

# Ultimate Victory Humanity's Hope Lies in God's

Goodness

Part 5 of this teaching series deals with What is most precious and beloved by God ... that being his creation called humanity. A true recognition of God's love for humanity is the basis for our possessing genuine love for God and the foundation for our faith in Him. We must keep in mind, that God's main motive for creating humanity was to demonstrate to and through humanity His genuine character. This especially means His genuine love and goodness for all of his created beings. Chapter 5

for all of his created beings. Chapter 5 of the book will discuss what the Bible reveals concerning four types of vessels from two specific categories that God uses as instruments to accomplish His preordained purposes throughout seven specific ages of human history. These will reveal the goodness and Severity of God's character, which make known his mercy, justice and love for all He has created and will ultimately restore to perfection. The foundation of truth must be laid in our individual lives regarding the Gospel of God's goodness, love, justice, and mercy so we can genuinely come to know our God. At this point in time, we are quickly approaching Daniel's prophesied 70th week of Antichrist's horrendous reign of terror. Unless we become diligent seekers of God's Word, and be among those who really know their God as He reveals Himself to us through studying and rightly dividing His Word, we will not be able to stand against the fiery trying of our faith.



Karen Connell

Humanity's

Journey into

Ultimate Victory

"For no one is cast off by the Lord forever" Lamentations 3:31

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#### Part 5

### **Humanity's Hope Lies in God's Goodness**

An excerpt from Chapter 5 of HUMANITY'S JOURNEY Into Ultimate Victory

#### By Karen Connell

## Romans 11:22 Therefore consider (understand) the goodness and severity of God...

\*(All scripture is from the KJV/NKJV unless otherwise indicated, all parentheses found in Scripture texts in this chapter are added for more literal clarification)

thout having an *accurate* understanding of the **goodness** and **severity** of God, one can easily as I did, fall prey to *misunderstanding* God's true character, motives, and His love. Not having *genuine love*, according to how the Bible defines love, will hinder our ability to *genuinely love* God and others.

When I did a Biblical study on God's agape love, I found how He defines His love. It became very clear to me that love is not based upon emotions, but it is actually a <u>state of being</u> that is based upon <u>possessing the</u> <u>essence of God's nature</u> and is therefore, as stated, not based upon our (human) feelings or emotions. This, of course, does not mean that God's agape love is devoid of emotions, only that our emotions must not be allowed to determine or define God's love.

What is most precious and beloved by God more than anything is his creation called *humanity*, which He brought into existence and imparted HIS own **essence**<sup>1</sup> into, thus making humanity his personal and most beloved possession. His life essence is in our blood, that is why Satan became a murderer from the very beginning, he wants to eradicate the image of God imparted through his essence into humanity.

Following is a very important spiritual principle regarding our *faith* and *love* for God. In (Galatians 5-6) it clearly reveals that *genuine faith* is **activated**, **energized**, and **works** through possessing *genuine love*. This Biblical principle states the following...

#### Galatians 5:6

...(genuine) <u>faith</u> is <u>activated</u> (comes to life) and is <u>energized</u> (empowered) and <u>expressed</u> (demonstrated) and <u>works</u> (achieves results) <u>through</u> (genuine) <u>love</u>. AMP (All underlining, and parenthesis are added for more literal clarification and emphasis).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **ESSENCE:** characteristics or attributes that make God who HE fundamentally is, which HE designated for humanity to receive... in which He intends for His essence to remain unceasingly.

This is why God tells us in (Hebrews 11:6) that ...without (genuine) faith it is <u>impossible</u> to please him. We cannot have genuine faith in God and his Word unless the **three vital elements** that produce genuine faith are



activated, empowered, and demonstrated by our love for God and his truth. When these three elements are present, our faith will result in setting us free from erroneous beliefs, attitudes and wrong behavior. The three necessary elements

needed for activating, empowering and demonstrating our *genuine faith* and love are found by how the word "faith" in Greek is defined:

FAITH NT:4102 pistis (pis'-tis); is defined as having...

- Continued **belief** (in the truth from God's word)
- Continued **trust** (in the truth from God's word)
- Continued **obedience** (to the truth from God's word)

The *Complete Word Study Dictionary* (CWSD) states the following concerning the Greek word ...NT:4102 *pistis* (pis'-tis) translated as *faith*:

- <u>FAITH</u> (is **belief- trust- obedience**) all three of these elements are needed to obtain the <u>means/instruments</u> for our (present and future) <u>work of salvation</u> and is also the means for a <u>safe existence</u>, which will be provided by God at the end of the present time (age/aion).
  - \*\*\*NOTE: (This also applies to the end of any <u>assigned</u> (i.e. aion/age or time period), such as an <u>assigned time of humbling in hell</u> or an <u>assigned time of corrective punishment in the Lake of Fire.</u> (This topic will be discussed and developed through a more detailed Scriptural analysis throughout the book).
- <u>FAITH</u> (is **belief-trust- obedience**) ...these are the means needed for receiving our <u>redemption from all sin and reconciliation</u> <u>with God</u>, which is a core belief of the (genuine) gospel of the Christian faith. This is what God, through Jesus Christ, died and rose from the dead to purchase for ALL humanity, ultimately resulting in the <u>transformation of our character and way of life</u> by having *genuine faith* in the gospel of the true Christian faith (Romans 3:22 ff.).

