

Ab-Ha Moments in Scripture



Thirty Bible verses that impacted me

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Introduction

A few years ago, I shared the very first paper I wrote called "[Making a Believer Out of Me](#)", which basically chronicled my journey to Christianity by listing the top seven things that convinced me to become one. This paper is a sequel of sorts, as I list the top 30 Bible verses that have made the greatest impact on me before and since then. There were many others of course, but these are specific ones that either answered questions I've always had, or provided me information that I wasn't aware of. My "ah-ha" scriptures, I guess you could say. I also included a short commentary with each scripture that provides a little background on the verse as well as what it meant to me.

DISCLAIMER! It generally isn't recommended to take individual scriptures out of context like I did here, as frequently knowing the history surrounding the scripture, the situation the verse was used in, the verses before and after a specific verse, and the target audience the verse was intended for, is critical in understanding the verse itself.

Anyhow, I hope some of these scriptures provide you with "ah-ha" moments, and maybe even answer some questions you've always had. Enjoy!

Oh, and be sure to visit my website, [Pen 2 Paper](#), if you'd like to read more articles like this that I've written!

Genesis 1:1 -

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

We might as well start at the beginning. This verse makes it very clear who created what. The space.com website, however, states the following about the “Big Bang Theory”: *“The Big Bang Theory is the leading explanation about how the universe began. At its simplest, it says the universe as we know it started with a small singularity, then inflated over the next 13.8 billion years to the cosmos that we know today.”*

So does Genesis 1:1 mean there was no “big bang”? No! But something can’t come from nothing, so the “singularity” Space.com refers to had to come from something, i.e., a “big banger”. Genesis 1:1 indicates that God was that big banger. Note in the Space.com quote that they state that the Big Bang theory is *“the leading explanation about how the universe began.”* Leading explanation.....so Space.com even acknowledges that the Big Bang theory is far from fact. So who’s to say that God isn’t the “big banger”?

Critics claim that the Bible is a bit wishy washy when it comes to defining marriage, and it is unclear who God intended marriage to be between. These two scriptures made it very clear to me.

Note that the Genesis verse states mentions man/he and woman/she in the first paragraph, and woman/she again in paragraph 2. The final paragraph states “man and his wife”, and that they both were naked and not ashamed. This is an obvious reference to Adam and Eve (the verse even goes on to say that), who are not only married, but man and woman.

The Mark verses, spoken directly from Jesus, makes it even more clear, in case there is a doubt. “God made them male and female”, THEREFORE, a “man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife”. A very clear reference that husband and wife is a man and woman. And, if you notice, Jesus quotes from Genesis 2:22-25 to provide even more emphasis.

Despite this some people will state that Jesus never specifically stated that marriage between anything other than a man and woman was wrong. But after reading these verses, and others, did He really have to?

Genesis 2:22-25 –

“And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

Mark 10:6-9 –

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

John 20:29 –

“Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

This is actually one of the first scriptures I read that really made an impression on me. This is the ultimate verse on faith. And faith is what Christians are expected to have and maintain despite surrounding circumstances, influences, or distractions.

The verse is basically addressing people like you and me. Those who never had the opportunity to see Jesus in person and in action, but nonetheless believe in Him and His teachings. It is also why, I believe, that nothing of significant substance like Noah’s Ark will ever be found. Everyone would believe if that happened, and faith would go

right out the door. Sure, there have been some pretty impressive archeological discoveries found during the past century in particular to substantiate some of the content of the Bible, but nothing of worldwide notoriety like Noah’s Ark or the Ark of the Covenant. Indiana Jones and the Raider’s of the Lost Ark will be about as close we get to that, at least I predict! Matthew 7:13-14 is another verse directly from Jesus that makes me think this as well: *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”* If Noah’s Ark suddenly appeared, that gate would become wide open.

I honestly don’t remember a time during my entire life when I didn’t believe that God existed. Why, I don’t know. But I just did. However, prior to becoming a “Christian” in 2004, it really wasn’t clear what God expected of me, and how I was to relate to Him. Was the only thing required of me to do more good deeds than bad in my life? That just seemed too easy. But all of that changed primarily because of these three scriptures. It suddenly became clear that just doing good wasn’t enough.

