CALLED, AND CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL

Rev. 17:14

For He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are Called, and Chosen, and Faithful.

J. Better

CALLED, AND CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL

A Study guide for Leaders in the Body of Christ

BY TIMOTHY II

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CALLED, AND CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL

INTRODUCTION:

The Lord has been the driving force for Timothy II to write this 'Study Guide' on the somewhat controversial subject of being "Called, and Chosen, and Faithful". It seems that in the "Body of Christ" there has been much discussion and some confusion on this subject, and I feel that the Lord would have us to better understand what the Scriptures actually reveal concerning being "Called, and Chosen, and Faithful".

As I began to write this Study, I had no set agenda, order nor understanding of this subject in mind, which might have put me into some of the religious categories that some people relate to this material. In writing this Study Guide, I have only listened to the Holy Spirit for His guidance and understanding about this subject matter. I have also inserted many of the words in the Bible in the Hebrew and Greek language in order to better define the English translation of the 'King James Version' of the Holy Bible.

Regardless of how any of us may have been taught or feel about whether we **need to** be "Called, and Chosen, and Faithful" in order to enter into Heaven, the Bible teaches that those that **will be** with the Lord when He returns to Earth, **are** those that are "Called" by God, and "Chosen" by God, and in turn have "Chosen" God and are "Faithful" to God.

Rev 17:14

14 ...he (Jesus) is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

As a former Head Football Coach in America it may be easier for me to try to help explain the meaning of this Scripture through a comparison with sports.

Many of us that have played sports know that in order to play on '**a Team**', we must first be "Called" by the Coach. This means that the Coach puts out a "Call" to see who might be interested in trying out for the Team. Next we are "Chosen" by the Coach to be a part of the Team and then it is up to us to "Choose" to be willing to participate.

The players, who eventually make up the Team, are those that are willing to follow the rules and remain "Faithful" until the end of the season. Some of the Team will play in the games and some may just sit on the bench, but all are part of the Team and will attend the Banquet at the end of the season in order to receive their rewards.

In order to be on '**God's Team**' and make it to Heaven, we must first be "Called" by God and then we must answer that "Call". Next we must be "Chosen" by God, and then we must willingly "Choose" to be a part of His Team. Finally, we must participate as a member of '**God's Team**', follow His rules, and be "Faithful" in all that we do. When the season is over, then we will be able to attend His Banquet in Heaven, which is the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'.

The Scriptures state:

<u>2 Tim 4:8</u>

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Rev 19:9

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

We do not all have to accomplish the same things in order to be on '**God's Team**', but we must do our best with the abilities that God has given us. No more and no less!

When God raised Timothy II from the Dead in the hospital, I finally realized that God had "Called" me. Later when the Lord spoke to me audibly and said that I must get in 'His Will', I knew that He had also "Chosen" me. It was then up to me to "Choose" to get in 'His Will' in order to be on **His Team** and then to remain "Faithful".

The Lord gave Timothy II the following Scripture in the hospital, through which He outlined the main part of the Work that He had "Called" me to do.

The explanation of this Scripture that God revealed to Timothy II is that the things that I hear from Him I am to commit and to coach "Faithful" Leaders (men and women) who shall then be able to teach others. Thus this 'Study Guide' is meant for you that are "Faithful" Leaders so that you shall be able to **teach** other "Faithful" men and women about this subject.

<u>2 Tim 2:2</u>

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me (God) among many witnesses (in Heaven), the same commit (present, deposit, set before) thou to faithful (trustworthy, believing), men (men and women), who shall be able to teach others also (then).

I. CALLED:

The Bible states that 'Many' people are "Called" by God to be Saved. This means a 'large or great number' of people are "Called" or invited by God to receive His Salvation and to inherit Eternal Life. This does **not** mean that **all** people are "Called" by God to be Saved, nor does it mean that **all** that **are** "Called" by God **will accept** the "Call" to be Saved!

CALLED:

The following definitions are included to help further explain the meaning of the Word "Called".

In the English Dictionary:

CALLED, CALL, CALLING, CALLS. 1. To say in a loud voice; announce. 2. To demand or ask for the presence of. 3. To demand or ask for a meeting of; convene or convoke. 4. To order or request to undertake a particular activity or work; summon. 5. To give the command for; order. 6. To cause to come to the mind or to attention. 7. To name. 8. To consider or regard as being of a particular type or kind; characterize. 9. To designate; label. 10. To give the orders or signals for. 11. To indicate or characterize accurately in advance; predict. 12. To challenge the truthfulness or genuineness of. 13. To speak loudly; shout. 14. A claim on a person's time or life. 15. A summons or an invitation. 16. A strong inner urge or prompting; a vocation. 17. A roll call. CALL DOWN 1. To invoke, as from heaven. CALL FORTH 1. To evoke; elicit. CALL OUT 1. To cause to assemble; summon. CALL UP 1. To cause one to remember; bring to mind. CALL UPON 1. To order; require.

In Hebrew:

7121 qara' (kaw-raw');

a primitive root [rather identical with 7122 through the idea of accosting a person met]; **to call out to** (i.e. properly, **address by name**, but used in a wide variety of applications):

KJV-- bewray [self], **that are bidden**, **call** (for, forthself,, upon), cry (unto), (be) famous, **guest**, **invite**, mention, (give) name, preach, (make) proclaim (-ation), pronounce, publish, read, renowned, say.

In Greek:

2564 kaleo (kal-eh'-o);

akin to the base of 2753; **to** "**call**" (properly, aloud, but used in a variety of applications, dir. or otherwise): KJV-- **bid**, **call** (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was [**called**]).

2822 kletos (klay-tos');

from the same as 2821; invited, i.e. appointed, or (specifically) a saint:

KJV-- called.

2821 klesis (klay'-sis);

from a shorter form of 2564; an invitation (figuratively):

KJV-- calling.

4341 proskaleomai (pros-kal-eh'-om-ahee);

middle voice from 4314 and 2564; to call toward oneself, i.e. summon, invite:

KJV-- call (for, to, unto).

1. MANY ARE CALLED:

'Many' (a large or great number of) people are "Called" to be Saved. As 'Many' as the Lord our God shall "Call".

Matt 20:16

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: **for many** (a large or great number are) **be** (are) **called** (kletos),...

Acts 2:38-39

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.

39 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 (proskaleomai).

2. CALLED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN:

We may not understand why, but God has "Called" 'Many' of us with a "Holy Calling", which was given to us **before** the World began. He did so according to His own purpose and Grace.

<u>2 Tim 1:9</u>

Who hath saved us, and called (kaleo) **us with an holy calling** (klesis), not according to our works, but **according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began**,

Rom 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called (kletos) according to his purpose.

3. CALLED TO BE SAINTS:

Those that are the "Called" of Jesus Christ, are "Called" to be Saints. A Saint is someone who is Holy, pure, consecrated and morally blameless.

Rom 1:6-7

6 **Among whom are ye also the called** (kletos) **of Jesus Christ**:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called** (kletos) **to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<u>Eph 1:18</u>

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling (klesis), and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

<u>1 Cor 1:2</u>

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called (kletos) to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

4. THOSE THAT CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD:

Whether we feel we are "Called" or not, we **must** all "Call" upon the 'Name of the Lord' Jesus Christ in order to be Saved. This is true of the Jews and also of the Gentiles (non-Jewish).

Acts 2:21

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom 9:24

Even us, whom he hath called (kaleo), **not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles** (non-Jewish)?

Rom 10:12-13

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek (Gentile or non-Jewish): for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

5. THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES:

Many Jews look for a Sign and many Gentiles (non-Jewish) seek after Wisdom in order to find God. Thus the preaching of Christ is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.

For those that are "Called" however, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ **is** the 'Power of God' and the 'Wisdom of God'.

<u>1 Cor 1:22-26</u>

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks (Gentiles or non-Jews) **seek after wisdom**:

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks (Gentiles or non-Jews) foolishness;

24 **But unto them which are called** (kletos), **both Jews and Greeks** (Gentiles or non-Jews), **Christ the power** (dunamis) **of God**, **and the wisdom of God**.

Whether "Called" as a Jew or Gentile, there are **not** 'Many' wise men, **not** 'Many' mighty and **not** 'Many' noble that are "Called".

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For ye see your calling (klesis), brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

6. ABIDE IN THE SAME CALLING:

When we awake to our "Calling" by God, we should remain in the same situation or place wherein we have been "Called", at least until God releases us to do something differently or to go somewhere differently.

1 Cor 7:17-24

17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called (kaleo) every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

18 Is any man called (kaleo) being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called (kaleo) in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised.

19 **Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing**, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

20 Let every man abide (stay, continue, dwell, endure, remain) in the same calling (klesis) wherein he was called (kaleo).

21 Art thou called (kaleo) being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather (in a greater degree).

22 For he that is called (kaleo) in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called (kaleo), being free, is Christ's servant.

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

24 **Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called** (kaleo), **therein abide** (stay, continue, dwell, endure, remain) **with God**.

7. WALK WORTHY OF HIS CALLING:

We are to walk 'worthy' of God's "Calling" according to what He has given us in Christ Jesus.

1Thes 2:12

12 That ye would walk worthy (appropriately, deservingly) of God, who hath called (kaleo) you unto his kingdom and glory.

<u>II Th 1:11</u>

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy (deemed fit, entitled) of this calling (klesis), and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

8. NO OTHER GOSPEL:

We are "Called" by only **one** 'Gospel', and that **is the** 'Gospel' of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

<u>Gal 1:6-7</u>

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called (kaleo) you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

II Th 2:14

Whereunto he called (kaleo) you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. WE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE AND ONE BODY:

We are all "Called" in **one** 'Hope' of our "Calling", and into **one** 'Body'.

<u>Eph 4:4</u>

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called (kaleo) in one hope of your calling (klesis);

Col 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, **to** the **which** also **ye are called** (kaleo) **in one body**; and be ye thankful.

<u>Eph 1:18</u>

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling (klesis),...

10. WE ARE CALLED IN HOLINESS:

God has "Called" us unto 'Holiness', therefore we are to be 'Holy' because He is 'Holy'.

