

Open the Light

*For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness,
hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:6

*Character Building
In A Relationship with God*

*He that believeth on me, **as the scripture hath said**, out
of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **John 7:38***

Study 8

Do as much of the study as time allows. Please don't rush through these studies, as Bible study is about getting to know God and His love for us.

Walking in God's Law

The 1st Commandment

Always pray before opening the Word of God. Ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to guide our heart and mind so that we may hear and understand His words and do them. Pray for the blessing of remembrance, of His Word, in the time we need them and that we may meditate upon them throughout our days in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. EGW Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 303-305. {CTr 114.6}

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: [Proverbs 6:20-23](#).

Promise to prosper in the Law of God.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest **observe to do according to all the law**, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it** to the right hand or to the left, that **thou mayest prosper** whithersoever thou goest. **This book of the law shall not depart** out of thy mouth; but **thou shalt meditate therein day and night**, that **thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein**: for **then** thou shalt make thy way **prosperous**, and **then** thou shalt have **good success**. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: **for the LORD thy God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest. [Joshua 1:6-9](#).

God calls us to hearken unto Him, for He Saith, "Hearken unto me ... I am he; I am the first, I also am the last." [Isaiah 48:12](#). "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. [Revelation 1:8](#).

Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God: That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD. Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them. [Jeremiah 11:2-6](#).

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: [Isaiah 48:17-18](#).

Open the Light

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. ... Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: **but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.** Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people **in whose heart is my law;** fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: **but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.** [Isaiah 51:1, 4-7.](#)

Obeying God's Law, in faith, from the heart, is walking in harmony with His will.

God has given us His blessed Law, The Ten Commandments. Open your Bible to what should be known by memory and spiritually engraved in our hearts, Exodus 20:1-17, then Deuteronomy 5:6-21. As we read through these verses, slowly read, and listen to each commandment. **Do not look** at the Commandments **as, does and do nots:** look at them as God calling us to worship Him ... "with all your heart and with all your soul," Deuteronomy 11:12. **Look at each command as God is showing us how to love Him and others in the way that is good for us.** Remember God is the Potter, and we are the clay. **Look at each commandment as God molding us.** The first four commandments are regarding our relationship with God. And in that relationship with Him, the last six commandments are for our relational behaviour toward others as we should love and treat others in the same way we love ourselves and in the same way we would have others love and treat us. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." [Leviticus 19:18.](#) "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is

the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." [Matthew 22:37-40.](#) 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. [Matthew 7:12.](#)

Now Read Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-22.

Who spoke all the words in The Ten Commandments? See Exodus 20:1 and Deuteronomy 5: 22.

God not only spoke the words, but declared who He was and by saying "I am the LORD thy God," ... see verse 2 Exodus 20. In the understanding that it was God that spoke and gave the Commandments, we are one hundred percent assured that it is His will for us to keep them.

Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever. [Deuteronomy 4:39-40.](#)

Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, [Deuteronomy 6:17-18.](#)

In closing our study time with God today, Pray; I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8. And ask God to guide us always to seek His will in all that we plan to do, and to walk in His will throughout our life in Christ Jesus. Remember to pray for others and then

Open the Light

our needs, as we should let our “*requests be made known unto God.*”
Philippians 4:6.

Remember to pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in Jesus blessed name each day as you pick up from where you stopped the day before. Don’t rush through, study and pray for God to teach you His will. Do what you can each day and pick up where you ended the day before.

Obeying God’s Law, in faith, from the heart, is walking in harmony with His will.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**”
Matthew 7:21.

Read Matthew 7:21-29.

How will we stand if we have **not** the whole Law of God in our hearts?

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: [Matthew 7:24](#).

And every one that **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not,** shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [Matthew 7:26](#).

Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge. [Proverbs 23:12](#).

Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. [Proverbs 7:24](#).

Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them. [Isaiah 34:16](#).

Studying the 1st Commandment

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
[Exodus 20:2-3](#).

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; ... Luke 10:27. See also [Deuteronomy 6:4-6](#); [Leviticus 19:18](#). In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man. {PP 305.2} EGW

The Ten Commandments are clear. The first command tells us that God is God, and we are to have no other gods before Him, as God said, “I am the Lord thy God ... Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” [Read Exodus 20:2-3 and Deuteronomy 5:6-7](#).

But take **diligent heed to do** the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, **to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.** [Joshua 22:5](#).