Romans 5:8-11 states, *“... But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

Because we’re sinners, God the father sent His son (God the son) in human form to die for our sins so we can be reconciled with Him while avoiding His wrath. God is perfect, so sin cannot be in His presence. If this wasn’t done, an eternity in Heaven with Him wouldn’t be possible. The only thing asked of us is to believe and accept this with our heart. Or not. Our choice.

John 3:16 –

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 10:9-10 –

“....because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Acts 4:12 –

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 –

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

This verse is actually a combination of the prior two, and was a confirmation for me on the importance of faith and that works is not the way to salvation. And look at the reason given: *“so that no one may boast”*. In other words, salvation, or being saved, through faith and grace and not works eliminates the temptation of bragging. And bragging would bring into question the motivation of the works. Are you giving to your church to please God or to win points? To be obedient to God, or to ensure your spot in heaven?

So what is grace? We can all extend grace to others; but when the word “grace” is used in connection with God, it takes on a more powerful meaning. Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. It is His kindness to the undeserving.

Following the same theme as verses #4 and #5, this explains why just believing that God exists, although good, just isn’t enough when it pertains to ones salvation. As you can see in this verse, demons, Satan’s warriors, also believe God exists. And I’m pretty sure we won’t be seeing any of them in heaven. So just believing can’t be enough.

Speaking of which, when Satan, who was once the angel Lucifer, rebelled against God and fell from heaven (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28), one third of the angels joined him (Revelation 12:3-4, 9). These fallen angels are referred to as “demons”.

James 2:19 –

“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

Matthew 7:21-23 –

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

This is a scary scripture. At least it was to me. In short, it’s saying that not everyone who believes in God and does good works will be allowed into the kingdom of heaven. In fact, there will be people who do things that are biblically scriptural, but still God will say “I never knew you, depart from me”. Ouch!

This is even more proof that more is required of us than simply a belief in God and doing more good things than bad. Check out verses #4 and #5 on what it does take. I also invite you to read another paper I wrote called [“Are we Really Good Enough”](#).

Can't be more clearer than this. This was Jesus speaking during one of His many documented sermons in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Note that He didn't offer anything inbetween. In fact, there is a verse that shows what God thinks of people who try to straddle both sides of the fence: "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16). Either you're on His side or you're not. That means believing and following everything He says. You can't pick and choose what to believe or not believe.

Matthew 12:30 –

"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

Luke 23:39-43-

"One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Mark 15:37-38 –

"And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

John 19:30 –

"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

These are three verses from three different gospels documenting words said by Jesus while hanging on the cross following his crucifixion. All three were profound to me, so let's take a look at them individually.

The Luke scripture on the surface simply seems like a nice gesture on Jesus' part. But let's look at it a little more closely. Note that the person in question was a criminal, hanging next to Jesus in punishment for the crimes he committed. And they must have been doozies to warrant a crucifixion, the ultimate Roman punishment. However, this criminal acknowledged his belief in God and of a heavenly kingdom. He likely heard Jesus speak at some point in his life. So as a reward for his heartfelt belief, Jesus told him, in essence, that he will join Him in heavenly paradise. So what do we learn from this? That it's never too late to repent and accept Jesus' free gift! Even on one's death bed, like in the case of this criminal.

In Mark 15, the veil of the temple is torn. What does that mean? We learn from the Old Testament that in the temple, built in the days of Solomon to house the Ark of the Covenant and its contents, the Ten Commandments tablets, a veil separated the Holy of Holies—the earthly dwelling place of God's presence—from the rest of the temple where men were. Only the high priest was permitted to pass beyond this veil once each year (Exodus 30:10; Hebrews 9:7) to enter into God's presence for all of Israel and make atonement for their sins (Leviticus 16). The removal of this veil at Jesus' death in essence removed this "separation". So from that point on man had direct access to God again since their sins were atoned for by Jesus' sacrifice. In John 19:30, Jesus is basically confirming that His work on earth was done by His eliminating the debt owed by mankind—the debt of sin, and, as mentioned earlier, removing the "veil" separating

man from God. This seems to go against the Catholic tradition of requiring an intermediary (a Priest) to communicate with God, a practice that continues today.

