

SCRIPTURE

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 6

Mt 6:1. Take heed (or be careful) (or beware) that ye do not your **alms** before men, to be seen (or noticed) of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your **Father** which is in heaven.

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 6

(30 years plus 21 months)

Matthew chapter 6 covers righteousness. It covers God advising us, regarding giving to the poor, prayer, forgiveness, and fasting. All four of these subjects should be extremely important to a true, born again Christian.

Then, the Scriptures tell how the followers of Christ are to live in a world that desires the pleasures and the better things of this world. We are not to lay up earthly possessions. We are to have a single eye, not serving two masters, not thinking or worrying about our life, but seeking the kingdom of God.

(App. 21 months after Jesus was baptized)

Mt 6:1. The verse begins with the words, "Take heed." This carries with it the meaning: beware, or be warned, or pay special attention to what is about to be said. It is a serious matter.

This warning is regarding the right and wrong way to **give to the poor**. Jesus is telling those that give to the poor, not to do it for the purpose of being seen by others. Don't do it to make others think more highly of you. If you do, you will not be rewarded by your heavenly Father. To do things God's way, proves the sincerity of your love for God and His Word-2 Cor 8:8.

It may be said, if a person gives to the poor with the idea of being highly regarded by other people, this is like no giving in the eyes of God. It may be said some want to be rewarded or highly esteemed by both man and God.

On the reverse side, this indicates that giving to the poor will be rewarded by your heavenly

Father, if it is done according to His Word. This is one way of serving God.

Regarding giving, there is the deceitful prosperity message of this last church age. Deceitful Bible teachers tell people, if they will give to their ministry, God will, in turn, give them up to a one hundred fold increase in their finances.

Nearly all that claim to be a Christian these days are biblically illiterate. They are easily persuaded, and go back and forth with all sorts of deceitful doctrines that are broadcast over the airways and Internet. They are easily persuaded to buy this or that book.

Nearly all professing Christians in this generation, make the tragic and often spiritually fatal mistake of spending way too little time reading and studying God's Word. The Bible is the only necessary book. Ministries have found, if they offer various books, they may take in more money.

When one goes to some revivals, they find book tables set up offering so many things to buy, relating to Christianity, it is ludicrous.

Ministers and evangelists seem to make some of these books that they write, more necessary than the Bible itself. God forbid!

One thing is needful—the Bible, and this is the one Book that Satan does not want you to spend time reading, studying, and obeying. Chances are, you are one of his victims, because you may spend little time in God's Word, and thus are ignorant of this.

You will understand this when you perish, and all those lying thoughts you have in your head, from Satan, are gone.

Mt 6:2. Therefore when thou doest thine alms (or you do your giving to the poor)(or needy), do not sound a trumpet (or announce it) before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory (or be honored) of men. Verily (or truly) I say unto you, They have their reward (in full).

The word "Father" is found 12 times in this chapter.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:1**. Take heed that ye do not your **alms** before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your **Father** which is in heaven.

Mt 6:2. Verses 1 and 2 tell a person what not to do, when giving alms.

Some, when they give to the poor, make a big deal out of it. They give in such a manner that those around them will know who they are and how much they give. Their purpose for giving is to exalt themselves in the eyes of other people, so they might look up to them and think—what a wonderful person this is, or how spiritual this person must be.

In doing this, they already have their reward, and lose the reward they would have received from God. Jesus calls such a person a hypocrite.

Jesus was saying: When you give to the poor do not make it known or publicize it.

Any that parade their good deeds to be seen by people, should not expect to receive from God.

It has been said, a hypocrite is one that wears a mask, an unregenerate person.

It may be said, this is pride, which is sin. It is written: Mk 7:21-23-For...out of the heart of men (proceeds) evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,...PRIDE, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. 1 Jn 2:16-For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the PRIDE of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Mt 6:3. But when thou doest (or give) alms (or you do your giving to the poor)(or needy), let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

Mt 6:4. That thine alms (or giving) may be in secret: and thy **Father** which seeth in secret himself shall reward (or repay) thee openly.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:2**. Therefore when thou doest thine alms (or you do your giving to the poor)(or needy), do not sound a trumpet (or announce it) before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory (or be honored) of men. Verily (or truly) I say unto you, They have their reward (in full).

Mt 6:3. This verse gives an example of how discreet a person is to be, regarding giving to the poor or alms giving.

Do not even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Note the term “right” hand is used, regarding giving to the poor.

The right hand is considered the main or primary hand. It is mentioned in the Scriptures numerous times. At the Judgment of the Nations, those that belong to Christ shall be at His right hand, but the goats on the left.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:3**. But when thou doest (or give) alms (or you do your giving to the poor)(or needy), let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

Mt 6:4. Again, it is emphasized that giving to the poor is to be done in secret, if God is to reward the giver. In other words, don't publicize it in any way. When you do it God's way, your heavenly Father will reward you openly. God knows and sees all things. Nothing, even in your heart, is a secret to Him.

These verses do not condemn giving in public. They condemn giving in a way and for the purpose of being exalted by those that witness the giving. Giving is not to be done for show.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:4**. That thine alms (or giving) may be in secret: and thy

Mt 6:5. And when thou prayest, thou (or you) shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward (in full).

Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward (or repay) thee openly.

Mt 6:5. Next the subject changes to **praying**. Regrettably, many that call themselves Christians are only nominal ones (a Christian in name only). Yes, they are positive they are a Christian, but Jesus does not know them. They are unable to examine themselves biblically to see if they are "IN" Christ.

Some of them have little or no prayer life at all.

A true, spiritually-grounded Christian will have a prayer life, and God does answer prayer. However, again, it needs to be said, many that do believe they have a prayer life are not really saved at all. The Pharisees prayed, but were spiritually dead. Many people in cults and dead churches pray, but they are spiritually dead.

Satan knows that the prayers of the saints, if done in accordance with the Bible, do receive answers from God. Satan fears this kind of prayer. This is why some in authority have tried to stop prayer in certain places.

The same things apply to praying as with giving.

Jesus called those that love to pray standing in the synagogues, and in the corners of the streets **to be seen** by the people—hypocrites. They want to appear holy to those that see them. These have their reward, but it is not of God, but of men. The next verse tells us about praying God's way.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:5**. And when thou prayest, thou (or you) shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.

Mt 6:6. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet (or inner room), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy **Father** which is in secret (or who is unseen); and thy **Father** which seeth (what is done) in secret shall reward thee openly.

Mt 6:7. But when ye pray, use not vain (or meaningless) repetitions, (or do not keep on babbling) as the heathen (or pagans) (or gentiles) do: for **they think** that they shall be heard for their much speaking (or many words).

Verily I say unto you, They have their reward (in full).

Mt 6:6. Entering into the closet and shutting the door to pray means that a person is to find a private place to pray, where they can pray in secret to the Father, which is in heaven. By praying as God said to do in His Word, God in heaven will reward that person openly, or, as it may be said, will answer the prayer according to His Word. All people in Christ should communicate daily with the Father in prayer.

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Mt 6:7. In addition to praying in secret, God's Word tells His followers not to use vain repetitions (or babble on and on) as the unbelievers do.

God's Word reveals that those that do this think they will be heard, because of their long, continuous speaking. This kind of praying is not pleasing to God.

It may be said, a person's prayers should be short and to the point. They are not to go on and on, repeating things over and over.

