

FREE

TRUE RICHES



*Are You What God
Would Consider "Rich"?*



TRUE RICHES

Are You What God Would Consider “Rich”?

Does it make any difference to you, as rich as you are, that the very Word of God incarnate spoke these words in Luke 6:24 as a woe, to “scare the hell out of you” (if I may be so brazen)? Then what will it take to wake you up to what is about to overtake you forever and ever? “Woe to you who are rich!”

A woe is a cry of pain from misfortune or, in this case, for deliberate sin against humanity in the way rich people gain their stardom, prestige, fortune, or popularity. Their woe is an eternal woe.

See the contrast in Luke 6:20-26 between verses 20-23 and verses 24-26. The “woes” are in contrast to the blessings of the previous verses. Those who don’t realize their spiritual poverty, but rely on their own achievement, will reap disaster for eternity.¹ Those who are full now, in need of nothing, will suffer hunger eternally; those who laugh now (jokes, comedies, parties, good times) will mourn and weep eternally. The well-to-do religious leaders He was speaking to had egotistical pride, desiring recognition, praise for their greatness. The desire for all to speak well of them required them to compromise their conscience.

Why is there a woe for you? Because you have received your comfort, for which you strove all your life, or perhaps you inherited it, having never once worked for it, for it fell right into your hands by one way or another. Nevertheless, you are rich and you are receiving your comfort in full, just as in Luke 16:25 you can see the contrast between comforted and tormented. In verse 27 the rich man becomes an evangelist for his own family members, but is all the more tormented, for he knows the fate or destiny of his five brothers.

Our Master, Yahshua the Messiah, suffered woe for three days and three nights, in pain — the pangs of death² — so that all who would trust Him would be blessed as a result of identifying with Him,³ that is, those who were saved from their sins⁴ of selfishness, greed, and unjust business practices that hurt others. Just As God presented blessings for obedience and woes or curses for disobedience in Deuteronomy 28, the Son of God presented blessings and woes to His disciples who were

¹ Galatians 6:7-8 ² 2 Cor 5:21; Acts 2:24 ³ Luke 6:20-23

living in anticipation of being *worthy* of His Kingdom.⁵

2 Corinthians 5:10 tells of the time when His disciples' works would be evaluated — the works that were prepared for them before the foundation of the world.⁶ "Woe to you who are rich..." One does not become rich by doing the works prepared for him. The comfort that the rich seek first for is not associated with the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.⁷ In Luke 1:51-53, all the rich receive is what they sought first for — comfort, security, physical well-being *in this life only*.⁸ Matthew 6:25,28,31-33 separates or distinguishes the Holy (His disciples) from the Gentiles.⁹

God or Mammon? The time will come when these two masters will make opposing demands.¹⁰ The gospel calls for all mankind to invest in their future with Him by giving all they have and all they are to Him now, while He is far off, and not waiting for His return.¹¹ Mammon is the collection of material comforts for present enjoyment, but woes await him who indulges in Mammon.

In Luke 6:24, *rich* means abounding in material resources, and *comfort* means that which affords comfort or refreshment. The rich here are not necessarily *filthy* rich, but merely those who have more than they need and do not share with others who have less than they need, such as a neighbor whose poverty is apparent. The rich are those who are abundantly at ease,¹² well off, but do not care for the needy whom they see, and whose need is obvious.

⁴ Matt 1:21 ⁵ Rev 3:4 ⁶ Ephesus 2:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17; Rev 22:12 ⁷ Matt 6:33 ⁸ Matt 6:19-31; Luke 6:24 ⁹ 1 John 2:4 ¹⁰ Matt 6:24
¹¹ Luke 14:31-33; Revelation 19:14; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 ¹² Ezekiel 16:49

To have one's comfort in full speaks of the comfort he enjoyed in this present life, which was gotten at the expense of others who were not so well off. Likely candidates are unjust businessmen, doctors, lawyers, dentists, Christian pastors, psychologists, and politicians. They could think of little else but themselves in their pursuit of riches and honor. They obtained their comfort and pleasure through selfish ambition, through their college degrees, assuring them more success and opportunity to make it in this world, regardless of how they hurt others in the process. They are included among those in Revelation 22:15, according to how they made their living and success. They prospered at the expense of others, to whom they lied to gain the income that they wanted, but did not need, except to fulfill their evil desire to gain more riches in this life. Sooner or later, they are headed for what is promised by the Word of God.

