

Simply Devoted

by Paul D. Allison

Written By
Paul D. Allison
Published in 2018

Table of Contents

Page 4 Introduction

Page 5 Chapter 1 (January)

Page 21 Chapter 2 (February)

Page 35 Chapter 3 (March)

Page 49 Chapter 4 (April)

Page 64 Chapter 5 (May)

Page 80 Chapter 6 (June)

Page 94 Chapter 7 (July)

Page 108 Chapter 8 (August)

Page 120 Chapter 9 (September)

Page 132 Chapter 10 (October)

Page 146 Chapter 11 (November)

Page 158 Chapter 12 (December)

Introduction

The most important part of this book is the scripture verses, all of which are quoted from the King James Version of the Bible, and will be in **bold** letters. Some of these verses will be used more than once, and some of the devotions will make similar, if not the same, points. I wrote these devotions from 2010 through 2017 as weekly devotions for my website (www.paulthepreacher.net). This book is laid out so it can be used as a daily devotional, if you so choose. It has 12 chapters (one for each month of the year) and each chapter has the same number of devotions as the days in that month. In chapter 2, for the month of February, the 28th devotion has a part A and B, so it can be used for a 29th devotion on a leap year. This book is not meant to replace your daily Bible study, but only to help believers and unbelievers alike to think a little deeper about what the Bible says. If you love the Lord and have already received Christ as your Savior, I hope it is a blessing and helps you to walk closer to Him. If you are not a Christian, I hope you will come to Jesus by faith and receive Him as your Lord. The fact is; if the only part of this book you read is the Bible verses, you would get what you need to walk closer to the Lord. Simply put, I want to help you live a more devoted life for Christ that brings Him more glory.

Chapter 1 (January)

1. From Day One

The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:1, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”** Then we read in verses 2-4 some of the details of what He did. Then verse 5 ends by saying, **“...And the evening and the morning were the first day.”** So as you can see, God has been in charge from day one, and that will never change.

2. Who’s Your Daddy?

In Matthew 5:9 it says, **“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”** So here’s the question for us: If peace makers are God’s children, then who’s children are trouble-makers? Therefore, before we say or do anything, we need to stop and ask ourselves; ‘If I say this or do that, will it create peace or make more trouble?’ So, who’s your daddy?

3. Welcome Back Jesus!

Are you looking forward to the return of Christ? The Bible tells us we should. In 2nd Timothy 4:8, Paul said **“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

We also read in 2nd Peter 3:12 that we should be **“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...”** Then we need to look at the Lord’s prayer, where Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. Notice the first request made in that prayer comes in verse 10, it says **“Thy kingdom come.”** So it is clear that we need to be looking forward to Jesus coming back, because He also tells us in Luke 9:62, **“...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”** So we should live our lives in such a way that when He comes we can say ‘Welcome back Jesus!’

4. You Will Need an Escort

In Psalm 23 verse 4 we read **“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”** Now many, if not most of us know this psalm by heart. However, we need to take it’s words to heart. For many folks, nothing brings more fear in life than the thought of death; but it doesn’t need to be that way. When I was a boy, sometimes I would walk to the store that was up the road from where we lived. Along the way there was a big mean dog that lived at this one house that would always come out and bark at me as I walked by. It was always scary, even though he stayed in his yard. Now it was different when we passed by in the car. The dog would still come out and bark at us, but I knew I was safe and the dog couldn’t get to me.

In the same way we can feel safe in the arms of the Lord at the end of this life, because, Jesus will escort us through the valley of the shadow of death safely to the other side.

5. Where Are You Going?

Something for us to think about is; 'If I stay on the road I am on, where will it take me?' Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”** Lots of people will say they want to go to Heaven, but they are traveling on the 'broad road' that leads to hell. However, any other time they go somewhere, they make every effort to go in the right direction. For example, if you want to go from Knoxville TN to Nashville TN, you need to take interstate 40 west. If you go east on interstate 40, you will end up in Ashville NC instead of Nashville. It is the same if you want to go to Heaven. You must repent and turn to Jesus to get on the 'straight and narrow way' that leads to everlasting life. So, if you stay on the road that you are on, where are you going?

6. Get Self Out Of The Way

In Luke 16:16 Jesus said, **“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”** If you look up the word ‘presseth’ in the Strong’s Concordance, it is the Greek word ‘biazo’ (the code number is 971). This word means “to crowd oneself”. So, to serve God the way we should, we must crowd our flesh aside and make more room for the Lord in our lives. Therefore, we must get self out of the way.

7. Magnifying God

In Psalm 34:3 it says, **“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”** Now if something is magnified it is easier to see. Obviously there is nothing bigger than God. So then, why is He so hard to see in some people’s lives? It is because they don’t focus on Him. A galaxy in deep space may be hard to see with your eye, even though it is very large. However, if you focus a telescope with high magnification on it, then it comes into plain view. Therefore, the more we focus on the Lord, the easier it is for Him to be seen in our lives. So magnify God in your life today.

8. Dead Works Equal Dead Faith

James 2:26 says, **“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”** Now think how you would feel if you wanted to buy a horse, and you saw an add in the paper that read ‘champion thorough-bred, \$100’. So you think it is worth a look. When you get there the man who is selling the horse brings you in the front door and first shows you the trophies the horse has won and the paper work on it’s pedigree. Finally he takes you out back to see the horse. However, when you see it you discover that it is dead, and has been for days. You ask the man what he is trying to pull by selling a dead horse. The man replies by saying, “But it’s a champion thorough-bred, you saw the trophies and papers.” You reply, “It doesn’t matter. It is dead!” It is the same way when someone says they have faith in Christ, but they don’t live a Christian life. Their faith is dead. So, according to God’s word, dead works equal dead faith. Can you be saved by dead faith?

9. Who’s Friend Are You?

In John 15:14 Jesus said, **“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”** It also says in James 4:4, **“...whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”** So, if we obey the word of the Lord, we are His friend; but if we don’t, then we are a friend of the world, which makes us God’s enemy, and that is as bad as it gets. Now, who’s friend are you?

10. It's Better Than You Think

In 1st Corinthians 2:9 it says, **“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”**

With that in mind, think about this; we often try to imagine how wonderful it will be in Heaven. The good thing is, no matter how good we may imagine it to be, it's better than you think!

11. That Job is Taken

As we read the New Testament we can see that the Church is made up of many members with different spiritual gifts. The apostle Paul makes this clear in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 as he uses our own body with it's different parts (hands, feet, eyes, ears) doing different jobs, as an example. Sadly, many Christians will often make a mess of things by trying to lift themselves above their fellow Christians. Therefore it would serve us well to remember that the Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:23, **“...even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”** It also says in Colossians 1:18, **“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”** So, the next time anyone tries to lift themselves up as 'head' over others, they need to be reminded, that job is taken.

12. A God of Justice

You may hear someone say, or may have said yourself, ‘How could a loving God send anyone to hell?’ I would like to answer that by first pointing out what the Bible says in Revelation 19:11, **“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was call Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”** We don’t need to look very hard in this world to see bad people doing bad things. However, we also don’t need to look any further than the cross of Christ to see God’s love and desire to deliver us all from judgment. But, if people refuse God’s mercy and choose to live in sin, then how can a God of justice turn a blind eye to injustice?

13. They Won’t Be Back!

In Revelation 21:4 it says, **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”** These words should bring much hope, comfort and peace to the children of God; because we all suffer and shed tears in this life. We may dry those tears, only to have them return the next time sorrow comes our way. However, the good thing is, one day after while, when God wipes away our tears for us, they won’t be back!

14. Does HE Know You?

We know that God knows everything. However, the question is; does God know you as His child? Galatians 4:9 says, **“But, now after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, ...”** As we can see here, not only must we know God, but HE must know us, to have a true relationship. For example, you may be a fan of a pro ball team, but not one of those players know who you are. Therefore, there is no true relationship between you and anyone on that team. We must come to the Lord by faith in Jesus to become a child of God. Those who don't are like the ones we read about in Matthew 7:23, when Jesus said, **“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”** The good thing is, if we love Him, then He knows us, because, it says in 2nd Timothy 2:19, **“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”** So, does HE know you?

15. You're Always on HIS Mind

Not many people have the Lord on their mind these days. But there is good news. Psalm 40:5 says, **“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”** As you can see, you are always on His mind.

16. Winner Either Way

There's a southern gospel song call "I'm a winner either way", which is based in part on Philippians 1:21, where Paul said, **"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."** So, as Christians, we are winners either way. While we are here on earth, we can live with the joy of the Lord in our hearts, and share His love with others. Then when we leave this world, we get to be with the Lord.

17. It's Good To Be Remembered

The thief on the cross made an interesting request in Luke 23:42, when he said to Jesus, **"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."** Now think about this, if you were to meet someone famous, like the governor, a movie star, or pro ball player; then if you saw them again a few years later and they remembered you and called you by name, and told you that they think of you every day; you would be shocked. The truth is, that probably won't happen. However, it is different when we meet Jesus. Because, if you do like the thief did and confess your sins, as you can see in verse 41 when he said, **"...for we receive the due reward of our deeds..."**, and then confessed Jesus as Lord, as he did in verse 42, then Jesus will never forget you. So, when it comes to meeting Jesus, it's good to be remembered.

18. More To Learn

In Romans 11:33 Paul said, **“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”** Now when some people read verses like this and see a statement like, **“His ways past finding out”**, they may come to the wrong conclusion and think that we can never really understand anything about God. However, that’s not the case at all. God gave us His word in the Bible for the very purpose of knowing Him and His will better. What a verse like this does, is, let us know that God is so big and wonderful, that, no matter how much we know about Him, there will always be more to learn.

19. Supply The Obedience

Philippians 4:19 says, **“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”** It also says in Isaiah 1:19, **“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”** So, it is simple, if we will supply the obedience, God will supply everything else. Because, Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** Therefore, if God wants us to do something for Him, all we need to do is to be willing and obedient, and He will take it from there.

20. The Truth Will Stand

It says in 2nd Corinthians 13:8, **“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth,”** Lots of people deny the facts that we read in God’s word. But, that doesn’t change the truth one bit. They deny that God is real, but He is still God. They deny that hell is real, but if they don’t repent, then they will find out hell is real the hard way. However, we can do something for the truth by living by it, and passing it on to others. The good thing is, the truth will stand, because, the truth is indestructible.

21. Straddling The Fence

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, **“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.”** Now Jesus meant what He said when He told us this. The sad thing is, people try to have it both ways all the time. They want to say that they love the Lord while living in sin. They go to church on Sunday, and then live like the world through the week. Some folks will say that those who do this are straddling the fence. Now, it is better to stay away from the fence, and stay in the middle of the field next to the SHEPHERD. To tell the truth, straddling the fence is a myth, because, according to what Jesus told us in this verse, we are on one side or the other.

22. The Best Benefit Package

In Psalm 103:2, it says, **“Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”** Now when someone is looking for a job, they like to try and find a place to work that offers good benefits. Things like, good insurance, paid vacation, retirement and so on. But, you will never find an employer that can offer you salvation, love, joy, peace, hope, a new body and everlasting life. That’s the best benefit package ever, and it only comes from the Lord.

23. Confess Now

In Luke 12:8 Jesus said, **“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.”** We also read in Romans 14:11, **“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”** So, if we confess Jesus in this life, we will be saved. But, it doesn’t matter if you are an atheist, or of another religion, or what you believe now; everyone will confess Christ on judgment day. However, if you wait until then, it will be too late. So, confess Jesus now, while it will do you some good. Because Jesus went on to say in Luke 12:9, **“But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”** One way or another, you will confess Him.

24. The Right Investments

In today's world many people focus on earthly wealth more than ever. They will invest in things like gold, stocks or real estate to try and get a good return on their investments. However, many times they will end up taking a loss and will be heart broken. Now look at what Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-21, **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** So, if we focus on doing the will of the Lord, we'll be making the right investments for the greatest returns.

25. Politically Correct

It seems that everyone today is trying harder to be politically correct than they are to being biblically correct. However, this is not a new problem. John 19:12 says, **“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.”** Then Pilate made the same mistake that many are making today, and that was, to be politically correct, and to be spiritually wrong.

26. One Day Too Late

Many times when a Christian will witness to a lost person and try to get them to receive Christ as their Saviour, the lost person may say, "Not now, maybe later, I'm not ready yet." But we need to let them know that the Bible says in 2nd Corinthians 6:2, **"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."** And that Jeremiah 8:20 tells us that some will say, **"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."** Jesus also said in Revelation 22:20, **"Surely I come quickly"**. Satan wants the lost to put Jesus off one day at a time, until it is one day too late.

27. The Fear of God

The Bible has much to say about fearing God. Proverbs 9:10, **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."** Proverbs 19:23, **"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life."** Hebrews 12:28, **"...let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."** Then it says in 1st John 4:18, **"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."** Now some may say that this verse in 1st John contradicts the others. But the key to understanding the fear of God can be found in 1st John 2:28, which says, **"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."** So, if we walk in the fear of the Lord now, we will have nothing to fear on judgment day.

28. Out of Focus

In Matthew 6:22-23 Jesus said, **“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.”** Then Paul said in 1st Corinthians 2:2, **“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”** So, the Bible makes it clear, that we need to focus on the work of the Lord, and not on the things of the world, because, if we’re not, then we are out of focus.

29. Evidence of God

Hebrews 11:1 says, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** We come to God by faith and share our faith with others. But it’s not blind faith. There is evidence of God. Evidence enables us to believe in things we can’t see. Hunters don’t need to see deer to know they are in the area. If they find their tracks, they know they’re there. The police may not see who committed a crime, but can prove who did it, if they find finger prints. Romans 1:20 says, **“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”** Also Psalm 19:1 says, **“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”** You want evidence of God, just look at the creation, His finger prints and foot prints are all around us.

30. Hand Made

Long ago, before we had big factories, everything was handmade. Now, if something is handmade, it may have more value than if it was mass produced. Either way, it is still man made and will wear out with time. The good news is, God has better things waiting for His people. 2nd Corinthians 5:1 says, **“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”** Also Hebrews 9:11 says, **“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.”** So, in Heaven, neither our new home, nor our new body will wear out, because, they’re made by the Lord.

31. A Good Marriage

The Bible says the Church is the bride and Jesus, the Bridegroom. John 3:29, **“He that hath the bride is the bridegroom.”** Matthew 25:6, **“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”** Also Revelation 19:7, **“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”** Now we know it takes both parties being faithful for a marriage to work. We also know that Jesus is always faithful. So, if we are faithful to Christ and treat our relationship with Him like a good marriage, everything will be fine.

Chapter 2 (February)

1. Death Proof

Mankind has a problem called death. They are doing research all over the world trying to find cures for everything. But, they can't cure death. If they did come up with a formula that makes you immortal, or that could raise the dead, only the rich could pay for it. But, we can have it for free by faith in the blood of Jesus! The Bible says in 1st Corinthians 15:54-55, **“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”** The blood of Jesus makes us death proof.

2. Blood Drive

When the blood bank gets low, they have a blood drive to make up for the shortage, and try to get more people to give, to save lives. In the same way, we as Christians, need to have a blood drive to save souls. 1st John 1:7 says, **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** Therefore, we need to get Christians everywhere to help spread the word. The blood of man may save lives, but only the blood of Jesus saves souls. It's time for a blood drive!

3. We'll Know When It Happens

In Matthew 24:26-28 Jesus said, **“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.”** Try to picture it like this; if a work bench had wood chips and metal shavings on it, and then you passed a strong magnet over them. It would only pick up the metal shavings and leave the wood chips behind. It will work the same way when Jesus comes back. We won't need for someone to tell us He has returned, because, when He comes, He will gather all the believers to Himself. So, when Jesus comes, we'll know when it happens.

4. He Wasn't Kidding

It can be scary when the economy is bad. But, there's good news. Heaven has never had a recession, and Jesus has never had a layoff. So, remember what Jesus said in Luke 12:24, **“Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?”** Now if Jesus wanted us to consider the fact, that, if He takes care of the fowls, He will take care of us even more; He wasn't kidding. Now that should make you feel better.

5. Watching Makes a Difference

Now more than ever, we need to do as Jesus said in Mark 13:37, **“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”** Now, some will go too far and try to set a date for the coming of the Lord; which is wrong, because, Jesus said in Matthew 24:36, **“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”** Others go to the other extreme and say He is never coming back, and are guilty of what we read in 2nd Peter 3:3-4, **“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”** However, after speaking of the signs of His coming, Jesus said in Matthew 24:33, **“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”** So, watching does make a difference. If it didn’t, then Jesus would not have told us to do so.

6. In Spite of Ourselves

You may hear it said that God loves us just the way we are; but it may be more accurate to say that God loves us in spite of the way we are. If we were fine the way we were, Jesus wouldn’t have had to die on the cross for us. Romans 5:8, says, **“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** So, He really loves us in spite of ourselves.

7. Emancipated From Death

In 2nd Timothy 1:9-10, it says, **“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”**

Now, some may ask why we still have to die if Jesus has already abolished death, like it says in these verses. Well, even though The Emancipation Proclamation abolished slavery, the civil war had to be fought to enforce it. Now Jesus’ death and resurrection abolished death for us. But, we must **“Fight the good fight of faith”** as it says in 1st Timothy 6:12, to, **“lay hold on eternal life.”** We’re emancipated from death, not by works, but, by fighting the good fight of faith.

8. HE Cares For You

In the 4th chapter of Mark when Jesus was out on the sea with His disciples, the ship was caught in a great storm. Now look closely at what they said to Jesus in the last part of verse 38, **“Master, carest thou not that we perish?”** They thought Jesus didn’t care about them. The devil will try to get us to think the same thing. However, look at what it says in 1st Peter 5:7, **“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”** So, always remember, He cares for you.

