Pre-Born Again

No Jesus No GOD No Good

There are *countless* opinions about "god". For example, folks may consider themselves to be a(n)

a. Theist – someone who believes in the existence of god
b. Atheist – someone who does NOT believe in the existence of god
c. Gnostic – someone who believes that he/she possesses special spiritual knowledge
d. Agnostic – someone who believes that NOTHING can be or is known about god
e. …

If you have already decided to follow Jesus, and are already Born Again, that is Born from Above or Born Spiritually, the following information may still be helpful in your endeavor to

Spread the Word to the world

If you are still considering Jesus, prayerfully, this information will be beneficial in starting you on your journey to Heaven. I myself am a Saint, a sinner who was saved from the eternal consequences of sin by the grace of the GOD of the Bible. We all have a fallen nature from birth but also have a free will to choose good instead of evil. I have never studied Apologetics – the defense of the CHRISTian faith – but the following have influenced me on my journey to Heaven:

1. Belief in the Creation of *everything* by a sovereign GOD and His corresponding power, majesty, order ...
2. Learning about *fulfilled* prophecy detailed throughout GOD's inspired and unified Book: Thee Bible.
3. Seeing countless lives *changed* for good and the good of others.

My search for "god" included researching the top religions! Within CHRISTianity, I found numerous denominations (Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, …) but I was led to focus on the Person of Jesus and His Gospel of Grace instead of a particular

denomination. I must add that my Mom and Dad *forced* me to go to a Methodist church when I was young but I eventually rebelled.

As for my CHRISTian journey, let me summarize the story Thee Bible presents about GOD's plan to restore FELLOWship with Mankind after the Fall due to Adam and Eve's disobedience, frequently quoting passages from the Bible. I must admit that it took me quite a while to put these pieces together but thought that they would be helpful to New Believers and any of you still "on the fence". Besides various versions of the Bible (NIV, AMP, KJV, …), I continue to learn from numerous teachers of the WORD.

Proverbs 15:22: Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. NIV

The **goal** of the following is to trace Mankind from its beginning to see that everyone needs and can be restored to FELLOWship with GOD through Jesus. We come into this world in rebellion to GOD but through our "free will", we can choose to be reconciled to Him or stay condemned. The Holy Spirit will have an active roll in our reconciliation.

Romans 3:23-24 … for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. NIV

I have made the choice to be reconciled and desire to help others make the same choice.

In the beginning, GOD spoke and created the heavens and the earth:

1. Order from chaos
2. Land, sea and sky
3. Plants and animals
4. Mankind: Adam then Eve

And GOD said it was **good**!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. NIV
…
Genesis 1:31: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. NIV

GOD desired FELLOWship with Mankind so He created man in His image:

Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. NIV

GOD planted the Garden of Eden and put Adam there to tend the garden and to rule over His Creation. Adam needed help so GOD created his wife Eve. It is important to understand that they had "free will", that is, GOD allowed them to make numerous choices concerning His Creation. GOD had only one rule:

Genesis 2:16-17: And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." NIV

Since only GOD is Holy, He is the *only* one of worthy of *complete* devotion and Adam and Eve could FELLOWship with Him in the garden because they knew only **good**.

In addition to Mankind, GOD had created angels but one of them – the devil – rebelled against Him and his pride led him to want to take GOD's place. He entered the garden in the form of a serpent to tempt Eve into eating the "forbidden fruit", that is, fruit from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil. His question caused her to "doubt GOD":

Genesis 3:1: He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" NIV

What happened then can be described in three (3) words:

1. **Saw:** She saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye.
2. **Desire:** She coveted the resulting wisdom it would bring her.
3. **Took:** She lost the temptation battle and ate some of the fruit.

Make a note that the devil uses this "doubting GOD" temptation strategy 24/7 on you and me!

So Eve ate and then Adam ate too. With their choices, evil entered the world – the Original Sin – and FELLOWship with GOD was broken since He is Holy and they now knew **evil**:

Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. NIV

Hiding from GOD did NOT work – it NEVER does! Now knowing that they were *naked*, Adam and Eve covered themselves with "fig leaves" but that was unacceptable to GOD: He requires a **BLOOD** sacrifice, so He covered them with the skin of animals.

