

EP39 Revelation 3:1-6 P2

Revelation 3

Overview: Jesus's Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Religion is Lambasted and Faithfulness in Humility is Honored.

The Church at Sardis

Overall Theme: Spiritual Delusion=Death

Revelation 3:1-6

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who is now having the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you now have a name that you are now alive, but you are now dead. 'Now choose to be waking up (or watching), and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds ever having been made complete in the sight of My God. Now, remember what you have received and heard; and now keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 'But you now have a few names in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are now worthy. 'He who is now overcoming will thus choose to be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 'He who is now having an ear, is commanded to hear what the Spirit now says to the churches.'

In our last podcast what we learned is that this grand church with such a grand reputation for being alive is dead and dying. Simply said, **NONE** of their works were rooted in Christ, they were not His works—none of them! We ended the last podcast with the question:

How is it Possible?

What about all their prayers to God and all the times they sought His will? What about all their teaching and study and their “love” and service of others in their body and surrounding community—all of which garnished them such a great name?

Having such a lofty reputation for being alive, they had to be seeking God and seeking His blessing over their lives, probably even with fasting. How is it possible for a church to have **NONE** of their works—**NONE—ZERO**—authorized by the Father, led by the Holy Spirit, nor performed by Jesus living in them? It is simply incomprehensible especially given all we have been taught within the religion of Christianity.

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

Built on a Lie

Unfortunately, many churches, and therefore the spiritual lives of many individuals, have been founded upon the religion of Christianity, and not upon the truth revealed by the Spirit of God. That is not to say that their foundations are void of the truth or of that which has been revealed by the Spirit of God, but it is not complete or secured in Christ.

It all starts with one big lie and a faulty and cracked foundation stone. In the religion of Christianity, people are primarily taught that if they just say the “sinners’ prayer” and confess their sins, they are saved and have their golden ticket to heaven. Soon thereafter, they are counseled to get busy going to church, serving God, serving the church, serving mankind, using their gifts, and most definitely, foregoing their sin.

However, this evangelical philosophy of “salvation” is one of the biggest and most destructive lies ever produced within the religion of Christianity by those who teach from their *instinctual religious wisdom*. Talk about the Deep of Satan.

And if a lie corrupts the foundation of a church or an individual’s belief system, it is not unfathomable that lies will be built upon lies until all that remains is that which is dead and dying, such that NOTHING has been built as a result of the Spirit of God.

I know this is shocking, and you might be thinking that I am the one who sounds like the crazy heretic, but Jesus made it clear that we must be born again or literally be converted by God (**Step 1**) and we also **MUST** dig down deep in our soul and choose to become like a little tiny child, dependent upon God for all things all the time. (**Step 2**.)¹ If not, He says without mitigation, we **WILL NOT** enter the kingdom of Heaven. In fact, He who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it at all.² This is such a radical statement, and it blows my mind that for the most part Christians have just ignored what Jesus said.

In the same way, Jesus makes it clear that if we choose to come to Him but do **NOT now** hate everything in our lives more than Him, including our father, mother, and **wife**, and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even our own life, we cannot now be Jesus’ disciple. With “cannot” being rendered in the *present passive indicative*, the **Code** is clear, Jesus won’t let them **now** be His disciple, and that is a statement of fact.

In the same way, whoever does not now carry his own cross and now dig down deep in their soul and choose to come after Him (following Him down the pathway of death to their *flesh*), He will not let them

¹ **Matthew 18:3**. Note: “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle subjunctive* and “enter” is rendered in the *aorist active subjunctive*. See also **Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17**.