1Thes 4:7

7 For God hath not called (kaleo) us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness (purity, sanctification). <u>1 Pet 1:15-16</u>

15 But as he which hath called (kaleo) you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior);

16 **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy**.

11. WE ARE CALLED BY GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:

We have been "Called" by God into His Eternal Glory through His Son Jesus Christ.

<u>1 Pet 5:10</u>

10 **But the God of all grace, who hath called** (kaleo) **us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus**, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

<u>Heb 9:15</u>

15 And for this cause he (Jesus) is the mediator (intercessor) of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called (kaleo) might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

We are "Called" out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

<u>1 Pet 2:9</u>

9 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** (kaleo) **you out of darkness into his marvellous light**:

Once we have been "Called" and receive it, God the Father sanctifies us and preserves us in Jesus Christ!

<u>Jude 1:1</u>

1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified (agapao-loved) by God the Father, and preserved (held fast or kept) in Jesus Christ, and called (kletos):

Therefore, we are to press forward toward the mark (goal) for the prize of the High "Calling" of God in Christ Jesus.

<u>Phil 3:14</u>

I I press (forward) **toward the mark** (goal) **for the prize of the high calling** (klesis) **of God in Christ Jesus**.

II. CHOSEN:

The Jews are God's original "Chosen" People and they were meant to inherit Eternal Life from the beginning. However, the Bible teaches that many of the Jews lacked "Faith" and consistently rebelled against God. Even though many rebelled and were eventually cut off from the Lord, God has promised that there **is** a Remnant that will be Saved.

This rebellion of the Jews has opened the door for the Gentiles (all non-Jews) to have an opportunity to be "Chosen" and grafted in as God's People. Therefore, now both Jews and Gentiles (all non-Jews) have an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and to inherit Eternal Life.

The Bible states although there are many people that are "Called", there are few that are "Chosen". This can mean two things; the first is that God "Chooses" only a few to receive His Salvation, and the second is that only a few actually "Choose" to receive God's Salvation. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Matt 22:14

14 **For many are called, but few** (a puny or small number) **are chosen**.

CHOSEN:

The following definitions are included to help further explain the meaning of the Word "Chosen".

In the English Dictionary the Word "Chosen" means:

CHOSEN 1. Past participle of **choose. 1. Selected from or preferred above others**. **2. Having been selected by God; elect, chosen. 1. One of the elect. 2. The elect considered as a group**. **choose, chose, cho·sen, choos·ing, choos·es**. **1.** To select from a number of possible alternatives; **decide on and pick out**. **2.a. To prefer above others**. **b. To determine or decide**. **c. To make a choice; make a selection**. In Hebrew:

977 bachar (baw-khar');
a primitive root; properly, to try, i.e. (by implication) select:
KJV-- acceptable, appoint, choose (choice), excellent, join, be rather, require.
972 bachiyr (baw-kheer');
from 977; select:
KJV-- choose, chosen one, elect.
6942 qadash (kaw-dash');
a primitive root; to be (causatively, make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally):
KJV-- appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, (be, keep) holy (-er, place), keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify (-ied oneself,), X wholly.

In Greek:

1588 eklektos (ek-lek-tos'); from 1586; select; by implication, favorite: KJV-- chosen, elect. 1589 ekloge (ek-log-ay'); from 1586; (divine) selection (abstractly or concretely): KJV-- chosen, election. 1586 eklegomai (ek-leg'-om-ahee); middle voice from 1537 and 3004 (in its primary sense); to select: KJV-- make choice, choose (out), chosen. **140 hairetizo** (hahee-ret-id'-zo): from a derivative of 138; to make a choice: KJV-- choose. 4401 procheirotoneo (prokh-i-rot-on-eh'-o); from 4253 and 5500: to elect in advance: KJV-- choose before. 4400 procheirizomai (prokh-i-rid'-zom-ahee); middle voice from 4253 and a derivative of 5495; to handle for oneself in advance, i.e. (figuratively) to purpose: KJV-- choose, make. **2564 kaleo** (kal-eh'-o); akin to the base of 2753; to "call" (properly, aloud, but used in a variety of applications, dir. or otherwise): KJV-- bid, call (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was [called]).

1. THE LORD WILL REVEAL HIS CHOSEN:

The Lord will eventually reveal those whom He has "Chosen". God will cause them to come near unto Him because He Loves them.

<u>Num 16:5</u>

5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow **the LORD will shew** who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen (bachar) will he cause to come near unto him.

The people that God has "Chosen" unto Himself are a Holy people and a 'Special (peculiar) People'. He has "Chosen" you because He loves you.

Deut 7:6-9 Deut 14:2

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen (bachar)
 thee to be a special (peculiar) people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.
 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than
 any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8 But because the LORD loved you,...

God is "Faithful" and will keep His covenant and mercy with those that Love Him and that keep His Commandments.

9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

God will also "Choose" their children (seed) after them because He Loves them.

Deut 10:15

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose (bachar) their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

Deut 4:37

And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose (bachar) their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;

<u>Ps 89:3-4</u>

3 **I have made a covenant with my chosen** (bachiyr), I have sworn unto David my servant,

4 **Thy seed will I establish for ever**, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

<u>Rom 9:11</u>

11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election (ekloge - being Chosen or by Divine selection) might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

2. GOD CHOOSES WHOMSOEVER HE WILLS:

You might have a question about whom God "Chooses"; however, God "Chooses" whomsoever 'He Will' among Nations and People.

God "Chooses" the People of certain Nations for His own inheritance:

<u>Ps 33:12</u>

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen (bachar) for his own inheritance.

<u>Isa 43:9-11</u>

9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled:...

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen (bachar): that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

God also "Chooses" His People individually:

<u>Isa 44:1-2</u>

1 Yet now hear, **O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen** (bachar):

2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, **O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun** (Israel), **whom I have chosen** (bachar).

Acts 9:11

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

Acts 9:15

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: **for he is a chosen** (ekloge) **vessel unto me**, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 22:13-15

13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, **Brother Saul**, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

14 And he said, **The God of our fathers hath chosen** (procheirizomai) **thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth**.

15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

<u>1 Pet 1:1-2</u>

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 **Elect** (Eklektos - Chosen) **according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

3. JESUS IS GOD'S CHOSEN:

Although Jesus has always existed and **is** the Son of God, He was "Chosen" by God The Father to become our Lord and Savior by His Death on the Cross and His Resurrection.

Matt 12:18 Isa 42:1

18 **Behold my servant** (Jesus), whom I have chosen (hairetizo); my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

Matt 12:21

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

At Jesus' Crucifixion many people and the rulers questioned whether Jesus was truly the "Chosen" of God.

Luke 23:35

And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, **He saved** others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen (eklektos) of God.

In order to have 'Eternal Life', we must all come to Jesus!

John 5:39-40

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

4. JESUS CHOOSES HIS ELECT:

An enigma which is hard for all of us to understand, is that when we "Choose" Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Himself has actually already "Chosen" us as His Elect!

<u>John 15:16</u>

16 Ye have not chosen (eklegomai) me, but I have chosen (eklegomai) you, and ordained (appointed) you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

<u>John 15:19</u>

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

Titus 1:1-2

1 **Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect** (eklektos - Chosen), and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

As Christians, Jesus will remember your work of Faith and labor of Love, knowing of your Election and being "Chosen" of God.

1Thes 1:3-4

3 **Remembering without ceasing your work of faith**, **and labour of love**, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 **Knowing, brethren beloved, your election** (ekloge - Chosen or Divine selection) **of God**.

5. THOSE WHOM GOD HAS CHOSEN:

Even though God has "Chosen" us, it helps us to remain humble and balanced, when we realize that God has "Chosen" the foolish, the weak, the base, and the despised things of the world, in order to confound the wise and the mighty. We therefore are included somewhere in that list!

God has also "Chosen" the conversion of the Gentiles and the poor of this world so that no flesh can glory in His presence, and we can only glory **in the Lord**!

1 Cor 1:27-31

27 But God hath chosen (eklegomai) the foolish (absurd) things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen (eklegomai) the weak (more feeble) things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base (lowly or diverse) things of the world, and things which are despised (least esteemed), hath God chosen (eklegomai), yea, and things which are not (the conversion of the Gentiles), to bring to nought (to abolish the) things that are: (Romans 4:17)

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, **He that glorieth**, let him glory in the Lord.

James 2:5

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen** (eklegomai) **the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom** which he hath promised to them that love him?

6. A PURCHASED PEOPLE:

The 'Body of Christ' therefore, has become a "Chosen" Generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, and a 'Purchased People', in order to show forth the Praises of God.

<u>1 Pet 2:9-10</u>

9 **But ye are a chosen** (eklektos) **generation, a royal** (kingly) **priesthood, an holy** (sacred, pure) **nation, a peculiar** (purchased) **people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him** who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

7. A REMNANT:

Even at this present time, there is a 'Remnant' of the people of Israel (the Jews - God's original "Chosen") that will be Saved by God's grace, but God blinded the rest. (Zechariah 13:9)

Rom 11:5-7

5 **Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election** (ekloge - Chosen) **of grace**.

6 **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.

7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election (ekloge -

Chosen) hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (hardened)

Rom 9:27 Isaiah 10:22

Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, **Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved**:

However, God will avenge the people of Israel shortly!

Luke 18:7-8

7 And shall not God average his own elect (eklektos - Chosen), which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily (shortly)....

8. ALL BELIEVING ISRAEL WILL SOON BE SAVED:

The Bible teaches that eventually no longer just a 'Remnant' of Israel will be Saved, but soon '**all Believing Israel**' will be Saved. The reason is that God will soon remove the blindness (hardness) that has happened in part to Israel, and thus 'all of Israel' will have the opportunity to receive Jesus as their Messiah. (Deuteronomy 30:1-3)

Rom 11:25

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness (hardness) in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness (fulfilling) of the Gentiles be come in.

As God's original "Chosen" People, the 'believing' Jews will once again be grafted back into the original Olive Tree. However, as people of "Choice", they still must **not** abide in unbelief!

Rom 11:22-24

22 **Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, severity; but **toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness**: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed (grafted) in: for God is able to graff (graft) them in again.