They can choose either this outcome:

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (1 Timothy 6:9)

Or, this one:

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Notice that in verse 9 it is the *desire* to be rich that leads to ruin and destruction, whether or not you actually *succeed* in becoming rich. It is in the decisions you make in the pursuit of wealth and comfort that you push past your conscience and hurt yourself and others.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

Comfort in Full

Comfort is a condition of pleasurable ease or well-being, which was their goal in life.¹³ The *rich* in Luke 6:24 are contrasted with the *poor* in Luke 6:20 — those who need lifting, who have fallen into poverty from having their needs taken by the predators — the rich who want their comfort instead of a good conscience. The *poor* in Luke 6:20 are those with a good conscience, who would not gain wealth to the detriment of others. The poor earn their bread by their own hard labor. They are not on welfare.¹⁴

So the one in Luke 6:24, who is enjoying his comfort now, will be denied any sort of comfort throughout eternity in the



second death sentence.¹⁵ This, as applied explicitly to “believers” in 1 John 3:17, condemns the rich Christian who preferred to have his physical comfort in this life, to the detriment of others who are supposed to be his brothers.¹⁶

The Kingdom of God

The disciples were mostly poor men¹⁷ who had come to trust in God, as Luke 6:20 says, “For yours is the Kingdom of God.” They were promised God’s rule — the Kingdom. But concerning the religious rich in Luke 6:24, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, lifted up His eyes and spoke to them the woes in verses 24-26, and today, 2000 years later, He still speaks through His true disciples.

So today, you have the choice. The opportunity is yours, for not only do you have Moses and the prophets, as Luke 16:

31 says, but also the very words of the Son of God are written down for you by His very own people, with His urgent plea. Now is the time to repent as in Luke 14:31-33. Lay all you have at His feet, which is the same as the feet of His disciples. Surrender unconditionally to this coming King while He is far off, even as the first disciples did on



¹³ Ezekiel 16:49 ¹⁴ Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 24:5 ¹⁵ Romans 2:6-16; Revelation 20:12-15 ¹⁶ 1 John 2:4; 3:14,16; John 9:41
¹⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; James 2:5

the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2:36-47 and 4:32-37. Don't lie to the Holy Spirit as in Acts 5:1-11.

A Treasure Worth More than all the Riches

Many today forsake the treasure that is worth more than all the riches and fame the world could offer. That treasure is to know the *true* Messiah! There is only one way to get this treasure; Messiah is the only One who has it. The treasure is hidden right there in Him, as He said, "I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life."¹⁸ To circumvent Him is to circumvent forgiveness and eternal life from the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But the treasure has great cost to one's flesh. It is a free gift, but who does God give it to? To know the Father is to know the *true* Son; to be loved by the Father requires one to love His Son.¹⁹ He gives eternal life only to those who really trust in Him, which means to obey the gospel of Messiah, requiring one to abandon all — everything, including all of one's possessions — in order to be able to follow Him, just as He commands.²⁰

Consider what we say and come to see us! Our addresses and phone numbers are on the back, and our web address is there also! ♦



¹⁸ John 14:6 ¹⁹ John 16:27 ²⁰ Mark 10:17-22,28-30

SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM

In Chattanooga in 1975, the First Presbyterian Church on McCallie Avenue closed its doors with a sign stating, "Closed for the Super Bowl." This was "Super Bowl Sunday" evening service (called *vespers*).



We recently noticed another church making room for the Super Bowl in their worship

When we were turned away by that sign, it was the last time we went to church. We started having our own meetings, which we would never close for the love of the world and the things of the world.