² **Mark 10:15**

be His disciple. **He will NOT let them!**³

Accordingly, our salvation does not happen just because we say a prayer in Jesus' name and repent of our sins, nor does it come about by our doing all sorts of "**church worthy**" deeds in His name. Rather, our salvation happens along the course of our life as we choose to always be living in such a manner that we are continually betting our lives on His name **Yahweh**, believing Him to be our **I AM**. Remember, **faith is a now thing!**

Those who choose to dig down deep in their soul and live like a little child come to depend upon Him for all things all the time, fully convinced that without Him they can do **NOTHING**. Just like the way a little child is wholly dependent upon their parents. They know that unless they are connected to the vine (to Jesus) they can bear no fruit.⁴ And that is why we are to now and continually always to be found believing.

Oh, and that choice to be like a little child is also evidenced by our willingness to let God go to war against everything within us that stands in opposition to His rule over our lives—everything that finds its strength and its purpose outside of His life in ours—especially the religion that runs so deep in our humanity. That is the process by which the **Design Point** and the **Substitution Principle** is made a reality in our lives, where our *flesh* is crucified and bled out until we can proclaim, "*it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.*"⁵ All of me for all of Him.

This should stop us in our tracks or wake us up from our own spiritual delusion. It should cause each-and-every one of us to seriously consider whether we take the word of God as the true authority over our lives, or whether we just do what we do, believing that since our deeds are "**church worthy**" and are "Biblical" they must also by definition be **Jesus worthy** deeds.

Consider this, when a person begins their spiritual journey with a lie, it is no wonder that years later they are left with nothing but a stack of lies. Remember what we learned with the letter to Pergamum, whatever does not originate from the divine is evil and worthless, and there is no middle ground of goodness in this spiritual dynamic. **The source matters, the source is everything!** Each of us should consider whether our source for all that we do is the Seven Spirits of God or if our source is the "ME" or as Jesus said it, your, and you, and you and you?

Having built their security on a lie, the Sardisians ignored the **Substitution Principle**: His wisdom for ours, His ways for ours, His deeds for ours, His love for ours, His truth for ours, His security for ours, His provision for ours, and so on (until we can honestly declare, "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me").

The Steep Walls of Sardis (The Walls of Spiritual Delusion)

Let's think about a church of reputation, a church with a name, and what we would normally expect them to be doing under the banner of good Christianity.

- Gather at least weekly but usually multiple times a week.

³ **Luke 14:26-27**. Note: "carry" is rendered in the *present active indicative*; "come after" is rendered in the *present middle indicative*, and "cannot be" is rendered in the *present passive indicative*.

⁴ See **John 15:1-11**

⁵ **Galatians 2:20**

- Study the word of God.
- Spread the gospel and reach out to the lost through evangelism.
- Fight sin in the world, or as one church put it: fight against wickedness, oppression, poverty, sin, rebellion, adultery, homosexuality, fornication, abortion, etc.
- Send missionaries and fund mission activity.
- Plant churches.
- Care for the community via homeless ministries and other care ministries.
- Visitation ministries for those who are hospitalized or in elderly care resident centers.
- Prayer ministry; apologetics' training; men's ministries; women's ministries; marriage ministries, singles ministries, college ministries, as well as youth and children ministries.
- Media ministries: radio, TV, Podcast, print media, social media, etc.
- Practical life ministries: financial training, addiction recovery, counseling, divorce support, and so on.

I am sure there are many more “**church worthy**” deeds that are out there which we could list; but the point is that even though a church of reputation, a church with a great name, might be involved in all of these noble activities and have its people very busy “doing ministry ” and is growing remarkably, it does not mean that the church is alive or that its works have **ever been** a work of the Spirit of God. Clearly, it can mean just the opposite. These amazing works just might have never been the work of Jesus done before His Father.

Think about it, this list of ministries is not unlike the unassailable walls of Sardis. They stand tall and bold for all to see, and they are a refuge, a protection, a place to run to find validation, identity, purpose, meaning, and security in this life. Still, these seemingly unassailable walls have cracks which the enemy can climb; and before long one can be found to be dead and dying.

The Sardisians thought they were safe behind their walls. They grew arrogant and so self-confident that they did not believe that they had to keep watch, even when surrounded by the enemy. They were foolish.