For if thou (the Gentiles) wert (are) cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert (are) graffed (grafted) contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these (the Jews), which be the natural branches, be graffed (grafted) into their own olive tree?

Therefore, 'all of Israel' that 'believe in Jesus Christ' will be Saved.

Rom 11:26-28

And so all (the whole of) Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer (Jesus Christ), and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them (the Jews), when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your (the Gentiles) sakes: but as touching the election (ekloge - Chosen), they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Even though the Jews are God's original "Chosen" people, God had to count the Jews in 'unbelief' in order to have mercy on the Gentiles. But now through the Blood of Jesus Christ, **all** (Jews and Gentiles) may be Saved through God's mercy. (Romans 3:22-24)

<u>Rom 11:30</u>

For as ye (the Gentiles) **in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their** (the Jews) **unbelief**:

Rom 11:32

For God hath concluded (included) **them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all**.

9. OUR CHOICE - CHOOSE LIFE OR DEATH:

If you are concerned whether God has "Chosen" you or not, "Choose" life, then you will know that **He has** "Chosen" you. Just as in the situation with the Jews, we Gentiles must still make a "Choice" whether to "Choose" Life or Death!

Deut 30:15-19

15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 **But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear**, but shalt be drawn away, **and worship other gods, and serve them**;

18 **I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish**, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 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 (bachar) life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

'Today' is the 'Day of your Salvation', do not put it off, make your "Choice" NOW!

<u>2 Cor 6:2</u>

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured (helped) thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

The result and proof that you have "Chosen" life, is by knowing that the Holy Spirit abides in you.

<u>I Jn 3:23-24</u>

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Then we must 'Fear the Lord', and Serve Him in Sincerity and Truth! Therefore, "Choose" you this day whom you will Serve!

Josh 24:14-15

14 **Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth**: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and **serve ye the LORD**.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose (bachar) 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.

Regardless of whom you "Choose" this day to Serve, you become 'witnesses against (according to) yourselves' that **you have made a** "**Choice**"!

Josh 24:21-22

21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

And Joshua said unto the people, **Ye are witnesses against** (according to) **yourselves that ye have chosen** (bachar) **you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses**.

Remember, God will render to every man according to his deeds (acts) and God is 'no respecter of persons'.

Rom 2:6-11

6 (God) Who will render to every man (or woman) according to his (or her) deeds (acts):

7 **To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for** glory and honour and immortality, **eternal life**:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man (mankind) that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 **But glory, honour, and peace, to every man** (everyone) **that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile**:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

10. MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION (CHOOSING) SURE:

As the 'True' people of God, you have the ability to make your "Calling" and "Choosing" sure. God has given you His 'Godhead' Power, and through this Dunamis Power, we have the Knowledge of Him and we Understand **all things** that pertain unto life and Godliness.

<u>2 Pet 1:3-8</u>

3 According as his divine (Godhead) power (dunamis), (God) hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called (bid) us to glory (dignity, honor, praise) and virtue (valor and excellence):

God has given us great and precious promises so that we can become partakers of His 'Godhead' Nature.

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine (Godhead) nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

As partakers of His 'Godhead' Nature we have the ability to add the following attributes to ourselves.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (valor and excellence); and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance (self-control); and to temperance patience (cheerful or hopeful endurance, constancy); and to patience godliness (holiness);

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness (fraternal affection); and to brotherly kindness charity (love).

As partakers of His 'Godhead' Nature, if these attributes 'abound' in us, we will never be 'unfruitful' in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren (idle, inactive, useless) nor unfruitful (without fruit) in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore my Brethren, give diligence to make your "Calling" and Election ("Choosing") sure. If you do, you will **never fall** (fail).

2 Pet 1:10-11

10Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling (biding or invitation) and
election (ekloge - "Chosen" or Divine selection) sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall (fail):11For so an entrance shall be ministered (furnished) unto you abundantly (richly) into the
everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

III. FAITHFUL:

After God has "Called" us, and "Chosen" us, then it is up to us to "Choose" Him and to be "Faithful" to Him. If we become "Faithful" and maintain that "Faithfulness", then we are ready to go to Heaven, and we will be able to say that we have kept the "Faith"!

<u>2 Tim 4:7</u>

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

FAITHFUL:

The following definitions are included in order to help further explain the meaning of the Word "Faithful".

In the English Dictionary the Word "Faithful" means:

FAITHFUL 1. Adhering firmly and devotedly, as to a person, a cause, or an idea; loyal. 2. Having or full of faith. 3. Worthy of trust or belief; reliable. 4. Consistent with truth or actuality. faith-ful, faithful or faith-fuls. 1. The practicing members of a religious faith, especially of Christianity. 2. A steadfast adherent of a faith or cause. faith"ful·ly, faith"ful·ness.

In Hebrew:

539 'aman (aw-man');

a primitive root; properly, to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or **be**) **firm or faithful**, **to trust or believe**, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (Isa. 30:21; interchangeable with 541) to go to the right hand:

KJV-- hence, assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, **be faithful** (of long continuance, **stedfast**, sure, surely, **trusty**, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), **trust**, turn to the right.

571 'emeth (eh'-meth);

contracted from 539; stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness:

KJV-- assured (-ly), establishment, faithful, right, sure, true (-ly, -th), verity.

530 'emuwnah (em-oo-naw');

or (shortened) 'emunah (em-oo-naw'); feminine of 529; literally firmness; figuratively security; morally fidelity:

KJV-- faith (-ful, -ly, -ness, [man]), set office, stability, steady, truly, truth, verily.

In Greek:

4103 pistos (pis-tos');
from 3982; objectively, trustworthy; subjectively, trustful:
KJV-- believe (-ing, -r), faithful (-ly), sure, true.
4102 pistis (pis'-tis);
from 3982; persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:
KJV-- assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.
1680 elpis (el-pece');

from a primary elpo (to anticipate, ususally with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence:

KJV-- faith, hope.

<u>1. GOD IS FATHFUL:</u>

God is **always** "Faithful" and we know that we too can be "Faithful" because He will establish us and give us the ability to remain "Faithful".

II Th 3:2-3

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

3 **But the Lord is faithful** (pistos), **who shall stablish you**, and keep you from evil.

The following Scriptures describe the "Faithfulness" of God.

1Thes 5:24

Faithful (pistos) is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Deut 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful ('aman) **God**, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; **Ps 89:1-2**

I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: **with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness** ('emuwnah) **to all generations**.

2 For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: **thy faithfulness** ('emuwnah) **shalt thou establish in the very heavens**.

Lam 3:22-23

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness ('emuwnah).

<u>1 Cor 1:9</u>

God is faithful (pistos), by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Col 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith (pistis) of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Rev 19:11

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful (pistos) and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

If we are willing to confess our Sins, God is **always** "Faithful" and just to forgive us of **all** of our Sins.

<u>I Jn 1:9</u>

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful (pistos) and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God's eyes are **on** the "Faithful", knowing that we have an 'inheritance' among those that are sanctified by "Faith" in Him.

<u>Ps 101:6</u>

6 **Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful** ('aman) **of the land, that they may dwell with me**: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Acts 26:18

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith** (pistis) **that is in me**.

2. THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH:

The 'Just' (righteous) shall live by his/her "Faith" **in** and **by** the "Faith" of Jesus Christ. In other words, those that are made 'Just' (righteous) **by** the "Faith" of Jesus Christ shall live **by** His "Faith".

Heb 10:38

Now the just (righteous) shall live by (because of, by the reason of, by the means of) faith (pistis): Hab 2:4

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just** (righteous) **shall live by his faith** ('emuwnah).

Gal 3:11

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just** (righteous) **shall live by** (because of, by the reason of, by the means of) **faith** (pistis).

Gal 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, **but by** (because of, by the reason of, by the means of) **the faith** (pistis) **of Jesus Christ**, even **we have believed in Jesus Christ**, **that we might be justified by** (because of, by the reason of, by the means of) **the faith** (pistis) **of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Thus we live and are Saved **by** and **through** the "Faith" **of** the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is the 'Gift' of God.

Gal 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith (pistis) of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal 3:22

But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith (pistis) of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Gal 3:24-26

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, **that we might be justified by faith** (pistis).

25 But after that faith (pistis) is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith (pistis) in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith (pistis); and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

We are to Love the Lord, for it is He who preserves the "Faithful".

<u>Ps 31:23</u>

23 **O** love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful ('aman), and plentifully rewardeth (fully repays) the proud doer.

Being justified by our "Faithfulness", we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<u>Rom 5:1</u>

1 Therefore being justified by faith (pistis), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

We are kept by the Dunamis 'Power of God' through our "Faith" unto Salvation.

<u>1 Pet 1:3-5</u>

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten (regenerated, bear or born) us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 **Who are kept by the** (dunamis) **power of God through faith** (pistis) **unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.

Finally, we receive the end (conclusion, the result or the purpose) of our "Faith" when we receive the Salvation of our souls.

<u>1 Pet 1:9</u>

9 Receiving the end (the conclusion, the result or the purpose) of your faith (pistis), even the salvation of your souls.

3. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD:

The 'Righteousness' of God comes to us through our "Faith" **in** and **by** Jesus Christ. It is available by His Grace to everyone that believes. Even though all have sinned, Jesus has been set forth to be a propitiation for our sins through "Faith" in His Blood.

<u>Rom 1:17</u>

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith (pistis) to faith (pistis): as it is written, The just shall live by (because of, by the reason of, by the means of) faith (pistis). Rom 3:22-31

22 **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith** (pistis) **of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:

- 23 **For all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;
- 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (an atonement for sin, or a reconciliation) through faith (pistis) in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith (pistis).

Both Jews and Gentiles are justified by "Faith".

- 28 **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith** (pistis) without the deeds of the law.
- 29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith (pistis), and uncircumcision through faith (pistis).

31 **Do we then make void the law through faith** (pistis)? **God forbid**: yea, we establish the law.