It would seem that Romans 5:5 and 1 John 2:15 go together and show conclusively whether Romans 5:5 ever happened. The whole church was watching the Super Bowl. Is watching sports on TV one of the "things of the world" in 1 John 2:15-16? Could the Super Bowl qualify as one of these three disorders for the disciples of Messiah?

"Everything that belongs to the world — what the sinful self desires, what people see and want, and everything

in this world that people are so proud of – none of this comes from the Father; it all comes from the world.” (1 John 2:16)

Are Christians *disciples*? That is the question! In Luke 14: 26-33, the Master qualified who is and who is not a disciple of His.

John 17:14-16 speaks of disciples. Disciples are in the world, but not of it. Gentiles are in the world and also of it. They may go to church on Sunday, or may even be successful preachers, but are still those who love the world and the things of the world,¹ like football, baseball, basketball, TV, movies, Internet secrets, etc.

Gentiles refers to all who are not saved from self-life by the Blood of the Lamb.² The term *gentiles* today includes both Jew and Gentile, since no one can technically call himself a Jew today except those who are true Jews.³

How then does Luke 12:22 apply to you?

What does He mean by “life”? Do not worry about your *life*. Matthew 6:31-32 concerns the non-believer who is in the world and of the world, considered a *gentile* or of the *nations*, which is not necessarily condemning since everyone in the world must make a living or else starve to death.

What, then, does He mean by Matthew 6:33? Who is He

GO TEAM **Super SUNDAY** PCN PRE-GAME 4:30
KICK-OFF 5:00 PM
Join us Sunday, Feb. 6
LIVE HALF TIME SHOW
FOOD • FUN
MUSIC • GAMES
Kids Activities
(Separate location.)
CHILI-COOKOFF
Compete in De-licious category
Chili Chang - Run Race!
Sign up at the door!
Watch the Game On
2 GIANT SCREENS
15' x 8' AND 4'x6'
Princeton Church of the Nazarene
30 N. 6th St., Princeton • 675-1900

Do you find this shocking?

speaking to? Is He speaking to you, or are you then a *gentile*? Since he said in Matthew 6:32, “For after all these things the *gentiles* seek,” and, “For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things,” but then He adds verse 33. Are you one of the “you” in verse 33, or are you a *gentile*? These two verses in Matthew 6:32-33 distinguish His disciples from *gentiles* who are still in and of the world, though as 1 John 5:13 (KJV) suggests, some who “believe” don’t know it. They only believe in Him as the “believers” in John 2:23-25, but He doesn’t believe in them. But as 1 John 5:13 says in the King James Version, you *can* believe if you admit that you really don’t.

To seek first for His kingdom is not just to recite the so-called “Lord’s Prayer,”⁴ but to *actualize* it in daily living in the Body of Messiah,⁵ as was done in the first church, serving Him where He is:⁶

“Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also.” (John 12:25-26)

He meant to *hate* whatever would stand in the way of having eternal life, which was the very thing the rich young ruler wouldn’t do:

¹⁷And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what

¹ 1 John 2:15-17 ² Mark 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:15 ³ Romans 2:28-29

⁴ Matthew 6:9-10 ⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:13; John 13:34-35; 17:20-23

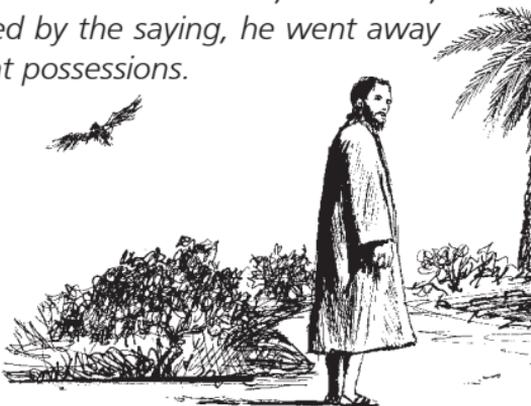
⁶ Acts 2:36-47; 4:32-37

must I do to inherit eternal life?"

21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

28 Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left everything and followed You."

