

References and/or Scripture Quoted
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Who Are We? Conclusion

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James 1:26-27

²⁶If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not ^[a]bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. ²⁷Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained ^[b]by the world.

Footnotes:

- a. James 1:26 Or *control*
- b. James 1:27 Lit *from*

Exodus 3:10-22

The Mission of Moses

¹⁰Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹²And He said, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall ^[a]worship God at this mountain.”

¹³Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “[^b]I AM WHO [^c]I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘[^d]I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name [^e]to all generations. ¹⁶Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “[^f]I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷So I said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.’” ¹⁸They will [^g]pay heed to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt and you will say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’ ¹⁹But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except [^h]under compulsion. ²⁰So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go. ²¹I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. ²²But every woman shall ask of her neighbor and the woman who lives in her house, articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and you will put them on your sons and daughters. Thus you will plunder the Egyptians.”

Footnotes:

- a. Exodus 3:12 Or *serve*
- b. Exodus 3:14 Related to the name of God, *YHWH*, rendered *Lord*, which is derived from the verb *HAYAH*, *to be*
- c. Exodus 3:14 Related to the name of God, *YHWH*, rendered *Lord*, which is derived from the verb *HAYAH*, *to be*
- d. Exodus 3:14 Related to the name of God, *YHWH*, rendered *Lord*, which is derived from the verb *HAYAH*, *to be*
- e. Exodus 3:15 Lit *to generation of generation*
- f. Exodus 3:16 Lit *Visiting I have visited*
- g. Exodus 3:18 Lit *hear your voice*
- h. Exodus 3:19 Lit *by a strong hand*

John 8:31-59

The Truth Will Make You Free

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word ^[a]has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak the things which I have seen ^[b]with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father.”

³⁹ They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus *said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. ⁴¹ You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but ^[c]He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand ^[d]what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks ^[e]a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of ^[f]lies. ⁴⁵ But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.”

⁴⁸ The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My

word, he will never taste of death.’⁵³ Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?”⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’;⁵⁵ and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced^[g] to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.”⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham^[h] was born, I am.”⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus^[i] hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Footnotes:

- a. John 8:37 Or *makes no progress*
- b. John 8:38 Or *in the presence of*
- c. John 8:42 Lit *that One*
- d. John 8:43 Or *My way of speaking*
- e. John 8:44 Lit *the lie*
- f. John 8:44 Lit *it*
- g. John 8:56 Lit *in order that he might see*
- h. John 8:58 Lit *came into being*
- i. John 8:59 Lit *was hidden*

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter’s Confession of Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some *say* John the Baptist; and others,^[a] Elijah; but still others,^[b] Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He *said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are^[c] the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon^[d] Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.¹⁸ I also say to you that you are^[e] Peter, and upon this^[f] rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth^[g] shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth^[h] shall have been loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then He^[i] warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was^[j] the Christ.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 16:14 Gr *Elias*
- b. Matthew 16:14 Gr *Jeremias*
- c. Matthew 16:16 I.e. the Messiah
- d. Matthew 16:17 I.e. son of Jonah
- e. Matthew 16:18 Gr *Petros*, a stone
- f. Matthew 16:18 Gr *petra*, large rock; bed-rock
- g. Matthew 16:19 Gr *estai dedemenon*, fut. pft. pass.
- h. Matthew 16:19 Gr *estai lelumenon*, fut. pft. pass.
- i. Matthew 16:20 Or *strictly admonished*
- j. Matthew 16:20 I.e. the Messiah

Luke 18:18-34

The Rich Young Ruler

¹⁸ A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’” ²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from *my* youth.” ²² When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. ²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to ^[a]go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ But He said, “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

²⁸ Peter said, “Behold, we have left ^[b]our own *homes* and followed You.” ²⁹ And He said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”

³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

³² For He will be ^[c]handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, ³³ and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”

³⁴ But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

Footnotes:

- a. Luke 18:25 Lit *enter*
- b. Luke 18:28 Lit *our own things*
- c. Luke 18:32 Or *betrayed*

Isaiah 53

The Suffering Servant

53 Who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He grew up before Him like a tender ^[a]shoot,

And like a root out of parched ground;

He has no *stately* form or majesty

That we should look upon Him,

Nor appearance that we should ^[b]be attracted to Him.

³ He was despised and forsaken of men,

A man of ^[c]sorrows and acquainted with ^[d]grief;

And like one from whom men hide their face

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely our ^[e]griefs He Himself bore,
And our ^[f]sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
^[g]Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was ^[h]pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our ^[i]well-being *fell* upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To ^[j]fall on Him.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
And as for His generation, who considered
That He was cut off out of the land of the ^[k]living
For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men,
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased
To crush Him, ^[l]putting *Him* to grief;
If ^[m]He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering,
He will see *His* ^[n]offspring,
He will prolong *His* days,
And the ^[o]good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

¹¹ As a result of the ^[p]anguish of His soul,
He will see ^[q]*it and* be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
And He will divide the booty with the strong;
Because He poured out ^[r]Himself to death,
And was numbered with the transgressors;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors.