The 'Righteousness of God', which is **of** "Faith", is the Word of "Faith" which we preach. It is near to you, and in your mouth and in your heart. Therefore, "Faith" comes to us by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Rom 10:6-8

6 **But the righteousness which is of faith** (pistis) **speaketh on this wise**, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? **The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith** (pistis), which we preach;

Rom 10:17

So then faith (pistis) **cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**.

As Christians, we wait patiently through the Holy Spirit for the hope of Righteousness **by** "Faith", which works by Love.

Gal 5:5-6

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith (pistis).

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith (pistis) which worketh by love.

Phil 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith (pistis) of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (pistis):

4. OUR FAITHFULNESS:

When God "Chooses" us, then it is up to us to become **and** remain "Faithful". True "Faithfulness" must come from within our heart.

In the following Scriptures, God "Chose" Abram because He found that Abram had a "Faithful" heart before Him.

<u>Neh 9:7-8</u>

7 **Thou art the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram**, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

8 And foundest his heart faithful ('aman) before thee,...

Jesus Christ dwells in our heart by "Faith".

<u>Eph 3:17</u>

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith (pistis); that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, Heb 10:22-23

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith (pistis), having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith (elpis) without wavering; (for he is faithful (pistos) that promised;)

In the following Scriptures, Jesus forgave a woman of her Sins, and told her that it was her "Faith" that Saved her.

Luke 7:48-50

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith (pistis) hath saved thee; go in peace.

5. BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR CALLING:

We are "Called" to Eternal Life as partakers of God's Heavenly "Calling", therefore we need to fight the good fight of "Faith" and remain "Faithful" to Him that has "Called" us.

<u>1 Tim 6:12</u>

Fight (contend with, struggle for, compete for) **the good fight** (conflict, contest, race) **of faith** (pistis), **lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called**, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Heb 3:1-2

1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

2 Who was faithful (pistos) to him that appointed (ordained) him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

6. FAITHFUL SERVANTS:

When we become "Faithful" Servants for the Lord, even if it is just over a few things, then we **know** that we have been "Called", and "Chosen" and **are** "Faithful"!

Matt 24:45-47 Luke 12:42-43

45 **Who then is a faithful** (pistos) **and wise servant**, **whom his lord hath made ruler over his household**, to give them meat in due season?

46 **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so** (in like manner) **doing**.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Luke 19:17-19

17 And he said unto him, Well (done), thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful (pistos) in a very little (least in size, amount, quantity or number), have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

Even when we are "Faithful" in a little, in God's eyes we have been "Faithful" **in** much! If you have not been "Faithful" in such things as money or that which is another man's, then God cannot trust you.

Luke 16:10-13

10 **He that is faithful** (pistos) **in that which is least** (least in size, amount, quantity or number) **is faithful** (pistos) **also in much** (a great deal, many or many times): and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful (pistos) in the unrighteous mammon (wealth), who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful (pistos) in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

To become a "Faithful" Servant, you must Serve God and Him only. (Exodus 20:3)

13 **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** (wealth).

Although in the following parable, 'Talents' in the Greek means coins or a sum of money, the Lord is not actually emphasizing money as the root of this story. Instead, He is emphasizing the importance of the gain (or multiplication) of what He has given you that is to be used for His Service.

Here 'Talents' might represent anything that God has given you for His Service, such as a talent, a skill or ability. It doesn't matter how many 'Talents' you have, because it is God who gives you the 'Talents'. The only thing that matters is that you use those 'Talents' to help gain others for the Lord!

Matt 25:14-23

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, **who called his own servants**, **and delivered unto them his goods**.

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several (proper or own) ability (dunamis power); and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 **But he that had received one** went and digged in the earth, and **hid his lord's money**.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so **he that had received five talents came** and brought other five talents, **saying, Lord**, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: **behold, I have gained beside them five talents more**.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful (pistos) servant: thou hast been faithful (pistos) over a few things (in extent, degree, number, duration or value), I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful (pistos) servant; thou hast been faithful (pistos) over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

7. EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL PEOPLE:

The following are some of the examples of "Faithful" people in the Bible.

There were some that were "Faithful" in the Old Testament even though they had **not yet received** the promises of Jesus Christ.

<u>Neh 7:2</u>

That I gave my brother **Hanani**, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: **for he was a faithful** ('emeth) **man, and feared God above many**.

<u>Heb 11:4</u>

By **faith** (pistis) **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,...

<u>Heb 11:5</u>

5 By **faith** (pistis) **Enoch** was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

<u>Heb 11:7</u>

7 By faith (pistis) Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (pistis).

<u>Heb 11:8</u>

8 By **faith** (pistis) **Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Heb 11:11

11 Through **faith** (pistis) also **Sara** herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she **judged him faithful** (pistos) **who had promised**.

Heb 11:13

13 **These all died in faith** (pistis), **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.

Heb 11:16

16 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.

Those in the New Testament were "Faithful" having received the promises.

<u>Col 1:2</u>

2 **To the saints and faithful** (pistos) **brethren in Christ** which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 6:5

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: **and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith** (pistis) **and of the Holy Ghost**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 11:22

Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth **Barnabas**, that he should go as far as Antioch.

Acts 11:24

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith (pistis): and much people was added unto the Lord.

<u>Acts 6:7</u>

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and **a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith** (pistis).

Eph 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **to the saints** which are at Ephesus, **and to the faithful** (pistos) **in Christ Jesus**:

2 Pet 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith (pistis) with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

The 'Roman Centurion' who was a Gentile, is an example of the **greatest** "Faith" that Jesus found in all of Israel.

Matt 8:8-11 Luke 7:6-10

8 **The centurion** answered and **said**, **Lord**, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but **speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed**.

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith (pistis), no, not in Israel.

11 And I say unto you, That many (Gentiles) shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

The Gentiles themselves are examples of some of the "Faithful" people mentioned in the New Testament that God justified by "Faith" with the blessing of Abraham through Jesus Christ.

<u>Gal 3:8-9</u>

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen (Gentiles) through faith (Pistis), preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith (pistis) are blessed with faithful (pistos) Abraham.

<u>Gal 3:14</u>

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (pistis).

8. STEADFAST, ROOTED, BUILT UP, ESTABLISHED, GROUNDED AND SETTLED:

We are to walk in the Lord being 'Steadfast', 'Rooted', 'Built up', 'Established', 'Grounded', and 'Settled' in our "Faith" in Christ.

Paul stated that he had joy of the brethren at Colosse over the 'Steadfastness' of their "Faith" in Christ.

Col 2:5-7

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith (pistis) in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Here Paul states that we are to be 'Rooted' and 'Built Up' in Him and 'Established' in the "Faith".

7 **Rooted** (stable) **and built up in** (upon) **him, and stablished** (established) **in the faith** (pistis), as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

He also stated that we are to remain 'Grounded' and 'Settled' in our "Faith".

Col 1:22-23

In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith (pistis) grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

The results of being 'Grounded' in "Faith", is that the Lord will give you abundant blessings.

Prov 28:20

A faithful ('emuwnah) man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Even though we may be 'Grounded' in "Faith", it doesn't mean that we will not go through persecutions, trials and tribulations.

II Th 1:4-5

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and **faith** (pistis) **in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure**:

5 Which is a manifest token (indication) of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

1 Pet 1:7

7 That the trial of your faith (pistis), being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Therefore, our "Faith" should Stand in the 'Power of God', and we should **always** be confident, for we walk by "Faith" and not by sight.

1 Cor 2:5

5 That your faith (pistis) should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the (dunamis) power of God.

2 Cor 5:6-7

6 **Therefore we are always confident**, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith (pistis), not by sight:)

Jude 1:20-21

20 **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith** (pistis), praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

9. CHRISTIAN LEADERS:

Even though all of us have Sinned and come short of the glory of God, as Christian Leaders we are **required** by God to be "Faithful". (Romans 3:23)

<u>1 Cor 4:2</u>

2 Moreover it is required in stewards (leaders, overseers, preachers), that a man be found faithful (pistos).

<u>1 Tim 1:12-15</u>

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful (pistos), putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith (pistis) and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15 This is a faithful (pistos) saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Christian Leaders **do not** have dominion over the "Faith" of the 'Body of Christ'; however they **are** 'helpers (co-laborers) of their joy'. For we all stand by **our own** "Faith"!

2 Cor 1:24

Not for that we have dominion (exercise lordship) over your faith (pistis), but are helpers (colaborers) of your joy: for by faith (pistis) ye stand.

10. WARNINGS:

Our being "Faithful" does not mean that everything will always go smoothly. We have an enemy in the 'Devil' and we must therefore earnestly contend (labor fervently, compete for a prize, contend with an adversary, fight and struggle) for the "Faith".

Jude 3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and **exhort you that ye should earnestly contend** (labor fervently, compete for a prize, contend with an adversary, fight and struggle) **for the faith** (pistis) which was once delivered unto the saints.

It is important that others 'intercede' in Prayer for us so that we can remain "Faithful".

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith** (pistis) **fail not**: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Eph 1:15-16

15 **Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith** (pistis) **in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints**,

16 **Cease not** to give thanks for you, **making mention of you in my prayers**;

We need to 'Examine' and test ourselves to make sure that we are truly in the "Faith".

<u>2 Cor 13:5</u>

5 **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith** (pistis); **prove** (test) **your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you**, except ye be reprobates?

Sometimes you will find in life that the 'Cost' is very high for us to remain forever "Faithful". The question is, is it worth it?

<u>Rev 2:10</u>

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, **the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried**; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful** (pistos) **unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life**.

<u>Rev 2:13</u>

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith (pistis), even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful (pistos) martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Heb 11:32-39

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith (pistis) subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And **these all, having obtained a good report through faith** (pistis), received not the promise:

We know that he that is destined for captivity will go into captivity and he that kills with the sword will be killed with the sword. We also know that those that **die in the Lord** will rest from their labors and their works do follow them. These truths help to give the Saints the 'Patience' to remain "Faithful".

<u>Rev 13:10</u>

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith (pistis) of the saints.

Rev 14:12-13

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith (pistis) of Jesus.

13 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.

