

References and/or Scripture Quoted
December 3, 2017

Scared to Death of Life Part 2

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Colossians 3:18-25

Family Relations

¹⁸ Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing ^[a]to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters ^[b]on earth, not with ^[c]external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work ^[d]heartily, as for the Lord ^[e]rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward ^[f]of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and ^[g]that without partiality.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 3:20 Lit *in*
- b. Colossians 3:22 Lit *according to the flesh*
- c. Colossians 3:22 Lit *eyeservice*
- d. Colossians 3:23 Lit *from the soul*
- e. Colossians 3:23 Lit *and not*
- f. Colossians 3:24 I.e. consisting of
- g. Colossians 3:25 Lit *there is no partiality*

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five ^[a]talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. ¹⁶ Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. ¹⁸ But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his ^[b]master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those slaves **came* and **settled* accounts with them.

²⁰ The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your ^[c]master.’

²² “Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴ “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

²⁶ “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. ²⁷ Then you ought to have put my money ^[d] in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

²⁹ “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 25:15 A talent was worth about fifteen years’ wages of a laborer
- b. Matthew 25:18 Or *lord’s*
- c. Matthew 25:21 Or *lord*
- d. Matthew 25:27 Lit *to the bankers*

Mark 16:1-8

The Resurrection

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of ^[a]James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early on the first day of the week, they *came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ Looking up, they *saw that the stone had been rolled away, ^[b]although it was extremely large. ⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he *said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” ⁸ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Footnotes:

- a. Mark 16:1 Or *Jacob*
- b. Mark 16:4 Lit *for*

Matthew 12:30-32

The Unpardonable Sin

³⁰ He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

³¹ “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. ³² Whoever ^[a]speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever ^[b]speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 12:32 Lit *will speak*
- b. Matthew 12:32 Lit *will speak*

Romans 8

Deliverance from Bondage

8 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life ^[a]in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, ^[b]weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of ^[c]sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is ^[d]alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies ^[e]through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you ^[f]must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery ^[g]leading to fear again, but you have received ^[h]a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ^[i]in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that

the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Our Victory in Christ

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the ^[i]saints according to *the will of God*.

²⁸ And we know that ^[k]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was ^[l]raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of ^[m]Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 8:2 Or *has set you free in Christ Jesus*
- b. Romans 8:3 Lit *in which it was weak*
- c. Romans 8:3 Lit *flesh of sin*
- d. Romans 8:10 Lit *life*
- e. Romans 8:11 One early ms reads *because of*
- f. Romans 8:13 Or *are going to*
- g. Romans 8:15 Lit *for fear again*
- h. Romans 8:15 Or *the Spirit*
- i. Romans 8:20 Or *in hope; because the creation*
- j. Romans 8:27 Or *holy ones*
- k. Romans 8:28 One early ms reads *all things work together for good*
- l. Romans 8:34 One early ms reads *raised from the dead*

m. Romans 8:35 Two early mss read *God*

Romans 6

Believers Are Dead to Sin, Alive to God

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become ^[a]united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be ^[b]*in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old ^[c]self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be ^[d]done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is ^[e]freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, ^[f]is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting ^[g]the members of your body to sin *as* ^[h]instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* ^[i]instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin ^[j]resulting in death, or of obedience ^[k]resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that ^[l]though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, ^[m]resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, ^[n]resulting in sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what ^[o]benefit were you then ^[p]deriving ^[q]from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you ^[r]derive your ^[s]benefit, ^[t]resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 6:5 Or *united with the likeness*
- b. Romans 6:5 Or *with*
- c. Romans 6:6 Gr *anthropos*
- d. Romans 6:6 Or *made powerless*