These two scriptures give us assurance that God's word is true, and to not add to them. It is true that the Revelation reference pertains specifically to the book of Revelation, but because of the Proverbs verse, I think it's safe to say that it can be applied to the entire Bible.

A stern warning is given for those who do. So God is pretty serious about keeping His word pure and intact. These verses make you wonder about the validity of books like the Qur'an, the Book of Mormon, the New World Translation (Jehovah Witnesses) and others.

Proverbs 30:6 –

“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.”

Revelation 22:18-19 –

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in

Proverbs 30:5 –

“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 –

“Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Timothy 3:16 –

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness....”

Zephaniah 1:1 –

“The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi....”

So now that we know that God is very protective of His word, and warns those who attempt to change it, how does God actually share His word? I wondered that too, and these scriptures helped answer that question.

So, according to Proverbs 30, we are told that God's word is “true”, which, according to Dictionary.com means “clear, free from blemishes”, “free from foreign or inappropriate elements”.

2 Peter tells us pretty clearly that scripture does not come from man in order to prevent someone from making their own interpretation, but from men who God spoke to using the Holy Spirit. In other words, men are God's authors.

2 Timothy reiterates this, and adds that God's word is intended to teach, correct and train us, while Zephaniah 1:1 actually shows it in action: “The word of God that came to Zephaniah....” Can't be clearer than that!

So after reading that God delivers His word through the Holy Spirit to people He's chosen, and that it's pure and shouldn't be changed or altered, my next question was "how do I understand it? And what if I don't understand it?" Which was frequently the case, as I tend to have a Mr. Spock logical thinking mind! These scriptures were a few that I found that addressed that. And I have to say that I was relieved to know that we aren't supposed to know or understand everything in the Bible. At least not right now.

These scriptures showed me several things: 1) My knowledge of the Bible and understanding is "partial and incomplete"; 2) If you ask God to help you understand, He will; 3) For those who don't believe in God or don't want to, the Bible will likely seem "foolish" and won't make sense to them. Which makes sense. How many times have you heard a non-believing person say something like, "How could Jonah be in a fish's belly for three days?", or "Do you expect me to believe that the people of Israel could willingly wander in the desert for 40 years?" They just don't understand, because they are "without the spirit". And I can relate! I didn't understand much of what I read until I became a Christian in 2004. Since then, much more makes sense to me.

Jeremiah 33:3 –

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

Luke 24:44-45 –

"Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you....then he opened their minds to understand the Scripture.'"

1 Corinthians 13:9 –

"Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete...."

Luke 24:45-

"Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures...."

1 John 5:14 –

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."

Romans 8:28 –

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

People frequently ask if God hears them, and if He does, why doesn't He always fulfill their wishes? I thought that too for a while. And what was the trick to get God's attention?

Sometimes when things do happen, they don't always make sense. Why would God do this or that? Or allow this or that? As I stated, I'm a bit of a logical type, so when something doesn't make sense, it drives me nuts! But these two scriptures helped me understand a little better. God does hear us, and He works all things for the good. But there are some conditions attached.

Note in the first scripture the words "anything according to his will" is included. So we can ask God anything, but unless it's according to His will, or His long term plan for us and humanity, it may go

unanswered. Likewise with Romans 8:28. Most people read that "God works for the good in all things", but forget about the "for those who love him" and "have been called according to his purpose" parts. So that's not including everyone. And what is "His will" and "His purpose"? The more you study the Bible, the more you'll know the answer to that!

Why do people, in particular good people, as well as children, die young? This has always been one of the most perplexing and difficult questions to understand, and explain to people who question God. I was one of those people way back when. This verse helped me understand one possible explanation. It's basically telling us that God may take some one home before there time in order to spare them from difficulties or some impending evil in the persons life.