<u>11. NEVER TOO EARLY:</u>

It is 'never too early' to start teaching our children about how to become "Faithful" and to receive genuine and sincere "Faith". This can be accomplished by teaching them the Bible (the Holy Scriptures), which in turn will make them wise unto (toward or concerning) Salvation through "Faith", which is in Jesus Christ.

<u>2 Tim 1:5</u>

5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned (genuine, sincere) faith (pistis) that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2 Tim 3:15

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto (toward or concerning) salvation through faith (pistis) which is in Christ Jesus.

12. FAITH WITH WORKS:

Even though we may say that we are "Faithful" and believe that we are, True "Faith" must be accompanied with 'Works'! (Titus 1:16) These 'Works" of course are those (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, and/or occupations) that a Christian does **for the Lord**. **Not for Salvation**! (Ephesians 2:8-10 Titus 2:14 Hebrews 6:1)

James 2:14

14 **What doth it profit**, my brethren, **though a man say he hath faith** (pistis), **and have not works** (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, and/or occupations)? **can faith** (pistis) **save him**?

James 2:17-18

17 **Even so faith** (pistis), **if it hath not works** (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations), **is dead, being alone**.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith (pistis), and I have works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations): shew me thy faith (pistis) without thy works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations), and I will shew thee my faith (pistis) by my works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations).

James 2:20

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith** (pistis) **without works** (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations) **is dead**?

James 2:22

22 Seest thou how faith (pistis) wrought with his works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations), and by works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations) was faith (pistis) made perfect?

James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations) a man is justified, and not by faith (pistis) only.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith (pistis) without works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations) is dead also.

Titus 3:14

14 And let ours (our people) also learn to maintain good works (deeds, doings, labors, acts, efforts, or occupations) for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

<u>13. THE UNFAITHFUL:</u>

The "Unfaithful" are those that speak lies, speak falsely, speak evil, speak in vain, speak with flattering lips and with a double heart.

<u>Ps 12:1-3</u>

1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful ('aman) fail from among the children of men.

2 **They speak vanity** (lies, falsely, evil, in vain) every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Some of these "Unfaithful" provide not for there own relatives or house and thus have denied the "Faith".

<u>1 Tim 5:8</u>

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith (pistis), and is worse than an infidel (unbeliever, faithless).

Some such as "Unfaithful" widows have cast off their first "Faith" Jesus.

<u>1 Tim 5:3</u>

3 **Honour widows that are widows indeed**.

<u>1 Tim 5:5-6</u>

5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

<u>1 Tim 5:11-12</u>

But **the younger widows refuse** (to employ in the church): for when they have begun to wax wanton (become voluptuous) against Christ, they will (wish to) marry;

12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first (beginning) faith (pistis).

Some of these "Unfaithful" have **erred** (gone or lead astray, been seduced or deceived) from the "Faith" through the **Love** of Money, which is the root of **all** evil!

<u>1 Tim 6:10</u>

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred (gone or lead astray, been seduced or deceived) from the faith (pistis), and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

IV. PREDESTINATION:

The term 'Predestination' is mentioned in the Bible. It is an act of God whereby He has 'predetermined or 'foreordained' those that He **has** "Chosen" for Salvation, and/or those that He **has not** "Chosen" for Salvation.

Regardless of what we may have heard, what we have been taught, or what we may currently believe, it is important to examine the evidence on what the Bible teaches about 'Predestination'. This will help us to gain a better and more accurate understanding on what God would have us to know about 'Predestination'.

The following definitions are included to help further explain the meaning of the Word 'Predestination'.

In the English Dictionary:

PREDESTINATION 1. The act of predestining or the condition of being predestined. 2. *Theology.* a. The doctrine that God has foreordained all things, especially that God has elected certain souls to eternal salvation. b. The divine decree foreordaining all souls to either salvation or damnation. c. The act of God foreordaining all things gone before and to come. 3. Destiny; fate. pre·des·tine, pre·des·tined, pre·des·tin·ing, pre·des·tines. 1. To fix upon, decide, or decree in advance; foreordain. 2. *Theology.* To foreordain or elect by divine will or decree.

In Greek:

4309 proorizo (pro-or-id'-zo); from 4253 and 3724; to limit in advance, i.e. (figuratively) **predetermine**: KJV-- **determine before, ordain, predestinate**.

<u>1. FOREKNOW:</u>

The Bible teaches that those whom God **did** 'Foreknow' (beforehand, or foresaw), He also **did** 'Predestinate' (predetermine) to be fashioned like unto the image of His Son. Also, those whom God 'Predestinated' He also "Called", Justified (rendered just and innocent, holy and righteous) and Glorified (magnified, gave glory and honor to).

Rom 8:29-30

For whom he did foreknow (beforehand, or foresee), **he also did predestinate** (predetermine) **to be conformed** (fashioned like unto) **to the image of his Son**, that he (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 **Moreover whom he did predestinate** (predetermine), **them he also called: and whom he called**, them **he also justified** (rendered just and innocent, holy and righteous): **and whom he justified** (rendered just and innocent, holy and righteous), them **he also glorified** (magnified, gave glory and honor to).

According to the Bible, God **has** 'Predestined' and "Chosen" us unto the adoption of His Children by Jesus Christ, and through His Grace we have redemption and forgiveness of Sins through the Blood of Jesus Christ. This means that **all** of us that are truly Saved, have actually been 'Predestined' (predetermined or ordained) and "Chosen" by God according to His purpose and Will.

This however does not interfere with our being instruments of "Choice". Since we do not know if we are 'Predestined' to be Saved, it is still up to us to decide if we wish to be Saved or not. (Philippians 2:12-13 1 Peter 1:9-10 Hebrews 5:9)

The enigma of it all is that because God is all knowing, He already knows what "Choice" we will make beforehand! In other words, if we "Choose" Salvation we are 'Predestined' to be Saved, and if we don't, we are 'Predestined' not to be Saved! Amen!

Eph 1:3-11

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 **According as he hath chosen** (selected) **us in him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 **Having predestinated** (predetermined or ordained) **us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted (highly favored) in the beloved.

7 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, **according to** the riches of **his grace**;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence (insight);

9 **Having made known unto us the mystery of his will,** according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated** (predetermined or ordained) according to the purpose of him who worketh all things **after the counsel of his own will**:

II Th 2:13-14

But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Being 'Predestined' also has no bearing on our position on Evangelism. Since we do not know who is 'Predestined' to be Saved or not to be Saved, we are still commanded to 'Go out' and Preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

An example for us to follow is in the following Scriptures. Here the Lord spoke to Paul and told him not to refuse to speak, because He (the Lord) had **many** people in the City of Corinth that were "Predestined' to be Saved!

Acts 18:9-11

9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy **peace** (refuse not to speak):

10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much (many) people in this city.

11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

2. PREDESTINED TO BE SAVED BEFORE WE ARE FORMED IN THE WOMB:

God has 'Predestined' those of us that are to be Saved **before** we are even formed in our Mother's Womb.

<u>Jer 1:5</u>

5 Before I formed thee in the belly (womb) I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb (birthed) I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

<u>Ps 139:13-15</u>

13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered (protected) me in my mother's womb.

14 **I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

15 **My substance** (body) was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts (of the womb) (as in the lowest parts) of the earth.

God has then 'Predestined' and "Called" us from our Mother's Womb!

<u>Ps 22:9-10</u>

9 But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon thee from the womb (birth): thou art my God from my mother's belly (womb). Isa 44:2

Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

<u>Isa 49:1-2</u>

1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; **The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name**.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

<u>Isa 49:5</u>

5 And now, saith **the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant**, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

Gal 1:15-16

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

16 **To reveal his Son in me**, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

3. PREDESTINED NOT TO BE SAVED FROM THE WOMB:

God has 'Predestined' some **not** to be Saved from their Mother's womb. (Proverbs 16:4)

<u>Ps 58:3</u>

The wicked (bad person, condemned, ungodly) are estranged (turned aside) from the womb (birth): they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

<u>Isa 48:8-10</u>

8 Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor (trespasser, rebel, apostatized) from the womb.

Regardless of whether we feel that we may be 'Predestined' to be Saved or not, **all** of us **are** Sinners and have committed evil from our youthful days. (Romans 3:23 5:12)

That is why we need to invite Jesus in our hearts as our Lord and Savior, so that we can prove that we **have been** 'Predestined' to be Saved! (Romans 10:9-10)

<u>Gen 8:21</u>

21 for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;...

V. THE BOOK OF LIFE:

All those that are 'Predestined' to be Saved, **have been** written in the 'Book of Life' and have **remained** in the 'Book of Life'.

All those who are **not** 'Predestined' to be Saved, have been either 'Blotted Out' (erased out) of the 'Book of Life', or have **never been written** into the 'Book of Life'.

Everyone **that remains written** in the 'Book of Life' until they die or are Translated to Heaven will live with God Eternally in His Kingdom.

In order to better understand what the 'Book of Life' is, the following definitions have been added.

In Hebrew:

Book:

5612 cepher (say'-fer);

or (feminine) ciphrah (Psa. 56:8 [9]) (sif-raw'); from 5608; properly, writing (the art or a document); by implication, **a book**:

KJV-- bill, book, evidence, X learn [-ed] (-ing), letter, register, scroll.

Of Life:

2416 chay (khah'-ee);

from 2421; alive; hence, raw (flesh); fresh (plant, water, year), strong; also (as noun, especially in the feminine singular and masculine plural) **life (or living** thing), whether literally or figuratively: KJV-- + age, alive, appetite, (wild) beast, company, congregation, **life** (-time), live (-ly), **living** (creature, thing), maintenance, + merry, multitude, + (be) old, quick, raw, running, springing, troop.

In Greek:

Book:

976 biblos (bib'-los);
properly, the inner bark of the papyrus plant, i.e. (by implication) a sheet or scroll of writing: KJV-- book.
975 biblion (bib-lee'-on);
a diminutive of 976; a roll:
KJV-- bill, book, scroll, writing.

Of Life: **2222 zoe** (dzo-ay'); from 2198; life (literally or figuratively): KJV-- **life** (-time). Compare 5590. **2198 zao** (dzah'-o); a primary verb; to live (literally or figuratively): KJV-- **life** (-time), (a-) live (-ly), quick.

