figuratively and literally rent by the crucifixion of Christ why is there a door between Jesus and His people. By whom and of what is it constructed.

Why does Christ offer the greatest of all gifts to arguably the worst of Revelation’s seven churches? Others face persecution, martyrdom and even the “*seat of Satan*” while Laodicean spiritual slackers seem to have nothing more than their own self deception to conquer. Is there an important lesson here?

Could there be a more telltale and accurate description of modern Churchianity?

I’ve been a parishioner and lay leader, bus pastor and youth worker. I’ve led worship and classes, labored as an intercessor and evangelist. I’ve been a small group leader and pastor, pro-life activist and para church ministry executive director. Directly and indirectly I’ve spoken to tens of thousands, making the cover of California’s largest newspapers as a consultant on statewide Christian political initiatives. Of late I’ve authored over a dozen books, including what may well be *the greatest story never told* and *the most relevant Biblical commentary of it’s time*. Yet irregardless of such achievements, or perhaps because of them, any equity I once or might have had has been lost to the folly my closest ministerial colleagues and family, leaving me little or nothing to show for such efforts beyond unpublished manuscripts and shards of hope.

I pray, work and dream of great things. All the while giving thanks for small things, waiting to see what God will do with me.

Faced with inconceivable, unreconcilable and unconsolable situations, the only wobbly rest my soul finds is perched atop a three legged stool of prayer, work and dreams.

It’s wise to look for a sign of God’s presence, direction and resource befitting the message, need and hour.

When speaking with Omnia in regards to the swelling backlog of unanswered prayer my greatest refrain is “Please, I’m *begging* You.” The second, regarding the soaring list of blessings being daily misused is, “Thanks and *sorry*.”

Youth’s natural inclination to continually question God’s existence has long since been replaced by concern over the nature and continuance of my own.

The teaching and ministry of the apostles was compelled and constrained by what they had “*seen and heard*.” Sadly, the best we can do today is teach and preach what we’ve read and thought. The chasm between their experience and power with God and our lack thereof may well make an eternity of difference.

Practically speaking it’s as true that function follows form as “form follows function.” Churchianity seems remarkable obtuse to all the above, unless the desired function in

to produced the most apathetic and worldly, Biblically illiterate and prayerless Christians in human history.

Of all the ages of Christendom, ours enjoys far and away the greatest wealth and leisure. Tragically, rather than invest such a costly gift pursuing and serving the Giver, more often than not ours is the opposite response.

The habit of the first church to daily meet together was both effect, cause and effect again. A direct result of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost, the synergy of their efforts is described thusly: *“They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.”*

The model of Christians daily gathering to promote and enjoy revival is as old as Christianity itself. Clearly the road less traveled, those choosing and completing such a journey have often obtained a kind of *“treasure hid in a field”* conventional parishioners never find.

The difference between the first and current church age in regards to passion and commitment to God and each other is telling. *“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed. Everyone felt that God was near. The apostles did many wonders and miraculous signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold what they owned. They gave each other everything they needed.”* The following is a short comparison of First vs. Modern Church:

First Church	Modern Church
Devotedly studied apostles teaching	Disinterested in serious Bible study
Daily shared life through fellowship	Meets formally and infrequently
Continually ate with family of Christians	Christian families eating in front of TV
Often prayed earnestly together	Few if any regular prayer meetings
Genuinely experienced God’s presence	Sings about Godly intimacy
Walked and lived in the encouragement of authentic wonders and miraculous signs	Doctrinally disinterested (cessationalists) or disingenuous (charismatics) in regards to the authentically miraculous
Shared all things in common	Give and receive sparingly

There are many reasons for the variance in the lifestyles of early Christians and their contemporary counterparts. The most basic are rooted in the vast difference in their *"times and season."* Nonetheless each bares a striking, albeit opposite resemblance, to the other:

First Century believers were basically Third World citizens amazed and bewildered by the appearance of the *Suffering Servant* rather than the longed for and anticipated *Conquering King*. The birth of the Church was the inception of a major world religion that would supplant Rome, then the greatest military and political, societal and religious power on the face of the earth. The early Church developed and deployed the spiritual and moral imperatives that have positively impacted humanity for millennia.

Twenty First Century believers in First World nations live technological lifestyles rivaling mythological gods. Modern man is on the cusp of the resurrection of the old Roman empire under the auspice and authority of the Antichrist's one world government that will usurp all military and political, societal and religious power on the face of the earth. Churchianity's sins of omission and commission have resulted in the reversal of millennia of spiritual and moral influence paving the way for mankind's great judgement and Tribulation period.

When questioned about the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life in the cosmos, the founder of SETI used the following analogy: Imagine trying to determine if there were fish in the ocean after having examined the contents of only a single cup of water. The same ratio may be true regarding the level of intelligence of terrestrial life when it comes to comprehending the broader context and meaning of temporal and eternal existence, the nature and expression of the angelic and demonic, not to mention understanding the plans and majesty of Omnipotence.

Christ's teaching on persistent prayer is interesting and encouraging. In regards to the widow's constant complaint to the disinterested judge *"get justice for me from my adversary"* we are told *"And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" Adding to this odd description concerning heaven's response to prayer or lack thereof, Jesus concludes "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He **bears long with them?** I tell you that He will **avenge them speedily**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

Were intelligent and impertinent intercessors to *"cry out... day and night"* to the Judge of All Creation for deliverance from and even a reversal of the temptations and deceptions of the Adversary, and should prayer stretch on for months and years before being suddenly and decisively answered, would not such a scenario fit the bill of being both *long and speedy*.

Well thought out and memorized strategic daily prayer is designed to meet the Biblical requirements of passion and perseverance. Such efforts are well complimented by the discipline of waiting in silence, granting God the opportunity to direct and enlighten, encourage and empower.

When neither the prayer of petition or silence seems effective continue both until either one or the other brakes through to one party or another.

If you won't do the best you can, do the best you can get yourself to do and hold on.

When it comes to prayer, hopefully it "doesn't hurt to ask."

If my small Yorkie's any example, reasonable passive resistance may well melt a loving Master's heart.

In the recent releases of both Iron Man 3 and Star Trek Into Darkness the evil protagonists possessed powers of regeneration to the point of resurrection from the dead. Such sci-fi theme's may be precursors of human and/or fallen angelic technology that might seem to blunt various aspects of the glorious gospels.

Explanation or instruction offered to the uninterested or worse seems worthless. Best do so carefully.

Given lethal levels of deception, it's important to be ruthlessly honest about most things, particularly when seeking and serving God for "*a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*" This being the case I frequently rehearse before the Lord by apology and repentance that I, who have and am nothing, continue to be willingly and unwillingly deceived, yet nevertheless for better and worse have various levels of confidence in my thoughts and feelings regarding the Church and Churchianity, God and the Devil, others and myself.

Seeing that Satan can appear as an angel of light, not to mention his leading an insurrection of perhaps a third of heaven's ancient and wise, holy and glorious angels it's difficult to know with assurity the realities and truths behind one's beliefs. This being the case, it's important to hold with a light hand those philosophies and and doctrines, practices and lifestyle choices of which we are the least confident mindful that while believers we may on actuality be little more than "*mere men.*"

Recognizing our unfortunate predilection to entangle ourselves in "*roots of bitterness*" and "*besetting sins*" Scripture's advice is understandable, "*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*" Those who are must learn quickly to become and remain humbly broken, willing to constantly examine themselves, vigilantly on guard lest they find themselves "*lying against the truth.*"

Worse than our deplorable state is the despicable truth that while mankind's freedom of choice is obviously limited, equally clear is humanity's rebellion against the righteousness of God's preeminent and gracious command to *"love one another."*

Earth seems the perfect kill zone. Billions have been butchered by every kind of conceivable weapon, wielded by the very hands of those commanded to *"love one another."* Billions more await spiritual slaughter, trapped and ensnared by the nets of an invisible Fowler. The vast majority of the remnant live within the cross-hairs of Devilish temptation and deception, not to mention the threat of Divine justice and judgment.

Lord, if You seem to stand aloof as we are swallowed by wholesale confusion and deception, is it any wonder most invest little or no time in serious attempts to sort out life's great and eternal questions?

When the apathetic, foolish and even wicked prosper while their betters are misunderstood, marginalized, and even betrayed without direct intervention of Omnipotence in real time how can things go but from bad to worse?

If *"Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot"* then by what, practically speaking, exactly is one's life defined?

The pertinent question is less, *"will not the Judge of the whole earth do what is right?"* than:

How? That we might we might fully understand and rejoice.
When? Will it be soon enough to do most of us any good?

The first problem is: *"there is a path that appears to be right, but in the end leads to death."* The second problem may be more challenging still: there is a way that is right and should lead to life, yet so often seems to do anything but.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Out of willingness to wrestle with truth, or lack thereof, the heart is filled.

That from which anything may be argued tells us nothing. The honest and diligent Bible student soon discovers this axiom holds true for Scripture. Yet in time the judgement of eternity will reveal nothing could be further from the whole truth. So help us God.

For most Christians, keeping Christ at arms distance seems to provide a variety of blessings. Perhaps chief among them is the pleasant name Jesus safely echoing in the distance off peaks of sentimentality. Yet those initiated in costly discipleship may well find themselves as confused and chagrined, rebuked and rebuffed as the disciples of the Gospels.

Multitudes preach the path to cheap grace. While far fewer in number, there are some who exemplify the more costly variety. What seems to be missing are those betwixt and between, honestly facing and explaining the challenges and pitfalls of moving from the former to the later.

It may appear those ignoring mankind's obvious issues with God love Him more than believers who confront and are even repulsed by them. Yet is it faith or presumption that stands aloof, squinting and shutting fast its eyes to all but the most pleasant rays of the sun, unwilling to break a sweat momentarily toiling under the heat of God's gaze in hopes of saving family and friends, neighbors and even enemies from the horrors of a misspent gnashing teeth for eternity in the Lake of Fire?

Given the modern world's fixation on comfort and climate control it's odd billions marginalize the Bible's constant warnings of hell.

The principal of plurality is found throughout Scripture, particularly in the New Testament where we are encouraged to view problems and pains, challenges and obstacles, promises and rewards through the lens of us and we rather than I and me.

It's a mistake to be ignorant of and/or uninitiated in discerning conspiracies prevalent within companies and organizations, nations and global networks wreaking physical and spiritual havoc with much, if not all the earth's population. Failing to do our due diligence to understand and at least daily pray against such influences is presumption we can ill afford.

If the precedents of Biblical and/or world history hold true, it will not only be leaders of conspiracies that God will punish but those whom they lead. The reasons for this is three fold:

The acquisition and enjoyment of worldly possessions are proven far more important to us than care and consideration over the plight of those far less fortunate.

That Christians asleep in the light have failed to recognize much less resist global atrocities.

That we get the leadership we deserve and in more ways than one find ourselves following, knowingly or not.

Given the current state of cosmic conflict and Scripture's prophecies of ever rising levels of covert and overt spiritually instigated hostility, Christians seemingly dancing through live unscathed should ask themselves why?

Might it be that devils are too wise to concern themselves with those who not only pose no threat but even help promote the rise of worldliness through entanglements in "*civilian affairs*" not to mention participation in "*doctrines of demons*" masquerading as cheap grace.

It seems to do little or no good complaining to God of the lopsided and inequitable distribution of blessing from family to finance enjoyed by the spiritually apathetic and

worse. While this constant refrain echoes throughout both Old and New Testament, it seems to so primarily to warn the wicked of judgement and comfort the righteous that God will balance the books, if not in time then eternity. Nevertheless, hoping in Christ's teaching such as "The Persistent Widow" and "The Friend Who Comes At Midnight" I pray daily for greater resource, that God might redirect at least a tiny percentage of *"the wealth of the wicked"* which is *"stored up for the righteous."*

For a decade or so I've rehearsed a strategically written and memorized 20 to 30 minutes daily prayer. Over the years thoughts and phrases have been edited or added in keeping with my developing understanding and attitude regarding the peril and promise of our situation. Of late, prior to launching into personalized prayers of repentance and petition, worship and wrestlings I've felt the need to add the following preamble: *"Good morning Lord God Almighty, creator of 50 billion trillion suns on average 1,000,000° and Earth masses. Each begun, existing and expiring as "consuming fire." Most orbiting supermassive galactic black holes reaching billions of years age, degrees and solar masses struin across a canopy with a radius of perhaps 100 billion light years of space time in this the first, and likely least of three heavens."*

You are the Great I AM and I am nearly nothing. Self existing and immutable, I was born yesterday and will soon cease to be. Omniscient, I know next to nothing. Omnipotent, I don't even control my bodily functions. Omnipresent, I walk on skeletal sticks.

Lord, how can things go but from bad to worse if:

You grant the greatest resource to those who are indifferent or oppose you?

You permit countless celebrations of that which the celebrants should be ashamed?

You promise a flood of Divine fruit and gifts, yet set the bar so high that we experience little more than a trickle?

You offer the opportunity to be *"filled with all the fullness of God"* while on average Christians feel empty and alone?

You declare Yourself our Heavenly Father, yet at their core most believers feel and act as orphans, though at Church they speak and sing otherwise.

You direct us to *"pray without ceasing"* yet grant so few answers in real time that most have ceased to pray.

It feels You offer welcomed and longed for personal words of encouragement and direction, yet like a mirage they seem to evaporate in the light of day.

You give unparalleled blessings while nearly all have been cursed?

You permit hedges, from financial to familial, to be built around the apathetic and antagonistic while the ministries of the most faithful are marginalized and worse?

You suffer the Architect of heaven and earth's rebellion to first tempt and deceive and then act as Prosecutor against those he's enslaved?

You fill Your word with such extremes as *"for God so loved the world..."* to the terrible parable of the Ten Virgins?

You teach parents to love like Mary *"treasuring all these things"* in our hearts only to allow the Enemy to steal the souls of our children, even those dedicated to You from before birth?

You permit unworthy men tens of thousands of pulpits, though they stand on the skeleton ministerial remains of their betters?

You teach the wise to see to what none believe: speaking what none will hear and writing what none will read.

That while Your judgements are true, teeming mass parish in time and eternity?

Why clearly unfit to instruct, much less judge Omnity, is it not our duty to rightfully discern the perils of our situation and drastic need of immediate Divine intervention?

Most shrink from the Bible's invitation to concisely and continually "*come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*" Others recklessly do so, failing to pay the requisite homage to God and honor the angelic majesty due the Adversary of heaven and earth.

I would rather daily push the envelope in carefully calculated passionate prayer appealing to God for heavenly resource than to offer occasional cold religious lip service in the face of spiritual genocide. Like Bonhoeffer, I'd rather err on the side of action than indifference, trusting the blood and intercession of Christ to perfect my foolishness and sin. Something along the lines of the old adage "It's better to ask forgiveness than permission."

To date the product of over three decades of strategic service and a dozen insightful books, hundreds of meaningful conversations and tens of thousands of hearty prayers appears to be the inability to influence saints much less sinners, the present much less the future, God much less the Devil.

Tomorrow I'll celebrate my 26th Father's Day, the 1st as a grandfather to a truly beautiful 5 month old Maddie Harper (whom I prayerfully call *Charis*). More faithful than most as a husband and father, pastor and director, from family to ministry, health to career all lay in shambles with hardly a word of explanation from Heaven (at least not one I'm able or willing to hear).