Fear- yaw-ray'

A primitive root; to fear; **morally to revere**; causatively to frighten: - affright, be (make) afraid, dread (-ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing). (be had in) reverence (-end),
(References from the Strong’s Concordance)

Thou shalt **fear** (morally to revere) the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. [Deuteronomy 10:20](#).

Open the Light

We are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, mind, and soul; in Jesus, our foundation, our rock, in which we are able to stand and live in the will God.

Read Luke 6:46-49. What are the action verbs used in these verses that tell us that God wants us, not only to know His Commandments but walk in them as well? Include the past tense action verbs as well.

Verse 24 of chapter 7 in Matthew, Jesus said “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**:” we are likened as wise when we walk in the Laws of God. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever”. Psalms 111:10.

We should put God before anything else, He is our God. We should never start our day or plans without Him for we are to come unto, Heareth, doeth, build, dig, lay, on the Rock – His Word - Jesus.

The God of my rock (rock - Jesus - Word); in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; ... 2 Samuel 22:3.

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

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. 2 Samuel 22:47.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Psalms 18:2.

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. Psalms 18:46.

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. Psalms 62:5-8.

O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and **is all thine own**. I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. 1 Chronicles 29:16-17.

And thou, Solomon my son, **know** thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 1 Chronicles 28:9.

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalms 46:10.

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. Proverbs 8:32-36.

Open the Light

Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook **not** the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they **take delight in approaching to God**. [Isaiah 58:2](#).

And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. [Jeremiah 24:7](#).

I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God. [Ezekiel 20:19-20](#).

Jesus said..., Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. [Matthew 22:37-40](#).

Whoever, or whatever, our heart is most devoted to first, is and will be our god or gods. This also applies to us; if we are devoted to ourselves first, we are our god. However, if our heart is devoted to God first, He is our God, and no other god or gods will stand. To have the love for God, we must know Him first. “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.” [Psalms 100:3](#). Our love for others shows that God is in us. “If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit,” [1 John 4:12-13](#). Remember that “God is Love” and the Fruit of The Holy Spirit, which love is the first part of the Fruit. See the study on “The Holy Spirit and The Fruit of The Holy Spirit”, in the “Open the Light” studies.

If we love God we will not have other gods before Him.

Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, **that ye love the LORD your God.** [Joshua 23:11](#).

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. [Exodus 20:1-3](#).

Pray to God for guidance of the Holy Spirit before you continue this study, to help you have understanding, of His Word.

Read Exodus 20:1-3.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**” [Matthew 7:21](#).

Spiritual Meaning/Prophecy of Exodus 20:1-3.

“And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God (Has always been this way and will always stay this way. It will never change), which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt (have brought thee out of the land of sin- through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – future when Jesus has already taken us Home to Heaven), out of the house of bondage. (Bondage – Servant to sin- In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we are set free from the bondage of sin. Jesus set us free by taking our sins upon Himself and giving us His Righteousness at the Cross. – was still future at the time it was written, but now it is fulfilled, it has already happened.)” Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (We are not to have, nor put anything in the place of God. God is to be in the deepest inner parts of our heart, mind, and soul, always putting Him first, for he is our God.) [Exodus 20:1-3](#).

And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: ... [Deuteronomy 5:15](#). This verse is also spiritually talking of Jesus – a Prophecy of future events. There are two events, one

Open the Light

has now past and the other is still future. What are the two Biblical events/Prophecies that this verse is covering?

While this verse covers an actual event when God saved the Children of Israel from Egypt; it is also prophecy of future events at the time it was written. For the time we now live, one event is now a past fulfillment of this prophecy and the other is still future. The fulfilled prophecy covers the first coming, death and resurrection of Jesus and how He would die for our sins. The prophecy not yet fulfilled covers when God's people are already taken to heaven already living in the Promised Land; this is not yet fulfilled, as we are all still living in the land of sin. However, we are no longer in bondage of sin, as Jesus set us free by taking our sins upon Himself and giving us His Righteousness at the Cross.

Read Acts 2:22-40.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. **Revelations 1:1, 5-8.**

To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. **Romans 16:27.**

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. **Matthew 4:10.**

And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods ... and **prepare your hearts unto the LORD**, and serve him only: and he will deliver you ... **1 Samuel 7:3.**

Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for **consider** how great things he hath done for you ... **1 Samuel 12:24.**

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever. **Psalms 30:12.**

God be exalted!

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen. **Jude 1:25**

Pray to God for guidance of the Holy Spirit before you continue this study, to help you with the understanding of His Word.