<u>1. THOSE WRITTEN IN:</u>

According to the Bible, people are 'written into' the 'Book of Life' before they come into existence. This helps to explain why children who die at an early age are **not** held accountable for their actions and go to

Heaven. (2 Samuel 12:18-23) After reaching the age of accountability, however, **all** must invite Jesus Christ into their hearts as their Lord and Savior in order to be Saved. If they do not, they are 'Blotted Out' (erased out) of the 'Book of Life' and will spend Eternity in Hell.

<u>Ps 139:16</u>

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect (unformed); and in thy book (cepher) all my members were written, which in continuance (a process of time) were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

<u>Isa 4:3</u>

And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

<u>Phil 4:3</u>

And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow (co-yoked, Christians) help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers (co-laborers), whose names are in the book (biblos) of life (zoe).

<u>Rev 20:12</u>

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books (biblion) were opened: and another (different) book (biblion) was opened, which is the book of life (zoe): and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books (biblion), according to their works.

2. THOSE NOT WRITTEN IN:

The Bible teaches that during the last 'three and a half years' of the 'Tribulation Period', all those that worship the Devil and the Anti-Christ are those whose names have **not** been 'written in' the '**Lamb's**' 'Book of Life' from the foundation of the World. (Revelation 13:4-5)

Rev 13:8

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (the Devil and the Anti-Christ), whose names are not (were never) written in the book (biblion) of life (zoe) of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

<u>Rev 17:8</u>

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder (marvel or admire), whose names were not (never) written in the book (biblion) of life (zoe) from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

3. THOSE BLOTTED OUT:

The Bible teaches that there are some people that **have been** written into the 'Book of Life', who **can** and **will** be 'Blotted Out' (erased out). These are those who were once enlightened and that have tasted of the Heavenly Gift, and were partakers (participants or partners) of the Holy Spirit and have 'fallen away'. (Hebrews 6:4-6) God will not be surprised by those that 'fall away', because they are those that were 'Predestined' to fall, and even though they thought that they will make it to Heaven, they will be informed by Jesus, that **He never knew you**! (Matthew 7:22-23 1 Timothy 4:1-2)

In the following Scriptures Moses asked God to forgive the people under his care who had Sinned a great Sin. Moses said to God if He would not forgive them, then 'Blot (erase) him (Moses) Out' of the 'Book of Life'. Instead, God told Moses that whosoever has Sinned against Him **will be** 'Blotted Out' (erased out) of the 'Book of Life'. This example shows that even God's "Chosen" people who were once written **into** the 'Book of Life', **if** they 'fall away' in Sin, they **too** will be 'Blotted Out' (erased out). This is why only a 'Remnant' of the Children of Israel will be Saved. (Romans 9:27)

Exod 32:31-33

And **Moses returned unto the LORD, and said**, Oh, **this people have sinned a great sin**, and have made them gods of gold.

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot (erase) me, I pray thee, out of thy book (cepher) which thou hast written.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot (erase) out of my book (cepher).

Here David asks that his enemies might be 'Blotted Out' of the 'Book of Life'.

<u>Ps 69:28</u>

Let them be blotted (erased) out of the book (cepher) of the living (chay), and not be written with the righteous.

The following is a 'Warning' that if any person takes away from the Words of the Bible, his/her part will be taken out (or removed) from the 'Tree of Life' and the things that are written in the 'Book of Life'. (Deut 4:2)

Rev 22:19

19 And if any man shall take away (remove) from the words (logos) of the book (biblion) of this prophecy (Scriptural prediction), God shall take away (remove) his part out of the book (xulon-tree) of life (zoe), and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written (that which is described) in this book (biblion).

If any man or woman turns away from the Lord, their names will be 'Blotted Out' from under Heaven.

Deut 29:18

18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;

Deut 29:20

The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book (cepher) shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot (erase) out his name from under heaven.

There are some that God will not 'Blot Out' their name from under Heaven or out of the 'Book of Life'.

<u>II Ki 14:27</u>

And the LORD said not that he would blot (erase) out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

<u>Rev 3:5</u>

5 **He that overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and **I will not blot** (erase) **out his name out of the book** (biblos) **of life** (zoe), but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

4. WHETHER BLOTTED OUT OR NOT WRITTEN IN:

All people whether they are 'Blotted Out' (erased), or have never been 'Written into' the 'Book of Life', will **be** cast into the 'Lake of Fire' (Ge-henna). This is the second Death! (Revelation 20:14 21:8)

Rev 20:15

15 **And whosoever was not found written in the book** (biblos) **of life** (zoe) **was cast into the lake of fire** (Ge-henna).

5. THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE:

After God creates the New Heavens and the New Earth, those that will enter into the Holy Jerusalem are only those that are 'written in' the 'Lamb's' 'Book of Life'.

Rev 21:1-2

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<u>Rev 21:4</u>

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; **and there shall be no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Rev 21:27

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book (biblion) of life (zoe).

VI. JUDGMENT:

There are two places that 'Judgment' will actually take place after we die, however, we will attend only one or the other.

Heb 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment (for or against):

<u>1. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT:</u>

At the 'Great White Throne Judgment', the 'Books' will be opened to 'Judge' those things that are 'Written in' them, according to the works that the Unsaved people have done here on earth.

Rev 20:11-12

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another (different) 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.

2. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

The Names of those that **have** accepted Jesus Christ in their heart as their Lord and Savior and have been 'Written in' the 'Book of Life' will stand before Jesus at the 'Judgment seat of Christ' to receive the things

which he/she has done for Him, whether it be good or bad.

Rom 14:8-10

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ**.

Rom 14:12

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Cor 5:9-10

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

As Christians, our work will be tried in the fire, and if it abides (remains), we will receive a reward. If our work burns, we will lose our rewards, however, we ourselves will be Saved!

1 Cor 3:13-15

13 **Every man's work shall be made manifest**: for the day shall declare it, **because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort** (quality) **it is**.

14 If any man's work abide (remains) which he hath built thereupon (up), he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned (wholly consumed), he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved (delivered or protected); yet so as by fire.

VII. ANSWERS:

The following are 'Answers' to many of the questions that people have asked about why certain people are **not** going to Heaven. There are 'several' reasons why **some** people will **never** make it to Heaven. These **are** those reasons:

<u>1. THOSE CALLED BUT NOT WORTHY AND/OR NOT CHOSEN:</u>

The following parable of Jesus is about 'A Wedding', also known as 'A Marriage' in the Greek language. The Bible uses these two terms to represent the 'Wedding' or 'Marriage' of the 'Body of Christ' to Jesus in Heaven. The parable itself explains that those that were originally "Called" to the Wedding determined not to go, thus making themselves not 'Worthy'. This group represents those Jews in New Testament times that have not accepted Jesus as their Messiah. Even though they were originally "Called" by God, they did not accept His invitation. Therefore, others were invited, which represents the Gentiles (or non-Jews). These Gentiles were All "Called" even though some were good and some were bad. The problem for the Gentiles is the same as for the Jews, and that is in order to attend the 'Wedding', they too must accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The man that tried to sneak into the 'Wedding' or 'Marriage' without a Wedding Garment represents those in the Church today that have also never accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These Churchgoers are those that may attend Church on a regular basis, but they are **not** truly 'Saved'. The results for these Church going 'unbelievers', is that they will be cast into 'Outer Darkness'. Even though Many are originally "Called", few are "Chosen", and/or few "Choose" to come!

Matt 22:1-14

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage (wedding) for his son,

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden (Called) to the wedding (marriage): and they would not come.

4 **Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden** (Called), Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and **all things are ready: come unto the marriage** (wedding).

5 **But they made light of** (had no regard for, or neglected) **it**, **and went their ways**, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated (abused) them spitefully (despitefully or shamefully), and slew them.

7 **But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth** (provoked or angry): and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The Wedding (marriage) is ready, but they which were bidden (Called) were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid (Call) to the marriage (wedding).

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding (marriage) was furnished with guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding (marriage) garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither (here) not having a wedding (marriage) garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few (a puny or small number) are chosen.

2. THOSE THAT DON'T ANSWER GOD'S CALL:

The example of this parable of Jesus written in Luke is basically the same as the one written in Matthew. The difference is that Luke states that Many were "Called" to a 'Great Supper', which represents the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'. Although Many were "Called" they too all began to make excuses not to attend. The Lord said that none of those which were "Called" and made excuses not to attend, would taste of His Supper. Then the servants of the Lord were sent to fill the house with other less fortunate people, and because there was still room for more, He said to compel those in the highways and hedges to come in. The first part of this parable is speaking about the Jews who were the first to be "Called" and then would not come. It secondly is speaking about the Gentiles (or non-Jews), of whom Many when "Called" **did accept** Jesus as their Lord and Savior and went into the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'.

Luke 14:16-24

16 Then said he unto him, **A certain man made a great supper, and bade** (Called) **many**:

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden (Called), Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground (land), and I must needs (need to) go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove (approve or examine) them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither (here) the poor (beggars and paupers), and the maimed (crippled), and the halt (lame), and the blind (physically or mentally).

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel (necessitate or constrain) them to come in, that my house may be filled.

For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden (Called) shall taste of my supper.

3. THOSE THAT ARE NOT READY:

In the following parable there are Ten 'Virgins' that are "Called", but only Five of them make it to Heaven. This parable is a comparative study of Ten young people that possibly **call themselves** 'Christians' and may even attend Church. Five will actually enter into Heaven and Five will not. This is because the Five that are the 'True Christians' are 'Watching' and are ready to go out and meet the Bridegroom at His Soon Coming (The "Translation of the Church"). The Five that **call themselves** 'Christians' that will **not** be going when the Bridegroom comes are those that are **not** 'Watching' and are '**not Ready**'. This could possibly mean that only 50 % of those that attend Church that **call themselves** 'Christians' will make it into Heaven!

The question for today is: How many in your Church are ready??