Footnotes:

- a. Isaiah 53:2 Lit *suckling*

- b. Isaiah 53:2 Lit *desire*
- c. Isaiah 53:3 Or *pains*
- d. Isaiah 53:3 Or *sickness*
- e. Isaiah 53:4 Or *sickness*
- f. Isaiah 53:4 Or *pains*
- g. Isaiah 53:4 Or *Struck down by*
- h. Isaiah 53:5 Or *wounded*
- i. Isaiah 53:5 Or *peace*
- j. Isaiah 53:6 Lit *encounter Him*
- k. Isaiah 53:8 Or *life*
- l. Isaiah 53:10 Lit *He made Him sick*
- m. Isaiah 53:10 Lit *His soul*
- n. Isaiah 53:10 Lit *seed*
- o. Isaiah 53:10 Or *will of*
- p. Isaiah 53:11 Or *toilsome labor*
- q. Isaiah 53:11 Another reading is *light*
- r. Isaiah 53:12 Lit *His soul*

Acts 1:9-11

The Ascension

⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into ^[a]the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into ^[b]the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 1:10 Or *heaven*
- b. Acts 1:11 Or *heaven*

Hebrews 10:11-12

¹¹ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹² but He, having offered one sacrifice for ^[a]sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

Footnotes:

- a. Hebrews 10:12 Or *sins, forever sat down*

Hebrews 7:23-28

²³ ^[a]The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, ²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Therefore He is able also to save ^[b]forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to

offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

Footnotes:

- a. Hebrews 7:23 Lit *The greater number have become priests...*
- b. Hebrews 7:25 Or *completely*

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and ^[a]your love for all the ^[b]saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the ^[c]knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart ^[d]may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ^[e]saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Footnotes:

- a. Ephesians 1:15 Three early mss do not contain *your love*
- b. Ephesians 1:15 V 1, note 2
- c. Ephesians 1:17 Or *true knowledge*
- d. Ephesians 1:18 Lit *being*
- e. Ephesians 1:18 Or *holy ones*

Colossians 3:1-17

Put On the New Self

³ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² ^[a]Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore ^[b]consider the members of your earthly body as dead to ^[c]immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which ^[d]amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come ^[e]upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living ^[f]in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ ^[g]Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old ^[h]self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being ^[i]renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, ^[j]barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and ^[k]patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

¹⁴ Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is ^[l]the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ ^[m]rule in your hearts, to which ^[n]indeed you were called in one body; and ^[o]be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of ^[p]Christ richly dwell within you, ^[q]with all wisdom teaching and admonishing ^[r]one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing ^[s]with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 3:2 Or *Be intent on*
- b. Colossians 3:5 Lit *put to death the members which are upon the earth*
- c. Colossians 3:5 Lit *fornication*
- d. Colossians 3:5 Lit *is*
- e. Colossians 3:6 Two early mss do not contain *upon the sons of disobedience*
- f. Colossians 3:7 Or *among these*
- g. Colossians 3:9 Or *Stop lying*
- h. Colossians 3:9 Gr *anthropos*
- i. Colossians 3:10 Lit *renovated*
- j. Colossians 3:11 I.e. those who were not Greeks, either by birth or by culture
- k. Colossians 3:12 I.e. forbearance toward others
- l. Colossians 3:14 Lit *the uniting bond of perfection*
- m. Colossians 3:15 Or *act as arbiter*
- n. Colossians 3:15 Lit *also*
- o. Colossians 3:15 Or *show yourselves thankful*
- p. Colossians 3:16 One early ms reads *the Lord*
- q. Colossians 3:16 Or *in*
- r. Colossians 3:16 Or *one another, singing with psalms...*
- s. Colossians 3:16 Or *by*; lit *in His grace*

Hebrews 7:11-28

¹¹ Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also. ¹³ For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord ^[a]was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. ¹⁵ And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become *such* not on the basis of a law of ^[b]physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is attested *of Him*,

“YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER
ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.”

¹⁸ For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. ²⁰ And inasmuch as *it was* not without an oath ²¹ (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him,

“THE LORD HAS SWORN
AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND,
‘YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER’”);

²² so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³ ^[c] The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, ²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Therefore He is able also to save ^[d] forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

Footnotes:

- a. Hebrews 7:14 Lit *has arisen from*
- b. Hebrews 7:16 Lit *fleshly commandment*; i.e. to be a descendant of Levi
- c. Hebrews 7:23 Lit *The greater number have become priests...*
- d. Hebrews 7:25 Or *completely*

2 Corinthians 5

The Temporal and Eternal

⁵ For we know that if ^[a] the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. ⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a ^[b] pledge.