Some misled people may even devise some formula that they use in their prayers, hoping that it will motivate God to answer.

Prayer is far more than asking God for things. It may include worship, praise, thankfulness, our requests, and certainly always humbleness. It is our communicating with God through the name of Jesus Christ. As it is written: Jn 15:16...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the

Mt 6:8. Be not ye therefore like unto them: (that is, the hypocrites) for your **Father** knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Father in my name, he may give it you.

Some pray privately, sometimes many times a day, as the need arises, or as they seek to thank and praise God.

Has one considered praying like a little child?

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:7**. But when ye pray, use not vain (or meaningless) repetitions, (or do not keep on babbling) as the heathen (or pagans) (or gentiles) do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking (or many words).

Mt 6:8. Again, God emphasizes that a person is not to be like the hypocrites. People are not to pray to be seen of others. They are to pray in secret. Also they are not to pray, going on and on, making long, repetitious prayers.

The verse confirms what Christians already should know. That is, that your heavenly Father already knows what you need and the situations you are in. He knows the future. Jesus understands all things. Let us not forget that life is a test.

There are many that teach about praying for things contrary to the Bible. Some include riches, prospering in this world, never having any problems, not having to be tempted, and never being sick.

Effective prayer must be in line with God's Word, with each of us conforming to God's will and His Word, not seeking to have God conform to our will, contrary to His Word.

A true, born again Christian will be tempted through all kinds of situations-ref Heb 4:15. It is all a test to see if a person's faith is genuine.

Satan's goal is to cause a follower of Jesus to fall. Many do. Pray that you will be accounted

Mt 6:9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our **Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

worthy to escape all these things that will soon come upon the world-ref Lk 21:36. The Translation (also called the Rapture) is getting closer each day.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:8**. Be not ye therefore like unto them: (that is, the hypocrites) for your **Father** knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

(The Lord's Prayer)

Mt 6:9. What is man that thou art mindful of him?-Heb 2:6. How incredible it is that, through God's mercy, we can both praise and seek through prayer the Creator of all things.

Regarding the Lord's prayer, it is also in Luke's Gospel, but only in part. It has been suggested that this should be called the disciple's prayer.

It is for those that follow Jesus and have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible reveals that if any person does not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, he does not belong to Christ-ref Ro 8:9.

Most do not follow Christ. Yet many of them do pray the Lord's prayer. The prayer is for people that "believe" in Christ.

Lk 18:1-It is written: MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY.

Jesus gives those that follow Him a **daily prayer to pray**.

Mt 6:9-it is written: After this manner...**PRAY YE**.

It has been said that **prayer is** the interpreter of desire.

Prayer is communicating with God by those that follow Him. Regarding the Lord's prayer, also note Lk 11:2.

Next, the verse tells His followers Who to pray to. This is **OUR FATHER**. This denotes we have a personal relationship with Him. It is a form of worship, a form of reverence.

The word "our" denotes this prayer is only for those that are born again. As a result of the new birth, a person's father changes from Satan to God, which is in heaven.

Regarding the "Father," the Scriptures tell us: Mt 10:29-Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your **Father**.

It is the **Father** that hides or opens up the understanding of the Word for people-ref Mt 11:25.

It is the **Father** that sent the Son to be the Savior of the world-1 Jn 4:14.

Regarding the **Father**, there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning Ja 1:17.

The **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named-Eph 3:14,15.

God, the **Father**, is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort-2 Cor 1:3.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, **Father** Ro 8:15.

If a person loves this world, the love of the **Father** is not in him-1 Jn 2:15.

Next, the verse tells us where our Father is located. This is **IN HEAVEN**. This is the place where the dead in Christ go; as it is written: TO

BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD-2 Cor 5:8.

Jesus Christ currently sits at the right hand of God the Father, which is in heaven.

The Revelation, beginning at chapter 4, gives us some awesome descriptions of heaven. Note parts of Rev 4, 5, 6, 7:9, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, and the New Heaven and New Jerusalem-Rev chapters 21, 22.

What a glorious place the saints will dwell in. But what a horrible future awaits all the unbelievers and lukewarm Christians.

Next the verse tells us that His Name is to be **HALLOWED**. Hallowed is a word that has a very in-depth meaning.

In one word, it means “sanctified.” But it can mean much more. It can mean to treat as holy. It can also mean to glorify, praise, magnify, greatness, love.

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints. He is to be held in reverence. Hallowed can mean revered.

Next, the verse tells us, hallowed “**BE THY NAME.**”

This is God, **the Father**. His name is to be treated as a holy thing.

His name should shine forth gloriously, hallowed, and sanctified.

His name is above all names and is preferred before all names.

Followers of God are to both hallow God’s name, and hallow God in their prayers and in their life.

The name of God in the Old Testament was held to be so sacred and in such reverence, fear, and holiness, that it was not spoken.

As already said, this prayer is for born again Christians. It is not for those that have not surrendered their life to Him. It is not for those that have no personal relationship with Him.

It has been said that the nature of God is Himself. God is love. He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the Beginning and the End. He is that which is, which was, and which is to come. His fullness of being is: I AM THAT I AM.

The understanding and fullness of God's name can increase, as a person dies more and more to themselves and allows God's Word to lead and change them.

It can be understood more fully by those that do as Paul did, as he said: Gal 2:20-I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Seldom do today's churches teach the attitude a born again Christian is to have regarding God the Father.

It is written: Ps 89:7-God is **greatly to be feared** in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.

If a person loves this world, the love of the Father is not in him-ref 1 Jn 2:15.

Job 36:26-Behold, God is great, and we know him not. The number of his years is unsearchable.

Regarding God's names, many more verses could be used.

It is written: For **Jehovah** thy God is a

devouring fire, a jealous God.

Deut 4:31-For **Jehovah** thy God is a merciful God.

Ps 83:18-That men may know that thou, whose name alone is **JEHOVAH**, art the Most High over all the earth.

It is “our Father” that we are to pray to.

The Godhead consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:9**. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our **Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Mt 6:10. (Two requests are presented). We are to pray: **Thy kingdom come**. God will fulfill all He has stated in the Scriptures.

God’s kingdom will come following the Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon. At the time of Armageddon, Jesus shall return and put down all rebellion. He will then reign and rule for 1000 years, as the King of kings and Lord of lords. For 1000 years, there will be peace, as Satan will be cast into the pit, and a seal will be put upon him, so he can deceive the nations no longer.

Next we pray: **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven**. The Scriptures give us God’s will.

God’s will in heaven is being done.

God’s prophetic Word, as to how things would be on the earth, is being fulfilled perfectly.

However, God’s will in nearly every area is not being fulfilled.

God’s will, that all would come to repentance, is far from being fulfilled.

God’s will, regarding His church, is far from being fulfilled.

Mt 6:10. Thy (or your) kingdom come. Thy (or your) will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

It is **God's will** on the earth that all would follow, worship, and obey Him, which includes studying and obeying the Bible. This is not being fulfilled and many other things as well.

So what is going on? Most clergy do not know or understand that life is a test. That testing (or proving) is going on at this time.

In heaven, the angels were tested. Some rebelled against God and followed Satan.

On the earth, mankind has also rebelled against God, starting with Adam and Eve. Evil is increasing, just as the days of Noah and Lot were.