29 "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." (Mark 10:17,21-22,29-30; see also Matthew 19:16-30 and Luke 18:18-30)



This is included in what all disciples must be taught,⁷ as well as what it means to be included in His family.⁸ Whoever was willing to do the Father's will would know the truth from a lie,⁹ who is and who is not a true sent one.¹⁰

"And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." (Acts 5:32; see also 2 Thess 1:8-9 and John 3:36 in the NASB)

All others will be left behind,¹¹ since they did not obey the gospel.¹² If mothers, brothers, sisters, etc.,¹³ and all one's own possessions are not left behind, the supposed disciple will himself be left behind when the Master comes, if he does not leave everything behind to follow Him now.



"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:34-38)

"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and

⁷ Matthew 28:19-20 ⁸ Mark 3:33-35 ⁹ John 7:17 ¹⁰ John 7:18; 13:20; John 3:36; Luke 10:16; Romans 10:14-17; John 18:37; 1 John 4:6 ¹¹ 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10 ¹² Mark 10:17-30 ¹³ All family members who will not also take up the cross must be left behind.

daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” (Luke 12:49-53)

The arrival of the Kingdom forever changes human relationships. It supersedes all other family, friends, possessions, military service, or employment contracts — anything that opposes one’s having eternal life and being a disciple of Messiah must be left, forsaken, and renounced for the sake of the Kingdom of God. In some cases, this means having nothing more to do with one’s parents or family members, if it is the only way one can obey Messiah, rather than being left behind.¹⁴ Those in this Kingdom relationship (family, as the Master defined it¹⁵) become the disciple’s dearest and closest friends,¹⁶ nearer and dearer than all others.

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death... By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers... And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (1 John 3:14,16,23)

What did the rich young ruler ask?¹⁷ Did he obey Christ?¹⁸ Did Peter?¹⁹ All who would obey this gospel will have eternal life — with persecution from the family forsaken in obedience to the gospel.²⁰ So the Master said that only those who are *not* of this world²¹ will have eternal life, and will be persecuted by those who hate them, such as those parents and relatives who show the utmost hatred to their children, or brother, or sister because they were forsaken for the Kingdom of God. (Of course, they could have followed also, and not been

forsaken, if they had believed and obeyed the gospel.)

Being saved from this evil world system²² by receiving the apostle's word meant obedience to what He spoke to them.²³ Matthew 10:24-39 is very revealing, and specifically verses 37-39 — if you want to receive it.

Acts 2:36-41 — Not many of the multitude that day chose to follow Him — only 3000 out of perhaps a million Jews in Jerusalem. The cost was too high after the multitude heard those “many other words” in Acts 2:40-41. But those who believed chose to follow and obey Him, to be His disciples, and gave up all, as Acts 2:44-45 gives clear evidence,²⁴ and as a result received eternal life. But persecution came from the ones who hung on to their rotten, stinking lives.²⁵

The gospel includes the command to deny oneself.²⁶ The call to discipleship demands that one completely abandon the natural desire to seek for one's own comfort, home, fortune, power, etc., etc., etc. The good news of the gospel entails Matthew 10:38 as well as John 3:36, and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, and Matthew 10:21-22,34-39. This is essential to the obedience to the gospel. Just as Luke 14:26-33 and Mark 10:17,28-30 are required, so also Matthew 10:34 and Luke 12:49-53 is essential for eternal life, and is to be obeyed. For God knows the heart²⁷ in baptism, whether one will or will not obey His gospel.²⁸ The first disciples obeyed as in Acts 2:

¹⁴ 2 Thessalonians 1:8 ¹⁵ Mark 3:34-35 ¹⁶ Proverbs 27:9 ¹⁷ Mark 10:17

¹⁸ Mark 10:21-22 ¹⁹ Mark 10:28 ²⁰ Mark 10:30; Luke 14:26; Phil 1:29; John 15:18 ²¹ John 17:1 ²² Acts 2:38-41 ²³ Acts 5:32; John 3:36 ²⁴ Luke 14:33; Mark 10:29-30 ²⁵ Matthew 16:24-26 ²⁶ Matthew 10:38 ²⁷ Romans 10:9-10
²⁸ John 2:23-25

44-45, without hesitation, because the gospel was preached to them,²⁹ and they sat at the apostles' feet if they needed additional clarification.

