



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 13:8-14
- Mark 12:28-34
- Luke 5:36-39
- I Samuel 17

## TWO WORLDS COLLIDE

- One Debt
- New Wineskins
- The Victorious Mind
- Bonus Narrative

## SEED:

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for **he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**” Romans 13:8 NKJV

“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**” Romans 13:10 NKJV

““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**” Matthew 5:17 NKJV

“On these two commandments **hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” Matthew 22:40 NKJV

“So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for **there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s**

**neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**" Now when **Jesus saw that he answered wisely,** He said to him, **"You are not far from the kingdom of God."** But after that no one dared question Him." Mark 12:32-34 NKJV

"And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, **"What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"** So he answered and said, " **'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'** " And He said to him, **"You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."**" Luke 10:25-28 NKJV

## **FRUIT:**

"The night is far spent, **the day is at hand.** Therefore **let us cast off the works of darkness,** and let us **put on the armor of light.**" Romans 13:12 NKJV

"But **new wine must be put into new wineskins,** and both are preserved." Luke 5:38 NKJV

"But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**" Romans 13:14 NKJV

"...For **who is this uncircumcised Philistine,** that he should **defy the armies of the living God?"** I Samuel 17:26 NKJV

## **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS**

When Paul's letter took a turn in Chapter 12, the target was clearly painted. Live in such a way that you are instantly recognizable as a Christian—and do so with such intensity and commitment that there is zero doubt to whom you are completely dedicated. It is obvious to anyone because you willingly sacrifice every aspect of your life to God. The better you get at it, the more you resemble Christ; and that is clearly the ultimate vision. This lifestyle is demonstrated by the fulfillment of one obligation, which can be summed up like this: love one another and don't hurt one another. It's unconditional love. It's authentic and pure, the way you ought to love yourself; in fact, it's the way we all dream of being treated by others.

Consider this explanation to measure just how profound is this love. If you take each of God's laws, every written statute, command, ordinance, and decree; every precept, judgement, and testimony; and then add every oracle of God, the inspired and correctly applied oral and practical application of each, and compile them all under one heading that perfectly demonstrates the entirety of their fulfillment, the heading would be this: Love is the fulfillment of the law. Too simple? It is anything but; in fact, it is all-inclusive, so comprehensive that it defines and identifies God Himself. God is love!

And this of course is why when Christ was asked to sum up every law in one soundbite, He said, “Love God perfectly with your entire being and do so by demonstrating it with uncompromising obedience, the pinnacle of which is to love others!” Y’shua would declare, “This reality about love is the foundation on which sits every law and every prophet who ever truly spoke for God.” It was a radical statement, but not one that was foreign to all. There are a few accounts of interactions with Christ in which some men, other than His disciples, had eyes to see and ears to hear what the prophets and kings of old desired, but could not. These few isolated scribes, literally first century biblical lawyers, were experts in the law who had eyes and ears wide open.

“Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Is this not true for each of us at every moment? And yet, does not the scripture reveal that it is, “those who endure to the end who shall be saved”? This does not mean that your eternal redemption is ever in question, if of course you have a true confession in Christ. Here Paul states the obvious; the day of the prophetic fulfillment of this ultimate battle gets closer by the second. And he states the obvious for a grand purpose that might not be so obvious to some of you. Every generation must be ready—so wake up! Open your eyes and see the head on collision fast approaching.

The time that must elapse alluded to here is better understood as a metaphor than a calendar. It's not seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, centuries, and millennia that matter most. Instead, it is your shedding of an old skin and the donning of a new garment, the removal of sin and the addition of a protective covering of perfect purity—what Paul calls “the armor of light”. Yes, God's light is both a protective covering and the ultimate cleansing agent. Light always exposes darkness; it shines and darkness can't ever withstand it. He who sins, sins in the dark, but everything hidden will be revealed by God's light.

What does living in perfect purity look like? You walk circumspectly, as you are fully aware of God's prophetic calendar for mankind. You wisely seek and understand the will of God. You don't dissipate your energy and resources by engaging in wasteful sinful activities. You are completely animated by the Holy Spirit. You put off the old man with his corrupt skin and you put on the new man with his innocent skin. You become utterly transparent, so no sin can be hidden and you never return to your pagan indulgences. Then you let your light shine on others, so they too can witness God's transformative powers and also experience an authentic desire to worship Him.

The imagery is that of a dressing room. You have tried on and worn many garments, but now it is time to cover your skin one last

time, and this change of clothes is the only one that really matters. You were once dressed in sin and shame and condemnation. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life ruled your every desire. That is no longer who you are. And your ultimate destiny is Christ fully formed in you; that is when you will look in the mirror and see you are wearing the image of Christ.

It would seem that at creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God. Something happened when sin came into the world. Man looked upon the glory of his own body, and instead of seeing the glory of God, he became afraid and attempted to cover what he now saw as “nakedness.” What took place next has great prophetic significance. God saw man’s new sense of embarrassment over his original glory and accommodated him by causing him to be covered with a “new skin”, an animal skin, a certain downgrade. This downgrade would now plague mankind into the future and does not seem to have any resolution until the revealing of the sons of God, at which time “creation is restored.” Our ultimate hope is to be clothed with a restored heavenly image, so we shall not be found naked, like Adam was after he violated God’s instructions.

And this too is the exact choice you must make. Do you remain clothed in sin and shame, or do you allow yourself to be sanctified from glory to glory? This depends on one thing only; will

you take on your new identity in Christ? In other words, will you become a new creation, or will you insist on returning to the old you? It's the choice every Christian must make.