This life is a test to see which people will repent and follow Christ, even to the point of death if called to do so.

Life is a test to see which people will let God transform them into a new creation by changing the way they think.

God's will is that a person will follow after holiness.

The churches of today are, at best, lukewarm. They are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

God's will shall be established following Armageddon.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:10**, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Mt 6:11. (One request is presented). **Give us this day** means today, even right now, and as I need it.

The word "**our**" means it is something that

Mt 6:11. Give us this day (or today) our daily bread.

belongs to us, because we belong to Christ.

Daily means today, and every day. This is a daily prayer. It should be prayed each day.

Bread can mean many things. It can have a wide range of definitions.

God tells His followers to cast all their cares upon Him.

“Bread” can mean meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of a person. It may be said, the spirit, soul, and body.

On the “**spiritual**” side, “bread” can reflect our communion with God.

It can reflect things pertaining to our soul.
It can reflect God’s Word.

On the “**physical**” side, daily “bread” can mean things that seemed impossible, as God rained down bread (or food) from heaven.

Bread can symbolize all that the body needs, from food to clothing. It can symbolize everything that is needful and necessary.

Those that followed Jesus took nothing except the clothes on their back and the sandals on their feet. Jesus provided all their needs.

Lk 22:35-And he (Jesus) said unto them, When I sent you forth without purse, and wallet, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing.

Many say they trust God for giving them eternal life, but they do not trust Him to supply all their needs, if they forsake everything to follow Him.

If they give up their job to serve God, they do not believe God will supply their obligations and

Mt 6:12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive (or have forgiven) our debtors.

needs.

Such have little or no faith, or their faith is like a wave. Of such, the Bible says: Ja 1:7, 8-For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all of his ways.

Over and over, the children in the wilderness murmured and complained, even though their needs were being met.

As we ask God to give us our daily bread, we also ask God to forgive us. As we ask God to forgive us, we must also forgive others in the same way that He forgives us. Note the next part of this prayer.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:11**. Give us this day our daily bread.

Mt 6:12. (One request is presented with a condition). For many people, everything they do is right in their own eyes. They may think of themselves as a good person or not nearly as bad as others.

The Scriptures tell us that all have sinned.

The penalty for sin is the eternal lake of fire. All need forgiveness from God, for with no forgiveness, a horrible eternity lies ahead.

This verse begins with: And **forgive** us. That forgiveness is only possible, because Jesus took the sins of those that would trust in Him upon Himself, and paid the penalty of death that was required. That forgiveness is needed in order to be with Jesus, when your life is over. We might think of a doorway to heaven that has the words written over it: "Forgiven through faith in Jesus." Do you ask God for forgiveness daily? Do you confess your sins daily to Jesus when you pray, or do you believe you have

nothing to confess?

Next are the two words: our **debts** (or sins, or shortcomings) (or our disobedience to God's Word). In nearly every translation of the Bible to English, the word used here is debts, not sins.

The word "debts," in this situation, is an obligation that is owed. **These debts are owed, because of, or as a result of sin.**

If you borrow money, you owe a debt.

If you damage something that belongs to another person, you owe a debt.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Sin is disobedience to God's Word.

Sin can include not only what we do, but also what we do not do, as well as our thoughts.

There are no "good" people. There are none righteous, no not one.

There is no way any person can escape the damnation of hell. The sentence for committing sin is the eternal lake of fire. Each person is being tested (or proved).

The forgiveness that people seek for the debts they owe because of their sins, can only come through Jesus Christ, Who is come in the flesh.

A person that prays this prayer is asking Christ to have mercy upon them. They are admitting they have debts, and these debts are a result of disobedience to God's Word, and are so great and overwhelming that nothing can atone or erase them.

The forgiveness a sinner is asking for is only

Mt 6:12. The second part.

possible, because Jesus Christ never sinned. Thus, He was able to take the sins of all those that would trust in Him upon Himself. He bore their sins; as it is written: Isa 53:12-He hath poured out his soul unto death, and was reckoned with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:12** the first part. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mt 6:12. The second part of this verse is AN OBLIGATION that falls upon the person asking for God's forgiveness. It is written: "**As we forgive our debtors.**"

If there is anyone that you have not forgiven, no matter how great their sin, and no matter how greatly they may have hurt or offended you—you must forgive them from your heart, if Jesus is to forgive you.

Peter asked Jesus how often should he forgive his brother (that is, a brother in Christ). Jesus responded with a number that, in effect, has no end-ref Mt 18:22.

Again, as Christ has put no limit on the forgiveness extended to you, so you are to put no limit on how much you will forgive your brother.

God, Himself, was horribly beaten and tortured to the point of being marred worse than any man. The intense pain He suffered, the abuse and the mocking of those that watched as His life slowly slipped away—He endured, in order to save those few that come to repentance, and then follow and obey His Word. Jesus is the example of forgiving others.

He forgave those that betrayed, arrested,

tortured, and crucified Him. As it is written: Lk 23:34-Then said Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." It has been said that this is the heart of the prayer.

Jesus paid that debt on the cross for those that would surrender their life to Him. Many seek for forgiveness. However, they are not willing to repent or dwell in the Bible, as if it was more necessary to them than the very food they put in their mouth. They are not willing to surrender or let go of their life and give it to Jesus.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:12**. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mt 6:13. (Two requests are presented with three statements or reasons). After asking for God's forgiveness, and also forgiving others, the Lord continues to teach us.

Next, we are to pray: "**And lead us not into temptation.**"

The KJV Bible uses the word "temptation" 16 times.

It uses the word "temptations" 8 times, the word "tempted" 25 times, and the word "tempt" 14 times.

Jesus, ref Heb 4:15, was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

The more a born again Christian lets their light for Jesus shine before men, the more they can expect to be tempted, threatened and, in some cases, killed.

Several areas of temptation that Satan uses are the cares of this life, the lusts of other things, the pleasures of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, plus fears, doubts,

Mt 6:13. And (do not) lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil (or from the evil one): For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

persecutions, and the love we may have for some person or something of this world. Our own lusts and desires that we have not repented of tempt us. Seek only for Jesus, and all you "need" will come. When temptations arise, resist the devil.

If you pray for God not to lead you into temptation, then beware that you do not go to places, or do things, or fellowship with unbelievers that will tempt you. Don't lead yourself into situations where you will be tempted.

The more a person studies God's Word, the more they should grow in faith. The more they grow in faith, the more they should be able to recognize and resist the temptations that Satan uses to cause a person to go astray. However, God will not allow a born again Christian to be tempted beyond what they are able to endure-1 Cor 10:13.

The Bible clearly warns us about some areas where we may be tempted. These are things each Christian needs to be aware of.

1 Jn 2:15-LOVE NOT THE WORLD. Have no love for this world. Do not love the world's ways, the world's goods. Do not love the things this world offers you. A person that loves this world finds that the love for God is being squeezed out of them. Finally, there is no love in their heart for God.

The more a person looks at their possessions, even their children, the less they may be looking at Jesus.

This world offers a person physical pleasure. It seeks to cause a person to crave for sex outside of biblical guidelines.

This world causes a person to love sinful

lifestyles and abominations. Some include an adulterous lifestyle and drugs, and many worldly things we crave.

This world seeks for a person to be prideful. This world believes it is OK to take pride in many accomplishments or things. These temptations are not from the Father, but are from the world.