- e. Romans 6:7 Or *acquitted*
- f. Romans 6:9 Lit *no longer dies*
- g. Romans 6:13 Lit *your members to sin*
- h. Romans 6:13 Or *weapons*
- i. Romans 6:13 Or *weapons*
- j. Romans 6:16 Lit *to death*
- k. Romans 6:16 Lit *to righteousness*
- l. Romans 6:17 Lit *you were slaves...but you became*
- m. Romans 6:19 Lit *to lawlessness*
- n. Romans 6:19 Lit *to sanctification*
- o. Romans 6:21 Lit *fruit*
- p. Romans 6:21 Lit *having*
- q. Romans 6:21 Lit *in*
- r. Romans 6:22 Lit *have*
- s. Romans 6:22 Lit *fruit*
- t. Romans 6:22 Lit *to sanctification*

Acts 2:37-39

The Ingathering

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were ^[a] pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “^[b] Brethren, ^[c] what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 2:37 Or *wounded in conscience*
- b. Acts 2:37 Lit *Men brothers*
- c. Acts 2:37 Or *what are we to do*

Joshua 24:14-16

“We Will Serve the LORD”

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, ^[a] fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and ^[b] truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the ^[c] River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ The people answered and said, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

Footnotes:

- a. Joshua 24:14 Or *reverence*
- b. Joshua 24:14 Or *faithfulness*
- c. Joshua 24:14 I.e. Euphrates

1 Timothy 2:3-5

³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the ^[a]knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Timothy 2:4 Or *recognition*

Matthew 6:25-34

The Cure for Anxiety

²⁵“For this reason I say to you, ^[a]do not be worried about your ^[b]life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the ^[c]air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? ²⁷And who of you by being worried can add a *single* ^[d]hour to his ^[e]life? ²⁸And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! ³¹Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But ^[f]seek first ^[g]His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be ^[h]added to you.

³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will ^[i]care for itself. ^[j]Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 6:25 Or *stop being worried*
- b. Matthew 6:25 Lit *soul*
- c. Matthew 6:26 Lit *heaven*
- d. Matthew 6:27 Lit *cubit* (approx 18 in.)
- e. Matthew 6:27 Or *height*
- f. Matthew 6:33 Or *continually seek*
- g. Matthew 6:33 Or *the kingdom*
- h. Matthew 6:33 Or *provided*
- i. Matthew 6:34 Lit *worry about itself*
- j. Matthew 6:34 Lit *Sufficient for the day is its evils*

Song: "Already There" by Casting Crowns

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrOotpSKOX0>

"Already There"

From where I'm standing
Lord it's so hard for me to see
Where this is going
And where You're leading me
I wish I knew how
All my fears and all my questions
Are gonna play out
In a world I can't control

Oh, oh

When I'm lost in the mystery
To You my future is a memory
Cause You're already there
You're already there
Standing at the end of my life
Waiting on the other side
And You're already there
You're already there

Oh, oh, oh, oh

From where You're standing
Lord, You see a grand design
That You imagined
When You breathed me into life
And all the chaos
Comes together in Your hands
Like a masterpiece
Of Your picture perfect plan
When I'm lost in the mystery
To You my future is a memory
Cause You're already there
You're already there
Standing at the end of my life
Waiting on the other side
And You're already there
You're already there

One day I'll stand before You
And look back on the life I've lived

I can't wait to enjoy the view
And see how all the pieces fit *[x2]*

One day I'll stand before You
And look back on the life I've lived
Cause You're already there
You're already there
When I'm lost in the mystery
To You my future is a memory
Cause You're already there
You're already there
Standing at the end of my life
Waiting on the other side
And You're already there
You're already there

You are already there

Matthew 6:1-14

Giving to the Poor and Prayer

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

² “So when you ^[a]give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ³ But when you ^[b]give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your ^[c]giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

⁵ “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners ^[d]so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ ‘Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ ‘Give us this day ^[e]our daily bread.