Like in previous verses, however, there is a condition. The verse does specifically state "the godly", which, according to dictionary.com, is someone who is "conforming to the laws and wishes of God" and "believing in God and in the importance of living a moral life".

Isaiah 57:1 –

"Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come."

John 1:1, 14 –

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

John 20:28 –

Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Hebrews 1:8 –

"But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM."

Matthew 1:23 –

BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME "IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Titus 2:13-

"...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ..."

People claim that all religions are basically the same and all lead to the same God. Some do have the same God in common, but there is one big difference that separates Christianity from all other religions. And that's Jesus Christ.

Christians are the only one who believe Jesus is divine, or God in human form. A deity. All other religions (Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah Witness, etc.) believe Jesus is a human-only prophet or teacher. They man believe He is the son of God, but a human son. This, of course, affects the entire Christian doctrine that God came in human form to die and resurrect for our sins. Christianity dictates that God is a triune: three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in one being (God). Which would allow Him to do what He did for us.

So these scriptures are five of several that I discovered a while back that Christians use to prove that Jesus was God. And although Jesus never said the words "I am God", He openly accepted worship (Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; Mark 5:6; John 9:38; 20:28), forgave sin (Matthew 9:2; Luke 7:47-48; John 8:11), and performed miraculous healings (Mark 1:41-42; Matthew 15:28; Luke 17:12-14; John 9, John 11) which only God could do. In fact Jesus was killed because the Pharisee's and Jews of the time accused Jesus of heresy by doing things like this that only God could and should rightly do.

This is one of those “look in the mirror” type verses. When things go wrong in our lives, we sometimes use God as a scapegoat for our self imposed woes. But is that really justified? No. If we really take a hard look at our actions, most of the time we only have ourselves to blame. And when we make a important decision without including God, there’s a much better chance that something could go wrong.

So this scripture, in a tongue-in-cheek sort of way, is a reminder how we only have ourselves to blame when things go wrong in our lives. Although it’s tempting to blame God, we really shouldn’t.

Proverbs 19:3 –

“People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.”

Romans 1:19-20 –

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

If salvation is the result of repenting of our sins and accepting Jesus into our hearts, then what about the tribes in remote areas of Africa (or wherever) who’ve never been introduced to Jesus or the Bible? Is salvation not possible for them since they’ve never been exposed to either one? A popular question and a good one that I wondered about too. This scripture specifically addresses this by stating that there is evidence everywhere in nature for the existence of a creator, “in the things that have been made”. And not just evidence, but “clear” evidence.

Although this might not be enough to understand the concept of God and Jesus, it is enough to contemplate that there’s something more going on than meets the eye. And this curiosity and desire will lead to more knowledge, as promised in verses like the following:

- “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)
- “ I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.” (Proverbs 8:17)

Simple lesson here. Although everyone should learn from past experiences, we shouldn't dwell on them. Our primary focus should be on what's in front of us, not what's behind us. Reminds me of a scene from the 1976 movie "Gumball Rally". The movie was about a cross country, anything goes road race from New York to Los Angeles. One of the contestants, an Italian driving a Ferrari, rips off his rear view mirror just before beginning the race and states "Now my friend, the first rule of Italian driving: whatsa behind me is not a important!"

That's not completely true in our case, but I can be if it overwhelms or drowns us from making the correct choices now and in the future. So these two scriptures provide a Biblical word of caution!

Proverbs 4:25 –

"Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you."

Philippians 3:13 –

"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead...."

Psalm 91:11-12 –

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Verse # 6 discussed fallen angels, but here's a comforting scripture on good ones. If you've ever wondered whether or not "guardian angels" exist, this verse pretty much confirms it! Note though that David prefaces verses 11 and 12 with verse 10 that says "*Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place.*" So this implies someone who has accepted the Lord and has invited Him into their lives. Does this mean that guardian angels don't exist for non-believers? Possibly, but the Bible doesn't say for sure.

Sticking with the angels theme, this one really raised an eye brow when I first read it. Guardian angels is one thing, but can angels appear on earth in human bodies or in human form? This sure seems to imply that. The main message is clear though: treat everyone the same. Expecially strangers.