This world or man's lust tempts a person to want or crave a bigger or better house, a newer and more expensive car, and more expensive possessions, and clothes.

And how prideful it can be to know that millions of people watch you on TV and hang on every word you speak.

Craving worldly possessions and taking pride in worldly achievements are not from the Father. They are from the devil. Jesus set the example, but VERY FEW in this pleasure-filled, fun-filled world, with all of its technology and new devices are satisfied with just "one" thing: that is, more of Jesus, and Jesus only.

This world will pass away, and all that give in to its temptations will also pass away with it.

But those that obey the Gospel will be with Jesus forever and ever.

Life is a test. It is full of one trial after another. How each person responds is part of "life is a test."

Next, we are to pray: "**But deliver us from evil,**" or, we may say, deliver us from the devil and all his schemes and adversity. The words "deliver us" indicate that the devil has a snare or trap waiting for all that follow Christ. Thus, we pray that the Lord will deliver us from Satan's evil net. Few realize that Satan's traps

and schemes are well camouflaged with "sugar, honey, and delicious spices." As a trap may be baited with cheese in order to catch a mouse, so it is with Satan's trap to ensnare a Christian in sin. Satan tried to trap Jesus by offering Him the world.

Satan tempts people by offering them what he knows their flesh desires, including notoriety. He succeeds with many, including preachers.

The devil was created to do exactly what he is doing—that is, to deceive the whole world-ref Rev 12:9. He was given the power to deceive you through your thoughts and through all sorts of situations he can create. The Bible warns all that follow Jesus: do not underestimate your adversary, the devil. Be sober, and be on your guard. The devil is constantly seeking whom he can deceive and devour-ref 1 Pe 5:8.

Enticements and temptations to do evil are everywhere. The snares of the devil are often where you would least expect them. Eve was tempted by the devil. She sinned. She tempted Adam. He sinned. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God-Ro 3:23. Pray for the Lord to deliver you from evil. Beware that you do not make unwise, unbiblical decisions that could cause you to be tempted to do evil.

Regretfully, nearly all churches in this latter day generation ignore teaching these things to their congregation. They often ignore teaching God's Word and replace it with lots of meaningless stories that produce no faith. Psychology is being used, more and more, by many in this sleeping church age. The pastors are deceived, in that they do not even realize it is the devil, himself, in many cases, that puts in their mind not to teach on how he works to deceive people, including themselves.

The prayer ends with exalting the Father; as it is written: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

For Thine is the “kingdom.” Next, we are to end the prayer by exalting God the Father. We acknowledge that all we have asked is centered in Him, because it is He that is the kingdom. The kingdom is His.

Thine is the “**power.**” There is no power, but His. All the powers that exist everywhere would not exist except for the Father. Nothing would exist apart from the Father. Jesus said, "My Father is greater than I"-Jn 14:28. Nothing is impossible for God. He can do as He wishes.

Thine is the “**glory.**” The glory is Thine. He is to be glorified, honored, and esteemed above everything, forever and ever.

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints-Ps 89:7.

Revelation chapter 4 reveals the glory that is ascribed to the Father; yet, men upon the earth make light of the Father. They often speak of things they do not understand.

Rev 4:2-And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

v.3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

v.4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

v.5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits (or sevenfold spirits) of God.

v.6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

v.7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

v.8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**

v.9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

v.10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

v.11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Man exalts himself upon the earth, yes, as do many clergy. **Yet the most humble shall be exalted in that day.**

The next word in the verse is "**forever.**" For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: FOREVER (or we may say, for time without end).

Mt 6:14. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, (or when they sin against you) your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

These ending words reflect our faith in Him.

They reflect that He is the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and Omega. He is the Creator of all things. His is the kingdom, and He is the kingdom, power, and glory, forever.

The word "**AMEN**" ends the Lord's prayer. This carries with it the finality of what preceded it. It may be said, this is an expression of faith and hope coupled together. It means the end of the matter.

It is written: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. He is the AMEN.

As the prayer is ended, some may consider that it is an incredible thing that man can seek God, the Creator of all things. One may ask, "What is man" that thou should set thy mind upon him, or be mindful of him, or take knowledge of him, or should exalt him?-ref Ps 144:3; Ps 8:4; Job 7:17; Heb 2:6.

As we just covered in **Mt 6:13**. And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Mt 6:14. For "IF" ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

The Lord's prayer is over. However the Bible brings up the subject of forgiving others a **second time**. In the Lord's prayer, the word "debts" is used. Here the word "trespasses" is used.

The subject of this verse is your trespasses being forgiven. Your trespasses (or sins) will not be forgiven, if you, in turn, do not forgive men their trespasses. **IF ye do forgive** men

their trespasses (this is required), **then** God will also forgive you.

The words **sin, sins, trespasses, transgressing, iniquity, and offense** are used in the Bible. They are interconnected and often overlap; yet, there are slight differences, when one searches out the matter.

To trespass means to go beyond a point, or step over a boundary.

To trespass, or exaggerate, is to go beyond what is correct. It is sin.

Have you considered things like exceeding the speed limit, not completely stopping at a stop sign, and not having insurance on your car as required are all transgressing the law and, as such, are sin?

Sin is doing something the Word of God tells you not to do.

Sin is not doing something you are commanded to do.

Breaking any of the Ten Commandments is sin, and it is also transgressing the law.

Being angry with your brother without a cause is sin.

Did you know that pride is also sin?-ref Mk 7:22; 1 Jn 2:16.

Suffice to say: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God-Ro 3:23; ref Isa 59:13.

To summarize, in part, some of what has been said, this verse reveals that many, if not most, people that think they are saved, are not. They hold grudges. They have an unforgiving attitude. They will never forget someone that has wronged them. They are forever upset with certain people, and have bitterness in their heart when a certain name might be

mentioned. Unless they repent and forgive others, they themselves cannot be forgiven. As Jesus forgives, so are all that follow Him to forgive in the same way.

To forgive a person their trespasses is to erase them from your mind, as Jesus does with our sins.

There are churches that have unforgiveness toward some other church, perhaps one down the street. Or some churches are jealous of others, because their outreach is greater. Jealousy or envy is sin.

Forgiving is totally erasing from your mind the sins or trespasses of the forgiven party, whatever the offense was, as far as the east is from the west.

**Trespasses and Sin
Warning to the Clergy
Today's Church**

Very, Very Few Inherit Eternal Life

Most churches today have many empty seats. The number of people going to church anymore on a regular basis, with a few exceptions, has greatly dropped off. Yet the Bible tells God's people in Heb 10:25-Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so **much the more**, as ye see the day approaching. The day approaching is the return of the Lord, as indicated by the signs of the times.

Regarding pastors, priests, rabbi, teachers, as well as elders, many, even most, say things that are not in harmony with God's Word.

They say things that oppose God's Word.

They speak some things that are false.
Some make jokes and act very foolishly as

they teach, which is sin-ref Mk 7:22. Ignorance of what God's Word says will not save or justify a person at the Judgment.

God's Word tells us clearly that much of today's Bible teaching and Christians are lukewarm, even wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked; and they are spiritually asleep-Rev 3:14-22; Mt 25:1-13.

Most preachers in this latter day generation use worldly stories to illustrate what they are saying, with a Bible verse mixed in now and then; even though the Bible teaches to compare God's Word with God's Word. Some no longer use Scripture at all, but rather teach psychology, self-esteem, and belief in oneself. The people's itching ears love to have it this way. They do not want to hear about their sinful condition and their need to repent.

