

"But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

"WISDOM" speaking — Proverbs 8:36

can well remember when in my teen years, and especially as an Atheist, I joyfully delved into concepts of the occult. Granted, in my own mind I was engaging in little more than a pastime, or amusement of some kind: playing with thoughts that bordered on the dark arts, in what the Scriptures describe as delving into "false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which [I have] not seen, vainly puffed up by [my] fleshly mind" (Col. 2:18)—in other words, I was diving into imaginary worlds, where imaginary powers enable someone to do things normally impossible (like Darth Vader –the Dark Invader, for example). Yet, after returning to Christ, like a man who had been walking into a very dark cave with a line stretching out to the outside—I now realize how fortunate I was to be able to return to the Light before someone (or some dark force) was able to tempt me to completely "cut the line" that could lead me back to the Light, and the way of

Life (Jn 14:6).

This is not to say that persons who have actually cut the chord (in would-be covenants with the Dark, or the devil himself)—cannot be rescued by an experienced scout (or Evangelist).—It is just that, it is always more advisable to refrain from jumping off of a bridge —than tempting fate by hoping a lifeguard (or life boat) is ready ... after plunging into the deep!

Our nation has been diving into the "Dark Side" for some time now: most notably in the company of a Satanist (Karl Marx) and his mentor (Engels)—while at the same time seeking to "cut the chord" of intelligent design that connects us to our Designer and Creator, as per Charles Darwin, who repented on his death bed. Again; what a tenuous position to be in, after having "jumped off the bridge." Even in broad daylight, this is dangerous!

This is not to mention insanity of sexual experimentation now "tempting fate," in many young lives—even to the point of castrating (or mutilating) their bodies to be part of the "in" crowd . . . only to discover in horror and dismay, decades down the road, what they had (literally) lost within that dark cave, and those deep waters, often with no life guard in sight. —Nor is it only human sexuality that is going "dark" in our time. For even our "green backs" are turning colors today, as the "almighty dollar" starts to lose some of its luster.

How else can anyone explain the crazed throwing of "cash to the wind" and massive debt that many legislators in Washington seem so determined to burden future generations with—as they "jump from the bridge" and hope that the bungee chord will not break, while scraping bottom . . . or perhaps, they are *hoping* for the chord to break? How far can one go, one wonders, before insanity completely overtakes DC?

As we quietly consider these thoughts in the night before going to bed, and look up into the starry heavens, how wonderful it is to remember that the God of the Universe did, indeed, understand just how depraved Adam and Eve's children would one day become—so much so, that He sent His Son on a rescue mission to earth.

Come, let us embrace His rescue, and turn from the Dark.

Now.

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THE RIGHT TO RARE ARMS

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

1 Timothy 2:8

s there really hope for our Republic? Can our Constitution survive? For it appears that we, as a nation, are approaching a stalemate wherein our republic's checks and balances: Its triad of Executive, Judicial, and Congressional law making, now rapidly approaching an absolute limit. Our executive branch (at the top, with the President) appears to be holding on (just barely) by continued decrees and even threats -most recently articulated in a speech searching for America's soul wherein (Russia type) "dissidents" were being threatened with a trip to the local Gulag, to spend the night (sh-h-h) with protestors captured in a January 6th event. No "benefit of the doubt" for those protestors on the right side of the aisle: they are now most certainly "insurrectionists!"

In a similar manner, those who were formerly called "conservatives" are now "domestic terrorists" who, we are being told, are truly evil for wanting to "Make America Great Again" (that's what a MAGA voter is). So that we are witnessing a new set of governing signals; telling us that we are to never again hope to live within a free or democratic society where the hard work of an open, public, and scientific debate on life-and-death issues, may ever again be allowed, Ever: and regarding the "big ideas" of the day? Even our college students must now have their sensitivities stroked, and given rooms with soft padding-while dissidents are mentally "fenced in" to free speech zones. If the White House decides that "painting its walls the colors of the rainbow" is more important than maintaining simple purity and truth within the public square. . . . then believers are to meekly retreat into the dog house, close our Bibles (eyes, ears, and mouths) and now expect that nothing—not even a fair election ballot, will ever again allow a peaceful transfer of power, in DC . . . unless it is approved by facebook (or the tech giants) and is in every way "politically correct."