“No other gods”

What do you think would be classed as “other gods”?

For all **the gods** of the people are **idols**: but the LORD made the heavens. **1 Chronicles 16:26.**

Idol – Definitions - noun

Open the Light

A material object, esp a carved image, that is worshipped as a god. (Christianity, Judaism) any being (other than the one God) to which divine honour is paid.

A person who is revered, admired, or highly loved.

Synonyms - View thesaurus entry

= hero, superstar, pin-up, favourite, pet, darling, beloved (slang), fave (informal)

= graven image, god, image, deity, pagan symbol

Apparently from H408; good for nothing, by analogy vain or vanity; specifically an idol: - idol, no value, thing of nought.

(References from the Collins online Dictionary, Strong's Concordance)

Anything can be in place of God or take the place of God. When the first Commandment is read, a lot of people think it means graven images or idols that people bow down to. But it is more than that. "... these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: ... Ezekiel 14:3. Anything can be a god – an idol. Whatever that is in the heart above God. If we hold anything in love more than God, even if we may not even realize it, it takes the place of God. If we obey anyone over the Word of God, they take the place of God. If we worship, or follow, anything or anyone that is revered, admired, or highly loved will take the place of God. A god can be an image, idol, or symbolic representation of such a deity any person or thing to which excessive attention is given (money was his/her god; the singer he/she loved became their idol, the movie star, the sports players, sports team, possessions, cars, toys, even food, diet- whether it be flesh-eating diet, or veganism, vegetarianism; ourself, work, family, friends and so on).

A little sidestep. God calls us to be holy, even in the foods he has given us to eat, for he is holy, see Leviticus 11:44-47. In 1 Corinthians 10:31 we are to remember "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Therefore, regardless of what we eat, these things should never control our lives nor take over our lives. We are to obey God

and do these things in faith without it taking over one's life that it becomes a god to us without even knowing it. Neither should what we eat be our witness to others, for GOD should always be our witness, not the food we eat. Why? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? Matthew 15:17. God draws us through our Lord and Saviour, by the Holy Spirit, working with in our hearts. Sinners will be converted by the drawing of God. It is God that creates a new heart not our diet. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Psalms 51:10-13.

Remember, whether we are a flesh eater, or vegetarian, or even vegan; there are more non-believers in this world that eat the same and it does not bring them closer to God because of it. For Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, we are to be "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Notice in the verses from Psalms it says "thy ways" meaning God's ways. And in the verse in Matthew, it says "I have commanded you" which Jesus taught of the Word of God. NOT our ways nor what we command. We do not want to take over the Word of God as though we know better than what God teaches in His word. Note what Isaiah 40:13,14 says, "Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?" I can truly say, NO one, no, not one. So, we should not go against the Word of God, in thinking we are doing right.

Our food can only be a witness if we are asked why we eat ...? then we can teach the laws of God from His Word and not against it, teaching using, precept upon precept. More on this subject in study the called "The temple of the living God" where this subject will be covered in full, from the Word of God, regarding food and the things we do.

Open the Light

Some believe, a man who has qualities regarded as making him superior to other men, is a god, like a pope, a priest, Doctor, Scientist. Jesus said, "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ." [Matthew 23:8-10](#). This is in a Holy sense. See [Matthew 19:29](#); [Mark 1:20](#); [5:40](#); [9:24](#); [Luke 1:67](#) for a non-holy, earthly dad/father. See [Luke 2:48,47](#) for both earthly and Heavenly, father, Father. No man on earth should NEVER take any place of God, Son and Holy Spirit and we should NEVER give reverence to anyone in a Holy sense, No, Not EVER. The evil spirits knew who Jesus was... "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." [Mark 1:21-28](#). We Should only give reverence to the God head.

God also should be our praise. Praise should be given to God. Affirm, encourage, and up lift one another and give God the praise for the thing's others do, for it is God that giveth to them.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. [1 Peter 4:11](#)

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. [Isaiah 42:8](#)

Read [Deuteronomy 10:21](#); [1 Chronicles 29:13](#); [Psalms 44:8](#); [48:10](#); [57:7](#); [67:1-7](#); [106:48](#); [147:1](#); [149:6](#); [Isaiah 25:1](#). Note these verses in [John 12:42,43](#); [Philippians 1:11](#); [Isaiah 25:1](#); [Psalms 118:28](#); [Jeremiah 17:14](#); [Psalms 71:6](#).