A lot more will be said about BLOOD sacrifices later.

Now for the *blame game*:

Adam:

Genesis 3:12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." NIV

Eve:

Genesis 3:13: The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." NIV

Isn't Mankind good about blaming something or someone else?

Now for the ***consequences*** of their choices. In Scripture, it goes like this:

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. NIV

Adam:

Genesis 3:17-19: To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,

"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." NIV

Eve:

Genesis 3:16: To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." NIV

Serpent:

Genesis 3:14-15: So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." NIV

Although Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden and FELLOWship was broken, GOD was going to restore it through His Son Jesus. The first hint of the restoration process for those who desire to be restored is found in

Genesis 15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." NIV

Sometime later, two of the sons of Adam and Eve, Cain (older) and Abel (younger), were told by GOD how to worship Him by bringing the appropriate sacrifice but Cain rebelled. Whereas Abel brought the required “blood sacrifice” – a forerunner of the sacrifice Jesus would make for Mankind – Cain brought an unacceptable sacrifice. When GOD gave him an opportunity to bring an acceptable one, he continued to rebel. He was so angry that he even killed Abel – the first murder.

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. NIV

Eventually, Seth was born to Adam and Eve and "men began to call on the name of the Lord":

Genesis 4:25-26 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord. NIV

However, as time marched on, Mankind rebelled against GOD except for Noah:

Genesis 6:5-8 The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I will wipe Mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth — men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air — for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. NIV

GOD was angry so He flooded the earth:

Genesis 6:17-19 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark — you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. NIV

Noah followed GOD's orders and built an ark for his family and various animals to carry on Mankind. It was somewhat of a "reboot of Mankind" except that Noah still had some of Adam and Eve's residual sin. So do we!

Even through the line of Noah, sin abounded. Still desiring to reestablish His fellowship with Mankind, GOD eventually called on Abram to leave an idol infested land and go to Canaan. By faith, Abram, his wife Sara, and nephew Lot left and entered this land flowing with milk and honey. Not only did GOD (aka, the

LORD) tell Abram to leave his country and go to Canaan, He made a covenant with him:

Genesis 12:1-3 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." NIV

Genesis 12:6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. NIV

Once in Canaan, GOD renamed Abram and restated His covenant with Abram, now named Abraham:

Genesis 17:3-8 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." NIV

GOD promised Abraham that he would have a son to carry on the covenant He made with him and Abraham believed GOD:

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. NIV

Being old, his wife Sarai suggested that Abraham have a son with her maid Hagar. Ishmael was not the chosen son so later Sarai (now renamed Sarah) conceived and birthed Issac. Years later, Abraham was tested by GOD:

Genesis 22:1-2 Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only

son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." NIV

Genesis 22:9-14 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. NIV

GOD did NOT withhold His Son Jesus from Mankind. He was the ultimate "blood sacrifice".

Issac eventually married Rebekah, and she gave birth to twins: Esau and Jacob:

Genesis 25:27-28 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. NIV

Jacob deceived Esau out of both his birthright and Issac's blessing as his first born:

Genesis 27:36 Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" NIV

Eventually, the deceiver was himself deceived and wound up with two (2) wives: Leah and Rachel. Between them and their maids he had twelve (12) sons:

1. Reuben
2. Simon
3. Levi – became the priestly tribe
4. Judah
5. Dan
6. Naphtali

7. Gad
8. Asher
9. Issachar
10. Zebulun
11. Joseph – became the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim
12. Benjamin – Rachel died during childbirth

In summary,

Genesis 35:23-26
The sons of Leah: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.
The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.
The sons of Rachel's maidservant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali.
The sons of Leah's maidservant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.

These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram. NIV

Jacob worked for his wife's father Laban for fourteen (14) years before GOD called him to return to Canaan:

Genesis 31:3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." NIV

The night before Jacob was to be finally reunited with his brother Esau, GOD changed his name:

Genesis 32:28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." NIV

Once back in the land, the brothers of Joseph came to hate him:

Genesis 37:3-4 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. NIV

Since his brothers were envious of Joseph, they sold him to a caravan going to Egypt. Miraculously, over an extended period of time, Joseph became second in command in Egypt after he prophesied a worldwide famine by interpretating dreams Pharoh had.

