

## THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT : ARE YOU ONE OF US? : PART 1

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Constant Decision-Making, Our Most Important Decision, Accept Christ, Life And Death Or Blessing And Cursing, Jesus Christ Is The Only Way To Achieve Eternal Life, Choose Whom You Wish To Serve, Beware Of The World And Satan's Temporal Offerings, People Blinded By Satan Who Choose Darkness Over Light And Death Over Life, Jesus Is The Light Of The World, Adopted Sons And Daughters Of God, Members Of God's Royal Household And Holy Nation Of Light, Children Of Light, Cast Off Works Of Darkness And No Fellowship With Darkness, God's Symbolic Candlesticks: Don't Hide Your Spiritual Light Under A Bushel

Decision-making is a very important part of our lives. It is a process which we repeatedly perform every single day. In fact, we probably make many more decisions than most of us even realize. Our brain is constantly sending signals via our nervous system to all the different parts of our body, telling one muscle to contract, while telling another one to expand. Through our eyes, our brain quickly calculates the size, distance and speed of objects without our even being consciously aware of it. It is in fact a natural, automatic function of the wonderful creation, which is our body.

On a more conscious level, from the minute that we wake up in the morning, we begin to make decisions for the day which lies ahead of us. The first one we make is whether or not we are even going to get out of bed when the alarm clock goes off. If we do, we must then decide what to wear, or what to have for breakfast, or whatever else might happen to be a part of our morning ritual. Throughout the day we will make many more decisions, some conscious, and some not. We might decide what to buy when we go grocery shopping; or whether or not we have the time to check the post office during our lunch break; or if we should pick up that hitchhiker standing out there in the rain; or if we can make it through that traffic light before it turns red. So we make a wide variety of decisions during a single day in mere seconds.

However, did you know that every day of the year millions of people are required to make one decision which is so vitally important that it will affect the remainder of their lives? Sadly, it is such an important decision, yet so many people are so foolish as to make the wrong choice, and to actually turn down the amazing offer which is being extended to them.

Perhaps you already realize that I am not just talking about an opportunity at a new job that you have been so intent on trying to acquire; or a promotion at your current place of employment; or even a pay raise which will help to lighten your financial burdens in these difficult and trying times. I am of course referring to an opportunity to accept God's free Gift of Eternal Life, which has been made available to

all of us through the Atoning Sacrifice of His dear Son, Jesus Christ. The decision to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior is a very important one indeed, and it should not be taken lightly.

I am reminded of a particular scene from the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy in which the Patriarch Moses presented the Israelites with an important decision as well. It was a matter of life and death, and blessing or cursing. Consider the following verse:

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:"

Deuteronomy 30:19, KJV

If you are a Bible-believing Christian, then you will already know that the way to life -- that is, Eternal Life -- is none other than through Jesus Christ who is God's beloved Son, and the only Savior of the world. As Jesus Himself informs us in so many verses that are found in the Gospel of John, He is the only Giver of Eternal Life, as He was authorized to do by His very own Father, as we see here:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:14, KJV

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

John 5:28-29, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John 6:37, KJV

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly . . . And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:10, 28, KJV

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

John 11:25, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

John 17:1-3, KJV

By accepting Jesus' loving Atonement for our sins, not only do we choose Eternal Life over Eternal Damnation, but we also acknowledge who we wish to be the Master of our life. Both Joshua and the Prophet Elijah likewise presented the ancient Israelites with an important choice thousands of years ago when they asked them who they wished to serve, as we can determine by the following verses:

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:15, KJV

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

1 Kings 18:21, KJV

The New Testament likewise contains a number of verses which challenge us to choose who or what we wish to serve. We can either serve God and Jesus Christ, and live, or else we can choose the Devil's world and all of the temporal pleasures which he offers to his spiritually dead subjects. Consider the following relevant verses which clearly warn us to not be a part of this present evil world, and to not be enticed by the temporal things of this world, and take heed:

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:14-15, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my

kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Romans 6:16, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:17-18, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:6-14, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out,

they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."  
Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."  
James 4:4, KJV

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."  
2 Peter 3:14, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."  
1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."  
2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

Sadly, as we have seen, not everyone chooses the Way of Life over the way of death. Some people foolishly prefer to walk in darkness, blinded by and following the false god of this wayward world -- Satan -- and enticed by the physical things which he offers them, rather than come to the glorious Light of God through Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd."  
John 3:19-20, KJV

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."  
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"  
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

On the other hand, those people who are wise will resist the Devil's lies, deceptions, temptations and darkness, and will embrace Jesus Christ -- who is the true Light of the world -- instead. Consider the following pertinent verses which reveal how Jesus is indeed the prophesied Light of the world:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light,

but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 1:4-9, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:5, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth . . . I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

John 12:35, 46, KJV

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."

