

WHICH COMES FIRST, SALVATION OR OBEDIENCE?

If the mainstream Christian denominations even admit to a STRAIT GATE or a NARROW WAY in the walk of the Christian before the Lord, they will always INSIST that they are SAVED by the Lord FIRST, and the STRAIT GATE (usually the more fundamentalist in their viewpoint) AND NARROW WAY lay ahead of them, and are not actually necessary to their salvation, just a good concept for “Christian growth”. The theology behind it is simple: SALVATION COMES WITH CONVERSION, is ETERNALLY SECURE (TO MOST DENOMINATIONS), and if not, relies upon OBEDIENCE to certain rituals or law-keeping (albeit Christian “good behavior”), therefore eliminating any necessity for a STRAIT GATE or a NARROW WAY. It is simply a non-essential, but a good idea. For example in Nazarene doctrine, they hold to what is called “entire sanctification”, but consider it a “non-essential”.

What does the Scripture really have to say about it? What is the SEQUENCE that is provided for in Scripture? How does the Lord Himself view it? In order to find out, we have to review the Scripture itself, and look closely at SEQUENCE, and LOGIC, for the SEQUENCE SHOWS US THE STEPS INVOLVED, and the LOGIC behind it would be self evident - for the Lord is the author of ALL LOGIC. Lets begin with Matthew Seven, and the Lord’s discourse on the STRAIT GATE and NARROW WAY, to find out where it all is supposed to LEAD TO:

Matthew 7:13-14

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.

Now we are going to focus upon where there NARROW “WAY” actually leads. Jesus Christ said it LEADETH UNTO “LIFE”. We will focus upon three main words here: WAY, LEADETH, and LIFE.

WAY - hodos, hod-os', Greek 3598; apparently a primary word; **a road; by implication a progress (the route, act or distance); figurative a mode or means :- journey, (high-) way.**

Now the LOGIC BEHIND THIS should be clear, if we really want to know the actual truth to what Jesus is telling us: THERE IS A "WAY". The word "way" means A ROAD, A PATH, A PLACE ONE TRAVELS UPON, WHERE ONE "GETS ON THE WAY", walks along it, and reaches a DESTINATION at some point. In other words, it is A JOURNEY. Now if one takes a JOURNEY, one ENTERS THE "WAY" at some point, TRAVELS ALONG IT until they reach a DESTINATION, and LEAVE THE "WAY". It is NOT TRAVELED "INSTANTLY". It takes time to FOLLOW A ROAD, or to make PROGRESS, ONE OF DEFINITIONS USED. In other words, the meaning of the WORD "WAY" denies any "instant" arrival at the destination.

Now the argument of the modern Christian is that they are SAVED BEFORE ANY STRAIT GATE OR NARROW WAY. In other words, their CONVERSION IS THEIR REGENERATION, AND THEIR REGENERATION IS THEIR SALVATION, which came about by a mental decision for Christ, to make Him LORD OF THEIR LIFE. This is usually accomplished by saying the "SINNER'S PRAYER". But where does this "WAY" of Jesus lead to? And what does the word "leadeth" actually mean?

LEADETH - apago, ap-ag'-o, Greek 520; from Greek 575 (apo) and Greek 71 (ago); to take off (in various senses) :- **bring, carry away, lead (away), put to death, take away.**

The word "leadeth" means what we might think it would - A PATHWAY, A ROAD, A JOURNEY LEADS TO SOMEWHERE - in other words IT GOES SOMEWHERE, IT HAS A DESTINATION. One of the interesting uses of the word IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH, something that is important to remember, for that is what the NARROW WAY IS SUPPOSED TO DO TO A SOUL - PUT IT TO DEATH.

But what is the DESTINATION? We have a ROAD, A PATHWAY, A JOURNEY, A PROGRESS we are supposed to WALK ALONG, and it LEADS to some thing - what is it? LIFE. The DESTINATION IS SIMPLY CALLED "LIFE". Do you not find it interesting that DEATH LEADS TO LIFE? That to be PUT TO

DEATH means you will FIND LIFE? That the DESTINATION OF DEATH IS LIFE ITSELF, if you are traveling upon the NARROW WAY?

LIFE - zoe, dzo-ay', Greek 2222; from Greek 2198 (**zao**); **life** (literal or figurative) :- life (-time). Compare Greek 5590 (psuche).

This NARROW WAY leads to something called "LIFE". It comes from the Greek word "Zoe". It is the word used for ETERNAL LIFE, OR LIFE IN THE SON. It is the life that comes from the act of REGENERATION, that is SPIRITUAL REBIRTH, better known as being BORN AGAIN, or being BORN FROM ABOVE. Here is an example:

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now in all cases here the word for LIFE IS "ZOE" or SPIRITUAL life, that is THE LIFE OF "AGAPE", FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE LIFE OF GOD IS "AGAPE". Now notice what it says, THIS LIFE IS "IN THE SON", and that "HE WHO HATH THE SON HATH LIFE". In other words, THERE HAS BEEN A UNION WITH CHRIST AT SOME POINT, A MEETING OF CHRIST, and the BESTOWMENT OF AGAPE, OR DIVINE LIFE:

1 John 3:1-2

Behold, what manner of love (AGAPE), the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. [2] Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

The bestowment of AGAPE LOVE and BEING CALLED SONS OF GOD are one and the same, and all of them, **LOVE, SONSHIP AND LIFE** occur AT REGENERATION. Now if the NARROW WAY LEADS TO THIS LIFE, and this **LIFE IS IN THE SON**, then it should be obvious to you that **JESUS CHRIST STANDS AT THE END OF THE NARROW WAY, HOLDING**

ETERNAL LIFE IN HIS HANDS, and will BESTOW THE GIFT OF AGAPE, OR ETERNAL LIFE OF THE SPIRIT **UNTO THOSE THAT HAVE WALKED IT**. How does one obtain this LIFE at the BEGINNING, or even BEFORE THE STRAIT GATE, if Jesus Christ Himself declares it comes AT THE END? It is IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH, AND A DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAID, very clearly.