Taking on your new identity, what we now recognize as putting on a new skin that reflects God's glory, is something about which our Savior taught when He used wineskins as an object lesson. Just below the surface is this profound lesson: "The Holy Spirit in you cannot radiate the purity and glory of God if you insist on holding onto your old life. The incongruence will simply ruin your witness, as if there is nothing authentic in you that represents God. All that will emanate from you is hypocrisy, a brand of cultural christianity, a poor forgery of what should otherwise be a masterpiece. Ironically, at that point you will be trusted by neither Christians nor heathens. No, your new life must be accompanied by evidence of a true Christlike transformation that shines for all the world to see. This will preserve both God's reputation and yours. And finally, if you persistently return to the vomit of your old life, the lustful pleasures and attraction of sin will easily convince you that it is a better option than all those rules you must follow to remain pure." It's time to put on your new wineskin! In other words, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

*"Think in Bible." DJH*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:**

*We are sojourners from another world, and yet we are only meant to be temporary inhabitants passing through this land. It is an interim provisional experience, and as such we are mandated to exist as if we are already heavenly citizens, even while our feet remain firmly planted in this world. These two worlds are set for a head on cosmic collision, the magnitude of which history has never known, and is so gargantuan that the coming colossal clash can occur only one time—it is the ultimate titanic battle.*

*Two worlds, one God so loves, the other we are not to love at all. In fact, loving the other is a direct affront to loving our Creator. We are in the world we see, but not of that world. You can identify those who possess this type of hybrid citizenship by one undeniable marker; the world hates everything they represent. You can isolate citizens of the world God so loves by their love for one another. It's the witness that comes with only one well-defined debt. Owe no one anything except to love them and never cause them harm. This very thing completes, summarizes, and encapsulates every command of God in one overarching mandate.*

*Wake up people; time is running out. The inflection point in history is at hand. God demands you no longer live in lewdness nor lust, in strife nor envy; cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Become like the Lord Jesus Christ and never*



*again make provisions for your lustful desires. And then stand up in your perfect purity and say to the world that is about to pass away, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”*

## ONE DEBT

### 1. **Owe no one anything else...**

#### A. **Love is the fulfillment of the law.**

(1) Since Chapter 12, Paul’s letter continues to point at one target!

(a) Live in such a way that you are instantly recognizable as a Christian—and do so with such intensity and commitment that there is zero doubt to whom you are completely dedicated.

1. **“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and **if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** Love does no harm to a

neighbor; **therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**" Romans 13:8-10 NKJV

2. Your dedication to this principle is obvious to anyone because you willingly sacrifice every aspect of your life to God.

a) The better you get at it, the more you resemble Christ; and that is clearly the ultimate vision.

b) This lifestyle is demonstrated by the fulfillment of one obligation, which can be summed up like this: love one another and don't hurt one another.

1) *"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another.**"*" John 13:35 NKJV

c) It's unconditional love. It's authentic and pure, the way you ought to love yourself; in fact, it's the way we all dream of being treated by others.

1) *"And **just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.**"* Luke 6:31 NKJV

3. Consider this explanation to measure just how profound is this love.

a) If you take each of God's laws, every written statute, command, ordinance, and decree; every precept, judgement, and testimony; and then add

every oracle of God, the inspired and correctly applied oral and practical application of each, and compile them all under one heading that perfectly demonstrates the entirety of their fulfillment, the heading would be this: Love is the fulfillment of the law.

1) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**”* Matthew 5:17 NKJV

2) *“On these two commandments **hang all the Law and the Prophets.**”* Matthew 22:40 NKJV

b) Too simple? It is anything but; in fact, it is all-inclusive, so comprehensive that it defines and identifies God Himself. God is love!

1) *“He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**”* I John 4:8 NKJV

4. And this of course is why when Christ was asked to sum up every law in one soundbite, He said...

a) *“Love God perfectly with your entire being and do so by demonstrating it with uncompromising obedience, the pinnacle of which is to love others!”*

- 1) *“Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘**You shall love your neighbor** as yourself.’”* Matthew 22:37-39 NKJV
- b) Again, Y’shua would declare, “This reality about love is the foundation on which sits every law and every prophet who ever truly spoke for God.”
  - 1) *“On these two commandments **hang all the Law and the Prophets.**”* Matthew 22:40 NKJV
5. It was a radical statement **about love**, but not one that was foreign to all.
  - a) There are a few accounts of interactions with Christ in which some men, other than His disciples, had eyes to see and ears to hear what the prophets and kings of old desired, but could not.
  - b) These few isolated scribes, literally first century biblical lawyers, were experts in the law who had eyes and ears wide open.
    - 1) **Scribe #1:** *“So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for **there is one God, and there is no other but He.**”*

*And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."* Now when **Jesus saw that he answered wisely**, He said to him, **"You are not far from the kingdom of God."** But after that no one dared question Him." Mark 12:32-34 NKJV (See Mark 12:28-34)

- 2) **Scribe #2:** *"And behold, a **certain lawyer** stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, **"What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"** So he answered and said, " **'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'** " And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; **do this and you will live.**" "*  
Luke 10:25-28 NKJV

- 3) **A clear example of what he had just said privately to his disciples:** *"Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, **"Blessed are the***

*eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”*

Luke 10:23-24 NKJV

## (2) Hybrid Citizenship

(a) As Christians, we simultaneously exist in both heaven and on earth...

1. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”*

Philippians 3:20 NKJV

a) It is imperative that we understand how these two citizenships intersect.

b) They are two different worlds and God does not view them equally.

c) You can see a full teaching on this topic in ([Beyond Salvation](#)), but here is a short excerpt.