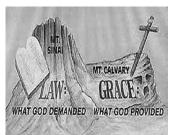
<u>FAITH</u> (is **belief-trust-obedience**) ... is are the means for all of humanity, from Adam on, to <u>personally appropriate</u>, what Jesus Christ died and paid the price for, by which every human created by God has been ordained by him to ultimately receive as a gift called *eternal life*.

Also without possessing *these complete elements of faith* we cannot overcome sin... if it is not confessed and <u>not repented of (i.e.</u> by turning completely away from it) it will *quench* (put out) the Holy Spirit in us. We are told in (1 Thessalonians 5:19) "**Do not quench the Holy Spirit.**"

#### 2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see if your <u>faith is genuine</u>. Test yourselves. Be sure you know that <u>Jesus Christ</u> (the deliverer's anointing from his Holy Spirit) is in you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. NLT

One of the reasons there will be such a tremendous increase in trouble and misery at the close of <u>this age</u> (aion) before the second coming of Jesus Christ is because *sin issues* are being judged by God because they are not



being confronted and dealt with according to God's word. This will be especially true in the lives of those who profess to be "believers" and become part of the apostate end time church that has been preaching "another gospel, another Jesus, by another spirit" (2 Corinthians 11:4). One of the worst things we as true believers can do is to allow a person who is practicing sin (especially another professing Christian) to think

they are ok with God, simply because we fear offending the sinner by making them feel <u>uncomfortable</u>, <u>ashamed</u>, or <u>guilty</u> because of their unrepentant sin.

We must first *give unrepentant sinners the truth from God's law* that shows them they are guilty of offending Him, which God uses to establish godly sorrow and then offers them His mercy and grace as put forth in the good news/gospel message, when they are willing to genuinely repent.

#### 2 Timothy 4:2

Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of {proclaimer of} the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning, and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and by teaching. AMP

There is no good news for those not willing to repent, only a fearful expectation for experiencing God's *fiery* judgment.

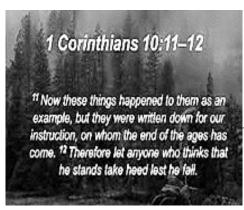
#### Hebrews 10:26-27

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice <u>for sins</u>... but a fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation, which will consume the adversaries.<sup>2</sup> ESV

However, God's genuine love and grace in a true believer's life compels them to tell people the truth, even if they are resented and persecuted for doing so. The blood of the unrepentant will be on our hands if we will not, when we are told to forewarn wrongdoers of their impending judgment for unrepentant sin. We are also warned as true believers to not allow our *emotions* to affect or control our *faith*, which requires we *believe*, *trust*, and *obey* God's word (despite our feelings)...

#### **Proverbs 24:19-22**

19 Don't **fret** (charah (khaw-raw' feel worried, annoyed, frustrated because of <u>evildoers</u>; (ra`a` (raw-ah'); wrongdoers) **don't <u>envv</u>** (qana' (kaw-naw') be <u>zealous</u> meaning: be filled with strong emotions (e.g., affection for or fear of...) the (raw-shaw') an [unrepentant] wicked (rasha` person). 20 For them there is no end to evil (ra`rah); distress, trouble and misery); because the light of the wicked (wrong doer) will be guenched. 21 My children, fear the Lord and ... Don't associate with rebels, 22 for disaster will hit them suddenly. ALT



This (Proverbs 24:19-22) text reveals when we have a soul tie with an evildoer (willful wrongdoer) who is an unrepentant (rebel), our thoughts and emotions (our soul) is being controlled by their sin, causing us to feel fretful (worried, annoyed, and frustrated). When this is the case God tells us not to associate with them because we will also be affected by their distressing judgments that will be consequences for their unrepented

sin and for our disobedience as well. We must keep in mind, as discussed in Chapter 1, that God's main motive for creating humanity was to *demonstrate* <u>to</u> and <u>through</u> humanity His genuine character.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>Adversaries</u> NT:5227 *hupenantios* (hoop-en-an-tee'-os) (adjectival noun) denoting that which is opposed to, contrary to, adverse to, what is of God.

This especially means His genuine love and goodness for all of his created beings. The apostle Paul tells us that God uses the Old Testament nation of Israel as an example to instruct New Testament believers in how He deals with those who *test Him*, through their lack of love and faith in Him, and ultimately results in their rebellion and disobedience to Him...

#### 1 Corinthians 10:9-12

9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them (OT Israel) did and were destroyed by serpents (representing demonic lies), 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ESV

Honorable and Dishonorable Vessels of Mercy and Wrath

#### 2 Timothy 2:20

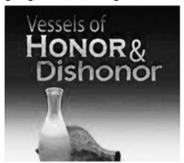
But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but ...some to honour, and some to dishonor—\*(All scripture is from the KJV/NKJV unless otherwise indicated, all parentheses found in Scripture texts in this chapter are added for more literal clarification)

In the above text the phrase "**great house**" is translated from the Greek word—NT:3614 **oikíais** ...referring to (God's) whole universal family. The Bible reveals that within this universal family of God's created beings, there are four types of vessels from two specific categories that are His servants, meaning they are His instruments, used to accomplish His purposes throughout the seven ages mentioned previously in Chapter One. In the ALT version the above text reads as follows ...