Remission of sins is only through Jesus and not man. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." [Acts 2:38](#). And life eternal is only in Jesus not man. "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace

did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life **by Jesus Christ our Lord**. [Romans 5:20-21](#). Even in times of temptation we are only to serve God and not man or Satan. "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." [Matthew 4:10](#).

(References from the Collins online Dictionary)

Instead of appointing one to be their head, Christ said to the disciples, "Be not ye called Rabbi;" "neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ." [Matthew 23:8, 10](#). {DA 414.2}

"The head of every man is Christ." God, who put all things under the Saviour's feet, "gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all." [1 Corinthians 11:3](#); [Ephesians 1:22, 23](#). The church is built upon Christ as its foundation; it is to obey Christ as its head. It is not to depend upon man, or be controlled by man. Many claim that a position of trust in the church gives them authority to dictate what other men shall believe and what they shall do. This claim God does not sanction. The Saviour declares, "All ye are brethren." All are exposed to temptation, and are liable to error. Upon no finite being can we depend for guidance. The Rock of faith is the living presence of Christ in the church. Upon this the weakest may depend, and those who think themselves the strongest will prove to be the weakest, unless they make Christ their efficiency. "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." The Lord "is the Rock, His work is perfect." "Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him." [Jeremiah 17:5](#); [Deuteronomy 32:4](#); [Psalm 2:12](#). {DA 414.3}

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. [Acts 10:25-26](#).

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. [Revelation 19:10](#).

Open the Light

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. [Revelation 22:8-9](#).

Worship no human, nor bow down to them in Holiness, nor for worship, But God Only, For He Is Holy. No pope, no priest, not even the Heavenly Angels.

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. [Acts 10:25, 26](#).

Read [Revelations 19:1-10](#) and note the angel's response to John in verse 10. Note the same again in [22:8, 9](#). Read [Exodus 3:1-14](#), and then note verse 2, where the angel of the LORD appeared unto Moses in a flame. Yes, it was an angel, yet the ground was not Holy because of the angel. As we continue to read in [Exodus 3](#), we quickly learn that God Himself was also present, this is why the ground was Holy.

And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ... **Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived**, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; ... [Deuteronomy 11: 13, 16](#).

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, ... [Deuteronomy 30:17-18](#).

This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which **walk in the imagination of their heart**, and **walk after other gods**, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing. [Jeremiah 13:10](#).

Pray to God for guidance of the Holy Spirit before you continue this study, He will help you with understanding of His Word.

Read [Exodus 20:1-3](#).

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. [Luke 16:10](#).

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? [Luke 16:11](#). The “true riches” are the treasures in the word of God. So being faithful with your money is a good thing in the Lord.

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.** [Matthew 6:19-21](#).

Can you see that whatever the treasure that is in your heart will be your god? Whether it is money, possessions, your family, or friends, food and so on, whatever your idol or idols may be.

For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were

Open the Light

round about them, concerning **whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them**. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. [2 kings 17:12-16](#).

Money is one of the world's greatest idols. No matter what, it drives most people, and they give excessive attention to obtain it, or dream about it, hoping for it or more of it. "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth **thee power to get wealth**," Deuteronomy 8:18. God knows all things, let Him provide, we do our best, trust in Him that He supplies our needs. Read Matthew 6:24-34.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth **thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. Deuteronomy 8:18-19.

[More](#)

Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold. [Exodus 20:23](#).

... And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth. [Exodus 23:12-13](#).

Thou shalt make thee no molten gods. [Exodus 34:17](#).

Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God. [Leviticus 19:4](#).

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God. [Leviticus 26:1](#).

Have you ever seen mankind bow to sports players, singers, movie stars and so on? I once seen on the News, a man by the name of Bear, visited the Hill Song church and the reporter said as he was covering the story, "you would think that he was Jesus Christ himself" as everyone was bowing and yelling and screaming his name; this is worship. I have heard people say I follow whatever their sports team is or the sings they admire; this is worship. Have you ever heard anyone say, I love that movie, or it moved me, or it has changed me, it makes me feel good, it inspired me; this is a form of worship. We need to take heed in what we say and do.

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: [Exodus 34:14](#).

There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. [Psalms 81:9](#).

Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, **these men have set up their idols in their heart**, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel **that setteth up his idols in his heart**, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in **their own heart**, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and **turn yourselves from your idols**; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and **setteth up his idols in his heart**, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to inquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will

Open the Light

answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and **ye shall know that I am the LORD.** [Ezekiel 14:1-8](#).

The love of the world, and the things that the world chases after.