Hebrews 13:2 –

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Galatians 1:8 –

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

1 John 4:1 –

“...do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Galatians 1:9 –

“As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

Three distinct but similar warnings about believing anything preached that isn't found in between the first and last pages of the Bible. The first two scriptures even imply that false teachings can come from an angel or spirit.

So are there any examples of an angel giving information not found in the Bible? Two that immediately come to mind are the supposed visits of Gabriel the archangel to Mohammad in 610 AD, and the unknown angel Moroni visiting Joseph Smith in 1823. The first resulted in the creation of the Qur'an, and the second the Book of Mormon. Both books differ in many ways to what was written in the Bible, with the most prominent being the deity of Jesus. Contrary to the Bible, both religions believe that Jesus is not God, but a human prophet or teacher. And since he's not God, he couldn't have been resurrected, which means he didn't die for our sins. And as a result of that, heaven, or eternal living is achieved by what you do while on earth. This goes completely against the Christian Bible, which states salvation is achieved through grace and faith (see verse # 4). Both religions also believe that the Bible had become corrupted by the fourth century, and that their versions are "setting the record straight", so to speak. An obvious question is, if true, how could both the Qur'an and Book of Mormon do that? Both can't be right.

So are the Qur'an and Book of Mormon false teachings? One interesting fact is that in the original Bible every author was visited or inspired directly by God Himself, while Mohammad and Smith were visited by angels. Gabriel, in his five Biblical appearances "stands in the presence of God" and is always representing God's word. So unless he and God had a falling out between the first and seventh centuries, or God decided to change much of what was in His original Bible, you'd have to question if this was really Gabriel. Perhaps, or even likely, this was a demon impersonating Gabriel under the reigns of Satan. Same with the angel Moroni and Joseph Smith. If God did send an angel, why wouldn't it be Gabriel again, or perhaps Michael? They are the only named angels in the Bible, so for credibility reasons alone, you think they would have been sent to deliver a message that is contrary to the original Bible. And why wait 600 and 1,800 years to do so?

Satan's time is running out, and his only purpose is to cause confusion with the intent of separating people from God. And what better way than to cause doubt by toying with God's original word? Unfortunately, this ploy, if true, is working, despite the warning these three scriptures provide us.

Earlier in verse # 18, we are told keep our eyes focused ahead and don't look back. This one goes a step further and says to not worry about tomorrow either. God does not guarantee any of us tomorrow. So focus on what you can do today.

We are also told not to "worry" in general. Another scripture, Philippians 4:6 really puts an emphasis on that: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* I have to admit that this has been a tough one for me. I didn't become a Christian until I was 43 years old, so I spent a lot of time handling things on my own. But the Bible tells us to let God handle anything that makes us anxious or brings us to worry. So that was and still is a change that I continue to focus on in my life.

Matthew 6:34 –

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Romans 12:20-21 –

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Matthew 6:14-15 -

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive¹ others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

For most people, these are tough ones to obey. The last thing you want to do to someone who's hurt you or treated you bad, or even worse, someone you care about, is to ignore it and help them. And not only that, but forgive them of whatever it was they did!

But that's what these verses are asking us to do. In short, we are being told not to stoop to their level. Followers of Jesus are expected to respond like Jesus did. In fact, that's what Christians are called to be: examples of Jesus on earth.

So help anyone you come across who needs it, no matter who they are and what they've done to you. And if they've wronged you in any way, forgive them. But note that there are repercussions if we don't: *"But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."* So basically, why should God forgive our sins if we won't forgive the sins of others? Note that scripture doesn't say to not forget. We aren't expected to become best friends with

everyone who has wronged us. Moving on after forgiving them is the best thing to do sometimes.

While sitting on the Mount of Olives following a sermon where He discussed the destruction of the temple and signs of the end times, Jesus' disciples approached Him and asked *"Tell us, when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"* Matthew 24:14 was His response. With the invent of the internet and online resources like **bible.com**, **gotquestions.com** and many others, the gospel is being spread throughout the world at a greater pace than ever before. And to places not reachable in the recent past. At the pace it's happening, "the end" Jesus refers to could be coming sooner than later.