For one who loves beauty, it's easy to understand the wisdom of choosing the lasting glory of God's commands over immorality's spoiling pleasures of "*sin for a season.*" Yet the challenge increases exponentially when that for which we've labored and sacrificed is continually marred by circumstances beyond our control. While hardly a fit comparison, in the tiniest of ways one feels like Christ on the cross who cried: "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means "*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*"

When nothing seems to be working it's challenging to continue "*the good fight of faith.*" More challenging still is the process of reexamining and redoubling our efforts. All the more so when seemingly alone. Yet let us remember the directives of Paul, who familiar with struggles within and without literally bore hundreds of scars, "*You struggle against sin but you have not yet fought to the point of spilling your blood*" and "*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*"

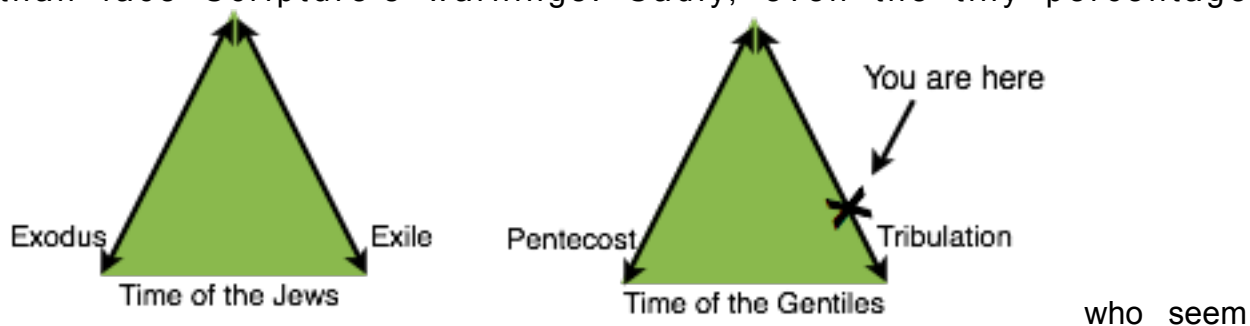
Appearances notwithstanding, if it weren't for mistreatment and a run of bad luck, I believe I'd be quite happily grunted.

† we project ~~my~~ our truth.

Those failing to seek honest and satisfactory answers to the great and problematic questions presented by Biblical Christianity reveal the untenable if not disingenuous position of attempting to receive Christ as Savior while denying Him as Lord. Why? Because those with no plans of genuine obedience show little interest in nuances of explanation. Such mindset and behavior demonstrates a tragic lack of concern for one's soul and that of others, not to mention a gross undervaluation of the promised blessing and glory awaiting those who exchange their all for God's.

A single look at the delicate intricacies of human anatomy boggles the mind. From the skeletal and cardiovascular systems to the interchange of nerves and organs it's inconceivable modern man refuses to "**fear God.**" Trouble deciding exactly who Omnipotence is and too what extend to comply with Divinity's more arduous commands is at least understandable, but to deny the overwhelming preponderance of evidence that we are undeniably and fantastically "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" equates to nothing less than mental idiocy and spiritual suicide.

Largely Biblically illiterate, modern Churchianity has dozens of crucial doctrines sideways if not altogether backwards. Among those who still acknowledge Scripture as authoritative, few take the time to study much less understand end time prophecy. The vast majority of those who invest the energy to do so fail to appreciate even the most obvious of implications. For example, few prophecy students, much less average Christians, are cognizant of the cyclical nature of holiness and sin, revelation and judgement. Tens if not hundreds of millions of "mature" believers, most with at best a single year of real religious growth merely repeated for decades have fallen prey to the all too prevalent deception of which Peter warned, "*First off, you need to know that in the last days, mockers are going to have a heyday. Reducing everything to the level of their puny feelings, they'll mock, "So what's happened to the promise of his Coming? Our ancestors are dead and buried, and everything's going on just as it has from the first day of creation. Nothing's changed."* Even with trimmers of Tribulation shaking the foundations of society to the point of threatening the lifestyles if not the very lives of billions, most of First World Christendom choose the legendary ostrich defense rather than face Scripture's warnings. Sadly, even the tiny percentage



to embrace the reliability of last days prophecy more likely than not totally misunderstand our place in the Biblical timeline. Confusing presumption for faith, these routinely quote Old Testament declarations and promises from the period of the Exodus all the while overlooking the far more applicable warnings and laments from prophets of the Exile.

Paul's instructions in regards to conducting Christian meetings raises several interesting questions. For example, 1 Corinthians 14 stresses the participation of attendees via spiritual gifts including prophesy being offered and judged for authenticity: *"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said."* Perhaps more telling is the Apostle's directions regarding the role of women: *"Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church."* To those who would disagree (just about all of modern Christendom) Paul adds: *"Or did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command."* His final word on the subject carries a chilling warning that may go a long way in explaining why God's presence seems to less palatable much less powerful in today's assemblies: ***"But if anyone ignores this, they will themselves be ignored."***

Believers, especially those from non-Christian or broken homes, often understandably mistake what's sometimes been referred to as the "Gospel Lift" as evidence of God's interest and/or work in their personal lives. In actuality, this principle is more a blanket blessing on all those willing to endeavor to keep rather than shun God's most basic commands. Such spiritual subtleties are often lost on those blissfully kept from the excesses of grosser sins such as drug and alcohol addiction, promiscuity and divorce, laziness and wrath, particularly when such find themselves rising on thermals of obedience while watching many of their counterparts in downward spirals of various lusts and entitlement. Decades later, as we as individuals and our relationships age, often far less well than had been hoped, disillusionment and even bitterness sets in revealing that what we had perceived to be God's abiding presence and provision, in lives too often lukewarm at best, was in fact a general age specific blessing that appears to be evaporating over time. Left unchecked such realities easily harden the arteries of our spiritual heart, when in fact they are meant to inspire us to seek new and better affections.

While generally misunderstood by everyone, family, friends, colleagues etc... for decades my posture has been not that of the prophet but priest. My continual position before God has been one of honest and deep repentance followed by the complaint that true Biblical Christianity is simply too difficult. So much so that the vast majority of modern Churchianity isn't even willing to rationally discuss, much less obey the Gospel's more radical passages. These directives and examples by Jesus and His apostles represent such a divergence from normality that most find them too preposterous to ponder much less implement. On the other hand who can deny that the

New Testament is filled with *“great and exceeding precious promises”* up to and including Paul’s Ephesians prayer that we might be *“filled with all the fullness of God.”* The problem is that while putting on a good show, in reality our experience is so sub par that when comparing our lives to those described in the Book of Acts it’s as if we were a spiritual neanderthals instead of homo sapiens.

The allure of the modern world is as appealing to the flesh as it is deadly to the spirit.

Tragically, so many have succumbed in one way or another to spiritually debilitating worldliness as to have left nearly the entire body of Christ in 1st World Nations reeling as drunkards if not passed out or even comatose. Such conditions make good or even reasonable decision making all but impossible. Daily tacking in and out of obedience and sin, light and darkness renders us helplessly adrift, *“like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”* In large part, it’s not that we purpose to be double minded, serving two masters. In fact many recognize the futility of such religion and the genuine need to connect with the Living God. The problem arises from a myriad of worldly enticements ever before us, a hundred variations of forbidden fruit all appearing *“good for food and pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom.”* This while the Kingdom of God seems anything but. Such transcendent is beautifully detailed in the ancient hymn *Immortal, Invisible:*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
In light, inaccessible hid from our eyes
Most blessed, most glorious, ancient of days
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise...
Unresting, unhasting, silent as light
Now wanting nor wasting, Thou rulest in might
Thy justice, like mountains, soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love...
To all, life thou givest, both great and small
in all life thou livest, true life of all
great Father of glory, pure Father of light
thine angels adore Thee availing their sight...

While the tenor of these observations may seem repetitive, they are each in fact separate falls of an axe against the trunk of tree long needing to be felled.

Whether by means of transcendence or a response to sin, God’s apparent silence and distance leaves mankind, and in much more subtle ways modern Churchianity, stumbling in some level of darkness. Believers often stagger from this verse to that, groping for mercy and grace, wisdom and blessings reserved for those willing to invest **all they have** in hopes of possessing the Kingdom, indeed *“a treasure hid in a field”* and *“pearl of great price.”* Outside of responding to the call to daily to *“crucified with Christ”* it’s difficult to discern if and when God is speaking, much less accurately access what Omnipotence might be saying.

Feelings and circumstance, Scriptural interpretation and advice is easily skewed to support this or that mindset or lifestyle. Recognizing this, George Müller explained the first and foremost step for determining God's will in daily matters great and small was to pray to the point there was no personal stake in the answer. Of course this presupposes that one's life is in such a submitted state that it would be possible to honestly do so.

Is one blessed? Perhaps this is the encouragement and reward of God. On the other hand, who enjoys more earthly blessing than the wealthy who oppose Him? Does one seem cursed? Perhaps this is the discipline or judgement of God. On the other hand, who is more oppressed than those pleasing God best? For most of us our daily experience falls somewhere between such extremes, and sorting them out proves difficult at best.

When it comes to promises of love from anyone, be they friends, family or even God the proof is in the pudding. While Scripture declares "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*" Jesus qualifies such sentiments with passages like the narrow gate, those who cry Lord, Lord and the Ten Virgins. One does well to carefully evaluate the conditions necessary to merit experiencing the fullness of Biblical promises. This in no way cheapens Divinity's declaration regarding the love and will of God the Father, the blood and work of God the Son or the power and glory of God the Holy Spirit blessed Omnipotence Three in One. On the contrary, presented in this light grace is even more priceless and costly. Clearly Christ's atonement, from incarnation and ministry, crucifixion and death, resurrection and ascension, intervention and second advent meet such criteria. As does the forbearance of the Holy Spirit as humanity and Churchianity grieve God at this point billions if not trillions of times daily.

Revelations of God's will such as "*He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance***" and "*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants **all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth***" are crucial insertion points for the crowbar of intercession, particularly in light of passages lamenting the road to heaven is a narrow and too lightly traveled.

I was hoping to live, rather than die for Christ. To carry a dialogue, rather than a cross. To spark an honest and reasonable debate of life's ultimate concerns amongst the ignorant and apathetic, disobedient and even hostile within Churchianity and beyond.

Lord, I know I'm not the most righteous guy in the world but don't You routinely give far more to far worse?

I'm nowhere brilliant. If anything I'm gifted in a single arena for a sole purpose.

If God were to give one all the delights his or her eye could see, it would hardly scratch the surface of the promise of heaven, "*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind*

has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." Nevertheless, it's astonishing how even such "exceedingly great and precious promises" often fail to comfort the needy in real time.

I suspect most congregations care less what passage, if any, the preacher preaches than the tenor of songs the worship team sings.

I write in hopes of filling more vessels, "One day the wife of a man from the guild of prophets called out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead. You well know what a good man he was, devoted to God. And now the man to whom he was in debt is on his way to collect by taking my two children as slaves." Elisha said, "I wonder how I can be of help. Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Nothing," she said. "Well, I do have a little oil." "Here's what you do," said Elisha. "Go up and down the street and borrow jugs and bowls from all your neighbors. And not just a few—all you can get. Then come home and lock the door behind you, you and your sons. Pour oil into each container; when each is full, set it aside." She did what he said. She locked the door behind her and her sons; as they brought the containers to her, she filled them. When all the jugs and bowls were full, she said to one of her sons, "Another jug, please." He said, "That's it. There are no more jugs." Then the oil stopped. She went and told the story to the man of God. He said, "Go sell the oil and make good on your debts. Live, both you and your sons, on what's left."

In the early morning hours almost any dream seems possible. By midday such aspirations seem wishful thinking and by evening foolishness. In light of the the eternal Kingdom's inherent possibilities and realities, which mindset is more accurate? "What I'm about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there.' And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Quote from Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, "God **ble**ss us one and all." Rob Pennington in *Quantum Christianity's Modern Proverbs*, "God **save** us one and all."

Friday morning, end of June 2013: That the weekend is near brings me little relief, due in no small part to the fact that for decades the kindness of the Lord has generally kept me from the heavy physical burdens under which billions live, vastly different than the bulk of my tedious and irrelevant efforts at making a living. Contrariwise, over the same time period every shred of equity earned and anticipated by wise and faithful planning and service has been misappropriated and misspent by others. Across the board, from family and friends to finance and ministry, all accounts appear plundered and bankrupt. Spiritually? The jury's still out...

For over 30 years I've cried out to God asking to be rescued from the flat and dry unremarkable landscape of Fresno CA, made all the more intolerable by the burning heat of long and sweltering summers. With temperatures exceeding 100 degrees while yet spring, I find its lack of natural beauty and oppressive climate offensive to body and soul. Nonetheless, I've long appreciated that while I would wish all were free to enjoy

better circumstances, it may well be a kindness to remind everyone, from hardened sinners to weary saints of the physical and spiritual anguish that must accompany being forever cast into the lake of fire, even in resurrected and immortal bodies.

Given the inequities prevalent in humanity, longterm relationships generally grow lopsided over time. Invariably, the more sensible and stable party is confronted by their counterpart's continual unwillingness to extend the kindnesses and courtesy afforded to strangers and lessor friendships. Too often, attempts to *"speak the truth in love"* are not only rebuffed but used as a catalyst to rationalize and even increase the level of one sided antagonism and verbal assault. In such cases, those choosing to continual the relationship are frequently forced to adopt the moral and spiritual high ground of suffering in silence. Sadly, far more often than not, the original and repeat offender twists this strategy of patience into conjured evidence of unresponsiveness and emotional abuse.

It's human nature to seek remedy or release from sustained strained circumstances and/or relationships. While completely understandable, might such strategic escape short circuit certain aspects of spiritual growth?

As with all Biblical principals, Scripture's directive regarding entering God's rest offers a variety of levels of possible implementation. The author of Hebrew explains *"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience."* This and many other passage assert that radical obedience and a setting aside of our own work (desires) opens the door to a kind of enveloping rest in God too few enjoy. While clearly millions, if not billions, have tasted and even attained a partial measure of this promise, evidence abounds that when push comes to shove, peace of mind can be quickly stretched to the breaking point.

Why does James the Lord's half brother begin his extremely practical epistle with the counsel: *"My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy."* Anticipating the question He explains, *"Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. The strength to keep going must be allowed to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need."* Sounds simple and reasonable enough until pressures build or unexpected trouble strikes. Depending on duration and severity thoughts of developing and responding via the fruit of the Spirit may seem as attractive as relinquishing our rights or even contracting a terminal illness. This may be precisely the point. The power of the Spirit of God is perhaps best demonstrated in the resurrected life of Christ and His disciples. Herein lies the greatest challenge to Christianity. Resurrection requires a prerequisite death. To voluntarily embrace significant loss, particularly at the hands of those who should know better, seems beyond the pale. To "joyfully" do so, and that repeatedly, adds insult to injury. Yet this is exactly what the greats of Christian faith did and do, encouraging the rest of us "jump in the water's fine."

Understanding the Bible's handling of man's place in the cosmos presents a quantum quandary. On the one hand, given the age and size of the universe all mankind taken together represents less than nearly unexceptional period at the end of the shortest sentence of a galaxy sized novel. On the other, in light of Christ's partaking of humanity, from incarnation and atonement through resurrection and ascension to the promised second advent and eternal reign over a new heavens and earth, the redeemed could hardly figure more prominently.

My prayers, though earnestly prayed in some cases years and even decades in advance of this or that trial or tribulation, seem to have as little effect as those of the rich man in Christ's story of Lazarus. Perhaps for a similar reason...

The movie "Black Robe" shot in the Canadian province of Quebec, chronicles the sacrifice and even martyrdom of 17th century Jesuit priests attempting to spread the gospel to the indigenous population of native indians. The film's a testament to a different age in a variety of profound ways. The crispness of weather and water. The fantastic size and silence of forests. The laborious toil and hardship of daily life. The heartbreaking pain and questions of human existence.

The sexual revolution of the 60's marked the onset of a downpour of immorality and unbelief throughout the modern world. Temptation, raining as it were without ceasing, has so thoroughly soaked the earth as to first overflow and then destroy moral and religious levies and dams, flooding every home and building throughout the First World. Unchecked for decades, the catastrophic and cascading effect of such an unprecedented and escalating weather system has produce nothing less than an intensifying spiritual and social hurricane encompassing the entire planet.