#### 2 Timothy 2:21

If any person therefore is themselves purged among these, they will be a vessel that has reached the point of honour, <u>sanctified</u>, to be used profitably for the master's use, because they are prepared to enter into every good work. ALT

Most people (including Christians) have little understanding, if any at all, as to <u>WHY God chooses dishonorable vessels</u> or HOW by choosing them, His prophesied and promised work of ultimate restoration and reconciliation



for all of his creation is accomplished. Not fully understanding this has caused confusion and many unanswered questions, spawning a lot of false speculations concerning God and his eternal purposes.

For instance, because of not understanding the truth concerning *eternal punishment*, when reading the English Bible translation of the account regarding Moses and pharaoh in (Exodus 14:15-31);

I questioned and began to doubt the *righteous justice* of God. It didn't seem *right/just* that God would *choose to harden <u>Pharaoh</u>'s heart* and then kill him and his entire Egyptian army, for resisting God all of whom ultimately would be condemned (as I believed at that time) to *eternal punishment in hell*—in order to make God famous and to reveal His power to the world, as it is stated in most English translations of the Bible.

#### Exodus 14:17-18

And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So, I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen... Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

At that time in my walk with the Lord I knew there had to be more to this situation than I was able to perceive, because the Bible declared that God is a God of justice.

<sup>3</sup> My **ALT** (**Alternate Literal Translation**) moves away from the Latin textual translations and interpretations, which are used to translate most English Bibles, including the King James version. The ALT's goal for translation from the <u>Hebrew</u>, <u>Aramaic</u> and <u>Greek languages</u>, is to return to the <u>thought</u> and <u>intent</u> of these <u>original languages</u>, and to render their translation into a modern more readable English format. The alternate literal translations are derived from my personal original word studies using the Transliterated Greek Interlinear Bible, the Complete Word Study Dictionary; and the Complete Word Study Bible, as well as other word study references as noted in the texts. All parenthesis are mine and are added for contextual and literal clarity (More on the history of Bible translations will be discussed in greater detail in chapter 6).

God's Righteous Justice for "Dishonorable Vessels"

I did, as a matter of fact in due course find the answer to my questions in the following text from (Romans Chapter 9) where this situation with Pharaoh is being addressed.

I will first give the text in the (ALT) *Alternate Literal Translation* version.

\*NOTE: My additions for extended clarity and literal emphasis are in parenthesis in the texts being used. These are added to help capture the literal intent and essence derived from the meanings to key words, in the original language texts.

The portions from (Romans Chapter 9) will then be followed by an original key word study breakdown, in order to reveal how <u>Key Greek Words</u> in the text reveal greater insights. Starting with the ALT (Alternate Literal Translation) the text reads as follows...

#### Romans 9:14-20

14 Are we saving, then, that God was unfair (i.e. for choosing Pharaoh as a dishonorable vessel)? Of course not! 15 For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose." 16 So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it. 17 For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "I have **APPOINTED YOU** (lit: predestined your existence to enter into) the very purpose of displaying my POWER (supernatural power) through you and to declare plainly my FAME (lit: my reputation, character and sovereign authority) throughout the earth." 18 So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he also chooses to harden the hearts of others so they will refuse to listen. 19 Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he created them to do?" 20 No. don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created (by God) say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 When (i.e. the creator makes His earthenware vessels) ... doesn't he have a right... to make one vessel for decoration (an honorable vessel) and another to throw garbage into (a dishonorable vessel)?

22 On the other hand if God (by His sovereign4 authority) intends, through manifesting wrath, also makes known His ability to endure through much patience the vessels of wrath, fitted for destruction. 23 And the purpose for this is to reveal the riches of his glory as clearly seen upon those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared beforehand (literally: appointed beforehand to be led into a place of) glory (etymologically "glory" refers to honor, splendor, light, perfection, and (temporal and eternal) rewards.) ALT

From the above text several points become very clear concerning God's *sovereignty justice* and *mercy*. God told Moses the following things...

- (Vs.17) For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "<u>I have APPOINTED YOU</u> (literally: predestined your existence to enter into) the very purpose of displaying my POWER (supernatural power) through you and to declare plainly my FAME (lit: my reputation, character and sovereign authority) throughout the earth."
- (Vs.18) So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they will refuse to listen (in order to fulfill <u>His</u> ultimate purposes).
- (Vs.22) On the other hand if God by His sovereign authority intends, through manifesting wrath, to also make known His ability to endure through much longsuffering (i.e. patiently enduring the pain from) the vessels wrath, who are fitted (ordained) for destruction.
- (Vs.23) He did this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those (vessels of His wrath) to whom he (ultimately) shows mercy, who were prepared in advance (to enter) glory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>God is sovereign</u> meaning His power and authority are to the extent of being able to override all other powers and authorities. He is over everything, in control of all things, and beholden to none. He is the Creator; everything else is His creation. The Bible says, "You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you" (2 Chronicles 20:6). No nation does anything that God does not purpose. We also read, "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples" (Psalm 33;10-11).

The above verses reveal that God brought <u>Pharaoh</u> into exitance, for His specific purposes at that specific time. Keep in mind as has been mentioned previously, as the *Most High God* He knows the beginning and end of His creation. Thus, through His *foreknowledge* God knew that Pharaoh was a prideful pagan rebel. Strange as it may seem Pharaoh was however, created for the purpose of demonstrating *God's true character of mercy, sovereign power*, and <u>supernatural ability</u> through His dealings with this **dishonorable vessel of wrath FITTED for\* destruction.** 

\*NOTE: the word translated as "for" in (Romans 9:22) is the Greek proposition: (NT:1519 eis (ice); meaning: to or into. The CWSD: states It indicates the point reached or entered into, leading to, or delivering over to... with reference to a place, or time, or (figuratively) for a purpose or result.