9. Be a Good Example

In 1st Timothy 4:12 it says, “**...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**”

What people don't realize is, we are setting an example no matter what we do. So, the question is; are we setting a good example, or a bad example? We need to think about this: if others lived the way we do, would the church be doing better or worse? If everyone witnessed to the lost the way we do; would more souls be saved, or would fewer people hear about Jesus? If everyone praised God the way we do; would He receive more glory and thanksgiving, or would He receive less? So, be a good example for others to follow.

10. We Are Royalty

Lots of folks make a big deal when there is a wedding in England, in the royal family. All the major news outlets will cover it, because of public interest. However, many other weddings go unnoticed if it only includes regular people, who are called 'commoners' and are not considered to be very special. It's good that God looks at things differently though. In Acts 10:15, the Lord told Peter, “**What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**” Then Peter later wrote in 1st Peter 2:9, “**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.**” So, in God's eyes, Christians are not commoners, but we are royalty, a child of the King!

11. Can Others See My Faith?

Mark 2:3-5 says, **“And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”** It’s worth noting that Jesus ministered to this man’s spiritual need of being forgiven, before He addressed his physical need. Now look at what it said when these men went to this extreme to bring their friend to Jesus. It said, **“When Jesus saw their faith”**. This tells us, when real faith is exercised, others can see it. James 2:18 says, **“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”** So, we need to ask ourselves: Can others see my faith?

12. The Greatest Contradiction

If you saw the queen of England cleaning motel rooms, or you saw the governor working at a fast food place; it would seem strange. There’s nothing wrong with these jobs, but to see a person of such prestige doing them, would seem contradictory. Now look at Hebrews 12:3, **“For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds,”** The fact that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth, to live with and die for us sinners, is the greatest contradiction of all.

13. Be Committed

It says in 2nd Timothy 1:12, “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” The good thing about serving the Lord is, He’s not like people that fail to keep their commitments to others. You can always count on the Lord to do what He said He will do. The only time things go wrong between us and the Lord is when we fail to do our part. It’s not His commitment to us that’s the problem; it’s our commitment to Him. So, be committed, and all will be well.

14. Here’s Your Sign

While driving, we see lots of signs like (keep right, stop, yield, wrong way) and so on. But, some things are so plain that no sign is needed. Like, you don’t need a ‘no parking’ sign in the middle of the river. Matthew 12:38-40 says, “**Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**” Jesus had already done lots of miracles before them, but they still didn’t believe. People are the same way today. You want a sign of God’s love and of His power. Here’s your sign; the death and resurrection of Christ. What more should you need?

15. Guilty of Being Innocent

We have seen these highly publicized trials on TV, where someone that seemed to be obviously guilty, was found not guilty and was set free. When this happens, there is often a great deal of public outcry, because of the failure of our justice system. With this in mind let's look at two verses in John chapter 19. It says in verse 4, **"Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him."** However, when the crowd put pressure on Pilate, he gave in to them, as we see in verse 16, **"Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away."** As we see here, Jesus was found innocent in Pilate's court, but sentenced to death anyway. So, the greatest miscarriage of justice ever, was our fault. We were guilty of sin. Jesus was only guilty of being innocent.

16. Be Respectable

In Matthew 7:12, we find what many call 'The Golden Rule'. Jesus said, **"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."** Most parents want their kids to honor them, like God commanded. Well, make it easy for them to do so, by being an honorable person. Also, if you want others to respect you; then you should not only show respect to them, but, you need to be a respectable person.

17. Spiritual Hygiene

The apostle Paul told us how much Jesus loves and cares for the church, when he said in Ephesians 5:26, **“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”** So, just as we maintain our personal hygiene by washing with soap and water; we must let the Lord keep us clean spiritually, by applying His holy word to our lives. Now if someone fails to maintain their personal hygiene; they won’t have to tell anyone. It will become very obvious in just a few days. In the same way, it will be just as obvious if we fail to keep up our spiritual hygiene by neglecting God’s word.

18. The Greatest Introduction

In this life, many count it as a great honor to do the introduction for someone well known. Like when a sports announcer calls out the names of a team’s starting line-up before the big game; when a TV show host bring out their super star celebrity guest; or when the president the United States is introduced before the state of the union address. But, none of these can compare to what we read in John 1:29, where it says, **“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”** Here, John the apostle tells how John the Baptist had the great honor of introducing Jesus to the world. Now we as Christians have the honor, and duty, of introducing the world to Jesus; which is the greatest introduction of all.

19. God's Scrapbook

Many parents (especially moms) will keep the things their kids make for them, like cards or drawings. Sometimes they may even put together a scrapbook of these things, because they are priceless in the eyes of that parent. On a much larger scale, God is doing the same thing. Malachi 3:16 says, **“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.”** So, every time we talk about the Lord, or even think about Him; our heavenly Father records it in His scrapbook.

20. Be a Gospel Dispenser

Paul said in 1st Corinthians 9:16-17, **“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.”** He was telling us that he willingly dispensed the gospel, by obeying the call of God to preach. In other words, he was a gospel dispenser. All Christians should do the same thing. Just as a soap dispenser gives you soap when you push the button, when you need to clean your hands. We should be filled with God's word. That way, when God move us, we can be a gospel dispenser when someone needs to cleanse their soul.

21. Are You an Isaiah or a Jonah?

When the glory of the Lord appeared to Isaiah, it says in Isaiah 6:8, **“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”** However, we see a very different reaction from Jonah when God calls him to preach to Nineveh. It says in Jonah 1:3, **“But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”** When Isaiah heard God’s call, he volunteered to go; but when Jonah heard His call, he ran away. Today, we need more ‘Isaiahs’ and fewer ‘Jonahs’. So, are you an Isaiah or a Jonah?

22. Jesus is The Cure-all

Matthew 4:24 says, **“And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torment, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.”** As we can see, it doesn’t matter what kind of problem someone has; be it a health issue (disease and torments), spiritual need (possessed with devils), mental illness (lunatic), or problems with the nervous system (palsy): Jesus can cure it all. Even those with injuries and disabilities, because it also says in Matthew 15:30, **“And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them.”**

23. The Starting Point For Wisdom

There is more information available to us today, than ever before, because of the internet. There are also more opportunities to get an education, with all of the public schools and colleges we have now. However, it seems like people are just as foolish as ever. It's like the Bible says in 2nd Timothy 3:7, **“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”** When America was founded in 1776 things were much the same, as far as technology goes, as it was in the days of Christ. Then in just over 200 years, look how things have changed. But, what hasn't changed is people's sinful and foolish behavior. The problem with man's education is where it all starts. Psalm 111:10 says, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”** So, to be wise, you must start by living a God fearing life.

24. Not a Good Alternative

Some may ask why God made a world with so much pain and suffering. However, when God made this world, it was perfect. But, Adam and Eve were not satisfied with perfection; and the only alternative to perfection is imperfection. So, the world that mankind has now, is a mess of our own making. It's the same when it comes to believing the Bible. In 1st John 2:21, it says, **“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”** If you don't want the truth of God's word, then you need to know that the only alternative to the truth is a lie, and that's not a good alternative.

25. Go To The Source

It seems like people are always looking for what they need in all the wrong places. They know if they need food, they will find it at the grocery store and not at the auto parts store. They also know if they need tires, not to look for them at the doctor's office. However, if they need things like mercy, comfort, love, joy, peace, wisdom and happiness; they fail to turn to God. The Bible says in 2nd Corinthians 1:3, **"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."** Galatians 5:22, **"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."** James 1:5, **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."** Then in Psalm 146:5, it says, **"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God."** So, when you need these things, go to the source.

26. Easy to Make Up With

It's good that the Lord doesn't react the way most people do. They get angry and never get over it. The Bible says in Nehemiah 9:17, **"...but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..."** Also in Isaiah 55:7, **"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."** The good thing about the Lord is; He is easy to make up with.

27. No Expiration Date

Some people will try to tell us that the Bible is just an old outdated book that does not apply to us today. Even worse, some of this way of thinking comes from the pulpits of what use to be good churches. But, the devil has worked his way into many seminaries and pulpits across our land. We need to beware of anyone that tries to minimize the Bible. As Christians, it is all but impossible for us to put too much emphasis on the Bible. Jesus said in Matthew 24:25, **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”** So, the Word of God has no expiration date.

28. Part A (The Cure for Hate)

Prejudice and hatred are age old problems in this world. However, they are only symptoms of the real problem, which is our sinfulness. Proverbs 10:12 says, **“Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”** To get the hate out of people’s hearts, you must get Jesus into their hearts. You can’t get hate out of a heart by legislation, by litigation or education. You can only do it through transformation. That only comes through Christ. He is the cure for hate.

Part B (The Cure for Darkness)

It’s easy to see that this world is growing darker with sin every day. We must let the light of Jesus shine now more than ever. Ephesians 5:13 says, **“But all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”** Therefore, light is the cure for darkness.

Chapter 3 (March)

1. Look Smart

The world often looks down on Christians and thinks we are silly for believing the Bible. They think we are dumb, and that they are the smart ones. However, the Bible tells us it will be that way. It says in 1st Corinthians 1:18, **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”** Therefore, believing the Bible is what makes the difference in being saved by Jesus; or perishing forever in the lake of fire. So, who do you think is going to look smart on judgment day?

2. Don't Toot Your Own Horn

In Matthew 6:2 Jesus said, **“Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”** This scripture may be where the old saying ‘tooting your own horn’ came from. Some people only do things, to put on a show for others to see. However, the Lord wants us to do things, because we love Him and we love others also. So, don't toot your own horn by trying to put on a show, or go around bragging about what you do, and what you give. Just do things out of love, and the Lord will bless you for it.

3. It's Not Part Time

In 2nd Corinthians 11:2 the apostle Paul said, **“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”** Now, when we look at our relationship with Christ as a spiritual marriage; then we should know that, just as a man and woman are not married part time, we should not view serving the Lord as a part time job either. Just as Jesus is not a part time Saviour, we must realize that we can't be a part time Christian.

4. You Reap What You Sow

Many times people will meet someone in a bar and then after dating them for a while, they get treated badly and find out that this person is not very nice. But, look where they found them. If you dig in a trash can, then all you are going to find is garbage. The Bible tells us in Galatians 6:7-8, **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”** If you want to have good people in your life, then stop looking for them in bad places. In fact, you shouldn't be going to these kinds of places to start with. So, be sure, you will reap what you sow.

5. Be a Doer

James 1:22 says, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** Lots of people can tell you what the Bible says, but very few of them live by it. Just knowing what the Bible says is not enough. It’s like this; looking at food won’t make you full. You must eat it to be filled. Looking at soap and water won’t make you clean. You must wash with them to get clean. Therefore, don’t just be a hearer of God’s word, but be a doer.

6. Don’t Kick the Habit

Sometimes when you ask someone if they go to church anywhere; they may respond by saying that they did at one time, but don’t now because they have just gotten out of the habit of going. Now when we hear the word, habit, we often think of something bad that we need to stop doing; like an addiction. But, going to church is good. Hebrews 10:25 says, **“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.”** Therefore, going to church should be more than a habit, it should be a way of life for every Christian that is able to go. So, don’t kick the habit; but be like those that the apostle Paul referred to in 1st Corinthians 16:15, who had, **“...addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.”**

7. Not a Spectator Sport

Some people try to justify their lack of church attendance by saying that they can be as good a Christian by staying home as they can by going to church. Well, in a way that is true. You can stay home and be lost, or you can go to church and be lost; also, you can stay home and be backslidden, or you can go to church and be backslidden. Just because you go to church, doesn't mean you're right with God. But, if you are right with God, then you will have a desire and a love for going to church; and will do so if you are able. Because the Bible says in Psalm 122:1, **"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."** Some say they don't go to church, but they watch a preacher on TV. But that can never replace going to church, because being a Christian is not a spectator sport. Watching baseball on TV doesn't make you a player. So, please, stay in church; because every good team gets together for practice.

8. Know Why You Believe

Lots of people can tell you what they believe, but can't take the scriptures and show you what those views are based on. Paul said in 2nd Timothy 2:15, **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** So, instead of taking mom and dad's, or the preacher's word for it; read the Bible for yourself. Then you can, not only know what you should believe, but you will also know why you believe it.

9. A Recipe For Spiritual Success

In the eyes of the world, success is based on how much money you make, or how much stuff you own. However, those things never really satisfy anyone. If you are looking for real satisfaction and success, look at 2nd Peter 1:5-8, **“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** So, just as you would follow a recipe, adding all the right ingredients, to cook your favorite dish; if you follow these verses, you have a recipe for spiritual success.

10. Finding The Lord

Some go through life aimlessly, with no sense of purpose. They may say that they just need to find themselves. However, it says in Acts 17:27, **“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”** So, it’s not finding yourself that will give you purpose in life, but it is finding the Lord that will give you the real reason for living.

11. We All Need Prayer

We may meet someone that thinks they don't need prayer, and may not even like it if they know we are praying for them. Pride will make some folks think it's a sign of weakness to have others pray for them. However, the apostle Paul said in 2nd Thessalonians 3:1, **“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.”** Now, if the apostle Paul needed prayer, we all need prayer.

12. What Are You Known For?

We all have a reputation based on what others see out of us. If you are nice, others see you as nice. If you are mean, they will see you as mean. Jesus said in Luke 6:43, **“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”** He goes on to say in verse 44, **“For every tree is known by his own fruit.”** So, the big question is; what are you known for?

13. How Will You Be Remembered?

When we die, we will be remembered by the way we lived. Others have seen if we lived for the Lord or not. Proverbs 10:7 says, **“The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.”** Therefore, we need to leave behind a good testimony for the Lord. So, when you die, how will you be remembered?

14. Never Satisfied

The things of this world will never bring true satisfaction to anyone. The word of God brings this to light over and over again. It says in Ecclesiastes 4:8, **“...neither is his eye satisfied with riches...”** And in Proverbs 27:20, it says, **“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”** The good news is, the Lord can give us the satisfaction that the world will never be able to give. Just look at what it says in Psalm 17:15, **“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”** So, without Jesus giving you hope in the resurrection, you will never be satisfied.

15. Are You Half or Whole?

Sometimes when you ask someone how they are doing, they may reply by saying, “About half”. Now if this person is someone you know, and you know that they need the Lord; this can open the door to talk to them about Jesus, and you can tell them that you know how they can be ‘whole’. In John 5:6, Jesus asked a man that was sick, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** Also the apostle Paul said in Colossians 2:10, **“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”** Therefore, if we are complete with Christ, then we must be incomplete without Him. So, are you half or are you whole?

16. Killing Us Doesn't Work!

From the first century until now, the devil has used evil people to kill Christians, in an effort to wipe us out forever. Over the years millions have been martyred for no other reason than having received Jesus as their Lord. But, there is good news. Jesus said in John 11:25, **“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”** And 1st Thessalonians 4:16 says, **“...the dead in Christ shall rise...”** So, killing us doesn't work! We shall rise!

17. The Best Part of Heaven

It's wonderful to think about how great Heaven will be. We think of the streets of gold, the walls of jasper and the gates of pearl. Now as amazing as these things will be, that's not even close to being the best part. Revelation 22:4 says, **“And they shall see his face.”** So, the best part of Heaven will be the presence of the Lord.

18. For a Limited Time Only

Revelation 12:12 says, **“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”** As bad as the sin and suffering is in the world today; it will only get worse as time goes on. But, as you can see in this verse, there is good news because the devil's days are numbered. So, sin and suffering are for a limited time only.

19. Prayer Moves God

You may have heard it said that God has set everything in motion and there's nothing we can do to change things, and everything is predestined. However, Jesus said in Matthew 7:7, **“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”** Also in James 4:2, **“...yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”** As you can see, things may or may not happen based on if we pray for them. When we trust God enough to pray about something, then prayer moves Him into action on our behalf.

20. Watch Your Mouth

As kids, if our parents didn't like something we said, we were told to watch our mouth. It's the same with our Heavenly Father. Proverbs 13:3 says, **“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”** Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37, **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”** As you can see, we still need to watch our mouth.

21. Our Life Story

When speaking of Christ, John the Baptist said in John 3:30, **“He must increase, but I must decrease.”** We all need to be that way. We need to live, so that, Jesus is the main character in our life story.

22. You Can't Have It Both Ways

Some people try to say that they are a Christian, while living worldly. They go to bars and strip clubs. They will shack up, or even cheat on their spouse; and still think they can serve the Lord. However, Jesus said in Luke 16:13, **“No servant 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.”** Simply put, you can't have it both ways.

23. Model Citizens

If Christians live by the Bible, we won't be anti-government. In 2nd Peter 2:10, it speaks against those who, **“...despise government...”** Also, it says in Romans 13:1-2, **“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”** On the other hand, it is just as bad for the government to be anti-Christian. Psalm 9:17 says, **“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”** For the government to be against the Bible is counterproductive. It says in 2nd Thessalonians 3:10, **“...if any would not work, neither should he eat.”** 1st Peter 2:13, **“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...”** Romans 13:7, **“Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”** The Bible tells us to be hard working, law abiding, tax paying citizens. Why be against that?

24. What's On Your Mind?

Many people will go through the day and never think about the Lord at all. If you read the word of God, you will see that it is the wicked who don't think about the Lord. However, the righteous do think about God. The Bible tells us in Psalm 10:4, **"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."** Then it says in Proverbs 12:5, **"The thoughts of the righteous are right..."** Also in Proverbs 23:7, **"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."** Therefore, if the Lord dwells in you, then you will dwell upon Him. So, what's on your mind?

