

HOW CHRISTIANS TREAT ENEMIES

By

Doyle Sewell

I. BACKGROUND

On the sixth day from the beginning, the King James Version of the Bible indicates that God told the Son of God in Genesis 1:26-27, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

John 1:1-18, in part, states, “In the **beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spoke, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Colossians 1:14-18 states, “...In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Adam worked in the garden of Eden to dress and keep it. Both Eve and Adam disobeyed God. Their first son killed their second son. There was so much violence and other evil in successive generations the Lord repented that he had made man on the earth and it grieved him at his heart. Noah, however, found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Everyone on earth was destroyed except Noah, his three sons, his wife, and the three wives of his sons. (See Genesis 7:13-23). Therefore, all of us are descendants of Noah. All of us, including enemies, are relatives.

- II. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS FORSAW THE COMMANDMENTS OR WORD OF GOD SPOKEN THROUGH THE MOUTH OF THE LORD JESUS ON A MOUNTAIN IN THE LAST DAYS WHICH CAUSED MANY PEOPLE AND NATIONS TO THINK IN TERMS OF UNIVERSAL PEACE AND TOOLS FOR PROSPERITY. THE LORD DID TEACH US OF HIS WAYS ON A MOUNTAIN. HOWEVER, TOO MANY PEOPLE AND NATIONS CURRENTLY APPEAR TO EITHER REFUSE OR FAIL TO WALK IN HIS PATHS TO MAINTAIN PEACE.

Isaiah 2:1-4 states, “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. **And many people shall go and say**, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and **he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths**; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

The reason for beating tools for war, death, destruction, and famine into tools for beneficial use such as food, flax, and cotton production is simple. More tools are needed to produce food and fiber by fewer men to feed and clothe an increase in war widows and fatherless children.

Please do not assume that because we do not currently have peace that Isaiah was speaking of events that will happen in the millennium. First, Isaiah did not say it shall come to pass in the millennium. Isaiah did say “...it shall come to pass in the last days”. The last days began after the coming of the Messiah or Messias. Second, the prophet Isaiah was inspired by God. For example, Isaiah 40:22, in part, states, “It is he that sitteth upon the **circle of the earth**, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers;...” How else around BC 712 could Isaiah have known the earth was circular 23 centuries before invention of the telescope? The Encyclopedia Americana, 1989 ed., vol. 26, page 412, in part, states, “The first known telescope is generally credited to Hans Lippershey, a Dutch lens grinder, who tried to patent a telescope in 1608. However, it was Galileo who in 1609 first applied a telescope to astronomical observations.” Third, many disciples and great multitudes of other people living during and for several centuries after the Lord gave a sermon on the mountain were taught of his ways and did walk in the Lord’s paths. Some steps can be difficult. Many, many early Christians did even suffer death, prison, being live food for hungry lions in a Roman public sports coliseum, exile, and other persecutions. The Encyclopedia Americana, 1989 ed., vol. 6, page 654, in part, states, “The pagan emperors gave no consistent answer to the problem posed for them by Christianity... The serious effort of Decius and Valerian (249-260) to destroy the church was followed by the “long peace” instituted by Gallienus. But in 303 Diocletian and the fanatical Galerius resumed with enhanced cruelty the policy of suppression. From 305, when Diocletian abdicated, Galerius added thousands to the army of martyrs. But in 311 the dying persecutor acknowledged defeat and asked the Christians for their prayers. It remained for Constantine, coming victoriously from Britain and Gaul, to introduce, in 313, the new era of recognition and preferential treatment of the church. The rise of an entirely peaceable religion, within three centuries, to this point of triumph over the supreme secular power remains one of the most impressive phenomena of history.”

Micah 4:1-4 states, “But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. **And many nations shall come, and say**, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and **he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths**: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.”

Please note the prophet Isaiah saw many **people** say “we will walk in his paths”. Later, the prophet Micah saw many **nations** say “we will walk in his paths”. Please carefully consider all benefits the statements of each prophet could have for both people and nations if they now did walk in his paths!

III. THE COMMANDMENTS OR WORD OF GOD AS SPOKEN THROUGH THE MOUTH OF THE LORD JESUS ON A MOUNTAIN IN THESE LAST DAYS SAID TO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES RATHER THAN HATE THINE ENEMY. . .