There are many new technologies in the world that many people chase after and love so much that they devote their time to. Many things like TV, movies, computers, the Internet – known as the World Wide Web. A web is a thing that something gets court up in, as with a net. These names were given for obvious reasons and if we think about it for ourselves, it is not hard to see.

Regarding Face Book. I have seen many lives changed with this Web or Net, as hours are wasted on it and life is put aside for the time, they are on it. Mobile phones, iPad devices have made it portable so much so, that on Sabbath, there is not given any rest to this world web or net called Face Book. It seems that the posts on Face Book, the worthless things posted have more stand than the word of God. Sure, some use it for posting God's Word, however, if everyone spent the same time in the Word of God, God's Book, as they do on Face Book or the Computer World, their lives would be filled with True Reverent Love for their Heavenly Father and these devices would only play a necessity part in life than having control over them as they do now.

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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, **is not of the Father**, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.** [1 John 2:15-17](#).

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.** [Matthew 6:24](#).

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever **therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.** Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. **Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he **will flee from you.** **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. [James 4:4-8](#).

But **they that will be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while some **coveted after,** they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, **flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.** **Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; **That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:** Which in his times he shall show, **who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;** Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. **Charge them that are rich in this world,** that they be **not highminded,** nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may **lay hold on eternal life.** [1 Timothy 6:9-19](#).

Listen to the words below as you read. It is a letter to one of the Seven Churches named Thyatira. The Hollywood world is very much like this women Jezebel, who suffers God's people to fornicate with her in her sins.

Open the Light

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. [Revelation 2:19-22](#)

As God's people, us, partake watching acting movies or programs, we are putting in our minds, eating up the ways of these things that are being watched without a care that they are entertaining in their fornication against the Word of God. Read Romans chapter one and then take a very close look at the last verse, verse 32. Not even Christian movies are immune. Note, lies, changing the story to make it more interesting. Not one Bible movie has ever shown the truth to the Word of God. They change the Word of God by adding to or taking away from the story been told. One example, when I was young, I saw the Moses story in a movie. They had the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea in sloppy mud. Yet the scriptures says they crossed on dry ground. See Exodus 14:16, 22b. This reminds me of Luke 16:10, as it says, "... he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

The evil of this world is all through these Movies and programs. I cannot believe that any of these never break the Ten Commandments. I can guarantee that every single one will in some way, whether very small, or in a great way, break the Laws of God. Therefore, Romans chapter one is important to understand it in the full. The actors themselves live the lives of Romans one. And verse 32 tells us 1:32, 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. **This is a direct warning for God's people. We need to take heed.**

Reverence for God.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. [Ecclesiastes 5:2](#)

On the SABBATH and in CHURCH we should REMEMBER that the LORD said, "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:30. **We need to be still and reverence the place of worship; even in the home or bush wherever we may be on His Holy day.**

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: **holy and reverend is his name.** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. [Psalms 111:9-10](#)

Be still, and know that I am God: [Psalms 46:10](#)

He who has declared that His words are spirit and life, should have their faith in strong exercise that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies. **"Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in their midst."** If He is there, it is to enlighten and bless. Therefore as we assemble together, we all have a solemn sense of the presence of God, and know that the angels of God are in the assembly. The messengers of the gospel know by experience its truth, power and excellence. It is the hours of the Sabbath that are sacred and sanctified and holy, and every true worshiper who keeps holy the Sabbath, should claim the promise, "That ye may know I am the Lord that doth sanctify you." -348- {4MR 347.2}

We should not take God's name in vain with our babblings and turning His Church into an unholy gathering. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." [Psalms 89:7](#). Let us be silent in places of Worship.

The Lord will carry on this work of perfection for us if we will allow ourselves to be controlled by Him. He carries on this work for our good and His own name's glory. {4MR 348.3}

Open the Light

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [Exodus 20:7](#).

Read the following words that Steven Curtis Chapman wrote, "Be Still and Know that He is God" and listen to all the words of the call to reverence of God's people to be still and know that God is God.

Be Still and Know that He is God.

Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is holy
Be still Oh **restless** soul of mine
Bow before the Prince of Peace
Let the noise and clamour cease

Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is faithful
Consider all that He has done
Stand in awe and be amazed
And know that He will never change
Be still

Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is God
Be still
Be speechless

Be still and know that He is God
Be still and know that He is our Father
Come and rest your head upon His Breast
Listen to the rhythm of
His unfailing heart of love
Beating for his little ones
Calling each of us to come
Be still.....Be still

Author and Copyright ©: Steven Curtis Chapman.