¹² ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from ^[f]evil. ^[g][For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

¹⁴ For if you forgive ^[h]others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 6:2 Or *give alms*
- b. Matthew 6:3 Or *give alms*
- c. Matthew 6:4 Or *alms*
- d. Matthew 6:5 Lit *to be apparent to men*
- e. Matthew 6:11 Or *our bread for tomorrow*
- f. Matthew 6:13 Or *the evil one*
- g. Matthew 6:13 This clause not found in early mss
- h. Matthew 6:14 Gr *anthropoi*

Matthew 14:13-36

Five Thousand Fed

¹³ Now when Jesus heard *about John*, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the ^[a]people heard *of this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ When He went ^[b]ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This place is desolate and the hour is already ^[c]late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!” ¹⁷ They *said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” ¹⁹ Ordering the ^[d]people to ^[e]sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food*, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave them* to the crowds, ²⁰ and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. ²¹ There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately He ^[f]made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. ²³ After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was already ^[g]a long distance from the land, ^[h]battered by the waves; for the wind was ^[i]contrary. ²⁵ And in the ^[j]fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out ^[k]in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹ And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place ^[l]recognized Him, they sent *word* into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; ³⁶ and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched *it* were cured.

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 14:13 Lit *the crowds*
- b. Matthew 14:14 Lit *out*
- c. Matthew 14:15 Lit *past*
- d. Matthew 14:19 Lit *crowds*
- e. Matthew 14:19 Lit *recline*
- f. Matthew 14:22 Lit *compelled*
- g. Matthew 14:24 Lit *many stadia from*; a stadion was about 600 feet or about 182 meters
- h. Matthew 14:24 Lit *tormented*

- i. Matthew 14:24 Or *adverse*
- j. Matthew 14:25 I.e. 3-6 a.m.
- k. Matthew 14:26 Lit *from*
- l. Matthew 14:35 Or *knew*

Psalm 139

God's Omnipresence and Omniscience.

139 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know ^[a]when I sit down and ^[b]when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

³ You ^[c]scrutinize my ^[d]path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ ^[e]Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in ^[f]Sheol, behold, You are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will ^[g]overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"

¹² Even the darkness is not dark ^[h]to You,

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

¹³ For You formed my ^[i]inward parts;

You wove me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for ^[j]I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My ^[k]frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were ordained *for me*,

When as yet there was not one of them.

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

¹⁹ O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

²⁰ For they speak ^[l]against You wickedly,
And Your enemies ^[m]take *Your name* in vain.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

²² I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

²⁴ And see if there be any ^[n]hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Footnotes:

- a. Psalm 139:2 Lit *my sitting*
- b. Psalm 139:2 Lit *my rising*
- c. Psalm 139:3 Lit *winnow*
- d. Psalm 139:3 Or *journeying*
- e. Psalm 139:4 Lit *For there is not*
- f. Psalm 139:8 I.e. the nether world
- g. Psalm 139:11 Lit *bruise*; some commentators read *cover*
- h. Psalm 139:12 Lit *from*
- i. Psalm 139:13 Lit *kidneys*
- j. Psalm 139:14 Some ancient versions read *You are fearfully wonderful*
- k. Psalm 139:15 Lit *bones were*
- l. Psalm 139:20 Or *of*
- m. Psalm 139:20 Some mss read *lift themselves up* against You
- n. Psalm 139:24 Lit *way of pain*

Romans 8:26-39

Our Victory in Christ

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the ^[a]saints according to *the will of God*.

²⁸ And we know that ^[b]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn

among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was ^[c]raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of ^[d]Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Footnotes:

- a. Romans 8:27 Or *holy ones*
- b. Romans 8:28 One early ms reads *all things work together for good*
- c. Romans 8:34 One early ms reads *raised from the dead*
- d. Romans 8:35 Two early mss read *God*

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to Me

²⁵ At that ^[a]time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

²⁸ “Come to Me, all ^[b]who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is ^[c]easy and My burden is light.”

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 11:25 Or *occasion*
- b. Matthew 11:28 Or *who work to exhaustion*
- c. Matthew 11:30 Or *comfortable, or pleasant*

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