There is NO LIFE GRANTED unless the WAY IS WALKED. You can manufacture all of the THEOLOGY YOU WANT to BYPASS THE STRAIT GATE and the NARROW WAY, but they will ALL END UP EXACTLY WHERE JESUS CHRIST SAID THEY WOULD END UP: ETERNAL RUIN. There is NO OTHER ENTRANCE INTO HEAVEN EXCEPT VIA JESUS CHRIST, and HE IS THE GIVER OF ETERNAL LIFE, FOR THAT LIFE IS IN THE SON, and HE HIMSELF SAID **YOU MUST, YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST WALK THE NARROW WAY.**

Jesus Christ gave TWO WAYS THAT MANKIND WILL USE TO ATTEMPT TO GET INTO HEAVEN. BROAD AND NARROW. They are contrasted so that even a fool can see the difference. The GATES are also contrasted for the foolish soul that cannot comprehend the most simple of instructions: WIDE vs. STRAIT. You have to be utterly blind not to be able to see what Christ was driving at - and modern Christians are BLIND, which is why Jesus Christ commanded them to OBTAIN EYESALVE, THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE:

Rev. 3:17-19

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: [18] I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. [19] As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: **be zealous therefore, and repent.**

So then, what is the SEQUENCE in this verse of Scripture of Matthew Seven? It will establish for us a PATTERN, and that PATTERN WILL REMAIN THROUGHOUT ALL OF SCRIPTURE REGARDING TRUE SALVATION,

rather than the FALSE SALVATION THEOLOGY OF THE MODERN CHRISTIAN:

**A STRAIT GATE - THE STARTING POINT
A NARROW WAY - THE PATH WE ARE TO WALK
A DESTINATION - LIFE, THE GRANTING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE AT
REGENERATION.**

So then we have A WAY, IT LEADS TO A DESTINATION, and that DESTINATION IS LIFE, and that LIFE IS IN THE SON. Modern Christian theology DECLARES THE STRAIT GATE, THE NARROW WAY and ITS DESTINATION ALL A “WORK”, A “LEGALISM”, and opposes it with all of its strength, claiming that anything other than FAITH ALONE is a HERESY, and the one who brings it ACCURSED. By so doing they ACCURSE JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF, for He is the ONE who BROUGHT IT in the FIRST PLACE.

Now lets look elsewhere and see if we can find the same form of PATTERN, or SEQUENCE, such as WAY, LEADS, LIFE. Here what Jesus Christ had to say about OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, and one of HIS PRIMARY COMMAND WAS TO ENTER YE IN AT THE STRAIT GATE. To claim otherwise is to CONTRADICT YOUR LORD.

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

[26]

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Now again, in the SIMPLICITY that only God can create, Jesus explains what happens TO THE WISE MAN WHO DOES AS HE IS COMMANDED, and to the FOOLISH MAN, WHO REFUSES TO BE OBEDIENT TO “THESE SAYINGS OF MINE”. There are TWO WAY, BROAD AND NARROW, and TWO TYPES OF SOULS, WISE AND FOOLISH. To “enter ye in at the strait gate”, which is a SAYING OF JESUS, is be wise, for it is to “DOETH THEM”. To be foolish is to IGNORE THEM, or more, TO INVENT A THEOLOGY AROUND THEM, THAT BYPASSES THESE DIRECT COMMANDS IN THE NAME OF “FAITH ONLY”.

But there is something far DEEPER HERE IN MEANING. It gives us a clue to the whole problem of modern Christian theology - the ignoring of another command: TO FIND THE HIDDEN MYSTERY OF GOD, TO LAY HOLD OF CHRIST, TO UNDERSTAND WHO HE REALLY IS, AND WHAT HE IS REALLY DOING. It is the FORGOTTEN COMMANDMENT. TO SEEK OUT THE LORD.

Sand is upon the SURFACE. It is PLAIN SIGHT. If you go to the beach, you walk upon the SAND. The winds blow the sand easily. They have no foundational strength. SAND COVERS THE BEDROCK, the ROCK UNDERNEATH. You must DIG DEEP BENEATH THE SAND TO FIND THE “ROCK”. The ROCK lies BURIED and HIDDEN under the SAND ITSELF. Relating back to the WAY which leadeth UNTO LIFE, WHICH IS CHRIST, then the SAND represents the BROAD WAY, the SURFACE WAY, for BEACHES AND DESERTS ARE BROAD EXPANSES, EASY TO WALK UPON, NO OBSTACLES. You will ALSO DIE THERE FOR LACK OF “WATER”, AND YOU WILL DIE OF THIRST. On the other hand, if you want BOTH WATER and BEDROCK, you must DIG FOR IT. Both LAY DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE, HIDDEN AWAY, UNSEEN.

The narrow way IS UNSEEN. IT IS THE WAY OF “DIGGING”. It is the SEARCH FOR HIDDEN TRUTH, FOR HIDDEN WISDOM. It is the deep introspection of the word, the deep meditation upon what Scripture means to us, personally. It is the act of APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURE TO OUR LIVES, TO OURSELVES. It is the act of FINDING THE REAL TRUTH, THE TRUTH BEHIND ALL OF LIFE ITSELF. It is the fulfillment of a deep need. If one will DIG into the WORD OF GOD, one will, if they persist, eventually FIND THE ROCK, and there will ANCHOR THEMSELVES UPON THE ROCK, WHO IS CHRIST. But as Christ lies at the end of the NARROW WAY, WAITING FOR THE “FEW” THAT WILL TRAVEL IT, SO TO THE DOES THE WATER AND

THE ROCK LIE AT THE END OF THE DEPTH OF SAND, AND IT TOO MUST WAIT FOR THE BUILDER TO DIG DOWN TO IT TO ANCHOR THE HOUSE.