### 2. Two Worlds

a) There are two worlds to counterbalance, one Christ came to save, the other to condemn. One world is everlasting; He loves it and died for it. The other is passing away; don't love it. Don't comport

according to its values and standards, as it is only filled with lust and pride.

- 1) ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*** John 3:16-17 NKJV
- 2) ***“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*** I John 2:15-17 NKJV
- 3) ***““If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”*** John 15:18-19 NKJV

- 4) “{14} *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. {15} I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. {16} They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” John 17:14-19 NKJV*

## NEW WINESKINS

### 2. The Time is at Hand

#### A. The Inevitable Confrontation

(1) Time to wake up!

(a) “Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

1. “And do this, **knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep;** for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” Romans 13:11 NKJV

2. Is this not true for each of us at every moment?



- a) And yet, does not the scripture reveal that it is, “those who endure to the end who shall be saved”?
- 1) “**But he who endures to the end shall be saved.** And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then the end will come.**” Matthew 24:13-14 NKJV
  - 2) This does not mean that your eternal redemption is ever in question, if of course you have a true confession in Christ.
3. Here Paul states the obvious; the day of the prophetic fulfillment of this ultimate battle gets closer by the second.
- a) And he states the obvious for a grand purpose that might not be so obvious to some of you.
  - b) Every generation must be ready—so wake up! Open your eyes and see the head on collision fast approaching.
    - 1) “**You are all sons of light and sons of the day.** We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, **but let**

***us watch and be sober.***” I Thessalonians 5:5-6  
NKJV

(2) The Armor of Light

(a) Your Weapon and Your Armor

1. “The night is far spent, **the day is at hand**. Therefore let us **cast off the works of darkness**, and let us put on the **armor of light**. ” Romans 13:12 NKJV
2. The time that must elapse alluded to here is better understood as a metaphor than a calendar.
  - a) It’s not seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, centuries, and millennia that matter most.
  - b) Instead, it is your shedding of a an old skin and the donning of a new garment, the removal of sin and the addition of a protective covering of perfect purity—what Paul calls “the armor of light”.
    - 1) *“Arise, shine; **For your light has come!** And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; **But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.** The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings*

*to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1-3  
NKJV*

c) The fight and the whole armor of God

- 1) *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being***

*watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—” Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV*

3. God’s light is both a protective covering and the ultimate cleansing agent.

a) Light always exposes darkness; it shines and darkness can’t ever withstand it.

1) *“In Him was life, and the life was **the light of men.** And the **light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**” John 1:4-5 NKJV*

2) *“For **you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of **darkness, but rather expose them.** For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. **But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light,** for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: \**“Awake,**

*you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”” Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV*

- 3) *\*“**Arise, shine; For your light has come!** And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1 NKJV*

b) He who sins, sins in the dark, but everything hidden will be revealed by God’s light.

- 1) *“And this is the condemnation, **that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”” John 3:19-21 NKJV***

- 2) *“For **nothing is secret** that will not be revealed, **nor anything hidden** that will not be known and **come to light.**” Luke 8:17 NKJV*

- 3) *“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 4:12-13 NKJV

### (3) Head-on Collision

(a) If you see what is coming, how ought you live?

1. “Let us **walk properly, as in the day**, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.” Romans 13:13 NKJV

2. What does living in perfect purity look like?

a) You walk circumspectly, as you are fully aware of God’s prophetic calendar for mankind. You wisely seek and understand the will of God.

1) “See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** And do not be drunk with wine, in **which is dissipation**; but be filled with the Spirit,” Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJV

b) You don't dissipate your energy and resources by engaging in wasteful sinful activities. But instead, you are completely animated by the Holy Spirit.

1) *“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh **has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you **do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **For this reason the gospel was preached** also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, **but live according to God in the spirit.**”*** 1 Peter 4:1-6  
NKJV

c) You put off the old man with his corrupt skin and you put on the new man with his innocent skin. You become utterly transparent, so no sin can be hidden and you never return to your pagan indulgences.

1) *“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that **you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that **you put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV



d) Then you let your light shine on others, so they too can witness God's transformative powers and also experience an authentic desire to worship Him.

1) *““You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**”* Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

e) If you see what is coming, how ought you live?

1) *“But **the day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**”* II Peter 3:10-11 NKJV

(4) Clothed in Christ

(a) The imagery is that of a dressing room.

1. “But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfill its lusts.” Romans 13:14 NKJV
2. You have tried on and worn many garments, but now it is time to cover your skin one last time, and this change of clothes is the only one that really matters.
  - a) You were once dressed in sin and shame and condemnation. But now you walk according to the Spirit not the flesh.
    - 1) “*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.**” Romans 8:1 NKJV*
  - b) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life once ruled your every desire.
    - 1) “*For **all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.*” I John 2:16 NKJV
  - c) That is no longer who you are.
    - 1) “*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*

d) And your ultimate destiny is Christ fully formed in you; that is when you will look in the mirror and see you are wearing the image of Christ.

1) *“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you,**” Galatians 4:19 NKJV*

2) *“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” Colossians 1:27 NKJV*

3) *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV*

3. It would seem that at creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God.

a) Something happened when sin came into the world. Man looked upon the glory of his own body, and instead of seeing the glory of God, he became afraid and attempted to cover what he now saw as “nakedness.”

1) *“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”* Genesis 3:6-7  
NKJV

b) Who told you that you had no coverings (garments) on? And why do you find it necessary to hide? Are you ashamed of something? Do you actually think you can hide from God? Do you really believe God does not know where you are? Maybe He is not asking about your current location, but instead about your current condition!