God promised Abraham that in his **seed** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because Abraham obeyed God’s voice, commandments, statutes, and laws. (See Genesis 22:18 and Genesis 26:1-5) The Son of God subsequently became this **seed** of Abraham as promised by God. The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham must be considered significant. It is shown in the first chapter of the first book in the New Testament. (See Matthew 1:1-25). Galatians 3:16 states, “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Jesus Christ was doing the business of His heavenly Father at age 12. He told his earthly parents, “...**wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?**” (See Luke 2:40-50).

God through the mouth of Lord Jesus taught his disciples, great multitudes of people from many areas who followed him up a mountain, and New Testament readers from many nations of his ways. Matthew 5:38-48, in part, states in AD 31, “**Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also... Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect...**”

James Burton Coffman’s book entitled “Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew” makes comments on pages 69-70 regarding the commandments by Jesus to his disciples recorded in Matthew 5:43-45 as follows:

“Verses 43-45, *Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.* Leviticus 19:18 is the Old Testament passage which says, “Love thy neighbor.” It does not, however, say, “Hate thine enemy.” *That* was an addition to God’s word by the scribes and Pharisees. Thus, the people of Jesus’ day had fallen into the old and vicious habit of linking a sublime truth with a ridiculous error, thus “yoking the ox with the ass,” to use an Old Testament figure of speech. The principle of loving one’s enemies is valid and binding upon all who

would follow Christ. There is no room in the Christian heart, purged from sin and forgiven of all transgressions, to entertain such a stifling and chilling a thing as hatred for anyone...”

The Encyclopedia Americana, 1989 ed., vol. 21, page 849, contains an article on Pharisees written by Michael J. Cook, Hebrew Union College, which, in part, states, “...Far more favorable assessments of the Pharisees are forthcoming both from Josephus and rabbinic literature. These sources alike define the hallmark of Pharisaism as the view that God at Mount Sinai had imparted to Moses a twofold revelation. The written law (that is the Torah, or Pentateuch), by virtue of its form, was readily accessible to all. **Also imparted, but never promulgated, was an unwritten law, transmitted through oral tradition to especially eminent and authoritative personages of later times, among whom the Pharisees included themselves. This revelation, the Pharisees claimed, enabled them to devise new enactments to meet changing conditions, so that Scripture remained forever relevant.** Many scholars have tended virtually to identify the teachings of the Pharisees with those of their heirs, the later rabbis. To the extent to which this is justified, the Pharisees themselves emerge as exemplars of wholesome living, of righteousness, compassion, and loving-kindness, preaching not only faithful adherence to the Torah’s injunctions but also pious imitation of God. Their dietary, hygienic, and calendrical observances underpinned a life of holiness. They considered the social order to be dependent on the qualities of justice and truth, and the Golden Rule was pronounced as the only standard of human relationship...”

Leviticus is the third Pentateuch book referred to in the preceding paragraph. Leviticus 19:18-19, in part, states, “...thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord. Ye shall keep my statutes...” Deuteronomy is the fifth book referred to above as the written law (that is the Torah, or Pentateuch). Deuteronomy 4:2 records these words which Moses spoke unto **all** Israel in the wilderness, “**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.**”

What did God say about these new commandments or enactments by Pharisees devised “to meet changing conditions, so that Scripture remained forever relevant”? God, by His Son, made the following statements to a group of scribes and Pharisees from Jerusalem as recorded in Matthew 15:7-9, “**Ye Hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**”

Jesus said to beware concerning the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Matthew 16:11-12 states, “**How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?** Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”

A neighbour includes strangers from another area. Luke 10:25-37 states, “And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, **What is written in the law? How readest thou?** And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, **Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.** But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, **A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and**

wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**”

Forgiving men of their trespasses is also taught. Jesus says in this same Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 6:12-15, **“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**

His listeners realized that **Christ taught them as one having authority** regarding these commandments to His disciples and others on this mountain. (See Matthew 7:28-29). God was well pleased rather than displeased with the Son of God both before and after all of these new commandments were spoken by the Son of God as recorded in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Matthew. Matthew 3:17 states in AD 26, “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Some of Christ’s disciples were subsequently told by God in AD 32, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him.**” (See Matthew 17:1-5). John 12:44-50 says, “Jesus cried and said, **He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**” Hebrews 1:1-2 says, **“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;...”**

IV. A RELATED NEW COMMANDMENT

After Judas Iscariot left the table to betray Jesus, John 13:33-35 states, **“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”** John 14:23-25 states, “Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.**” John 15:9-15 states, “As the

Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**"

V. JESUS OBEYED THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Simon Peter, a disciple, drew his sword in defense of the liberty of Jesus and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. Matthew 26:52-54 states, "Then said Jesus unto him, **Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**" Jesus then demonstrated love for an enemy by solving the servant's severed ear problem. (See John 18:10 and Luke 22:50-51).