Now modern Christianity has laid its entire foundation UPON THE SAND, claiming it is built upon the ROCK. It refuses to DIG for any deeper truth, claiming that THERE IS NO HIDDEN TRUTH, IT WAS ALL REVEALED IN CHRIST, and that anyone who claims there is, is a “Gnostic”, or SOME FORM OF ESOTERIC GURU. It was Christ Himself that said the REAL TRUTH WAS **HIDDEN, A MYSTERY**, and HAD TO BE FOUND AT ALL COST. Is Christ a Gnostic? If so, He is the CHIEF GNOSTIC OF ALL TIMES. The truth of TRUE REBIRTH, OF TRUE REGENERATION IS HIDDEN UNDER THE SAND, and it lies BURIED.

Now the question we must ask is this: DID CHRIST REQUIRE THE “DOETH THEM” before the GRANTING OF ETERNAL LIFE? In other words, did the HEARER OF THE WORDS OF CHRIST HAVE TO DO AS COMMANDED **FIRST**, WITH ETERNAL BESTOWED AFTER OBEDIENCE TO THE SAYINGS, OR BEFORE? Your answer determines your eternal destiny - for TO CLAIM LIFE BEFORE OBEDIENCE, IS TO BUILD YOUR HOUSE UPON THE SAND. To CLAIM LIFE WITHOUT ENTERING THE STRAIT GATE OR NARROW WAY IS TO BE FOOLISH SOUL, WHO HEARD THE WORDS OF CHRIST, BUT DID THEM NOT.

It should be obvious that OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF OUR LORD LEADS to REWARD. It is part of the definition of faith:

Hebrews 11:6

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

Now which comes first, THE REWARD or the DILIGENT SEARCH? The modern Christian claims THE REWARD. They can be diligent LATER if they choose, but it is not REQUIRED, for it would be a WORK, an addition to FAITH, which is a total REVERSAL OF SCRIPTURE. Obviously **IF YOU DID NOT DILIGENTLY SEEK THE LORD, YOU WOULD GET NO REWARD WHATEVER**. Obedience to the command to “DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM” must

come before any reward, **otherwise the commands mean nothing, obedience means nothing.**

Hebrews 5:9

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Now would you say this REQUIRES OBEDIENCE BEFORE ETERNAL SALVATION, or does SALVATION COME FIRST? It clearly states that ONLY THOSE THAT OBEY HIM OBTAIN SALVATION. Therefore OBEDIENCE COMES FIRST, SALVATION SECOND. Why would Scripture even mention OBEY, or OBEDIENCE if there were not a requirement? If ETERNAL SALVATION COMES FIRST, who needs to obey? Obey what? Why? For what? It omits ANY NEED.

All of this would seem to be obvious, but it escapes millions of Christians, and Christ is adamant: THEY WILL NOT SEE HEAVEN.

Hebrews 5:8-9

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; [9] And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Is not the Lord Jesus Christ A LORD? And does not a LORD demand OBEDIENCE UNTO HIS SAYINGS OR COMMANDS? Does not the LORD have RULE OVER YOU? If NOT, then HIS IS NOT YOUR LORD, BUT RATHER SOME VAIN "TICKET OUT OF HELL". The modern American Christian does not grant to CHRIST LORDSHIP. In fact, many books have been written CLAIMING THAT "LORDSHIP SALVATION" is a heresy, and another gospel, that brings ANOTHER CHRIST. Really? By what Scripture are these claims made? By RESTING SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT, AND BY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION, Satan and HIS AGENTS, his messengers of light,

have created an entire FALSE GOSPEL, WITH NO OBEDIENCE, WITH ALL OF THE COMMANDS, SAYINGS AND WARNINGS OF JESUS CHRIST TOSSED ASIDE.

**LIFE BEFORE DEATH
or
DEATH BEFORE LIFE?**

Now we have all heard the question, which comes first, the CHICKEN OR THE EGG? Now we are going to ask another far more serious question: DOES ETERNAL LIFE, BROUGHT AT “BEING BORN AGAIN”, or ‘REGENERATION’ come before DEATH, or AFTER DEATH? And we are speaking here of THE DEATH OF THE CROSS, another of the many “SAYINGS OF MINE” according to Jesus. We are looking here for a SEQUENCE.

Matthew 10:36-39

And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. [37] He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. [39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Here we have THE CROSS, which CHRIST DEMANDED WE PICK UP is associated with DEATH. Now notice the SEQUENCE: HE THAT LOSETH HIS LIFE... In other words, in POINT OF SEQUENCE, ONE MUST LOSE THEIR LIFE BEFORE THEY CAN FIND IT. Do you understand the SEQUENCING. Just as one must WALK THE NARROW WAY TO “FIND LIFE”, ONE HERE MUST DIE TO FIND LIFE. We have total harmony. The NARROW WAY IS THE “WAY OF THE CROSS”. It is **OUR CROSS** that we carry on the NARROW WAY. How could one be born again if they are still alive? Would it not be LOGICAL that one would have to DIE before ONE COULD BE BORN AGAIN? Is not that what Nicodemus asked of Christ?

John 3:3-8

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 and of the 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, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

How can a man be BORN AGAIN when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? This question may seem silly, but it is deadly serious - for Nicodemus UNDERSTOOD THE RAMIFICATIONS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "BORN AGAIN" **OR BORN A SECOND TIME**. He understood far more than today's Christians and their leaders - for his question proves his understanding. **HOW DOES A PERSON DIE IN ORDER TO BE BORN A SECOND TIME?** Nicodemus UNDERSTOOD that **DEATH HAD TO COME IN SOME MANNER BEFORE A SECOND BIRTH COULD OCCUR** - and that was HIS QUESTION - HOW DOES THIS DEATH OCCUR? How does it work? ? If He is OLD, how can **HE DIE**, yet remain ALIVE and **BE BORN OVER AGAIN?** It is a question that every Christian had not only better PONDER AT LENGTH, but UNDERSTAND AS WELL. What caught the attention of Nicodemus was **THE FACT OF A DEATH PRIOR TO A SECOND BIRTH**. "How can a man be born again when he is old", is saying, "If a man is OLD, but STILL ALIVE, and HAS NOT DIED, then HOW CAN HE BE BORN AGAIN?"