Genesis 37:26-27 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. NIV

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Genesis 41:41-43 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. NIV

During the famine, Jacob and his family came to Egypt to live.

Genesis 46:3-4 "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. NIV

At first, all was great but after Joseph died and there was a change in administration, they were made slaves; there were now lots of Israelites but they were slaves!

Exodus 3:9 Now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me. Moreover I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. NIV

Moses was sent by GOD to deliver them from slavery and after a series of plagues, the last one being the death of the firstborn and referred to as the Passover, they were asked to leave Egypt.

Exodus 3:9-10 Now, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me. Moreover I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." NIV

Exodus 6:28-29 Now when the Lord spoke to Moses in Egypt, he said to him, "I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you." NIV

…

Exodus 12:12-13 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn — both men and animals — and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. NIV

Notice the importance of the "blood"!

On the way back to Canaan, the Promised Land, GOD miraculously parted the Red Sea to provide an escape route for the Israelites when Pharoh changed his mind and started to pursue them.

Exodus 14:21-22 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Yahweh caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. The children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand, and on their left. NIV

Exodus 14:9 The Egyptians pursued after them: all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his army; and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. NIV

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Exodus 14:27-28 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen — the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. NIV

At Mount Saini, Moses met with GOD to receive the Ten Commandments and other rules and regulations for the Israelites. He also received directions for building the tabernacle where they could worship (aka, WORTHship) Him.

Exodus 20:1-17 And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." NIV

While he was receiving GOD’s instructions, some of the Israelites coerced the High Priest Aaron into making a golden calf to worship instead of GOD Himself.

Exodus 32:1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." NIV

Exodus 32:3-4 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." NIV

Both GOD and Moses were irate and later when the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land, they were required to wander in the dessert about 40 years before they were given another chance to enter the Promised Land.

Exodus 32:19-20 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. NIV

Exodus 32:35 And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made. NIV

After the Tabernacle was complete, it was time for the Israelites to offer sacrifices to GOD. The books of Exodus and Leviticus (think tribe of Levi) detail the procedures and actual sacrifices. Again, "blood" played an important part!

Exodus 40:17 So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month in the second year. NIV

Leviticus 4:25 Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. NIV

Note that GOD did NOT allow blood to be consumed:

Leviticus 7:23-27 " '… Anyone who eats the fat of an animal from which an offering by fire may be made to the Lord must be cut off from his people. 26 And wherever you live, you must not eat the blood of any bird or animal. 27 If anyone eats blood, that person must be cut off from his people' ". NIV

After Aaron and Moses died, Joshua led them into the Promised Land passing miraculously through the Jordan river toward Jericho but they were still rebellious toward GOD.

Joshua 4:23-24 The Lord your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. NIV

GOD had commanded them not to worship foreign gods nor intermarry among the Canaanites, but they did not obey. Many years passed during which GOD sent Judges to rescue them when they time and time again cried out to Him after successive rebellions:

Rebellion

Cry out to GOD

Rescue

Rebellion

…

The book of Judges is summarized in Scripture:

Judges 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. NIV

Eventually, the Israelites even wanted a king like the surrounding nations had. GOD allowed the seer Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. Saul left a lot to be desired:

1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the Lord's command and your instructions. NIV

1 Samuel 15:26 But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!" NIV

Saul was replaced by David – a man after GOD's own heart. However David was not even close to perfect.

Acts 13:22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' NIV

In a moment of weakness, David sinned with Bathsheba.

2 Samual 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." NIV

During the reign of Soloman, David's son, the House of GOD was constructed. However, David had made elaborate preparations:

1 Chronicles 22:5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death. NIV

After the reign of Solomon, Israel split into northern (Israel) and southern (Jacob) kingdoms. None of the northern kingdom kings obeyed GOD and only a few of the southern kingdom kings were godly. During this time GOD sent numerous prophets to warn Israel of impending judgement but to no avail. Judgement came first to the Israelites, and eventually even Jerusalem was devastated.

Then came a period of about four hundred (400) years – the Silent Years – where GOD was silent but making changes in the background. He was getting ready to send His Son Jesus to offer Himself as their Redeemer.