Those that hear this teaching in the churches, or on the radio, TV, or the Internet are not being fed good sound doctrine. The end result is that no one believes they will perish to hell.

Subjects that may scare people and convict them of sin and, thus lead them to repentance, are usually avoided. Teaching on the Revelation, prophecy, sin, the judgments, repentance, forsaking all for Christ, denying oneself, taking up your cross and following Jesus, hell, the lake of fire, and other needful subjects are seldom heard. People being broken over their sins at the church altar is seldom seen anymore. Emphasis on people devouring God's Word at home daily has all but disappeared. It is no wonder that this entire Laodicean generation will be rejected, spit out like sour or distasteful food.

Nearly all of the clergy at funerals never indicate the deceased person has perished to hell. This is the blind generation that seems to

believe all go to a better place when they die. The fact is, when compared with the population, numbers given in God's Word seem to indicate that far less than one-half of one percent will forever be with the Lord.

But who may believe this? Probably, no one; that is, until the Judgment comes.

Is this your church? Isa 59:13-In **transgressing** and LYING against the Lord, and DEPARTING AWAY from our God, SPEAKING OPPOSITION and revolt, conceiving and UTTERING (or saying) from the heart WORDS OF FALSEHOOD.

Ja 3:1-My brethren, be not many masters (or preachers, elders, priests, clergy, teachers, or missionaries), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

Heb 10:31-It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

As was just covered in Mt 6:14-And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:14**. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly **Father** will also forgive you.

Mt 6:15. But if ye **forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Now, for the **third time**, forgiving others is brought up.

This reveals the importance God puts on this subject.

It is taught that everyone that comes to Christ, their trespasses are forgiven. However, this verse makes it clear that if a person will not

Mt 6:15. But if ye **forgive not** men their trespasses (or sins), **neither** will your **Father** **forgive your trespasses** (or sins).

forgive others, neither will their Father forgive them. God cannot do contrary to His Word.

Thus, when a person seeks God's forgiveness, they need to make sure they have forgiven others first. Hold no grudges. Love even your enemies.

As Christ was hanging on the cross, He said, **FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO-Lk 23:34.**

To restate this clearly—If you will not forgive others, you will perish.

Mt 5:44,45 tells each of us clearly: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:15**. But if ye **forgive not** men their trespasses (or sins), **neither** will your **Father forgive your trespasses** (or sins).

Mt 6:16. The subject now changes to fasting. This was another example of how the religious leaders made themselves appear to be righteous to the people.

Fasting should be a part of a born again Christian's life; however, making a "show" of fasting is wrong.

Fasting to make others think you are more spiritual is wrong.

Fasting covers many areas. Because Jesus is not personally here with us now, we fast.

A Christian fasts to draw closer to God. Some fast for more understanding of God's Word.

Mt 6:16. Moreover when ye **FAST**, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance (or a gloomy face): for they disfigure their faces, (or neglect their appearance) (in order) that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily (or truly) I say unto you, They have their reward (in full).

Some might fast for a specific purpose, such as healing.

There are many reasons to fast, the chief is that God says clearly that His followers will fast. Regretfully, few realize that denying oneself is part of following Jesus. As a woman denies herself to follow her husband, so the church (born again Christians) deny themselves to follow Christ, Who is the Word.

A 7 day fast can remove knots (or uptight feelings) in a person's stomach, as well as helping them to understand God's Word more deeply. A rare few may fast 40 days.

The subject of fasting is mostly ignored in this blind and lukewarm church age. This Laodicean church age believes it is the best, because of the vast numbers of people they can reach; yet, the Bible reveals, in the eyes of God, it is the worst. Overall, it is biblically illiterate. They do not know, nor do they understand at all, their wretched condition. They are absolutely without understanding of how God sees them.

It is also written: 2 Tim 4:3-5-For the time will come (which is right now) when they (the people) will **not endure the truth of God's Word** which is **sound doctrine**. They will, according to their own desires and lusts, heap up (or gather) for themselves teachers, that will say what their itching ears (or ears itch for) or seek to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (or storytelling, or myths of all sorts).

Jere 9:3-And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord.

Fasting is one of many subjects this

generation does not want to do or hear about.

It is written: Mt 9:15; Mk 2:20; ref Lk 5:35-but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then **shall they FAST**—in those days. Note the words: SHALL THEY FAST.

As, I recall, a certain Baptist church in Florida brought up the subject of fasting. The minister suggested that the congregation fast one meal to the Lord for a special purpose.

The reaction of the congregation was very negative.

Such are many churches in this generation. When the Rapture does come, few will be taken, because they are not zealous for the truth. They are not totally committed to Christ.

The Old Testament refers to a fast 8 times. The New Testament refers to it 17 times. Why then does your church probably ignore this subject?

There are 1 day fasts, 7 day fasts, 10 day fasts, 14 day, 21 day, and 40 day fasts. Some fast for 1 meal, some for various number of days.

Fasts of multiple days are often done in seclusion.

A 7 day fast will defeat those big knots (or uptight feelings) a person has. When fasting for a long period, devouring God's Word is strongly suggested.

The family of God does pray. They do repent. They do get baptized by full immersion after repentance. They do crave God's Word, for there is no faith apart from God's Word. They do fast. They do follow Christ. They do not

crave all sorts of worldly stories, as most churches use today. The center of a true Christian's life is Jesus, and Jesus is the Word.

They don't go to church to be entertained. They go because they want to learn of Christ (Who is the Word) and have fellowship with others that also want God's Word. A true Christian wants to conform to the image of Christ. A nominal (or lukewarm) Christian does not.

A true Christian does devour God's Word. A lukewarm one does not.

Verse 16 continues: Moreover when ye **FAST**, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.

In other words, do not let people know you are fasting. Fast in secret. Keep it to yourself.

(Note) WHEN FASTING DRINK ONLY WATER. Bottled water is best, if you can get it.

Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward. If you reveal that you fast to others, in order to gain their admiration, then that is your reward. But if you fast in secret, your reward is from the Lord.

Regretfully, pride, in appearing to be very spiritual in the eyes of people, is still true today.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:16**. Moreover when ye **FAST**, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Mt 6:17. When a person fasts, they should comb their hair and look presentable, so other

Mt 6:17. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head (or put oil on your head), and wash thy

face;

Mt 6:18. that thou be not seen of men to fast, (or so it will be not obvious to men that you are fasting), but of thy **Father** who is in secret: and thy **Father**, who seeth in secret, shall recompense (or repay) thee.

people will not know they are fasting. They should do nothing that would alert others that they are fasting.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:17**. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head (or put oil on your head), and wash thy face;

Mt 6:18. Again, do not draw attention to yourself that you are fasting, but let it be between you and the Lord. In doing so, your heavenly Father will reward you.

Note: When making arrangements to do a fast that involves seclusion, you may need to inform your spouse, a family member or someone in authority, but do so discreetly. For more on this subject, see the subject of “fasting” on this website.

The Churches of Today and Fasting

The churches of this last generation before Jesus returns are not preaching a narrow way, a strait gate, or a total, uncompromising commitment of love and obedience to Jesus. Neither are they teaching on fasting.

Ministers are misleading many into believing they are saved and will be raptured, when, in fact, most will receive eternal damnation.