Jesus understood the question and answered it - THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH (**BIRTH ONE**). THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT (**BIRTH TWO**). BUT HOW DOES A PERSON DIE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE NUMBER TWO? Jesus LISTED ONLY ONE WAY INTO HEAVEN, and ONLY ONE WAY TO ENTER INTO "LIFE" (zoe) - THE **STRAIT GATE AND THE NARROW WAY**. If there is ONLY WAY THAT "LEADETH UNTO LIFE", and the word LEADETH means "**TO BE PUT TO THE DEATH**", and Jesus Christ DEMANDS WE PICK UP OUR CROSS, then is it not OBVIOUS that THE NARROW WAY IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS, OF THE WAY OF DEATH, and that VIA THIS SUPERNATURAL WAY OF "DEATH" we will FIND LIFE!

What if we REFUSE THE "NARROW WAY" or we REFUSE THE CROSS, that is WE REFUSE TO DIE THE DEATH DEMANDED OF THE CROSS - what

then? **NO LIFE, no spiritual REBIRTH**, for IF WE MUST DIE TO OBTAIN THIS NEW LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, then WE COULD **NEVER OBTAIN IT** IF WE DID NOT DO IT - it is AUTOMATIC REJECTION, for there is **ONLY ONE WAY IN**.

John 12:24-26

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. [25] He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. [26] If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Notice the SEQUENCE: **EXCEPT** A CORN OF WHEAT (INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED “WHEAT”), FALL INTO THE GROUND **AND DIE**, IT **ABIDETH ALONE**. The word EXCEPT is interesting, for it means **UNLESS, or UNTIL**, or it is an **ABSOLUTE CONDITION THAT MUST BE MET OR THE RESULTS WILL NOT FOLLOW**:

EXCEPT - ean me, eh-an'-may, Greek 3362; i.e. Greek 1437 (ean) and Greek 3361 (me); **if not, i.e. unless :- × before, but, except, if no, (if, + whosoever) not.**

Please understand the seriousness of what we are looking at here - UNLESS, or UNTIL, or IF ONE DOES NOT DIE, then there shall be NO FRUIT. Now what happens if DEATH IS ALLOWED TO OCCUR: much fruit. Now Jesus relates this **DIRECTLY TO THE CROSS, AND DIRECTLY TO LOSING YOUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD, of HATING YOUR LIFE HERE ENOUGH SO THAT YOU WILL SEEK THE “KINGDOM”.**

There is much hidden here that needs to be pointed out. UNLESS YOU DIE TO YOURSELF AND YOUR LIFE HERE ON EARTH, YOU WILL ABIDE “ALONE”. This death is very mysterious, because we can prove it is not self-denial, it is something else!! Now the opposite of being ALONE is in reality, **UNION WITH ANOTHER**. The marriage between a man and a woman is likened to this UNION, where **the TWO SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS JOIN TOGETHER TO BECOME ONE FLESH**, or UNION. REBIRTH is in **fact UNION WITH CHRIST**, and is shown in a number of ways. “He who hath the Son hath life” is UNION WITH THE SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST. Because

God is a SPIRIT, and God is DIVINE AGAPE, and REGENERATION IS THE BESTOWMENT OF AGAPE, then obviously UNION WITH THE SPIRIT OF AGAPE WOULD BE NECESSARY, THE OPPOSITE OF BEING “ALONE”. Now the word “quicken” is also used in Scripture for REGENERATION OR REBIRTH.

1 Cor. 15:45

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Ephes. 2:1

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ephes. 2:5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Col. 2:13

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Now the word “quicken” is an interesting word:

QUICKENED - suzoopoieo, sood-zo-op-oy-eh'-o, Greek 4806; from Greek 4862 (sun) and Greek 2227 (zoopoieo); **to reanimate conjointly with (figurative) :- quicken together with.**

The word quickened means to **REANIMATE COJOINTLY WITH ANOTHER.** Or UNION WITH ANOTHER. To **BRING TOGETHER, TO JOIN IN UNION.** There is a REANIMATION, which is the GIVING OF A NEW SPIRIT LIFE **COJOINTLY.** It is the same as the marriage command given at weddings “WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO MAN PUT ASUNDER...”

THE UNION OF THE MAN AND THE WOMAN is symbolic of the UNION WITH CHRIST WITH HIS BRIDE.

But notice when the UNION TAKES PLACE in the “saying” of the CORN OF WHEAT. **UNLESS AND UNTIL IT DIES, it ABIDETH ALONE.** Therefore, **UNTIL DEATH OCCURS, IT MUST, AND IT WILL ABIDE ALONE, OR BY ITSELF.** The SOUL OF THE CHRISTIAN MUST ENTER INTO “**DEATH OF THE CROSS**” AND THAT DEATH MUST TAKE PLACE FIRST **BEFORE UNION WILL OCCUR.** It could not happen any other way - it is an ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT. To claim **A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST WITH NO DEATH IS TO BE IN TOTAL DECEPTION, A RANK DECEPTION.** It proves what Christ was driving at in his letter to the LAST DAY CHURCH:

Rev. 3:14-17

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; [15] I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. [17] Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

The last day Church is **POSITIVE IT IS GOING TO HEAVEN.** IT CLAIMS **TO BE BORN AGAIN, “SPIRIT FILLED” AND FULL OF HOLINESS BEFORE THE LORD.** But Jesus says the **OPPOSITE IS THE ACTUAL TRUTH -** they are in a **RANK DECEPTION, AND THEY KNOW NOT THAT THEY ARE UNSAVED, AND NOT GOING TO HEAVEN.** How can such a DECEPTION happen? **ONLY BE THE ACCEPTANCE OF FALSE SALVATION THEOLOGY.**

The reason is simple, but difficult to grasp by the mind. The strait gate and narrow way are the method God uses to **REVEAL TO THAT PERSON THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD BEFORE HIM.** The believers who are rejected by Christ never made the narrow way journey. They never even knew that it was required of them, because their theology told them they were saved simply by believing, and that obedience to the Lord’s request to “enter in” was a work, a legalism, and thus

rejected. Because they never entered in, they never knew their true state before God!