Thus, the glorious reality is we, humanity, are <u>ALL</u> sinful *dishonorable vessels* and at some point are all, going *enter into* the knowledge of the truth as to who Jesus Christ (humanity's) Lord and Savior really is!

Those who do not enter into this knowledge of the truth before they die and leave this earth, will come to the knowledge of the truth at some point on the other side in hell and in the lake of fire after their physical death. In order to come to the knowledge of this truth, we must all go through the sanctification process which includes <u>being fitted "for destruction.</u>" The Word of God clearly states (as seen in Romans 9:22) that every <u>dishonorable vessel has been FITTED</u> (literally meaning: to be made ready, to be restored, repaired and adjusted) by entering into <u>DESTRUCTION</u>, and this is explained in more detail from the following original Key word study...

**FITTED** NT:2675 **katartizo** (kat-ar-tid'-zo); (κατηρτισμένα) refers to being made ready to be completely and thoroughly restored, repaired, or adjusted. The Greek *grammatical construction* for this word can be found in these lexical study aids:

<u>B/L/B</u> (Blue Letter Bible): states <u>FITTED</u> is in <u>the perfect tense</u>: meaning the <u>action has been completed in the past</u>, once and for all, and is <u>NOT NEEDING TO BE REPEATED</u>. (Jesus' death and resurrection once and for all "fitted" or made all of humanity ready to be ultimately, completely and thoroughly restored, repaired and adjusted).

<u>**CWSD**</u> (Complete Word Studies Dictionary): states <u>FITTED</u> is a <u>**verbal**</u> <u>**adjective**</u> in the <u>**passive voice**</u>, and in the <u>**perfect tense**</u> ... meaning the <u>**verbal** <u>adjective</u> <u>action</u> (BEING <u>FITTED/made</u> ready, repaired, and adjusted) <u>has been completed in the past</u> (i.e. as when Jesus declared on the cross "IT IS FINISHED"). Because of His death burial and</u>

resurrection, the actions of His atonement, are <u>not needing to be</u> repeated but <u>does have continuing results</u> (for all need to be FITTED/made ready by sanctification that results in being restored, repaired, or adjusted). (parentheses are mine added four literal clarity)

<u>VWS</u> (Vincent's Word Studies) States: When speaking of the <u>VESSELS OF WRATH</u> (σκεύη οργης) this does not refer to (the dishonorable) vessels as being prepared to serve as <u>a manifestation of God's divine wrath</u>; (i.e. In other words the vessels themselves are not the cause for God's wrath) but the focus is on the <u>ACTIONS</u> (of sin that determines the kind of vessel they become... their sinful actions) are causing God's wrath, sinful actions have fallen under <u>His wrath</u>.

The VWS (Vincent's Word Studies) also goes on to say... "...in the verbal-adjectival sense, katartizo denotes these vessels are made <u>ready</u>, <u>ripe for <u>destruction</u> (i.e. To experience the destruction</u> of their sin). The participle (FITTED) denotes a present state that exists (i.e. that of being sinful) that was PREVIOUSLY FORMED, but giving no hint as to HOW it has been formed. Thus, an AGENCY \*(Defined as: an involvement with an activity [e.g., sin]-an influence [e.g., the flesh]-a force-[e.g., demonic powers]) of some kind **MUST BE ASUMED** (to have been used to create the existing state of sin that has readied them to enter into)... **DESTRUCTION.** This is the Greek word (NT:684 apoleia (ap-o'-li-a) meaning: damnation; (doomed to hell). The CWSD (Complete Word Studies Dictionary): states **DESTRUCTION...** refers to a (tormenting) state (i.e. associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> death) wherein understanding... that (humanity's) rejection of salvation becomes a realized (horrifying) fact, wherein they realize, instead of becoming what they might have been, they are now lost and in a state of ruin. (i.e. As shown throughout this book... this realization happens as humanity goes through their humbling process in hell).\* (Parenthesis and emphasis are mine added for literal clarification). \*NOTE: this humbling process in hell will be discussed in more scriptural detail throughout the remaining chapters).

#### **Understanding God's Goodness**

I found in my early life as a Christian that when I, and those who were near and dear to me went through painful trials and troubles the temptation was to (grumble) *blame God* for not doing something to *alleviate* the pain and suffering that was being experienced by them or myself. My fretful state was being used by the devil to subtly undermine my faith and love for God and to seriously *question his goodness*. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit drew my attention to the following text that I was led into a greater understanding of God's **love** and **goodness**. When I truly

understood the true scope and meaning of these things *I* had to repent of the misconceptions *I* had embraced due to my agreement with Satan's accusing lies, doubts, and ungodly expectations concerning God's true character.

#### **Romans 11:22**

Therefore consider (fully understand) the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell there is severity; but toward you (i.e. who do understand) there is goodness, if you remain in a place of (i.e. having genuine love and faith in) His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off (through your disobedience, doubt and unbelief i.e. lack of faith in God).

In order to *better understand God's nature* we need to begin by defining the words *goodness* and *severity* from a purely Biblical perspective ...

• Goodness (NT5544 chrestotes (khray-stot'-ace): is a noun meaning: <u>useful</u>, <u>profitable/beneficial</u>, <u>harmless</u>, <u>kind considerate</u>, <u>helpful</u>, <u>merciful</u>).