Finally, John the Baptist announced the coming of Jesus, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Messiah, … :

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! NIV

About the age of thirty (30), Jesus started His three (3) year ministry preaching and teaching His followers and listeners about the love of GOD and His ways and thoughts. Jesus came to show the world GOD the Father and offer

1. forgiveness of sins
2. freedom from the slavery of sin
3. righteousness of GOD so we can fellowship with Him
4. eternal life

Two (2) religious groups that originated during the Silent Years – Pharisees and Sadducees – were very powerful and intent on preserving the traditions they instigated. Since Jesus represented GOD's way, they were determined to kill Him. After three (3) years, they conspired with the Romans, who dominated the known world, to have Jesus crucified.

John 19:16-18 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others — one on each side and Jesus in the middle. NIV

Although horrible, this was part of GOD's plan. How? Recall that death was a result of Mankind's yielding to Satan's temptation in the garden. After three (3) days in a man-made tomb, the stone at the entrance to the tomb was rolled away and Jesus was gone. He had risen from the dead! He had defeated Satan:

Grave

Death

Sin

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. NIV

For about forty (40) days Jesus was seen with various people and crowds:

Mark 16:9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. NIV

Mark 16:14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. NIV

He then ascended to Heaven and is currently sitting at the right hand of the Father.

Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. NIV

He came the first time in peace to offer Himself as a ransom for many but will come a second time in power and will end *all* rebellion to GOD and will reign in righteousness over the entire “world”.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV

Isaiah 9:7 He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. NIV

In the meantime, His followers and new disciples will be part of the Church of which He is the cornerstone:

1 Peter 2:6-8 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." NIV

Jesus asked GOD the Father to send the Holy Spirit to indwell all true believers to help them spread the Gospel and prepare Mankind for eternity:

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. NIV

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NIV

Since all of us will have a Day of Judgement with GOD, it is my sincere hope and prayer for you to have eternal life, NOT eternal death, that is, separation from GOD.

John 5:26-27 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. NIV

Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." NIV

Fortunately, I am NOT a goat! I live “in” this world but am NOT “of“ this world.

John 15:19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. NIV

History can be presented either from a secular (world) or a sacred (Word) point of view. The above summary is obviously from a sacred point of view. Being the

Truth, Thee Bible tells a man (women) that there are *only* two (2) possible consequences of his (her) time on earth. The first is eternal separation from GOD. However, those Born Again – Believers – are told that their citizenship is actually in Heaven with GOD:

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. NIV

Wow! My temporary home will be replaced with my eternal home in Heaven with Jesus! Wow!

I'm certainly glad that I'm Heaven Bound! During His First Coming, Jesus referred to the devil (aka, Satan) as the "prince of this world":

John 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. NIV

But Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will come – no one except the Father knows when – to end *all* rebellion toward GOD so that eternal life can begin.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. NIV

The focus of the world is completely different than the focus of the Word. My **goal** while on earth is to help folks get the little "l" out of the world and replace it with the big "L" – Love – in the Word:

	L
wor"l"d	WORD
"l"ies	V
"l"ust	E
"l"azy	

"l"ascivious

With this in mind, let's contrast some words describing the "world" with those describing the "Word":

World (Satan – prince of the world)	**Word (Jesus – Prince of Peace)**

World:	**Word:**
No Jesus NO GOD No Good	Know Jesus Know GOD Know Good

Choice: We are bombarded daily by the media, friends, family, … telling us that we "deserve it" and we "deserve it NOW"! We are indoctrinated to ignore any consequence, indirectly assuming that there are only "good" ones. Thoughts of Right and Wrong are often left out of the decision process. Also, consequences seldom occur immediately upon our choices, so they do NOT even seem related!	**Consequence:** Every choice has a consequence. The "when" and "what" is seldom considered. The book of Galatians says it perfectly: **Galatians 6:7-8: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. NIV** Wisdom dictates that we always consider the consequences of our choices since every choice has a consequence. Need wisdom? See the Book of James