There is no other method by which people can be **DECEIVED INTO THINKING THEY ARE GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN THEY ARE NOT**. And these poor folks ARE POSITIVE they are “born again”, and that they are **IN UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST**. The fact is they ARE NOT BORN AGAIN, THAT THEY ARE NOT REGENERATED, THEY ARE NOT IN UNION WITH CHRIST. Why? Because they **CLAIMED “LIFE” but NEVER DIED TO OBTAIN IT**. Their theology told them that CHRIST DIED FOR THEM, and that HIS CROSS WAS ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY, AND ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS “BELIEVE”, AND BELIEVE IN THE “BLOOD OF JESUS”. Christ HIMSELF SAID MANY TIMES THIS WAS UNTRUE - that **UNLESS and UNTIL the INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN PICKED UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOWED CHRIST THROUGH THEIR OWN “CALVARY”, there would not BE QUICKENED, and they would not be BROUGHT INTO TRUE UNION WITH THEIR LORD**. Modern theology today REFUTES THE CROSS OF CHRIST AT EVERY TURN, WITH ALL OF ITS STRENGTH AND POWER.

So we have another PATTERN and another SEQUENCE: **DEATH BEFORE LIFE**.

Mark 8:34-38

**And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me,
(Sequence 1) - let him deny himself, and
(Sequence 2) - take up his cross, and
(Sequence 3) - follow me.**

[35] For whosoever_

**(1) will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall
(Sequence 1) lose his life for my sake and the gospel's,
(Sequence 2) the same shall save it.**

36] For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? [37] Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? [38] Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

We find here the same pattern, the same sequence: YOU PICK UP YOUR CROSS, YOU FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST THROUGH CALVARY AND BEYOND TO THE “NEW LIFE” IN THE RESURRECTED JESUS. DEATH BEFORE LIFE. Notice also YOU LOSE YOUR LIFE FOR CHRIST’S SAKE, then YOU FIND YOUR NEW LIFE AND YOU SAVE IT. It is the ENIGMA OF ALL ENIGMAS, but the sequence is UNAVOIDABLE: **DEATH COMES BEFORE LIFE.**

Luke 14:26-27

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. [27] And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

If you do not HATE YOU LIFE, AND LOSE IT, YOU CANNOT BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST. It is a **VAIN FAITH TO SIMPLY “BELIEVE”**. If Jesus Christ is TRULY THE LORD, THEN A LORD WHO ISSUES COMMANDS EXPECTS THEM TO BE FOLLOWED. IF JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR LORD, THEN YOU ARE HIS SERVANT - AND A SERVANT IS ONE WHO “DOETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE”.

John 9:6-12

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, [7] And said

unto him, (Sequence 1) - Go,
(Sequence 2) - wash in the pool of Siloam,
(which is by interpretation, Sent.) He
(Sequence 1) - went his way therefore,
(Sequence 2) - and washed,
(Sequence 3) - and came seeing.

[8] The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? [9] Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. [10] Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? [11] He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. [12] Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

Here is a parable filled with meaning for all of the Christians in REBELLION against the commands of their Lord Jesus Christ. Please also notice the SEQUENCE. The man was BLIND. Christians that are not born again **ARE BLIND**, and in bad need of EYESALVE THAT THEY MIGHT SEE. They know not that they are **POOR, BLIND AND NAKED**. What did Jesus DEMAND the man do? He said **“GO, WASH IN THE POOL”**. Now that is a COMMAND to someone who was BLIND. Now this man had TWO CHOICES BEFORE HIM. He could do as HIS LORD BID HIM DO, and **OBEY THE COMMANDS**, and **“DOETH THEM”**, or HE COULD REFUSE THE COMMAND, AND **“DOETH THEM NOT”**. Both had CONSEQUENCES, both had A RESULT. Now this BLIND BELIEVER IN THE LORD decided it PRUDENT to OBEY THE COMMANDS: **“HE WENT HIS WAY, THEREFORE AND WASHED...”** We find that HE DECIDED TO OBEY, and HE ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING, HE WENT HIS WAY, FOUND THE POOL OR WATER, AND WASHED.

Now the SEQUENCE IS IMPORTANT: HE WENT, HE GOT INTO THE WATER, and HE WASHED. The result of HIS OBEDIENCE? **HE CAME AWAY “SEEING”**. He had a NEW SET OF EYES, Once TOTALLY BLIND TO THE TRUTH OF HIS EXISTENCE AND REALITY OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM, HE COMPLIES, and NOW SEES. Do you understand the SEQUENCE? What if HE HAD NOT GONE TO THE POOL? WHAT IF HE HAD GONE TO THE POOL BUT NOT “ENTERED IN?” What if HE HAD NOT WASHED IN THE POOL? The man did **AS HE WAS BIDDEN - AND HE WAS GIVEN “NEW SIGHT”**.