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by ^[c] sight— ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for ^[d] his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. ¹² We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we ^[e]are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one ^[f]according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ ^[g]according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, ^[h]*he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and ^[i]He has ^[j]committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Footnotes:

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:1 Lit *our earthly house of the tent*
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:5 Or *down payment*
- c. 2 Corinthians 5:7 Or *appearance*
- d. 2 Corinthians 5:10 Lit *the things through the body*
- e. 2 Corinthians 5:13 Lit *were*
- f. 2 Corinthians 5:16 I.e. by what he is in the flesh
- g. 2 Corinthians 5:16 I.e. by what he is in the flesh
- h. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Or there is *a new creation*
- i. 2 Corinthians 5:19 Lit *having*
- j. 2 Corinthians 5:19 Lit *placed in us*

1 John 3

Children of God Love One Another

3 See ^[a]how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or ^[b]knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil ^[c]has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God

appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is ^[d]born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is ^[e]born of God. ¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: ^[f] anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹ For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; ¹² not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

¹³ Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his ^[g]heart ^[h]against him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will ^[i]assure our heart before Him ²⁰ ^[j]in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence ^[k]before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

²³ This is His commandment, that we ^[l]believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He ^[m]commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 John 3:1 Lit *what kind of love*
- b. 1 John 3:6 Or *has known*
- c. 1 John 3:8 Lit *sins*
- d. 1 John 3:9 Or *begotten*
- e. 1 John 3:9 Or *begotten*
- f. 1 John 3:10 Lit *everyone*
- g. 1 John 3:17 Lit *inward parts*
- h. 1 John 3:17 Lit *from*
- i. 1 John 3:19 Lit *persuade*
- j. 1 John 3:20 Or *that if our heart condemns us, that God...*
- k. 1 John 3:21 Lit *toward*
- l. 1 John 3:23 Or *believe the name*
- m. 1 John 3:23 Lit *gave us a commandment*

Revelation 19:11-19

The Coming of Christ

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will ^[a]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the ^[b]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

¹⁷ Then I saw ^[c]an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of ^[d]commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.”

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

Footnotes:

- a. Revelation 19:15 Or *shepherd*
- b. Revelation 19:15 Lit *wine press of the wine of the wrath of God's anger*
- c. Revelation 19:17 Lit *one*
- d. Revelation 19:18 I.e. chiliarchs, in command of one thousand troops

John 1:1-5

The Deity of Jesus Christ

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²^[a]He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ^[b]comprehend it.

Footnotes:

- a. John 1:2 Lit *This one*
- b. John 1:5 Or *overpower*

Hebrews 4

The Believer's Rest

4 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word ^[a]they heard did not profit them, because ^[b]it was not united by faith in those who heard. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said,

“AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH,
THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,”

although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day*: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; ⁵ and again in this *passage*, “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.” ⁶ Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because

of disobedience,⁷ He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying ^[c]through David after so long a time just as has been said before,

“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”

⁸ For if ^[d]Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. ⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. ¹¹ Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Footnotes:

- a. Hebrews 4:2 Lit *of hearing*
- b. Hebrews 4:2 Two early mss read *they were...faith with those who heard*
- c. Hebrews 4:7 Or *in*
- d. Hebrews 4:8 Gr *Jesus*

James 2:14-26

Faith and Works

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can ^[a]that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, ^[b]be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is ^[c]dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone ^[d]may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that ^[e]God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and ^[f]as a result of the works, faith was ^[g]perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Footnotes:

- a. James 2:14 Lit *the*
- b. James 2:16 Or *warm yourselves and fill yourselves*
- c. James 2:17 Or *dead by its own standards*
- d. James 2:18 Lit *will*
- e. James 2:19 One early ms reads *there is one God*
- f. James 2:22 Or *by the deeds*
- g. James 2:22 Or *completed*

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Graduation Speech:

Lou Holtz; Trust, Commitment, and Love: Making life simple again
I Was Born With a Silver Spoon in My Mouth.

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser to view the speech.

<https://www.facebook.com/goalcast/videos/1557107097699808/>

Song:**Break Our Hearts by Vicky Beeching**

Listen to the song by clicking the link below or copy and paste it into your browser:

<http://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/break-our-hearts>

Verse 1

It's time for us to live the songs we sing
And turn our good intentions into action
To bring the kind of worship you desire
And move beyond our self-absorbed distractions

Pre-Chorus

The mountains are shaking
Could this be a great awakening

Chorus

Break our hearts
With the things that break Yours
Wake us up to see through Your eyes
Break our hearts
With the things that break yours
And send us out to shine in the darkness

Verse 2

It's time to move outside our comfort zone
To see beyond our churches and our homes
To change the way we think and how we spend
Until we look like Jesus again

Bridge

Here I am, send me
To be Your hands and feet
Here I am, send me, I will go