



## Double Portion:

## Title:

### SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 31; 17:14-20
- Rev. 11:3-6; 12:17; 14:12
- Romans 1-3
- Hebrews 4-5; 9-10

### INEXCUSABLE!

- Witnesses
- A Scroll and a Song
- No Excuses
- Ignorance is NOT Bliss

### THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And Moses commanded them, saying: “At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, **you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.**” Deuteronomy 31:10-11 NKJV

“Now therefore, **write down this song** for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, **that this song may be a witness for Me** against the children of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 31:19 NKJV

“Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, **that this song will testify against them as a witness;** for **it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants,** for I

know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them.””

Deuteronomy 31:21 NKJV

“So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **“Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;”** Deuteronomy 31:24-26 NKJV

#### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse.”**

Romans 1:20 NKJV

“If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge **that the things which I write to you are the commandments** of the Lord. **But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.”** I Corinthians 14:37-38 NKJV

“And that **servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will**, shall be beaten with many stripes. **But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.** For everyone to

whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

Luke 12:47-48 NKJV

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the **same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is **no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

*A good friend once taught me that once you become good at making excuses, you will never become good at anything else—ever again! The Holy Scriptures are replete with warnings against straying from Yahweh’s ways. But, He is a gracious God who provides every resource for us to be successful. He doesn’t just mention His expectations and then leave us to figure it out. And He could never be accused of being vague. I mean, He literally repeats Himself over and over again, reiterating His requirements and expectations in so many different ways, as to speak to the hearts of every type of personality. I believe He does this so we are left with no viable excuse for why we disobey Him. “I didn’t know!” is not an option.*

*“Ignorance of the law is no excuse,” was as true then as it is today. For sure, ignorance is NOT by any means bliss!*

*And to be sure the people could have no excuse, Moses wrote down the law and it was read to every person every seven years. He even composed a song for the people to sing—so they would remember. Even the kings of Israel were required, each individually, to write a copy of the law for himself, in its entirety, and to read it all the days of his life. This was to insure he would neither become prideful nor stray from God’s commands. Neither the people nor the king have any excuse to disobey! What excuses are you making?*

## Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this short portion, Moses commands an assembly for a public Torah reading and covenant renewal once every seven years. He then finishes writing the scroll of the Torah and has it deposited in the Holy of Holies next to the ark of the covenant.

### **Deuteronomy 31**

2. **It’s Time for Joshua to Take Over:** Moses is one hundred and twenty years old and he knows he shall not cross over the Jordan. Yahweh will cross over before them and Joshua will be their leader in the Promised Land.

3. The people are encourage to be strong and of good courage, and to not fear nor be afraid, as Yahweh will destroy their enemies just as He promised. He will not leave them nor forsake them. This exact promise is later extended to Joshua, personally, as he takes over.
  - (a) **Moses commissions Joshua:** Joshua, Yahweh will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.
4. **Read the Law every Seven Years:** Moses wrote the law and delivered it to the priests, and commanded them to read it to the people at the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles.
  - (a) Read it aloud so the people and their children would learn to fear Yahweh and carefully observe all the words of the law.
5. **Predicted Rebellion:** Joshua is inaugurated and is informed that this people will rebel and play the harlot with the other gods. They will forsake Yahweh and break His covenant. Yahweh warns that He will then hide His face from them because of the evil of turning to other gods.
6. **Two Witness:** A Song and a Scroll
  - (a) Moses is given the words for a song that the people can sing as a reminder of Yahweh's fulfilled promises and it will serve as a witness against the children of Israel. When the evil of

their doings brings curses on them, this song will testify against them as a witness.

(b) Moses wrote the song and taught it to the children of Israel. Then He inaugurated Joshua.

(c) When Moses had completed writing the words of the law in a book, he commanded the Levites to put the Book of the Law beside the ark that it may be there as a witness against them in their coming rebellion.

7. Moses predicts that because the people have been so rebellious, even while he was alive, they will certainly be worse after his death!