Now that is called OBEDIENCE. IT IS A PART OF “FAITH” This BLIND MAN HAD ENOUGH “FAITH” IN JESUS CHRIST TO ACTUALLY “BELIEVE” THAT WHAT JESUS CHRIST TOLD HIM WAS THE TRUTH - AND SO HE DID IT, HE OBEYED, AND HE CAME AWAY WITH THE RESULTS OF OBEDIENCE - HE WAS GIVEN A NEW LIFE, NEW SIGHT! ALL BECAUSE OF HIS OBEDIENCE. ALL BECAUSE OF HIS “TRUE FAITH” IN JESUS CHRIST.

Now today’s modern Christian, WHO CLAIMS HE “BELIEVES IN” and has “FAITH IN” JESUS CHRIST is in reality a LIAR. He neither HAS ANY TRUE FAITH, nor ANY TRUE BELIEF, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT

BELIEVE ANY OF THE COMMANDS ISSUED BY CHRIST MEAN ANYTHING - IF HE DID, HE WOULD COMPLY WITH THEM.

Now WATER is a CODEWORD for **DIVINE AGAPE LOVE**, or we could say REGENERATION. This is a parable about **REGENERATION**. Of being **BORN AGAIN IN DIVINE LOVE**, so that you have a **NEW VISION, A NEW SET OF EYES**. The man went to the pool, HE GOT IN, and **HE WAS WASHED BY THE LORDS DIVINE AGAPE! HE WAS CLEAN IN ALL WAYS, FOR THE LORD “WASHED HIM”, AND MADE HIM CLEAN.** It was not the “work” of the man, or some **LEGALISTIC RITUAL** that made him clean, but **the WATER OF DIVINE AGAPE which made him clean.** Did Jesus Christ REBUKE THIS BLIND MAN FOR OBEDIENCE? Did He refuse SIGHT to this poor man because HE WENT AND WASHED IN THE POOL? Did He say to this blind man “You FOOL!! You UTTER FOOL!! You are saved by GRACE through FAITH, and NOT OF WORKS! You IDIOT, you ACTUALLY THOUGHT BY OBEDIENCE TO MY COMMANDS YOU WOULD REGAIN YOUR SIGHT? THAT WAS A “WORK”. WHAT YOU DID WAS A “LEGALISM”, THE DIRECT OPPOSITE OF FAITH IN MY POWER. YOU FLUNK, YOU FAIL, YOUR OUT! OBEDIENCE TO ANYTHING I SAY IN A “WORK” AND A “LEGALISM”. ANY OBEDIENCE TO ANYTHING I SAY OR MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN SAYS IS OUT - FOR IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH! You would SEE NOW HAD YOU JUST STOOD THERE, **DISOBEYED ME, AND SIMPLY “BELIEVED”**.

I don't think Jesus ever made ANY SUCH COMMENT ANYWHERE, and in fact, made HUNDREDS OF COMMENTS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE. I think that IF THE BLIND MAN HAD NOT DONE AS HE WAS COMMANDED, HE WOULD HAVE BLIND FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, as are most MODERN DAY CHRISTIANS, who have ACCEPTED THE MOST BLATANT CONTRADICTIONS TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST and are saying THAT OBEDIENCE IN ANY FORM WILL ACTUALLY LEAD TO YOUR RUIN, for you are ACCURSED, AND YOU BRING ANOTHER GOSPEL, AND ANOTHER CHRIST.

The Christ I bring to you is the ORIGINAL CHRIST, who is THE LORD. THIS LORD EXPECTS OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, **or HE IS THE GREATEST LIAR OF ALL LIARS.** He repeatedly claimed that **IF ANYONE DID NOT KEEP HIS SAYINGS, AND DO THEM, SAND WHO DID NOT DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER, WOULD NEVER SEE HEAVEN.** Has it

ever occurred to the modern day Christian that TRUE FAITH, and TRUE BELIEF in SOMEONE, SUCH AS JESUS CHRIST, AUTOMATICALLY BRINGS WITH IT OBEDIENCE TO THEIR COMMANDS?

If you go down and purchase something from a store, and you know nothing about how to PUT IT TOGETHER PROPERLY, you get out the INSTRUCTION BOOK, THE BOOK OF “DIRECTIONS” and you read it if you have any brains - otherwise you “READ THE DIRECTIONS WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE HAS FAILED.”. But sooner or later, YOU WILL READ THE DIRECTIONS. Why? Why bother at all to read the directions? That’s just the MANUFACTURER OF THE PRODUCT - WHAT DO THEY KNOW? You read it because THEY BUILT IT, AND THEY **KNOW HOW IT GOES TOGETHER**, and if YOU FOLLOW THE “DIRECTIONS” YOUR PRODUCT WILL ALL FIT TOGETHER AND WORK AS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO. But FAITH IN THE MANUFACTURER IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT. If you did not believe the manufacturer KNEW HIS PRODUCT INSIDE AND OUT, you would never FOLLOW ANY OF HIS DIRECTIONS.

NOW FAITH THEN, IS THE DYNAMIC BEHIND YOUR “BELIEVING” THE DIRECTIONS ARE TRUE, AND THAT IF YOU FOLLOW THEM, EVERYTHING WILL COME TOGETHER AND THE FINISHED PRODUCT WILL WORK. Is FAITH ITSELF the PRODUCT? Let us say you went down and bought a bike for your child. IS FAITH THE BIKE ITSELF? The BIKE IS THE RESULT OF YOUR FAITH, it is NOT FAITH ITSELF.