Mystery: World	**Mystery: Word**
In the secular world, the word mystery frequently refers to a book, a play, or a movie emphasizing a theme centered around “solving” a crime or murder. More generally, it refers to something hard or even impossible to understand and/or explain.	GOD is omniscient, that is, He knows all. The Bible uses the term *Mystery* to refer to a sacred/divine truth that was hidden from believers until GOD chose to disclose it through revelation, frequently through the prophets or Jesus Christ Himself. Among the Mysteries of the Bible are 1. the Trinity 2. Jesus Christ 3. the Gospel of Grace 4. the Church 5. the Kingdom of GOD We must *always* keep in mind that His thoughts and ways are higher than ours: **Isaiah 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. NIV**

Our ways and thoughts:	**His ways and thoughts:**
Living in this evil world, our thoughts, words, and actions frequently lead to regrets, disappointments, failure, and can even lead to death.	The eternal GOD is sovereign and among His attributes are Omnipresent (always present), Omnipotent (all powerful), and Omniscience (all knowing). Truly, His thoughts and ways are higher than ours: **Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. NIV** FYI: His timeframe is different than ours: **2 Peter 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. NIV** We are cautioned about following *our* ways instead of His: **Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. NIV** But we are to commit our ways to the Lord: **Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. NIV** Only GOD has the “Big Picture” but He will lead us to victory:

	Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. NIV Want to know the way to Heaven and eternal life? **John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. NIV**

Trinity – Satanic	**Trinity - Holy**
Satan, devil, Lucifer, Evil One, father of lies, … Antichrist False prophet Revelation 20:10 tells us that they will eventually end up in the lake of fire, also called the lake of burning sulfur.	GOD the Father GOD the Son GOD the Holy Spirit One of the Mysteries of GOD is that He exists in three divine persons. **Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. NIV** One occurrence of the Trinity in Scripture is at the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist <Matthew 3:13-17> I use “GOD” to denote the GOD of Thee Bible and “Thee Bible” for the Bible.

Satan:
He is a fallen angle whose pride led him to want to replace GOD! Being referred to as the Evil One, father of lies, thief, roaring lion, Lucifer, devil, … he and his group of demons want to thwart GOD's Plan for Mankind.

John 8:44 When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. NIV

1 Peter 5:8 Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. NIV

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; … NIV

Jesus:
He is the Son of GOD but came as a man through a virgin birth to show us the invisible Father and to destroy works of the Evil One – Sin, Death, Grave.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. NIV

1 John 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV

Among the many benefits of His First Coming were the offer of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Matthew 20:28 … the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV

The first time He came, he was crucified and buried but rose the third day. In His Second Coming, He will put down *all* rebellion against GOD and bring in His Eternal Kingdom.

World's books	Thee Bible
There seems to be books – written and audio – vlogs, magazines, podcasts, websites, and various forms of social media covering "everything". Most of the content, however, is biased, if not completely false information. Discernment does not seem to be the priority it should be! "Let the buyer beware" is the mantra of the day. Even the "religious materials" are suspect with numerous false doctrines, prophets, teachers, … deceiving folks and getting them on the "wide road" to hell. I pray for a discernment when reviewing all man-generated material!	Thee Bible, GOD's Word to Mankind, is 100% true and free from error. First, it is a man-book in that it is a library of 66 books (Old Testament: 39 ; New Testament: 27) written over a period of about 1500 years by approximately 40 authors from all walks of life and all types of personalities – fishermen, farmers, prophets, apostles, kings, historians, … and even an unknown author. These books were written in three (3) languages: 1. Hebrew 2. Aramaic 3. Greek and in various geopolitical regions 1. Middle East 2. Asia Minor 3. Mesopotamia 4. Europe – southern portion With all this diversification in authors, dates, languages, and locations, it is a unified collection of books showing GOD's love for Mankind through Jesus. Second, it is a GOD-book which substantiates this unity. The Holy Spirit inspired its words (the original writings) to say exactly what GOD wanted to reveal to Mankind in an error free manner through various genres – history, poetry, Gosples, epistles, prophecy, … The apostle Peter comments on Thee Bible's inspired nature: **2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of**

Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. NIV

Being GOD's revelation to Mankind, He provides us a road map for living a righteous life, both on Earth and in Heaven. The apostle Paul states it well:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

Let's look at the items in this verse of Scripture.