Of course, all of this is almost child's play for the serious student of Scripture and (especially) for the student of straight-forward Bible prophecy, which we must do our best not to unwrap too brazenly! For such actions may disturb the sleeping giant that the Prince of life has described as so being powerful that even the very "Gates of Hell" cannot prevail against it. Therefore, at all cost, and with every ounce of strength that the Deep State can muster, this sleeping giant must be fitfully seduced, and fanned to sleep . . . until it is too late to turn back the tide of evil (Matt. 25:6-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4). For when awakening to the chief element of real Bible prophecy, the judgment of God becomes so evident that it may cause (Sh-h-h) repentance— and the One Who rules far above the Deep State, is seen as obviously untrammeled and untroubled: sitting comfortably upon His throne. Or, as the psalmist intones:

> ¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

> > Psalm 2:1-3

Perhaps, after all, God is really wringing His hands at congressional decrees seeking to reverse Heaven's law (Isaiah 24:5)? Perhaps He is concerned with what, on earth, He will do next?

What? What is that, you say? God is *not* distressed??

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.
⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:
⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

Psalm 2:4-6

This we do *not* what we want to witness, personally, or to experience: ever.

In fact, when it came time to for

the Christ to go to the Cross in order to pay for our sins: to provide a way of escape of our destruction and chaos, that would ultimately allow our very escape from Hell, itself.

—As the au-

thorities came to look for Jesus; He spoke clearly into the Night hour of that very "woke" crowd of armed guards. For they had thought that Christ's arrest and demise was all a done deal:

"Whom are you seeking?" Jesus asked, in the Night. They answered:

⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. ⁶ Now when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

John 18:5-6

You will notice that I did not italicize the entire quote above—only the words that the Authorized Version leaves in that form. This is to denote that the actual language, describing that very dark night, captures Jesus answering them with His heavenly name, and title: specifically, "I Am."

Jesus was using the very name that God gave to Moses upon Mt. Sinai, as the mountain smoked and was shaking, while the Law was being given to the children of Israel in the wilderness, after they had left their Egyptian slavery behind.

Or, looked at in another way, Jesus was simply identifying Himself as the Jehovah of the Old Testament, — and they lost their footing, and fell backwards.

Yet Jesus, being the classy Man of Eternity, gave them an opportunity to "clear their heads,"—just before allowing them to lead Him off to the Cross, to die . . . for us.

⁷ Then He asked them



again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," ⁹ that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

John 18:7-9

Of course, it was at this point that Simon Peter plucked up his courage, and suddenly found his ability to "bear arms"—drawing a sword to (foolishly) defend Jesus against seemingly impossible odds.—And oh, he did a grand job did he not? —Whacking the enemy, and even cutting off one man's ear (he was aiming for the jugular)!

Jesus had to tell Peter to put up his sword. (vs. 11). Matthew, formerly a member of the Deep State himself (a tax collector), records this event from a different perspective. Writes Matthew, of Christ's response to Peter's drawn sword:

> ⁵² But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

> > Matthew 26:52-54

Or, we might quote a very familiar statement that Jesus made to the Roman governor, Pilate, while

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WHAT

SIGN

IS THIS??



Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."

Matthew 24:3-4

ible students, and fervent believers in Christ, sometimes forget the context from which Jesus began the discussion of His Return. For, in discussing the most cataclysmic event past Calvary, He pointed to both general . . . and very particular, events.