1) *“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and*

*Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “**Where are you?**” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.**” And He said, “**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?””*  
Genesis 3:8-11 NKJV

4. What took place next has great prophetic significance.
  - a) God saw man’s new sense of embarrassment over his original glory and accommodated him by causing him to be covered with a “new skin”, an animal skin, a certain downgrade.
    - 1) “Also for Adam and his wife **the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And **now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever**” — “ Genesis 3:21-22 NKJV

b) Yahweh covers the “glory shown by man’s original garment” and clothes them with the skin of “animals”. And with this “new downgraded identity” comes nasty restrictions. He removes them from the garden and prevents them from reentering, thus preventing access to the tree of life!

1) *“therefore the LORD God **sent him out of the garden** of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way to the tree of life.**”*

Genesis 3:23-24 NKJV

c) This downgrade would now plague mankind into the future and does not seem to have a any resolution until the revealing of the sons of God, at which time “creation is restored.” We will see those “animal skins” removed, once again revealing the glory of God.

1) *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the*

earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God**. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also **will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**"

Romans 8:18-21 NKJV

5. Our ultimate hope...

a) To be clothed with a restored heavenly image, so we shall not be found naked, like Adam was after he violated God's instructions.

1) "For we know that if our **earthly house**, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, **earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked**. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, **not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed**, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God,

*who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”*

II Corinthians 5:1-5 NKJV

6. And this too is the exact choice you must make.
  - a) “Do you remain clothed in sin and shame, or do you allow yourself to be sanctified from glory to glory?”
    - 1) *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV*
  - b) This depends on one thing only; will you take on your new identity in Christ. In other words, will you become a new creation, or will you insist on returning to the old you? It’s the choice every Christian must make.
    - 1) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV*



2) *“that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, **the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**”*

Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV

7. Taking on your new identity, what we now recognize as putting on a new skin that reflects God’s glory, is something about which our Savior taught when He used wineskins as an object lesson.

a) Just below the surface is this profound lesson: “The Holy Spirit in you cannot radiate the purity and glory of God if you insist on holding onto your old life. The incongruence will simply ruin your witness, as if there is nothing authentic in you that represents God. All that will emanate from you is hypocrisy, a brand of cultural christianity, a poor forgery of what should otherwise be a masterpiece. Ironically, at that point you will be trusted by neither Christians nor heathens.”

1) *Then He spoke a parable to them: “**No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one;***

*otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. **But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'** ""*  
Luke 5:36-39 NKJV

- b) No, your new life must be accompanied by evidence of a true Christlike transformation that shines for all the world to see. This will preserve both God's reputation and yours.
- 1) *"How shall we who **died to sin live any longer in it?**" Romans 6:2 NKJV*
  - 2) *"But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty***

***and continues in it, and is not a forgetful***

***hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*** James 1:22-25 NKJV

3) *“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? {18} But someone will say, “**You have faith, and I have works.**” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*” James 2:14, 18 NKJV

4) *“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And **we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain [see Matthew 17:1-13].** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which **you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;**” II Peter 1:17-19 NKJV*

c) And finally, if you persistently return to the vomit of your old life, the lustful pleasures and attraction of sin will easily convince you that it is a better

option than all those rules you must follow to remain pure.”

- 1) *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**”* Romans 6:16 NKJV
- 2) *“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh **has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles**—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you **do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you.”* I Peter 4:1-4 NKJV
- 3) *“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,”** and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”” II Peter 2:21-22 NKJV

d) It’s time to put on your new wineskin! In other words, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

1) **“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that **you put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV

2) See teaching on animal skins and glory ([New Wineskins II](#))

## THE VICTORIOUS MIND

### 3. Victory Going In

#### A. Two Opposing Mindsets

(1) We are grasshoppers in their sight vs. God has already given us the victory

(a) The Wrong Mindset (a bad report)

1. “Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. **Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.** The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.” {31} But the men who had gone up with him said, **“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”** And **they gave the children of Israel a bad report** of the land which they had spied out, saying, **“The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants** (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and **we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”**” Numbers 13:27-29, 31-33 NKJV
2. They gave the children of Israel a bad report...
  - a) The people who dwell in the land are strong.

- b) The cities are fortified and very large.
- c) We saw the descendants of Anak there.
- d) We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.
- e) The land devours its inhabitants.
- f) All the people are giants.
- g) We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

(b) The Right Mindset (a good report)

1. “Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, **“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”**” Numbers 13:30

NKJV

2. Caleb’s opposing mindset...

- a) We are able to overcome!

(2) It comes down to this...

(a) Whose report do you believe?

1. **“Who has believed our report?** And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Isaiah 53:1 NKJV

2. **Opposing mindsets:** Paphetic vs. Pathetic

- a) **Pastoral:** concerned with life right now!

- b) **Prophetic:** concerned with what we will be! You believe in and understand what will be and therefore live in that victory now.
  - c) **Paphetic:** Pastoral + Prophetic
  - d) **Pathetic:** You are so consumed with what things look like right now that you become paralyzed and thus blinded to what will be!
3. "Whose report will you believe?"
- a) We will believe the report of the Lord!
    - 1) *"Let us go up at once and take possession, for **we are well able to overcome it.**"* Numbers 13:30
    - 2) *"Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**"* Romans 8:37 NKJV
    - 3) *"**I can do all things through Christ** who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 NKJV*
    - 4) *"Then David spoke... **"For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**"* I Samuel 17:26 NKJV