1. **Teaching, that is doctrine** – shows us GOD's Plan of Salvation:
   a. **Justification** (Event ; we are saved)
   b. **Sanctification** (Process; we are transformed into the image of His Son Jesus)
2. **Rebuking, that is reproofing** – Lets us know when we've gotten off the righteous road.
3. **Correcting** – Gets us back on the righteous road.
4. **Training in Righteousness** – Items 1 – 3 get us on and keep us on the righteous road so that we can perform good works.

The result of good works?

	Proverb 12:28 In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality. NIV There are numerous complete Bible commentaries and resources commenting on various Bible topics available. Just as the Bible warns us about false doctrines, prophets, teachers, … I pray that the Holy Spirit gives you divine discernment when you consider a particular resource. PLEASE remember **Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. NIV** FYI: “fear” means reverence of GOD. Thee Bible contains GOD’s Wisdom for us and therefore we should read, study, and meditate on it DAILY!

Evil ; Bad: Evil began when Satan, disguised as a serpent, persuaded Eve and therefore indirectly Adam into eating the fruit from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Consequently, we *all* enter this life as sinners and therefore possess a Sin Nature. This event is referred to as the Fall of Mankind. During Noah's time, GOD remarked that man's heart was intent on wickedness and decided to eliminate Mankind from the earth except for Noah and members of his family. Even after the "flood", Mankind continued in its rebellion against GOD. The book of Judges details periods of Israel's behavior: Rebellion Cry out to GOD Rescue Rebellion … Rebellion towards GOD continuous today. Jesus came into this world to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of Mankind and, one day, will end *all* rebellion toward GOD. Evil will be long gone!	**Good:** After GOD finished His tasks of Creation, He pronounced everything "good". He Himself is so gracious to us that, after the Fall, He introduced a plan to reconcile Himself with Mankind. This plan was to involve the sacrifice of His Son – Jesus. Although we have and will continue to be tempted and often succumb to evil, it's NOT from GOD: **James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. NIV** In fact, every good and perfect gift comes from GOD: **James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. NIV** Also, for those who love Him, He even works out our trials for good: **Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. NIV**

World:	Word:
“get down and dirty” … hell bound	**“get up and pure” … Heaven Bound**

Secular	**Sacred, divine, …**
Items that are NOT religious or spiritual in nature, that is, worldly things.	Items dedicated to GOD or His purposes, that is, godly things. Prime examples include GOD Himself, His Book - Thee Bible, Communion, Baptism, and other holy things.

Curse:	Blessing:
The Original Sin in the Garden of Eden resulted in GOD placing a curse on the land and Mankind – death. Later, His chosen people Israel were given a choice between a Curse – Mount Ebal **Deuteronomy 28:15-45 However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. … NIV** and a Blessing. – Mount Gerizim **Deuteronomy 28:1-13 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. … NIV** These are a couple of the curses given in the early part of the Bible. However, curses are interspersed throughout. In particular, Unbelievers in Jesus will be cursed for their rebellion throughout eternity.	Believers of Jesus may receive material and/or spiritual blessings. They are found throughout the Bible. For example, the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 start with " Blessed are …" Eventually, Believers in Jesus will be rewarded for their works done in His Name. Believers also have a "Blessed Hope": The Second Coming of Jesus.

Worldly hate:
Is it an understatement to say that the world is full of hate? I think not! Slanders, murders, wars, … - the list is long! These days hate even arises in people we disagree with: You can *only* have an opinion if it agrees with mine they infer! The level of anti-Semitism is on the rise and anti-Christianism doesn't seem far behind.

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. NIV

Righteous anger ; GOD hates
GOD has a list of hates too:

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the Lord hates, even that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. NIV

Although we are not officially under the Law but Grace, the Ten Commandments lists things we should do but don't and things we shouldn't do but do:

Exodus 20:1-17 And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your

	God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." NIV

Pride:
Pride was the downfall of the devil; he wanted to be like GOD but did not believe these two (2) and other proverbs:

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. NIV

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. NIV

The result?