25. You'll Get Over It

Lots of the time people will focus more on the body than they do on the spirit. This seems to be even more of an issue when we are young. It seems like young men like to focus on their strength, and young women will focus on their beauty. However, strength and beauty will fade with time. Isaiah 40:30 says, **"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall."** It also says in Proverbs 31:30, **"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain..."** So, if you think you are strong, or if you think you are pretty; give it some time, you'll get over it. If you will read Ecclesiastes chapter 12, it will help you see how our youth fades as we grow old and die. Then all that matters is if we served the Lord. If we did, there is good news, 2nd Corinthians 4:16 says, **"...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."**

26. Where Are You, in The Bible?

There are several scriptures we could use to make the point that we are all talked about somewhere in the Bible. For example, Jesus said in Matthew 5:45, that the Father, “...sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” Now that takes in everyone. It also says in Galatians 5:19-23, “**Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, sedition, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**” Now, it is better to be among those in the latter part of these verses, who have the fruits of the Spirit; than to be among those living life based on the works of the flesh, who “**shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**” So, where are you in the Bible?

27. Friend or Foe?

The way we act and talk determines if we are God’s friend or enemy. James 2:23 says, “**Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.**” Psalm 139:20 says, “...and thine enemies take thy name in vain.” So, if we have faith in God, like Abraham did, then we are the Lord’s friend. But, if we take His name in vain, then we make ourselves His enemy. Now, are you His friend, or foe?

28. To Judge or Not To Judge?

John 3:16 was once everyone's favorite Bible verse. Now you are more likely to hear people quote part of Matthew 7:1, and say, **"Judge not"**. Christians have been hit over the head with, judge not, (taken out of context) so much that many are afraid to call sin, sin, anymore. Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 7:5, **"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."** Jesus is telling someone not to judge others if they are not right with God themselves. But, once we get right with the Lord, then we have the right, and the duty to try to help others do the same. Jesus said in John 7:24, **"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."** So, the question is not: To judge or not to judge? The real question is: When should we judge? The answer is: Only when our heart is right; in a loving effort to help others.

29. Failing To Do What's Right

We all know it is sinful to do things that God said we should not do. However, there's more to living for the Lord than not doing bad things. The Bible tells us in James 4:17, **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."** So, there are two ways to sin. We can sin by doing wrong, and we can sin by failing to do what's right. Now, if we know it is good to read the Bible and go to church, or to help others when we are able; but we don't, that is sin.

30. Perfect

Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”** However, when this verse is quoted, people will almost always respond by pointing out the fact that nobody’s perfect. Now, the fact that nobody’s perfect should not be used as an excuse for our failures; but we should use it as a call to action to do better. Then, as we work on our imperfections, we will become more like our Heavenly Father, like Jesus said to do.

31. Don’t Play With Fire

We have all heard the old saying, ‘if you play with fire you’re going to get burned’. This saying was likely inspired by Proverbs 6:27, which says, **“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”** So it is simple; if you wallow in the mud, you will get muddy. If you wallow in the world, you will get worldly. Therefore, if you don’t want to get burned (in hell), don’t play with fire!

Chapter 4 (April)

1. Fools Never Learn

Psalm 53:1 says, **“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”** It seems like atheists in America are trying harder than ever to make our nation a totally godless country. The sad thing is, it seems to be working. We are more limited than ever as to where we can pray or even speak of God. However, the men who founded this nation did so based on the fact that we’re endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights. With this concept, our leaders know that they can not rightfully take away the rights given to us by God and God alone. So, the same rights that atheists exercise to express their views, have always been considered by our leaders, to be rights given to them by God and not man. Therefore, if the atheists are successful in rooting God out of our society, it could lead to their own down fall; because, if the people get their rights from the government, then government can also take them away. So, it’s easy to see, these fools never learn.

2. Spiritual Malnutrition

In Matthew 5:6 Jesus said, **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”** Malnutrition will take a toll on someone. They can lose their strength, their health and even their lives. It’s the same if we fail to feed our soul with God’s word. But, we are blessed if we have a spiritual appetite, because the Lord will satisfy it with righteousness, and we will not suffer from spiritual malnutrition, like many do these days.

3. The Worst Thing You Can Do

Many times people will point to the faults and failures of others, to make themselves feel better about their own shortcomings. But, it says in 2nd Corinthians 10:12, “**...but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**” In 1st Samuel chapter 15, we see that king Saul sinned when he failed to fully follow the word of the Lord; to destroy the enemy. Now compare that to king David’s sins in 2nd Samuel chapter 11, when David committed adultery and murder, by having Uriah killed, so he could have his wife. It seems that what David did was much worse than what Saul had done. Now, the big difference is in how they responded when the men of God confronted them with their sins. In 1st Samuel 15:20 when Samuel told Saul he had sinned, Saul argued saying, “**I have obeyed the voice of the Lord.**” But, in 2nd Samuel 12:13, after that the prophet Nathan confronted king David with his sins, David immediately repented and said, “**I have sinned against the Lord.**” Then if you read on in each scripture, you will see that Saul was rejected by the Lord, but David was forgiven. So, as you can see, the worst thing we can do is fail to repent.

4. Busted!

People sneak around trying to hide their sinful ways. Some even beat the justice system as they live a life of crime. But, Proverbs 15:3 says, “**The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.**” They may think they are getting away with evil; but the truth is; nobody has ever got away with anything. They are busted!

5. Just a Reminder

Peter said in 2nd Peter 1:12, **“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”** So, the Holy Spirit had Peter to write to these believers and remind them of things that he had already taught them. Today, when a preacher reads scripture and preaches on something the congregation has heard before, some of them will get restless, and not pay attention. Then they will go home and turn on TV land or a classic movie channel, and watch the same old reruns over and over again. So don't be so hard on your pastor if he preaches on something you have heard him preach on before; because it may just be a reminder from the Lord.

6. Read Up On It

You may have people that will ask what the Bible has to say about a particular subject; which is a good thing to do. However, all too often they will totally depend on others to tell them what the Bible says, and never take the time to read it themselves. This is very dangerous, because, if someone tells them the wrong thing; they won't know any better, and will be deceived. But, if they obey 2nd Timothy 2:15, which says, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** It will fix this problem. So, if you really want to know what the Bible says about something, then you need to read up on it.

7. Buzz Words

The Bible warns us about false teachers. For example 2nd Corinthians 11:4 says, **“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom ye have not accepted, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”** He was telling us not to follow someone just because they know all the right ‘buzz words’. They may use the name Jesus when they preach; but, if it isn’t the sinless, Holy Ghost conceived, virgin born, crucified, bodily resurrected, Son of God; then it’s not the real Jesus Christ. They may talk about ‘the spirit’, but if it’s not the Holy Spirit, then it’s the wrong spirit. And they may say it’s the gospel, but if it doesn’t match the scriptures, then it is a false gospel. Just because someone throws around ‘buzz words’ like Jesus, spirit or gospel, doesn’t mean it’s the real thing.

8. Vital Signs

James 2:26 says, **“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”** If a doctor is trying to determine if a person is alive or dead, they will check for vital signs, like a pulse. Now, this is not necessary if the person is able to walk, because you can see they are alive. Neither is it necessary to check for a pulse if all you find is someone’s bones. It is easy to see that they are dead. It can be the same with people’s spiritual lives. With some folks, it’s easy to see that they are living for the Lord, while others leave you wondering if their faith is alive or dead. So, put your whole heart into serving Jesus, then you won’t need the pulse checked on your faith.

9. Things May Get Worse

You may hear it said 'it may get worse before it gets better. With this in mind look at John 9:1-3, **“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”** Now, if things never went badly for us, then we would never know how much power God has. Take this blind man for example; if no one ever suffered from blindness, then we would never have known that Jesus can give sight. If we never got sick, we wouldn't know He can make us well. Also, if nobody ever died, we would not know that He can raise the dead. So, to get the most glory, things may get worse before God moves in our lives to make them better.

10. The Bible Doesn't Say That, part 1

You may have heard people say that the Bible says (In the last days you won't be able to tell the seasons apart.) Well, the Bible doesn't say that at all. In fact it tells us something totally different. The Lord told Noah after he left the ark in Genesis 8:22, **“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”** As you can see, just because someone says something is in the Bible, doesn't mean it is there.

11. The Bible Doesn't Say That, part 2

In today's world the lack of discipline in children is epidemic. Now there's a big difference in giving a kid a good old fashion spanking, and abusing them. Child abuse has always been, and will always be, wrong. However, failing to discipline a child is also a form of neglect and abuse. You have probably heard people say that the Bible says (spare the rod, spoil the child). But the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible actually uses much stronger language. In Proverbs 13:24 it says, **"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."** Now, if God thinks that giving a child a spanking is an effective form of discipline, and man says that it's not. Guess who's wrong.

12. The Bible Doesn't Say That, part 3

People will say that the Bible says (little is much if God is in it). The Bible doesn't say that; but some verses tell us much the same thing. Proverbs 15:16-17 says, **"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."** Proverbs 16:8, **"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."** Also in Proverbs 17:1, **"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife."** An example of this concept would be; it is better to have a small congregation of true believers, than to have a big church that is full of hypocrites. So, little is much, if God is in it. The Bible just says it in a different way.

13. The Bible Doesn't Say That, part 4

When people are having a hard time, you may hear them say that the Bible says (the Lord won't put more on us than we can bear). Now the Bible doesn't say that, but it does teach that principle. It says in 1st Corinthians 10:13, **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”** So, if you find yourself in a situation where temptation is too much to resist, don't blame God; you did that to yourself. As for the trials we face in life; if we do as it says in 1st Peter 5:7, **“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”** Then the Lord will help us through anything.

14. The Bible Doesn't Say That, part 5

You have heard that the Bible says (obey the laws of the land). Now the Bible doesn't say that, in those words; but it does say in 1st Peter 2:13, **“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake.”** If we break the law it will hurt our testimony for the Lord. The only time we should not keep the law is if it goes against the Bible.

Now this wasn't worth a part 6, but you have heard it said that (cleanliness is next to godliness). The Bible doesn't say that at all. There is nothing wrong with cleanliness, but this saying is not found in the Bible.

15. Older Than Dirt

We can have a little fun with this, while pointing out a Biblical truth. You may hear someone say that “they’re older than dirt”. When they say that, you can tell them that in Genesis chapter one on the 3rd day in verse 9, God said, “**...and let the dry land appear...**” Then on the 6th day in verse 26, “**And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ...**” Then tell them that dirt is three days older than Adam, and that nobody is older than dirt.

16. The World’s Oldest Profession

For some reason when most folks hear the term ‘the world’s oldest profession’ they will think of prostitution. But, we see that’s not the case if we look at what the Bible says in Genesis 2:15, “**And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**” So, as you can see, the world’s oldest profession is gardening.

17. All We Need

Many times when we think we need something, it’s not really a need but just a want. It says in Psalm 142:5, “**I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.**” So, not only do we all need Jesus, but Jesus is all we need.

18. Where Did Cain's Wife Come From?

After Cain murdered his brother Abel, part of his punishment from God was that he was sent out into the earth as a vagabond. We read in Genesis 4:16-17, **“And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.”** (Note: This is not the same Enoch who walked with God that we read about in Genesis chapter 5.) Many times people that read this will ask (where did Cain's wife come from?) and they will think they have asked a very deep and mysterious theological question. They will think she was from the land of Nod, and that is where Cain found her. However, there is nothing to indicate that she was not with him already. We only know that they didn't have their son Enoch, until after they arrived in the land of Nod. As for where she came from; we need only to look at the next chapter of Genesis for the answer to that question. Some think that Adam and Eve only had their three sons (Cain, Abel and Seth). However, look at what it says in Genesis 5:4, **“And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters.”** So Cain had lots of sisters. This has to be where Cain and all of his brothers got their wives; because it says in Genesis 3:20, **“And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”** Seeing how God made Adam and Eve from the same DNA, and there were no genetic defects at that time; it would not be a problem for these men to have a sister for a wife. God didn't tell men not to marry their sister until the Law of Moses was given.

19. Excuses

All too often we will try to find an excuse for failing to do the right thing. We are more likely to point out the faults of others, while trying to excuse our own. However, Romans 2:1 says, **“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou doest the same thing.”** So, instead of trying to excuse ourselves, by pointing out the faults of others, we should try to do better. Then we will be an example for making an effort instead of excuses.

20. We All Have An Appointment

It is strange how, once people are grown up, they will complain about getting older. Some even get depressed about having a birthday. However, the only way to avoid getting old is to die young. Think about this; do you want your latest birthday to be your last? Then there are those who will get mad at God when a loved one passes away. But, they don't realize that as long as God continues to bless them to go on living, others will pass on ahead of them. So, the only way to avoid the heartbreak of losing someone we love is if we die next. Now, with all of this in mind, look at what the Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”** Therefore, we all have an appointment with death, and facing the Lord on judgment day. So, just love Jesus and you will be ready when it comes.

21. Get Your Mind Right

You may remember the old movie, Cool Hand Luke. In one part, after being recaptured following his escape from prison, Luke was worked half to death by the guards and warden, in an effort to teach him a lesson. They were hoping he would (get his mind right) and quit trying to escape. In the army, drill sergeants will push new recruits, to make sure they have the right frame of mind to be a soldier. Now look at what it says in Romans 8:6, **“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”** If we are going to be what we should be for the Lord, then we must get our mind right, by focusing on being Spirit filled.

22. Not a Leg to Stand On

It's sad to hear some of the farfetched theories that many in the scientific community come up with to explain God's creation. Paul said in 1st Timothy 6:20, **“...avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”** He is not teaching us to be against science, but he is warning us to look out for those who, in the name of science, oppose the truth of God's word. The problem isn't science; because, we wouldn't have things like eyeglasses, light bulbs or cars without science. But, when it comes to theories like evolution or the big bang, then there's a problem. They're still called theories because they can't prove them; and they can't prove something that's not true. You see Christians with a 'Jesus fish' on their car, and the atheist has one with legs. But, without the lie of the theory of evolution, they don't have a leg to stand on.

23. You're Smarter Than WHO?

It's funny how some people think they are so smart. An education is a good thing. But it's silly for someone to think they are smarter than someone else, just because they sat in a classroom somewhere, and were taught something by someone, who learned it from someone else, in another classroom. You don't have to learn something in a classroom for it to really matter. Many great mechanics never went to trade school. Now, it's bad enough when someone thinks they are smarter than their fellow man; but what's worse is that some act like they're smarter than God. However, the Bible says in 1st Corinthians 1:25, **"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."** Also, on over in chapter 3 verses 19-20, **"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."** So, you're smarter than WHO?

24. HE Wants You There

Many may find it hard to believe that the Lord loves them, and He would love to have them as His child. We need only to look at the cross to see how much He loves us and wants us to be in Heaven. Jesus said in Luke 12:32, **"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."** So, as you can see from what Jesus said here in this verse; HE wants you there.

25. Landmarks

Proverbs 22:28 says, **“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”** Now landmarks aren’t only used to mark property boundaries, but they are also used for the purpose of navigation. When we are giving someone directions how to get from one place to another, we will use something that stands out along the way as a landmark to help them know the right way to go. On the highway we use mile markers and exit numbers to get to where we’re going, and not get lost. If something just blends in and doesn’t stand out from its surroundings, then it isn’t very useful as a landmark. It’s the same for us as Christians trying to lead the lost to Jesus. If we are like the world, and we don’t stand out by letting our light shine; then we just blend in and we won’t be the landmarks we should be, that can help others to know the way to go to find the Lord.

26. Sounds Lost

In 2nd Peter chapter one verses 5-7, Peter goes through a list of things we need to add to our faith to be a fruitful Christian. Then he says in verse 9, **“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and can not see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”** Now, anyone that can’t see where they are going, and can’t remember where they have been, sounds lost. The good news is Jesus said in Matthew 18:11, **“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”** (Just a note: the NIV leaves this verse out.)

27. On God's Terms

Many people think that their way of doing things is the only way. They will even try to make up their own way of doing things when it comes to going to Heaven. That is why there are so many false religions in the world. However, Jesus told us in John 6:44, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”** Jesus also said in John 14:6, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** So, you can't have the Son without the Father, and you can't have the Father without the Son. To put it simply, we must come to the Lord on His terms.

28. ABSOLUTELY!

One of the biggest problems Christians face these days is coming from many pulpits in our country. Some churches are teaching the modern theological doctrine that there are no absolute truths. It brings to mind the warning the apostle Paul gave us in 2nd Timothy 4:3-4, **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”** To say there are no absolute truths, to put it plainly, is false doctrine. Is Jesus the Son of God? Did He die on the cross for our sins? Did He rise from the dead? Is He the only way to Heaven? Will He come back someday? ABSOLUTELY! All of these are absolute truths.

29. Literally

One day while talking to a man about the end of the world, I used a scripture verse from the book of Daniel to make my point. He replied in opposition by saying, “Well, that is only if you believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible.” For those who have this view, it seems like the only time they are willing to take the Bible literally, is when they like what it says. They believe Heaven is real, but then try to say that hell is not real. They think God’s love is real, while rejecting any thought of God’s wrath. But, Jesus told us in Mark 13:31, **“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”** So, when the Bible talks about Heaven and the love of God, or when it speaks of hell and the wrath of God; we must take it all literally, because one is just as real as the other.

30. Impossible To Stand Alone

Sometimes when we stand up for things we are passionate about, we find out that others are not as quick or as bold to stand with us. This is never more evident than when we take a stand for Jesus. But, there’s good news; Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, **“...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”** Therefore, when we take a stand for Jesus, it is impossible for us to stand alone, because He is always with us.