Having grown apathetic and acclimatized to an unending monsoon season of temptation and sin, its little wonder the sandbags of Churchianity, much less the fires of revival, frequently fail.

Given the incremental yet relentless reality of devastating spiritual global climate change, Isaiah's "*Whom has believed our report?*" takes on ever new and greater meaning. All the more so when perhaps the most mature among "*the elect*" deny we are soaked to the bone.

Was Jesus's cry, "*My God, My God why have You forsaken me*" his own or that of fallen humanity with whom at that moment He was so completely identified?

Lord, if you won't accept our feeble attempts at drawing near to You, or at least encourage and direct us *in obvious ways in real time*, how will we ever find God ourselves much less help others do the same?

In the movie "Mind Hunters" FBI agents are taken to a remote island for training as profilers were they find themselves systematically profiled, hunted and murdered by one

of their own. The unsub finally revealed and killed, one of the final two survivors asked the other the same question the movie opened with, "When is the situation secured?" The correct answer, "On the ride home." Clearly mankind's battle against an ancient hyper race of fallen angels and unseen demons exponentially exceeds the careful consideration necessary in dealing with even the most diabolically conceived plans of earth's most ingeniously twisted serial killer.

How true the proverb, "*A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones.*" In fact, joy is such a powerful force, merely imagining an upturn of circumstance immediately increases the health of mind, body and spirit, if only for the moment.

Interestingly Psalms explains, "*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*" Unlike the proverb declaring "*a broken spirit dries the bones*" it would seem the additional ingredients of "*a broken and a contrite heart*" combine to create a sacrifice so pleasing to God it cannot be ignored.

In light of the Bible's frequent warnings regarding unprecedented levels of deception and sin running rampant in the last days, not to mention impending global judgement, the pacification of Churchianity's cheep grace and easy believism rings even more hollow than the deceptive assurance of our Old Testament counterparts of "*Peace; peace when there is no peace*" so vehemently denounced by the Spirit of God through the nearly unending tears of the prophet Jeremiah.

Might what passes for Christian peace within modern 1st World Nations more often than not be the result of the refusal to hear the word and Spirit of God's outcry against wantonness and worldliness accompanied by our Creator's pleadings for service and sanctification? "*He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*"

It's quite possible if not likely that in eternity Omnity will demand the answer to the following question, "What made me think that the perfection of Scripture would need commentary from the likes of me?" While there will be no answering there. Here my only salient response would be that in the modern world the Bible has come to be regarded as myth, marginalized if not completely ignored by the masses.

It's a quantum mystery that Christians are called to so daily deny themselves as to be crucified with Christ on the one hand while being raised and hid in Him on the other.

Paul directs, "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*" This raises the question, what are "*things above*?" Simple faith? Sanctification? The service of others? The salvation of souls? Growing the grace and the fear of God? "*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn*

who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

Its imaginable that among multitude of infected caterpillars, it may may be necessary to come apart to successfully begin the transformation of metamorphosis. Yet for the butterfly, the difference between cocoon and coffin is to so desire flight as to be willing to tear apart one's own work in effort to take wing.

The promised peace inherent in Jesus' command to live one day at a time does belong in part to those struggling, sometimes successfully sometimes not, to overcome addiction to obvious sins such as alcoholism and drug abuse, pornography and immorality... Here the hope is to daily persevere against baser desires, resetting the clock as needed in hopes of a better outcome. Christ's directive applies in a greater way to those who, having put gross sins behind them, now strive to grow in the grace of service and sanctification. The full potential of the passage is reserved for those dedicated to holiness, who having won *"the good fight of faith"* within now wholly seek the salvation of souls with the single mindedness of soldiers no longer *"entangled in human affairs."*

Hebrews warns, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently** seek Him."* The regiment of an amateur athlete includes a couple hours of daily practice, as well as being mindful of undermining one's efforts by excessive relaxation and diet. The commitment of the consignment professional is markedly different, approaching 24/7 in all aspects of training and competing as well as physical and mental discipline. Might this difference be part of what Jesus meant by perceiving verse entering the Kingdom? *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown."*

The scientific classification for modern man is homo sapiens sapiens; "sapien" meaning wise or thinking. Thus it's been said to be truly human is to think twice or think about our thinking. Spiritually speaking, given today's level of temptation, deception and sin what may be need is a new genus: homo sapien sapien sapien.

Most believers, from clergy to laity, when it comes spiritual, lifestyle and/or relationship choices are as “ironically impaired” as Sheldon from the hit TV show “The Big Bang Theory.” Present company excluded of course.

Even those qualified to pray the prayer of complaint do well to remember Jude’s warning that the black holes of space are reserved for those reviling angelic majesties, much less the Creator of both.

What hope do we have if we remain unable to move and be moved by Omnipotence in real time?

God in heaven, help me help You help us help others.

What is most need is to make the Kingdom understandable and tangible.

Circumstances seem to have conspired to render me fat and skinny, poor and rich, cursed and blessed, foolish and wise, sinner and saint. Small wonder I should pioneer quantum thinking about Christianity.

Chaffing dialogue and behavior of unreasonable spouses and children too often reflects similar attitudes and actions in regards to God. How often those directed by Scripture to submit instead rebel, not only refusing to do what’s been asked of them but doing a half assed job of what they choose to do instead, all the while growing more and more angry with the one to whom they owe a debt of obedience not obstinance.

How many tears are self inflicted?

My greatest impedance to experiencing a fully productive and joyful Christian life lies in the inability or unwillingness to recover from having seemingly and repeatedly lost the reward of my most intensive labors of love and faith.

With all that I have in decay and the likelihood of attaining even some, much less all of my dreams diminished, the road before me appears closed if not collapsed. To the left I see millions of examples of beauty I shall never possess. To the right the terrible suffering of billions about which I can do little or nothing.

When it comes to daring to dream greatly there may be a fine line between exceedingly great faith and blasphemy.

The heart and gamble of Pascal’s wager: He is no fool who exchanges what he can never keep for that which he *MAY* never lose.

Who pays heed to heaven's Amber Alert over the abduction of nearly an entire generation? *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

Reasons To Believe (Reasons.org) staff scientist Jeff Zweerink holds a PhD in astrophysics and a research faculty position at UCLA where he has conducted research using STACEE and VERITAS gamma-ray telescopes, and currently works on GAPS, a balloon experiment seeking to detect dark matter. In a recent RTB pod cast he noted that in the last moments of Jesus on the Cross He exhaled and "breathed his last." "This raises the question, what are the chances that you actually have one of those atoms in your body right now? When you do the calculations considering that there are about 10^{23} atoms in that breath of air and you distribute that uniformly over the surface of the earth, the chances that you're breathing one of those molecules right now are almost 100%. So right now you're breathing some of the final breaths that Jesus breathed when He was on the Cross."

Scripture avows *"the wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous"* all current evidence to the contrary.

Oh that seeking and finding God were as effortless and easy as the devotional prayer language of tongues.

Prayer is like swimming in the ocean. It's a great way to get to shore as long as it's in the right direction.

Some have pointed out that those attempting to minister without radical submission to the leading and anointing of Holy Spirit, particularly in the arena of the charismatic, repeat the error of the Seven Sons of Sceva. Given our current condition, might the same not be said for most, if not all of First World Churchianity?

Jesus warned that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an eternal sin, not to be forgiven in time nor eternity. As all human thought and attitude, word and deed reflects sensitivity to the Spirit of God in some way, one might represent the progression from complete denial to constant obedience thusly:

Blasphemy of the Spirit (Rebellion to the point of unforgivable denial)

Grieving the Spirit (At odds with directives)

Quenching the Spirit (Ignoring presence)

Sensing the Spirit (Hearing and/or feeling prompting)

Stepping in the Spirit (Intermediate obedience)

Walking in the Spirit (Constant obedience)

Demonstration of the Spirit (Signs & wonders)

Those investing genuine effort in seeking and serving God do well to admit the obvious, namely that billions have done so poorly, often to the point of little or no avail. Gross errors in doctrine and/or lifestyle have and continue short circuiting such a vast percentage of even well meaning believers that odds are we've all been infected with mild to severe cases of "*double mindedness*."

Working out Christianity throughout one's lifetime presents countless choice between taking higher or lower roads. Numerous hues of off white, not to mention shades and areas of grey offer differing paths to individuals and entire generations. We do well to continually evaluate not only which elevation we tread but why? All the more so given modern levels distraction and temptation, deception and sin.

When it comes to Church leadership, are we faithful shepherds, might rams, bleating sheep or fainting goats?

Idea for a country song: "Back in the Toilet Again." Chorus: Back in the toilet again, swirling the drain without end, haul my butt out - tossed in again for a swim. Back in the toilet again.

Faith can be as restful and restless as the sea.

People, like pluripotent cells, carry the potential to become nearly anything.

The nature of nurturing circumstances, or lack thereof oft define us.

How often cruel twists of fate conspire together to leave us embittered even to the point of despising that which we love, from friends and family to ministries and even God Himself.

What are the modern implications of the New Testament record of the Holy Spirit's immediate and summary execution of Ananias (Hebrew, "the Lord is gracious") and Sapphira (Aramaic, "beautiful"). One of the most salient passages of Scripture, it's profound and costly lessons have been jettisoned in favor of easy believism and cheapened grace. All the more so when accounting for the fact the couple's exaggeration regarding the actual sale price of the property had no direct baring on the generous free will offering, itself a gift rather than debt.

So much of life is equally wonderful and awful, with so much on the way from one to the other.

Many old adages find their greatest fulfillment in the realm of the Spirit. Such as “Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

The realization of all life’s gifts, from temporal to eternal, are conditioned upon an appropriate response.

How unique and precious is the adult daughter of a close friend who by her beautiful and chaste Christian demeanor and behavior has crowned her father’s life and efforts with joy and success. Yet what feats will she accomplish for the genuine Kingdom of her eternal and Heavenly Father?

There are many ways to follow Christ, yet how few encompass such superlatives as: *“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me”* much less *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, even their own life--such a person cannot be my disciple.”*

Authentic appreciation for the weightier matters of the Kingdom is as rare today as is a consuming passion to fill it with souls.

For all their importance, the battle for the salvation of mankind does not rage around religion and/or politics. As recent history attests, growing liberal agendas and legislation regarding ethics and morality merely reveal what has already been lost, and that too often unfought.

It’s less the health of a tree’s limbs and branches than it’s root and trunk that determines it’s fate.

Paul’s warning, *“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* is largely falling on ears deafened by the very beings with whom we refuse to skillfully engage.

Outside the violence surrounding human abduction, such as attributed to the days of Noah, it appears devils lack the authority to directly harm mankind. Then again, what need have they given our creativity and expertise for hurting ourselves and one another? It’s likely as entertaining as it is advantageous for such beings to remain shadowy puppet masters with us their foolish and cruel marionettes. *“And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us... from A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”*

The true nature of who we are is rarely seen and soon forgotten. Many hardly know the true nature of their own souls, how much less those of others?

It's interesting that in a society filled with mirrors, we live nearly entire lifetimes only faintly aware that the persona we project is but the tip of an iceberg. Over ten thousand thoughts and feelings, like relentless waves daily push against hearts and minds, as currents of shifting circumstances lift and lower our hopes and dreams.

In the Developed World, verbal and other forms of abuse more often arises from boredom than "pain talking."

What is the shepherd of a godly household to do when having invested decades in the raising of lambs they turn, acting like goats with some going so far as to live with and even marry wolves?

The fact that *"it's the anointing that breaks the yoke"* explains a lot.

How many insoluble problems arise from spiritual and/or social powerlessness? Most are best be answered, *"This kind comes out only through prayer and fasting."*

So I've often had the stuffing kicked out of me by close companions I feel like Scarecrow from the Wizard Of Oz, only with half my straw missing from the use, rather than lack of a brain.

I confess that the overreaching of both my work and prayers may just as easily be an act of great faith as blasphemy. Furthermore, I'm unable to discern whether such an admission arises from an unusual degree of honesty or doublemindedness.

Where uncertainty and even insecurity abound, when temptation and entitlement run rampant, it's wise to hold longterm goals lightly. Like driving along narrow and winding mountain roads lit by the waning moonlight, best to use high beams but sparingly, particularly in the face of upcoming traffic.

In most cases, participants of modern Churchianity have been as domesticated from their noble and fierce ancestors as toy poodles and chihuahua.

Charismatic meetings are more likely to feature declarations of God's favor and victory, flag waving and flopping around on the floor, than calls for ever deepening Bible study and prayer, repentance and sanctification. This in the face of basically the loss of an entire generation, not to mention the upheaval of every advance of godliness made over the last two thousand years. Such attitudes and actions are all the more inconceivable give our place in earthly and eternal history, teetering here at the precipice of the greatest period of judgment and tribulation earth has and will every know.

Those clinging to the outdated notion of "Young Earth" creationism, continuing to insist the earth and very universe are only a few thousand years old, even in the face of the daily amassing of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, make it all but impossible for

the scientifically minded or astute laymen to believe the proclamation and administration of the Kingdom of God and instructions regarding the path of salvation lay with such an uneducated and/or willfully ignorant populace. Such an unnecessary and unfortunate collision of reason and faith is made all the more tragic given the current availability of concise and compelling explanations of the harmony of the actual meaning of the Biblical text in question and the now glaringly obvious record of nature.

By embracing and defending the simplistic and dualistic U.S. Republican spin on modern socio-economic history and current events, today's naive and combative Christian conservative movement (Tea Party, etc.) is all but destroying any hope of evangelizing their more geopolitically savvy counterparts. Cave blindness to everything from commodity and financial market manipulation to war mongering and global expansionism, by the very one's claiming to clearly see and proclaim spiritual wisdom, only serves to repeatedly demonstrate their foolish failure to recognize the barely concealed machinations of the filthy rich and internationally powerful of all parties as the unseen hand shaping the world all around them.

It's almost impossible to overemphasize the importance of being mindful of the fact we are all extremely mortal and short lived beings of breath and blood.

Even with the spectrum of services within Churchianity ranging from the liturgically orthodox to the charismatically flamboyant, the share many attributes in common. One such trait is the implicit to explicit assurances that it's a foregone conclusion that God is with and pleased with us. That while a slight course correction may be necessary now and again, we are on track and in triumphal procession to take our place along the saints in heaven... All demise of morality and virtue throughout Developed Nations inside and outside the church notwithstanding.

Every sect of Churchianity has its own appeal. Ironically, while their various attractions no longer charm the unchurched, the gravitational pull of each exerts just enough influence over attendees to keep them entertained and unconcerned over our clearly deteriorating orbit.

It's astonishing how tens of thousands of Christian clergy can be so learned and eloquent regarding certain tenants of Scripture while missing this or that essential element. What's more commonplace than leaders and therefore their congregations standing firm on one point or another while as a fellowship or entire denomination doctrinally they "miss the forest for the trees?"

Among the top ten issues facing modern Christianity is learning to distinguish between faith and presumption. Not as easily discerned as one might hope, we too often use misapplied Scriptural passages along with kind and swelling words of edification to mitigate doubt and fear. Charismatics, well meaning and not, may be bolder still, adding ill fated personal prophecy and unsubstantiated declarations of God's blessings and favor: *Jeremiah 6:13-15 "...Prophets and priests and everyone in between twist words*

and doctor truth. My people are broken—shattered!—and they put on Band-Aids, Saying, ‘It’s not so bad. You’ll be just fine.’ But things are not ‘just fine’! Do you suppose they are embarrassed over this outrage? No, they have no shame. They don’t even know how to blush. There’s no hope for them. They’ve hit bottom and there’s no getting up. As far as I’m concerned, they’re finished.” God has spoken.

When those who have been nominal Christians at best prematurely die having born little or no fruit for the Kingdom during a time of great spiritual apathy and apostasy, declarations such as they’ve “flown into the arms of Jesus” ring hollow at best raising the question just whom are we trying to convince?