The Scary Truth

THE MIND-NUMBING IMPLICATION OF THE TRUTH THAT “ONLY GOD IS GOOD”⁶ IS THAT ALL OUR WORKS WHICH ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE FATHER NOR PERFORMED BY THE SON THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, ARE LAWLESS, EVIL, AND WORTHLESS REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMPACT ON THIS WORLD AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THE HURTING AND THE NEEDY.

MINISTRY OUTCOME MAY NOT EQUATE TO A JESUS OUTCOME, BUT TO A BIG BUBBLE

⁶ Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19

OF DELUSION WRAPPED ALL AROUND OUR RELIGIOUS INSTINCTUAL WISDOM.

About Church Business

By the way, a church does not have to be a big mega-church to fall into this realm. A church merely needs to be about church business, church vision, church mission, and not really be in tune with what Jesus wants them to be about only when He wants them to be about it. And since the Spirit moves like the wind (just like those who are born of the Spirit), that might change quite often and quite uncomfortably at that.⁷

Just think about it, the great commission is a command that we make disciples (those who are found to be in the image of Christ because He is living in-and-through them). How much of that is really taking place in our churches today? Are we truly producing people who hate everything in comparison to Jesus, even their own mom, dad, wife, and children. That does not sound very Christian at all, especially since marriage and family has become an idolatrous aspect of the religion of Christianity.⁸

Are we producing people who hate themselves and their own personhood in comparison to who Christ has designed them to be? Are we producing people who depend upon Jesus for all things all the time? These are hard questions for sure, but they are the questions we need to ask of ourselves first and then of others.

**ARE WE PRODUCING PEOPLE WHO LIVE LIKE JESUS LIVED, WALKING DOWN THE
PATHWAY OF DEATH DOING ONLY WHAT THEIR FATHER IN HEAVEN WANTS THEM TO
DO ONLY WHEN HE WANTS THEM TO DO IT?**

But even then, consider that “disciple making” can likewise become an objective in-and-of-itself, and, like the list above, become just another “**church worthy**” deed. And if that does not sound harsh enough, Jesus said that there are those who will prophesy in His name, perform *many* miracles, and even cast out demons in His name; yet those works would similarly be lawless, unauthorized, not completed before the face of the Father. They would be works that the Father did not appoint; therefore, He considers them to be wicked, evil, and worthless, and those who do them to be filled with iniquity. And this is notwithstanding the fact that they called Him “Lord,” did these great deeds **in His name**, and many, yes many, were blessed by these great (yet entirely worthless) deeds.⁹

Keep Watch

I know this must be confusing, especially if you have been a part of the church system for any amount

⁷ *John 3:8*

⁸ *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*. “But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

⁹ *Matthew 7:22-23*

of time. If “good” works, as we like to think of them—or “**church worthy**” deeds—is not an indication of a healthy and alive church, then what is the measurement? And what does it mean to keep watch to ensure that we do not end up being a church of zombies who think we are alive but are dead and dying?

We should always be aware of the reality that we love delusion. We love to clothe ourselves in the delusion of goodness. Therefore, as the Spirit instructed, we should test ourselves to see if we are in the faith—to see if we live in abject neediness for Jesus, living like little children, doing only what our Father wants us to do, and nothing more (despite what the religious culture, our conscience, or our own church folk may demand of us) and then doing such things only when He tells us to do His works.

In writing to the church at Corinth (who had many issues because of their “religious” *flesh*), Paul said that they should examine and scrutinize themselves to see if they can know that Christ is in them.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Now examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Now** test yourselves. Or do you not **now** realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you **now** fail to meet the test!

We are to test whether we are now in the faith. The past does not matter (what we have done), the future does not matter (what we will do), but only our **NOW. Faith is a now thing!**

Do we live as a tiny little child dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things, all the time? Do we even truly comprehend what it means to believe in His name and to bet our lives upon His name? Do we really believe that all things (yes, **ALL THINGS**) are from Him, by Him, and to Him (or for His purposes)¹⁰, or just some things? Do we really believe that His name really is **Yahweh Adonai**—the absolute despot in control of everything?