Before having a truly accurate understanding of what *goodness* really means according to God's standard I, like a lot of other people thought that if something was *good* it was because it was *pleasant* and *to my liking*. Therefore if something was not *pleasant*, *pleasing* or not *nice* (enjoyable or to my liking) it was *not good*.

However, from fallen human nature's perspective anything or anyone causing us pain, discomfort, or misery is seen as *evil* (bad) and not *good* (nice). Even though pain, discomfort, or misery are not enjoyable/nice and do not *feel good* (is not pleasant) and is not to our liking, God will use these things as His means or instruments of His *goodness* when they are <u>useful</u>, <u>beneficial</u>, and <u>helpful</u> in leading stubborn, prideful, rebellious sinners to repentance.

#### Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and patience, not knowing (understanding) that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? WEB

#### Isaiah 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Spiritually immature Christians are like children who do not understand the truth concerning what this this text is talking about. I also had to grow in the knowledge of the truth in order to understand that God's love and goodness causes Him to always do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reason.

Another aspect of God's goodness that I also had misconceptions of was His **kindness**, which God defines as being <u>considerate</u>, <u>helpful</u>, and <u>merciful</u>. When teaching on God's love and goodness/kindness, I often use the example of a small child that develops a very bad toothache requiring a dentist to repair or remove the <u>infected</u> tooth. A loving parent fully understands why the child must endure a painful shot in the mouth as part of the treatment plan. Even though the child definitely does not like or agree that the pain involved in the treatment plan is a good thing ... it is the parent's goodness and love for the child that allows the child to endure a remedy that will involve pain.

As a parent myself who genuinely loves and wants what is best for my children, I finally came to personally understand through my faith in God's *love and goodness* that He will *always* do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reason for every human being... especially when my children are in disobedience and rebellion and are suffering the painful consequences of their unrepentant sin.

I came to realize also that suffering and pain are <u>useful instruments of God's goodness</u> that He uses o *draw them to repentance*. The Bible tells us that no one can come to Jesus (The Truth) unless God the Father draws them to Him. Thus, pain will be a very <u>useful</u> part of God's treatment plan for drawing <u>humanity</u> to genuine repentance <u>causing</u> sin to cease and also choosing instead to embrace God's will and ways.

#### 1 Peter 4:1-2

...arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin ... no longer living the rest of the time in the flesh fulfilling human passions but instead (choosing to) live according to the will of God. ALT

#### Understanding the Severity of God

Without understanding the *severity of God*, we too through lack of knowledge will be subject to <u>fall</u> (NT:4098 *pipto* (pip'-to) meaning: *to fall into sin and ruin*) through rebellion from doubt and unbelief towards God, just as the Old Testament nation of Israel did. We also will be caused to to experience the **severity** of God just as they did.

#### Romans 11:17-22



But if some of the branches were removed from the true vine, and you... were grafted in among the remaining others... Those who were broken off was because of their <u>unbelief</u> (unwillingness to believe, trust in and obey God), but you stand fast <u>through faith</u> ... (a willingness to believe, trust in and obey

God). Be warned if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you... Therefore consider (understand) the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell there is severity; but toward you (who have genuine faith) there is goodness, if you remain in a place of goodness (remain useful, profitableness, harmless). Otherwise you also will be cut off. ALT

The word **severity** is defined as (NT: 663 **apotomia** (ap-ot-om-ee'-ah) CWSD: meaning: to sever and denotes **cutting off what is dead** or e.g., **useless**, **unprofitable**, or **harmful**). Thus God's severity is actually an act of his goodness because of his love. We must also keep in mind that God knowing the beginning and end of all he created, foreknew that when he chose the Hebrew people because of their fallen sin nature they would become rebels through unbelief in him.

Despite His foreknowledge of their sin and rebellion, God chose them to be the nation through which he would demonstrate His **righteous character** of <u>justice</u>, <u>goodness</u>, <u>and love</u> as their <u>Most High God</u>. His <u>righteous justice</u> required they would experience the <u>severity of their God</u> because the goodness of God also requires He use <u>severity</u> when He deems it to be a <u>useful and profitable</u> thing to do, such as turning them back to him when they strayed. Keep in mind also that God originally created sinless humans to be reflections of His image.

Thus, when *professing Christians* do not deal with their sin issues through the blood of Christ and repentance, they fail to reflect the *true image of God's* character through the fruit of His spirit in their lives. When this is the case they are deemed <u>useless</u>, <u>unprofitable</u>, and become a <u>harmful representation</u> of God's character and face being cut off unless they repent and become fruitful. As stated, God's goodness is the means for *drawing people to repent* so they can become fruitful, useful, and profitable for his Kingdom purposes.

compassionate acts) are not useful and profitable when it comes to drawing the unrepentant to repentance and does not produce the *genuine fruit of repentance*, then God's **severity** will come into play. This principle is demonstrated by a parable of Jesus found in Luke's gospel:

#### Luke 13:6-9

6 And he told this parable: "A man (i.e. the Lord) had a fig tree (a born again person) planted in his vineyard (in his Kingdom), and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also (a plea for a season of God's mercy and compassion), until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can (literally: you MUST demonstrate your severity and) cut it down." ESV

In this parable the people represented by this unfruitful tree, (which by the way had life from God but no fruit) represent useless, professing believers, who do not produce the fruit of true repentance but remain carnal preventing them from producing the fruit of the spirit in their life. Without the fruit of the spirit we cannot become useful representations of God and his Kingdom.