Living in a time of global doctrinal deception and moral turpitude, the need for disambiguation of reason and clarity of tenants of Biblical Christianity has never been greater.

At a time with such social and economic, moral and religious upheaval, it’s hard to find a firm place to stand. Best to be *“wise as serpents and harmless as doves”* looking steadfastly to God for leadership and deliverance. *“For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart. When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.”*

It bares repeating that there are to glaring and troubling omissions in Paul’s gracious and lengthy list of *“whom shall separate us from the love of Christ?”* Worldliness and sin... *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

What degree of worldliness and sin separates us from the Kingdom of God? What would be the symptoms of such a scenario? What is the likelihood this condition would be correctly diagnosed? If recognized, what would repentance and reconciliation require?

Life is rarely what we expect and never what it seems.

Because of the nature of sexuality and familial relationships, most have children as a matter of course, rarely asking why. Few do so to strategically advance the Kingdom of God in this present dark and evil age. Fewer still develop a well thought out and executed plan to do so. Sadly, inundated by growing global rejection and rebellion, most

even among this tiny minority face failure, and that with little or no back up strategy in place.

In these pre-tribulation days when the spirit of the antichrist is filling the whole world, if attending weekly Christian meetings does not leave one spent you're not doing it right.

How long Lord I've labored to earn Your attention, recognize Your presence and act on it (Cowboys and Aliens) that You might make my prayers and dreams, rather than my doubts and fears a reality.

Eating is ghastly businesses, particularly for the eaten.

Such a Quantum Creation:

So large and so small: God vs creation. Known universe vs mankind...

So long and so short: Eternity vs time. Life vs death...

So easy and so hard: Wide vs narrow path. Life's gifts vs difficulties...

So wise and so foolish: Christianity vs Churchianity. Science vs spirituality...

So full and so empty: 1st vs 3rd World. Wise vs foolish...

So loud and so still: Cosmic phenomena vs space. World vs Spirit...

So near and so far: Presence vs distance of God. Understanding vs ignorance...

So blessed and so cursed: Scripture's promise vs warnings. Technology vs mortality...

Such salvation and such judgment: Heaven vs Hell. Modern medicine vs war...

Such joy and such sorrow: Heirs of God vs Lake of Fire. Wealth vs poverty...

Such pleasure and such pain: Eternal rewards vs punishment. Sensuality vs disease...

Such light and such darkness: Galaxies vs black holes. Christ vs Satan.

So awe-full and so awful: God. Creation. Man.

Given the physics of this universe, it appears to take a vast array of space-time, matter and energy exquisitely fine tuned $10^{24,000,000}$ to produce even a single earth in which advance life might arise. Spiritually speaking, given the fallen nature of creation, sadly it may require billions of individuals wondering the wide "*way that leads to destruction*" to produce the few that choose the "*narrow way that leads to life.*"

Should it be true that an entire universe or even multiverse be necessary for a single planet intelligently designed to originate human life, one could hardly describe the vast number of cosmic bodies and phenomena populating the universe as a "waist of space." Billions of years of stellar creation and explosion, galaxy formation and collision, red giants and white dwarfs, black holes and quasars glorify both Creator and creation. Unfortunately, should a spiritual corollary exist, the loss of billions of immortal souls,

men and women, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters all born innocent babes into a hostile environment hardly equates to the destruction of even such vast non sentient heavenly bodies. No amount of apologetics, however artfully applied, can justify humanity's horrific and hellish loss.

When considering the incalculable pain and suffering inherent in the concept of resurrected souls and bodies experiencing eternal damnation in Hell and the Lake, it behooves us to tread as carefully as we do thoroughly. Since it may well be that the difference between Heaven and Hell lies in thinking well, it's incumbent on us to closely examine the explicit and implicit revelations of Scripture as if our very souls depended on it.

Brought low by our mortal and fallen nature, let us all the more approach, if not boldly storm *"the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Celebrating my 36th wedding anniversary, for three days we escaped to California's Central Coast and the purgatory of nearly two months of 100 degree heat. In a small goofy shop in Cambria I found an inexpensive simulated granite etching with the following inscription "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Quantum Christianity is that trail.

There may be an eternal difference between praying for a hand up over a hand out.

When the good we've done is negated by the recipients of our lovingkindness it seems our efforts may have been wasted and our faith in vain. During such seasons it's wise to wait in stillness before God, seeking direction if not correction, and encouragement if not empowerment.

The discipline of silently tarrying before the Lord has been besieged by many a doubtful if not sinful habit. From TV and music, to idle texts and Facebook, individuals toss tens of thousands of hours down the drain of amusement (a: not and muse: think) rather than honestly face and faithfully pray through the woeful circumstances besetting themselves and others.

The will and work of the God, as well as their counterparts, have many layers.

There are a variety of indicators helpful in discerning between genuine and counterfeit Christian paths, as well as good, better and best within the Kingdom. The difficulty arises from the fact that many, if not most, appear on face value quite the opposite of what one might anticipate. Consider the Apostle Paul's portfolio, including such highlights as being flogged within a lash of his life five times, beaten with rods three times and even *stoned to death years prior to his martyrdom* by his and God's very own people. No doubt such experiences by his leadership contemporaries and other 1st Century Christians contributed to his having penned what has become a continually

disregarded plumb line for whole hearted Christian service. Rather than walking with one foot in the Kingdom and one in the world, hoping to reap blessing from both, Christ and His apostles declared fealty to the former and war on the latter to the point that Paul proclaims: *“If there be no resurrection from the dead then we are of all men most miserable.”*

In her insightful lectures on fiction writing, the humanist Ann Rand celebrated author of the novel “Atlas Shrugged” makes a notable point. She identifies the well from which authors draw their inspiration not as the voice of the divine or a mysterious muse, but rather insights bubbling up from a reservoir of education on given subjects. She asserts guidance often felt as *other* seeming arising from without is in actuality the result of our filling and refilling mental ponding basins, creating and recharging subterranean ground water of the mind. Such an assertion goes a long way in explaining why millions if not billions claim to be led by higher powers, even in the face of vast evidence to the contrary. This reasoning needn't negate the idea that God speaks, but rather help distinguish between our thoughts and our Creator's, as well as offer a mechanism through which Omnipotence might commonly do so.

When attempting to discern the voice of Divinity, it's best to remember the existence of tens of thousands of religious and even Christian sects, each attesting to humanity's general unwillingness if not inability to recognize and respond to the highest forms of Truth.

The words I write come to me nearly as easy as speaking in devotional tongues. Yet after decades I still don't know if they're true or from You.

How frustrating to be an eye when the body has all but succeeded from the union.

Ever the pragmatic, James describes a kind of “in case of emergency break glass” prayer meeting: *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously’? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”* In the following chapter he adds: *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous***

man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. Given mankind's wholesale and free-fall decent into darkness, the rampant and undeniable worldliness afflicting and affecting the Churchianity as well as the telling and debilitating inability for Christian leaders to genuinely and routinely heal the sick these few verses in James speak volumes. Sadly it appears few if any are interested or able to "*hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*"

The kind of corporate prayer that "has a snowballs chance in hell" of diverting the fires of judgment already smoldering and ready to consume the entire earth must be based on James' directions to carnal Christians such as ourselves. Regrettably, in meetings this week with two close friends having led or attended 10,000 or more church meetings between us, we were unable to point to single service, prayer of otherwise, that fit the bill. Even those we ourselves had begun too soon had faltered.

To be of real eternal value, prayer for revival must begin with the right method and message (James 4:1-10). It must be attended by the righteous faithful or those intent on quickly becoming so (James 5:16-18). It must be prepared to preserve until the fire of revival burns too hot and brightly to be ignored or extinguished.

When it comes to the clashes between the kingdoms of darkness and light, it's one thing to fight and fail and quite another to fail to fight.

One can reasonably extrapolate the following assertions regarding deception and apostasy from Jesus' judgment of His seven churches as recorded in Revelation, not to mention numerous Gospel and epistle passages:

In the face of the global holocaust of over 1,000,000,000 abortions (five times the planet's population in Christ's day) including over 50,000,000 in the United States, not to mention the subversion and inversion of morality as a whole during the same period (last 40 years) ***any 1st World Christian congregation or denomination not radically pro-life has long since crossed from deceived to apostate.***

Any 1st World Christian congregation or denomination not holding the equivalent of clergy led well attended lengthy and fervent daily corporate prayer over these and a host of other issues including the wonton and wholesale destruction of the traditional family, Churchianity's rampant apathy and worldliness, global poverty and persecution, impending judgment and tribulation... ***has or is in imminent danger of doing the same.***

I'm *hellophobic*.

Great mercy can appear convoluted. Deeper forms require ever increasing discernment that to the untrained eye seems little more than uncaring condemnation.

Rather than never thirsting again and having rivers of living water springing up from our inward being, almost to a man 1st World Christians are simultaneously drowning in sin while dying from thirst.

It requires a stout heart to continually seek God during seasons of great apostasy, particularly when finding little if any of the precious resources being sought. Additional distress arises from being painfully aware of imperfection, beset by not only by disobedience but perhaps even more so by subtle and doubtful habits. This state raises suspicions that prayer largely goes unanswered not only because of corporate sin above and about but also personal sin within. Such a condition conspires to make the discipline of persevering in prayer for empowerment all the more difficult, going a long way in explaining why so few even begin much less continue to do so.

To have attended over a thousand corporate prayer meetings and as many or more church services only to walk away from nearly each without being truly filled with the Spirit's genuine power and presence, provision and protection takes its toll even among those cultivating an unusual degree of honesty and perseverance.

The clarion call of the New Testament is simply "seek rather to give than get." A directive as simple to understand as it is difficult to live out. (See "Sermon on the Mount" and epistle passages such as Ephesians 5).

Adult children can be much harder on the heart.

My soul is broken hearted.

I'm frightened for myself and terrified for others. "I wait quietly before God for our hope is in Him."

At the Judgement, if there's any conversation it will be One way. Interestingly, this is nearly the exact opposite of our current experience.

Churchianity has more than passing resemblance of Laodicea. The description is so uncannily accurate one might imagine the tiny ancient congregation(s) was but a shadow of the global modern denomination(s) having taken their place.

What do the Worship Songs of Laodicea sound like? What should they be?

What might an authentic "12 Step Recovery Program" for the Church of Laodicea look like?

Churchianity's status quo is drowning us in worldliness and sin.

Billions at present and historically for more would count themselves blessed indeed to be suffering from the vast majority of cases of 1st World boredom and depression.

The media (TV, movies, music...) frequently nails a truth. Take a quote from apocalyptic movie "The Book Of Eli." Denzel Washington, the mysterious and aging protagonist easily captures the entitlement and excess inexorably leading to the decay and self destruction of modern civilization: *"We threw away things people kill each other for now."*

God, is it too late for us to be saved? (Evanescence "Tourniquet")

I don't know if You're pleased or angry and to what extent. I only know my hopes and fears resulting in the single prayer "Lord save us, we are yours" (Movie "Luther").

Are there choices within the Kingdom between "the way of the cross" (daily taking up ours) and "the way of the... podium, program, worship team, outreach, laptop...

Self inflicted suffering from doing and having nothing is one pain. That inherent in *struggling to achieve something meaningful* another.

When it comes to world religions, particularly zealots and ascetics embracing them, I admire and envy their dedication. It's the quality of their quality and integrity of their theology that leaves much to be desired.

Uncovering the key to breaking through the apparent silence and distance of the immanent and imminent God Almighty may be a greater challenge than solving the P vs NP, the Great White Whale of mathematical computer science. In both cases it's one thing to verify a complex problems solution and quite another to solve it.

A set of challenging shifts in perspectives await those who would embrace the Gospel in it's entirety. Among theses is dealing with the ramifications of the certainty of God's existence. Acquiescence to the preponderance of evidence that Omnipotence is in fact the God of the Bible. That as God the Son and the Son of God Jesus alone has atoned for the sin of mankind. That receiving Christ as Savior requires accepting Him as Lord. That the God the Spirit was poured out to lead and empower Christians. That worldliness grieves and repels the *Holy Spirit*. That personalizing God the Father's love requires the acceptance of these lavish gifts as well as onerous discipline.

Those willing to *"go one to perfection"* will like Mary *"treasure all these things"* in their hearts even knowing *"a sword will pierce your own soul as well."* If *"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission"* how much more we ourselves?

The ebbs and flows of life allow for a variety of levels of introspection. Changing circumstance, particularly for the worst, presents challenges in regards to how we view ourselves and the world around us. Such seasons may become waypoints, defining moments as to our self image and our relationships with others and God. The salient question is, in the face of opposition, do we remain steadily on course or recalculate.

I've never thought or taught that in our own strength we could do anything significant or lasting, any more than we might *"add a cubit to our height"* or lift ourselves by our own hair. Only that it's incumbent on us to so position ourselves, by observing the conditions and commands regarding God's warnings and promises, that we might hope to be recipients of God's grace, which is the sole means by which the human condition can be forever lifted and transformed.

With the world, our relationships and even our own lives are filled with such deception, sorrow and sin its hard to know when, how and why to rejoice. *"Is anyone happy let him sing, is any troubled let him pray."*

In the end it's as equally likely that I should never have written a single observations as it is I should be doing nothing but.

I'm a shinning example that we teach best what we most need to learn.

In regards to the command to *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling"* I've got the *"fear and trembling"* thing pretty well covered.

Continual kindness and care should be constantly recognized and reward, to the degree that it is reasonable to do so.

It's temporal if not eternal folly to unnecessarily add to the burden of others.

Wondering the wilderness is wearisome at best. Particularly one that is totally or even partially of our own making. Desperation and fear may howl and snarl, like a wolf pack relentlessly on our scent. To the degree our cause is heavenly, let us remember the *"such a great crowd of witness"* who have gone this way before about whom Hebrews continues *"... others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated — the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground."*

Words are just that until you've fully experienced them.

I've offered the Lord a hundred varieties of highly improbable fleeces never even remotely fulfilled. Even were the statistical chances of a "yes" astronomical (winning the lottery) it hardly proves the answer or resource is from the Lord. James explains *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* Interestingly Scripture feels the need to distinguish that its every *"good and perfect gift"* that is bestowed by God.

Were my ministry ever fully resourced, in conjunction with finishing the work I would continue to carefully examine that which I was presenting before God, in faith seeking further assurance of it's merit. *"Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good."*

While God and the gospel of *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"* our knowledge and experience of both is in a constant state of flux. Sometimes evolving, often devolving, both cases suggest that our relating to Omnipotence is less an event than process, a destination than journey. Real advances require embracing the process of proposing theories based on honest and insightful research as well as willingness to refine or even reject that failing the test.

Earnest and persistent religious inquiry should yield insight and understanding available no other way outside miraculous revelation. This too may be aided by fully appreciating the importance of acknowledging that *"He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

I'm convinced the vast majority of my observations and Biblical commentary to be accurate, or at least far more so than most others. Indeed. Yet ironically, given a massive and lingering downturn in circumstance and my sometimes dubious reaction to a growing variety of undesirable turn of events, presently not a single other soul on earth believes as I do. Once again reinforcing the need to reexamine Quantum Christianity on a daily basis.

With my position slowly becoming increasingly untenable and with little or no to show for my research and prayers, I've attempted with some modest success to slow if not still my emotional pace. Experimenting with a variety of variations in regards to what I call the "path of peace" I've yet to find one that truly satisfies even in the present much less robust enough to face a future most likely fraught with far more difficult challenges.

When signs of the obvious and growing darkness encompassing most if not all the world are even superficially discussed the default position of modern believers is to reject the invitation to consider an appropriate response.