Be still, and know that I am God: [Psalms 46:10](#).

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. [Ecclesiastes 5:2](#)

Like the wax that melts when the light burns the wick of a candle, let us also allow our hearts to melt with the Presence of God. "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32. **Let the light burn within our hearts that others may marvel; and take knowledge of us, that we had been with Jesus.** See [Acts 4:13](#).

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. [Exodus 20:7](#)

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. [1 Chronicles 16:29](#).

Solomon "... stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven," **he** prayed. [2 Chronicles 6:13](#).

[2 Chronicles 6:13 \(1 Kings 8:54\).](#)
3BC - S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 3 (1954)

Kneel for Prayer in Public Worship.--I have received letters questioning me in regard to the proper attitude to be taken by a person offering prayer to the Sovereign of the universe. Where have our brethren obtained the idea that they should stand upon their feet when praying to God? . . . {3BC 1130.9}

Open the Light

[Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40; 7:59, 60; Acts 20:36; 21:5; Ezra 9:5, 6; Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14 quoted.] . . . {3BC 1130.10}

Both in public and private worship it is our duty to bow down upon our knees before God when we offer our petitions to Him. This act shows our dependence upon God. . . . {3BC 1130.11}

[2 Chronicles 6:1-13 quoted.] . . . {3BC 1130.12}

Is it possible that with all the light that God has given to His people on the subject of reverence, that ministers, principals, and teachers in our schools, by precept and example teach young men to stand erect in devotion as did the Pharisees? Shall we look upon this as significant of their self-sufficiency and self-importance? Are these traits to become conspicuous? . . . {3BC 1130.13}

We hope that our brethren will not manifest less reverence and awe as they approach the only true and living God than the heathen manifest for their idol deities, or these people will be our judges in the day of final decision. I would speak to all who occupy the place of teachers in our schools. Men and women, do not dishonor God by your irreverence and pomposity. Do not stand up in your Phariseeism and offer your prayers to God. Mistrust your own strength. Depend not in it; but often bow down on your knees before God, and worship Him. {3BC 1130.14}

And when you assemble to worship God, be sure and bow your knees before Him. Let this act testify that the whole soul, (page 1131) body, and spirit are in subjection to the Spirit of truth. Who have searched the Word closely for examples and direction in this respect? . . . {3BC 1130.15}

Man must come on bended knee, as a subject of grace, a suppliant at the footstool of mercy. And as he receives daily mercies at the hand of God, he is ever to cherish gratitude in his heart, and give expression to it in the words of thanksgiving and praise for these unmerited favors (NL 37, pp. 1-3). {3BC 1131.1}

The prayer offered by Solomon during the dedication of the temple, was not made while he stood upon his feet. The king knelt in the humble position of a petitioner. {3BC 1131.2}

Herein is a lesson for God's people today. Our spiritual strength and our influence are not increased by conformity to a worldly attitude during prayer. . . . Let man come on bended knee, as a subject of grace, a suppliant

at the footstool of mercy. Thus he is to testify that the whole soul, body, and spirit are in subjection to his Creator (RH Nov. 30, 1905). {3BC 1131.3}

Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance; When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it. And when they went from nation to nation, and from one kingdom to another people; He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes, **Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.** **Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; show forth from day to day his salvation.** **Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.** **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods.** **For all the gods of the people are idols:** but **the LORD made the heavens.** Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place. Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. **Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name:** **bring an offering, and come before him:** **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.** Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, **The LORD reigneth.** Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein. Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth. **O give thanks unto the LORD;** for he is good; for **his mercy endureth for ever.** And say ye, Save us, **O God of our salvation,** and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, **that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.** Blessed be the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and **praised the LORD.**

1 Chronicles 16:15-36.

And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.** John 17:3.

Open the Light

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. [Psalms 29:2](#).

Remember anything can be an idol, which is another god, in our hearts. Therefore, we are to take heed and guard our hearts with careful and persistent effort in keeping the connection to God our Heavenly Father open and living in His will be done.

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** [Exodus 20:2-3.](#)

In closing your study time with God today, Pray; I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8. **And ask God to guide you to always to seek Him, in all that you do, and for Him to be the only God in your life and to only serve Him by walking in His will throughout your life in Christ Jesus.** Remember to pray for others and then your need, as we should let our “requests be made known unto God.” [Philippians 4:6.](#) Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. [1Timothy 1:17.](#)