We must also realize that in a very real sense Jesus was, if anything at all, a very practical teacher. For example, evangelical theologians postulate that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). But Jesus simply answered the question of the afterlife by telling the thief dying next to Him; that on that very day he would enter Paradise (Luke 23:43). Yes, we may allow for theologians to retire to their studies and theorize and postulate on what that means exactly ("Did he have a body, when entering Paradise?" "Did he see a Garden, just like Eden?")—but Jesus simply settled the most crucial issue, by telling that dying criminal (now among the redeemed) that he would experience a totally fulfilling life in what we commonly call "Heaven" on that very day! His statement in no way implied that the thief would be "sleeping" in Paradise!

The body sleeps, but the "spirits of just men made perfect" (by Christ's blood) already inhabit heaven along with the angels, in a very glad and joyous experience (Hebrews 12:23)!

This clarity and awesomely deep aspect of Christ's teaching—such that even a little child could sit on His lap and feel comfortable and be understood—while also sensing that they were actually understanding what Jesus was teaching, is a wonderful and unsurpassed aspect of how our Lord taught His followers. In this sense, even Peter, a fisherman, felt comfortable in Christ's Presence—although later he would have to admit that when encountering the teachings of the apostle Paul, he found "some things, hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:15,16). I say again: Jesus was and is, the Master Teacher. He is:

"... the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; 25 Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness;..."

Isaiah 44:24-25 (John 1:1-3)

When noting that He "drives diviner mad"—the prophet is pointing to experts, and what (we might commonly call) "Doctors"—the wise men of society, who generally advise kings and rulers (similar to the ones Daniel ran into in Babylon . . .). So that, when approaching Jesus and His statements, we do well to be very careful how we "evaluate" this One who speaks to us in time and space . . . from the perspective of Eternity. For:

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven."

-Jesus (John 3:13)

Please note, carefully, what Jesus said when speaking to one of the "wise men" of the day

(Nicodemus). We dare not overlook this: Jesus said that while on earth, He was (in a very real sense) still living in heaven, with a heavenly perspective. —And should we dare to step into those same shoes, and declare ourselves in the same class (Eph. 2:6)—might I suggest that we tread lightly, and acknowledge that, while Christ walked upon earth, His experience in heavenly realities far surpassed our own (and if not, may I suggest a trip to the local beach so that I might observe your water walking skills)?

Therefore, it is with a very careful and (hopefully) humble approach that I suggest we take a fresh look at Christ's teaching of this subject of His second coming: first realizing that it was *He* who initiated the whole discussion by first mentioning that there would come a day when the pride and joy of Israel's religious establishment . . . would be laid low in a manner that would utterly devastate their religious system.

¹ Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Matthew 24:1-2 (Luke 21:6, Mark 13:2)

It was this statement that actually *provoked* the questioning, quoted in our opening text (Matt. 24:3). Why did Jesus do this?? Why *initiate* a discussion, by using this particular revelation?

—No, do not answer yet. Let us continue to read, while remembering Who is speaking. For (dare I say it?) –like a master theologian, the Teacher first presents His thesis (primary thought and postulate) and then expands upon this premise throughout his discussion. Thus, the first paragraph is summarized in verse fifteen (vs. 15)—which apparently *contradicts* His opening statement!

desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:15-16 [emphasis added]

What was He saying? For, *every* Jewish listener who had any appreciation of Jewish history (or of Chanukah) knew of the abomination of desolation declared by the prophet Daniel, which had been quite literally fulfilled during the period of the Maccabees. Yet, here He was speaking of the desolating of a temple, . . . which He had just stated would be leveled to the ground before succeeding events like war, famine, and earthquakes would thereafter take place (Matt. 24:6-11 et al)! In fact, the Lord's commentary is a virtual quote from the tDaniel's prophecy, regarding an (already accom-

plished) historical event.

³¹ And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Daniel 11:31 [emphasis added]

o, is *this* why within every gospel, the parenthetical quotation is found "(whoever reads, let him understand)" — regarding desolation?? Is Jesus saying that this prophecy's *future fulfillment will differ from the event already accomplished in the past*??