Matthew 24:14 –

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Jude 1:18-19 –

“In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.”

Staying with the “last days” theme, the book of Jude provides an early preview of what things will be like in “the last time”. And boy, are we seeing this now, and maybe even more than ever. A scoffer, according to the dictionary, is “someone who jeers or mocks or treats something with contempt or calls out in derision.” The Jews have experienced that for years, but a case can be made that Christians, particularly in the United States, are experiencing this more than ever before. Our political parties are going in opposite directions as far as morality goes, and it’s causing more division than I can remember. Matthew 24 also gives us a peek: *“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”*

“Revenge is sweet”a popular saying and something most of us at one time or another have likely experienced. Getting back at “so and so” for doing “such and such” felt so-o-o good! But we are told here not to do it and instead let God handle it. The book of Revelation discusses a time when Jesus will return and dispose of all evil and judges the evil doers. This is what He is talking about here. He’ll deal with it in His own time. Our job is to resist, be patient, and let Him handle it. And it won’t be pretty when he does.

Psalm 37 is a related scripture that also highlights the “day of the Lord” coming where He’ll deal with the “wicked”. It also shows what God thinks of them: He *“laughs at the wicked.”*

Romans 12:19 –

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”

Psalm 37:12-13 –

“The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.”

Matthew 22:37-39 –

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

These verses really don’t need any further explanation. For Christians (and everyone really), It’s simply the two top things we are instructed to do. Love God first, and similarly, love your neighbor as yourself. Or, as the saying goes, “treat people the same way you would like to be treated”, but taking it one step further.

Matthew 7:12 actually states this as well: *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them....”*

Just imagine what kind of world we would live in if everyone did that!

I don't think many people know that the Bible actually provides us a definition of "Love". This is it. And after reading it, I doubt there is anyone who would disagree with it, whether believer or non-believer. The word "love" actually appears in the bible 484 times, and 234 times in the roughly 288 pages of the New Testament. So it's obviously a serious subject.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 –

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails”.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 –

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.”

This is the apostle Paul's short, simple and specific summary of the entire gospel. In other words this is what it's all about for Christians. Why God came to earth in human form as His son Jesus, why He died, and the fact that he was resurrected by being seen by 13 people initially, and eventually hundreds later, as detailed in the book of Acts.

I thought I'd end with a feel-good scripture. And this is about as good as it gets! Here, in essence, is what God offers when we are in relationship with Him.

The phrase "*the Lord is my shepherd*" is one of the most popular and well-known passages in scripture. But what does it mean?

In Psalm 23, God is using the analogy of sheep and their nature to describe us. Sheep have a natural tendency to wander off and get lost. As believers, we tend to do the same thing. As the prophet Isaiah put it: "*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way*" (Isaiah 53:6). When sheep go astray, they are in danger of getting lost, being attacked, even killing themselves by drowning or falling off cliffs.

In this passage and throughout the New Testament we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd in two ways. First, as the Good Shepherd, He laid down His life for His sheep and, second, His sheep know His voice and follow Him (John 10:11, 14).

The shepherd (God) meets our (His sheep's) every need: food, water, rest, safety, and direction. When we decide to follow God, we, too, know that we will have all we need. We will not lack the necessities of life, for God knows exactly what we need. And that's what He is telling us here through King David.

What better way to end this paper on!

Psalm 23 –

*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever."*

Other Verses

Here are a few more verses that I have found informative throughout the past few years. I'll let you look them up though!

- Romans 6:23
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Philippians 4:13
- Joshua 1:9
- Zechariah 14:9
- Romans 1:27-32
- James 1:13
- James 4:7
- Matthew 7:1-3
- Matthew 7:13-14
- Matthew 7:15
- Luke 24:45

Interested in more articles like this? Be sure to check out my website, [Pen 2 Paper](#), for a list of Faith-based articles that I've written over the past few years, books that I've published that are available on Amazon, and my attempt at writing fiction!