Chapter 5 (May)

1. Exclusively

Christians are often ridiculed by others for believing that Jesus is the only way to God the Father. They like to think that they can get to God on their own. They think Christians are close minded and that we should be more inclusive. However, the Bible says in 1st Timothy 2:5, **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”** Therefore, Jesus is exclusively the only way to come to God the Father. The good news is that the Bible also says in Revelation 22:16, **“And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”** So, it may be an exclusive way, but it is open and free for anyone who is willing to take it.

2. Mismatch

When David faced Goliath, it looked like a mismatch and that David didn't stand a chance. But in 1st Samuel 17:45, David told him, **“Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”** So in reality it was Goliath that didn't stand a chance. It is the same for us, if we trust the Lord. Romans 8:31 says, **“If God be for us, who can be against us?”** And verse 37 says, **“Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”** Also in James 4:7, **“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”** If we let the Lord do our fighting, that sets up a real mismatch, and the devil doesn't stand a chance.

3. 'THE' DOOR

Some people approach going to Heaven like they are trying to win a prize on a game show, and that they can pick from door A, B or C. They feel like if you are a good person with faith of one kind or the other, then you will go to Heaven. However, Jesus said in John 10:9, **“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”** So, it's not door A, B or C, but it is 'THE' DOOR, which is Jesus Christ, that gets you to Heaven.

4. The Right Receiver

When talking to people about God, you may have heard someone say that they can't believe in something that they can't see. But, that same person will carry a cell phone that works on a signal that they can't see. They will also listen to a radio or watch a TV that works on a signal that can not be seen. Now, even though you can't see these signals, you can know they are real if you have the right receiver. It's the same way when it comes to serving the Lord. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 5:7, **“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”** It also says in Hebrews 11:1, **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** And in 1st Corinthians 2:14, **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** Therefore, without faith, you don't have the 'right receiver' for the Spirit of God.

5. It's How You Finish

Ezekiel 18:26-27 says, **“When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.”** Now some people think that just because they have been a church member at some point in their life, then they are going to Heaven no matter what they do. Others think that they have done too many bad things and that there is no hope for them to be saved. But, as you can see from these verses, neither is the case. It doesn't matter how you start, it is how you finish. It's not how you show up at church that matters; it is how you leave that counts. Just make sure that you leave with Jesus.

6. Don't Quench or Grieve

Ephesians 4:30 says, **“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.”** And in 1st Thessalonians 5:19, **“Quench not the Spirit.”** Now, what is the difference in the two? Well, 1st John 5:17 says, **“All unrighteousness is sin.”** Obviously, doing wrong is sin; which grieves the Holy Spirit. James 4:17 says, **“...him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”** So, it is also sinful to not do what is good; which will quench the leadership of the Spirit of God in your life. We can avoid both by obeying 1st Thessalonians 5:21-22, **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”**

7. From A to Z

The Bible says in Revelation 21:6, **“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end...”** Now the word ‘alpha’ is the first letter in the Greek alphabet, just as the letter ‘a’ is in our English alphabet. The word ‘omega’ is the last letter in the Greek alphabet like the letter ‘z’ is in English. Notice also, that in this verse, both of these words start with capital letters to show that these are actually titles for Jesus. Therefore, we could say that Jesus is our A to Z. He is our everything, and He has it all covered for us, from start to finish.

8. Heaven’s Economy

In today’s world, job security is not so great. Many businesses are closing their doors, and lots of people are losing their jobs and have no income. However, there is good news, Jesus told us in Matthew 9:37-38, **“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”** Now, we will never have to worry about seeing a going out of business sign hanging on the pearly gates. The jobs that men have come and go. But, Heaven has never had a recession, and Jesus has never had a layoff. Heaven’s economy is doing just fine. Jesus has a job for anyone willing to work in His kingdom.

9. Big Hearted

When someone is known for being kind and generous, people will say that they have a big heart. It says in 2nd Corinthians 6:11, **“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.”** Paul had put himself in harm’s way to preach the gospel of Christ. He was telling them that he had a big heart for their spiritual well-being. We also need to be ‘big hearted’ for those in need of salvation. We should love them, pray for them and tell them about Jesus.

10. Born Ready

I remember when I was a teenage boy, if me and my buddies were about to go out somewhere, one of us may ask the others, (Are you ready?), then we would often reply by saying, (I was born ready). Sadly, some people think that they were born ready when it comes to going to Heaven. Several years ago a lady was telling me about where she went to church. So I asked her about when she became a Christian, and she told me that she was born a Christian. Now, one could make the case that John the Baptist was born ready, because the Bible says in Luke 1:15, **“...he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.”** However, that was before the birth of Christ. But after Jesus came, He told Nicodemus in John 3:3, **“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God.”** Therefore, no one is ‘born ready’ to go to Heaven. You must be born again to be ready to go to Heaven.

11. Show and Tell

You may remember having show and tell time when you were in grade school. The kids would bring something to school with them that they loved, like a favorite toy, to show to the rest of the class; and to tell them all about it. We as Christians can learn from this. The Bible says in 1st John 3:18, **“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”** So, when it comes to sharing the love of Christ with others, we need to do more than just tell the world about Jesus; we also need to show them His love through our actions.

12. The Same Old Story

At times a pastor may get criticized, by some, if he preaches on the same subject, or uses the same scriptures that they have heard him use before. But these folks may not realize that some of the young people may be hearing it for the first time. The truth is, the story hasn't changed. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:8, **“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”** Also the apostle Paul said in 1st Corinthians 2:2, **“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”** So, when it come to the death, burial, resurrection and return of the Lord Jesus Christ, we should never get tired of hearing the same old story, because that story never gets old.

13. Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right

We have all heard the old saying that two wrongs don't make a right. Well, this saying is backed by scripture. The Bible tells us in Romans 12:17-21, **“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”** It also says in James 1:20, **“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”** So, if we try to get back at those who have wronged us, then we are wrong. You may ask: Why? Because we are taking from God something that only He has the right to do. Vengeance is His, and we are wrong to take it.

14. Keep Your Eye On The Prize

In Philippians 3:8, Paul said, **“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”** He goes on to say in verse 14, **“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”** So, for us to keep our eye on the prize, we must keep our eyes on Jesus and the call to do His will in our lives.

15. If You Snooze You Lose

Jesus told us in Mark 13:35-37, **“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”**

Paul also said in 1st Thessalonians 5:6-7, **“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”** So we need to be careful and not let the devil lull us to sleep spiritually; and get us to stop looking for the coming of the Lord. Because, spiritually speaking, if you snooze you lose.

16. Upside Down

Acts 17:6 says, **“These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”** As you read the book of Acts, you will see that many times when the apostles preached the Word of the Lord in different places, it would get them in trouble. In this case it was at Thessalonica. Some of those who did not believe the gospel said that the apostles had turned the world upside down. Today, we should still be turning the world of the unbelievers upside down with the truth of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because, by doing so, we will help them to get their life turned right side up, if they give their heart to Jesus.

17. Life Wish

I met a man one time that was passing through the 'Bible Belt' here in the south-eastern part of the United States for the first time. He was amazed to see so many churches; and he asked me if all we thought about around here was dying. It was clear that this man didn't have a clue about what it means to be a Christian. I told him that it wasn't dying we were thinking about, but it was living. Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 5:4, **"For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."** So, Christians don't have a death wish, but it's a life wish that makes us look forward to going to Heaven to be with Jesus forever.

18. Era or Error?

Today many 'so call' Bible colleges teach that we are now living in the 'postmodern era' and that you can't preach about hell anymore, because it just doesn't work these days. Well excuse me for being blunt, but that is just a lie from the devil. Tell me please, who has the authority to arbitrarily make that decision anyway? Jesus preached about hell many times. He said in Matthew 24:35, **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."** He also said back in verse 4 of that same chapter, **"Take heed that no man deceive you."** Now the devil would love for us to quit preaching about hell, because it has always worked, and it always will. This, so called, postmodern era theology, is just a satanically influenced, man made error.

19. The Best is Yet To Come

You may remember some of the church services that you have been blessed to be in, more than others. There may have been very good preaching and singing. It may have been lots of praise and rejoicing, with lots of great testimonies, and people getting saved. Meetings like that are the ones we wish could go on forever. Well there's good news! We can read about a worship service in the future that will be better than anything we have been blessed to be a part of here on earth. It says in Revelation 19:1, **“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God.”** Then on down in verses 6 and 7, it says, **“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”** So if you think you have been in some great meetings down here, just wait until we get up there. The best is yet to come!

20. Swallow Your Pride

James 4:6 says, **“God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”** Then it goes on to say in verse 10, **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”** So, if you want the Lord to lift you up with His grace, then you must swallow your pride.

21. Spiritual Immigrant

My family tree is very diverse. My dad's people on his father's side, came from Scotland, and on his mother's side, they came from England. My mom said her dad's family had German roots, with a little bit of Cherokee mixed in. This means I am a full blooded Gentile when it comes to the flesh. The good thing is, our pedigree doesn't matter to God. Ephesians 2:11-13 says, **"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."** So, thanks be to God that we can be spiritual immigrants, through the blood of Christ, into the Heavenly Kingdom.

22. No Time Like The Present

Some people say they want to be saved, but for one reason or another, they keep putting it off. The bad thing about that is, people like that die every day without ever being born again. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 6:2, **"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."** Therefore, when it comes to giving your heart to Jesus, there's no time like the present.

23. Get a Brain Transplant

It is easy to see how our own way of thinking can get us in lots of trouble as we go through this life. However, there is a way to fix this problem. The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:5, **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”** So, if we let the Lord give us a ‘spiritual brain transplant’ by following the example that He set for us in the scriptures; then it would save us lots of time and trouble.

24. No Shortcuts to Heaven

For those who think they can find a shortcut to Heaven, it would be wise to remember a rule you learned in math class. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. With this in mind look at what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, **“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”** Now, the word ‘straight’ is a reference to going in the same direction, and the word ‘strait’ that Jesus used here in these verses is a reference to a narrow and strict way of living. However, the concept is the same, because Jesus told us in John 14:6, **“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** So as you can see from these verses, there are no shortcuts to Heaven. To get there, you must go straight on the strait way; which is through Christ.

25. What's Your Problem?

More than likely someone has asked you for one reason or another, (What's your problem?). We all have problems in this life, and they come in all shapes and sizes. But there is good news from the word of God. The Bible tells us in Matthew 4:24, **"...and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torment, and those which were possessed with devils and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them."** Now, here we have people with a wide range of problems; including physical, mental and spiritual issues. But, it didn't matter what kind of problem they had, Jesus took care of it; and He can do the same for us today.

26. Fair Share

Everyone wants to get what they feel is their 'fair share' in life. The problem with this is, most of what people want is the things of this world that will be left behind. The Bible says in Psalm 16:5, **"The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."** It also says in Psalm 73:26, **"...God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."** The good thing about the Lord, with all of His love, mercy and grace; there is more than enough to go around for everybody. We all can get more than our fair share of what we need from God in this world and the one to come.

27. '491'

While teaching about forgiving others, Jesus said in Luke 17:3-4, **“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.”** Now these words may have been what prompted this exchange between Christ and Peter here in Matthew 18:21-22, **“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”** Now just as Peter may have thought, 7 times is fine but 8 times, no way; we too may look at this and think (OK, $70 \times 7 = 490$, that's the limit, but 491, forget it.). However, the point Jesus was making is that we shouldn't put a limit on forgiving others, because we don't want God to put a limit on His forgiveness for us.

28. About Face

In the army, when you hear the order 'about face' it means you are to turn 180 degrees and face in the opposite direction that you were facing before. Jesus told us in Matthew 4:17, **“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** The Lord is telling us to do a spiritual about face, by turning away from the world with all of the sin, and to turn to Him with all of his mercy and grace.

29. All Ears

You may have heard it said that God gave us two ears and one mouth, because we should listen twice as much as we speak. Well, we can learn something from the Bible that backs up that old saying. James 1:19 says, **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”** Then he goes on in verse 20, **“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”** Therefore, when it comes to doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord, we need to start by being all ears, and listening to the word of God before we say or do anything.

30. All Talk and No Action

In Mark 7:6 the Lord Jesus said, **“This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”** Then we read in James 1:22, where it says, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** Now there are some people that talk a good game, but never deliver at game time; in a manner of speaking. They will talk about the Lord; but when it comes to living by His word, they don’t even come close. Many times it is because they don’t even know what the Bible says; and they don’t even try to live by what little they do know. Simply put, they are all talk and no action, and they are only fooling themselves.

31. The Total Package

If an entertainer can sing, dance and looks good on stage then folks will say that they are the 'total package'. They will say the same thing about a baseball player that can hit, run and catch well. If one of these elements are missing it is harder for them to keep up with the competition. Now it can be the same when it comes to serving the Lord. The Bible says in 1st John 5:7-8, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”** So, when we come to the Father through faith in the blood of His Son Jesus, then He will put His Spirit in us. Then the Holy Spirit will lead us to follow Jesus' example to be baptized in water, to show the world that we have put our faith in His death, burial and resurrection. The Spirit will also lead us to live a life that pleases Him. So, if we have 'Heaven's Total Package' in our heart, then we will be a faith professing, water baptized believer, that has a spirit that bears record with His Spirit, and brings forth the fruit of His Spirit. That is how we can be the total package to serve Him.

Chapter 6 (June)

1. An Arm and A Leg

In Matthew 18:8, Jesus said, **“Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”** With this in mind we can truly say that going to Heaven instead of hell is worth giving up anything; even if it cost us an arm and a leg.

2. First Things First

People will want God’s help if things go bad, but never give Him a thought, or any thanks when things are good. In fact, they’re more likely to get mad at Him in bad times than to praise Him for blessing them. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** So, first things first; love and serve the Lord in good times and bad, and He will always be there for you.

3. At Wit’s End

The Bible speaks of God’s power being seen by those caught in a storm at sea. Psalm 107:27 says, **“They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end.”** We can feel the same in the storms of life; but if we trust the One that walks on water, He can say **“Peace, be still”** and bring calm in our life again.

4. Half Full or Half Empty?

You have heard people ask if you see the glass as being half full or half empty, to see if you are an optimist or a pessimist. However, if we let the Lord be our Shepherd as king David did; then we can say as he did in Psalm 23:5, **“my cup runneth over.”** We won’t be faced with half a glass of God’s blessings. He will fill us to overflowing.

5. Can Do Attitude

It is easier to doubt than to have faith. However, it says in Hebrews 11:16, **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him.”** However, the apostle Paul set a great example for us by saying in Philippians 4:13 **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”** So, if we trust God like we should, we can replace doubt with a can do attitude.

6. Invincible

In Ephesians 6:13 Paul says, **“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God.”** Then as he talks about all the different parts of that armor, he says on down in verse 16, **“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”** So, as we fight the good fight of faith, our faith in Christ makes us invincible to the attacks of the devil. Yes, true faith in the Lord makes us spiritually unbeatable, which should make us bolder for Him.

7. It's Time To Wake-up

Many times we put off doing things, even though we know that the Lord wants us to get busy doing His will. Paul said in Romans 13:11, **“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”** Therefore, seeing that we have less time than ever with each passing day to do the Lord's work; it's time to wake-up and get to work. We really can't afford to waste time because he goes on to say in verse 12, **“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”**

8. Back to the Basics

Hebrews 5:12 says, **“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”** As you can see from reading this verse, and by looking at many church members today, we still have the same problem. There are people that have been saved for many years but show very little spiritual growth. For these folks, you always need to go back to the basics of Bible teaching, and are never able to move forward. They are stuck, and some even seem to be unwilling to do as it says in Hebrews 6:1, **“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on into perfection;...”** So, if you need to go back to the basics that's fine, but don't just stay there, start moving forward.

9. Better Late Than Never

It's not wise to put off being saved, because there are people in the obituaries today that had plans for tomorrow. Some of them even planned on getting saved someday, but now it's too late. Waiting to get right with God on your death bed may not work out, because you may die unexpectedly. But, a death bed confession is better than nothing. When Jesus was on the cross in Luke chapter 23, the thief to His right (after admitting his sins and guilt in verse 41) said to Jesus in verse 42, **"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."** By this, he was confessing that Jesus is Lord. Jesus replied in verse 43, **"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."** So as you can see, when it comes to receiving Christ, it is better late than never.

10. A Blaze of Glory

You have heard of a worldly hero going out in a blaze of glory while fighting their enemy. Well, it's just the opposite when it comes to the Hero of our faith, Jesus Christ. 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-9 says, **"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."** So, Jesus is coming back in a blaze of glory to destroy His enemies.

11. By The Book, part 1

Many fail to realize that on judgment day we will answer to God based on what His word says, and not by what man thinks. It says in Revelation 20:21, **“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”** So it’s plain to see that judgment day will be by The Book; because it goes on to say in verse 15, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

12. By The Book, part 2

Those who have been trying to ‘revise’ the Bible have started down a slippery slope. Now they are coming back and revising the revised versions, and all the while they are getting further from the truth. Some of these so called revised versions being printed go as far as to omit an entire verse of the Bible; as they did in the NIV with Matthew 18:11. However, Revelation 22:18-19 says, **“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”** So, if you are going to go to Heaven, then you must go by The Book.

13. Caught Off Guard

In Luke chapter 21 Jesus is telling the disciples what signs to look for leading up to His return and the end of the world. He says in verse 34, **“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.”** Now it’s bad enough to be caught off guard when bad weather comes; if the boss at work shows up for a surprise inspection; or if the teacher has a pop quiz, and you’re not ready. But the last thing you want to be caught off guard by is the coming of the Lord. So watch and be ready.