It is a rare church, a very rare church that will, over and over, encourage its people to devour God’s Word (the Bible), as it is more necessary for a person’s eternal well-being than the food they put in their mouth.

Even in churches in what is called the Bible Belt, such as North Carolina, there is a blindness that has come upon much of the clergy.

The wretched teaching of most is so shallow, so lacking in substance, that it is another

Mt 6:19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt (or consume, or devour, or destroy), and where thieves break through and steal:

gospel.

So much of the teaching now is centered on what Jesus did for us, but not on a person's repentance and commitment to Jesus. There is little teaching regarding: as Jesus was, so are we to be in this world.

In these three things: giving to the poor, praying, and fasting, the religious leaders tried to make themselves appear righteous and holy to the people, but Jesus called them hypocrites.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:18**, that thou be not seen of men to fast, but of thy **Father** who is in secret: and thy **Father**, who seeth in secret, shall recompense thee.

Mt 6:19. Next Jesus gives those that follow Him a command. It is not a suggestion. This command of God is—do not lay up treasures on this earth. Remember, it is God's Word that will judge you.

Again, this is very contrary to what many **clergy** and people that say they are saved, actually do. It is not uncommon for some Bible teachers to have million dollar homes and drive expensive luxury cars or high-powered sports cars. They boast about their success and finances. It is like a sign to them that they are spiritual and God wants to bless them.

They mislead people into believing God wants people to be rich. They teach that God wants to bless you and wants you to have riches on this earth. Is this what Jesus taught? Their understanding of God's Word is darkness. They lead people away from God and obedience to His Word.

Jesus states clearly—do not lay up for yourselves treasures or riches on this earth. What many clergy teach and do today directly

opposes this command of Jesus. This command also hit at the heart of the religious leaders of His day.

It is written: And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all (kinds of) evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, **O man of God flee these things**; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness-1 Tim 6:8-11.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes. and the pride of life, **is not of the Father**, but is of the world-1 Jn 2:15-16.

Worldly possessions deteriorate with time. Thieves sometimes seek to steal what a rich man has.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever-1 Jn 2:17.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:19**, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume (or devour, or destroy), and where thieves break through and steal:

Mt 6:20. Jesus tells His followers to seek after the treasures in heaven. In heaven, no moths, rust or thieves can devour, destroy or steal. The treasures you accumulate, as a result of following and serving Christ, are secure.

Everything done for Christ is rewarded, from

Mt 6:20. but lay up (or store) for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt (or consume, or devour, or destroy), and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

giving to the poor to witnessing. The foundation is being in God's Word, which is followed by obedience.

If your treasures are upon this earth, then that is where your heart will be. If you have many wonderful worldly possessions and a very comfortable and pleasure-filled lifestyle, then how can your heart be centered on the things of heaven?

If you have forsaken all as God commands and your treasures are in heaven, then that is where your heart should also be.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:20**. but lay up (or store) for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt (or consume, or devour, or destroy), and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mt 6:21. For where your treasure is, there will thy heart be also.

Mt 6:21. If your "treasure" (or what you value) is:

loving greetings in the streets,
loving to be exalted by those you teach,
being exalted by notable people,
or owning nice things,
a special car, or cars,
an elaborate and elegant house,
beautiful and expensive furniture,
lots of rich friends,
hundreds of acres of prime real estate,
and lots of money in the bank for personal use,
and other such things,
how, then, can such a clergy teach as Jesus did, that is:
to forsake all,
and take up your cross daily,
and follow Jesus?

For wherever your possessions and the things you desire and love are, that is where your heart will be.

Treasures on the earth are gone, when a person dies.

Treasures in heaven last forever.

Jesus taught forsaking everything.

Today's church, in many cases, seems to believe that having everything is a reflection of God's approval. Many relate how God has blessed them with many fine things. These include money, houses, cars, and the finer things of this life.

Pride is not a reflection of following Jesus, for it is written, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.

"God wants to bless you" has become one of the favorite sayings of the Laodicean church age. So much of today's teaching is centered on self, rather than on denying oneself and taking up the cross and following Jesus. As He was, so are we to be in this world. We are to follow Christ, and conform to the image of Christ.

Mk 10:21-23-(A rich man came to Jesus). Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:21**, For where your treasure is, there will thy heart be also.

Mt 6:22. The light of the body is the eye: if

Mt 6:22. What your eyes see is referred to as

therefore thine eye be single (or good, or clear), thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mt 6:23. But if thine eye be evil (or bad), thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how **great is that darkness!**

the lamp that lights your way.

This is referring to a person's spiritual condition.

If your eye is single, and it is centered on Jesus and Jesus alone (Who is the Word), your whole body shall be full of light. Jesus is the Light of the world.

To be full of light is to be full of Jesus, which also means full of God's Word.

However, most do not have a single eye. Many are double-minded. They are like a wave that goes in and out. They are like a tree swaying in the wind.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:22**. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single (or good, or clear), thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mt 6:23. This verse suggests a diseased eye, and with it, a diseased (or sick) body. But if your eye is evil (consider the term an evil eye), then your entire being—**your thinking, your understanding, the way you see things, regarding the Scriptures, will be sick, distorted, and darkened.**

That darkness will be great. However, you may never understand you are in darkness (or we may say, spiritual and biblical darkness) until you die and find yourself in hell. No one wants to be there for even a second.

False religions can blind a person.

Any religion that is not centered on Jesus (that is, the Word of God, and only the Word of God) is darkness.

After being in hell, then the Great White

Throne Judgment takes place. All whose names are not found written in the book of life are cast into the eternal lake of fire. Only very foolish people make a joke about things like this.

Self centeredness, the love of this world, and the things of this world, such as riches, the cares of this life, the lusts of all sorts of things, the pleasures of this life, and fear can blind a person regarding the Scriptures.

Things like sex outside of marriage, or many forms of gambling can blind a person.

A lack of total repentance can blind a person.

Some of this is confirmed in the story of the rich man.

There was a certain rich man.

Ref Lk 16:22-31-And it came to pass, that...the rich man...died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's

house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them, (or it might be said: let them hear the Bible).

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

If you think you are in the light, but you are really in spiritual darkness, how great is that darkness!

If a person is immersed in darkness,
but will fear God,
and humble themselves,
and acknowledge they are a sinner and do wrong,
and will begin to read the Bible,
and will turn from his sins to God,
and cry out to God,
God will break that darkness and save him.

If a person's eye is bad, then no light can come in. That person is left with nothing but darkness. One might ask, how can a person in darkness know where he is at? The answer is that he is lost, and he can only find his way, if the light of Jesus will penetrate that darkness. Since the light is God's Word, one can only say, how foolish, how very foolish people are that do not immerse themselves in the Bible.

SIN BLOCKS THE DESIRE TO STUDY GOD'S WORD.

SELF-CENTEREDNESS BLOCKS BEING CHRIST-CENTERED.

LOOKING AT ALL YOUR PROBLEMS BLOCKS LOOKING AT JESUS.

LOOKING AT YOUR PROBLEMS BRINGS FEAR. LOOKING AT JESUS AND HEARING HIS WORD BRINGS PEACE.

Great darkness is believing you will not go to hell when you die, even though Jesus Christ, Who is come in the flesh, is not the Lord of your life and is not your only hope of salvation.