Salvation IN CHRIST in the **RESULT OF YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST**, that, **IF YOU COMPLY WITH HIS DIRECTIONS, WILL LEAD YOU TO HIM, AND TO UNION WITH HIM**. CHRIST IS NOT “FAITH”. Regeneration is LITERAL EVENT, a knowable event, and is not FAITH. It is not even TAKEN BY AN ACT OF FAITH. FAITH PROPELS YOU THROUGH THE STRAIT GATE, DOWN THE NARROW WAY, TO MEETING CHRIST AND **TO UNION WITH CHRIST**. Modern day Christians **HAVE A FAITH IN THEIR FAITH**, and in fact, have SUBSTITUTED FAITH AND BELIEF **FOR CHRIST HIMSELF**. The real Christ is left out in the cold. SATAN’S ANGELS OF LIGHT have been successful in GETTING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR FAITH, ALL BY ITSELF, BY SIMPLE “BELIEF”, IS IN FACT, “UNION” WITH CHRIST. It is not. It never has been, and it never will be. **TRUE FAITH, TRUE BELIEF will ALWAYS BRING WITH IT OBEDIENCE TO THE**

COMMANDS OF THE PERSON YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR FAITH AND YOUR TRUST IN.

Getting back to the Scripture and the blind man, we find again the same sequence: **THE COMMANDS, THE OBEDIENCE, AND AFTER THE OBEDIENCE THE NEW SIGHT.** Total harmony with all that we have looked at. Here is another PARABLE that is a parable about TRUE REGENERATION AND THE NARROW WAY:

Luke 14:8-11

When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; [9] And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. [10] But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. [11] For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

This is a parable about REGENERATION, or UNION WITH THE SON. You have been called to A WEDDING. You do not go take the HIGH SEATS OF HONOR, AS THE FALSE CHRISTIAN LEADERS DO, but rather, you are to **GO TO THE LOWEST ROOM** And there you are to wait until he that bids you comes to you. It is Jesus Christ who has bidden you to come to the wedding. It is JESUS CHRIST **that WILL COME TO YOU IN THE LOWEST ROOM.** Now the word lowest is interesting:

LOWEST - eschatos, es'-khat-os, Greek 2078; a superlative probably from Greek 2192 (echo) (in the sense of contiguity); **farthest, final (of place or time) :- ends of, last, latter end, lowest, uttermost.**

Now the LOWEST ROOM represents to **LOWEST PLACE THAN MAN CAN GO TO**, which is **THE PIT.** Now DEATH is represented by THE PIT. Christ commanded you to **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS and to FOLLOW HIM INTO DEATH.** If you do so, you will be **BROUGHT DOWN TO THE "PIT" OF DEATH.** You have been bidden to the wedding, and you are to **HUMBLE**

YOURSELF BY GOING TO THE PIT, rather than **TAKING THE SEATS OF HONOR**. While in **THE PIT**, you **WAIT FOR HIM THAT BADE YOU**. That is **JESUS CHRIST**. When he **COMETH TO YOU**, **HE WILL CALL YOU “FRIEND”** and insist that you **COME UP HIGHER**, for you are now in a **HIGHER REALM OF THE SPIRIT**.

This parable is about **BEING BORN AGAIN**. It is a parable about **UNION WITH CHRIST IN THE PIT OF DEATH**. **DEATH LEADS TO NEW LIFE**. **THAT NEW LIFE IS IN CHRIST**. **IF YOU MUST GO TO THE LOWEST ROOM AND WAIT FOR HIM THAT BADE YOU TO GO THERE**, THEN **JESUS CHRIST WILL COME TO YOU IN THE PIT OF DEATH**, all the while you are **ALIVE IN THE FLESH**. It is an **ENIGMA**, but it **THE TRUTH**. It is in total harmony with **THE WHEAT** that **MUST FALL** into the ground, and the **CROSS** and **THE POOL**. Notice the **SEQUENCE**: **“GO” TO THE LOWEST ROOM**. It is a command, not a suggestion. **OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMAND TO GO IS NECESSARY**. There is always a total harmony in Scripture if you look for it - and it will never vary - it will always contain the **SAME HARMONY**, **THE SAME SEQUENCE**, **THE SAME LOGIC**. If you do not find it, you have not dug deep enough to understand it. Now this parable of the **WEDDING FEAST** and where you are to sit is in total harmony as to why the **HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT**, and **WHAT HIS JOB IS IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE TRUE BELIEVER**:

John 16:8-11

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Now the Holy Spirit was sent to **REPROVE THE WORLD (THAT’S YOU AND I BECAUSE WE ARE PART OF THE WORLD) OF SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT**. The word **JUDGMENT** is a word we need to look at:

JUDGMENT - krisis, kree'-sis, Greek 2920; decision (subject or object, for or against); **by extension a tribunal; by implication justice (specially divine law) :- accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment.**

The word means DECISION and also **TO BE JUDGED UNTO ETERNAL DAMNATION**. According to the Bible, the **HUMAN RACE IS UNDER JUDGMENT**, that is, **ALL THE PEOPLE UPON IT HAVE ALREADY BEEN JUDGED**:

John 12:46-48

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. [47] And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. [48] He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Jesus Christ came to **SAVE THE WORLD FROM A JUDGMENT ALREADY PASSED DOWN BY THE WORD OF GOD**. He came so that you and I might **ESCAPE THIS JUDGMENT**. Now the work of the Holy Spirit is **TO REVEAL ALL TRUTH**, and **PART OF THAT TRUTH IS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN JUDGED GUILTY, AND ARE A HELL-BOUND SINNER, WITHOUT HOPE, WITHOUT RECOURSE, AND WITHOUT REMEDY, APART FROM JESUS CHRIST**.