So we can see where much of the persecution comes from³⁰ — from one's own household, which he had to forsake to be saved, to receive the Holy Spirit in baptism. That is, Matthew 10:36 is true because the gospel includes verses 37-39. So who can argue against the truth of the gospel?

This is how the first community was formed, without an orientation session. They received a brand new life and formed a brand new culture,³¹ composed of the hundred houses, farms, and new family members who would dwell in those houses, work on those farms — yes, with persecution as Mark 10:30 promises, but eternal life is worth it all. What can be compared with the value of eternal life?

Persecutions mostly come from the family they had to leave behind to follow Messiah³² (since they would not follow Him also³³), but those who endure to the end as verse 13 bear the witness of verse 14. The witness prophesied in Malachi 1:11 bears the fruit of Matthew 21:43, which is the testimony before all, borne at the proper (due) time.³⁴ That love and oneness could only come from this new kind of people in John 13:34-35 and 17:20-23, in a new family life and new culture, being the royal priesthood of 1 Peter 2:9-10, which is all God ever wanted from natural Israel as a twelve-tribed nation.³⁵ But Matthew 21:43 had to be the ones who gave it to Him.³⁶

Who then is worthy of Messiah, to have eternal life, to be His very own disciple, to possess the sonship of His Father? No one can come to Messiah except the Father draw him to

Messiah, to where He is.³⁷ Now the Father uses His *many* sons to work through, to be the mediators between the world and His only begotten Son, being co-workers with Messiah and the Father.³⁸ There is one mediator, Messiah, between man and the Father. He is the way to the Father, but He has given us, His newborn sons, the royal priesthood, the “mediatorship” between the world and His Son, Yahshua the Messiah. No one can come to Messiah except through us, who are called “the Way”³⁹ — the way to the Son, and the Son is the way to the Father. There is no other way.⁴⁰

But who are those in 2 Corinthians 11:4,13-15, and on whose behalf do they mediate? Who forms a denomination of people who call themselves *Christians*? They are in no way following the Judean pattern.⁴¹ If the same Messiah and the same Spirit empowers the same gospel, you come up with the same Yahshua. But, on the other hand, if someone comes and is not sent from where Messiah is,⁴² you end up with another form of church. You end up with an organized religion and someone called “Jesus Christ,” and the church no longer resembles the one in Acts 2 and 4, which John 13:35 and 17:20-23 is the witness of.⁴³

²⁹ Acts 2:39-41 ³⁰ Matthew 10:34-36 ³¹ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ³² Matthew 24:9-12 ³³ *All* who won't leave behind *all* for Messiah will be left behind when He returns, since a disciple must leave one place to go to another, even as Abraham was commanded in Genesis 12:1. ³⁴ 1 Timothy 2:6 ³⁵ Exodus 19:5-6 ³⁶ Acts 26:6-8; Isaiah 49:6,8; Genesis 15:17-18; 18:19; Matthew 19:28; Deuteronomy 26:18 ³⁷ John 6:44; 12:26 ³⁸ 1 Timothy 2:5 ³⁹ Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:25-26; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22 ⁴⁰ John 13:20; Luke 10:16; Romans 10:14-17; Matthew 10:40-41; John 7:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 ⁴¹ 1 Thessalonians 2:14 ⁴² John 12:26; 1 John 4:2-3 ⁴³ 1 John 4:1-6

Matthew 21:43 and 24:14, and Acts 4:32, for example, are the testimony of John 17:21, as inspired by the apostles,⁴⁴ of whom it is true that to receive them is to receive Yahshua Himself. He has a Body on earth, who represent Him to the world as a living testimony of the coming Kingdom⁴⁵ *in those days*.⁴⁶ “Those days” are the latter days of this age — the end times.⁴⁷