8. **The Song of Moses is Introduced to End the Portion:** *“Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:”* Deuteronomy 31:30

9. Last year this teaching was part of a double portion and was taught under the title: [The Spiritual Detective](#)

WITNESSES: FOR OR AGAINST YOU

## 1. A Song and a Scroll

### A. One Witness: Write the Law; Read the Law; Place the Law

(1) Write down the Law and read it to the people—no one from any generation could have an excuse—everyone will hear it!

- (a) **Read the Law every Seven Years:** “So Moses **wrote this law and delivered it to the priests**, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying: **“At the end of every seven years**, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, **you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.”** Deuteronomy 31:9-11 NKJV
- (2) **Everyone, including children and foreigners, will hear it and know it!**
- (a) **Hear, Fear, and Obey!** “Gather the people together, **men and women and little ones, and the stranger** who is within your gates, **that they may hear** and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God **and carefully observe all the words of this law**, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 31:12-13 NKJV
- (3) **Warning—the people will rebel...**

- (a) **Yahweh warns Moses that the people will rebel:** “And the LORD said to Moses: “Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and **this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land,** where they go to be among them, and **they will forsake Me and break My covenant** which I have made with them.” Deuteronomy 31:16 NKJV
- (b) **As predicted they will choose the curses of Deuteronomy 28:** “Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. **And many evils and troubles shall befall them,** so that they will say in that day, ‘**Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?**’ And **I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done,** in that they have turned to other gods.” Deuteronomy 31:17-18 NKJV
- (c) **I know how you acted when I was alive (says Moses) — I am certain you will rebel when I am gone!** “For I know that **after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you.** And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord,



to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.” Deuteronomy 31:29 NKJV

- (d) **Moses does as instructed!** “Then **Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly** of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:” Deuteronomy 31:30 NKJV

**(4) NO EXCUSES! Place the law near the ark as a witness!**

- (a) **Yikes! A witness against you:** “So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **“Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;** for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death?”

Deuteronomy 31:24-27 NKJV

**(5) NO EXCUSES! Even the king was bound by the law and had no room for excuses.**

- (a) **The King shall write for himself a copy of the Torah!**  
““When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are

around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. **[How will he govern?]** **"Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book,** from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, **and he shall read it all the days of his life,** that he may learn to fear the Lord his God **and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren,** that he may **not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left,** and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel." Deuteronomy 17:14-20 NKJV

1. King David, as an example, wrote Psalm 119 extolling the virtues of Yahweh's laws in all 176 verses! (Read it!)
  - a) **Sample:** "How can a young man cleanse his way? **By taking heed according to Your word.** With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, **let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**" Psalms 119:9-11 NKJV
2. Also, read the extraordinary narrative in which King Josiah reinstates governing Israel according to the Torah after his high priest Hilkiah discovers the lost Torah Scrolls during the early stages of Josiah's Temple renovation. (Read II Kings 22–23 & II Chronicles 34–35)
  - a) **Sample:** "Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. The king went up to the house of the Lord with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. **And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the Lord.**

Then the king stood by a pillar **and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments** and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. **And all the people took a stand for the covenant.”** II Kings 23:1-3 NKJV

**B. Another Witness: Write the Song; Teach the Song**

**(1) Write a song as a reminder and a witness against them in their rebellion—NO EXCUSES!**

**(a) Write the Song; Teach the Song:** “Now therefore, **write down this song** for yourselves, **and teach it to the children of Israel**; put it in their mouths, **that this song may be a witness for Me** against the children of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 31:19 NKJV

**(2) Moses writes the song as a WITNESS and then inaugurates Joshua**

**(a) Make the song memorable so everyone, including your descendants, can learn it, and no one would have AN EXCUSE to stray from Yahweh’s commands:** “When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they

will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant. Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, **that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land** of which I swore to give them.” Deuteronomy 31:20-21 NKJV

### **(3) Teach it to the Children**

- (a) **Just as the Law is to be read to the children, the song is taught to the children so the commands would be generational!** “Therefore **Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.** Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, “Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you.” Deuteronomy 31:22-23 NKJV

### **(4) The Song of Moses is Introduced to End the Portion**

- (a) “Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:” Deuteronomy 31:30 NKJV