It is terrifying to our *flesh* and to our humanity (our reason and our senses) to even think about living in this level of dependency. But again, faith is always a now thing!

When we choose to be a little child, the Spirit will take us down a very narrow path filled with tribulation or literally pressure; **therefore, there are now few who are now finding this treacherous path that is now leading to life.**¹¹ Yes, few are finding it. And although, many will try to find this pathway, they simply will not be able.¹²

This narrow path is the pathway of death, where step-by-step He substitutes His life for our life. Therefore, He asks us to present our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice¹³ (not part of our being, but the entirety), and let Him put everything that is not “good,” everything that is not Him, to death so that He might have room to live in-and-through our bodies. This is to be our way of life. Hence, the **Design Point** and the notion of being crucified with Christ.¹⁴

¹⁰ **Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 11:12; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 2:10**

¹¹ **Matthew 7:14.** Note: “leads” is rendered in the *present active participle*; “are few” is rendered in the *present active indicative*; “find it” is rendered in the *present active participle*

¹² **Luke 13:24.** Note: “seek to enter” and “will not be able” are rendered in the *future active indicative*

¹³ **Romans 12:1.** Note: “present” is rendered in the *aorist active infinitive*

¹⁴ **Galatians 2:20**

YOU GOTTA DIE TO LIVE AND YOU GOTTA LIVE TO LOVE!

Strengthen What Remains

In addition, we must, as Jesus says, “*strengthen the things that remain*” or literally to turn in a resolute direction and set fast. In context, we need to reject the thinking that has dominated our belief system that our involvement in “ministry” of any sort, is automatically equivalent to doing God’s will, so long as what we are doing is Biblical. The equivalency is not there!

When Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda, He was on a mission, a direct assignment from God. And to accomplish this mission, He had to step over and step past a myriad of sick people, people who were legitimately looking for God to do a miracle and heal them. They were not looking to idols, they were not looking to magic, they were looking to God. They believed an angel of God would stir the waters of the pool, which released a certain healing power to those who could reach this stirring.

But Jesus, the one with the power of God and the perfect opportunity to do an amazing work for the benefit of some very needy people, chose instead to go up to one man and ask him if he wanted to be healed. Just one man. And upon healing Him, He again stepped over and across the many sick people to exit the portico. What Jesus did makes little sense from a ministry perspective, much less from our typical perspective of what we consider to be love? He had the power, the opportunity, and great need all around Him. Yet, when questioned about it, however, Jesus said the following:

John 5:19-21, 30

I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He **now** does only what he **now** sees the Father is **now** doing. Whatever the Father **now** does, the Son also **now** does. For the Father **now** loves the Son and **now** shows him everything he **now** does. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. ... I can **now** do nothing on my own. I now judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because **I now carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.**

Despite the great opportunity presented to Him, despite the supernatural enabling of healing power, despite the desperate need, Jesus only did exactly what the Father wanted Him to do, and **NOTHING more** and **NOTHING less**. All of His works were completed before the face of the Father and therefore were perfect, or “good” works. Did you notice the use of the *present* tense throughout that passage. I emphasized it with the word “**now**” just to make sure we did not miss it. Even for Jesus, faith was a now thing!

And we are **commanded** to follow Christ’s example in all things—to walk as He walked¹⁵ Therefore, like Him, we **MUST** only do **WHAT** the Father tells us to do **WHEN** He tells us to do it. We are to do nothing

¹⁵ *Ephesians 5:1; 1 John 2:6*

on our own initiative—nothing—no matter how ministry appealing it may be! All that is done on our own initiative, regardless of the need or the outcome, is evil, lawless, and worthless. Our goal should be to carry out the will of the one who sent us, not our own will done “**in His name**”. We must get this into our spiritual DNA.