14. A Day Like Today

You may wonder what will be going on the day that Jesus returns. Well, He tells us all about it in Luke 17:26-30, **“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”** The day Jesus comes back, people will be going about their daily lives making long term plans and conducting business as usual. In other words, it will be a day like today.

15. You Can Run but You Can't Hide

There are those that think they can live the way they want to live, without consequences, no matter what the Bible says. It says in Jeremiah 23:24, **“Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.”** Then Revelation 6:15-17 says, **“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”** As you can see, you can run but you can't hide on judgment day.

16. Change Your Tune

The Bible tells us in Psalm 149:1, **“Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.”** Now this new song comes from knowing the Lord, because it also says in Psalm 40:3, **“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”** So as you can see from these verses, if you will let the Lord change your tune; then He will use the praise that you give Him to help change the tune of others.

17. Unthankful is Sinful

Paul warned Timothy of the wicked and evil that was coming in the last days, when he said in 2nd Timothy 3:1-5, **“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”** It is easy to see, as we look around us, that we are now living in such a time. Now most of the things that Paul listed here are things most of us as Christians know are wrong. But something that might get overlooked is that in the middle of this list of sins is, **“unthankful”**. So, it is sinful to be unthankful.

18. Faithful

The Bible says in James 2:18, **“Yea a man may say, Thou hast faith and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”** Then it goes on to say in verse 20, **“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”** We also read in 1st Corinthians 4:2, **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** So, here’s the question: What good is faith if we’re not faithful?

19. Short Dash To The Finish

The fact that life is short has been pointed out by many, in lots of different ways. And as always this point is made best in the Bible. James 4:14 says, **“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”** It also says in Job 9:25, **“Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.”** Job used a post (which was a fast running message carrier) and James used a puff of smoke, for examples of how quickly life passes for us. There was a preacher on the radio that used a headstone for an example. He talked about how a headstone will have the person’s name, date of birth and date of death. It may read something like this, (John Q. Doe May 2, 1920 – June 7, 1998). He then said that it’s the short dash between those two dates that represents the life that this person lived. So, however you look at it, life is short. Therefore we need to make the most of it, by living for Jesus, because we never know how close the finish line may be.

20. Trusting The Lord

The Bible says in Psalm 31:1, **“In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.”** It also says in Proverbs 3:5, **“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding.”** Now trusting the Lord may not always be the easiest thing to do, but it is always the right thing to do. If we trust in Him and His righteousness, then we’ll never be put to shame.

21. Don't Look Back

At times we may struggle with letting go of the past, which can be destructive. That's why Jesus said in Luke 17:32, **"Remember Lot's wife."** You can see in Genesis chapter 19, she died with the wicked because she couldn't let go of her past life. We need to follow what it says in Philippians 3:13, **"...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."** When you are forgiven, don't look back, because it's not the past that matters, it is only your future that counts.

22. Can't Buy That With Money

In Acts chapter 8, we read about a man named Simon that had been using sorcery. But when he heard Philip preaching, he believed the gospel. Later when Peter came, it says in verses 18-23, **"And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle's hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him. Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity."** So it is easy to see from these verses, when it comes to God's Holy Spirit and His power, you can't buy that with money.

23. The RINGER

You may hear the term 'ringer' used if a church has a member on it's softball team that was a former pro-baseball player. This can make a team like that hard to beat. Now the devil probably thought that mankind had no hope after the fall in the Garden of Eden. And we didn't, until, God brought in His RINGER to redeem us. Revelation 5:4-6 says, **"And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beast, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb..."** Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Son of God; is the RINGER on our side that the devil can't beat.

24. Two Faced

Some people are two faced. They act all holy and good while around folks that go to church; then act and talk like the world when they're around folks that don't go to church. Now, the Bible tells us in James 1:8, **"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."** So, you can call it what you want, two faced, flip flop, wishy-washy or whatever; but the Bible calls it being a hypocrite.

25. Do or Die

In Revelation 2:11 Jesus said, **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”** Now we learn over in Revelation 21:8 that going into the lake of fire is the second death. So, how does one overcome and avoid the lake of fire? Revelation 12:11 says, **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”** Therefore, trusting Jesus is a do or die situation. Those who overcome through Him and are faithful to Him until death, will be part of the first resurrection; and Revelation 20:6 says, **“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,...”**

26. Does Crime Pay?

You have heard that crime doesn't pay. Proverbs 29:24 say, **“Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul.”** Also in 1st Corinthians 6:10, **“Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”** However, the Bible does tell us of a pay day for sin. It says in Romans 6:23, **“For the wages of sin is death;...”** But the good news is, the same verse goes on to say, **“...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** So, crime does pay in the form of a spiritual death in hell. But, if someone repents, they will be forgiven and receive a full pardon from the Lord and live with Him forever.

27. Don't Have a Prayer

Some people think they can live in sin and still have a prayer life. But the Bible says in Isaiah 1:15, **“And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.”** So, until someone repents of their sins and asks God to forgive them, they don't have a prayer. The good news is, it goes on to say in verse 18, **“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”** No one is more reasonable than the Lord. If you make things right with Him, then you can talk with Him.

28. Fair Weather Friend

We all know someone who is only there for you when things are going well. However, true friendship doesn't work like that. It says in Proverbs 17:17, **“A friend loveth at all times.”** Jesus also said in John 15:14, **“Ye are my friends, if ye do what so ever I command you.”** Now it is bad enough to be a fair weather friend to our fellow man, but it is far worse when we are only true to Jesus if things are going well. Just think about it like this: would you want the Lord to only be there for you when things are going well? We need to love and serve the Lord no matter what is going on in our lives, because we sure want Him to be there for us no matter how things are going.

29. Part of The Family

It can be easy to feel like you are alone. However, for a Christian, that doesn't have to be the case. When teaching us to pray, Jesus said in Matthew 6:9, that we should say, **“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”** It also says in Ephesians 3:14-15, **“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”** Then on over in Ephesians 5:1 it says, **“Be ye followers of God, as dear children.”** So, as a Christian, you are never alone, because you are part of God's family.

30. Fanning the Flames

James 3:6 says, **“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”** Now, the course of nature is to get old and die. Therefore, if we fail to watch what we say, then we are fanning the flames, and this can lead to shortening our time here on earth. But, there's good news, the Bible also says in 1st Peter 3:10, **“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”** So, you can make your stay on earth longer and better by speaking in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.

Chapter 7 (July)

1. Follow THE LEADER

Some are lead astray by following the wrong person, and others by their own self will. But, Jesus told us in John 12:26, **“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.”** So if you want to go to Heaven and be with Jesus, then follow THE LEADER.

2. Freedom Fighters

Jesus said in John 8:31-32, **“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** Therefore, knowing the truth of God’s word, and living by that truth as a disciple of Christ, by fighting the good fight of faith; is the only way to be set free from sin and death, and that’s the only real freedom there is for us.

3. Born Free

It is easy for those of us who were born in the United States to take our freedom for granted. However, no matter where you were born, we all are born into this world in the bondage of sin. In John 3:7 Jesus said, **“Ye must be born again”** Then it says in 2nd Corinthians 3:17, **“...and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”** So as you can see, it takes being born again to truly be free.

4. To Keep and Bear Arms

When the United States was founded, the founding fathers stated in the declaration of independence that, “we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights”. Then in the bill of rights, it says in the 2nd amendment that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. So why would they think it was a God given right for us to keep and bear arms? Well, we need to look at something with more power and authority than our founding documents. This would be the Bible, because we will be judged by the Word of God on judgment day and not the founding documents of the USA. Jesus said in Luke 22:36, “**...and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.**” So, as you can see from this verse, our right to keep and bear arms is an unalienable right that has been endowed by our Creator.

5. The LORD Only Knows

People are always falling for the same old thing over and over again. Through the years many have tried to predict when Jesus will return. Some have even tried to set the date. However, in Matthew 24:36, Jesus said, “**But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**” As you can see, the LORD only knows when Jesus will return. These date setters are wrong for even trying, and they need to repent. As for us, we should ignore them, and just watch and be ready.

6. Best of Both Worlds

The Bible tells us how we can have the best of both worlds. Jesus said in Luke 18:29-30, “**...Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.**” So, if we put the Lord first, then we truly can have the best of both worlds.

7. Cross Trained

When a worker learns a new skill on the job in addition to their main task, (like if an electrician learns to do plumbing), they call it cross trained. However, it’s different when it comes to serving the Lord. Jesus said in Luke 9:23, “**If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**” As a servant of Christ, we have one job to do. We must let God’s word train us to focus on sharing the cross of Christ with others every day. Then you will truly be ‘cross trained’.

8. Going Out of Business

From the fall of man in Eden, we have dealt with pain, sorrow and death. The good news is, Revelation 21:4 says, “**...and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**” Therefore, death, sorrow and pain are going out of business.

9. Glimmer of Hope

Some folks are just looking for a glimmer of hope that things will get better. If you read the book of Job you can see that he had good reason for looking forward to better days, after losing his wealth and his children. Job said in chapter 14, verse 7, **“For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.”** And he goes on to say in verse 14, **“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”** Then we read in 1st Peter 1:3, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”** So, through Christ, we have more than just a glimmer of hope, but we have a **“lively hope”!**

10. Rapture

Some say they don't believe in the rapture because that word isn't in the Bible. Now they're right about the word rapture not being in the Bible, but they may believe in the rapture and not know it. It says in 1st Thessalonians 4:16-17, **“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”** The word rapture is simply a term referring to this event. So if you believe this scripture, then you believe in the rapture.

11. Good To Go

Sometimes people think all is well when that's not the case. The doctor may tell someone who has a check-up that they are in good health; then they go home and die of a heart attack. You may have new tires on your car but still get a flat because of a manufacturer's defect. You may also think that you are on your way to Heaven just because someone told you everything was fine. But if you have not received Christ as your Lord, then you're not ready. Jesus said in Matthew 24:44, **"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."** Now we may not be able to know if the doctor or the tire company missed a problem, but when we come to Jesus, then He will make sure that we are good to go.

12. Hang In There

As we walk with the Lord, things can come our way that makes it hard to keep going forward. It's in these times that the devil will try to get us to just quit. However the Bible tells us in Hebrews 3:6, **"But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."** Then Jesus said in Revelation 3:11, **"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."** So, when things get hard, hang in there, and it will be well worth it at the end of the way.

13. Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

It's not wise to take tomorrow for granted, because James 4:14 says, **"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."** The Bible also speaks of a rich man in Luke chapter 12 that planned on building bigger barns to store his goods in, but verse 20 says, **"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: ..."** So, seeing how we can be here today and gone tomorrow, it is best to be ready to meet Jesus today.

14. High Hopes

We all need to have hope, to keep us going in life. If you knew you wouldn't ever get another pay check, then you wouldn't go back to the job; or if a pond went dry, you wouldn't try to fish there again. Also, if being a Christian had no hope of reward, then why would we live by the Bible? The good news is; we have many great promises of God to look forward to beyond this life; while we enjoy the peace and love He gives us here on earth. 1st Corinthians 15:19 says, **"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."** It also says in Romans 8:24-25, **"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."** Therefore, not only do we have high hopes, but we have hopes that are out of this world to keep us going.

15. Grin and Bear It

We all face hard times as we go through life. The good thing is, if we love and serve the Lord, He can turn hard times into a growing experience that makes us stronger. Romans 5:3-5 says, “**...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**” Therefore, if we just grin and bear it, the Lord will use hard times to help us to help others.

16. It's What's On The Inside That Counts

Something most of us need to work on is to, not judge a book by the cover, when it comes to what we think of others. On the other hand, we have been hammered over the head with (judge not) so much that we're afraid to call sin, sin. For example, if someone is trying to steal your car, call the cops. You can judge by their actions that this person is a thief and should go to jail. Nevertheless, it's wrong to form an opinion about someone based on looks, without getting to know them first. If someone is not well dressed, or well groomed, you shouldn't think of them in a negative way based on their looks. Jesus told us in John 7:24, “**Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**” Then we also read in 1st Samuel 16:7, “**...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth: for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.**” So as you can see, it's what's on the inside that counts.

17. Walk The Talk

More people talk about the Lord than actually live for Him. Jesus said in Matthew 15:8, **“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”** Also, James 1:22 says, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** So, to put it simply, we need to practice what we preach. In other words, walk the talk.

18. Onward and Upward

We all like making progress in life’s endeavors. However, it seems that all too often people become complacent in spiritual growth. But Paul said in Philippians 3:14, **“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”** So, if someone like Paul was pressing forward; then we need to do the same thing. We can go onward for the Lord, and upward with the Lord.

19. In The Nick of Time

Many times when God does a work in our lives, we feel like it was just in the nick of time and that we wouldn’t have made it one more day. However, the Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 12:9, **“...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Now, what may seem like just in the nick of time, in our eyes, is right on time, for God to work and get the most glory.

20. Ounce of Prevention

We've all heard that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is very true in living a Christian life. Romans 13:14 says, **"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof."** So, if we avoid tempting situations, it is easier to avoid falling into sin. It also says in 1st Thessalonians 5:22, **"Abstain from all appearance of evil."** Therefore, if something even looks bad, stay away from it.

21. More Praise

Psalm 71:14 says, **"But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more."** Now God is worthy of more praise than we could ever give Him, even in a thousand lifetimes. However, one way we can see that He gets more praise is to win more souls for Jesus. Then with every new believer comes a new pair of lip to praise Him.

22. Wait Limit

There are weight limits for things like bridges and air craft. But what about 'wait limits'? We shouldn't put a limit on how long we wait on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 says, **"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."** But, there is a limit to how long someone can wait to get saved, because many have waited too long and now it's too late.

23. Get a Life

At times you may think that you have nothing to live for, or no real purpose for being on earth. Well, you can change that by living for Jesus. The Lord told us in John 10:10, **"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."** He also said on over in John 12:25-26, **"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."** So, you can get a life, an abundant life, eternal life, a life that God will honor, by loving, following and serving Jesus.

24. Don't Sell Out

Ahab was king in Israel when Elijah was the prophet. Ahab was evil and God sent Elijah to rebuke him for his sins. 1st Kings 21:20 says, **"And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord."** We also see how Judas betrayed Jesus in Matthew 26:14-16, **"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priest, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him."** Both Ahab and Judas sold out to the devil and paid with their life and soul. It still happens to many people today. So, don't sell out for the things of this world, because the price is too high to pay in the end.

25. Get an Ear Full

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 the Lord repeats the same phrase to all seven of the churches that He tells John to address. It says in 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13 and 3:22, **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** He also makes it clear to all seven churches, that, to receive the promises mentioned in these two chapters, they must overcome. Now the only way that we can be an overcomer is through Christ. Therefore, we need to get an ear full, by listening to the Spirit of God.

26. They Should Know Better

The world is growing more sinful every day and many think nothing is wrong. They also act like God doesn't care how they live, because He loves everyone. Well, the Lord does love everyone, but He's not pleased with everyone. In Romans chapter one, after talking about the sinfulness of the world, Paul says in verse 32, **“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”** Now, as you can see from this verse, they should know better than to live a sinful life. However, not only do they live in sin themselves, but, they enjoy seeing others doing the same thing. They should also know that God will judge them for their sins, but they are either deceived, or are in denial about His judgment. It doesn't matter though, they should know better.

27. Chain Gang

There is a lesson to be learned from the following three verses of scripture. First, we read in Revelation 12:9, **“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** Next, Jude 6, **“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”** Then Jesus said in Matthew 25:41, **“Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”** As you can see from these verses, those who fail to serve the Lord will end up on the ‘chain gang’ with the devil and his fallen angels.

28. Hit The Books

Everyone knows you do better on a test at school when you study. It works the same way for us spiritually, when the challenges of life test us every day. The Bible tells us in 2nd Timothy 2:15, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** Therefore, if you want to live life in a way that pleases the Lord, you need to grab your Bible and hit the books from Genesis to Revelation, because it also says in Psalm 119:11, **“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”**

29. Win Win

Most people spend lots of their time trying to do things that will improve their quality of life. While there's nothing wrong with doing this, one should look at the big picture. Staying in shape for example; although being active and keeping fit are good for you, it only helps while you are here on earth. The Bible says in 1st Timothy 4:8, **“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”** So, while a good workout at the gym may have earthly benefits; living for Jesus helps us in everyday life, and for all of eternity. Therefore, spiritual activity like praying, reading the Bible, going to church and witnessing to others, is a ‘win win’ situation.

30. There's Not Another One Like HIM

You have heard it said, if someone is very unique, ‘they are one of a kind’, or (there ain't another'en like'im). This is more true, when it comes to the Lord, than it is with anyone else. The Lord said in Isaiah 46:9, **“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.”** So, who else can create a universe full of stars? Who else can walk on the water, calm the wind and sea, open the eyes of the blind, make the deaf to hear, cast out demons, forgive our sins and raise the dead? Only the Lord, that's Who. Why? Because there's not another one like HIM!