While the vast majority of Churchianity is Biblically illiterate, many justify spiritual and social ignorance and/or apathy based on a misinterpretation of such verses as *"whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

Attempting to rationalize a lack of sensitivity and response to billions in pain and perishing around them, they minimize the first two imperatives of truth and honesty mentioned in the passage to the temporal and eternal peril of strangers and neighbors, friends and family and even their own soul.

Hundreds if not thousands of verses declare the crucial importance of being able and willing to fully recognizing and respond to deception, the chief cause of all the ills of mankind.

Given Israel and Judah's history of rebellious and wicked leaders, it's surprising that Godly Hezekiah should be forced to apologize and pay a king's ransom (all the silver and gold from the Temple of the Lord) to the boastful King Sennacherib of Assyria. Equally astonishing is his deliverance by the angel of the Lord (perhaps the preincarnate Christ) who in a single night slew "185,000 in the Assyrian camp."

Plans can be pleasant and dreams delightful. Thinking can be constructive and prayer peaceful. Family can be fulfilling and friendships fulfilling. Wealth can be freeing and success empowering. Yet in the end only those genuinely pleasing God will be left standing: *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."*

The difference between faith and presumption is understanding. The path to understanding is one of intention. The difference between of intention and good intentions is a matter of honesty and diligence.

The human condition is exacerbated by excess.

Lord, grant I should finish this work before being finished by it.

Gathering evidence strongly suggests as the developer of Quantum Christianity I'm either wrong or a sacrificed pawn.

For all but the most brilliant, better to strive to be a mile deep than wide.

If the average lifespan is 80 years, 0-20 is the Spring of childhood and adolescence, 20-40 the Summer of adulthood, 40-60 the Fall of middle age, 60 to 80 the Winter of the elderly.

When it comes to miraculous answers to prayer (the kind that can be repeated and quantifiably measured) the response or seeming lack thereof, is the most vexing problem facing philosophy, religious or secular. In actuality Heaven's silence could as easily be a bi-product of Divine transcendence as our being alone in the cosmos, were it not for the simplest of all mathematical equations: $0 + 0 = 0$. Given nothing plus nothing

equals nothing (regardless of time or degrees of separation) much less a universe such as ours exquisitely fine tuned ($10^{24,000,000,000}$) for advance life on earth, the atheistic argument is void. Clearly such a majestic display of power and intelligent design requires nothing short of Omnipotence. This being said, truth must reside in either the agnostic or religious camp.

It falls to Christian apologetics to satisfactorily explain the ostensible silence and distance of God. Fortunately the Bible is full of clues in regards to this crucial question. Unfortunately one must search the entire Scriptural record to correctly piece together the puzzle, only to find few indeed willing to accept the answer.

The Bible explains Heaven's lack of response to the prayers and plight of the human condition this way:

The Luciferian rebellion, predating the creation of our universe, resulted in a heavenly schism necessitating an angelic trial continuing to this day.

Human life on Earth was established to bring about a final solution to Satan's insurrection as well as replace fallen angels with an even more glorious population of the Redeemed among men.

As with any litigation, the proceedings in the Supreme Court of Heaven is conducted within the confines of rules and stipulations (see the "Agreement" as described in Eternity...The Wager).

The Scripture not only invites "*whosoever will*" to drink from the River of Life but declares that "*rivers of living water will flow from within them.*"

As with all Biblical promises, God being "*no respecter of persons*" extended this gracious offer to anyone willing to meet Scripture's requirements. (Note: While there may be as many as 1,200 Biblical promises, there are over 1,400 corresponding conditions and 6,200 commands).

It is one thing to understand the Biblical Truth, another to embrace it, still another to live by it and another still to do so to the point of being capable of demonstrating its validity by routinely performing genuine and authentic "*signs and wonders.*"

After over a decade of searching I have yet to find a single Christian honest enough to rightly assess and respond to the spiritual apathy and depravity of modern Churchianity by rising to the challenge of the true nature and extent of our forthcoming judgment in this life much less the next.

Churchianity's Christian civilians often fare far better than their soldier counterparts. Why not? Unlike Moses and Paul, Satan would hardly wish "*all God's people were prophets.*"

What should have been the proper Christian reaction to the following shortlist advances of the kingdom of darkness within 1st World Nations during our generation

(approximately 40 years): (1) The sexual revolution's inversion of morality. (2) The NY Times declaration "God Is Dead" and the subsequent adoption of atheism by science and educational institutions. (3) The abortion of over a billion globally. (4) Soft porn's ubiquitous presence in advertising and entertainment augmenting hardcore porn's permeation of the internet. (5) Immorality normalized through the music and movie industry. (6) Horror and gore glorified by TV and movies. (7) Homosexuality legitimized by the media and legalization. (8) The proliferation of violent and/or sexual explicit video games such as Grand Theft Auto 5. (9) The transfer of wealth from the lower and middle class to the richest 1%. (10) The geopolitical stage being set for the Great Tribulation foretold throughout Old and New Testament...? Few would answer the correct response would be the adoption of unprecedented levels worldliness and apathy culminating in prayerless and Biblical illiteracy and yet that is exactly what we have done. Shouldn't the last few decades have been marked by Churches overflowing weekly, if not daily, with Christians crying out to God for forgiveness and mercy, grace and empowerment?

It seems nearly impossible for all but the smallest sliver of the tiniest percentage of a remnant of the remnant to divorce themselves from worldliness and/or being enthralled by Jesus the Suffering Servant to comprehend the uncompromising commands of Christ the Conquering King. *"Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer."* 2 Cor. 5:16 *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."* Rev 3:5 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..."* Rev 3:15

Many find Christ's parable of The Unforgiving Debtor melodramatic: *"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat*

each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." Here Jesus's example offers several Kingdom insights. Among them that the costly price paid of atonement paid by Christ for casual sinners is relatively the same as that paid for the most notorious.

Prayers the beginning of a reasonable response to our generation's having fumbled the ball from the 50 yard line to our in zone. If we've failed to even truly start who can deny we've truly and utterly failed?

In such times as these the best way to communicate is to express truth as friendly as possible without diluting its meaning. Better still is to infuse its presentation with layers of complementary and deeper meaning. For example, consider the name "Awake!" for a Quantum Christian Fellowship. Simultaneously a Scriptural command and reproof, challenge and promise, the name is full of crucial concepts, any and all of which profitable for Laodiceans living in the last days:

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 5:14 NKJV)

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. (I Corinthians 15:34 NKJV)

Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. (Psalms 57:8 NKJV)

Stir up Yourself, and awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord. (Psalms 35:23 NKJV)

My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. (Psalms 119:148 NKJV)

Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth. (Joel 1:5 NKJV)

Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)

In their excitement I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, That they may rejoice, And sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the Lord. (Jeremiah 51:39 NKJV)

"And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the King, Whose name is the Lord of hosts. (Jeremiah 51:57 NKJV)

But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. (Luke 9:32 NKJV)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (Romans 13:11 NKJV)

The vast majority of Christians have to admit there's a great deal of difference between what we should do and will do. Unfortunately, a narrowing percentage accurately understand what Christ requires from His Church. Having failed to instruct their conscience, they go about their daily lives with little or no conflict between offering God an hour or two as spectators on Sunday verses full 24/7 participation.

It's one thing to be nestled in a bathroom on a soft sofa sipping on a cup of coffee while praying and reading a verse or two. Quite another to rise morning by morning only to face the heartache of unanswered prayer and undesirable circumstance.

While awaking the dawn through passionate prayer and serious Biblical study is a wise and necessary habit, in actuality it can prove a difficult discipline, a fact that goes a long way in explaining the dwindling numbers of those who adhere to what once common practice. One of the more ironic challenges facing would be disciples in this arena is the growing conviction that we ought to be doing more and living far more sanctified lives. Well intentioned believers, particularly those not captive to grosser sins, understandably chafe at daily reminders of our own making, all the more so when that which we regularly offer to God and others seems be it prayers or service seem to go unnoticed much less unrewarded. Here, as elsewhere, the rubber of our faith and hope meets the road of reality and the light of day.

Few there are in deed willing to push past imagined words of comfort and consolation to hear the Spirit's still voice offering correction and reproof.

For those willing to subject themselves to the onerous task of truly discovering "*what the Spirit is saying to the Churches*" it's crucial to learn the meaning of the passage "*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*" Developing such a habit hardly for the faint of heart. One must be willing and able to hold competing concepts in mind. In this case, that we are disciples and children of God to the degree that we enter into the Lordship and Fatherhood of Christ and God. This kind of rigorous training may be greatly assisted by learning to think Quantumly, nicely described by *Jars Of Clay* in their insightful song "Faith Enough."

"Faith Enough"

The ice is thin enough for walkin'
The rope is worn enough to climb
My throat is dry enough for talkin'
The world is crumblin' but I know why
The world is crumblin' but I know why

The storm is wild enough for sailing
The bridge is weak enough to cross
This body frail enough for fighting
I'm home enough to know I'm lost
Home enough to know I'm lost

It's just enough to be strong
In the broken places, in the broken places
It's just enough to be strong
Should the world rely on faith tonight

The land unfit enough for planting
Barren enough to conceive
Poor enough to gain the treasure
Enough a cynic to believe
Enough a cynic to believe

Confused enough to know direction
The sun eclipsed enough to shine
Be still enough to finally tremble
And see enough to know I'm blind
And see enough to know I'm blind

Should the world rely on faith tonight

Individually and collectively Christians are, as the saying goes, “only as strong as the weakest link.” Clearly true on obvious levels but what of the more subtle? Take for example the minister who falls from grace through immaturity. Not only does he shipwreck his soul and that of his family, but like multitudes before including Kings David and Solomon, he tears down the very kingdom he sought to build. Less conspicuous is the fact that long before the earthquake of his fall he entertained frequent if not daily tremors of lust both grieving the Holy Spirit as well as retarding the progress of spiritual maturation. By their very nature our fault lines of temptation and doubtful habits lay hidden to surveyors of the soul other than God, devils and we are ourselves to the extent we are ruthlessly honest.

There are many gospels but only one True. The eternal question before us is how close to the True is the gospel we embrace and share? Even in the direction of the True path there are at least five options: (1) The least strenuous and hopeful is that of the casual church attendee. (2) Layity and/or clergy, well meaning and/or not deeply involved in the promotion and business of Churchianity. (3) A remnant recognizing some of the grosser doctrine and lifestyle errors prevalent in their brothers who chose certain alternative beliefs and practices in hopes of growing closer the full intent of the gospel. (4) A remnant of the remnant... who fear that for the most part Churchianity has crossed the line from error to apostasy. For various reasons these have “*come out of her*” disinvesting from the status quo and reinvesting in strategic ministries of their own or others. (5) Rare individuals who daily take up their cross and follow Christ’s teaching and example who by whole life self denial and sanctification, passionate prayer and even persecution once and for all make a break with the world and it’s pleasure “*looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.*”

We all decide in which ways and to what extent to follow Scripture's commands. To the degree we choose well, Christ assures *"the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* Even so we are warned, *"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* That is to say that Kingdom water, unlike that to which we are accustomed, rarely follows the path of least resistance.

Having a big nose as well as humorous, caustic and dramatic side makes me occasionally see myself as a Quantum Christian version of Alan Alda (Movie and TV star of M.A.S.H.) only with 1,000 times his wisdom and a 1,000th of his success.

Why does 1 Corinthians 13 list *"hope"* among the three things that remain after perfection has come? *"But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*** It looks and sounds so poetic, befitting our current circumstances so well most never give it a thought. Yet in Romans 8 Paul explains: *"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**"* Such a definition appears at odds with the transcendent heavenly glory heaven promises *"For eyes not seen years not heard nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him."*

For well over a decade I've been an integral part of a weekly prayer meeting in my neck of the Hundred Acre Woods. Most of our 1.5 to 3 hour sessions have been led by Winnie the Poo (Paul H.) who enjoys the honey of Christian fellowship. As Eeyore, my role has been to point out the failings of Churchianity and suggest alternatives. Lately we've been joined by Tigger (Ted L.) a like minded would be evangelistic prophetic type bounding about from one truth to another hoping to shake things up and spark revival.

About a 127 years ago the founder of Mercedes-Benz wrote 4 words, "The Best Or Nothing" to capture the spirit of his company that would become the benchmark in automobile luxury. I recommend an alternative 4 words if we are to recapture the presence to the Spirit inherent in Christianity "Turn The Power On."

The spiritually diligent and honest can hear Christ/s words to the Rich Younger Ruler echoing down through the millennia, *"This one thing you lack..."* Those entering into obedience to this command of the Spirit, when listening closely, may never cease to

hear promptings to set aside first this and then that more subtle sin and questionable practice.

Jesus warns, *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."* With this in mind, perhaps the most neglected question within 1st World Christianity is just what would a Laodecian cross look like?

Once again last week we were neither destroyed nor delivered, though we continue inching closer to the former and further from the latter.

Just how much would people give to keep their loved ones from dying of old age, not to mention premature causes? To what extent would they alter their beliefs and lifestyles? In a spiritual sense, this is the essence of the Gospel. The promise of not just deliverance from the grave but glorious resurrection into eternal life as *"heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."* The problem is a lack of direct evidence in real time. While the Bible is without equal, it is at a 2,000 year old manuscript. Thankfully Scripture is filled with prophecy, fulfilled and pending, offering evidence of inspiration. Additional reasons to believe include tried and true Biblical wisdom regarding nearly all aspects of human endeavor. Sociology reveals the Gospel's positive lift on individuals and communities, regions and nations embracing its simple yet profound teachings. Ideals such as self discipline vs destructive behaviors, service vs selfishness, hope vs despair, thankfulness vs entitlement, forgiveness vs revenge, love vs apathy have for millennia found their fullest expression through Biblical doctrine. In fact, these and many other benefits bestowed by Christianity are so ingrained in our psyche their Biblical origins are all but forgotten. As the winds of time blow, such subtleties are easily lost on the bulk of mankind tossed to and fro by an endless list of distraction and pain.

Biblical Christianity within the modern world has largely been relegated to the status of mythology, ancient history or at best beloved fables full of morals that one may pick and choose at will to increase the quality and pleasure of life. Unfortunately, given the gravity of temptation, deception and sin within, without and above unabated our decaying orbit around the Son is likely to leave the vast majority of us eternally scorched by God who *"is a consuming fire."*

Having escaped the glaring mathematical error of atheism and navigated the troubled rapids of agnosticism, how does one discern the true sect among Christianity? Given the fact that there are many gospels but only one True, and this in the face of over 10,000 major and minor divisions and denominations within Christianity, the odds of discovering the correct version are indeed daunting. The honest seeker and would be adherent to Truth will recognize the importance of studying both the glaring and subtle differences as well as simulates of both fringe and mainline belief systems. Information abounds regarding differing theology and doctrines but what of undervalued similarities such as Christ's emphases on loving one's neighbor as one's self?

Regarding the overlooked centrality of Jesus's message explaining salvation, it's helpful to note the Bible's thousands of commands can be reduced to just two, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* *This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*" These are further reducible to just one, and most wonderfully not the former but the later. The reason being that the while the great commandment is to love God completely, the real question is how. How does one show love to the only preexistence Being who has everything, knows everything, is everywhere and unchangeable? The answer, however He chooses. Fortunately for humanity, in unfathomable identification with the least among us. Jesus as well as His Apostles reiterate the glorious truth that Omnity is best served by us loving our neighbor as deeply as possible. Paul declares *"The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* James agrees *"Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* Such a directive provides a spiritual safety net to catch those falling from the high-wire of discerning and obeying real Truth.