Daniel 2:35 is the purpose of our lives, to bring about what God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:17-18.⁴⁸ It was He who made the oath, which has never been fulfilled, and Matthew 19:28 is the promise of that hope, which Paul said our twelve tribes hope to see fulfilled for them in the next age.⁴⁹ Hebrews 10:13 brings in His return.⁵⁰

Revelation 17:12 goes back to Daniel 7:24 and 2:44. The *faithful* are those with Him in Revelation 17:14 and 19:14, who are *still* following Him.⁵¹ We come up to be with Him as those who are *still* with Him,⁵² not ashamed of Him,⁵³ accompanying Him on white horses,⁵⁴ and then after Revelation 20:3, the 1000-year reign begins.⁵⁵ Those who were *faithful* in Revelation 17:14 will rule with Him on earth for 1000 years.⁵⁶ Those who were faithful overcame His enemies,⁵⁷ showing that they were worthy of Him.⁵⁸ What does *worthy* mean in Revelation 3:4 and Matthew 10:37? *Worthy* means comparable, suitable, deserving of our Master, and suitable to be His reward in Revelation 3:5.

Suitable means appropriate to reign with Him over the earth. The one who was not worthy of Him — who did not live for Him, overcome for Him, did not love Him or obey Him — would be very inappropriate to reign with Him. It would

be inappropriate for him to hear the words from our Master, “Well done, My good and faithful servant.”

Comparable means admitting of comparison; equivalent to Him in purpose and faithfulness to His cause and purpose.

Worthy means having the worth, merit, or value to reign with Him. It means honorable to the extent of being found worthy to rule over five or ten cities.⁵⁹ It means being admirable, deserving, worthy of such acclaim as, “Well done, My good and faithful servant!”⁶⁰

To not be found *worthy* in 2 Corinthians 5:10 means that we are not worthy to reign with Him, not able to be entrusted with the responsibilities and honor of being a ruler. The unworthy were not worthy, because they did not take advantage of every opportunity they had to be faithful to Him.⁶¹

In Luke 6:24, “But woe to you...” the *you* addresses those who do not listen to the good news in order to be among those who are blessed.⁶² All who are rich, full, laugh, and those whom all men speak well of — this is applied to them. It is clear that He was speaking to the Jews, as verse 26 speaks of the prophets who were spoken well of by all, which had to be false prophets.⁶³ No true prophet was spoken well of

⁴⁴ John 17:20 ⁴⁵ Matthew 24:14; Daniel 2:44 ⁴⁶ Daniel 2:28; 7:24; 12:1-2; Revelation 17:12 ⁴⁷ Daniel 2:34-35,44,45 ⁴⁸ Jeremiah 34:18 ⁴⁹ Romans 11:12-15; Isaiah 49:6,8; Acts 26:6-8 ⁵⁰ Matthew 21:43; 24:14; Revelation 11:15; 17:14 ⁵¹ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 ⁵² Matthew 12:30 ⁵³ Mark 8:34-38 ⁵⁴ Revelation 19:11-21 ⁵⁵ Revelation 20:1-6 ⁵⁶ Revelation 5:9-10 ⁵⁷ Hebrews 10:13; Revelation 3:5 ⁵⁸ Revelation 3:4; Matthew 10:37 ⁵⁹ Luke 19:13 ⁶⁰ Revelation 17:14 ⁶¹ Revelation 20:5; 2:11; 3:5 ⁶² Luke 6:20-26 ⁶³ Jeremiah 23:16-20

by all.⁶⁴ Prophets inspired by Satan are false prophets who are spoken well of by the world and its leaders.⁶⁵ Those who do not deceive multitudes are not Satan's ministers, such as certain doomsday prophets who only deceived the few who followed them. They did not deceive the world at large, but instead the world did not receive them as true prophets. But our Master⁶⁶ and Paul⁶⁷ are speaking about such ministers as have deceived two billion people today, and millions more down through history.