(Read the Study Guide "Watch" written by Timothy II)

Matt 25:1-13

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

- 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
- 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
- 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
- 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

- 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
- 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
- 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

4. THOSE THAT ARE NOT INTERESTED:

There are Many people that are not going to Heaven because they are just 'not interested'.

These people are those that have never 'sought the Lord' nor asked or 'inquired about Him'.

David said:

<u>1 Chr 28:9</u>

9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

<u>Ps 10:4</u>

4 The wicked, through the pride (grandeur, arrogance, loftiness) of his countenance (nose, forehead, face), will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

The Lord said to Zephaniah:

<u>Zeph 1:4</u>

4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place,...

Zeph 1:6

6and those that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.

5. THOSE THAT HAVE TURNED BACK:

There are some people that once knew the Lord but are no longer interested in the Lord because they have 'Turned Back' (Backslidden) from Him. (Isaiah 1:2, 4 Jeremiah 8:5-6 Hebrews 3:12)

Zeph 1:6-7

6 And them that are turned back from the LORD;...

7 **Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand**: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, **he hath bid his guests** (Called).

Jer 7:24

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

The 'Backslider' is easily identified because they are filled in their heart with their own ways.

Prov 14:14

14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways:...

<u>1 Tim 4:1</u>

Now the (Holy) **Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart** (draw or fall away) **from the faith** (truthfulness of God, reliance upon Christ for Salvation), **giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils** (demonic beings);

The following Scriptures state that when the Lord comes back, He will cut the 'Backslider' in two (with His two-edged sword) dividing the 'soul' and the 'Spirit', and will appoint his portion with the '**unbelievers**'. In other words, God will separate the 'Backslider's 'soul' from God's Spirit and send him/her to Hell.

Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God (Jesus) is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,

piercing (penetrating) even to the dividing asunder (separation) of soul and spirit (the Holy Spirit), and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Luke 12:45-47

45 But and if that servant (doulos) say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat (repeatedly) the menservants (boys) and maidens (girls), and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 **The lord of that servant** (doulos) **will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder** (to bisect), **and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers** (without Christian Faith, disbelieving, Faithless).

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes (Cast into Outer Darkness).

This is because **unrepentant** 'Backsliders' crucify Jesus to themselves a 'second time' and put Him to an open shame.

Heb 6:4-6

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted (experienced) of the heavenly gift (sacrifice or offering), and were made partakers (participants, partners) of the Holy Ghost,
 And have tasted (experienced) the good word (rhema) of God, and the powers (dunamis) of the world to come.

6 If they shall fall away (apostatize), to renew (restore) them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify (re-crucify) to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Therefore, there remains no more sacrifice for Sins to **unrepentant** 'Backsliders', because Jesus will **not** go to the Cross again!!

Heb 10:26

For if we sin wilfully (voluntarily or willingly) after that we have received (accepted or attained or obtained) the knowledge (recognition or full discernment or acknowledgement) of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

6. THE GREAT PRETENDERS:

Jesus stated through this parable that there are Many people in the Church that not only **call themselves** 'Christians', but also some even declare themselves to be 'Christian Leaders' and are not. These are those people that have **not** been "Called" into the offices of 'Leadership' **by** Jesus Christ through the (Doma) 'Gifts'. (Ephesians 4:8, 11 Psalms 68:18)

There are others who profess to have the (Charisma) 'Gifts of the Spirit', but they have **not** received the 'Gifts' **from** the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11 Proverbs 25:14)

There are also others who may have at one time moved in the 'Gifts', but have 'fallen back'. These are all 'the Great Pretenders'! The scary part is that some may actually think that they are 'Saved'. Jesus stated to these 'Great Pretenders' that **He never knew them**! (Hebrews 6:8 2 Peter 2:20-22)

Matt 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

In these last days, many of these 'Great Pretenders' have been able to creep into the Churches unawares, even though they deny that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Jude 4-5

4 **For there are certain men crept in unawares**(settled in alongside), who were before of old (a great while ago) ordained to this condemnation (damnation), ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (filthy wantonness), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 **I will therefore put you in remembrance**, though ye once knew this, **how that the Lord**, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, **afterward destroyed them that believed not**. **Jude 12-16**

12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever (Outer Darkness).

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15 **To execute judgment upon** all, and to convince **all that are ungodly** among them **of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed**, and of all their hard speeches **which ungodly sinners have spoken against him**.

16 These are murmurers (grumblers), complainers (discontented), walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage (usefulness or profit).

<u>Jude 19</u>

These be they who separate (disjoin) **themselves, sensual** (natural), **having not the** (Holy) **Spirit**.

7. THE FALSE TEACHERS:

There are many 'False Teachers' that have come into the Church in these last days who will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Many people will follow these 'False Teachers' and they too will not enter into Heaven. (Matthew 23:13 5:20)

2 Pet 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers** (a propagator of erroneous Christian Doctrine) **among you, who privily shall bring in** (secretly introduce) **damnable heresies**, **even denying the Lord that bought** (redeemed) **them**, **and bring upon themselves swift destruction** (damnation).

2 And many shall follow their pernicious (wanton, filthy) ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness (greediness) shall they with feigned (fictitious, false) words make merchandise of you (buy and sell you): whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not (is not delayed).

2 Pet 2:10

10 But chiefly (mostly) them that walk after the flesh in the lust of (moral) uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous (daring) are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2 Pet 2:12-15

12 **But these, as natural brute** (irrational, unreasonable) **beasts**, **made to be taken and destroyed**, speak evil of the things that **they understand not**; **and shall utterly perish in their own corruption**;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot (revel) in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves (reveling in) with their own deceivings (deceitfulness) while they feast with you;

14 Having eyes full of adultery, **and that cannot cease from sin**; beguiling (alluring, enticing, deluding) unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; (they are) **cursed children**:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2 Pet 2:17-22

17 **These are wells without water**, clouds that are carried with a tempest; **to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever** (Outer Darkness).

18 **For when they speak great swelling words of vanity** (emptiness), **they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

There are also many False Christ's and False Prophets that will even show signs and wonders to try to seduce (lead astray) God's "Chosen".

Mark 13:22

For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce (lead astray), if it were possible, even the elect (Chosen).

8. THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS:

God has given all of mankind certain 'gifts' and 'talents'. As Christians (Servants), it doesn't matter how **many** 'gifts' or how **much** 'talent' that we have been given. What does matter to the Lord is what we **do** with what we have been given and not to become 'Unprofitable Servants'.

In the following parable, a 'talent' is represented as a coin or sum of money, and it is obvious that God wants us to increase the 'talents' that we have been given and to use them to further His Kingdom.

Matt 25:14

14 **For the kingdom of heaven is as a man** travelling into a far country, **who called his own servants**, **and delivered unto them his goods**.

Matt 25:24-30

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed (scattered):

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful (lazy) servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed (scattered):

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers (bankers), and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury (interest).

28 **Take therefore the talent from him**, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

9. THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL:

The Bible states that those people that **abide in and continually** commit Sin **are** the 'Children of the Devil'. They will eventually join the Devil in Hell for Eternity. (Revelation 20:10, 15)

<u>I Jn 3:8-10</u>

8 **He that committeth** (abides in, continues in) **sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning**. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit** (abide in or continue in) **sin; for his seed** (the Holy Spirit) **remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born** (regenerated) **of God**.

10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not (abides not in or continues not in) righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. I Jn 3:12

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one (the Devil), and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

The Devil cannot create anything, thus it is God who created the Devil (Isaiah 45:7 Ezekiel 28:15). God has allowed the Devil to sow the Tares (false grain) in the world and the 'Children of the Devil' **are** the Tares.

Matt 13:36-42

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares (false grain) of the field.

37 **He answered and said unto them**, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares (false grain) are the children of the wicked one (the Devil);

39 **The enemy that sowed them is the devil**; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares (false grain) are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity (unrighteousness);

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

10. HELL:

Although many people will go to 'Hell', it was basically made for the Devil and his Angels. If you choose to go to 'Hell', God will **never** interfere with your freedom of "Choice"!

For an in depth study of 'Hell': (Read the Book "The Foundations of God" written by Timothy II)

Matt 25:41

41 **Then shall he say** also unto them on the left hand (the goats), **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire**, **prepared** (made ready) **for the devil and his angels**:

'Hell' has enlarged itself in order to accommodate the multitudes of people that 'Choose' to go there. Some of these are drunkards and they that glory in their magnificence and in their riches and wealth. This also includes the hypocrites and those who are of high degree, elevated and proud. These shall **all** be humbled as they are cast into 'Hell'. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

<u>Isa 5:11-12</u>

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

12 And the harp, and the viol (lyre), the tabret (tambourine), and pipe (flute), and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands. Isa 5:14-15

14 **Therefore hell hath enlarged** (broadened) **herself, and opened** (wide) **her mouth without measure: and their glory** (magnificence), **and their multitude** (riches & wealth), **and their pomp** (uproar & tumult), **and he that rejoiceth** (exults & triumphs), **shall descend into it**.

15 And the mean man (hypocrites) shall be brought down, and the mighty man (great, of high degree) shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty (haughty, arrogant, powerful, elevated, and proud) shall be humbled:

11. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WICKED:

Whether we feel we are "Called", "Chosen", "Faithful", 'Predestined', in the 'Book of Life', or whatever; there are many people that will 'Choose' to go to 'Hell'. We need to understand that God **is** a 'Loving God' and He takes no pleasure in that the 'wicked' will die!

Ezek 18:23

Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

If any will 'Turn' from their evil ways, they will live and prove that they have **not** been 'Predestined' to die.

Ezek 18:32

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

Ezek 33:11

11 Say unto them, **As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked**; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: **turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die**, O house of Israel?

You may ask - HOW can I 'Turn' from my evil ways? The answer is simple - Just ask God to 'Turn' you!!

Jer 31:18-19

18 ...Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock (calf) unaccustomed to the yoke: **turn thou me, and I shall be turned** (brought back, brought home again, delivered and restored); **for thou art**

the LORD my God.

Once God 'Turns' you, then you need to 'Repent', which means to sigh, to feel remorse, to be sorry, to regret, and to think differently. After that you will be able to be instructed in the things of God.

