



Luke 18:8 (Living Bible)

⁸ Yes! He will answer them quickly! But the question is: When I, the Messiah, return, how many will I find who have faith and are praying?"*

The words above spoken for our benefit really express the entire concept of the Second Coming of Christ. In continuing our address of focusing on the Kingdom of the Heavens we will open the information in the Bible that tells the teachings that Jesus Christ gave that will lead to salvation. The Holy Bible is the word of God that calls all the Chosen One by divine instruction, what passage expresses how we can endure in being a chosen one and getting God's approval? At *Matthew 7:1-5 (Easy-to-Read Version)* **Be Careful About Criticizing Others** 7 "Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. ² If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge them. God will treat you the same way you treat others. ³ "Why do you notice the small piece of dust that is in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own? ⁴ Why do you say to your friend, 'Let me take that piece of dust out of your eye'? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. ⁵ You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to get the dust out of your friend's eye. The information in this passage is important to recall since it teaches us how Christians are supposed to behave. Judging others is a failing that is very common in the world today, but notice carefully that it is a human failing and a very negative one for that matter. It is very virtuous for Christians to understand that trying to judge and criticize others can

make you look very hypocritical and turn God into an enemy.

In recognizing the Bible as the word of God what teaching can we find that helps us endure until we have been given salvation? At *Philippians 1:8-11 (Living Bible)* ⁸ *Only God knows how deep is my love and longing for you—with the tenderness of Jesus Christ.* ⁹ *My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others, and at the same time keep on growing in spiritual knowledge and insight,* ¹⁰ *for I want you always to see clearly the difference between right and wrong, and to be inwardly clean, no one being able to criticize you from now until our Lord returns.* ¹¹ *May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God, for this will bring much praise and glory to the Lord.* The information in this passage should be regarded with honor and held in high esteem. As the world deteriorates Christians have been instructed by God to “overflow” with love. By keep growing in spiritual knowledge and insight it will help you see clearly what is right and wrong. The wisdom in following divine teachings should be noticed as the Second Coming of Christ approaches. What passage in the Bible helps us recognize true Christian qualities? At *1 John 2:9-11 (Living Bible)* ⁹ *Anyone who says he is walking in the light of Christ but dislikes his fellow man is still in darkness.* ¹⁰ *But whoever loves his fellow man is “walking in the light” and can see his way without stumbling around in*

darkness and sin. " For he who dislikes his brother is wandering in spiritual darkness and doesn't know where he is going, for the darkness has made him blind so that he cannot see the way. The key point in this passage expresses that to follow Jesus Christ means that we love our fellowman which will prove to all that we are followers of Christ and have proper thinking. Unlike the world whose thinking becomes more and more unstable as time goes by since they have no divine instructions. We can keep testing and watching ourselves to make sure that we are following the ways of Jesus Christ always.

What passage in the Bible explains how we can acquire the correct spiritual attitude that leads to gaining salvation for all Christians? At *Matthew 18:1-6 (Easy-to-Read Version)*
Who Is the Greatest?

18 About that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in God's kingdom?"² Jesus called a little child to come to him. He stood the child in front of the followers.³ Then he said, "The truth is, you must change your thinking and become like little children. If you don't do this, you will never enter God's kingdom.⁴ The greatest person in God's kingdom is the one who makes himself humble like this child.⁵ "Whoever accepts a little child like this in my name is accepting me.

Jesus Warns About Causes of Sin

⁶ "If one of these little children believes in me, and someone causes that child to sin, it will be very bad for that person. It would be better for them to have a millstone tied around their neck and be drowned in the deep sea.

The passage above does express that God knows what is in the hearts of those who worship him. It explains that the humility of a child free of many failings in human nature is the best attitude that God will acknowledge as well as support as a chosen ones. God prefers humble and obedient servants and with his eyes on them always he gives them salvation because he loves them.

As Christians continue to survive the world what issue can come up because of differences in each one's spiritual comprehension? At *1 Corinthians 8:7-13 (Living Bible)* ⁷ *However, some Christians don't realize this. All their lives they have been used to thinking of idols as alive, and have believed that food offered to the idols is really being offered to actual gods. So when they eat such food it bothers them and hurts their tender consciences.* ⁸ *Just remember that God doesn't care whether we eat it or not. We are no worse off if we don't eat it, and no better off if we do.* ⁹ *But be careful not to use your freedom to eat it, lest you cause some Christian brother to sin whose conscience is weaker than yours.* ¹⁰ *You see, this is what may happen: Someone who thinks it is wrong to eat this food will see you eating at a temple restaurant, for you know there is no harm in it. Then he will become bold enough to do it too, although all the*

time he still feels it is wrong. " So because you "know it is all right to do it," you will be responsible for causing great spiritual damage to a brother with a tender conscience for whom Christ died. ¹² And it is a sin against Christ to sin against your brother by encouraging him to do something he thinks is wrong. ¹³ So if eating meat offered to idols is going to make my brother sin, I'll not eat any of it as long as I live because I don't want to do this to him.