Great darkness is thinking you can go to heaven (or to a better place) some other way than Jesus. Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me-Jn 14:6.

Great darkness is thinking you can go to heaven or to a better place by believing in Jesus; yet, you have not repented, and neither do you follow God's Word, neither do you have faith, because you do not hear and read God's Word as you ought. Faith only comes by hearing or reading the Word of God, and then you are to obey it.

Great darkness is believing in reincarnation.

Great darkness is following Islam; however, many have come out of this false religion and surrendered to Christ, Who loves them.

The verses on the eye lead to the next verse.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:23**, But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how **great is that darkness!**

Mt 6:24. No man can serve two masters; for

Mt 6:24. Two masters can include many

either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold (or be devoted) to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve (both) God and mammon (or money).

things.

In this case, it is speaking of (1) God, Who is the Word (or the Bible), and (2) money. The subject of money can cover both having it and the desire for more of it. It can cover whatever money can buy.

It is not money that makes the world go round. It is Jesus.

We may say, it is also speaking of
(1) God and
(2) anything else that, in any way, draws your eyes, thoughts, or actions away from God.

You cannot serve God, and other things also.

Regretfully, many ministers are easily led astray, as fame and money come their way. They are deceived by the one that offered to give Jesus the whole world, but Jesus said, **MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD-Mt 4:4.**

What does the Bible mean when it uses the term “masters”?

A “master” is that which dominates or controls your life.

It can be your job, some hobby, or your family. It can be some sin, such as sex outside of marriage, or lusting after pretty girls.

What is the most important thing in your life? Is it God and God’s Word? If Jesus is not the Lord of your life, then neither is He your Savior.

If you believe you are going to heaven, then the most important thing in your life can only be one thing, and one thing alone. That is the Person of Jesus Christ and dwelling in His

Word. He alone is to be your only Master. Your total devotion is to be wrapped up in one name, the name of Jesus.

Thou shalt not covet-ref Ro 7:7.

"YOU CANNOT" serve God and also something else. If you do, you will love one but hate the other, or you will hold onto the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and money.

You cannot serve both God and this world.

You cannot serve both God and something else. If you do, one will be more important to you, and the other will be less important, or perhaps the other will even be despised.

If you do not follow Jesus, then you are following Satan.

What is more important to you? Is it Jesus, or is it the things of this world? Are the world's possessions or your job, or your family more important to you than He that gives you life?

The answer to that, for most people, indicates they are headed to the eternal lake of fire.

Jesus is to be your Lord, if He is to be your Savior. You are to belong to Him. You are to be His possession. Many people say they accept Him as their Savior, but they never allow Him to be their Lord. They never allow Jesus to take possession of their life. They never follow Him.

Few clergy seem to understand this and convey this to their congregation.

As alluded to already, you cannot follow or serve God and other things. For if you try to do so, you will have a divided mind and divided loyalties.

Mt 6:25. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought (or do not worry) for (or about) your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on (or wear). Is not the life more (important) than meat (or food), and the body (more important) than raiment (or clothes)?

Double-mindedness can take you to eternal damnation. Riding the fence is not pleasing to God.

Few really surrender all to Christ as the Bible teaches we are to do.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:24**, No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mt 6:25. It may be said, the essence of the rest of this chapter can be summed up in this— Seek Jesus by faith with all your heart, and all you need shall be made available to you.

Prov 3:5, 6-Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

In verse 24, Jesus dealt with the subject of money. A Christian cannot follow or serve both God and money or possessions. He cannot follow two things.

In verse 25, Jesus deals with the subject of food, drink and clothes. Neither is a person to worry or let his mind be concerned about these things.

A person's mind needs to be centered on God's Word, which is Jesus.

A person's heart should be focused on: "As Jesus was, so I should be"-ref 1 Jn 4:17.

The opening comment of verse 25 is, Jesus advising His followers what to do.

That advice is, do not take any thought regarding "**your life.**"

Do not be anxious, or do not worry, or do not be concerned, or do not be fearful regarding your life or even what may happen.

Again, this applies to what you will eat and drink. This applies to your body, such as your clothing.

Jesus goes on to say, is not your life much more than what you eat, and is not your body much more than what you put on?

Again, the underlying focus is to place your trust in Jesus, and He will take care of the rest, as you follow Him by faith.

Stop worrying and being distracted by these worldly things.

Worrying and fear often go hand in hand. But trusting in God's Word should bring peace.

Isa 26:3-Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

How do you witness to others about trusting in Jesus, when you, yourself, are full of worry?

The more time a person spends in God's Word, the more they should trust in Christ, and the less they should worry.

Paul said: But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God-Ac 20:24.

Life is the test that is designed to conform each Christian to the image of God, by not being conformed to this world-ref Ro 12:2. A Christian needs to be transformed.

How much easier this is for the poor, than it is for the rich. Jesus told the rich merchant to sell all he had, and then follow Him. He went away sad, for he had great riches that he did not want to give up-ref Mt 19:21.

A person is to follow and live by faith in Jesus, and trust in Him to provide.

Here is the problem.

In this last, lukewarm generation, few people love God's Word enough to read and study it faithfully.

If you read a book and enjoy it, you make time to do so, because you enjoy and desire what you are reading.

Many say they love Christ, Who is the Word of God, but their lack of hearing and reading the Bible testifies otherwise.

In the same way, if there is a television program you enjoy, you usually find time to watch it faithfully.

But when it comes to the Bible, few find time to read it.

If you enjoy searching the Internet, you find time to do so. But when it comes to the Bible, there just never seems to be enough time.

And finally, many find lots of time to use their handheld devices, but usually no time to hear or read God's Word, which can be accessed by that same device.

Most so-called Christians have many other things to do, which they consider more important than spending time studying the **Word of God**. Is it any wonder that only a few are chosen by God to go to heaven, while most

that profess to be a Christian are rejected?

Very, very few churches, TV or radio ministries, or evangelists even suggest to their listeners that they need to faithfully hear and devour God's Word, the Bible.

The foundation of a Christian's life is God's Word.

The result of this is faith.

But faith only comes from hearing and reading God's Word.

Without faith, which comes only from being in God's Word, it is impossible to please God.

The verse ends with a question. Is not (your) life more than (food), and (your) body (more) than (your clothes)?

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:25**, Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mt 6:26. Next God's Word reveals that He will take care of feeding you. The verse tells His followers to look at nature, such as the fowls (or birds) of the air and, in v.28, the flowers. They do not sow (or plant gardens), or lay up food in barns; yet, God feeds them.

Then Jesus asks the question. Are you (those that follow Jesus) not much better (or more important, or of more value, or more excellent) than they are?

The Lord is implying they are not tied down to a job, or being hindered by worrying how they shall survive; yet, God provides for them daily.

As this continues, Jesus is saying that if you will follow Him, and serve Him, He will take

Mt 6:26. Behold (or look at) the fowls (or birds) of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap nor gather (or store away) into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better (or more valuable) than they?

care of everything else. This is exactly what He did for the apostles. This is exactly what He has done for multitudes that have followed Him, from the days of the apostles to this present time. And this is what He will do for you.

However, the devil puts lying thoughts into the believer's mind, saying, this will not happen for you. Then the Christian's faith and belief in God's Word is tested. Some choose to believe God's Word, and go forth obeying what God has put in their mind to do.