—Please, please, do not answer yet. For His very *next* statement must also be considered, and carefully meditated upon in light of Daniel's commentary, about the military "mustering forces." Perhaps, this is why Jesus said that everyone listening to His advice should run for their lives?

then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

Matthew 24:16-19

You may say to me, "Wait, Frank, Jesus was speaking to the Jews (and for the theologians among us . . .)—and is referring to "Jacob's trouble" at the end of the age (Jer. 30:7). This is why He tells those in Judea to flee . . ."— So, in that case, this warning will not apply to those in Samaria, then? What about the ends of the world (Acts 1:8 (Gal 3:28)).—And, why are they fleeing? When Daniel's prophecy was first fulfilled in the period of the Maccabees, the Jews mounted a rebellion against the Greeks who had desecrated their temple. Is this why believers will have to flee—so that we can regroup, to mount a rebellion against the Antichrist (along with fleeing mothers, and children)?

And finally; we must *not* ignore the question of whether having a physical temple rebuilt, would appear to make null and void Christ's opening affirmation that the temple will not have one stone left standing upon another! In fact, the emperor Julian attempted to have the Jewish temple rebuilt in 363, for this very reason: to make void Christ's prophecy (and yet, even he could not have the temple rebuilt).

Instead of appealing to local, and present day fads, and popular trends therefore, please allow the use of the Bible itself, when seeking answers to questions raised by these teachings of Christ. For such issues are simply too serious for us to rely upon the conjecture of passing religious fads.

First question: Will the temple be rebuilt?

Answer: Yes.

Second question: By whom will the temple be rebuilt? **Answer:** We must search the scriptures themselves, for

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references to the temple's rebuilding. We must do this, while keeping in mind a quote that was "slipped into" a concluding statement made during the very first Church counsel; recorded for us in the book of Acts.

The reason the council was held was to decide an issue regarding legalism: whether Gentiles need to keep Jewish ceremonial laws for salvation (answer: No –see also, Colossians 2:16-17). However, within the concluding discussion, another concept seems to have emerged "out of the blue"—regarding the rebuilding God's temple (please keep in mind, that at this point, Jesus' words regarding the temple's destruction HAD NOT YET BEEN FULFILLED).

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 16 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.'

Acts 15:15-17 (Amos 9:11,12)

To which the prophet Zechariah gives assent:

"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD;

¹³ Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both." ' Zechariah 6:12-13

Or, more pointedly, the apostle Paul informs Christians:

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

So then, perhaps, in His classic approach to all things eternal, Jesus' real concern . . . was ultimately for the *souls* of His followers, and not for the stones of a physical building—since all prophecy concerning sweeping judgment originates "in house" to begin with.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17

So then, what Jesus appears to have been doing, when speaking to disciples of things yet distant, in the future—was to give a simple "heads up", to believers who were at that point only taking baby steps in their understanding of the "big concepts" that would come into view more fully at

the end of the New Testament era. For such information would only become conceivable as the Holy Spirit gradually unveiled the future in apocalyptic writings, such as are available in the rich treasure trove later unveiled within the apostle John's "Revelation of Jesus Christ"—at the very end of our Holy Bible.

n other words, Christ was signaling an early revelation of what we now call the Mark of the Beast-which we can now perceive to be most easily facilitated by means of forcible injection (as was made evident in the last series of "mandates," wherein a trial run was executed by world authorities and governments; all vigorously and relentlessly pursuing an undeclared agenda, during the most recent pandemic)—to soon be supported by digital currency, that will also be accompanied by a "social credit score," —similar to what is now being practiced within Red China . . . so that "no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name . . . 666" (Rev. 13:17,18)—which is why I featured a photograph of what I discovered is now being made available, on a public ATM machine: BITCOIN is now being offered out on the street!

Without question: Digital currency is the greatest single threat to Christian freedom (and our very souls), as it continues to emerge and expand upon our horizon. Of such a danger, Scripture is not ambivalent!

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:9-12

Therefore I humbly propose that, instead of being preoccupied with lesser signs (such as a dubious rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple)—believers should be more concerned with our current, and determined, march towards digital currency . . . along with the pending issuance of the mark of the beast.