This passage talks about food given to idols it may be best to identify what could be modern version of this

information. The best example to fit the information in the above passage would be **Veneration of the Dead** = *the*

veneration of the dead, including one's ancestors, is based on love and respect for the deceased. In some cultures, it is

related to beliefs that the dead have a continued existence, and may possess the ability to influence the fortune of the

living. Some groups venerate their direct, familial ancestors.

When we offer food to them as gifts the passage expresses that we acknowledge them as living and can develop

feeling of guilt when the food is eaten. Another point is to

notice the words temple restaurant in the passage, this

could refer to sacred food offered on the menu that we can

see. This passage can be interpreted in anyway but it is

always acknowledged that God does not care whether we eat certain foods or not. But people can be stumbled over

this matter because they are involved easily in others

affairs so we can acknowledge this fact. What additional

information can we find in the Bible? At *1 Corinthians 10:31-33 (Living Bible)*³¹ *Well, I'll tell you why. It is because you must do everything for the glory of God, even your eating and drinking.*³² *So don't be a stumbling block to anyone, whether they are Jews or Gentiles or Christians.*³³ *That is the plan I follow, too. I try to please everyone in everything I do, not doing what I like or what is best for me but what is best for them, so that they may be saved.*

What information can we find in the Bible that tells us a serious problem that human nature has repeatedly caused for worshipers of God? At *Matthew 15:3-11 (Living Bible)*³ *He replied, "And why do your traditions violate the direct commandments of God?"*⁴ *For instance, God's law is 'Honor your father and mother; anyone who reviles his parents must die.'*⁵⁻⁶ *But you say, 'Even if your parents are in need, you may give their support money to the church instead.'* *And so, by your man-made rule, you nullify the direct command of God to honor and care for your parents.*⁷ *You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you,*⁸ *'These people say they honor me, but their hearts are far away.'*⁹ *Their worship is worthless, for they teach their man-made laws instead of those from God.'*¹⁰ *Then Jesus called to the crowds and said, "Listen to what I say and try to understand: " You aren't made unholy by eating nonkosher food! It is what you say and think that makes you unclean."* This passage has several key points that are deeply beneficial to pure worship of God. But first it may be best to look in the dictionary for the word **Tradition**

= 1. *The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.* 2. *Theology a doctrine believed to have divine authority though not in the scriptures.* Both of these definitions have paths in helping us clear up spiritual comprehension of God's will. It is best to understand human nature and how it is observed on earth by people. If a custom or belief is passed down but it is not spiritually sound or supportive of overall Scripture principles than it cannot be the truth. If a custom or belief is not in the Bible it cannot be said to originate with God. This is the entire purpose of the Holy Bible within both the Old and the New Testaments they tell us exactly what God wants and thinks. The word **Violate** = *break or fail to comply with (a rule or formal agreement). Fail to respect (someone's peace, privacy, or rights). Treat (something sacred) with irreverence or disrespect.* The meaning of this word may not be intentional but it does happen and God's Law always seems to take the back seat when it comes to human nature and how humans express their belief in God's principles. Jesus Christ makes a striking point to say that what we think and say can make us unclean.

In continuing our study of divine teaching, what passage in the Bible speaks of God changing the observation of the Laws of Moses? At ***Acts 10:9-16 (Living Bible)***⁹⁻¹⁰ *The next day as they were nearing the city, Peter went up on the*

flat roof of his house to pray. It was noon and he was hungry, but while lunch was being prepared, he fell into a trance. " He saw the sky open and a great canvas sheet, suspended by its four corners, settle to the ground. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, snakes, and birds forbidden to the Jews for food. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, "Go kill and eat any of them you wish. " ¹⁴ "Never, Lord," Peter declared, "I have never in all my life eaten such creatures, for they are forbidden by our Jewish laws. " ¹⁵ The voice spoke again, "Don't contradict God! If he says something is kosher, then it is. " ¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was pulled up again to heaven.