It is necessary to *fully understand* that God's goodness in our lives **may involve** experiencing <u>God's severity</u> that inevitably involves a certain amount of suffering and pain that He alone determines. This *punitive corrective judgment* is used as His instrument of love for humbling us and to draw us to repentance, so we are prepared to receive His *seeds of truth* regarding our sin.

Thus, when God's **goodness** (merciful and compassionate acts) are not useful and profitable when it comes to drawing the unrepentant to repentance and does not produce the *genuine fruit of repentance*, then God's **severity** will come into play. This principle is demonstrated by a parable of Jesus found in Luke's gospel as seen in the above text.

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can then be watered by His anointing until they eventually produce a harvest of genuine repentance in our life.

In (1 Timothy 1:20) Paul the Apostle mentions the people that he <u>turned</u> <u>over to Satan</u> to experience <u>God's divine punishment</u> (NT:3639 olethros(ol'-eth-ros); defined as: destruction, ruin and unavoidable distress and torment). Before understanding the truth concerning the ultimate reconciliation and restoration of humanity, I always thought turning someone over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh was so

their spirit had a chance of being saved *before they died* and went to hell and that seemed to me to be a very *severe* (harsh) and unloving thing to do to a person.

#### 1 Corinthians 5:4

You are to deliver this (immoral unrepentant) man (over) to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, (in order) for his spirit to be saved in the day of the Lord.<sup>42</sup> ESV

First of all please notice that the above verse is talking about the persons <u>spirit</u> being saved but <u>flesh</u> (carnality) being destroyed <u>in the day the Lord</u>. As a Bible teacher and prayer counselor since 1984, the truth concerning God's divine punishment was very hard for me to fully understand and accept until I understood the *enormity of the goodness of God* that is demonstrated through the awesome truth of God's plan for the <u>ultimate reconciliation and salvation</u> of <u>every human spirit</u>.

In the Scriptures people are called the *plantings of the Lord, representing those* who have received God's holy seed (nature) by becoming a born-again child of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Yet there are those who turn back into their life of sin and rebellion to God after being born again...

#### Jeremiah 2:21

Yet <u>I had planted you</u> to be a <u>noble vine</u> (lit: chosen to be the best fruit producer), wholly (completely from) a <u>right seed</u>: how then are you turned into the degenerate plant of a strange (wild) vine unto me?

When God plants his seed (the nature of Jesus Christ) in people they become part of His vineyard (kingdom). In order to become a fruitful plant, they will have truly experienced genuine repentance by becoming honest Concerning all sin issues by seeing them according to God's perspective rather than that from their own prideful perspective (that excuses, blames, justifies and minimizes their sin).

Without being humbled, pride will not allow us to willingly and honestly acknowledge and confessi their sin to God. Genuine repentance causes the sinner to experience a godly sorrow with deep mournful regret for how they have lived and wasted their mortal life through sin, but most of all will sorrow over how they have hurt the true and living God who has graciously redeemed them through his love. They will truly become broken over how they have hurt and offended God and others. This reality will become blatantly clear as well as most painful for them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>The day of the Lord</u> The phrase alludes to a judgment for eternal rewards for believers in (2 Corinthians 1:14) "we are your rejoicing, even as you also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus"... But also refers to that time when all unrepentant sinners will experience the severity of God's wrath as will be discussed in greater detail throughout the rest of this book.

Genuine repentance produces the *fruit of being humbly broken* because God *gives them the ability* to see their sin as He sees it, and as painful as this is it is a manifestation of His goodness leading them to true repentance. How we are to correct others with the hope of bringing repentance, is also to be representative of how God deals with those he is trying to do draw to repentance...

#### 2 Timothy 2:25-26

...(We are to be) correcting His (God's) opponents with gentleness (so) God may perhaps grant them repentance, leading (them) to a knowledge of the truth, so they may (have the opportunity to) escape from the snare (deceptopn) of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. ESV (Parenthesis mine for clarity)

When unrepentant people who have *rebelled* (because they willfully disobey what they know to be the truth) yet believe that all they have to do is simply tell God they are sorry for their sins and expect to receive His for forgiveness but fail to stop doing the sin, they are deceived into believing they have truly repented, and all is well between them and God. God is not looking for an apology, but for a contrite heart of genuine repentance, which requires turning away from all sin. This also brings up the point that those who know the truth and still refuse to obey it are not in the same spiritual position as one who has never known the truth and is not obeying it...

#### 2 Peter 2:21

For it would have been better for them <u>never to have</u> <u>known the way of righteousness</u> (truth) than after knowing it <u>to turn back</u> from the holy commandment delivered to them. ESV

When we receive the understanding that something is sin and find turning away from that sin becomes a problem, this will require the God's all consuming fire to judge that sin.

#### Hebrews 10:26-27

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins... but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fire of indignation (intense/passion) that will consume the adversaries (literally: all opposition to God's will and ways). ALT

A false repentance is an attempt to establish one's own righteousness, based on *emotionalism* and *dead works*. Dead works can be "good looking works" but are not done out of *genuine faith and love for God*. The Bible states...

#### **Romans 14:23**

Whatever is not done out of faith God considers to be sin.