Of whom does the world speak well today?⁶⁸ For sure, Billy Graham, and all the great evangelists of Christianity, the world's most popular and elevated religion. No other man who has ever lived is lifted to a higher position of popularity and goodness than Billy Graham, especially as a man of God. Even Hollywood elevated him to the highest position among Christian counterparts by his star on Hollywood Boulevard, "to be remembered by the gospel he preached."

Paul spoke of such men.⁶⁹ Amidst praise⁷⁰ and adoration⁷¹ they pervert the gospel of Messiah, so as to be accursed — *anathema*.⁷² They are those who claim to love our Master Yahshua, and call Him their Master or Lord, but actually love the praise of men and are motivated to preach for this cause.⁷³

As for the Christian seminaries, according to their essential nature, no one today gains acceptance if not trained in a



school comparable to Revelation 2:9 and 3:9. One must earn a Master's degree or Ph.D. in one of these dens of demons. When fully trained, they will be like their teacher. To be fully successful, one must excel in his training school or seminary to be a "Doctor of Divinity," so as to be addressed as the *Reverend Dr. Billy Graham*, etc.

The word *Reverend*, as when one addresses a man of God, of "the collar," means one deserving of reverence. It is a title of dignity and respect for the Christian cleric. A *Reverend* of the Christian religion is one who deserves profound awe and respect — a cleric whom one is to regard with deference and devotion.

Deference means that since he has earned this title, one must give him the due respect of submission or courteousness, yielding to his awesome learning, as being schooled to represent God Himself, being a *Reverend* or a *Doctor of Divine-ity* (the doctor's degree of being divine).

Courteous means graciously considerate to his awesome knowledge and understanding, wisdom, and kindness.⁷⁴

Divinity means the state or quality of being divine or God.

Doctor is one licensed to practice his learned specialty; one holding the highest, most elevated position of respect and honor among men, holding an academic degree awarded by a recognized university of higher learning. A *doctor* is qualified to practice medical treatment, or, if a doctor in religion,

⁶⁴ Acts 7:52 ⁶⁵ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, speaking of Satan and his ministers ⁶⁶ Luke 6:24 ⁶⁷ 2 Corinthians 11:15 ⁶⁸ Luke 6:26

⁶⁹ 2 Corinthians 11:5,13-15; Philippians 3:18-19 ⁷⁰ John 12:43 ⁷¹ John 7:18; Galatians 1:7-8 ⁷² 1 Corinthians 16:22 ⁷³ James 1:14-15 ⁷⁴ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15

qualified to practice bamboozlement — to bamboozle⁷⁵ the masses of people into believing that they have eternal life and that they are going to heaven when they die. The greater their degree, the better they can hoodwink.⁷⁶ Their end will be according to how many they brought into bondage of Revelation 18:2 and 2 Corinthians 11:20 by the falsehood and deception in them.⁷⁷ The more unrighteous they are, the more they can deceive the masses into believing in Jesus — a false gospel and a false Messiah — whose end will be according to how much they deceived the masses.

There can be a true sent one and a false sent one.⁷⁸ The sent one, in order to be received,⁷⁹ must be one who is seeking the glory of the One who sent him. The one who sent him must be the true God and Father

The clergy-laity system began subtly at first.



⁷⁵ 2 Corinthians 2:17 — to make merchandise of; some manuscripts read “the rest of the hucksters” — those who use religion for personal gain, peddling for a profit; they corrupt or compromise the gospel; John 7:18 ⁷⁶ 2 Corinthians 11:15 ⁷⁷ John 7:18, NIV ⁷⁸ John 7:18 ⁷⁹ John 13:20

of our Master Yahshua. The one who hears⁸⁰ must be willing to do God's will. The one who is sent must be righteous.⁸¹ There can be no falsehood or deceit in him.⁸² To reject this sent one is to reject Messiah.⁸³ A true sent one⁸⁴ is the only mediator between man and Messiah, and Messiah is the only mediator between man and God. We are co-workers.⁸⁵

Beware those who *desire* the position of *Bishop*⁸⁶ — a *position*, being put in position, a place of high honor.⁸⁷ Is it by decree or by one's own personal strife for recognition and prestige?⁸⁸ From this word *Bishop*, this *position*, in later years, when organized religion took over, the monarchical episcopate developed, as the overseers. The Nicolaitan system⁸⁹ came out of this spirit in 3 John 1:9, which the Christian church is steeped in today.