## **B. A Perfect Picture of Our Final Battle**



- (1) Goliath defies the armies; Israel is dismayed and greatly afraid.
  - (a) The Philistines gathered their armies to battle Israel with Goliath as their champion. (I Samuel 17:1-11)
    1. “And the Philistine said, **“I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.”** When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, **they were dismayed and greatly afraid.”** I Samuel 17:10-11 NKJV
  - (b) David serves his brothers at the front line. (I Samuel 17:12-22)
    1. “And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, **ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.”** I Samuel 17:22 NKJV
  - (c) David Witnesses Goliath’s blasphemy and discovers what awaits the man who kills him. (I Samuel 17:23-25)
    1. “So the men of Israel said, **“Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him** the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father’s house exemption from taxes in Israel.”” I Samuel 17:25 NKJV

- (2) Worldviews Collide (someone has to stand up against the blasphemy).
- (a) David confirms the reward and lays down the challenge to Goliath.
1. “Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, **“What shall be done** for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”**” I Samuel 17:26 NKJV
- (b) The people affirm the reward.
1. “And the people answered him in this manner, saying, **“So shall it be done for the man who kills him.”**” I Samuel 17:27 NKJV
- (c) David volunteers to collide with the giant and assures Saul that he will be victorious and David is mocked by Goliath... (I Samuel 17:28-44)
1. “{32} **“Let no man’s heart fail** because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” {36} Your servant has killed both lion and bear; **and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them,** seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” {37} Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered

me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, **He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" {40} Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself **five smooth stones** from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. {44} And the Philistine said to David, **"Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"**" I Samuel 17:28-44 NKJV

(d) David boldly predicts the outcome (I Samuel 17:45-47)

1. "Then David said to the Philistine, **"You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord** of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.** And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. **Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear;**

**for the battle is the Lord's**, and He will give you into our hands." I Samuel 17:45-47 NKJV

(3) The Rest is History—

(a) David Defeats Goliath

1. "So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that **David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine**. Then **David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead**, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. **So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him**. But **there was no sword in the hand of David**. Therefore **David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him**, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled." I Samuel 17:48-51 NKJV

BONUS NARRATIVE

#### **4. Subtopic (link to Commentary)**

Love is the answer. Love is the fulfillment of the law. Yes, but how? What are the inner workings of this concept? I think the

answer should be obvious, but often is not, due to a long history in the Church of deemphasizing the commandments of God (other than the 10 Commandments and tithing). Let's start by first rewinding this very letter to the Romans. *"Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."* (Romans 3:31) Our entire walk of faith, humans being empowered by Yahweh's grace, should result in one thing: radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to Yahweh and His commandments! Here in Romans 13 Paul describes it as "fulfilling the law"; back in chapter 3 he called it "establishing the law". In the Sermon on the mount, Y'shua frames it as such: "I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it (pay in full, complete, bring to its fulness).

Y'shua was asked a direct question about the law during His public ministry. And let's be real; most of the time He was being questioned to trap Him or trip Him up, so they could later accuse Him of blasphemy. They were not interested in gathering wisdom from a great teacher, but rather supporting their already cemented-in-stone beliefs. I'm convinced that the modern-day church might do the same. Mark's Gospel has the most complete version of this account, so we will defer to it.

Let's set the stage; Y'shua had just entered Jerusalem for what would become the last week before His crucifixion. As He was walking in the Temple, all the 'who's who' in the religious community—the chief priests, scribes, and elders had gathered. He had a way of attracting both His friends and His enemies. They came to “question” His authority. However, Y'shua didn't take the bait, but instead turns their question back on them (Mark 11:27-33).

Then He teaches a parable about the wicked tenants of a fruitful vineyard (Mark 12:1-12). The owner (representing Yahweh) leases the land to some tenants (He's clearly fingering these chief priests, scribes, and elders). Later on the owner of the land sends his servants (representing the prophets of old) to collect some fruit. Instead, the tenants beat the servants (they stoned the prophets; Mat. 23:31-39; Acts 7:51-52) and send them away. Finally, the owner sends his beloved son (representing Y'shua); surely they will respect him. They don't; tragically, they kill him (the picture of His coming crucifixion) and toss his body out. Then Y'shua puts an exclamation on His lesson as He connects the tenants in His parable to these religious leaders standing in front of Him; *“The stone [that's Me] which the builders rejected [that's you] has become the chief cornerstone [that's Me; I'm the Messiah].”* (Psalms 118:22) Ouch!

They refuse that lesson and next *“sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words.”* (Mark 12:13, read 13-17) These hypocrites test him with some tricky tax question. And He befuddles them with the simple truth; *“give Caesar what is Caesar’s and give God what is God’s.”* Ouch again!

*“Then some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying...”* (Mark 12:18; read 18-27) Okay, the chief priests, scribes (biblical lawyers), and elders were trapped by their own question (Mark 11:33); and the Pharisees and Herodians ended up marveling at Him (Mark 12:17). Next up: the Sadducees. You know you are desperate when you send in reinforcements who you don’t even agree with yourself. The Pharisees believe in the resurrection, but they had nothing that could stump Y’shua. So—in step the Sadducees who don’t believe in the resurrection. How did the Sadducees fare? *“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?’”* (Mark 12:24) Ouch and ouch!

Then one more scribe gives it a whirl. A scribe is the equivalent of a modern-day lawyer, but his expertise is in the Bible. He’s been witnessing this entire debacle and is pretty convinced that this Y’shua is onto something. His question is genuine,

therefore, Y'shua gives him a straight answer, directly from the Scriptures. Here is the entire account.