Confessing ones sins to God and saying they are sorry and asking God for forgiveness seems good, but when **what** they say is not motivated by true faith and love for God and instead done only to ease a guilty conscience... or to look good in the eyes of others. These motives are self-serving and self-centered, and do not produce genuine repentance. Prideful self-centeredness only fights against God's promised ultimate victory over sin and death. This must be purged by the cleansing baptisms of water and fire

#### Peter 3:9

(Parenthesis added for expanded literal clarity for the underlined **S**words)

9 The Lord is not (never) slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but rather (chooses to be) longsuffering (denotes waiting a long space from one point (e.g. giving the promise) to another point (e.g. the <u>fulfillment</u> of the promise) **toward** us... and is (without a doubt not willing6... (literally: **not intending or**... it without a doubt does not harmonizes with His plan) that any (plural) should (more grammatically correct: are to) perish, **but** (rather) **that** (the <u>intended plan</u> is that) ALL should come (more literally: 'all are (definitely) to come" repentance...

<sup>6</sup> Grammatical Parsing for (vs.9): (God is) not (NT:3361 me (may); without a doubt not) willing (NT: 1014 bouloma (boo'-lom-ahee) Verb-Present Passive/Middle Participle (ppmp); denotes (God) does NOT without a doubt have as (His) intended plan or purpose, that any (of his created beings) should (or "are to") "perish"-Verb-Aorist Infinitive Middle (aifm) meaning "perish" is referring to the subject "any." Also The PRESENT PARTICIPLE (without a doubt is not willing) is used to signify the action of "without a doubt not willing" is continuous contemporaneous action (that agrees) with the leading verb (to perish), whether that action occurs in the past, present, or future... Thus, this verse is saying..."God has without a doubt not) been willing, is without a doubt not willing now, or shall without doubt not (at any time in the future) be willing to have ANY (perish). Source: The Blue Letter Bible utilizes The Textus Receptus by Stephanus' edition from 1550.

10 <u>But</u> (on the other hand) the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; 13 Nevertheless, according to his <u>promise</u> ... (that all will come to repentance at some point), we <u>look for</u> (with eager desire) a <u>new heavens</u> and a <u>new earth</u>, where in it (ALL) <u>will</u> dwell in <u>righteousness</u>. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you <u>look</u> (fully expect/with eager desire) for such things, be diligent (<u>make every effort to do your best</u>) that ye may be found by him to be <u>in peace</u>, <u>without spot</u>, and blameless. ALT

In the *Alternate Literal Translation* from the above text, Peter reveals God's ultimate destiny for humanity is that of **ALL** coming



to repentance at some point. Because the text is clear concerning <u>all that God</u> <u>preordained</u> from the <u>foundation of the world</u>... which included the <u>definite promise</u> that <u>ultimately all will repent and dwell in righteousness within the new heavens and the new earth. He also stated the <u>required conditions</u> for personally</u>

receiving this **promise.**<sup>8</sup> The conditions for every human being to ultimately be saved are: to be **found in peace**, **be blameless and without spot at the DAY OF THE LORD** ...in order to ensure that we will dwell in the new heavens and the new earth Peter then goes on to make the following statement:

#### 2 Peter 3:15

Also account (keep in mind) that the long suffering of our Lord (leads to) salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him has written unto you.

Thus, the <u>longsuffering</u> (tolerance and patience) of God is his goodness that is meant to lead us to repentance and <u>ultimately</u> to salvation. Unfortunately many will not be <u>prepared</u> to face God in <u>the day of the Lord</u>. As will be discussed further on in this study, these will face a time of punitive correction at the great white throne judgment, in order to be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Grammatical Verb Codes for – "should come" (ainf 5562 the active voice indicates the action [come] is being accomplished by the subject [i.e. ALL] ) COME and the Aorist infinitive, (denotes punctiliar action meaning the [subject ALL] and the verb "come" will happen at some specific point in time, thus (ALL) are to at some specific point…come to repentance.

<sup>8</sup> We must keep in mind every promise in the word of God is **conditional**, therefore <u>we must look for the conditions that need to be met</u> in order to have the promise fulfilled.

restored and become qualified to enter the new heavens and the new earth. What most of humanity lacks, (which sadly includes a majority of God's people) is the *experiential knowledge* concerning the *goodness of God*. This is what leads people to repentance and ultimately to restoration and salvation... not only now **but also in the afterlife.** 

#### Romans 2:3

...(are you) not knowing (experientially) that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ALT

The afterlife is where most of humanity will experience the "**blessed hope**" for their ultimate and total victory and salvation in Christ. That is why the apostle Paul makes the following statement:

#### 1 Corinthians 15:19

<u>If in this life only we have hope in (through)</u> Christ, we are all as men (humans) the most pitiable (miserable). (Parenthesis mine for literal clarity)

Paul is plainly telling us that "<u>IF ITS IN THIS LIFE ONLY</u>" (and not in the afterlife) that we are able to come into agreement and be reconciled to God by bowing our knee and confessing Christ as our personal savior ... if this were true, humanity then would be the <u>MOST PITIABLE</u> (lit: the most miserable creatures in God's creation). However, this is not true because Paul goes on to say...

#### 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

21 For since by man (a human i.e., Adam) came death, (lit: the experience of death to all) by man (a human i.e., Jesus Christ) also came the resurrection (lit: the experience of recovery to all) from the dead (lit: being spiritually dead). 22 for in Adam all die (all experience "dying off" spiritually) ...even so in Christ shall all be made alive (lit: all can "expect" to be restored to life— \*i.e. as previously explained through their second death (to the Adamic sin nature on earth by water baptism or later in the afterlife in their appointed time by fire baptism in Lake of Fire).