THE SOURCE MATTERS, THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING!

If you have been lulled into thinking that doing ministry is equivalent with doing the will of God, then there is a good chance that you are sleeping behind your strong walls of “**church worthy**” deeds while your city is being assailed by death.

NOW Remember

Revelation 3:3

So, **now** remember what you have received and **heard**; and **now** keep it, and repent.

This idea of now remembering what we have received and heard is a call back to the beginning of our journey with God. It’s a call back to the time when we choose, by faith, to depend only on the grace of God for all aspects of our life, where we were reliant upon Him for everything (100%), and not just for somethings.

Think about it, in coming to Christ, in our conversion, none of us believed that we could do anything to convert ourselves. We were 100% dependent upon Jesus and an extension of His grace into our lives to cause us to be born-again. None of us could cause or demand the Holy Spirit to come into our lives, but we were 100% dependent upon Jesus and an extension of His grace into our lives to cause us to house a temple of the Holy Spirit, via the New Creation, within our being.

Therefore, we called out to Him to be our Savior, to fill us with His Spirit, all of which was an act that demonstrated our “**repentance**” – our willingness to turn from relying upon ourselves and instead rely on Him. This is the very core of what we have received and heard, and we need to now keep it and once again repent by relying on Him and no longer relying upon ourselves and our instinctual religious wisdom.

But this is such a tricky area, as practically everyone in ministry is convinced that they are doing the will of God. Some may be confused as to the matter, but they are still convinced they are “serving” God. Therefore, how can we know for sure? If we have been praying about it all and asking God for leading and for His blessing, what else can we do?

Well, as we have received Christ, so are we to walk in Him, wholly dependent upon what He does and not what we do for Him.¹⁶ Again, when we first came to Jesus, we knew we could do nothing to effect **Step 1** but ask. We knew we could do nothing to cause ourselves to be born-again (to be converted by

¹⁶ *Colossians 2:6; 1 John 2:6*

God) except to be **willing** to let Him do 100% of the work and place His Spirit in the **New Creation** which He imbued within our soul. In like manner, this is a command to remember that He wants us to now take **Step 2** and dig down deep in our soul and choose to become like a little child living in that same state of utter and wholistic dependence.¹⁷

But once again, our job is simply to be **willing** to let Him do the work. After all, we are “saved” by grace through faith, and **NOT** of ourselves, it is a gift of God so that no one can boast in what they have done.¹⁸ In fact, “By this we know that we are **in Him**: the one who is now saying that they **now** abide in Him **now** ought to walk in the same manner as He **now** walks”¹⁹—now doing only as the Father wills. Yes, Jesus still only now does as He sees His Father doing.

Therefore, we are to walk in the same dependency of grace as was experienced in our initial plea for Him to come and be the Lord of our lives. This is the baseline pattern for how we are to live. This is how we come to be found “in Christ” or “in Him.”

In so doing, we must remember that grace is a 100% to 0% formula. Grace is all about what He does in-and-through our lives. As soon as we corrupt it with even the slightest amount of our effort and our wisdom, it is no longer grace but lawlessness. Thus, sitting safely behind our strong walls of “**church worthy**” deeds believing those walls keep us safe is a **DELUSION** and is an arrogance, or a boast, that is not in-line with our depending upon God’s grace for all aspects of our lives.

With that said, God has prepared works for us that we should walk in them.²⁰ And He wants us to understand that these works will be accomplished as Jesus, who now lives to always please the Father and do His will, does these works in-and-through our lives. As He said, if we ask anything in His name (which is **Yahweh**), according to His will, He will do it.²¹ Literally, as our prayers are in alignment with the Father’s will, Jesus will personally do the work in-and-through our lives.