## **C. The Legal Precedent for Witnesses Against You**

## (1) Two or Three Witnesses

- (a) **The testimony of two or three witnesses establishes a matter as true:** ““One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**” Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV
- (b) **The testimony of two or three witnesses establishes a matter as true:** “This will be the third time I am coming to you. **“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”** I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare —” II Corinthians 13:1-2 NKJV
- (c) **The testimony of two or three witnesses:** “Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy **on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**” Hebrews 10:28 NKJV
- (d) **The testimony of three witnesses:** “This is He who came by **water and blood**—Jesus Christ; **not only by water, but by water and blood.** And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are **three that bear witness in heaven:** the Father, the Word, and

the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are **three that bear witness on earth:** the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.” I John 5:6-8 NKJV

1. See: [Spirit, Water & Blood](#)

**(2) Our sins testify against us! Your sin will find you!**

(a) **Life and Death is in the commandments:** “See, I have set before you today **life and good, death and evil**, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to **walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments**, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.” Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NKJV

(b) **Transgressing and lying against the LORD—Your sins testify against you!** “For our transgressions are multiplied before You, **And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the LORD**, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.” Isaiah 59:12-13 NKJV (See teaching [LOOKING GOOD](#))

### (3) **Heaven and earth witness against us!**

- (a) **Heaven and earth as a witness:** “for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death? Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing **and call heaven and earth to witness against them.**” Deuteronomy 31:27-28 NKJV
- (b) **Heaven and earth as a witness:** “I call **heaven and earth as witnesses today against you**, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and cursing;** therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;” Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV
- (c) **Heaven and earth as a witness, even against Moses:**  
“Furthermore the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, **and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan**, and that I would not enter the good land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance. But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land.  
**Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God which He made with you,** and make



for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

“When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, **I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day**, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.”

Deuteronomy 4:21-26 NKJV

#### **D. Two Witnesses FOR YOU: Y’shua and Obedience**

##### **(1) Two Prophets— Elijah and Moses (two olive trees, two lampstands):**

- (a) **The Two Witnesses of Revelation:** “And I will give power to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the **two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God** of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.** **[Elijah-like]** And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this

manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that **no rain falls [Elijah-like]** in the days of their prophecy; and they have **power over waters to turn them to blood [Moses-like]**, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:3-6

1. Elijah prays for fire (II Kings 1) no Rain (I Kings 17)
  2. Moses prays for Plagues (Exodus 7-11)
  3. **Food for Thought:** the *Two Olive Trees* and *Two Lampstands* are symbolic of the Two Witnesses. Why? It would seem that Moses (one Olive Tree/Lampstand) connects us to Mount Sinai and our Hebrew Roots and Elijah (the other Olive Tree/Lampstand) connects us to the Restoration (see Matthew 17:11), the call of the Church to usher in the Kingdom.
  4. Also see (2) below: the two identifying markers of the true church—obeying the commandments and the testimony of Y’shua!
- (b) **Two Prophets:** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because **these two prophets** tormented those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 11:10 NKJV
- (c) **Two Prophets of the Transfiguration:** “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led

them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, **Moses and Elijah** appeared to them, talking with Him.” Matthew 17:1-3 NKJV

## **(2) Two witnesses of the true Church!**

- (a) **Y’shua and Obedience:** “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” Revelation 12:17 NKJV
- (b) **Y’shua and Obedience:** “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those **who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**” Revelation 14:12 NKJV

## **Summary: WITNESSES: FOR OR AGAINST YOU**

### **1. A Song and a Scroll**

#### **A. One Witness: Write the Law; Read the Law; Place the Law**

- (1) Write down the Law and read it to the people—no one from any generation could have an excuse—everyone will hear it!
  - (a) Read the Law every Seven Years.

- (2) Everyone, including children and foreigners, will hear it and know it!
  - (a) Hear, Fear, and Obey!
- (3) Warning—the people will rebel...
  - (a) Yahweh warns Moses that the people will rebel.
  - (b) As predicted they will choose the curses of Deuteronomy 28.
  - (c) I know how you acted when I was alive (says Moses) — I am certain you will rebel when I am gone!
  - (d) Moses does as instructed!
- (4) NO EXCUSES! Place the law near the ark as a witness!
  - (a) Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there as a witness against you.
- (5) NO EXCUSES! Even the king was bound by the law and had no room for excuses.
  - (a) The King shall write for himself a copy of the Torah and that is what he will use to govern.
  - (b) He shall read it all the days of his life.
  - (c) He shall be careful to observe all the words of this law.
  - (d) He shall do it so his heart may not be lifted above his brethren.