#### God's Goodness and Blessed Hope for ALL in the Afterlife

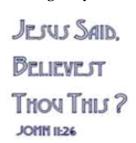
As mentioned previously it was around 1997, about a year after my husband Garry and I began our *Extended life Christian Training Ministry*, the Lord began to give me a glimpse into aspects of the ultimate restoration and healing of *all things*, which includes all of *humanity*.

#### Acts 3:21

Whom (Jesus) heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets (this has been promised) since the world began. (Parenthesis mine for clarity)

What I started to learn from my original word studies, began to turn my Christian perspective on *eternal punishment* upside down, because it was so *counter* to what *traditional Christianity* had always taught me. For instance, back in 1970 as a renewed (backslidden) believer I was taught that the Lake of Fire was located in hell.

Then In 1997 when I began to see from my original word studies that *hell* was originally created for the devil and his angels and eventually came to



also include Satan's human servants. I have subsequently learned the *Lake of Fire and Brimstone* and *hell* are two separate entities created by God for the express purpose of administering His righteous justice through *punitive correction* and also for the purpose of **restoring those** in these places from **all sin** and not for **consuming** (annihilating) **nor for eternally punishing the sinner**. *Degrees of punishment?* ... *YES! Eternal punishment?*... *NO!!* Any aspect of humanity's **blessed hope** is that **ALL** 

who are true believers in Jesus Christ as their savior, (before or after death) will... **never die** (literally: shall not ever enter into an period of time of experiencing a <u>dying off</u>).

#### John 11:25-26

(Jesus said) ...he that believes in (literally: continues to be convinced of, trusts in and obediently follows) me, though he were dead (literally: "died off" spiritually or physically), yet shall he live ...And whosoever lives (literally: has been raised by water baptism and fire baptism from their adamic death) and believes in (literally: continues to be convinced, trusts in and obediently follows) me... shall never die. Do you believe this? NKJV (Parenthesis mine for literal clarification).

 <sup>\*</sup>Shall never\* (efn) Emphatic Future Negative/ NT:3364 ou me (oo may) shall not ever...
 preposition/1519 eis (ice) enter into/ art,(the) nn 165 aion (ahee-ohn'); an age or period of time (i.e. of experiencing death/dying) die/death, NT:599 apothnesko (ap-oth-nace'-ko): dying off, to become dead... grammatically this word is in the Aorist Subjunctive Active (asba) = denoting it is used as an Imperative (authoritative command) usually forbidding an action/i.e. dying off... in the active voice (meaning the subject/i.e. the believer ...is accomplishing the action/i.e. of forbidding a dying off) which is not in progress and has authority to forbid the action (i.e. of dying off) to not be allowed to start.



Again, for those who are not true believers while they lived upon earth, they will have as their *promised blessed hope* of experiencing in the afterlife, their *second death* of <u>dying</u><sup>7</sup> to selfish pride in hell. As this book goes on to reveal they will endure their **purging process**, beginning with bowing their knee and becoming a true believer by confessing with their tongue Christ Jesus as Lord and savior. Their assigned **aion** time of **punitive** correction and their **purging baptism of God's all-consuming fire** in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone will end in **ULTIMATE VICTORY** over sin and death eternally!

#### **Titus 2:11-15**

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has **appeared** (NT:2014 meaning: is at some point to be shown) to all men (humanity)... 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (in which they are being taught), 13 looking for the blessed hope (for all people to be saved) and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us (all humanity) from every lawless deed and purify for Himself (humanity for whom He died and rose again to redeem as) His own peculiar (special) (NT:4041 CWSD: a better translation for "peculiar people" is: <u>a treasured purchased, redeemed people</u> ... who are and will be) **people**, **zealous for good works** (after being <u>saved</u>, by being <u>taught</u> and <u>purified</u> from every lawless deed). 15 Speak these things, exhort, (encourage) and rebuke (correct) with all authority. Let no one despise **vou.**(Parenthesis mine for literal and grammatical clarity)

1 Corinthians 15:55
"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?"

AMEN!

# Are you ready to stand before Jesus Christ and face your personal accounting for the life you lived upon this earth?

#### Romans 14:10-11

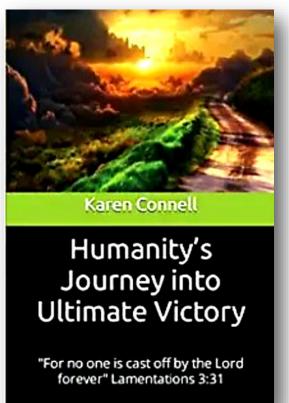
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.
For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and
every tongue shall confess to God So
then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

#### Romans 2:16

The day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

#### **Jude 14-16**

Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on all the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These people are the grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their own desires.



Whether you are a believer or not a believer in Jesus Christ ...the fact remains we are all going to stand before him one day and have our lives judged by him to receive His commendation or condemnation. Whether we believe this or not doesn't change the fact that the Bible says it's going to happen. This book was written to help humanity prepare for this fast-approaching day. Jesus Christ is the only one who gives the *gift of eternal life* to ALL who want it and will call upon Him to receive His wonderful gift...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:13
For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Request your "free" copy ... especially if you are a "believer" in Jesus Christ or if you would like to become a believer!