19 Surely after that I was turned, I repented (sighed, felt remorse, was sorry, I regretted what I did and will now think differently); and after that I was instructed (learned and understood), I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded (hurt and confused), because I did bear the reproach (disgrace) of my youth.

Even though God knows who will not believe in Him, He would have **all** men/women to be Saved and come to know the Truth. God is patient and not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to 'Repentance'.

<u>1 Tim 2:4</u>

4 (God our Savior) Who will have all men (human beings) to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Pet 3:9

9 **The Lord** is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but **is longsuffering** (patient) **to us-ward** (toward us), **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance** (to reconsider, to feel computcion, to think differently). (Amen!)

CONCLUSION:

In Conclusion: Although we may never completely understand the meaning of being "Called", and "Chosen", and "Faithful", nor understand why God has used these terms and/or methods to help lead mankind to Salvation; just remember that God's ways **are not** our ways, and God's thought's **are not** our thoughts!

<u>Isa 55:8-9</u>

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<u>1. VICTORY:</u>

The Good News is that God will **always allow** those that **are** "Called", **and** "Chosen", **and** "Faithful" to triumph in 'Victory' through Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:57-58

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 **Therefore**, **my beloved brethren**, **be ye stedfast**, **unmoveable**, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Cor 2:14

14 **Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

This 'Victory' that helps us to overcome the world is our "Faith".

<u>I Jn 5:4</u>

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

This 'Study Guide' has been made available to you through the leading of the Holy Spirit and is a reminder of **God's Ways, which** are **in** Christ Jesus. It has been given to you to help establish you and to comfort you concerning your "Faith".

1 Cor 4:17

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1Thes 3:2

2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

2. BORN AGAIN:

To all of us that have been 'Born' in the flesh during these 'latter days', the proof as to whether we have been "Called", and "Chosen", and "Faithful" is if we have been '**Born Again**'. No matter whether you 'call' yourselves Christians, or what you have done, or how you have lived, or what religion you may have tried, **you must be 'Born again' in order to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.** (1 Peter 1:23)

John 3:3-18

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 **Nicodemus saith** unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old**? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 **Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water** (the flesh) **and of the** (Holy) **Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God**.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 **The wind bloweth where it listeth** (it is inclined to), and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born** (regenerated) **of the Spirit**.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 **Jesus answered** and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 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.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3. THE TRANSLATION OF THE CHURCH:

Jesus Christ **is** Coming Soon and He will **soon appear** for the 'Translation of His Church'. (Colossians 3:4 Hebrews 9:28 1 Peter 5:4 1 John 3:2)

(Read the Study Guide "The Translation of the Church" written by Timothy II)

When Jesus **soon appears**, those of us which are alive that are "Called", and "Chosen", and "Faithful" will not die, but will instantly be changed and will put on 'incorruption' and 'immortality'.

1 Cor 15:51-54

51 **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep** (die), **but we shall all be changed** (made different),

52 **In a moment** (single stroke), **in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (undecaying or immortal), and **we shall be changed** (made different).

53 For this corruptible (decayed or perishable) must put on incorruption (unending existence), and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible (decayed or perishable) shall have put on incorruption (unending existence), and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

However, the Dead in Christ shall rise (or be resurrected) first, which are all of the Old Testament Saints and all the Saints that have died in Christ before us. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

1Thes 4:15-17

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep (deceased, dead).

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

We will then be 'Caught Up' in the air together.

17 **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up** (pulled up, plucked up or taken up) **together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord**.

The Bible reveals to us the story of 'Enoch' as an example of someone that has been 'Translated'. 'Enoch' was 'Translated' to Heaven without seeing death, because before he was 'Translated' he 'Pleased God'. We too will go in the 'Translation of the Church' **if** we 'Please God'.

<u>Gen 5:24</u>

And Enoch walked (continually) with God: and he was not (gone); for God took him (away, up). <u>Heb 11:5-6</u>

5 By faith Enoch was translated (transferred, transported, removed) that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated (transferred, transported, removed) him: for before his translation (transferral to Heaven) he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

However, it is impossible to 'Please God' without 'Faith'.

6 **But without faith** (pistis) **it is impossible to please him** (God): **for he that cometh to God must believe that he is** (exists), **and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**.

4. THE TRIBULATION PERIOD:

The 'Seven Year' 'Tribulation Period' will begin immediately following the 'Translation of the Church'. It will start out with a time of 'peace and safety', and then in the last 'three and a half years', it will turn into a time of horrible trouble and 'Great Tribulation' that has never been seen upon the earth. (Daniel 9:24)

1Thes 5:3

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden (unexpected) **destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; **and they shall not escape**.

Matt 24:21

For then shall be great (exceedingly) tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Many will miss the 'Translation of the Church', and through this time of 'Great Tribulation', a 'great multitude' of both Jews and Gentiles will receive their Salvation in Jesus Christ. These are those that **shall be** found written in the "Lambs Book of Life"!

<u>Dan 12:1</u>

1 ... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This 'great multitude' of people will have to go through the 'Great Tribulation Period' because they did not originally accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and missed the 'Translation of the Church'.

<u>Rev 7:9</u>

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

<u>Rev 7:13-15</u>

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed (clothed) in white robes? and whence (what place) came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 **Therefore are they before the throne of God**, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

These 'Great Tribulation' Saints will pay a 'great price' for their Salvation!

<u>Rev 20:4</u>

4 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.

Rev 7:16-17

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The 'Tribulation Period' would last longer except God will shorten these days or else no flesh would be saved. He will do so because of His "Chosen" ones that will be Saved.

Mark 13:19-20

For in those days shall be affliction (tribulation), **such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be**.

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's (Chosen's) sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

5. JESUS SECOND COMING:

Jesus' 'Second Coming' will come just before the end of the 'Tribulation Period'. When Jesus returns to Earth at His 'Second Coming', He will gather together His Truly "Chosen" (Elect) ones from one end of the Earth to one end of Heaven.

Mark 13:26-27

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect (Chosen) from the four winds, from the uttermost part (one end) of the earth to the uttermost part (one end) of heaven.

Then the 'Tribulation Period' will be concluded at the 'Battle of Armageddon'. All of us who are "Called", and "Chosen", and "Faithful" will accompany Jesus to this 'Battle' and will fight against the Anti-Christ and his followers, and the Lord shall overcome them!

Rev 17:12-14

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power (exousia) as kings one hour with the beast.

13 **These have one mind**, and shall give their power (dunamis) and strength (exousia) unto the beast.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. Zech 14:3-9

Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

After the defeat of those that make war with the Lamb, Jesus will stand upon the Mount of Olives, and it will divide in the middle from a great earthquake.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, **like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah** king of Judah: **and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee**.

6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

7 **But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD**, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

Then living waters will flow out from Jerusalem, and the Lord Jesus shall be King over all the Earth!

8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

6. SOLUTIONS:

Although some of the following Scriptures in the 'New Testament' may seem to 'contradict' each other when the words 'Many' and 'Few' are used concerning Salvation, they actually do not. The solutions to these seemingly 'contradicting' Scriptures are in the time that they take place in history.

MANY SHALL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS:

This Scripture which states that 'Many' shall be made righteous is generally referring to **all** those who will be Saved from Adam's fall to the end of the Millennium, which will be 'Many'.

<u>Rom 5:19</u>

For as by one man's (Adam) **disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one** (Jesus) **shall many be made righteous**.

FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT:

The following Scriptures, which state that 'Few' will find the Lord, are referring to those that will be Saved from the time of Jesus Christ to the "Translation of the Church".

<u>John 14:6</u>

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

Luke 13:23-24

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Matt 7:13-14

13 **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:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

AFTER THE TRANSLATION OF THE CHURCH:

The solutions of course to the words 'Many' and 'Few' that are used regarding Salvation, is that prior to the 'Tribulation Period', 'Few' people will realize that they must accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, however, 'Multitudes' **will** accept Him during the 'Tribulation Period'. (Revelation 7:9, 14) This is because after the 'Translation of the Church' has taken place, 'Many' will realize that what Jesus has said in the 'Word of God' (The Bible) is the TRUTH. (John 1:1 John 14:6 Revelation 19:13)

Also 'Many' relatives, church members and friends that were left behind, will come to realize that they too need the only Savior Jesus Christ! Because of this, they will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They will understand that they cannot accept the 'Mark of the Beast', and even though it will cost them their lives through famine, heat, hunger, or Death by execution, it will be worth it!

7. A FINAL THOUGHT:

As you meditate on the question of whether you really **are** "Called", and "Chosen", and "Faithful", and if you become weary or discouraged in your mind, look to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our "Faith".

Heb 12:2-3

2 Looking unto Jesus the author (beginning) and finisher of our faith (pistis); 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.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint (discouraged) **in your minds**.

8. A FINAL PRAYER:

The prayer of Timothy II is that after you have read this 'Study Guide', **you will know** that **you are** "Called", **and** "Chosen", **and that you will remain** "Faithful" **until** the Coming of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, our **only** Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God!

Rev 17:14

14 ... for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are Called, and Chosen, and Faithful.

AMEN!

TIMOTHY II

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Text :

<u>The Holy Bible</u> Authorized (King James) Version Produced By: The National Bible Press - Philadelphia Copyright 1944, National Publishing Company

Comments:

This text has been used as the source for all Scriptures. Some verses of Scripture have been shortened or used in partial form. This is to strengthen their importance to the subject matter; not to change their meaning nor meant to be taken out of the context in which they are written.

Text:

Webster's New American Dictionary Produced By: Books, Inc., Publishers - New York & Washington, D.C. Copyright 1965, By Books, Inc. American Heritage Dictionary for PC's.

Comments:

The Dictionary is used to help clarify our understanding of what certain words mean in today's English language.

Text: Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words By: W.E. Vine, M.A. MacDonald Publishing Company McLean, Virginia 22101 <u>Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible</u> By: James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Riverside Book and Bible House Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126 <u>PC Study Bible</u> Matthew Henry's Commentary

Comments:

These Texts have been used to further clarify the understanding of the Scriptures as related to their Greek and Hebrew meanings.