*“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” But after that no one dared question Him.” (Mark 12:28-34)*

Y'shua pulls His answer directly from Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (specifically vv. 4-5) and from Leviticus 19:18. Mark has the most complete version of the account—as he includes a bit more of the



passage from Deuteronomy in his answer; *“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”* The other Gospel account is a short summary (Matthew 22:35-40). Although Matthew does record a key phrase not mentioned in Mark’s account. *“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matthew 22:40)

Here are the key connections to Romans 13:8-10. This is so rich! Remember, we are in a section of Romans (since chapter 12) in which we are learning about love and practical living. And what better lesson than to understand how love for Yahweh is demonstrated by our interactions with each other (our neighbors). The scribe asks which is the first (greatest) commandment of all. And Y’shua answers with Deuteronomy 6:4-5, which is about loving Yahweh. He then adds an interpretation of the commandment which is LIKE IT, *“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”* That is NOT in Deuteronomy 6 but rather is pulled from Leviticus 19:18. Leviticus 19:1-18 speaks directly about commands that have to do with horizontal relationships (human to human) and how they connect to loving and honoring Yahweh. Yes, just like the laws that govern horizontal relationships that Paul is talking about here in Romans 13. *“You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,”*

*“You shall not covet.”* These are about relationships with your neighbors. And when you love God with all your heart (Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:30), you will prove it by how you treat your neighbors (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31). *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”* (Matthew 25:40) And let me remind what we just explored in [Empirical Evidence](#). Loving your neighbor demands that you not sit idly by while they bath in their sins and you remain silent—allowing their sins to continue unchallenged. You would only notice that if you begin your reading one verse earlier in Leviticus 19:17.

But notice what the Scribe ALREADY knew. And how he approves of Yahshua's CORRECT BIBLICAL interpretation. *“Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for THERE IS ONE GOD [“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”], and there is no other but He. And to LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS ONESELF, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices [“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:40)].”* (Mark 12:32-33) This might come as a bit of a shock, but

not all Jewish scholars in the first century missed it. This scribe didn't; he already knew the correct answer and stood in complete agreement (fulfillment) with Y'shua. And look what Y'shua says to him. *"You are not far from the kingdom of God."* (Mark 12:34)

This scribe understood what radical-grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience looks like and, therefore, was close to the Kingdom. Love for God and for your fellow man is the outcome of grace empowered obedience. Again, Matthew adds this clarification; *"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* (Matthew 22:40) Now, permit me to insert this verse, as it fits so well and expands our revelation. *"Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things NEW and OLD."* (Matthew 13:52)

What did this scribe bring out of his treasure new and old?

1. **Old:** The Lord is ONE. Only Mark includes this essential piece. (Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. **Old:** Love God with your whole heart... (Deuteronomy 6:5)
3. **New:** Loving your neighbor as oneself is proof you love God with your whole heart.

4. **New:** *“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Only Matthew includes this piece 22:40) (Wisdom from the Spirit connecting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18)*

*“Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.”” Luke 10:23-24 NKJV*

In Luke’s Gospel a scribe asks about eternal life. Look how Yahshua replies, and again recognize the old and new. *“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?” He said to him, “WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW? WHAT IS YOUR READING OF IT?” So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”” (Luke 10:25-28)*

You must catch the subtle nuance here.

1. What is written in the law?—OLD

## 2. What is your reading of it?—NEW

What is written and how do you interpret it? In other words, what is the full extent of what it means? Y'shua was doing this Himself each time He taught as such in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); "You know it is written...but I tell you...!" The scribe mentioned above needed to understand from the Scriptures that what it means to love Yahweh INCLUDES the love of your neighbor.

Some commands are vertical; obeying them demonstrates love toward God. Other commands are horizontal; obeying them demonstrates love toward man. When you are spirit-filled and capable of expressing unconditional love for God AND for your fellow man by obeying all of God's commands, you will look just like Yahshua. *"You are not far from the Kingdom of God."*

We see the very same wisdom on display in the account of Y'shua talking to the rich young ruler.

*"Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your*

*mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "IF YOU WANT TO BE PERFECT, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." (Matthew 19:16-22)*

The man wants eternal life and Y'shua curiously tells him to obey those horizontal commandments. But then He reads what's in the man's heart. Y'shua tells him that if you want to be "perfect" (be like Me, manifest the Kingdom), you must give it all up (take up your cross; read Luke 14:25-35) and follow Me (obey both the vertical and horizontal commands). Y'shua taught us this in the Sermon on the Mount; *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."* (Matthew 7:12) That is the only way to demonstrate the unconditional love of God. That is the only way to "fulfill the law."

**Summary: ONE DEBT**

## **1. Owe no one anything else...**

### **A. Love is the fulfillment of the law.**

- (1) Since Chapter 12, Paul's letter continues to point at one target!

- (a) Live in such a way that you are instantly recognizable as a Christian—and do so with such intensity and commitment that there is zero doubt to whom you are completely dedicated.
1. Your dedication to this principle is obvious to anyone because you willingly sacrifice every aspect of your life to God.
    - a) The better you get at it, the more you resemble Christ; and that is clearly the ultimate vision.
    - b) This lifestyle is demonstrated by the fulfillment of one obligation, which can be summed up like this: love one another and don't hurt one another.
    - c) It's unconditional love. It's authentic and pure, the way you ought to love yourself; in fact, it's the way we all dream of being treated by others.
  2. Consider this explanation to measure just how profound is this love.
    - a) If you take each of God's laws, every written statute, command, ordinance, and decree; every precept, judgement, and testimony; and then add every oracle of God, the inspired and correctly applied oral and practical application of each, and compile them all under one heading that perfectly

demonstrates the entirety of their fulfillment, the heading would be this: Love is the fulfillment of the law.