31. Greater Than _____!

You probably remember doing the 'greater than, less than' math problems in grade school. For example, ($3 > 2$ or $35 < 50$), and so on. Well, as we read the Bible, we can see that Christ is greater than everyone and everything. In Matthew chapter 12, verse 6 says, **"...That in this place is one greater than the temple."** So the equation would look like this, (Jesus > the temple), which is the biggest religious symbol. Then verse 8 says, **"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day."** Or, (Jesus > sabbath), the biggest religious ceremony. Then on down in verse 41, **"...behold, a greater than Jonas is here."** So, (Jesus > Jonas) or any of the prophets. Also verse 42, **"...behold, a greater than Solomon is here."** (Jesus > Solomon), or any other king, because He is King of kings. We also see in John 4:12, the woman at the well asked Jesus, **"Art thou greater than our father Jacob?"** Then in John 8:53, they asked Him, **"Art thou greater than our father Abraham?"** Jesus replied in verse 58, **"Before Abraham was, I am."** Therefore, (Jesus > Abraham), and He is greater than all of the fore fathers. To recap, Jesus is greater than any religious place or symbol, religious ceremony or holy day, the prophets of old, the kings of old or the patriarchs of old. Also, as we read the scripture, we find that Jesus is greater than death, the devil, all the angels, sin, sickness, storms, the grave, and even our doubts and fears. There is one exception though: Jesus said in John 14:28, **"...for my Father is greater than I."** Or (God the Father > God the Son). Now the Bible does speak of Jesus being equal with God in John 5:18 and Philippians 2:6. Other than that, just fill in the plank, Jesus is greater than _____!

Chapter 8 (August)

1. Keep It Simple

People get confused by all the different views they hear about the Bible from different churches and don't know what to believe. Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 11:3, **“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”** So, as we try to win the lost, just keep it simple and tell them; Jesus saves, come to Him.

2. King's Ransom

When Adam and Eve sinned, Satan took all of humanity into spiritual captivity. The good news is; Jesus has already paid the price for our freedom when He died on the cross. Jesus said in Matthew 20:28, **“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”** Praise God, we have been set free by the King's ransom.

3. Know Where You Stand

Some think they're right with God, while not knowing what His word says. Jesus said in John 5:39, **“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life.”** And Paul said in 1st Corinthians 10:12, **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”** So don't assume things are fine with you and God, but look to His word, so you can know where you stand with Him.

4. Last But Not Least

If we're not careful, the devil will trick us into thinking our testimony is not as important as other Christians, or what's worse, we think our testimony is better than someone else's. Jesus said in Mark 10:31, **"But many that are first shall be last; and the last first."** So it doesn't matter how good or how bad you were before you got saved. It takes the same grace of God to save us all. Therefore, you may be last, but you're not least.

5. Lay Down The Law

We can't mix law and grace because Galatians 5:4 says, **"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."** Some people think they must keep the law of Moses to be saved. Others think once they are saved that nothing they do will cause them to fall from grace. This verse shows us that neither is true. In fact, it lets us know you can fall from grace by trying to trust in your own works instead of the Lord Jesus. Therefore, lay down the law so you can hold onto God's grace.

6. Let Bygones Be Bygones

Sometimes it's hard to get over being wronged by others. However, Colossians 3:13 says, **"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."** So, as Christians, we must let bygones be bygones.

7. Look Into Your Heart

At times we must look deep in ourselves before God can help us. It says in 2nd Corinthians 13:5, **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”** So look into your heart and you will learn the things God wants you to know about yourself. You may see when you look at your heart that God is still on the outside knocking and waiting for you to let him in.

8. Few and Far Between

Psalm 12:1 says, **“Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.”** Sadly, these words are as true as they ever were. It’s getting harder with each passing day to find people that really know the Bible and live by it. Those who live for Jesus are getting to be few and far between. So, don’t be part of the problem, but be part of the solution and live godly.

9. Mad At The World

There are folks who seem to be in a bad mood all the time and never say a kind word. You may say they’re mad at the world. If they loved the Lord it wouldn’t be that way. There is a right way to be mad at the world though. 1st John 2:15 says, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”** The best way to be happy in this world is to love the God that made it, not the things of the world itself.

10. Now or Never

Genesis 6:3 says, **“And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, ...”** It also says in Isaiah 55:6, **“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.”** If you are putting off getting saved, these verses let you know, it could be now or never, when it comes to receiving Christ as your Lord.

11. Are You a Keeper?

When fishermen catch a fish, they will judge if it is a keeper or not based on things like, if it is the right size or if it is the right kind. Now look at what Jesus said in Matthew 13:47-48, **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.”** Now the only factor that matters to God when He judges us is, if we have received His Son Jesus or not. So, are you a keeper?

12. On a Wing and a Prayer

Psalms 57:1-2 says, **“Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.”** You can see from these verses that we can make it through all of the challenges in life, and all the way to Heaven, by praying to the Lord and putting our trust in the shadow of His wings.

13. Hypocrisy

Nobody likes a hypocrite. The Lord, Christians, and even unbelievers are turned off by hypocrisy. They're like a man without a country. But it gets even worse. It says in Job 27:8, **“For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?”** So not only are they like a man without a country, but if they don't repent, then they will be a man without a soul. Jesus asked us in Matthew 16:26, **“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”**

14. One Bad Apple

You have heard 'one bad apple spoils the bunch'. This is true in the church. Galatians 5:4 says, **“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”** If sin or false teaching enters into a church member's life, and is not corrected, then it will continue to spread to others in the church until they repent and it is rooted out.

15. Don't Feel Bad

When Lazarus died, it said in John 11:35, **“Jesus wept.”** Jesus was sad when He saw Mary and Martha crying over the death of their brother; even though He knew He would raise him from the dead. Jesus also said in Matthew 5:4, **“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”** If you lose a loved one, don't feel bad for feeling sad. It is fine if you feel that way. Also, as time goes on and the Lord helps you feel better; don't feel guilty, that's also fine.

16. Their Day Is Coming

It is easy to get upset when we, or others we know, are mistreated. But, we can find peace in the face of evil, because Psalm 37:12-13 says, **“The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.”** Therefore, we shouldn’t let the actions of evil men make us feel helpless or hopeless, because, their day is coming.

17. More Faith

Sometimes Christians are not willing to do what it takes to grow their faith. It says in Romans 10:17, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Therefore, if you want more faith, then you must spend more time reading the Bible.

18. Shape Up

If we’re not physically active then our body will get out of shape. It’s the same spiritually if we’re not active in God’s work. 1st Timothy 4:7 says, **“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”** It seems like people will put more time and money into how they look and how they feel, than anything else. Now taking care of yourself is fine. However, if you try everything coming and going, that the world says to try, just to get your body in good shape; while failing to follow the word of the Lord to shape up spiritually, then that is wrong.

19. Agent of Change

It says in Jeremiah 13:23, **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”** Now we can’t change ourselves. But the good news is; Jesus can change us. 2nd Corinthians 5:17 says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** So, Jesus is the only agent of change that works in our lives. If you need to change, come to Jesus.

20. Lesser of Two Evils

James 2:11 says, **“For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.”** Now, the police may not put you in jail for adultery but they sure will for murder. But, you can’t do either and be right with God. People will compare one sin to another and say that the one is the lesser of two evils. However, this verse shows us that the lesser of two evils, is evil none the less.

21. Like Father, Like Son

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, **“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”** The Bible tells us how Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out devils, controlled the wind and sea, created fish and bread right out of thin air; and best of all, forgives sins. This let us know that Jesus is the Son of God, because, like Father, like Son.

22. Square One

If you want to end something with the right kind of results, then you must start out right. It could be anything from building a house, to taking a trip. If you don't have the correct starting point then nothing will turn out right. It's the same way with education. Psalms 111:10 says, **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."** Then it says on over in Proverbs 1:17, **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."** Now, as you can see from these verses, square one of a good education must start with being a God fearing person. Because, without that, it doesn't matter how much you learn, or how many diplomas you have, you won't end up where you need to be.

23. Should Christians Meditate?

People of many different religions and world views practice various forms of meditation for lots of different reasons. Some may be trying to look deep into themselves for answers, or for peace. Others may be looking for what they need, from some unknown force outside of themselves. Either way, as Christians, we should only look to the Lord for what we need. Psalm 119:148 says, **"Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word."** Therefore, as Christians, we should meditate by spending lots of time thinking about God and what His word has to say. Christian meditation is not just sitting with your legs crossed and your mind blank. It is time spent (maybe while in bed, working or driving) in a state of prayer with God, while doing more listening than talking.

24. Three Big Questions

There are three big questions in life that all of mankind thinks about. Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? The Bible tells us the answers. Genesis 1:27 says, **“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** It also says in Revelation 4:11, **“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.”** Then in Ecclesiastes 12:7, **“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”** So as you can see from these verses, we came from God; our reason for being here is to please God; and when we leave this world, we will return to God. He will then judge us based on our faith in His Son Jesus. So be ready.

25. Purified

We all are born into sin and must be cleansed from our sins to be accepted of God. We also require things to be clean before we use them. For example, we want our drinking water to be purified. The Bible says in 1st Peter 1:22-23, **“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** If we’re going to be clean enough for God to use us, then we must be purified by obeying His word, and being born again, and loving our brethren.

26. Step in Time

When soldiers are marching, they must stay in step with each other and their leader, by listening to and obeying his voice. When done properly a large group can move as one, as they step in time. The Bible asks in Amos 3:3, **“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”** Christians must obey the word of God if we’re going to follow Jesus and be as one with Him, and each other, as He said in John 17:21, **“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”** So, stay in step with the Lord.

27. Save Room For ‘Desert’

When having a big meal, you may be told to ‘save room for dessert’. It could be pie or cake, almost anything sweet. Now even though the spelling and meaning are not the same, this term comes to mind when the word, desert, is used in the following verses, Psalm 28:4-5, **“Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. Because they regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.”** As you can see, if someone lives a wicked life, then they will need to save room for ‘desert’; because God is going to serve them a bitter dish of His wrath on judgment day. The good news is, Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”** If we feast on the things of God, we can never over indulge on that.

28. Embrace Technology

For one reason or another, some Christians will reject new forms of technology. There are preachers who preach on the radio, but think it is wrong to own a television. Now we all know that there are lots of bad things on TV. However, there are lots of bad things on the radio as well. On the other hand, God's word has been preached to every part of the world through TV and radio. And now we have the internet. Proverbs 8:12 says, **"I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions."** Therefore, Christians need to embrace technology, and use it to spread the gospel of Christ. If we don't, then the devil will have it all to himself.

29. Tomorrow May Never Come

Jesus told us in Matthew 6:34, **"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."** Now some may think that living like there's no tomorrow means to party hard, because you only live once. Others, who live for the Lord, know we should live right, because we might not live to see another day. The main thing that Jesus is telling us here in this verse is; if we serve and trust Him, then we don't need to worry about anything. Tomorrow may never come, (as far as our life here on earth is concerned), but whether it does or not, it doesn't matter, because the Lord will take care of you if you love Him.

30. Possessed

Matthew 8:16 says, **“When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.”** As you can see, for someone to be possessed with the devil, is a very real thing. But, as you can also see, the devil is no match for Jesus. The good thing is; when we come to Christ then we are possessed of God through His Holy Spirit. It says in Ephesians 1:12-14, **“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”** When we believe the gospel, then we are possessed by (or, we become the possession of) God.

31. Don't Be That Guy

When a person does something foolish, or they make a bad decision because they failed to think things through; people will say ‘don't be that guy’. With this in mind, look at what Jesus asks us in Mark 8:36, **“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”** You may have a lot in this world, but if you don't have Jesus, then none of that will matter when you leave this world. So, don't be that guy.

Chapter 9 (September)

1. Health Food

Eating healthy is a good thing to do. However most people fail to do the one thing that makes the most difference to assure that what they eat is good for them. 1st Timothy 4:4-5 says, **“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”** So, the best thing you can do for your diet is to give God thanks for your food.

2. Stick With It

Psalm 119:31 says, **“I have stuck unto thy testimonies; O Lord, put me not to shame.”** Therefore it stands to reason to say, if we stick with it, then the word of God will keep us from shame.

3. One-sided

Ephesians 4:4-6 says, **“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, through all, and in you all.”** Also, Jesus prayed for us in John 17:21 saying, **“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”** So, when it comes to serving the Lord, it’s good when things are one-sided.

4. Shed Some Light On It

Many times we as Christians will talk about how dark this world is, and how it is getting worse. However, the world is not going to light itself. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16, **“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”** So, the only hope this dark world has is if we shed some light on it, so they can see their way to Jesus.

5. Living On A Prayer

James 5:14-15 says, **“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”** So, if you are sick and in need of healing, then obey these verses and you can be living on a prayer.

6. Gone Fishing

Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** As Christians, it doesn't matter if we're gone to work, gone to school, gone to the store, or gone on vacation; we should always be gone fishing, to bring the lost to Jesus.

7. Repent

What ever happened to the simple message to repent? Matthew 3:1-2 says, **“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** Also in Matthew 4:17, **“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** Then when Jesus first sent out His twelve apostles, the Bible says in Mark 6:12, **“And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”** Sadly today many, so called preachers, don’t even believe anyone needs to repent. Others are afraid to preach about repenting, because they feel like, if they tell folks they need to repent, that those people will think that he looks at them as a hopeless case. However, the message of repentance is not meant to make someone think there’s no hope for them. In fact it is just the opposite. If we repent, then we have hope of everlasting life. It is only hopeless for those who fail to repent.

8. Spirit Filled

Some Christians will say they want to be more spiritual, or that they want to live a Spirit filled life. But, they fail to do something that is key to being a Spirit filled Christian. Jesus said in John 6:63, **“...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** So, if you truly want to be filled with more of His Spirit, then you must fill your heart with more of His word, and then obey it, because it also says in James 1:22, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”**

9. A Little Bird Told Me

Lots of things we think of as being just an old saying, actually have biblical origins. Ecclesiastes 10:20 says, **“Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.”** Now this verse may or may not have inspired the old saying ‘a little bird told me’. But, the message this verse is teaching us is clear. We need to watch what we say about others, because things seem to have a way of getting back to those we have talked about. One more thing to take note of from this scripture is, some birds (like parrots for example) are the only animals that can learn to talk. They are capable of repeating the things you say.

10. Who Needs WHO

Some people think they are doing God a favor by doing what the Bible says, and that the Lord just can’t do without them. However, the word of the Lord has a way of putting us in our place. It says in Psalm 50:12, **“If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine and the fulness thereof.”** So, if the Lord did need something, there’s nothing any of us could do about it. The good thing is, He doesn’t need anything, because, He is God and everything already belongs to Him. On the other hand, we need the Lord every day, for everything. He can do without us; nevertheless, He still wants us. However, even though we can’t make it without Him, many still reject Him. But, it is clear, who needs WHO.

11. Solid As THE ROCK

It says in 1st Peter 2:3-6, **“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”** Now Jesus is the Rock, and if we believe on Him, then we will be as solid as THE ROCK.

12. Not ‘All That’

You may have heard that if a person thinks very highly of themselves that they think they are ‘all that’. Now they may feel this way about themselves because of their strength, wealth, looks, education, social status or pedigree. However, God’s word has a way of cutting us down to size. Romans 12:3 says, **“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”** It also says in Psalm 39:5, **“Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.”** So, as you can see from these verses, no matter what we think, we’re not ‘all that’.

13. Get Your Fix

When someone is not living for the Lord, we will say that they need to get their heart right with God. Also, for those who serve the Lord and for those who don't, we all face things that will break our heart. In king David's case, he had times when he had a broken heart, and times when his heart wasn't right with God. But by God's grace he was able to say in Psalm 57:7, **"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."** So, no matter the need in your life, when you turn to the Lord, you can get your fix.

14. Not Doing So Well

It is easy to think you're doing better spiritually than you really are, just because you're not doing some of the bad things that others do. But, 1st Samuel 15:23 says, **"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."** Now we all know that practicing witchcraft or idol worship is very bad. However, if we are rebellious or stubborn, we are just as bad and are not doing so well.

15. No Big Shots

People are looked at as being more important than others if they have authority. The Bible even tells us to respect these people. But, those in authority must take note of God's view of us all. Psalm 62:9 says, **"Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity."** So, in God's eyes, there's no such thing as a big shot.

16. Worse Than An Infidel

An infidel is simply anyone that is not a Christian. Now to people of other religions, they look at Christians as infidels. However, at the judgment we will stand before Christ, and He will be the Judge. Then the real infidels will be known and face the lake of fire forever. Now you may think that being an infidel is the worst thing that a person can be. Well, it can get worse. It says in 1st Timothy 5:8, **“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”** So, the Lord will judge a lazy deadbeat that lets his family do without, with more wrath than He will an unbeliever.

17. Sacrifices

When we think about making sacrifices, we may think about giving up some things, to gain other things we want. Athletes spend time training and students spend time studying, so they can do well. Moses taught the Israelites to offer the best out of the herd to the Lord. Christians also must give their best sacrifices to the Lord. Psalm 69:30-31 says, **“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.”** Also in Hebrews 13:15-16, **“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”** If we’re going to please God, we need to praise Him, be thankful and help others.

18. Satisfaction Guaranteed

We often see things offered with a 'satisfaction guaranteed or your money back' promise. But if you could really guarantee that they will be satisfied, then you wouldn't need to offer to give their money back. David said in Psalm 17:15, **"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness."** God promised those who come to Him a new body in Heaven. If you take Him up on this offer, your satisfaction is guaranteed.

19. I Know a Guy

If someone has an inside connection on being admitted into a place with limited access, they may say 'I know a guy'. It works the same way when it comes to going to Heaven. Jesus said in John 10:9, **"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."** He goes on to say in verse 14, **"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."** So, if you are going to go to Heaven, then you must know a Guy named Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

20. 20/20

After Moses went over the ten commandments with the children of Israel, he said in Exodus 20:20, **"God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."** As 20/20 vision lets us see clearly; having the fear of God in our lives, as Exodus 20:20 says, helps us see clear spiritually, keeping us from sin.