Revelation 21:23-25, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Revelation 22:16, KJV

Following are some additional verses that are found in the pages of the Old Testament which were clearly fulfilled by Jesus Christ, as even the Apostles Paul and Barnabas gave witness in the Book of Acts:

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;"

Isaiah 10:17, KJV

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

Isaiah 42:5-7, KJV

"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the

preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

Isaiah 49:6, KJV

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

Acts 13:46-47, KJV

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:22-23, KJV

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

1 John 1:5, KJV

God's Word likewise informs us that once we recognize our sinful condition, as well as our need for Forgiveness and Salvation, and choose to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and the only valid means of Atonement for our sins, we become the born-again, adopted Children of God by faith, and full-fledged members of God's Royal Household. Consider these inspiring verses which verify these points:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Romans 8:15, KJV

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

Romans 8:23, KJV

"To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Galatians 4:5, KJV

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Revelation 21:7, KJV

As the born-again, adopted Children of God, the Bible informs us that we are then clothed with the marvellous armor of the glorious Light of God. As I point out in the articles called "Once Upon a Time: A True Story" and "Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen", the Scriptures also refer to this as our Robe of Righteousness. Not only that, but we become citizens of God's holy Nation of Light. Furthermore, we become both the Sons and Daughters of God, as well as His Children of Light, as we can easily determine by the following verses:

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

Romans 13:12, KJV

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 4:6, KJV

"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Luke 16:8, KJV

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them."

John 12:36, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"

Ephesians 5:8, KJV

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

1 Thessalonians 5:5, KJV

Once we have accepted Jesus Christ, are bathed in the Light of God's Truth, and become the Children of Light, as we saw a moment ago, the Apostle Paul informs us that we are no longer to engage in the works of darkness. As Paul writes, we are to "cast off the works of darkness". Furthermore, we are not to have fellowship with the Children of Darkness; that is, with those people who knowingly reject Jesus Christ. Following are some additional verses which warn us to flee from the works of darkness, from the children of darkness, and from their leader, the Prince of Darkness; that is, Satan himself:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for



what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

2 Corinthians 6:14, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 4:27, KJV

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Ephesians 5:11, KJV

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"

Colossians 1:13, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"

1 John 1:6, KJV

By accepting Jesus Christ, not only do we become the adopted Sons and Daughters of God and the Children of Light, but as time passes, and we become more knowledgeable of God's Word, we are also transformed into bearers of the Light ourselves. In other words, we become symbolic candlesticks which bear God's spiritual light. This means that the time comes when we must be willing to share the Light of God's Truth with other people, and not try to hide it under a bushel. We must become witnesses and openly confess our faith as we see by the following set of verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two

candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."  
Revelation 11:3-4, KJV

"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle . . . The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches."  
Revelation 1:12-13, 20, KJV

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;"  
Revelation 2:1, KJV

"That if thou shalt CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and WITH THE MOUTH confession is made unto salvation."  
Romans 10:9-10, KJV

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may SPEAK BOLDLY, as I ought to speak."  
Ephesians 6:19-20, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT : ARE YOU ONE OF US? : PART 2

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Beware Of New Age Deceivers Lightworkers And The Children Of Darkness, Rewarded According To Our Works, A Decision With Far-Reaching Ramifications, Make A Choice: Everlasting Life Or Shame And Everlasting Contempt, We Are Stellar Children Of The Father Of Lights In Whom Is No Darkness At All, Some Important Questions, A Short Salvation Prayer, Salvation Is A Matter Of Faith And Belief In God's Word And Is Not Based On Feelings, Keep Your Eyes On Jesus, Saved By Grace And Not By Our Own Works, God Will Complete His Work In Each Of Us, Strengthen Your Faith Through Diligent Study Of God's Word, Light Of God's Word, Treasure Of The EPN Articles, A Coming Perfect Day, Store Your Treasures In Heaven, Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, please notice that in the previous verses, Jesus says "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness." As I explain in other articles such as "Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?" and "Lying Wonders of the Endtime", there are in fact certain people in the world today who think, have deceived themselves into believing, and even pretend to have the Light of Jesus Christ, but who in fact are really walking in total spiritual darkness. Sadly, they even refer to their so-called spiritual enlightenment as the "Christ light", or as "Christ consciousness". Some of these foolish people call themselves New Age lightworkers. However, consider the truth that is revealed in the following verses and be warned:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"  
Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."  
2 Corinthians 11:13-15, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"  
1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."  
2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."  
1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."  
Acts 20:29, KJV