- b) Too simple? It is anything but; in fact, it is all-inclusive, so comprehensive that it defines and identifies God Himself. God is love!
3. And this of course is why when Christ was asked to sum up every law in one soundbite, He said...
- a) "Love God perfectly with your entire being and do so by demonstrating it with uncompromising obedience, the pinnacle of which is to love others!"
  - b) Again, Y'shua would declare, "This reality about love is the foundation on which sits every law and every prophet who ever truly spoke for God."
4. It was a radical statement **about love**, but not one that was foreign to all.
- a) There are a few accounts of interactions with Christ in which some men, other than His disciples, had eyes to see and ears to hear what the prophets and kings of old desired, but could not.



- b) These few isolated scribes, literally first century biblical lawyers, were experts in the law who had eyes and ears wide open.

## (2) Hybrid Citizenship

- (a) As Christians, we simultaneously exist in both heaven and on earth...

1. It is imperative that we understand how these two citizenships intersect.

- a) They are two different worlds and God does not view them equally.

- b) You can see a full teaching on this topic in ([Beyond Salvation](#)), but here is a short excerpt.

2. Two Worlds

- a) There are two worlds to counterbalance, one Christ came to save, the other to condemn. One world is everlasting; He loves it and died for it. The other is passing away; don't love it. Don't comport according to its values and standards, as it is only filled with lust and pride.

**Summary: NEW WINESKINS**

## **2. The Time is at Hand**

### **A. The Inevitable Confrontation**

(1) Time to wake up!

(a) "Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

1. Is this not true for each of us at every moment?

a) And yet, does not the scripture reveal that it is, "those who endure to the end who shall be saved"?

1) This does not mean that your eternal redemption is ever in question, if of course you have a true confession in Christ.

2. Here Paul states the obvious; the day of the prophetic fulfillment of this ultimate battle gets closer by the second.

a) And he states the obvious for a grand purpose that might not be so obvious to some of you.

b) Every generation must be ready—so wake up! Open your eyes and see the head on collision fast approaching.

(2) The Armor of Light

(a) Your Weapon and Your Armor

1. The time that must elapse alluded to here is better understood as a metaphor than a calendar.

- a) It's not seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, centuries, and millennia that matter most.
  - b) Instead, it is your shedding of a an old skin and the donning of a new garment, the removal of sin and the addition of a protective covering of perfect purity—what Paul calls “the armor of light”.
  - c) The fight and the whole armor of God
2. God's light is both a protective covering and the ultimate cleansing agent.
- a) Light always exposes darkness; it shines and darkness can't ever withstand it.
  - b) He who sins, sins in the dark, but everything hidden will be revealed by God's light.

### (3) Head-on Collision

- (a) If you see what is coming, how ought you live?
  - 1. What does living in perfect purity look like?
    - a) You walk circumspectly, as you are fully aware of God's prophetic calendar for mankind. You wisely seek and understand the will of God.
    - b) You don't dissipate your energy and resources by engaging in wasteful sinful activities. But instead, you are completely animated by the Holy Spirit.

- c) You put off the old man with his corrupt skin and you put on the new man with his innocent skin. You become utterly transparent, so no sin can be hidden and you never return to your pagan indulgences.
- d) Then you let your light shine on others, so they too can witness God's transformative powers and also experience an authentic desire to worship Him.
- e) If you see what is coming, how ought you live?

#### (4) Clothed in Christ

- (a) The imagery is that of a dressing room.
  - 1. You have tried on and worn many garments, but now it is time to cover your skin one last time, and this change of clothes is the only one that really matters.
    - a) You were once dressed in sin and shame and condemnation. But now you walk according to the Spirit not the flesh.
    - b) The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life once ruled your every desire.
    - c) That is no longer who you are.
    - d) And your ultimate destiny is Christ fully formed in you; that is when you will look in the mirror and see you are wearing the image of Christ.

2. It would seem that at creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God.
  - a) Something happened when sin came into the world. Man looked upon the glory of his own body, and instead of seeing the glory of God, he became afraid and attempted to cover what he now saw as “nakedness.”
  - b) Who told you that you had no coverings (garments) on? And why do you find it necessary to hide? Are you ashamed of something? Do you actually think you can hide from God? Do you really believe God does not know where you are? Maybe He is not asking about your current location, but instead about your current condition!
3. What took place next has great prophetic significance.
  - a) God saw man’s new sense of embarrassment over his original glory and accommodated him by causing him to be covered with a “new skin”, an animal skin, a certain downgrade.
  - b) Yahweh covers the “glory shown by man’s original garment” and clothes them with the skin of

“animals”. And with this “new downgraded identity” comes nasty restrictions. He removes them from the garden and prevents them from reentering, thus preventing access to the tree of life!

- c) This downgrade would now plague mankind into the future and does not seem to have any resolution until the revealing of the sons of God, at which time “creation is restored.” We will see those “animal skins” removed, once again revealing the glory of God.

4. Our ultimate hope...

- a) To be clothed with a restored heavenly image, so we shall not be found naked, like Adam was after he violated God’s instructions.

5. And this too is the exact choice you must make.

- a) “Do you remain clothed in sin and shame, or do you allow yourself to be sanctified from glory to glory?”
- b) This depends on one thing only; will you take on your new identity in Christ. In other words, will you become a new creation, or will you insist on

returning to the old you? It's the choice every Christian must make.