21. Soft Hearted

We need to have a heart that God can work with, to help others and bring Him glory. Job 23:16 says, **“For God maketh my heart soft, ...”** Then it says in Hebrews 3:8, **“Harden not your hearts, ...”** If we let the Spirit lead, He will make us soft hearted; but if we let our flesh lead us, then we will become hard hearted.

22. Fill It Up

When we stop at the gas station for gas, we will usually fill it up. We also like to get full and not leave hungry when we go out to eat. Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”** When we go to church or take time to read the Bible, if we do so with a sincere heart, then we will be filled with what we need from the Lord.

23. Rock Your World

It says in 1st Corinthians 10:4, **“...for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”** If we are going to make it in this old world, and have everlasting life in the world to come, then we must trust Jesus. He is the Rock that went with them everywhere they went, and gave the children of Israel water for 40 years in the wilderness. He will also go with us and give us all we need in this world to make it from day to day.

24. Don't Beat The Wind

When a fighter is training, their coach will teach them not to waste time and energy throwing punches, if the opponent is out of range and the punches can't land. It is the same when it comes to fighting the good fight of faith for the Lord. Paul said in 1st Corinthians 9:26, **"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air."** As we serve the Lord, we need to be skillful in our use of God's word. This will keep us from just wasting time when it comes to fighting the devil in our own lives, and as we use God's word to help others find their way to Jesus. If we try to fight a spiritual battle with our own words, it is easy for the devil to keep out of range, and we will just be beating the wind. But, if we fight our battles with the Word of the Lord, then the enemy is always in range and it will hit the target every time.

25. Basket Case

Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 11:32-33, **"In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands."** You can read more about this in Acts chapter 9. This was just one of many times that God delivered one of His servants out of the hands of evil men. In this case the Lord used a few helping hands, armed only with a basket on a rope, to do the job. The Lord can still use the simplest things to help us.

26. He's Got This

If someone thinks they are able to take care of something on their own, they may say 'I got this'. When, in fact, they may or may not be able to handle it. The good news is; the Lord can take care of anything we face in life. Psalm 84:12 says, **"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."** Therefore, we are blessed when we know and trust, that, no matter what we face, 'He's got this'.

27. MASTER 'Peace'

If an artist paints something that looks very realistic, some may call it a masterpiece. But, when we look at the beauty of the creation, then we are looking at a piece of the Lord. However, we will never truly be able to enjoy any piece of God's creation, without His peace in our heart. The Bible says in Philippians 4:7, **"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."** So, the greatest masterpiece is peace from the Master.

28. Shut Their Mouth

Isaiah 52:15 says, **"So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."** It doesn't matter what the world thinks about God and His word; what they know, don't know, or think they know. In the end, God gets the last word and they will shut their mouth.

29. Come To Jesus Meeting

You may have heard people use the term 'come to Jesus meeting' when referring to having a very serious talk with someone. However, a true come to Jesus meeting is all about coming to Jesus. That is what every church service should be about. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** It also says in Revelation 22:17, **"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come, And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."** So, if it isn't about Jesus, then it's not a come to Jesus meeting.

30. Fail of Two Cities

Most people have heard of the book 'A Tale of Two Cities'. We can read in the Bible about the fail of two cities. Sodom and Gomorrah are first talked about in the book of Genesis. God destroyed them because of their sinfulness. They're mentioned in other books of the old testament and by Jesus, Peter, and Jude in the new testament. It says in verse 7 of Jude, **"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."** God made an example out of these two cities, and if the world continues to fail to learn from this, then God will judge them too.

Chapter 10 (October)

1. Potty Mouth

James 1:26 says, **“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.”** Then he goes on to say in chapter 3 verse 10, **“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”** You can call it what you want (potty mouth, bad words, ugly talk, profanity or whatever) but, you can’t use foul language and be right with God.

2. Better Saved Than Sorry

Jeremiah 8:20 says, **“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”** The sad truth is, there will be many who will wait until it’s too late and they will fulfill this prophecy from the Lord. Therefore Christians need to let people know, it is better to be saved than to be sorry.

3. Power Source

Everything needs a source of power to keep going. Your appliances must be plugged into an electrical outlet to be connected to the power grid. When disconnected they stop working. The Bible says in 1st Corinthians 1:18, **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”** So, if we’re going to be connected to God and His power, we

must plug into His word and the message of the cross. If we become disconnected, then we have no power source.

4. Tough Love

We should always serve the Lord by showing love to others. This is made very clear when we read 1st Corinthians chapter 13, which is also known as the 'charity chapter'. However, there are times when people need tough love, if they're going to see their need to turn from sin and come to Jesus. It says in Jude verses 22 and 23, **“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”** It's better to be blunt, than to let them die lost.

5. Call Them Out

It's sad to see how much morals have declined over the years, and it is even happening in our churches. Few Christians are willing to take a bold stand for what is right when they see a fellow Christian that has fallen into sin. Proverbs 27:5 says, **“Open rebuke is better than secret love.”** It also says in 1st Timothy 5:20, **“Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”** Therefore we need to love them enough to call them out; because, if you take the time to read Ezekiel chapters 3, 18 and 33, then you will see that if we fail to warn people to turn from sin, then we are wrong and their blood is on our hands.

6. Pray now or Pay Later

Isaiah 55:6 says, **“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.”** It also says in Romans 6:23, **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** As you can see from these verses, if we don’t pray to God for forgiveness of our sins through Christ now, then we will pay later. It will cost the gift of eternal life, and the payment for that is an eternal death.

7. Pray For Yourself

In Acts chapter 8 we read of a man named Simon who offered Peter money if he would give him the power of the Holy Ghost. Peter told him in verses 20-23, **“...Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.”** Then verse 24 says, **“Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”** Now what this man (and many people today) failed to realize is, others can’t pray you into Heaven. It doesn’t matter how much other people pray for you; if you never pray for yourself and repent to the Lord, then you will never go to Heaven.

8. Into Thin Air

Many have mocked movies like 'Left Behind'. Even some Christians may not believe that when Jesus comes back, those who are ready to meet Him will just vanish into thin air. Those who don't believe that this will come to pass, have either, not read the Bible, or have been deceived by false teaching. However, Jesus made it clear that it will happen when He said in Matthew 24:40-42, **"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."**

9. Pray It Forward

You may have heard the term 'pay it forward' used when a person does something kind for someone, but wants nothing in return for themselves; instead, they would like for them to go on and do a kind deed for another person. Then that person would also pay it forward to someone else, and so on. This is the way it works when it comes to being a witness for Jesus. Romans 1:17 says, **"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."** So, you could say, that when we share our faith in Christ with others, and we pray for them and with them to receive Him as their Lord, we are praying it forward. Then they too can go on and be a witness for Christ and pray it forward also.

10. There's No 'I' in Servant

You may hear the saying (there's no 'I' in the word team) when a coach talks with their players. As a Christian you can say to yourself that there's no 'I' in the word servant. Jesus said in Matthew 20:27, **“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”** Also in Philippians 2:3, **“...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”** So if we're going to be a servant of the Lord, then we must serve others by putting them before ourselves.

11. No Place Like Home

Ecclesiastes chapter 12, verses 1-7 uses a lot of different things to illustrate how our body ages as we get older, and then ends in a natural death. It says in verse 5, **“...because man goeth to his long home, ...”** The good news is, when we go home to be with Jesus, we will never have to leave. Then we can truly say, there's no place like home, when our home is in Heaven.

12. Time is Running Out

The world says time is infinite; but Revelation 10:5-6 says, **“And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.”** So, for the world as a whole, and for you as an individual, time is running out.

13. That's Saying A Lot

The Bible says in Matthew 8:2-3, **“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”** Now this man said a lot in just 9 words. He said **“Lord”**, (confessing Jesus as Lord), **“if thou wilt”**, (submitting to His will), **“thou canst”**, (shows faith in Jesus’ power to heal), **“make me clean”**, (acknowledging that he needed cleansing from the Lord). Then Jesus’ reply was only 5 words, **“I will; be thou clean.”** So, between both of them, they spoke only 14 words, but in either case, that’s saying a lot.

14. Trial By Fire

We all like for things to go smooth in life. However, there is a bright side, even when life is hard. It says in 1st Peter 4:12-13, **“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”** So, when we go through a trial in this life, just remember that Jesus has suffered for us on the cross. Also remember that because He suffered here on earth, if we trust in Him, then the only suffering we will ever have will be here on earth; because 2nd Timothy 2:12 says, **“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: ...”**

15. What a Way to Go

In Luke chapter 16 verses 19-31 we see where Jesus told of the life and death of two men. The one was a rich man living in luxury, and the other was a poor beggar named Lazarus that was hungry and in bad health. Jesus said in verses 22 and 23, **“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”** Now there are many things to learn from this. Two of them are, the rich man is still in hell and Lazarus is still in Heaven. Also, God sent His angels to be the poor man’s pallbearers and they gave him a personal escort to Heaven. What a way to go!

16. World of Hurt

Revelation tells us of many things God will use to punish the wicked. One of those things is strange locusts that come from the bottomless pit. Chapter 9 verse 10 says, **“And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.”** For those who fail to repent and turn to Jesus, they will be in a world of hurt in the end of the world. But there is good news for those who do trust in the Lord. It says on over in chapter 21 verse 4, **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”** The new world will have nothing that hurts.

17. Truth or Consequences

Jesus said in John 8:31-32, **“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** Only the truth of God’s word can free us from sin, death, hell and the grave. Without this truth, you are in spiritual captivity, and will face the eternal consequences on judgment day.

18. Tug Your Heart Strings

Psalm 26:2 says, **“Examine me, O Lord; and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”** It also says in Jeremiah 17:10, **“I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his way, and according to the fruit of his doings.”** As you can see from these verses, we should ask God to tug on our heart strings, instead of waiting until He needs to pull on them hard to get our attention.

19. Straighten Up To Fly Right

Jesus said in Matthew 7:14, **“...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, ...”** Then Paul said in 1st Thessalonians 4:16-17, **“...and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”** So it’s as simple as this; we must straighten up, through Christ; if we’re going to fly right, to Christ.

20. God's Country

When people see a pretty place way out in the middle of nowhere, they may say they're in 'God's country'. However, no matter how nice a place may appear, you still need to look out for danger. It may be things like bugs, snakes, bears, bad weather, hurting yourself, or being harmed by bad people. Now, Hebrews 11:16 says, **"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."** So, when we get up to God's country, there won't be any danger of any kind, because Revelation 21:4 says, **"... there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."** Now that's God's country!

21. Download The 'Apt'

Folks with smart phones will download an 'app' (which is short for application) that will allow the phone to do things it couldn't do before, like play games or watch movies. It says in 2nd Timothy 2:24, **"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient."** The word 'apt' used here is defined in the dictionary as being (1) exactly suitable; appropriate, (2) likely, (3) having a tendency; inclined, (4) quick to learn or understand. So if we as Christians are going to be **"apt to teach"**, then we must first study the Bible, so the Holy Spirit can download the 'apt' of the wisdom of His word into our hearts, so we can pass it on to others.

22. Hair Puller

Some of the challenges we face can leave us ready to pull our own hair out. Also, some of the people we have to deal with can make us feel like pulling their hair out. The Bible tells us in the book of Ezra, that when he learned of his people's sinfulness, it said in Ezra 9:3, **"And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished."** Then in Nehemiah 13:25, when he heard about their sins, he said, **"And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair..."** Now even though we may feel like reacting the same way as these men did at times, the New Testament teaches Christians to do better. Take for example Romans 12:12, **"...patient in tribulation ..."** Then on down in verse 14, **"...bless, and curse not."** Then the chapter ends by telling us in verse 21, **"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."**

23. They're Only Fooling Themselves

Some people say they are Christians, but talk and live like the world. James 1:22 says, **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."** Then it goes on to say in verse 26, **"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."** So when a person tells others that they are a follower of Christ, but then they live and talk like this sinful world; God knows better, true Christians know better, and even unbelievers know better. When someone does this, they're only fooling themselves.

24. Get What's Coming To Us

The Lord said in Revelation 2:23, **"...I will give unto every one of you according to your works."** Then on over in chapter 22 verse 12 He said, **"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."** So, good or bad, when Jesus comes back, we're all going to get what's coming to us. If, by the work of faith, you have received His grace; it will be good. If not, then it will be bad.

25. Have God, Will Travel

You may remember the old western with the main caricature named Paladin. This man was a gun for hire, and advertised himself with the slogan 'Have Gun, Will Travel'; and that's where the name of the TV show came from. Well, if you read the book of Acts, you could say the apostle Paul was like Paladin in a way. Paladin fought earthly battles, while Paul traveled around fighting spiritual battles. Now Paul didn't do it for money, but he could have said 'Have God, Will Travel'. We all need to be willing to go and do more for Jesus, because He told us in Matthew 28:19-20, **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** Now we may not go to another country to tell others about Jesus, but we can tell others about Him where ever we go; because when it come to the work of the Lord, we all need to be willing to say 'Have God, Will Travel'.

26. Just In Your Head

Jesus said in Mark 12:30, **“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”** It also says in 1st Corinthians 10:12, **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”** If you are going to serve the Lord, then you need to make sure that your relationship with Him is not just in your head, but that it is also in your heart and soul.

27. Well-rounded

If a basketball player does a good job shooting, rebounding, and passing the ball; then they will say that he is well-rounded. As Christians we need to be well-rounded also. Some Christians may go to church, but fail to witness to people. Others may pray, but never read the Bible. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”** Hebrews 10:25 says, **“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.”** Also in 1st Thessalonians 5:17, **“Pray without ceasing.”** And 2nd Timothy 2:15 says, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** So, as you can see from these verses, to be a well-rounded Christian, we must be faithful in prayer, studying God’s word, going to church and witnessing to the lost.

28. Soft Spoken

The Bible says in Proverbs 15:1, **“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”** As you can see from this verse, we do better when we are soft spoken. That doesn't mean we can't be bold for the Lord, but we need to be wise about the tone we use while doing so.

29. No Joke

Ephesians 5:3-4 says, **“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”** Now we all know that fornication and covetousness are things the Bible says are wrong, over and over again. But we learn from these scriptures that it is also wrong for us to go overboard when it comes to joking around; when it said, **“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient.”** Some people will joke around or tease others until they make them mad or hurt their feelings. Then they will act like the person that they offended is the one who is in the wrong for not being able to take a joke. If you say something hurtful, it doesn't make it okay just because you say that you were just kidding. It is also wrong to use dirty innuendo; especially if you try to accuse others of being the one with a dirty mind when they don't like what you said. Cutting up and having fun has its place, but we need to keep it clean; because letting our light shine for Jesus is no joke.

30. Wake-up Call

Daniel 12:2 says, **“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”** Also Jesus said in John 5:25, **“...The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live.”** Then on down in verses 28 and 29, **“...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”** So, be ready when Jesus gives us the wake-up call, because as you can see from these verses, not everyone will be ready.

31. You Know Better

People that haven't read the Bible don't know what to believe and they may fall for anything. But when we read God's word and by faith receive it as the truth; then we know what to believe. It says in 1st John 2:21, **“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”** Then it goes on to say in chapter 4 verse 6, **“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”** So, if you know and believe what the Bible says, when you hear false teaching, you won't fall for it, because, you know better.

Chapter 11 (November)

1. WDJB, part 1

The letters WWJD are used to get people to stop and think ‘What Would Jesus Do’ before they do something. Some letters that can also be helpful are WDJB, or ‘What Did Jesus Believe’. So, what did Jesus believe about the world wide flood in the days of Noah? Was it real or just a myth? Jesus said in Matthew 24:38-39, **“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”** So, it is clear that Jesus believed the flood was a real event and not just a story. In fact, He not only believed it was real, He also saw the flood, because He was with the Father when They sent the flood.

2. WDJB, part 2

WDJB (What did Jesus believe) about Sodom and Gomorrah? It tells us in Genesis chapters 18 and 19 how God destroyed these two cities because of their sinfulness. Some say that this is just a story and that it never really happened. But Jesus knew it did happen because He said in Luke 19:29, **“But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.”** It also said that Lot’s wife turned back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Some folks don’t believe this either. But Jesus also knew it was true because He goes on to say in verse 32, **“Remember Lot’s Wife.”**

3. WDJB, part 3

WDJB (What did Jesus believe) about hell? There are folks that don't believe that hell is a real place. However, Jesus spoke of hell many times. In Matthew 10:28, Jesus said, **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”** He also lets us know hell is a place of eternal punishment when He said in Mark 9:47-48, **“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”** Jesus wouldn't say these things if it were not so.

4. WDTAB, part 1

WDTAB (What did the apostles believe) about the flood in Noah's days? Peter said in 2nd Peter 2:5, **“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”** Then he goes on to say in chapter 3, verse 6, **“Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”** The Bible also says in Hebrews 11:7, **“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he also condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”** So, as you can see from these verses, the apostles knew that the world wide flood in Noah's days was a real event and not just some story or myth, like many will try to get you to believe.

5. WDTAB, part 2

WDTAB (What did the apostles believe) about Sodom & Gomorrah? Peter said in 2nd Peter 2:6, **“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.”** Also, in Jude 7, **“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”** These men of God knew that God really did destroy those cities with fire for being so evil; it wasn’t a myth.

6. WDTAB, part 3

WDTAB (What did the apostles believe) about a fiery place of eternal punishment for unbelievers, known as hell? The apostle Paul said in 2nd Thessalonians 1:7-9, **“...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the power of his glory.”** It also says in Hebrews 10:27, **“But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”** Peter said in 2nd Peter 2:4, **“...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell...”** Then John said in Revelation 20:15, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”** As you can see, these men of God knew that hell is a real place.