(e) He shall not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left.

(f) Yahweh will prolong his days if he does so!

1. King David, as an example, wrote Psalm 119 extolling the virtues of Yahweh's laws in all 176 verses! (Read it!)
2. Also, read the extraordinary narrative in which King Josiah reinstates governing Israel according to the Torah after his high priest Hilkiah discovers the lost Torah Scrolls during the early stages of Josiah's Temple renovation. (Read II Kings 22–23 & II Chronicles 34–35)

B. Another Witness: Write the Song; Teach the Song

(1) Write a song as a reminder and a witness against them in their rebellion—NO EXCUSES!

(a) Write the Song; Teach the Song: that this song may be a witness for Yahweh.

(2) Moses writes the song as a WITNESS and then inaugurates Joshua.

(3) Teach it to the Children

(a) Just as the Law is to be read to the children, the song is taught to the children so the commands would be generational!

### C. The Legal Precedent for Witnesses Against You

- (1) The testimony of two or three witnesses establishes a matter as true.
  - (a) The testimony of three witnesses: three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood
- (2) Our sins testify against us! Your sin will find you!
  - (a) Life and Death is in the commandments:
  - (b) Transgressing and lying against the LORD—Your sins testify against you!
  - (c) Heaven and earth witness against us!

### D. Two Witnesses FOR YOU: Y'shua and Obedience

- (1) Two Prophets— Elijah and Moses (two olive trees, two lampstands):
  - (a) The Two Witnesses of Revelation: fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. [Elijah-like]; no rain falls [Elijah-like]; power over waters to turn them to blood [Moses-like]
    1. Elijah prays for fire (II Kings 1) no Rain (I Kings 17)
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    3. Food for Thought: the *Two Olive Trees* and *Two Lampstands* are symbolic of the Two Witnesses. Why?

It would seem that Moses (one Olive Tree/Lampstand) connects us to Mount Sinai and our Hebrew Roots and Elijah (the other Olive Tree/Lampstand) connects us to the Restoration (see Matthew 17:11), the call of the Church to usher in the Kingdom.

4. Also see (2) below: the two identifying markers of the true church—obeying the commandments and the testimony of Y’shua!

(b) Two Prophets of the Transfiguration: Moses and Elijah

(2) Two witnesses of the true Church!

(a) Y’shua and Obedience: keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of (faith in) Jesus Christ.

## NO EXCUSES

### 2. Ignorance is definitely NOT Bliss

#### A. Excuses are NOT Protection

(1) No Excuses

(a) **Truth Suppression:** “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes**

**are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” Romans 1:18-25 NKJV

1. **“He has shown you, O man, what is good;** And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 NKJV

(2) For that reason...

- (a) **God gave them over...** “**For this reason God gave them up** to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also



the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over** to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:26-32 NKJV

(3) Therefore you are Inexcusable!

(a) **Hypocrisy is inexcusable! “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man**, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you **who judge practice the same things**. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against

those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?" Romans 2:1-3 NKJV

(4) Or do you think that God is will not judge accordingly...

(a) **The righteous judgment of God, "will render to each one according to his deeds..."** "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of **the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds":**" Romans 2:4-6 NKJV

(5) You will get what's coming!

(a) **There is no partiality with God—everyone will get what they deserve if they turn away from the truth...** "**eternal life to those who** by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; **but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth,** but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but

glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For **there is no partiality with God.**" Romans 2:7-11 NKJV

(6) Ignorance of the Law does not give you a pass!

- (a) **The doers of the law will be justified...** "For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (**for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;**" Romans 2:12-13 NKJV

## **B. Ignorance is NOT Bliss!**

(1) Unintentional sin still confers guilt!