6. Taking on your new identity, what we now recognize as putting on a new skin that reflects God's glory, is something about which our Savior taught when He used wineskins as an object lesson.
  - a) Just below the surface is this profound lesson: "The Holy Spirit in you cannot radiate the purity and glory of God if you insist on holding onto your old life. The incongruence will simply ruin your witness, as if there is nothing authentic in you that represents God. All that will emanate from you is hypocrisy, a brand of cultural christianity, a poor forgery of what should otherwise be a masterpiece. Ironically, at that point you will be trusted by neither Christians nor heathens."
  - b) No, your new life must be accompanied by evidence of a true Christlike transformation that shines for all the world to see. This will preserve both God's reputation and yours.
  - c) And finally, if you persistently return to the vomit of your old life, the lustful pleasures and attraction of sin will easily convince you that it is a better

option than all those rules you must follow to remain pure.”

d) It's time to put on your new wineskin! In other words, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

1) See teaching on animal skins and glory ([New Wineskins II](#))

## **Summary: THE VICTORIOUS MIND**

### **3. Victory Going In**

#### **A. Two Opposing Mindsets**

(1) We are grasshoppers in their sight vs. God has already given us the victory

(a) The Wrong Mindset (a bad report)

1. They gave the children of Israel a bad report...

a) The people who dwell in the land are strong.

b) The cities are fortified and very large.

c) We saw the descendants of Anak there.

d) We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.

e) The land devours its inhabitants.

f) All the people are giants.



- g) We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
- (b) The Right Mindset (a good report)
  - 1. Caleb quieted the people...
    - a) We are able to overcome!
  - (2) It comes down to this...
    - (a) Whose report do you believe?
      - 1. **Opposing mindsets:** Paphetic vs. Pathetic
        - a) **Pastoral:** concerned with life right now!
        - b) **Prophetic:** concerned with what we will be! You believe in and understand what will be and therefore live in that victory now.
        - c) **Paphetic:** Pastoral + Prophetic
        - d) **Pathetic:** You are so consumed with what things look like right now that you become paralyzed and thus blinded to what will be!
      - 2. “Whose report will you believe?”
        - a) We will believe the report of the Lord!

## **B. A Perfect Picture of Our Final Battle**

- (1) Goliath defies the armies; Israel is dismayed and greatly afraid.
  - (a) The Philistines gathered their armies to battle Israel with Goliath as their champion. (I Samuel 17:1-11)

- (b) David serves his brothers at the front line. (I Samuel 17:12-22)
  - (c) David Witnesses Goliath's blasphemy and discovers what awaits the man who kills him. (I Samuel 17:23-25)
- (2) Worldviews Collide (someone has to stand up against the blasphemy).
- (a) David confirms the reward and lays down the challenge to Goliath. (I Samuel 17:26)
  - (b) The people affirm the reward. (I Samuel 17:27)
  - (c) David volunteers to collide with the giant and assures Saul that he will be victorious and David is mocked by Goliath... (I Samuel 17:28-44)
  - (d) David boldly predicts the outcome (I Samuel 17:45-47)
- (3) The Rest is History—
- (a) David Defeats Goliath

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Relate Romans 13:8-10 to the following:

- A. John 13:35
- B. Luke 6:31
- C. Matthew 5:17
- D. Matthew 22:37-40

- E. I John 4:8
- F. Mark 12:32-34
- G. Luke 10:23-28

**2. There are two worlds to counterbalance, one Christ came to save, the other to condemn. One world is everlasting; He loves it and died for it. The other is passing away; don't love it.**

- A. Explain the above statement. (Hint: John 3:16-17; I John 2:15-17; John 15:18-19; 17:14-19)

**3. Why does Paul say it is urgent to wake up in Romans 13:11?**

- A. How might Matthew 24:13-14 help explain what he means by "our salvation is nearer than when we first believed"?
- B. Use I Thessalonians 5:5-6 to support the idea that every generation must be ready—so wake up! Open your eyes and see the head on collision fast approaching.

**4. In Romans 13:12, Paul contrasts the armor of light and works of darkness.**

- A. Use the following passages to explain Romans 13:12 and to support this concept: "*God's light is both a protective covering and the ultimate cleansing agent.*" (Isaiah 60:1-3; Ephesians 6:10-18; John 1:4-5; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 3:19-21; Hebrews 4:12-13)

**5. Romans 13:13 is both a directive and a warning about how you ought to live...**

- A. Compile information from the following passages to craft an essay describing specifically what your life should look like. (Ephesians 5:15-18; I Peter 4:1-6; Ephesians 4:17-24; Matthew 5:14-16; II Peter 3:10-11)

**6. Romans 13:14 depicts the imagery of a dressing room:**

- A. Use the following verse to explain how you were once dressed in sin and shame and condemnation, but now you walk according to the Spirit not the flesh. (Romans 8:1; John 2:16; Galatians 2:20)
- B. Use the following verse to explain how your ultimate destiny is Christ fully formed in you; that is when you will look in the mirror and see you are wearing the image of Christ. (Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:27; II Corinthians 3:17-18)

**7. It would seem that at creation mankind was clothed only in the skin on his body and in that form he reflected the glory of God.**

- A. What happened to change that in Genesis 3:6-7?
- B. How did God accommodate man's new view of himself in Genesis 3:21-22, and how was that a certain downgrade?
- C. How is man restored according to II Corinthians 5:1-5?

**8. Use the parable in Luke 5:36-39 to reverse engineer this explanation.**

A. *“The Holy Spirit in you cannot radiate the purity and glory of God if you insist on holding onto your old life. The incongruence will simply ruin your witness, as if there is nothing authentic in you that represents God. All that will emanate from you is hypocrisy, a brand of cultural christianity, a poor forgery of what should otherwise be a masterpiece. Ironically, at that point you will be trusted by neither Christians nor heathens. No, your new life must be accompanied by evidence of a true Christlike transformation that shines for all the world to see. This will preserve both God’s reputation and yours. And finally, if you persistently return to the vomit of your old life, the lustful pleasures and attraction of sin will easily convince you that it is a better option than all those rules you must follow to remain pure.”*