While clearly the command to *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling"* encompasses more than great gestures of generosity to the poor, it would be the height of foolishness to omit or even minimize the second great commandment from salvation's equation. The New Testament's repeated emphasis on the subject includes but is hardly limited to Christ's three greatest treaties on salvation, namely "The Sheep and Goats" "Good Samaritan" and "Rich Man and Lazarus." Add to these such verses as *"Sell what you own. Give to those who are poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out. Put away riches in heaven that will not be used up. There, no thief can come near it. There, no moth can destroy it"* and it's easy to see the critical nature of such a pervasive directive. Given Divinity's right to demand anything, it's indeed fortunate for humanity we can all agree that such a gracious and loving concern for the poor is both the right and righteous things to do. Such a simple directive provides a fail-safe for those attempting to ascend to higher planes of understanding and even the trapeze of experimentations as we endeavor to *"Prove all things, hold fast to that which is true."*

Billions fail to appreciate the necessity of *"loving your neighbor as yourself."* Of these who do, only a small percentage are diligent enough to complete even a layman's study of a handful the top contenders of the various versions of Christianity. Sadly even among this fraction of percent of confessing believers, far fewer still are willing and able to separate themselves from the inherit error in whatever sect they find themselves. Ironically, in this case, it may be the partial goodness, truth and beauty of which we are familiar that presents the greatest hinderance, obstacle and roadblock to true growing into spiritual maturity.

When it comes to spirituality, our need for certainty and resistance to holiness conspire against what will be revealed in eternity as a constantly clear path God has set before

each of us. When it comes to dealing with that which we can neither see or hear, touch or taste, smell much less understand... to a greater or lesser degree we all feel ourselves caught in a cloud of confusion. A state we daily use to justify various degrees of worldliness and worse. This is but one of many meanings to the terse verse, *“There is a pathway that seems right to a man, but in the end it's a road to death.”*

In reality, given the myriad of hurdles and pitfalls facing those hoping to comprehend and comply with the nature and directives of the *“Immortal, Invisible” “only wise God”* we much come to terms with the fact that no human preparation or effort can ever suffice. What is wanting is the kinds of genuine signs and wonders arising from the unmistakable presence and power, provision and protection of the Holy Spirit that seemed to permeate the New Testament record. In one of countless passages, Paul declares, *“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.”* Again, in what may be the greatest prayer of both Old and New Testament Paul prays: *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Today our knowledge far outstrips our genuine spiritual experience. Such being the case, the chief objective of all Christians and particularly leadership, whether in the areas of evangelism or discipleship, local ministry or foreign missions should be the restoration of the Holy Spirit's fruit and gifts through clear and convincing, dramatic and empowering signs and wonders. Anything short of this leaves even the most diligent of seekers, much less the vast majority of apathetic Churchianity, walking and working in the dark.

Do are efforts to resist entitlement, both great and small, equally entice the Spirit of God?

Evan an accurate yet narrow view of A truth can all but obscure the meaning and effectiveness of The Truth.

Counting one's earthly and heavenly blessings goes a long way in making a purgatory into paradise. And vice versa.

The next best thing to having complete awareness or even a didactic memory is to practice thinking well and often, writing down and reminding oneself daily or more frequently that which is most important.

Are we all not shipwrecked, run aground in a deadly storm, scurrying about on a sinking ship rather than manning the lifeboats or swimming for shore.

You ain't through praying until you've prayed through.

One does well to contemplate King Josiah's wondrous life and curious death.

When it comes to the Bible as written in simple english, I may be the world's leading expert of reiterating the obvious to the oblivious.

If God is as we have conceived Him in modern Christianity than why should it be *"easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven?"* If salvation simply requires mental assent, a belief in Christ's atonement, certainly the wealthy can as or even more easily believe than the impoverished. If pleasing God is about participating in church attendance and Christian community clearly the affluent have far more disposable time, energy and money at hand. If praise and thankfulness is what necessary, who has more reason be either and both? If avoidance of grosser sins is the key, clearly the rich have the resource to find happiness in their fortune and pleasure in their possessions.

There are two likely explanations for Jesus' warnings regarding wealth. The first is that riches and that which it affords is so attractive as to distract humanity and even the vast majority of Christians from fully discovering and pursuing their true calling and Kingdom duties. The second is more severe, namely that in a world filled with such glaring inequality and desperate need, to continue enjoying holdings and possessions, fine clothing and cuisine, a variety of entertainments and vacations is anathema to Christ who directs, *"Little flock, do not be afraid. Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell what you own. Give to those who are poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out. Put away riches in heaven that will not be used up. There, no thief can come near it. There, no moth can destroy it. Your heart will be where your riches are."*

With all due respect, and to Whom is more due than You Almighty Heavenly Father, the reality and transformative power of Your Kingdom seems too hidden and hard. While entree level Christianity has wonderful effect, the paths to deeper discipleship are blocked with misunderstanding and costs few are prepared to pay. The Gospel's offer of our all for a few decades in exchange for Yours throughout eternity is gracious beyond compare, yet daily the sin above, about and within so successfully conspires against us as bringing our efforts to all but not. Without the genuine and overflowing infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit even when we agree with Your word inwardly our flesh falters and fails. Oh that You would come and fill *Your Church, Your children* who cry out as David did: *"Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"* Grant us *today* the *full measure* of Your presence and power, protection and provision for tomorrow may be to late.

How softly, repeatedly and deeply God has broken my heart.

Lord, if its useless as it seems to remind You of the same things over and over again, that is outside of our responsibility to cry out day and night as per the parable of the persistent widow, then help me see the wisdom of moving on.

Matrix quote by Oracle: "You can't see beyond a choice you don't understand." Rob's quote: "You can't understand a choice you've chosen to ignore."

To the degree one is able to respond was is literally response-able (responsible). The question is to what degree this principal holds true for not only men and women but God and angels?

It's the nature of reality to be shared.

True or false, real or imagined, for better or worse psyches are projected and often amplified. A fact noted and exploited by the sinisterly supernatural. From the expansion of Lucifer's rebellion throughout three heavens to picture perfect personification of the lifestyles of the rich and famous, all sensuously vying for the imagination of our generation and the next. The current campaign of deception and temptation is exquisitely fine tuned to resonate with not only the sin within but around and above in such a synergistic way that sadly, each of us consciously or not significantly amplify the strength of the signal.

It's complicated and even fearful for 1st World Christians, steeped in besetting sins and doubtful habits, to seek full leadership and direction by the *Holy* Spirit. Yet more fearful still not to.

Those hoping and praying to align themselves fully with the principals and dictates of the Christ's and His kingdom, to sanctify and dedicate their lifestyles and very lives to the governance of the Spirit God due well to consider it was He who lead Jesus into the wilderness to fast 40 days and be tempted by the Devil.

There are as many forms of wilderness as there are deprivations.

Throughout the whole of Scripture there is hardly a passage or verse, a promise or condition, a directive or warning, a principal or prophecy that cannot be seen or interpreted from a variety of viewpoints or perspectives. Quantum Christianity is meant to provide a place of mental and spiritual repose while reflecting on complex themes, carefully handling and reconciling even apparent Biblical contradictions.

In the state of stillness are we best prepared to allow God to weigh in with wisdom and understanding, discipline and encouragement, revelation and empowerment in regards to ourselves and others, the Church and the world, time and eternity.

In such times of escalating distraction and temptation, deception and apostasy, only to the degree we have fully informed and quieted our souls may we hope to accurately discern much less obey Omnipotence's still small voice. Particularly regarding the Gospels words of comfort to those living in constant distresses and vice versa.

Intuitively sensing the effort required to adopt one's lifestyle, the majority of Christians neither genuinely want nor seek the deep and daily leadership of the Holy Spirit. Of those claiming as much, most fail to invest the kind of time and energy necessary to honestly study and be studied by Scripture, a necessary endeavor should we hope to understand how God has and is speaking to mankind and even more so His Church, both collectively and individually.

Among the small fraction of believers willing to go the extra mile to grasp genuine Christian discipleship, our own Biblical and world views, thoughts and desires easily and seamlessly influence the process of discerning worldly versus heavenly wisdom. Having recognized the foolishness of building houses on shifting sand, few show the willingness and fortitude to pay the remaining price to continue digging until firmly finding the rock which is Christ, rather substituting hardpan and clay on which to lay the foundation of their lives.

Does the time, energy and/or money we possess belong to us or others? Consider the implications of verses such as these: *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."* *"The greatest among you will be your servant."* *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."* *"John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' 'Sell your possessions and give to charity ; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys."* While such passages go largely unheeded, most philanthropic efforts are attached to money. Christ's disciples, having the message and mandate to save the lost are in a unique position to give more than this. Sadly, most modern Christians rarely make time for diligent and enlightened personal devotions, much less wrestling with God for the needs of the lost. Truly a serious sin of omission given that available free time has doubled in the last hundred years by cutting the average work week in half. The same holds true for "energy" with rapid advances in technology providing the equivalent of hundreds of personal slaves, thereby all but eliminating many of life's most tedious and time consuming demands. This raises the question of what we ought to do with our free time? Is it ours to squander in various distractions and amusements (a: not and muse: think) or like the Christ's parable of the talents will we be required to show eternal gain on our Kingdom investments? Could it be that the 1st World has been entrusted with such gifts to not only diligently pursue God on our own behalf, but that of family and friends, neighbors and the needy so plentiful throughout the world?

One can hardly conceive of modern Christianity without the aid and availability of Scripture. In light of this fact, not to mention the literal blood, sweat and tears of

myriads shed to create and defend the Bible, it's the height of tragedy that so few today study much less understand it. When viewed against the vast amount of surplus time 1st World believers enjoy over a lifespan, one wonders how God will judge generation(s) failing to appreciate and appropriate what billions before us lived and died longing for?

God commands *"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."* *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* We make a grave mistake to set aside the Book of Books, much less to do so to spend thousands of hours before the constant bombardment and inflaming of our senses by the likes of cable TV.

Scripture declares, *"God places the lonely in families..."* and Paul directs what is perhaps his greatest prayer in the Book of Ephesians to *"the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."* While there are no doubt various truths communicated by such passages, do we stop to seriously consider why we are born into this family, at this time and place and not another? Though we understand the role of genetic selection, when addressing the creation of spirit and development of the soul the issues of nature and nurture broaden. In any case, those fortunate enough to be given faith in Christ, along with absorbent wealth in the arenas of time and money, should ask themselves if such blessings belong to us alone or is the overflow entrusted for welfare of others? Isn't it incumbent on those who have such physical and spiritual resource to break through to God on behalf of those with so much less? Should we fail to do so, will the groans and screams of millions if not billions echo throughout time into eternity?

Having attended the best weekly prayer meeting available in Fresno/Clovis CA for well over a decade I've been instrumental in growing the number of participants from 30 to 3. Over the years many attendees have come and gone, often leaving the founder Paul H. and myself alone for months if not a year at a time. Recognizing that when it comes to seeking genuine, if not unprecedented revival, quality is far more important than quantity, I've used the occasion to clarify the inconvenient realities regarding Churchianity and almost weekly suggest that those who have been given *"ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches"* have both the privilege and responsibility to up their game and seek God accordingly. In the last few months we've been joined by a 3rd, a good friend of mine with whom I've enjoyed discussing deeper things of God at least a half a dozen times a year over the last dozen years. A past member of Operation Rescues and an ardent pro-lifer, my friend Ted L. is a general contractor who's enjoyed robust health into his early fifties. With a Christian "Tigger" personality (I'm "Eeyore" making our friend Paul "Winnie the Pooh") Ted's invested his adult life joyfully ministering to family and friends, customers and acquaintances while praying for and developing growing discernment as to the true challenges facing this and the coming generation. A couple of weeks ago I was stunned to learn he had suffered what appeared to be an anxiety attack requiring an emergency hospital visit. Given a clean bill of health regarding the

condition of his heart, blood pressure etc. and exhibiting no risk factors such as smoking or drinking, drug abuse or obesity the pain and weight in his chest and accompanying emotional distress were attributed to excess stress of which he was previously unaware... It is true the previous year his wife had finished dragged him through a long and messy divorce and with the recent economic recession he had lost his home and was currently living paycheck to paycheck in a comfortable rental. Additionally because he and his wife had chosen to trust God in the area of birth control and with a family of 6 kids he had long worked 6 day 70 hour work weeks. Nevertheless he had always been in good spirits, trusting God and thankful for day to day blessings. While "life happens" to all and clearly those over 50 need more rest than when in their youth, such a sudden and serious onset of symptoms seemed questionable. The issue deepened, taking a turn for the worst, when after a week of doctor directed rest, Ted fainted and falling face first on the carpet and breaking bones in both his cheek and jaw. Fortunately the fractured bones remained in place but the new injury would require additional weeks if not months of inactivity to heal, a stressful prognosis for a self employed contractor. Thankfully God began to provide as a past customer learning of Ted's unfortunate circumstance offered to pay a month's rent and utilities. Stunned at this second turn of events, I again visited my friend, lightly discussing his health and a variety of related spiritual topics. The irony of the situation is that all 3 of us, most particularly myself, are convinced that current and growing levels of unprecedented corporate and individual temptation and deception necessitate noting less than a reanimation if not reboot of the Churchianity. Almost without a doubt, such a daunting task will require genuine and constant miraculous signs and wonders to gain and hold the attention of modern day Christians, all the while demonstrating the validity of the Bible's message of radical repentance and sanctification. Yet among all the other failures and defeats, we now have our physically healthiest and strongest member suddenly crushed and literally thrown face to the ground...? Updating Paul at this morning's prayer meeting, I reiterated several sobering facts including that the New Testament never invites believers to "pray for the sick" but rather commands them to "*heal the sick.*" Even the epistle of James assures "*And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.*" After discussing this and other critical spiritual needs, for better or worse I suggested the following experiment: Paul and I, acting the role of elders of the church of Fresno (both of us being ordained decades ago) should lay hands on Ted while praying for his immediate and full recovery as evidence (a fleece) that God is calling the 3 of us to greater obedience in the area of seeking revival. While aware instantaneous and complete healing is extremely unlikely, I'm hoping God will mercifully honor our belief, helping our unbelief while offering encouragement and direction for us to increase our efforts in the much greater task of turning the fires of coming judgment into unmistakable flames of present tense revival. Attempt unsuccessful ;0(

The Glorious I Can so often won't when I, the inglorious i can't so often would.

In English the first three letters of Yeshua spell Yes. Sadly, for countless millions, it often seems more like "No"ah.

When Christ commits to respond to *“all those who ask (verb tense: keep asking), seek (verb tense: keep seeking), knock (verb tense: keep knocking)”* is the promise to those with schedules filled with worldly pursuits yet manage to set aside a few minutes a day for God? What of those devoting a few hours out of 168 each week? The context and meta message of this, if not all Scripture, suggests more a lifestyle of continuance were for all practical purposes the asking, seeking and knocking is relentless and *“without ceasing.”*

How shall we *“endure hardships as a good soldier”* when we’re generally unwilling to diligently seek God even immersed in civilian comforts? For example: how few routinely invest an hour a day, or half as much, reclining in comfort and sipping beverages while silently listening for and waiting on God? While such pampered prayer hardly qualifies as enduring hardships, perhaps faithfulness in practicing the least we can do God will grant the discipline of spirit, soul and body to do far more.

While often right, I’m righteous far less often.

Developing the habit of lengthy and regular, if not daily, stilling ourselves to wait on the Lord can be surprisingly difficult for a variety of reasons. Many thoughts clutter and confuse. Our minds and bodies are unused to laboring to enter righteous rest. Is the tyranny of the urgent clamoring for attention? Jot down a quick note or two. Is an hour too much? Try 30 minutes or even 15, increasing the time as you go. Is kneeling or sitting uncomfortable? Stand or pace a while. Eye’s closed make you sleepily and thoughts drift? Open them to the world you’re praying for. Do whatever’s needed to develop the discipline and build upon it.

Great is the gulf between knowing and understanding, confessing and living.

Somethings are true yet seem false, failing to work here and now. Other things are false, seeming to work fine for a time.

God is neither capricious nor reducible to a formula.

When it comes to Christian theology, there is an eternity of difference between the academic and strategic.

While the sins of ministerial colleagues, Christian family and friends deeply effect me, they do not reflect me.