Isaiah 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. NIV

There are many ways that pride leads to the downfall of humans. One is money.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. NIV

Humility:
Humility should be in our nature because we are GOD's "creatures"; unfortunately, it is not due to our Sin Nature. Those Born Again realize

Proverbs 22:4 Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life. NIV

One on the characteristics of a servant is their humility. Notice Jesus's call to us:

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." NIV

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. NIV As GOD says **Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." NIV**	

Love: world is frequently referring what in reality is only "sex" The four (4) main types of love are 1. **Eros** – Passionate, physical, … Not in the Word (Bible) ; world refers to it as "sex" 2. **Philia** – Platonic friendship 3. **Storge** – Natural affection between family members 4. **Agape** – Unconditional and selfless love for all; Divine Love Note that the city of Philadelphia is called the city 0f "brotherly love".	**Love: Divine Love is "agape"** GOD is Love. **1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. NIV** How much did GOD love Mankind? **John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV** **John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. NIV** His Son Jesus loved us so much too that He came to ransom Mankind by being crucified on a cross, being buried for three (3) days, and then by being raised from the dead. **Matthew 20:28 … just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV** **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, … NIV**

	Remember that the two (2) greatest commands are about love: **Matthew 22:35-40 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV** For your information, my one word description of the Bible is **LOVE**

body, soul, spirit ; five senses; visible: We come into this world with body, soul, and spirit. However, our spirit is defective due to our Sin Nature. In the natural, we have five (5) sense – see, hear, touch, smell, taste – but no desire for GOD who is invisible. We tend not to ask the question Where did the visible come from? and to evaluate everything on the basis of our five (5) senses. Our worldly wisdom is therefore incomplete! Note: **1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. NIV** World's order: Emotions, Will (Satan's), Mind (Truth minimal)	**spirit, soul, body ; five senses; invisible:** Those who have been convicted by the Holy Spirit receive godly Wisdom and hence spiritual discernment. They are able to ascertain the invisible that created the visible. They are no longer among Those who see but don't see and Those who hear but don't hear **Matthew 13:13 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. NIV** By the way, **Psalm 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. NIV** Word's order: Mind (We have mind of Christ) Will (GOD's) Emotions (Praise and Rejoice)

Helly: HeavenBound.info "word"	**Holy:**
The world says we're "innocent until proved guilty". NOT! Actually we come into this life as sinners and must be Born Again or spend eternal death in hell – Lake of Fire. No thank you!	The Bible teaches that we're "guilty until we are Born Again" so that we can fellowship with the Father and receive His eternal blessings. Holy we are to be: **Leviticus 11:45 … therefore be holy, because I am holy. NIV** **2 Peter 3:11-12 You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. NIV** We are in this world, but in some sense, we are "set apart" from it: **1 Peter 3:15-16 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. NIV**

Criticize ; Judge:
The world seems to criticize/judge everybody and everything. Chaos is the order of the day and leads to slander, anger, malice, wrath, … Believers, on the other hand, know that Jesus is the ultimate Judge:

1. Believers for rewards
2. Unbelievers for eternal punishment

Psalms 96:13 they will sing before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth. NIV

Matthew 25:33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. NIV

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. NIV

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire. NIV

Edify ; Exult:
Putting others before ourselves always results in edifying – building up – them. Even when we are wronged, we are to quickly forgive as we are forgiven:

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. NIV

Jesus spoke a parable about judging others that we should keep in mind:

Luke 6:42 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. NIV

Chaos: In the beginning was chaos and the Holy Spirit came to provide structure and order to the world. The Original Sin in the Garden of Eden brought chaos back to the world and it has unfortunately only increased since then.	**Calm ; peace** True peace comes only from GOD. Believers are comforted knowing GOD is with then even in difficult situations and the Holy Spirit resides within us. This peace is above understanding: **Philippians 4:7 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NIV** Jesus left his peace with His disciples, and it is available to us: **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. NIV**

Self – me, myself, and I:
The pride and arrogance of many people result in their thinking that the world revolves around them and will do whatever it takes to get their own way. Their choices focuses on self – the flesh – only, not others. There are consequences of sowing to the flesh. GOD says

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. NIV

Servant – Others first:
Jesus came the first time to serve:

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV

We are called to be holy, humble, and to serve

Leviticus 11:45 … therefore be holy, because I am holy. NIV

Ephesians 4:2 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. NIV

The two (2) greatest commands are about servitude:

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. NIV

By the way, there is a spiritual GPS:

GOD
People

	Self

Unbelief:	**Belief ; Faith:**
Unbelief – the downfall of mankind. The Holy Spirit is sorely needed to convict unbelievers of their sins and get them to repent and start their Heaven Bound journey. **John 16:7-11 Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. NIV**	We need faith to please GOD: **Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. NIV** Where do we get faith? **Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NIV** It is through faith that we are saved: **Ephesians 2:7-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV**

Fiction: Don't listen to false 1. Prophets 2. Teachers 3. Doctrine …	**Faith:** Faith in GOD is the key to life – temporal & eternal: **Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. NIV** **Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV**

Unforgiveness ; Grudge ; … Unforgiveness can lead from a grudge to anger to malice to … death. In the long run, it always hurts us.	**Forgive** One of the lines of the Lord's Model Prayer states **Matthew 6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. NIV** We should always forgive: **Colossians 3:13-14 Forgive as the Lord forgave you. NIV**

Unforgiveness ; Grudge ; … Unforgiveness can lead from a grudge to anger to malice to … death. In the long run, it always hurts us.	**Forgive** One of the lines of the Lord's Model Prayer states **Matthew 6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. NIV** We should always forgive: **Colossians 3:13-14 Forgive as the Lord forgave you. NIV**

Nope; rust	**Hope; trust**
The earth and its inhabitants are in "decay" ("rust") mode. Question: Which of the following can you put your trust in and be guaranteed long term success? 1. Relationships 2. Jobs 3. Education 4. Government Answer: None of the above The world is constantly changing and death is the final result. Worldly Hope *equals* Nope	The foundation of our hope is the Blessed/Living Hope Himself: Jesus **Titus 2:12-14 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. NIV** To the believer, hope is NOT "pie in the sky" but is based upon a plethora of evidence: 1. The entire Bible is written about Jesus. 2. The Old Testament prophecies about His First Coming were fulfilled. 3. Many other prophecies have already been fulfilled too. 4. Promises after promises made were true. 5. His resurrection from the dead was substantiated by many … many people. 6. Many of His followers were martyred for their belief in Him. 7. Countless lives were changed for the good. Mine included!

	Hebrews 13:8 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. NIV

Finite; temporal: We are finite creatures. He knows the number of our days and therefore we should get our priorities straight: **Matthew 6:33-34 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. NIV**	**Infinite; eternal** God's timeframe is different from ours: **2 Peter 3:8-9 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. NIV** **Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." NIV**

Trash:
It's quite simple:

We come from dust and go to dust.

Genesis 3:19 … for dust you are and to dust you will return. NIV

As the saying goes

"You can't take it with you!"

Jesus said

Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? NIV

Paul the apostle said

Philippians 3:4-9 If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,

Treasure:
Earth vs. Heaven:

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. NIV

We will be rewarded in Heaven for the

- Talent
- Time
- Treasure

we invested on earth in spreading the Gospel of Grace.

but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. NIV	

TestiMONEY ; Testi$$$$$ Ads, Ads, ads, … always wanting us to buy the latest and therefore greatest "whatever". Just believe us they say: "We have your best interest at heart." NOT!	**Testimony (aka, TestiMOANy)** Word testimony frequently starts with someone moaning over some situation or relationship and ends with GOD working out the difficulty for our good and His glory.

Entitlement: “reap without sowing” We are admonished to care for those in need: **Zechariah 7:10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. NIV** But He frowns on lawlessness and welfare fraud. If possible, He expects us to work. **Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. NIV** **2 Thessalonica 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." NIV** **Proverbs 21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. NIV**	**Work: “sow then reap”** Salvation is a free gift but GOD then has work for us to do: **Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV** Even Adam had work to do in the Garden of Eden: **Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. NIV**

Lost: We come into this world “lost” in darkness.	**Found (“Saved”):** When we believe in Jesus, we are “found” and now in the light: Jesus is the Light. **John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." NIV** **Amazing Grace** **by** **John Newton** Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wrench like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see. …

Death: Note:	**Life: "in Jesus"** Note:
Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV	**John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. NIV**
Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. NIV	**John 10:27-28 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. NIV**

Some people believe the "world is where it's at". I pray that they get Born Again and know that the "Word is where it really is now – abundant life – and will be forever – eternal life."