This passage shows us the modern conditions that exist with the arrival of Jesus Christ and how the Law of Moses is observed by Christians. There are detailed changes in how faith is applied by those that use the model displayed by Jesus Christ in how to worship God. It should never be forgotten that the purpose of Jesus Christ is to lead the way and the truth and the life for all Christians, John 14:6. In the dictionary the word **Altered Consciousness** = *An altered state of consciousness is a change in one's normal mental state as a result of trauma or accident or induced through meditation, drugs, some foods, etc. [1] The person is not unconscious.* This is the correct medical term for a trance as experience by the apostle

Peter. Another word addressed in this passage is **Contradict** = *deny the truth of (a statement) by asserting the opposite. Assert the opposite of a statement made by (someone). Be in conflict with.* The changes made to the observation of the Mosaic Law led to challenges for Judaism that blocked conversion as God intended people to do. Going online what does the number 3 mean spiritually? What is 3 a symbol for? *Three is a symbol of something that is solid, real, significant, and complete. The number three appears on everything that is truly exceptional. Omniscience, Omnipresence, as well as Omnipotence, are three of God's characteristics. Past, present, & future are the three major divisions of time.* This is important because it actually expresses that the changes that result from the role of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah/Christ expresses God's explanation to humans of what salvation is. The passage above clearly shows that God expected changes in how worshipers of God conducted worship to him that must reflect the same actions as Jesus Christ that was shown to us in the Bible.

In the dictionary the word **Kosher** = *1. (of food, or premises in which food is sold, cooked, or eaten) satisfying the*

requirements of Jewish law. 2. Informal genuine and legitimate. Prepare (food) according to the requirements of Jewish law. Another word is **Halal** = denoting or relating to meat prepared as prescribed by Muslim law. Now it is very important to recognize that God is teaching humans about salvation and how it works and is applied. The changes made with the arrival of Jesus Christ meant a conversion for all followers. The passage above makes food that was formerly under law to be considered unclean, has been divinely cleansed. So there is no reason to follow the laws for unclean food because it has been changed. Now people eat sushi, caviar, snails, frog legs and various foods which are all clean by divine changes to the Law of Moses. That is the expressed meaning of the passage of Acts 10:9-11 so there is no need to be in disagreement with it. God expects us to accept the changes and follow the example of the Lord Jesus in all matters, 1 Peter 2:21. What passage in the Bible expresses the result that people had because of changes made with the introduction of Jesus Christ? At *1 Timothy 4:1-5 (Living Bible) 4 But the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some in the church will turn away from Christ and become eager followers of teachers with devil-inspired ideas. 2 These teachers will tell*

lies with straight faces and do it so often that their consciences won't even bother them.³ They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat meat, even though God gave these things to well-taught Christians to enjoy and be thankful for.⁴ For everything God made is good, and we may eat it gladly if we are thankful for it,⁵ and if we ask God to bless it, for it is made good by the Word of God and prayer.

In acknowledging another divine teaching what information can we find in the Bible that helps each one focus on what is coming into the mind and how to remind ourselves of the fight to continue in good works? At *Titus 1:13-16 (Living Bible)*¹³ *And this is true. So speak to the Christians there as sternly as necessary to make them strong in the faith¹⁴ and to stop them from listening to Jewish folk tales and the demands of men who have turned their backs on the truth.¹⁵ A person who is pure of heart sees goodness and purity in everything; but a person whose own heart is evil and untrusting finds evil in everything, for his dirty mind and rebellious heart color all he sees and hears.¹⁶ Such persons claim they know God, but from seeing the way they act, one knows they don't. They are rotten and disobedient, worthless so far as doing anything good is concerned.* The key points in this passage is the message of looking carefully at what the world is doing to see if they are in agreement with God's

will printed out in the Bible. In the dictionary the word **Folklore Tale** = *a tale or legend originating and traditional among a people or folk, especially one forming part of the oral tradition of the common people. Any belief or story passed on traditionally, especially one considered to be false or based on superstition.* Each family has its own stories handed down about family members or other stories of the community. Many are told as lullabies, nursely rhymes, or bedtime stories that focus on our children, many stories are harmless but it is important to make sure that false stories or superstitions are not implanted into our children. Another warning is to watch for people that do not believe in God and spread their idealism around the world. The modern word for this kind of people is **Atheist** = *a person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.* These people had many names in the past: nonbeliever, disbeliever, unbeliever, heretic, heathen, pagan, infidel, freethinker, doubter, doubting Thomas, agnostic, scoffer, challenger, questioner, etc. But no matter what they are called they do not believe in God period. It is a violation of faith to associate in anyway with these people. What additional information can we find in the Bible? At *Ephesians 5:1-2 (Living Bible)* *5 Follow God's example in everything you do just as a*

much loved child imitates his father. ² Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.

In concluding this address with the arrival of the Second Coming of Christ the Kingdom of the Heavens will be established. All the earth will know when God's government had taken over the world and all authority of divine power will change the world into a new heavens and a new earth, Revelation 11:15. What passage in the Bible can keep us in expectation of the Kingdom's establishment? At *Luke 17:20-21 (Easy-to-Read Version)* ***The Coming of God's Kingdom*** ²⁰ *Some of the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will God's kingdom come?" Jesus answered, "God's kingdom is coming, but not in a way that you can see it. ²¹ People will not say, 'Look, God's kingdom is here!' or 'There it is!' No, God's kingdom is here with you."*

Amen