Ubiquitous temptation and deception coerced rather than compelled the vast majority of modern citizens into foolishness and sin.

Over 7,000,000 mortals languish physically and/or spiritually on earth. If Christ considered the harvest ripe preaching to tens of thousands prior to the Cross what might He say today: *“Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one*

who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Those reading and willing to seriously consider Jesus' command "*pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields*" might well primarily think of quantity rather than quality. Yet notice the great commission in Mark is full of the miraculous, attesting to the quality of the harvesters as well as their message. The Book of "Acts" not "Words" chronicles the sweeping of thousands at a time into the Kingdom by those able to wield the sickle and scythe of signs and wonders. Mark's gospel records Christ's comment on the heals of Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood, raising a synagogue leader's daughter from the dead, healing two blind men and casting out a demon: "*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and **healing every disease and sickness**. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Many of Jesus's teachings on prayer suggest a kind of quantum response. On the one hand, it often sounds as if answers are to be expected immediately. On the other, what need would there be for such parables as "the Persistent Widow" and "friend at midnight" or his encouragement to ask (and keep asking), seek (and keep seeking), knock (and keep knocking) - (verb tense) if a struggle were not involved? Those hoping to prevail with man and circumstance, the devil and even God understand that intercession is a lifestyle. As serious spiritual athletes, we must constantly increase the level of our discipline and training to compete successfully. A diet of healthy scriptural study and strategic praise is also key. Many of today's worship songs are doctrinally inaccurate or simply too light in the loafers for prophetic Christians. Even so, there are scores of songs that might serve not only as praise but prayer. A perfect example is "Your Great Name" by Natalie Grant. Pretty good as it is, it's made even better by simply changing the emphasis from a declaration to a prayer. Example: since we no billions remain lost and unsaved, instead of "lost our save, find their way at the sound of Your great name" adding "Let the lost be saved..." The same can be done throughout, thus combining the power of honest worship with strategic prayer creating an excellent weapon to add to our intercession arsenal.

The New Testament places the greatest emphasis on caring for the needy i.e. The Good Samaritan and the Sheep And The Goats, Rich Man And Lazarus and Rich Young Ruler in conjunction with Paul's direction that loving one's neighbor fulfills the entire law and James's declaration that a pure and undefiled religion consists of caring for distressed widows and orphans (the First Century's most disposable persons) and keeping oneself unspotted from the world. These seem to work on a variety of levels. One may be as a concession to multitudes frustrated by the silence and distance of God. Even those

weary or unwilling to seek what seems all but impossible to find, the invisible inaudible God have little trouble seeing and hearing the plight of one's neighbor.

It's telling the Jesus' command is to love your neighbor as **yourself**. This is not only the second great commandment but as repeatedly explained when only one of the two is given it's the first (to love God with all one's being) is omitted since loving those you can see and hear is the way the transcendent God graciously chooses to be loved. Using "**yourself**" Christ eclipses all other associations, including friends and family. He sidesteps overt or even subtle forms of anger and/or alienation, apathy and/or abuse all too common issues associated with even primary relationships.

The command to love one's neighbor as oneself is a matter of degrees. Many, now and again, may do something for the physically or mentally, spiritually or socially impoverished. More is to be done for friends and presumably more still for family. Yet the New Testament sets the bar far higher.

Paul prays that our "whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless." This suggests that the essence of what, who and how we are in this world may be in need of sanctification, healing and empowerment.

Seeing "*The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power*" how much of the kingdom could Churchianity possibly possess?

How did we go from a 1st Century commitment of everything to a 21st Century of nothing? Is Churchianity a result of modern churches? If, "what you save them with is what you save them into" holds true it may be less the Kingdom than Churchianity that modern Christians find themselves.

Consider the atmosphere of modern churches. One shows up for an hour a week or so to partake in the congregation of the saints in multi million dollar facilities designed to promote a feeling of entering the sacred. Choreographed Scripture and worship, to preaching and teaching are scripted to elicit a sense of the right and responsibility to assume salvation and thus presume the promises of God are there with little or no effort. This with all evidence to the contrary, the salt long ago having clearly lost its savor as evidenced by the spoiling of society in every sense of the word.

Quantum Christianity is designed to provide the following:

- 1) A bridge between Biblical and 21st Century Modern Christianity.
- 2) Scripture in modern language such as multimedia and movies, social media and apps, etc...
- 3) Restoration of the glory of God. The only true hope against growing if not ubiquitous levels of temptation and deception, entitlement and sin both without and within Churchianity.

The adage “Dreaming costs nothing. Not to may cost everything” may be better served by substituting “praying” for “dreaming.” Those who do either with strategic honesty soon find out the price involved in both. Thus fewer and fewer stop and seriously pray even ten minutes a day. Those habitually logging twenty, thirty or sixty minutes a day realize that going weeks and months, years and decades without the answers desperately needed and sought, can be costly indeed.

Attempting to answer the questions why prayer goes unanswered may rob one of a false sense of spiritual security along with fellowship among those unwilling to do the same.

At the judgment seat of Christ there may be a price to paid in regards to presuming to pay for the power and presence, provision and protection of Almighty God, whom “*is a consuming fire*” when all the while practicing faulty doctrine and/or lifestyle.

It is better to fight and fail than fail to fight.

Some fault mega church leaders for undermining the American church. It would be nice if that simple. If you substituted the phrase "celebrity preachers" with "modern Christianity" you would begin to approach the issue. The same "forces" both natural and supernatural driving the Meism of mega churches is ubiquitous in the rank-and-file throughout churchianity. Our real Challenge is not to become "more authentically human" by showcasing our generally apathetic and clearly loosing struggle against worldly temptation and deception, entitlement and sin but rather to follow James' prescription: "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." James 4:4-10 NIV

It's been over 80 years since the beginning of the 60s sexual revolution inverted morality on the watch of the evangelicals and charismatics and yet neither have even begun to seriously contemplate much less pray through to an answer to this challenge. The same can be said for abortion and addiction, homosexuality and divorce etc...an endless list of offenses to the living God (consuming fire) to whom we must all give an account of every idle word and deed both of commission and omission.

We must confess we have missed the heart of Biblical Christianity. That we are at best "mere men" rather a ***new creation***." Our elders cannot truly pray the prayer of faith and heal the sick with any regularity. Our worship leaders sing presumptuous songs that are so dishonest as to border on profanity. Even genuine intercessors, if and when you can

find one, know neither who, where or when they are. Understanding such obvious truth is simply "thermometer 101". To become "thermostats" is the true contest of our (or any) time. But where are those wholly and holy, broken and informed leaders and/or teachers, intercessors and/or evangelists possessing the love and zeal of missionaries willing to invest their time and energy, soul and resource into laying down their precious preconceptions and even their lives for the singular purpose of restoring God's full power and glory to the church? "Your priests violated my law and desecrated my holy things. They can't tell the difference between sacred and secular. They tell people there's no difference between right and wrong. They're contemptuous of my holy Sabbaths, profaning me by trying to pull me down to their level. Your politicians are like wolves prowling and killing and rapaciously taking whatever they want. Your preachers cover up for the politicians by pretending to have received visions and special revelations. They say, "This is what GOD, the Master, says . . ." when GOD hasn't said so much as one word. Extortion is rife, robbery is epidemic, the poor and needy are abused, outsiders are kicked around at will, with no access to justice. I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one. So I'll empty out my wrath on them, burn them to a crisp with my hot anger, serve them with the consequences of all they've done. Decree of GOD, the Master." Ezekiel 22:26-31 MSG

Not unexpectedly, in the face of failing circumstance, I often feel that I have failed to seek God. While seventy thousand hours of strategic service argue to the contrary, to this point I have surely failed to find Him.

While few there are having achieved it, the stated goal of Biblical Christianity far exceeds limited belief and intermittent obedience. Christ having appeared in the flesh, our responsibility and privilege is nothing short of totally surrendering our spirit, soul and body¹ ton and through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

As with the three states of water, to the degree we've been energized by the Spirit of God, we are freed to move from solid to liquid and from liquid to gas. Those in process should find the gravity of sin above, about and within having less and less hold on them as, authentically passing from death to life² being transformed they are no longer mere

¹ "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thes 5:23 NKJV

² "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, the person who hears My word [the one who heeds My message], and believes *and* trusts in Him who sent Me, has (possesses now) eternal life [that is, eternal life actually begins—the believer is transformed], and does not come into judgment *and* condemnation, but has passed [over] from death into life." John 5:24 AMP

men³ but literally a **new creation**: “and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” Colossians 3:10-11 NKJV.

Only to the degree we are a new creation can we say with Paul “ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal 2:20 NKJV. Christ’s teachings, signs and wonders, leading and empowerment followed the Spirit’s baptismal decent. Little wonder Jesus explains “I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.” John 5:30 NLT. With the fullness of the Godhead dwelling in Christ⁴ Jesus could say “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” John 14:9b NKJV. By the Spirit Paul prays that we should “know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph 3:19 NKJV. Might we yield to the Person of the Holy Spirit to the point of our own disappearance? What would happen if the gatherings and ministries of genuine believers literally were populated by “Christ ‘ians” or “anointed ones” filled with fruit and spiritual gifts and overflowing with rivers of eternal life” Were we actually filled with *all the fullness of God* might we not so live as to say “if you have seen me (us) you have seen the Spirit?”

In the 2017 release of the silly movie "Power Rangers" the Heros were unable to "armor up" even having received empowerment of the colored coins that chosen each other until they became one in love and unity. An interesting consideration given Christianity's anemic and powerless state. Clearly we are separated by a host of challenges including temptation and deception, entitlement and sin. Some have pointed out Christ's prayer that unity would authenticate His kingdom to the world.⁵ On the surface it would seem it was not unity but rather power evangelism⁶ through signs and wonders that provided the greatest testimony in both the Gospels and Book of Acts (not Words). It may be that the reason modern Christianity can't "power up" is because of the glaring lack of the

³ “You are still worldly [controlled by ordinary impulses, the sinful capacity]. For as long as there is jealousy and strife *and* discord among you, are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men [unchanged by faith]?” 1 Cor 3:3 AMP

⁴ “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:9 NKJV

⁵ John 17:22-John 17:21 NIV I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

⁶ John 10:38-John 10:37 NIV But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father.

kind of love and unity that was the hallmark preceding⁷ and proceeding⁸ Pentecost. Straining the analogy, the original 5 became Power Rangers having drawn to the same place and time. Counted worthy by the power coins perhaps by prescience or their willingness to train diligently. They met at a gold mine, where beneath long lay the real treasure that could save their planet. The protagonist Rita Repulsa an ancient fallen Power Ranger, would fashion her planet busting Goldar (golden monster) that could only be met in combat by assembling the Megazord in unity and love for each other and those for whom they fought.

A major reason for Churchianity's complacency is false security embolden by the fact that God doesn't seem overly concerned in the face of spiraling social and/or spiritual, ethical and/or moral concerns. Omnity' silence is considering at least acquiescence. Furthermore corporately and personally modern Christians presume if there were a serious problem surely God would tell them though they themselves hardly ask and if so superficially.

The New Testament warns, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." Ephesians 5:6 NIV. In fact verses 1-17 Paul writes very confrontationally to his audience of believers. A style often employed by the Spirit in warning "End Time" Christians. This is all the more distressing given Christ's comments regarding the righteousness of Ephesus in His Revelation judgment of His seven churches, particularly in comparison with Laodicea (the final church and church age). Ephesus, the first and only church of the seven with a corresponding epistle, is given one of the most admirable compliments: "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary." Revelation 2:2-3 NIV. Warned against losing their "first love" they are clearly superior to worldly and self deceived Laodiceans so closely matching today's Churchianity.

Spiritual disjunction is all but ubiquitous manifesting in a myriad of doctrinal deceptions and deviant lifestyles.

The glaring disconnect between 21st Century modern Christianity and 1st Century Biblical Christianity is clearly reflected in both practice and power. Dozens of denominations offer vastly differing theology with nearly all having a form of godliness

⁷ Acts 2:1 NKJV When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

⁸ Acts 4:32-Acts 4:33 NIV All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all

yet denying the power thereof⁹ either by minimalization and/or exaggeration. Even so, the greatest spiritual impasse is the point of contention between God and those who know Him best. Just as a log jam is created at the head rather than tail of a procession, so too the regression of religion and morality can be attributed to failed leadership. And not simply a misinformed or disingenuous clergy, but those actually called and entrusted by God to give His people there food in due season.¹⁰ Indeed, "Many are called but few are chosen" because few choose to fully answer His call. As in His parable of the soils, too many among us withhold our all thus grieving rather than receiving the fullness of the Spirit.

Given unprecedented levels of "diversity" within Churchianity, it seems rational that at least one denomination or church, clergy or lay leader might lay hold of the greater things of God accompanying salvation. Yet who among us walks in the genuine power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit? Who can produce genuine signs and wonders repeatable in real time withstanding the scrutiny of time and the cold light of day? No doubt the reasons for our failure are many, including it only takes a little leaven to leaven the loaf.¹¹ In the same way it may only take small corporate or personal flaws in either doctrine or lifestyle to short circuit our attempts at restoring the power and presence, provision and protection of the Holy Spirit we may so often alienate.

The answer to prayer is much speaking but hearing.

The ending writes the story.

Being unwilling to pay the full price of discipleship I daily pray "I would gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." To which He responds "Stop being so Wimpy."

A friend was invited to speak to a small group of Christians on the following verse:
"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." Ephesians 5:6 NKJV Ephesians 5:1-17 are

⁹ 2Tim 3:1-5 NIV But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

¹⁰ Matt 24:45-Matt 24:51 NIV "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

¹¹ Gal 5:9 AMP A little leaven [a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers] leavens the whole batch [it perverts the concept of faith and misleads the church].

very confrontational verses directed at believers (elsewhere particularly end time believers) to the point of calling them "sons of disobedience" (so much for the need for Dave's Mirror Translation - modern versions being too judgmental). Grieving in my spirit, I pointed out to Paul this is all the more distressing given Christ's comments regarding Ephesus' righteousness (particularly in comparison to Laodicea) in Revelation's judgment of his seven churches: "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.'" Revelation 2:1-4 NKJV. "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." Revelation 2:6 NKJV. —Note the repeated virtues of "patience" "labor" and discernment. Also this is the only church of the 7 with a corresponding Epistle (giving greater insight into the range of meanings of Revelation's commendations/condemnations and vice versa.

In Matthew 8 & 25 there seems to be four obvious points regarding outer darkness:

1. "Outer" suggesting distance and/or removal. Severity and/or duration.
2. "Darkness" diminishment and/or absence of light in quantity and/or quality.
3. Subject: God's people as in "heirs of the kingdom" Mat 8:12 and "his own servants and delivered his goods to them." Mat 25:14
4. Speaker: Jesus (no reprieve and/or escape).

Such descriptors fit everything from the unspeakable horrors of a temporary hell and eternal lake of fire... to the everlasting torment of missing out on the quality and quantity of the "glory about to be revealed" promised to those willing to suffer now that they might be counted worthy to reign with Him as "heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ."

Soren Kierkegaard said "in the last days the church will become a theater and the theater a church". Seems like Sampson, God may use the jawbone of an ass. An all too personal hope of mine. "Just Sayin" when Kylo Ren (Darth Vadars evil grandson) Spider Man and Zeus (Liam Neeson) team up as 17th century missionaries to Japan in a the final religious trilogy by Martin Scorsese (The Last Temptation of Christ and Kundun)...

Scripture's chief concern is twofold. (1) The nature of existence (God's and angels, mankind and the demonic). (2) Behavior (in regards to mankind basically "Change"). Quantum Christianity's research is solely interested in these two inclusive topics, to the exclusion of all else. Hoping to piece together such a crucial puzzle we draw from honest and insightful general (nature) and special (supernatural) revelation.