- (a) **Unintentional sin against any of the commandments of the Lord still brings guilt!** ""Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, if the anointed priest sins, **bringing guilt on the people**, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering... 'Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins **unintentionally**, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against

any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which should not be done, and are guilty;... **‘When a ruler has sinned, and done something unintentionally** against any of the commandments of the Lord his God in anything which should not be done, and is guilty, **‘If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally** by doing something against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty,” Leviticus 4:2-3, 13, 22, 27 NKJV

1. **Guilty even if you didn’t know!** ““If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord, **though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.**”Leviticus 5:17 NKJV
2. **Atonement necessary even for ignorance!** “And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. **So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it,** and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the Lord.”” Leviticus 5:18-19 NKJV

(2) Ignorance ain't all it's cracked up to be!

(a) **If you want to stay ignorant to God's commands, go ahead; it's your choice!** "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge **that the things which I write to you are the commandments** of the Lord. **But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.**" I Corinthians 14:37-38 NKJV

1. **"I did not know" is no excuse!** "And that **servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will**, shall be beaten with many stripes. **But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.** For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:47-48 NKJV

2. **The old life is marked by ignorance!** "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, **not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance**; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is

written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”” I Peter 1:13-16  
NKJV

### C. Grace is NOT an Excuse!

(1) My badness makes God look better, no?

(a) **Let us do evil that good may result!** “But if **our unrighteousness** brings out God’s righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?” **Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—“Let us do evil that good may result”? Their condemnation is just!”** Romans 3:5-8

1. **All I need is faith, no?** “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! **On the contrary**, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31 NKJV
2. **My sin increases grace, no?** “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign

through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

3. **I can keep sinning and grace will keep gracing, no?**

“What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!** How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Romans 6:1-2 NKJV

**D. Willful Sin is NOT Forgivable**

(1) What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive? Answer: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; Grieving the Holy Spirit; Insulting the Holy Spirit

(a) **Mark:** “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; **but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness**, but is subject to eternal condemnation” — because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”” Mark 3:28-30 NKJV

(b) **Matthew:** “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but**

**whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him,** either in this age or in the age to come.”

Matthew 12:30-32 NKJV

- (c) **John—Don’t bother praying about that:** “If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. **I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.” I John 5:16-17 NKJV

- (d) **Paul—Grieving the Holy Spirit:** “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV

- (e) **Hebrews—Do no insult the Spirit of grace:** “For if we **sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth,** there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery



indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of \*two or three witnesses.** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace?** For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

- (f) Look at these two categories of people: Believers with bad doctrine and Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE!

- 1) **Believers with Bad Doctrine:** ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but**

whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

- 2) **Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE:** “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and **broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. **“Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done

many wonders in Your name?’ And then **I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**” Matthew 7:13-23 NKJV

3) **The were NEVER one of us!** “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that **none of them were of us.**” I John 2:19 NKJV

4) **They were NEVER “enlightened”:** “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have **tasted the good word of God** and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

#### **E. Hiding is NOT an Option**

(1) Conviction

(a) **No one can hide!** “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword,**

**piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is **no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

(2) His Word will not return void!

(a) **What Yahweh says will happen!** ““For **My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, **So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”** Isaiah 55:8-11 NKJV

#### **F. Immaturity is NOT Acceptable**

(1) Solid Food

(a) **Those who are mature vs. Unskilled in the word of righteousness!** “For though by this time you ought to be

teachers, you need someone to teach you again the **first principles of the oracles of God**; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is **unskilled in the word of righteousness**, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, that is, **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

(2) Leaving behind elemental matters...

- (a) **It's impossible for those who seem to have fallen away to have ever been enlightened as partakers in the Holy Spirit!** "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of **repentance** from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance**, since they crucify again for

themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” Hebrews 6:1-6 NKJV

## **G. Flesh vs. Spirit**

### **(1) Paul’s Soliloquy**

- (a) **To sin or not to sin!** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be**. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the**

**Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”** Romans 8:1-13 NKJV

(2) It is through great trials...

- (a) **The Kingdom is at the end of our suffering!** “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, **“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**” Acts 14:21-22 NKJV

(3) I no longer live...