7. On Top of The World

Jesus said in John 16:33, **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”** To be on top of the world, we must have peace; and to have peace, we must have Jesus.

8. The Quick and The Dead

You may remember an old cowboy movie titled ‘The Quick and The Dead’. But, this phrase was around long before then. Acts 10:42 says, **“...God to be the Judge of quick and dead.”** Also in 2nd Timothy 4:1, **“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing...”** And 1st Peter 4:5, **“Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.”** The word ‘quick’ refers to the living. So, either way, dead or alive, be ready to be judged by the Lord.

9. Fight Fire With Fire

Luke 3:16-17 says, **“...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.”** Also in Jude 23, **“And others save with fear; pulling them out of the fire; ...”** To win souls we must fight the fires of hell by letting the leadership of the Holy Ghost get us fired up about bringing the lost to Jesus.

10. We Could Care Less

It says in Philippians 4:6, **“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”** Now this doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t care about things or act carelessly. It means don’t let the cares of life get the best of you. We do this by doing what it says in 1st Peter 5:7, **“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”** So trust the Lord with the things you care about, and your cares will be less.

11. Picture Perfect

It can be hard to find the right words to say to people in any number of situations. Proverbs 25:11 says, **“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”** Also in Proverbs 15:4, **“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: ...”** Then in 1st Timothy 6:3, **“...wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...”** The best words to use will come from the Word of God. If we let the Holy Spirit do the talking, then He will give us the words that are picture perfect.

12. Taking Sides

Exodus 32:26 says, **“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come unto me.”** Jesus also said in Matthew 12:30, **“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”** Simply put, one way or another, we’re all taking sides. So, who’s side are you on?

13. Where Did God Come From?

Most everyone has wondered: Where did God come from? In a way the answer is simple. The Bible says in Psalm 93:2, **“Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.”** God has always been; He is from everlasting.

14. HE Made Us

Most folks these days believe that man, and all other life, just came into being all on its own by evolution. These lies are taught as facts to our children in all of our schools now. However, the Word of God tells us the truth about how God made everything back in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Also Psalm 100:3 says **“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”** So, we didn’t just randomly come into being all on our own; HE made us.

15. Wow Factor

If something looks very impressive (like a new car or big fancy home) we may say that it has lots of ‘wow factor’. The Bible tells us over in Revelation 21:5, **“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new, ...”** Then it goes on to tell of the streets of gold, the walls of jasper, and the gates of pearl. Now there is nothing man made that has the kind of wow factor that God has waiting for us in Heaven.

16. Awestruck

The Bible says in Psalm 33:8, **“Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”** It is simple, when we see how awesome God is; then we should be awestruck with His love and power.

17. To The Max

The Bible tells us to love everyone; even our enemies. We should also put others before ourselves. But most of all, we must put God first. Jesus said in Matthew 10:37, **“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”** So, we should love everyone a lot, but we need to love the Lord ‘to the max’. In fact, we can’t really do one without doing the other.

18. Not So Bright

When we do something that’s not very smart, we may tell ourselves, or be told by others, ‘that’s not so bright’. Jesus said in Luke 11:36, **“If thy whole body be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.”** So, if we let Jesus shine in every part of our lives, then we will be a light to the world, but, if we fail to let Him shine through us, then that’s not so bright.

19. Up The Creek

In Acts chapter 27 we read how the ship that the apostle Paul was in, along with 275 others, was caught in a bad storm that had went on for 2 weeks. When they finally saw land, it says in verse 39, **“And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.”** However, as you keep reading, you see that the ship got stuck and was broken apart by the waves. In spite of this, the Lord let everyone make it safe to land; just as He told Paul that He would do. You too may find yourself ‘up the creek’ in life; but if you trust the Lord, just as Paul did, then you will make it safe to Heaven’s shore.

20. Power Outage

Paul said in 2nd Timothy 3:1, **“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”** Then in the following verses he lists some of the evil things that people will do in the last days. He says in verse 5, **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”** Some folks say they are Christians, but don’t even believe that God still heals or does miracles any more. However, the Bible tells us in Hebrews 13:8, **“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”** There may not be any power in some of these people’s, so called, churches these days; but Heaven has never had a power outage. Real Christians need to avoid these evil groups, and their false teaching.

21. No Doubter

When a batter steps up to the plate and just crushes the baseball high and deep, the announcer calling the game on TV will say, “That’s a no doubter”, because he knows it is going to fly way over the wall for a home run. The Bible says in 1st John 2:19, **“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”** As you can see from this verse, if we are going to be a ‘no doubter’ as a servant of God, then we must stay with Him. By doing so, we’ll make it all the way around the ‘bases’ of life, and safely home to Heaven.

22. Without a Doubt

Jesus said in Mark 11:23, **“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”** Then it says in James 1:6-7, **“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”** Therefore, the only way we can have our prayers answered is to believe without a doubt, because, only that kind of faith works. But, James did say in chapter 4, verse 3, **“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”** If your prayer is selfish, then don’t expect to hear back from the Lord on that either.

23. A Sinner's Prayer

While giving an altar call, preachers will often lead those who come forward to be saved in a 'sinner's prayer'. However, sometimes they will lead them in a prayer that is long and much too complicated. The only true example we have of a sinner's prayer found in the Bible is in Luke 18:13, where Jesus told of a publican that prayed, saying, **"God be merciful to me a sinner."** Then Jesus said in verse 14, **"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified..."** So, it is as simple as accepting God's mercy by confessing your faith in His Son Jesus.

24. Wait For It

While telling a story and just before giving you the ending, the one telling it may pause and say, "wait for it", and then give you the ending. But, this is not really a new phrase. Habakkuk 2:3 says, **"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."** Then in Hebrews 10:37, **"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."** So, when the Bible says that Jesus is coming back (wait for it), He will be back.

25. Denial By Default

People may say they would never deny Jesus, when they actually deny Him daily. Titus 1:16 says, **"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."** You don't need to say a

word to deny the Lord; because if you are living a sinful life, then you are denying Him by default; no matter what you say or believe. And don't forget what Jesus said in Luke 12:9, **“But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”**

26. Talking Big

It says in 2nd Peter 2:18, **“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”** Christians need to watch out for those who talk big, but are only serving their own selfishness, and in doing so, lead them astray.

27. Show Them THE WAY

Jesus said in John 14:6, **“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** When we meet anyone that doesn't know which way to turn in life; we, as Christians, need to show them that Jesus is the way. By doing so we are also showing them the truth and the life, which leads them to the Father.

28. Blame

Those who don't serve the Lord often blame it on seeing Christians not getting along with each other. Philippians 2:14-15, tells us, **“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the**

midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” If Christians will get along with each other the way we should, then those who don't serve the Lord will only have themselves to blame.

29. Big Bang

You have heard of the big bang theory, and how they say that the universe just exploded into being all on its own. But the Bible tells us what really happened in Genesis 1:3, **“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”** Now that's how it started; but we find out how it ends in 2nd Peter 3:10, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, ...”** So, God started it with a big flash, but it does look like He will end it with a big bang.

30. Mystery Solved

Lots of folks like mystery movies or novels. But there's no greater mystery than the things that have to do with God. Revelation 10:7 says, **“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.”** Also Paul said in 1st Corinthians 13:9-10, **“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”** So, when it is all said and done, all mysteries will be solved, and we will have the answers we don't have now.

Chapter 12 (December)

1. Let It Snow

Most kids love to see snow, because school will be out and they can play in it. But as we get older, it's not so much fun, because of the shoveling and driving. However, God is the One calling the shots. Job 37:6 says, **“For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth ...”** It also says in Psalm 147:16-17, **“He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?”** So, if the Lord wants to let it snow and be cold, then all we can do is humbly bundle up and wait for Him to warm things up again.

2. Pretty Boy

Absalom was one of king David's sons, who tried to kill him and take the kingdom for himself. It says in 2nd Samuel 14:25, **“But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.”** Then it goes on to say in chapter 18, verse 15, **“And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.”** So, pretty boy came to an ugly end, when God gave David's men the victory over this sinful rebellion. This goes to show that it's not how we look on the outside, but it's what is in our heart that counts.

3. Wise Guy

The Bible says in 1st Kings 4:29-31, **“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; ...”** But it goes on to say in chapter 11 verse 4, **“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”** Then it said in verse 9, **“And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.”** This tells us that it doesn’t matter how much you know; you still have to make the right choices to be right with God.

4. Tough Man

Lots of guys like to think of themselves as a tough man. This way of thinking is nothing more than sinful pride. Judges, chapters 13 through 16, tells us of Samson, who was the toughest man ever. He killed 1000 Philistines in just one battle. He also killed a lion with his bare hands. But, his strength was not his own, it came from the Lord. When he displeased God things changed. Judges 16:20 says, **“...And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.”** As you read on you see that he was captured, blinded and put in prison. He didn’t get his strength back until he humbled himself and prayed. This goes to show, a humble man is stronger than a tough man.

5. Winning Is All That Matters

When it comes to sports some say that winning is all that matters; while others may say that it's not if you win or lose but how you play the game that counts. The Bible says in Proverbs 11:30, **“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”** Then Paul said in Philippians 3:8, **“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”** So, seeing how serving the Lord is not a game; when it comes to salvation, winning is all that matters.

6. Walk It Off: Rub Some Dirt On It

If a little boy falls and gets a small scrape or bruise, his big brother or friend may not show much compassion, and just tell him to walk it off or to rub some dirt on it. However, when Jesus tells us to walk it off, or if He rubs some dirt on it, it really works. When He healed a crippled man, it says in John 5:8-9, **“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked...”** Then on over in chapter 9 Jesus healed a blind man. It says in verses 6 and 7, **“...he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”** So when Jesus speaks, then healing happens.

7. Some Things Need Repeating

Jesus said in Matthew 5:29, **“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”** Matthew 18:9, **“And if thy eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”** He also tells us in Luke chapter 6 verses 27 & 35, **“Love your enemies.”** Jesus knew, whether we like it or not, some things need repeating.

8. Strange Things

After Jesus healed a man that couldn't walk, it says in Luke 5:26, **“And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today.”** This goes to show that in a world that man has filled with weird and strange things of his own making; it is still amazing to see what God can do.

9. Consolation Prize

The world gives consolation prizes to losers, hoping to make losing less painful. However, it is very different when it comes to serving the Lord. 2nd Thessalonians 2:16-17 says, **“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”** God's consolation is a prize that makes us winners forever.

10. Room To Work

Ephesians 4:26-27, **“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.”** If we live by what these verses tell us to do, then we won’t be giving the devil any room to work his evil in our lives; which, in turn, gives God more room to work His good.

11. United We Stand

Psalm 133:1 says, **“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”** Also, it says in Ephesians 4:3, **“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”** Then Jesus said in Mark 3:25, **“And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”** The concept of ‘united we stand, divided we fall’ did not come from the founding fathers of our nation; it came from our Father in Heaven.

12. As Free As Can Be

We all love liberty and freedom. However, most people don’t realize the most liberating thing we can do is to be set free from sin and the power of the devil by becoming a servant of the Lord. Galatians 5:1 says, **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”** Therefore, becoming a servant of Christ makes you as free as can be.

13. Storm Proofing

Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-25, **“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”** Just like good building practices will storm proof your house; obeying God’s word will storm proof your soul.

14. Maimed

At times we may read the Bible and fail to see the full meaning of what it is saying. For example, it says in Matthew 15:30-31, **“And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.”** Now on over in chapter 18 verse 8 Jesus said, **“Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”** Without looking closely at what the Bible says, we may fail to realize that those who were maimed could have been missing a hand, foot, arm or leg. But when Jesus healed them, the missing body part was restored! Remember it said, **“...the maimed to be whole, ...”**

15. Organized Religion

When people say that they don't believe in organized religion, what they are really saying is, they don't like going to church. They may say that they believe the Bible, but by thinking the way they do, they are going against what the Bible says. It says in Hebrews 10:25, **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; ...”** It seems like they want to try and reinvent God, and create Him in their own image and likeness. However, we must come to God on his terms and by what He has said in His word, and not by what we think. If Christians stop working and worshipping together, then all that will be left is unorganized religion. All of the churches would close, no more Bibles would be printed, and the work of the Lord would stop. So, if you don't believe in organized religion, then you're working for the devil and don't even know it.

16. Breaking Bad

It can be hard to break a bad habit; like taking matters into our own hands and not waiting on the Lord to do a work in our lives. This can even be harder to do when we have been mistreated by someone. Romans 12:19 says, **“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”** So, instead of 'breaking bad' and doing the wrong thing by trying to get even with someone; we should break the bad habit of getting in God's way, and let Him take care of things for us.

17. Takes One To Know One

The old saying 'it takes one to know one' never rings more true than when it comes to hypocrites. It seems like the ones who complain the most and the loudest about the hypocrisy seen in others, are those who put little, if any, effort into serving the Lord themselves. They need to look at Romans 2:1, **“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: For wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.”** If you're not living right, then don't talk about others.

18. Means More Than The World

It says in 1st John 2:15, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”** Now, there's nothing wrong with enjoying life; but to be right with God, He must mean more than the world to you.

19. Pure Joy

Jesus said in John 15:10-11, **“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”** Now we all want to enjoy life and have joy in our heart, but, the best way (in fact, the only way) to have pure joy in this life, is to love and serve the Lord.

20. Living Large

When folks have things like lots of money, big homes and fine cars, it may be said that they are 'living large'. However, the things we have here on earth are temporary. Psalm 18:19 says, **"He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me."** Also in Revelation 21:16, **"And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal."** That's 1500 miles long, wide and tall; and it will be forever. Now that's living large!

21. Plan A

It says in 1st Peter 1:18-21, **"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."** God knew before He made us (having given us freewill) that we would need to be redeemed. Therefore, Jesus was God's plan A for our redemption even before He made the world. It wasn't like the fall of man caught the Lord off guard, and left Him scrambling to figure out what to do. Jesus dying for us on the cross and raising from the dead, was always God's plan A; and with Him doing the work, you don't need a plan B.

22. Window of Opportunity

Malachi 3:10 says, **“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of host, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”** If we fail in our giving to the work of the Lord, then we are missing out on a big window of opportunity to receive a blessing from the Lord.

23. Love Before First Sight

Some couples say when they met that it was love at first sight. But most of us need a little more time to fall in love. On the other hand, most all of us can say it was love at first sight when we saw our kids when they were born. Now the Lord loved us before we were born; and even after we were born, even though we had not yet been born again. Romans 5:8 says, **“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** So as you can see, God loved us before first sight. Now it also says in 1st Peter 1:8, **“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”** Therefore, by faith, we love the Lord even though we have never seen Him. So, whether it is the Lord loving us (even before He made the world), or us loving the Lord (through faith), in both cases, it is love before first sight.

24. A Royal Birth

It seems to always be a big news story when there is a birth in England's royal family. But the greatest royal birth was Jesus the Son of God, King of kings. However, there are other royal births more important than anything in England. 1st Peter 2:9 says, **“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;...”** Jesus also said in Luke 15:7, **“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, ...”** So, every time someone is born again, that royal birth makes news in heaven.

25. Lame Gifts

At Christmas there will be many gifts given that won't be exactly what someone wanted. Some of these gifts may even be considered to be 'lame'. How would you feel if you needed a pair of shoes, and the shoes someone gave you turned out to be one boot and one flip flop, that were different sizes, and were both for the left foot. Now that would be a lame gift for sure; and you probably wouldn't like it very much. With this in mind look at Malachi 1:8, which says, **“And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of host.”** Just as the children of Israel failed to offer their best from the flock to the Lord, but offered the sick and the lame; we often fail to praise, glorify and thank God the way we should. So, whether it is at church or out in the world, let your light shine bright for Him, and don't offer the Lord 'lame gifts'.

26. World Beater

If a person is very successful when the odds are against them, they may be called 'a world beater'. 1st John 5:4-5 says, **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”** So to be a world beater spiritually, we must put our faith in Jesus.

27. Heads Up

When we're told about something we need to know; it may be said that we were given the 'heads up'. In Luke chapter 21, Jesus tells us how things will be and what signs to look for just before He returns. He then says in verses 27 and 28, **“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”** So as you can see, Jesus was literally giving us the heads up about His return.

28. Delusional

Paul said in 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12, **“...because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”** If you turn from the truth, then you become delusional and are left with only the lies of the devil.

29. Blood, Sweat and Tears

Most of us have used the words (blood, sweat and tears) while talking about the effort it took to get a big job done. And it may have literally taken some blood, sweat and tears to do what needed doing. Now if anyone knows what that is like, it's Jesus. In Luke chapter 22, while Jesus was praying, just before He was betrayed and arrested, it says in verse 44, **“And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”** This moment is mentioned again in Hebrews 5:7, **“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.”** As you can see, Jesus put lots of blood, sweat and tears into our salvation. And never forget how His blood was shed on the cross.

30. Resting Place

The Bible says in Jeremiah 50:6, **“My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace.”** This is the only time the term ‘restingplace’ is used in the Bible. It means, refuge, which is a word the Bible uses many times. Psalm 9:9 says, **“The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.”** So, just like our body needs a good place to rest; we need to remember that God is where we go to take refuge and find rest for our souls.

31. The Last Day

The last day of something can be good, or it can be bad. Most kids like the last day of school, but are not so glad to see the last day of summer break. Jesus said in John 6:40, **“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”** Then He goes on to say in John 12:48, **“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”** Now, if you want the last day to be a good day for you, then you must receive Jesus.

The End

Well, it's the end of this book; but I hope that you will always keep studying the Bible, because we never graduate from God's word.