An additional demonstration was that Jesus, the Son of God, when in intense, prolonged pain while hanging from nails on a wooden cross said, "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**" (See Luke 23:32-34).

VI. THIS "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES" COMMANDMENT AND ALL OTHER COMMANDMENTS OF GOD SPOKEN BY JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES ARE NOW EFFECTIVE COMMANDMENTS TO EVERYONE IN ALL NATIONS

After Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead, He told his disciples, "**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (See Matthew 28:18-20).

VII. SOME TEACHINGS AND EXAMPLES OF OBSERVING COMMANDMENTS

Acts 2:36-43 states, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were

added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles."

After being stoned, Stephen "...kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, **Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.**" (See Acts 7:58-60)

The Apostle Peter said, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that **ye should follow his steps**: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (See I Peter 2:21-24).

Romans 13:8-10 states, "**Owe no man anything, but to love one another**: for he that loveth hath fulfilled the law. For this, **Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet**; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**"

James 2:10-11 states, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, **Do not kill**. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." **Where is a commandment by Christ or an Apostle that says do not kill except for enemies?**

Hebrews 12:14 states, "**Follow peace with all men**, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:..." Romans 12:17-21 states, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**"

I Thessalonians 5:15-22, in part, states, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men... Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

All of us have sinned. None of us are God or Christ. We are, however, made in their image and likeness. So just try to think about how the Creator of everyone on earth would probably feel about how we as their creations or children should treat one another. Christians should follow the steps or examples set by Christ while He was here on earth. Christians should not attempt to overcome evil with more evil, but should endeavor to overcome evil with good. The following conclusions appear to

be based upon the commandments of both God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Christians do not kill, torture, abuse, or even hate their enemies. Christians love their enemies.***

IX. OUR REWARD

The Lord's words in these last days are important. John 12:47-48 states, "**And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I come not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**" Please note judgment will be in the last (omega) day rather than in the last days. True Alpha and Omega are God and the Son of God since God and the Son of God existed before the beginning of the first day and will still exist after judgment day or the last day.

Hebrews 11:1-6, in part, states, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. ...But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

James 2:14-26, in part, states, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ...For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Matthew 16:26-27 states, "**For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 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 7:13-14 states, "**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.**"

Revelation 13:9-10, in part, states, "If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword..."

The last written words of Jesus to us contained in the New Testament is found in Revelation 22:12-21, "**And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whoever maketh a lie. 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. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

X. WHAT SHALL WE DO TO FIND AND FOLLOW THE PATH CAUSED BY THE LORD’S STEPS THROUGH THE STRAIT GATE AND NARROW WAY THAT LEADS TO EVERLASTING LIFE IN HEAVEN?

Hear: Romans 10:17, Matthew 7:24-27

Believe: Hebrews 11:6, Mark 16:15-16

Repent: Acts 2:38, Acts 17:30, Luke 13:3

Confess: Matthew 10:32-33, Acts 8:36-37

Be Baptized: Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-5, Acts 8:36-38, Galatians 3:24-29, Acts 22:16

Pray: Matthew 6: 5-15

Study: II Timothy 2:15

Do Acceptable Christian Work and Works: I Corinthians 15:58, James 1:25, James 2:12-26, Acts 10:34-35, and Matthew 7:21

Remain faithful: Revelation 2:7-10

Please carefully study the above New Testament bible references. Our lifetime on this earth is very brief. The time to prepare for judgment quickly passes by when compared to everlasting punishment in hell or an everlasting life of happiness in heaven. If Saul can change from being a chief sinner to being a helpful Apostle Paul, so can we also change from being a sinner to being a helpful Christian.

The time to start loving all people instead of hating some people and saving human life instead of taking human life is now!