- (a) **The Life I now live, I live by the Spirit!** “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but

Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(4) To live is Christ to die is gain

(a) **To be or not to be!** “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, **whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.**

Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know **that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith**, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.”

Philippians 1:19-26 NKJV

(5) Hamlet’s Soliloquy: (from *Hamlet*) BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE **(through the eyes of Paul!)**



*To be, or not to be, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them.*

***[The choice to live or die; however, the real choice is to live  
by the flesh or live by the Spirit.]***

*To die—to sleep,  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd.*

***[I am desperate to end this human struggle, this wrestling  
with my sin nature. I would be better off dead than to  
continue in this turmoil.]***

*To die, to sleep;  
To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause*

***[The single greatest conflict for Hamlet and, by extension,  
all of mankind, is not understanding how death of the flesh  
brings life in the Spirit.]***

—there's the respect

*That makes calamity of so long life.*

***[Because I don't really understand the benefit of  
surrendering this life, I must go on living it because the  
alternative seems like death!]***

## **H. Understanding Forgiveness and Your New Nature—Going Back will NOT End Well**

(1) He will cast your sins far way...

(a) **He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea!**

“Who is a God like You, **Pardoning iniquity And passing  
over the transgression** of the remnant of His heritage?

**He does not retain His anger forever**, Because He  
delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us,  
And will subdue our iniquities. **You will cast all our sins  
Into the depths of the sea.** You will give truth to Jacob  
And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our  
fathers From days of old.” Micah 7:18-20 NKJV

(2) Don't get entangled with sin...

(a) **Don't get ensnared with sin!** “Therefore we also, since  
we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let  
us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily  
ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that  
is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and

finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

(3) Don't forget! Your sins are in the past! Leave them there!

(a) **Forgiven means forgiven, don't forget that!** “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and **has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**” II Peter 1:9 NKJV

1. I highly recommend you review the teachings on II Peter 1:5-15 here:

a) [The Path to the Divine Nature—Foundational Teaching](#)

b) [The Path to the Divine Nature—Scripture Resources](#)

c) [Enough Already!](#)

(b) **As far as East is from West vs. North South:** “For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; **As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**” Psalms 103:11-12 NKJV

(c) **Forgetting the past** —“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting**

**those things which are behind** and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV

(d) **He keeps no records of wrongs — “If You, Lord, should mark [keep a record of sins] iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.”** Psalms 130:3-4 NKJV

(e) **You keep no records of wrongs —**“does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil [keeps no record of wrongs];” I Corinthians 13:5 NKJV

(4) The latter end is worse for them than the beginning

(a) **Once forgiven, if you go back to your sins, it is worse than had you never been forgiven in the first place!**

“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they **are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.** But it has happened to them

according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” [*Proverbs 26:11*] and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”” II Peter 2:20-22 NKJV

(5) In the Struggle—the conclusion to come to!

(a) **Don’t identify your sin as if it is you!** “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. **Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”Romans 7:14-25 NKJV**

**Summary: NO EXCUSES**

**2. Ignorance is definitely NOT Bliss**

**A. Excuses are NOT Protection**

- (1) No Excuses—He has shown you what is good.
  - (a) Truth Suppression ends badly.
- (2) For that reason... God gives you up to vile passions.
- (3) Hypocrisy is inexcusable!
- (4) Ignorance of the Law does not give you a pass!
- (5) The righteous judgment of God renders to each one according to his deeds...
- (6) You will get what's coming!
  - (a) There is no partiality with God—everyone will get what they deserve if they turn away from the truth...
  - (b) The doers of the law will be justified...

**B. Ignorance is NOT Bliss!**

- (1) Unintentional sin still confers guilt!
  - (a) Unintentional sin against any of the commandments of the Lord still brings guilt!
    - 1. You are guilty even if you didn't know!

2. Atonement is necessary even for ignorance!

(2) Ignorance ain't all it's cracked up to be!

(a) If you want to stay ignorant to God's commands, go ahead; it's your choice!

1. "I did not know" is no excuse...he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten.

2. The old life is marked by ignorance!

C. Grace is NOT an Excuse!

(1) My badness makes God look better, no?