Nicolaitan means having dominion over the people by decree, not by right of the will of the people. It is the opposite of one who would have a humble opinion of himself,⁹⁰ who is not covetous, and who rules his own family well,⁹¹ and who takes care of the Community of Yahweh.⁹² To *take care of*⁹³ is to look after, to oversee by the gift and grace of the Spirit. No grace can be added to his gift if he is not humble, for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.⁹⁴ Can you imagine a leader or elder ruling without grace from God?⁹⁵ A tyrant he must be to rule the saints! ♦

⁸⁰ Romans 10:17 ⁸¹ Matthew 10:41 ⁸² Romans 10:14-17; 2 Corinthians 4:2-5; John 7:18 ⁸³ 1 Timothy 2:5; Luke 10:16 ⁸⁴ as the *righteous man* in Matthew 10:41 ⁸⁵ 1 Corinthians 3:9 ⁸⁶ 1 Timothy 3:1 ⁸⁷ 1 Timothy 5:17 ⁸⁸ John 7:18; 3 John 1:9 ⁸⁹ Revelation 2:6,15 ⁹⁰ 1 Timothy 3:2 ⁹¹ 1 Timothy 3:4, which disqualifies many who strive to be first ⁹² 1 Timothy 3:5 ⁹³ as *visit* in James 1:27 ⁹⁴ James 4:6 ⁹⁵ 1 Peter 4:10-11

All Believers Are Together

and share all things in common. (Acts 2:44)



Some of Our Communities in the United States

Community in Island Pond

P. O. Box 449, Island Pond, VT 05846
☎ (802) 723-9708

Basin Farm

P. O. Box 108, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
☎ (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland

134 Church Street, Rutland, VT 05701
☎ (802) 773-3764

Community in Boston

92 Melville Ave, Dorchester, MA 02124
☎ (617) 282-9876

Community in Hyannis

14 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601
☎ (508) 790-3172

Community in Plymouth

35 Warren Ave, Plymouth, MA 02360
☎ (508) 747-5388

Community in Lancaster

12 High Street, Lancaster, NH 03584
☎ (603) 788-4376

Community in Coxsackie

5 Mansion St., Coxsackie, NY 12051
☎ (518) 731-7711

Oak Hill Plantation

8037 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460
☎ (518) 239-8148

Common Sense Farm

41 N. Union Street, Cambridge, NY 12816
☎ (518) 677-5880

Community in Ithaca

119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
☎ (607) 272-6915

Community in Hamburg

2051 North Creek Rd., Lakeview, NY 14085
☎ (716) 627-2532

Community on the Lake of the Ozarks

1140 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355
☎ (660) 221-5203

Stepping Stone Farm

Rt. 2, Box 55, Weaubleau, MO 65774
☎ (417) 428-3251

Community in Manitou Springs

53 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829
☎ (719) 573-1907

Community in Colorado Springs

1825 Pine Grove Ave.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80906 ☎ (719) 635-5773

Community in Vista

2683 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084
☎ (760) 295-3852

Morning Star Ranch

12458 Keys Creek Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082
☎ (760) 742-8953

Community in Savannah

223 East Gwinnett Street, Savannah, GA 31401
☎ (912) 232-1165

Community in Brunswick

815 Albany Street, Brunswick, GA 31520
☎ (912) 267-4700

Community in Arcadia

601 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266
☎ (863) 494-3305

Community in Asheville

170 Montford Ave, Asheville, NC 28801
☎ (828) 254-9501

Community in Hillsboro (D.C. Area)

15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132
☎ (540) 668-7123

*For information about our communities
in Europe, South America, Australia, and
Canada, please visit our web site.*

Please call us toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-888-TWELVE-T (1-888-893-5838)
or visit our web site:

www.twelvetribes.org

Please recycle... Share this paper with a friend!