Returning to our main theme regarding the fact that we are God's true Children of Light, one of these days our job as the Lord's emissaries and Ambassadors of Light on the Earth will be over. Once we have each accomplished the mission that God has given to us in this world, by sharing the Light and Truth of His Word with others, we will be promoted to a Higher Realm -- that is, to the Heavenly Realm -- and we'll take our rightful place in the Lord's Kingdom of Light. If we have been faithful, and have given a stellar performance while here on the Earth, God's Word promises us that we will be rewarded quite handsomely. This becomes evident by the following set of inspiring verses:

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that

pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"  
Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."  
Daniel 12:3, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."  
Matthew 16:27, KJV

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."  
John 14:2-3, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."  
1 Corinthians 15:40-44, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"  
1 Peter 1:17, KJV

". . . I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."  
Revelation 2:23b, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."  
Revelation 14:13, KJV

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection . . . And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the

books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."  
Revelation 20:4-5, 12-13, KJV

Clearly then, as I point out in such articles as "Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service" and "Sluggards And Sloths", while our works may not save us, they most certainly have a direct influence on the degree of our reward in the Heavenly Realm. It is imperative then that we each remain faithful and busy for the Lord, and that do not slack off in our service to our Eternal King.

In light of everything that I have just shared with you in this article, I hope that you can now see that taking the time to accept Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior is not such an unimportant decision after all, is it? In fact, it becomes evident from the preponderance of Biblical evidence that I have shared with you here, that it is indeed without a doubt the most important decision that we will ever make. It is a decision which has far-reaching ramifications; even beyond this current life. As the Prophet Daniel wrote many years ago:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."  
Daniel 12:2, KJV

Shame and everlasting contempt. Who wants that? But that is precisely what many people will get if they fail to make the right decision concerning Christ when their time comes. They will be doomed for all of eternity. Tragically, Jesus warned that this road to destruction would in fact be the path that many foolish and rebellious people will take, as we see by the following verses:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."  
Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

On the other hand, if an individual humbly acknowledges their shortcomings and sins, and chooses to embrace God's amazing Love, Mercy and Forgiveness through Jesus Christ, they will become one of His stellar Children of Light who will forever live with Him in His Kingdom of Light. For those of us who accept Jesus, the Bible informs us that God will not only be our Heavenly Father forever, but He will also be our Father of Lights in whom is no darkness at all. Furthermore, as we saw earlier, we -- His Children of Light -- will shine like stars for eternity. Consider the following inspiring verses:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."  
James 1:17, KJV

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and

declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

1 John 1:5, KJV

So what it really comes down to are these simple questions: Do you know and believe in your heart that you are a sinner? Do you realize that it is only through faith in Jesus' blood Atonement and Sacrifice on the Cross that you can be forgiven for your sins? Have you accepted Jesus' Sacrifice so that you can be spiritually cleansed and saved?

If you are not certain how to answer these questions; and if you do not yet have the full assurance of Eternal Life; and if you cannot say with certainty that you are one of God's Children of Light; isn't it time that you do something about it? Do you want to come out of the darkness? It is never too late. In fact, you can experience God's Saving Grace through Jesus Christ this very minute. All that is required is faith and belief in your heart. If you are not sure what to say as your confession of faith, following is a sample prayer which you can use as a guide. Obviously, you do not have to pray these exact words. The most important thing is that whatever words you choose to use, they come from your heart:

"Heavenly Father, I know that I am not perfect. I have made my share of mistakes in this life. I realize that I am a sinner. In spite of this, I know that You love me; and that this is why you sent your Son, Jesus Christ. I accept that Jesus gave His life on the Cross for my sins. I ask You now to please forgive me for my sins through the Blood of Your Son. I also ask that You please grant me Eternal Life, so that I might live forever in Your holy Kingdom of Light as one of Your Children of Light. I also ask that you fill my life with Your Spirit. Please help me to take more time to read and understand Your Word, the Bible. As I do, please help me to begin sharing your Love and Light with others by telling them about Jesus, so that they may know You too. Thank you Father for hearing my prayer. In Your Son, Jesus' name, I humbly ask. Amen."