Others are hesitant, or do not go at all. Life is a test.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:26**, Behold (or look at) the fowls (or birds) of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap nor gather (or store away) into barns; yet your heavenly **Father** feedeth them. Are ye not much better (or more valuable) than they?

Mt 6:27. Next, Jesus asks the question, which of you can by thinking (or we might say, by hoping, or worrying) about it can even add a small amount to his height? A cubit is about 18 inches.

Some believe this is also referring to a person's life span. Thus, they believe this verse teaches a person cannot add even the smallest amount of time to the length of their life by worrying about it.

A Christian's trust is to be placed in Jesus Christ.

In this age of worry, some doctors believe that much worrying can decrease a person's life span.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:27**, Which of you by taking thought (or worrying) can add

Mt 6:27. Which of you by taking thought (or worrying) can add one cubit unto his stature (or add a single hour to his life)?

Mt 6:28. And why take ye thought for raiment (or why do you worry about clothes)? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil (or labor) not, neither do they spin:

Mt 6:29. And yet I say unto you, That (not) even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed (or dressed) like one of these.

Mt 6:30. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is

one cubit unto his stature (or add a single hour to his life)?

Mt 6:28. Jesus continues by saying, And why do you think about clothing? In other words, why do you worry about how (or by what means) you will be able to buy (or obtain) clothes, if you follow Me and forsake the world and your job?

Jesus tells those that may have doubts about forsaking everything and following Him:

Consider (or think about) the lilies (or the beautiful flowers) of the field, how they grow (or prosper); they toil not (or they do not work), neither do they spin (or work, or try to make ends meet).

Jesus appears to be revealing to those listening, that those that choose to forsake everything and follow Him, He will take care of them just as He does the beautiful flowers of the field.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:28**, And why take ye thought for raiment (or why do you worry about clothes)? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil (or labor) not, neither do they spin:

Mt 6:29. Jesus continues: that even King Solomon with all the splendor of royalty and the lavish apparel he wore, was not arrayed (or clothed) as beautifully as one of these lovely lilies that grow in the field.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:29**, And yet I say unto you, That (not) even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed (or dressed) like one of these.

Mt 6:30. Jesus continues: if God (Who is His Father) does indeed clothe the grass, which

cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

today grows in the field, but the next day is put in the oven, how much more will His Father do the same for you.

For those that doubted whether God would provide for them, if they followed Jesus, He said: O you of little faith.

Worrying, doubting, getting uptight, or not having confidence that God will provide as His Word says He will—means you have little faith.

If you do not believe God will keep His Word regarding your worldly needs, how can you believe God will give you eternal life? A lack of faith is sin.

Not believing what God says in His Word is saying God is not truthful. He cannot be trusted.

The Bible (which is Jesus) refers to those with little faith in Ja 1:5-8-If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that (gives) to all men (freely) (or abundantly), and (without any unkind word); and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering (or not doubting). For he that wavereth (or goes back and forth) is like a wave of the sea **driven** with the wind and tossed (or driven with thoughts and situations that cause the heart to doubt). For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Satan fills our hearts and thoughts with things like: God will not answer you. He will not give you what you need. He will not keep His Word. And if your heart chooses to believe these lying thoughts of Satan over God's Word, then it is written: Let it not seem to such a man that he will get anything from the Lord.

If you will follow Jesus and not doubt, Jesus

Mt 6:31. Therefore take no thought or do not worry or be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed (or what shall we wear)?

Mt 6:32. (For after all these things do the Gentiles or pagans (eagerly) seek or run after:) for your heavenly **Father** knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Mt 6:33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall

will most assuredly see that you have the clothing you need.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:30**, Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Mt 6:31. Therefore stop thinking (this is a command), or stop saying to yourself: what are we going to have to eat, or what will we be able to find to drink, or how is it possible that we will be able to have any clothes, if we forsake our job and this world and follow Jesus? How can we earn any money for the things we need? Stop doubting, and questioning, and debating. A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:31**, Therefore take no thought or do not worry or be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed (or what shall we wear)?

Mt 6:32. Jesus said regarding these things (that is, food, drink, and clothing): All of these things the Gentiles (that is, the uncircumcised and unbelievers) seek.

Jesus goes on to say to those that trust in Him: Your heavenly Father knows that you need all of these things.

In other words, whatever you need—God knows.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:32**, (For after all these things do the Gentiles or pagans (eagerly) seek or run after:) for your heavenly **Father** knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Mt 6:33. God then tells His people to **first** seek the kingdom of God. **The kingdom of**

be added (or be given) unto you (as well).

God is Jesus. He is our righteousness. Seek the **righteousness of Jesus**, which is done by faith. The word KINGDOM is used 157 times in the New Testament.

In doing this, the food, drink, and clothing you need (that is, the material things you need) **shall be made available to you** and supplied in the time He designates.

In seeking Jesus through faith, you get both eternal life and the necessities of this life.

In not seeking Jesus, the following applies. What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, but lose his own soul and be tormented for eternity? |

Do you have that deep, inner hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Jesus? Do you have that deep desire to follow Jesus, no matter where it leads you?

Do you have that deep, inner desire to dwell in God's Word, so you can grow in Jesus? If not, it may be asked, what sin is it that you do not want to give up?

Cast your cares upon Jesus through faith.

A follower of Jesus is to walk by faith, not by the way things appear. Faith comes by hearing and reading God's Word, and by trusting and obeying it.

Satan knows that hardships may drive some to the Bible and to their knees; but prosperity can drive people away from the Bible and from their knees in prayer.

This is the most technologically advanced and prosperous generation ever, but it is the worst of all 7 church ages, regarding obedience to His Word. Few people inherit eternal life. Very

Mt 6:34. Take therefore no thought (or do not be anxious) for the morrow (or do not worry about tomorrow): for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself (or tomorrow will worry (or care) about itself). Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, (or each day has enough trouble of its own).

few will be raptured.

Among **rich men**, the number is far less. They are not seeking God first and His righteousness.

Ja 1:11-For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Luke 18:25-For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:33**, But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mt 6:34. To those that follow Jesus, He will provide. He may or may not provide according to your will, but it will be according to His will.

Therefore, **do not worry or even think** about the days ahead.

Do not spend your time tossing back and forth in bed with worry.

Do not lose your sleep over worry.

Do not wake up and worry all the day long.

Bring your thoughts into captivity and into harmony with the Word of God.

Walk by faith, not by how things appear and coupled with fear and worry. As has been said, trust in the Lord.

As we pray in the Lord's prayer, so it will be: Give us this day our daily bread.

But when we pray, we are to ask in faith, and not doubt. Those that doubt are like the sea that is driven with the wind and tossed back and forth. That man should not believe that he

shall receive anything of the Lord. Double-minded people are unstable in all their ways-ref Ja 1:6-8.

The evil of each day is all around us. It is sufficient (or today has enough problems already).

That is not to say that we shall not suffer, for all that follow Jesus and live according to His Word shall suffer persecution.

Paul gave us an example of this by the many things he suffered.

It is part of the test a believer goes through to prove their faith is real.

The followers of Jesus are to keep their mind centered on Jesus and His Word.

As has just been covered in **Mt 6:34**, Take therefore no thought (or do not be anxious) for the morrow (or do not worry about tomorrow): for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself (or tomorrow will worry (or care) about itself). Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, (or each day has enough trouble of its own).

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 7](#)