Take heed, that no man (or woman) deceives you!

(con. from pg. 3 -RIGHT TO BARE ARMS)

being questioned by him, during His trial (or, who was being tried . .?).

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

John 18:36

—And, to clarify the matter even further, Jesus informed the governor:

11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

John 19:11

Who has the greater sin, in our day, one wonders? Who are the more willing agitators of mob rule, who care nothing about what Jesus said to this same governor about why He came into the world? Remember what Jesus said? Something about truth, and the kingdom over which He rules:

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

John 18:37

Yes, yes, of course: Pilate then asked, "What is truth?" —But even if we were to excuse Pilate for his blindness concerning the truth staring him in the face (John 14:6); can we be excused?

No matter: it is time to evaluate—no, to *re*evaluate our situation here, within the 21st century: within a nation we have several times noted *is* described within Bible prophecy (in Daniel's seventh chapter, for example). We might even (if we dare) consider the anomaly of a Christian nation, following the peace-loving Sav-

ior, while actually taking up arms to *fight* for freedom, justice, and liberty within this world, while seeking to establish, if you will, God's kingdom upon this earth—even though Jesus clearly stated to Pilate that His kingdom is *not* of this world, and if it were, "then would my servants fight" (John 18:36).

"But Frank," you might (rightly) quiz me, "didn't Jesus teach us to pray, 'Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth,
as it is Heaven'?" (Matt. 6:10).

Indeed, He did. He did, indeed. Perhaps, however, at this point in the history of our world, it may be more appropriate to remember that the above quote is made with regard to teaching us how to *pray*— as the apostle Paul noted, when writing to the young pastor, Timothy, in a letter addressed to him:

¹ Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior . .

1 Timothy 2:1-3

"And Frank," you may query further, "haven't you noted that the Philadelphian church was given the promise of the 'open door' which refers to *freedom* itself (Rev. 3:7-8)?

"So, then, the American Revolution was simply a tactical maneuver to fulfill our God given rights!"

Of course. But, since that "open door" now appears to be closing, will God support our *forcible* attempt at holding it open? What right does an assemblage of people within a sleeping church (Matt. 25:1-10) or a church going into apostasy (2 Thes. 2:1-3)—have to expect God to enable us with AK47s to win a battle against a "Deep State" equipped with F16s? If Jesus did not support Peter, in the garden, why should He support us, here on the

ground, in the 21st century —living within (forgive the description) "Gomorrah" where our "best" children's programming (by Disney standards) is now effectively sodomized?

o, might I suggest yet another approach to the 2nd amendment: an approach that Heaven is more amenable to, within a situation such as ours? --Not a right to bear arms, but a right to bear arms, and knees; coupled with prayer and true humility before God: seeking *His intervention* on our behalf, in which we might seek a new "revolution" of godliness, within this last hour: —to Make America (more) Godly Again??

Such would be a revolution of heavenly wisdom, applied as a healing balm over a nation sorely bruised and divided (quite honestly) in wickedness, both within and without our churches. For, "judgment must begin in the house of God" (1 Pet. 4:17) . . . and yet, "if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged" (1 Cor. 11:31).

How about it? How about "baring our arms" (and hearts) before God, by humbly seeking God's face for His holy intervention with an outpouring of His love, and wisdom. Yes, wisdom that is from above, for:

above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17-18

Ready? Aim (kneel), FIRE.

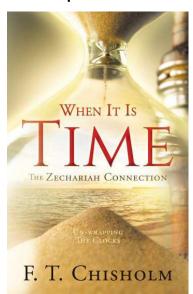
all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Luke 3:16

Let it be so, Lord Jesus. Let it be so!!

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This Month's Features: 1. THE RIGHT TO BARE ARMS What SIGN is This??

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Acts 16:31

What Must | Do?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has ... If you will confess with your raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge: your need

-as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him: with your new life.

For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES:

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