If you have asked for Forgiveness, and acknowledged Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior through the previous sample prayer, or by means of a similar Salvation prayer, please know that you are now, by faith, a saved Child of God, and one of God's Children of Light. Although you may not have experienced any sudden onslaught of emotions, it does not really matter. As I explain in articles such as "Faith and the Shroud of Turin", our Salvation is a matter of faith and belief in the Promises which we find in God's Word. It is not a matter of experiencing certain feelings in the flesh, or any other outside stimuli.

What you have just now accepted by faith will someday become actual reality in the Kingdom of God. Until that day arrives when God the Father chooses to take you Home to be with Him, it is important that you keep your eyes on Jesus, because He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith, as we can see by the following verse:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of

the throne of God."  
Hebrews 12:2, KJV

It is likewise important that you realize that just as Jesus is the only one who can save us to begin with, He is also the only one who can keep us saved as well, contrary to what some people believe and teach. We cannot keep ourselves saved, no matter what we do. This becomes evident by verses such as the following which demonstrate the contrast between God's saving Grace and self-righteous works of the flesh:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."  
Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"  
Titus 3:5, KJV

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."  
Romans 11:6, KJV

Because God the Father is the one who began this work of Grace in us, we have the assurance that He will finish or complete it as well. This is precisely what we are taught in the following set of verses:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"  
Philippians 1:6, KJV

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."  
2 Timothy 1:12, KJV

"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."  
2 Timothy 2:13, KJV

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."  
Jude 1:24-25, KJV

As a young Christian, it is extremely important that you strive to strengthen your faith. A key way in which we do this is by immersing ourselves in the sincere milk of God's Word. Consider the following set of verses which confirm this point:

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."  
Romans 10:17, KJV

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4, KJV

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

Job 23:12, KJV

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

1 Peter 2:2, KJV

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Psalms 119:11, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, at this point in your New Life in Christ, as a newborn Child of Light, studying God's Word is the most important thing that you can do. Your spiritual survival depends on feeding yourself with His Word; because not only will it nourish your soul and provide you with the spiritual strength and stamina that you need, but it will also keep you on the Path of Light as well. As King David was inspired to write in the Book of Psalms:

"NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105, KJV

I cannot overstress the importance of this particular point. It is imperative that you partake daily of the Bread of Life, and that you drink from the Fountains of Living Water of His Word. You may want to begin by reading Psalm 119, being as it will clearly demonstrate to you how King David also realized the importance of God's Word. After that, I suggest that you initiate an earnest study of God's Word, beginning with the four Gospels; that is, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Not only are the Gospels full of many wonderful, precious jewels which you can apply to your own life, but you will also learn a lot about your Savior, Jesus Christ, as well.

To assist you in your studies of God's Word, as you may have already realized, I have written many articles over the past twenty years which cover a wide range of interesting topics, and which contain literally thousands of some of the best and most loved verses that are found in the entire KJV Bible. I encourage you to read them, and to use them as supplements to your personal Bible studies. If you feel so led, it would be wonderful if you would also consider sharing my articles with your family and friends as well. Please read them slowly, prayerfully and carefully. If you do, you will discover that they contain many jewels of wisdom for those people who have a difficult time understanding the Bible. However, if you are in a hurry, you might misunderstand something, or even miss it altogether.



Allow me to share with you another verse that is found the Old Testament Book of Proverbs for your consideration. Now that you are -- by faith -- one of the Lord's new Children of Light, I believe that you will appreciate this verse:

"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
Proverbs 4:18, KJV

What a wonderful promise! As we continue to obey and trust in the Lord, by walking along the Path of Light, we are indeed getting closer to the Perfect Day in which we will be called Home to be with the Lord. In a symbolic sense, the longer we remain on the Path of Light, the brighter it becomes, because we are getting closer and closer to Jesus. In addition, we'll shine brighter and brighter as His stars and as His Children of Light, and our Heavenly rewards will continue to increase. As Jesus Himself taught us in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."  
Matthew 6:19-21, KJV

With these inspiring verses, I will bring this article to a close. I trust that you have enjoyed it, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. Welcome to God's Kingdom of Light! Please shine brightly for Jesus! If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the link that you find on this page. Thank you so very much for your consideration! May God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

A Verse a Day to Keep the Doubts Away  
All Are Given a Chance, But . . .  
Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?  
Are You a Burning Ember For the Lord?  
Endtime Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare  
Faith and the Shroud of Turin  
Going Down the Highway  
Have You Sold Your Soul for a Pound of Flesh?  
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?  
Lying Wonders of the Endtime  
Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen  
Message to the World  
Not Everyone is a Child of God  
Once Upon a Time: A True Story  
Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service  
Sluggards and Sloths  
The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words  
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

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