Now the world, **BECAUSE IT REFUSES THE STRAIT GATE AND THE NARROW WAY**, which is **THE ONLY WAY the HOLY SPIRIT HAS OF BRINGING YOU DOWN INTO THIS JUDGMENT**, does not **KNOW**, and **DOES NOT REALIZE** where they are **GOING**, or **WHY THEY ARE GOING THERE** - and mankind **COLLECTIVELY REJECTS THE CONCEPT THAT THE WORLD HAS BEEN JUDGED AND FOUND GUILTY**. **You see, you would not need to be BORN AGAIN IF YOU WERE ALREADY ALIVE TO THE LORD.** The only way one can be **BORN AGAIN** is to **ENTER IN AT THE STRAIT GATE**, and **WALK THE NARROW WAY UNTO UNION WITH CHRIST**, who is **the HOLDER OF ETERNAL LIFE**. The narrow way is **THE WAY OF JUDGMENT, THE WAY OF THE CROSS, THE WAY OF DEATH**, that is the **REVELATION TO THE SOUL BY GOD AS TO WHY THAT SOUL STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD**. The modern day Christian **KNOWETH NOT**, because they **REFUSE** the method of salvation Christ came with. They have **INVENTED A NEW WAY**, a **WAY THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL RUIN, NOT ETERNAL LIFE**. There is **NO CROSS**, no **WAY OF DEATH**, no **TESTIMONY OF DEATH**, only a vain claim to being “born again” by some **INSTANT**

SALVATION THEOLOGY INVENTED BY THE FAITH HUCKSTERS TO BECOME RICH.

REPENTANCE BEFORE SALVATION?
or
SALVATION BEFORE REPENTANCE?

Now we will search for yet another CONFIRMATION OF SEQUENCE, and we will find in the COMMAND TO REPENT - and we don't mean REPENTANCE as is TAUGHT TODAY, which is nothing more than WORLDLY SORROW, but we are speaking here of SCRIPTURAL REPENTANCE, OF A LOVE EXCHANGE, OF A REPENTANCE THAT IS NOT TO BE EVER REPENTED OF. There is vast difference between WORLDLY SORROW and true Biblical repentance. The object here, however, is not to address what is repentance, but rather to LOOK AT THE SEQUENCE to ascertain which comes first - SALVATION or REPENTANCE?

Luke 13:3-5

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. [4] Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? [5] I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Believe it or not, the MODERN DAY CHRISTIAN LEADERS, THE "SOOTHSAYERS" OF SATAN'S KINGDOM OF GOD UPON EARTH, will tell you that REPENTANCE IS A "WORK" and a 'legalism" and is an ADDITION TO FAITH, and is therefore CAST ASIDE AS A REQUIREMENT OF SALVATION. Jesus Christ warned of these WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, and so you have NO EXCUSE for not knowing they would ARRIVE, and that they would focus in ON THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION in order to DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE. It is not possible because GOD DRAGS EVERY TRUE BELIEVER TO CHRIST, and that is the only reason IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DECEIVE THEM, for they HAVE GONE DOWN THE NARROW WAY, THEY HAVE DIED UPON THEIR OWN CROSS, THEY HAVE GONE TO THE PIT, AND THEY HAVE MET JESUS CHRIST FACE TO FACE, AND KNOW HIM. Now Jesus is very BLUNT: IF YOU DO NOT

REPENT, you will PERISH. Unless and UNTIL YOU REPENT, you WILL PERISH. Therefore every a first grade DROP-OUT could figure out that REPENTANCE COMES PRIOR TO ETERNAL LIFE. In other words, REPENTANCE COMES FIRST, REBIRTH AND REGENERATION COME SECOND. It has to be that way, because REGENERATION IS AN EXCHANGE OF LOVE TYPES, and AN EXCHANGE OF LIFE TYPES. It is totally SUPERNATURAL, done by GOD, when GOD CHOOSES, and WHERE GOD DECIDES.

Acts 2:38

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.

Does it take a ROCKET SCIENTIST to figure out the SEQUENCE HERE?

Luke 24:46-48

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: [47] And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. [48] And ye are witnesses of these things.

There is a call to REPENTANCE and it is still valid, modern Christian FALSE THEOLOGY notwithstanding. If you do not REPENT A SCRIPTURAL REPENTANCE, there will be NO SALVATION. The two operate SIDE BY SIDE, in SEQUENCE. FIRST DEATH, THEN REPENTANCE, THEN REBIRTH. This is not an article on REBIRTH, bur rather SEQUENCE of events. REBIRTH can only come when TRUE REPENTANCE OCCURS. There has to be NOT ONLY A CHANGE IN MIND, **BUT A CHANGE IN SPIRITS, A CHANGE IN LOVE.**

2 Cor. 7:10

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Is this clear enough, that REPENTANCE LEADS TO SALVATION, and not the other way around. REPENT FIRST, SALVATION SECOND. We find the SAME SEQUENCE, and we will find it NO MATTER WHERE WE LOOK.

To those who wish to CLAIM A SALVATION BEFORE THE CROSS, BEFORE DEATH, BEFORE A STRAIT GATE, OR A NARROW WAY, BEFORE OBEDIENCE, BEFORE THEY “DOETH THESE SAYINGS OF MINE”, I give you the only answer that Jesus Christ ever gave to anyone who refused his commands. It does not MATTER WHAT YOUR REASON FOR REFUSAL IS, that is “I AM SAVED BY FAITH ALONE”, or “I AM SAVED BY GRACE”, or MY THEOLOGY DOES NOT AGREE, or whatever else you wish to hurl up as OBJECTIONS: YOU WILL BE LIKENED UNTO A FOOLISH PERSON WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE SAND, AND WHEN THE STORM OF GOD’S JUDGMENT COMES UPON YOU, YOU WILL FALL, FOR YOU DID NOT DIG THROUGH THE SAND, AND ANCHOR YOURSELF UPON THE ROCK.

THE END

Now which comes first, THE REWARD or the DILIGENT SEARCH? The modern Christian claims THE REWARD. They can be diligent LATER if they choose, but it is not REQUIRED, for it would be a WORK, an addition to FAITH, which is a total REVERSAL OF SCRIPTURE. Obviously **IF YOU DID NOT DILIGENTLY SEEK THE LORD, YOU WOULD GET NO REWARD WHATEVER**. Obedience to the command to “DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM” must come before any reward, **otherwise the commands mean nothing, obedience means nothing**. But such is the way of modern theology. In the name of FAITH, it casts aside all commands, all warnings, all instructions. James claimed it was a DEAD FAITH.