This is what we have received and heard! His grace, His provision, His works, HIS, HIS, HIS, HIS, HIS and NOT ours! **Complete substitution is to be our aim**. But this requires letting Him go to war and put to death all that is in us that loves our religion. We must become possessed by Him such that we can say, “*It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.*”²²

Our religious *flesh* is powerful for it has a powerful ally: The “*Woman who rides the Beast.*” This will become a very poignant aspect of the **End Times** narrative towards the end of **Revelation**, as this famed “*Woman who rides the Beast*” is that religious system that has seduced and intoxicated so many to follow in her lasciviousness, sensuality, and *instinctual religious wisdom*. This will be highlighted in **Revelation 17 and 18**. The point is that there are spiritual forces keeping us tied to our delusion, and we must simply **ask** God to come in and to bust up our delusion and to kill that part of us that loves to hear, your, you, you, and you. We must be **willing** to let Jesus wage His war against all that is within us that does not want Him to be our **I AM**.

¹⁷ “remember” is rendered in the *present active imperative*

¹⁸ **Ephesians 2:8-9**

¹⁹ **1 John 2:6**. See also **John 5:19-21, 30**

²⁰ **Ephesians 2:10**

²¹ See **John 14:14; 1 John 5:14-15**

²² **Galatians 2:20**

NOW Keep It

“So, **now** remember what you have received and heard; and **now** keep it.” To reach that place where we can turn in a resolute direction and set fast, or to strengthen that which remains, it is important to **NOW** remember what we have received and heard and *now keep it*.²³

The one who has the Seven Spirits of God makes it clear that we have received what we need to know. Without question, we have been instructed by the Spirit of God the truth that a relationship with God comes only *by grace through faith*.²⁴ Moreover, that as we have received Him (*by grace through faith*) so are we to live in Him.²⁵

For those who live by this principle, they have **heard**. As the Spirit says, it does not matter what we do for God. For instance, faithfully following any law beyond the law of *agape* love—is irrelevant. All that matters is if we have been transformed by God into a **New Creation** such that our faith expresses itself in God’s *agape* love.²⁶ Those who have **heard** and are still—even now—having ears to hear, are the true people of God, for they are those who now **keep it**.

But somewhere this truth has been twisted such that we tend to think (and have even been taught) that His grace is given to help us where we fall short, when we come to the end of our strength. And while that is also a truth, it has been twisted in its application. It is one of those foundation stones that is filled with many cracks.

Grace is not there to help us up when we come to the end of our resources. Rather, the unbridled truth is that we are always at the end of our resources, every moment of our now. We are 100% needy for God’s grace all the time in all things. The reason being is that we fall short in **ALL** things **ALL** the time. **Only God is Good**, and there is no good thing within our *flesh*. Our *flesh* faithfully serves the law of sin (the law of self-reliance).²⁷ Hence, we have a need to be 100% dependent upon the grace of God, by faith, for all things all the time not some things some of the time.

In the Greek, the word that is translated as “*keep it*” means that we are to be a watchman, a guard, someone who is manning the walls and who is responsible to not be found sleeping when the enemy is nearby. We are to guard over that part of us that loves self-reliance, that loves our **church worthy** deeds, and choose to never let that enemy invade and rule over our being.

These cracks that run throughout our foundation stones allow us to build upon them big, tall walls of self-reliance; but even these walls will one day crack and the enemy will assail us if we are not alert, are not awake, and are not keeping what we have received and have heard.

The rough part this truth is that all this distortion (these cracks in our foundation stones) is so predominate with our religion that it permeates our Christian culture. Many of our churches, are for the most part, filled with so many cracks that unbeknownst to them, they have been invaded by the enemy of self-reliance (even though what they do is done in the name of Jesus following much prayer and seeking) and are dead and dying and living a delusion. They live according to a self-made blend of grace

²³ “received” is rendered in the *perfect active indicative*; “heard” is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*

²⁴ **Romans 3:24, 4:4; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9**

²⁵ **Colossians 2:6**

²⁶ **Galatians 5:6, 6:15-16**

²⁷ See **Romans 3:9-18, 7:18, 25, 8:6-8, 12-13; Galatians 5:17-21; Philippians 3:3**

and self (those “**church worthy**” deeds), and although they have a name for being alive, they are not.