(a) Let us do evil that good may result! BAD IDEA!

1. All I need is faith, no?

2. My sin increases grace, no?

3. I can keep sinning and grace will keep gracing, no?

4. NO!

D. Willful Sin is NOT Forgivable

(1) What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive?

(a) Blasphemes against the Holy Spirit.

(b) John teaches—Don't bother praying about the sin leading to death.

(c) Grieving the Holy Spirit:

(d) Do no insult the Spirit of grace: Sinning willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth.

(e) Look at these two categories of people...

1) Believers with Bad Doctrine

2) Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE: I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!

3) The were NEVER one of us!

4) They were NEVER “enlightened”

E. Hiding is NOT an Option

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(a) No one can hide!

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(1) Solid Food

(a) Those who are mature vs. Unskilled in the word of righteousness!

(2) Leaving behind elemental matters...

(a) It's impossible for those who seem to have fallen away to have ever been enlightened as partakers in the Holy Spirit!

G. Flesh vs. Spirit



(1) Paul's Soliloquy

- (a) To sin or not to sin! For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

(2) It is through great trials...

- (a) The Kingdom is at the end of our suffering!

(3) I no longer live...

- (a) The Life I now live, I live by the Spirit!

(4) To live is Christ to die is gain

- (a) To be or not to be! For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(5) Hamlet's Soliloquy: through the eyes of Paul!

- (a) The choice to live or die; however, the real choice is to live by the flesh or live by the Spirit.
- (b) I am desperate to end this human struggle, this wrestling with my sin nature. I would be better off dead than to continue in this turmoil.
- (c) The single greatest conflict for Hamlet and, by extension, all of mankind, is not understanding how death of the flesh brings life in the Spirit.
- (d) Because I don't really understand the benefit of surrendering this life, I must go on living it because the alternative seems like death!

## H. Understanding Forgiveness and Your New Nature—Going Back will NOT End Well

- (1) He will cast your sins far way...
  - (a) He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea!
- (2) Don't get entangled with sin...
  - (a) Don't get ensnared with sin!
- (3) Don't forget! Your sins are in the past! Leave them there!
  - (a) Forgiven means forgiven, don't forget that!
  - (b) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
  - (c) Forget those things which are behind.
  - (d) He keeps no records of wrongs.
  - (e) You should keep no records of wrongs.
- (4) The latter end is worse for them than the beginning
  - (a) Once forgiven, if you go back to your sins, it is worse than had you never been forgiven in the first place!
- (5) In the Struggle—the conclusion to come to!
  - (a) Don't identify your sin as if it is you!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. The Scriptures say, “by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”**
  - A. What were the two witnesses used to establish multi-generational accountability to Yahweh’s commands?
- 2. What were the two things required of each king of Israel regarding Yahweh’s laws, as soon as he took the throne of his kingdom?**
  - A. What were the three reasons he was required to do so?
- 3. In I John 5, John mentions three witnesses:**
  - A. Name the three that bear witness in heaven.
  - B. Name the three that bear witness in earth.
- 4. Discuss what Isaiah means when he says “our sins testify against us.”**
- 5. Discuss how we might conclude that the two witness of Revelation 11 are Elijah and Moses.**
  - A. How might this relate to the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17?
- 6. In the first chapter of Romans, what specifically insures that no one has a viable excuse for rejecting Yahweh?**

- 7. How can we be sure that ignorance of God's laws, even being unaware of their existence, is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them?**
  - A. Explain what Paul means when he emphasizes that God's grace will never be an acceptable excuse for sin!
- 8. Relate willful sin from Hebrews 10 to the sin that John instructs us not to pray about in 1 John 5.**
  - A. How can we be assured that it is impossible to hide your sin from God? Explain your answer using Hebrews 4:11-13 and Isaiah 55:8-11.
- 9. Discuss the tragic results of going back to your old sins.**
  - A. Discuss what it means that Yahweh has removed our transgressions as far as the east is from the west.
  - B. Why does Peter call it shortsighted to forget you were already cleansed from your past sins?
- 10. Relate Paul's words, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" with Hamlet's famous soliloquy, "To be, or not to be, that is the question".**