Neuroscience is providing insight into the nature of how we see and hear, think and feel, speak and act. Such as the 2017 TED Talk by Anil Seth entitled, "Your Brain Hallucinates Your Conscious Reality." His premise is that by nature the brain is forced to be a prediction engine. Trapped in a dark skull, it has no direct contact with the world

without or within therefor consciousness must be a “controlled hallucination” so familiar, unified and continuous its taken for granted. These include our perceptions of our:

1. World: Multi sensory panoramic 3D immersive inner movie.
2. Self: Specific experience of being the lead character in this inner movie.
 - A. Bodily self: Having and being a body including continual overview of health and functionality.
 - B. Perspectival self: First person point of view. Special location of the body as a whole and its parts.
 - C. Volitional self: Intent and causation of interaction with the world and others.
 - D. Narrative self: Continuous and instinctive over time including past, present and future.
 - E. Social self: Interaction with world and others both actual and imagined.

Given the self evident fact that by nature consciousness is a multi faceted “controlled hallucination” or program running various subroutines, it should be of little surprise how hard it is to introduce much less implement change, particularly to the degree it disagrees with the complex story we are telling ourselves.

Since the sensory limitations of the brain which is supposed to be the seat of projected consciousness, we continually produce our own movie i.e. Comedy and/or romance, drama and/or thriller, fantasy and/or sci-fi etc... In each case we play the lead and casting director, executive producer and director. Additionally we may star in supporting roles in the productions of others.

Brooke Gladstone’s book “The Trouble With Reality” explores the nature of how and why we decide what is real. The author questions why we fail to ascertain societal changes as well as how we mend reality warping as well as what is our “fundamental responsibility in the whole process.” She describes reality “more slippery than a pocket full of pudding.” She quotes sci-fi writer Philip Kadick “the bombardment of pseudo realities begins to produce inauthentic humans very quickly.” She talks about Orwell and Huxley asserting reality is a kind of fiction. While facts are real, our daily reality is “an amalgamation of what we see and don’t see. The seen and unseen create the world we dwell in because the world itself is too complicated and vast for us to experience. We have to apply filters in order to function. It’s those filters and how we form them that creates the reality we dwell in and has left us in the situation we are in now, what I call the trouble with reality.” — Note: If such secular reasoning proves true, imagine the complications of adding a spiritual dimension the magnitude and importance of which dwarfs human psychology and sociology.

The prologue of Neil Postman’s book “Entertaining Ourselves To Death” offers the following insight, “What [Orwell](#) feared were those who would ban books. What [Huxley](#) feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. [Orwell](#) feared those who would deprive us of information. [Huxley](#) feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. [Orwell](#) feared that the truth would be concealed from us. [Huxley](#) feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. [Orwell](#) feared we would become a

captive culture. [Huxley](#) feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy. As [Huxley](#) remarked in *Brave New World Revisited*, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the alert to oppose tyranny "*failed to take into account man's almost infinite appetite for distractions.*" In 1984, [Orwell](#) added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In *Brave New World*, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, [Orwell](#) feared that what we fear will ruin us. [Huxley](#) feared that what we desire will ruin us. — Note Note: Once again if such secular reasoning proves true, imagine the complications of adding a spiritual dimension the magnitude and importance of which dwarfs human psychology and sociology.

Enjoyed laughing at myself while recumbent biking and praying in the morning as I generally do. Having often remarked that I believe Paul's prayer in the Book of Ephesians may be the greatest in all of Scripture (Christ's prayer in John 17 notwithstanding) I long ago incorporated it into my [daily strategic prayer](#). Yet, true to form, not without augmentation. Apparently my presumption knows no bounds but in all truthfulness I like specificity of my extended version better given our extremity of need.

Some have noted that Christ's prayer in John 17 suggests the success of evangelism rests in unity. While true Jesus hardly meant the kind of touchy feely sentimentality that passes for love within modern Christianity (at least until a schism arises and erupts into a church split or differing denomination). What is lacking is the kind of unity present prior to and after the churches first Pentecost which transformed the disciples into the great Apostles. Such unity was nothing short of nuclear fusion of the glory of God, the direct cause and result of which was an explosion of signs and wonders ever expanding into power evangelism and discipleship.

Few if any have ever seen the Gospel, our passing acquaintance arising from merely hearing from those who hardly know much less believe it themselves.

Albert Einstein was asked by a doctrinal candidate what was left for original dissertation research, to which he answered, "Find out about prayer. Someone **must** find out about prayer." While hardly in keeping with his secular point of view it should be noted that even the high priest Caiaphas prophesied rightly when condemning the Christ to death.¹²

Was thinking and praying through what kind of team might be necessary to have a snowballs chance in hell of rekindling a [new Pentecost](#) in today's world of ubiquitous temptation and deception, entitlement and sin (outside and inside the church). Who could even agree long enough to make a serious effort much less be successful in surrendering to the heat of Holy Spirit enough to move from solid, through liquid to

¹² John 11:50-51 NKJV nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,

steam (which they clearly did on Pentecost given they burst into spontaneous human combustion). Had a disgustingly humorous and somewhat hopeful thought along these lines that the disciples (even in the very presence of Christ and his unbelievable Miracles and teachings) had the audacity to argued about of all things who would be the greatest. Looking it up I was amused and surprised to find that they did so twice in one gospel, even more so given what was transpiring in the chapter proceeding their foolish arguments in Luke 9

- Sending out the 12
- Feeding the 5000
- Peters great confession
- Messiah must suffer and die
- Transfiguration
- Demon out of boy
- Second production of Death...
- Who's greatest argument #1: While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest." Luke 9:44-48 New International Version.

The in Luke 22:

- Betrayal of Christ
- Last supper
- Who's the betrayer?...
- Who greatest argument #2: "In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me." Luke 22:20-34 New International Version

The age old characterological question, “Who will you become?” Has been recently replaced with “What will you do?” And that with “What do you want?”

A plethora of promises, implicit and explicit, can be reaped from the Old and New Testaments through Christ.¹³ Nevertheless, given their conditionality much less rampant levels of temptation and deception, entitlement and sin, modern Christianity would be better served to consider them more rewards given for adherence to Scripture’s commands and objectives. Far from unconditional, they are best seen as opportunities offered to the faithful individually and corporately.

How many billions have, are and will be unwittingly entangled if not caught in the invisible web of Satan’s Angelic Rebellion, the unseen snare of the Fowler’s net?

Life in 1st World Nations is a blessed mess.

Christ’s discourse with the Rich Young Ruler is extremely telling. This includes His use of the phrase, “and you will have treasure in heaven.” One would think the rich young ruler would be handsomely rewarded for obeying all the commands Jesus listed “since birth.” Yet Jesus does not offer “more” treasure in heaven. Thus it might be surmised that simple belief and obedience may not be enough to garnish an eternal reward. Rather it may be the investing (giving) of “all” that fattens heaven’s portfolio.

We face a spiritually devastating juggernaut. An infinitesimal percentage of Christians know what to do but are all stymied possessing little time, energy and/or money. Others have a clue what to do but fear loss of face, resource and/or position. More still settle for the status quo, ignoring humanity’s escalating spiritual if not physical, mental and/or social needs. In the end we all seem afraid of fully spending ourselves seeking the eternal power of an invisible Kingdom seemingly unworthy of the earthly risk.¹⁴

Not surprisingly, how one feels greatly impacts how one feels.

Removing the Creator from creation’s equation fosters two fallacies forbidden by Scripture. The first in endowing creation, or any subsequent part thereof, with divine attributes such as self existence. The other is an Old Testament warning brought

¹³ 2 Cor 1:20 NIV For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

¹⁴ Rev 21:8 AMP But as for the cowards and unbelieving and abominable [who are devoid of character and personal integrity and practice or tolerate immorality], and murderers, and sorcerers [with intoxicating drugs], and idolaters and occultists [who practice and teach false religions], and all the liars [who knowingly deceive and twist truth], their part will be in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

forward by Jesus¹⁵ and Paul, namely if there is no resurrection and judgment to the dead let us “eat and drink for tomorrow we die.”¹⁶

Christianity is like healthy living with many layers, some the initial ones not quiet so “healthy” as one might suppose.

Few appreciate the importance of the question, “What is the baseline of faith?” Historic religious tradition and/or personal subjective experience aside the answer is actually the simplest of math equations, $0 + 0 = 0$. Since self existence is one the five attributes of divinity (along with omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence and immutability) the foundation of God’s existence is easily demonstrated as fact.

Why is that Rachel’s weeping¹⁷ for slaughtered children two millennia after the fact is recorded in Scripture? Is it because the murder of a couple thousand boys necessitates such a response thousands of years later? Or is it more because of it’s prophetic significance? This begs the question what is our appropriate response being nose deep in the abortion of one to two billion clinically if not contraceptively?

As the incremental darkness of deception grows ubiquitously both without and within Churchianity, our appropriate response is snarly lacking. Having done little to combat the threat, most of the clergy and layity comfort themselves that they are among the elect as evidenced by the precarious fact that they themselves are not ensnared in this or that form of what passes today as gross sin. A small percentage of these add to this presumption mockery of those less righteous. Only a fraction of a percentage have the Biblically opposite reaction, realizing if the world is spiritually rotting it is clear confirmation of the absence of preserving salt. When we and/or our family, friends and/or neighbors fail to fully recognize or even revel in darkness its the result of the vacuum left by those of us failing to understand much less continually walk in the power and light of the Kingdom. Prophetic Christians are troubled if not terrified by the advance of sin above, about and within both the world and modern Christianity. Mindful of the looming end of the “times of the gentiles” and corresponding judgments they are all too aware

¹⁵ Luke 12:16-Luke 12:21 NIV And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

¹⁶ 1 Cor 15:32-34 NIV If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

¹⁷ Matt 2:17-18 NIV Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

that if our foundations are crumbling at a time of unprecedented blessings, what's to become of us when Satan unleashed his wrath and man of sin? What excuse will suffice when we and those we love must pay for our apathy and worse both in time and eternity?

While I'll regret having said so when standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ, when it comes to the Kingdom I continue to be a believer at least the least we can do. In most cases, this turns out to be leaps and bounds ahead of hundreds of millions of modern believers who insist they are doing much if not all they can do.

When thinking about what *should* have been much less what *could* have been I often sigh "pity."

While few notice, the New Testament says that food is sanctified by "the word of God *and* prayer."¹⁸ Some might object noting when feeding the thousands we're only told Jesus gave thanks. Then again, He is "the Word of God."

Regarding religious discussions I'm saddened (though not sorry) my conversations so often end up in the deep end of the pool. After 3 decades and 70,000 hours of various forms of research I've downloaded all my hopes and fears into the Biblical commentary Quantum Christianity designed as a bridge between 1st century Biblical Christianity and 21 century modern Churchianity. Given the reticence of a honest handling of the weightier matters of Scripture, which alone address life's great questions, QC acts as counter-balance to the me-centered message permeating secular and Christian culture. This is not to say that Scripture is unsympathetic to humanity's plight or without hope. The Bible simply insists the false hope is just that. An issue I delicately unpack throughout hundreds of QC articles including "The Promise of Hope" and straightforwardly in "Quantum Hope."

Outside of a small family and a few friends I live a fairly solitary life. Even so, dozens of times a day I wrestle with the fact that billions live and die without ever really knowing (1) Where we come from. (2) Who, where and when we are. (3) Where we are going.

I daily rehearse in prayer dozens of crucial issues¹⁹ including that simple fact that we are "largely borne between urine and feces and for all our pomp we die like dogs. Nevertheless far too few concern themselves with reality of the demands of our Creator to be obedient, productive and thankful being as it were spiritually twisted sideways, backward and upside down."

¹⁸ 1Tim 4:3-1Tim 4:5 NIV They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

¹⁹ Rob's Strategic Prayer: <http://godblog.net/page148/page157/page157.html>

Society as a whole is so hesitant to discuss much less confronting the harsher realities of Scripture as well as life, reminding people of them in a firm and fair, factual and friendly manner may be chief among our sacred duties.

My mom is no longer in the world - Sharon L. Pennington 1/10/1939 -8/1/2017.

As Carl Sagan's Voyager turned and took a final picture of earth before becoming the first man made ship to leave our solar system, it captured the smallness of our planet backdropped against the vastness of space. In this longest distance selfie within so few pixels, all the thoughts and feelings, hopes and fears of perhaps 100 billion had and would be played out in.

On the one hand, human existence is dwarfed and enveloped by our own solar system and galaxy much less the observable universe. On the other hand, it may be the entirety of the universe is necessary to fine tune for the existence of intelligent life on even a single solitary planet.

I may just be a guy who learned to speak a spattering of Holy Ghost.

Sentimentality is love without appropriate action.

Billions of heads are bowing all over the planet... before their smart phones.

Drove by an old charismatic church, poor but freshly painted, with a sign boasting, "Miracle Service Sunday Night." While a noble pursuit to be sure, I laughed noting their lack of shame, not to mention the fact that who with the ability to produce authentic miracles on demand would limit such wonders to an hour or so one night of the week?

On a beautiful and early morning dog walk while celebrating my 40th anniversary week vacationing in Morro Bay CA I noticed a trim and successful 50 something power couple out for a jog. They seemed to extrude the fact that life is too short to live with or wear someone or someplace that doesn't make you happy. Feeling such in my bones, nevertheless I recognize the greater truth is that life is indeed far too short and eternity far too long to be motivated by the fleeting triviality of anything other than eternal Kingdom pursuits.

It's interesting that faith and hope, two of the three things that remain²⁰ are not included in the fruit of the Spirit.²¹ This seems such an oversight that were one not confident in Scripture's Divine inspiration it would appear a mistake.

²⁰ 1 Cor 13:13 NIV And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

²¹ Gal 5:22-Gal 5:23 NKJV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

In researching human experience in regards to that nature of sin, Roman's chapter 7 is telling for a myriad of reasons. Not the least being Paul explains sin is at work in his "members" and questions who shall save him from this "body of death."²²

Context changes content. Both temporarily and eternally. Exemplifying the former is the old real estate adage "location, location, location." Regarding the latter, life is not about "my four and no more." Nor is it simply about the an expanded group comprised of those I may love and care for. Nor even my local neighbors or simply those currently alive globally. Rather life's context is about all humanity past, present and future in so much as God is no respecter of persons.²³ Additionally there is [heaven citizenry](#) and sadly that of hell. Perhaps also what has come before all this and that to follow. A challenging computation indeed.

Everyone is either a inch deep and a mile wide, a mile deep and an inch wide, or somewhere in between. For the latter the question is which inch?

Perhaps a third of all sin and subsequent suffering is do to inappropriate actions. A second third is due to inappropriate reactions. The final third is comprised of more subtle sins about and within. If true, the simple principal "don't make it worse" could alleviate two thirds of such sufferings.

The difference between "a truth" verse "the Truth" can be an eternity. For example, all people die so how concerned should I be verses what could be more important than eternity?

With information and perspectives ubiquitous, partaking freely is fine insomuch as one is able to chew the meat and spit out the bones. The problem is that even within modern Christianity many if not most have the maturity of infants being unable to handle solid food.²⁴ As often as not Churchianity mistake bones for rock candy, swallowing them hole and boasting about it.

If You give all the resources to those not teaching the truth, how will the truth be taught? Particularly to a generation no longer truly interested?

²² Rom 7:22-Rom 7:25 NKJV For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

²³ Acts 10:34 KJV Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.

²⁴ Heb 5:12-13 NKJV For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

One should stop complaining until one has adequately (or at least vigorously) repented, worshiped and given thanks. Only then the petition of complaint and then carefully.

In the movie "Interstellar" love is forwarded as a little understood transcendent force with the ability to overcome space-time akin to gravity. In such a case it would actually be "faith, hope and love" with greatest being love.²⁵

²⁵ 1Cor 13:8-1Cor 13:13 NIV Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.