And Repent

“So, remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, **and repent.**” Once again, Jesus commands us, as a matter of lifestyle, to repent or to turn resolute away from self-reliance and once again call out to Him in 100% dependence.²⁸ Therefore, let us once again consider some of the critical truths He has said that will save our lives if we now “*keep it*” and now stand guard to ensure that the lies do not compromise our watch. These are truths which are aligned with repentance.

- **Only God is Good! Therefore, only God can do good. The source matters, the source is everything!**²⁹
- In contrast, **NOTHING** good now dwells in us (that is in our *flesh*), for the willing, the internal desire to do good and to be good is present (or close at hand), but the doing of good is not something we can now choose.³⁰
- We must let God convert us and then dig down deep in our soul and choose to become that little child dependent upon **Yahweh** for everything, all the time. For whoever humbles himself as a child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whereas those who do not make this choice will **NOT** enter the kingdom of heaven.³¹
- The road to life is extremely narrow and it traverses through the pathway of tribulation or squeezing. For the gate is small and way is narrow (or filled with trouble) that leads to life. Many will try to enter **but few will find it**. Hence, we are commanded to strive to enter through the narrow door (the small gate) for **many** will seek to enter and **WILL NOT** be able, because He won’t let them. He won’t let them be His disciple.³²
- **We got to die to live!** We must be **willing** to let Him cause us to come to that place where we embrace death to all that is within us that stands in opposition to **Yahweh** being our **I AM**. We must choose to let Him have His war against our *flesh*. This war is the method by which God circumcises us from this world and from all that is within us that is dead and dying (including all our instinctive religious wisdom, all our desire to be good for God). And it is through death of our Old Sinful Nature (our *flesh*)—in other words, to all that opposes His rule in our lives—that He gains access to live in-and-through our bodies as our **I AM**.³³
- The Father has created us for **good** works prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.³⁴

²⁸ “repent” is rendered in the *aorist active imperative*

²⁹ **Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19**

³⁰ **Romans 7:18**. Note: “dwells” is rendered in the *present active indicative*; “willing” is rendered in the *present active infinitive*; “present” is rendered in the *present middle indicative*; “doing of the good” is rendered in the *present middle infinitive*.

³¹ **Matthew 18:3**

³² **Matthew 7:14; Luke 13:24, 14:26-27, 33**. Note: “cannot be my disciple” is rendered in the *present passive indicative*

³³ **Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27**

³⁴ **Ephesians 2:10**

Being “**good**” works, however, these are deeds that He must literally do in-and-through our lives, for apart from Him (apart from Jesus) we can do nothing—absolutely nothing! He is the only one who can produce **good** fruit and **good** deeds from our lives, and that only comes when we cling to Him as a branch relying on Him for all our needs.

- Every deed that is not sourced from the divine is **EVIL** and is entirely, unequivocally, unquestionably worthless regardless of our intentions and regardless of the outcomes of that deed (no matter how good, powerful, how much of a blessing to others, or supernatural they may be). Such deeds will be broken off and burned in the fire, for they are lawless and unauthorized.³⁵
- If we now live by the Spirit, we are to also now walk by the Spirit³⁶ And as we have received Him (*by grace through faith*) so are we to **now** live or walk in Him (*by grace through faith*).³⁷

We need to keep these truths in our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and, by them, live in repentance, as we let this truth change what we believe and how we think about all things in life, especially church and ministry and all our own “**church worthy**” deeds.

Let’s stop here and we will pick up in EP3 with an example that has been set for us by the church at Colossi of those who know means to “*now remember what we have heard and keep it,*”

³⁵ **John 15:5**

³⁶ **Galatians 5:25**

³⁷ **Colossians 2:6**