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Cosmic Antagonism against Believers

Take note of John Chapter 15, our Lord's message to His disciples the night before His death. This message included the mystery doctrine of the Church-age. The first part of this chapter deals with abiding with Christ, the keyword or term here is abide, and it appears 10 times in the first 11 verses. The second part, verses 12-17, talks about the relationships of the believer with other believers, and the key word is love, and it appears 4 times in these 6 verses.

Once we have established that vital union with our Lord and maintain it, we come in contact with other Christians, and, through a love relationship, there is communion with one another because we have union with our Lord. Then there is the relationship which is continually a matter of struggle for the Christian, and that is the believer with the world, and that's the last part of the chapter, verses 18-27.

John 15:18-25, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before {it hated} you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But {they have done this} in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, "They hated Me without a cause."

Here the key word is hate, and it appears 8 times in 10 verses. That is what we can expect from a world that is out of touch with God and out of union with the Lord Jesus Christ; there is disunion between the believer and the world. There is union with Christ and union with fellow believers, but because of this hate there is disunion with the world.

In John 15:18, we see some of the reasons for the world's hostility to those who are in Christ. We need to understand the use of the Greek words *ho kosmos*, translated the world. This is different from the Greek word *ge*, the word used for the earth's surface, or

the structure of the earth; kosmos means an organized system. So, when you see the word world in this passage, think, first of all, of a system of thought designed by Satan.

Secondly, think of a system of organizations, which includes religious, political, and other international organizations, all of which are outside the framework of the divine institutions. Then thirdly, think of the kosmos or the world as a system of people, or a category of people: here, unbelievers. So, the word kosmos describes all of these, a system of thought, an organizational system, or a type of person.

The word worldliness is different. Worldliness is simply when a believer continues to go negative toward doctrine, and that creates scar tissue on the soul (the mind), and then the believer opens up the *mataiotes* (a vacuum in the heart) and through this comes human viewpoint.

John 15:18, "If the world hates you [and it does], you know that it has hated Me before {it hated} you." If is the Greek conjunction *ei*, known as a first class condition, meaning if, and it does; this means that there are those systems in the *kosmos* that are antagonistic toward your way of thinking, when you think like the humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ..

Why does the *kosmos* hate Jesus Christ and His people? Remember Gen 1:1, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In Gen 1:26-28, Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

In Gen 3, both the man and the woman rejected God in the Garden of Eden, and were kicked out of the Garden, and with that, Satan became the ruler of the world. So when Satan appeared in heaven in Job 1:7, we read, And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Satan had the authority to roam about on the earth because he had become the ruler of the world. Therefore, he is called the god of this world, the ruler of the world, and the prince and the power of the air. In John 14:30, note that Satan is the ruler of this world, "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

God knew that Satan would be the ruler of this world, and designed certain things to protect the human race in Satan's rule. God must protect the human race in order go from creation to the end of the world. In order for the angelic conflict to be resolved, there are certain increments of history that have to be fulfilled: the O. T. dispensations, the cross, resurrection, ascension, session, glorification of Christ, the intensification of the angelic

conflict in the Church-age, the tribulation, the second advent, and the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. All of these things have to be fulfilled, and the human race has to be perpetuated in order to do so.

So God has provided certain laws to protect the human race from destruction during the time that Satan is the ruler of the world. Of course there is another restrainer in the world during the intensification stage of the Church-age, and that's the ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

Let's look at the divine institutions as the means of perpetuating the human race, and as the counter action to Satan's rule. There are two counter actions to Satan's rule, as far as people are concerned:

- The divine institutions, which we are about to list.
- The whole concept of the spiritual life and operation of the royal family of God

The four divine institutions are:

1) **Volition:** this is human freedom and privacy. This is the right to live your life, and to produce in compatibility with one's own ability; the exception to this is when, with your free will, your volition, you commit a crime or some other form of dishonesty, or violate the rights of others.

No two people have the same abilities, we are not born equals, we do not live as equals, and we do not die equal. There is no equality in the human race except in Christianity. There is unity with the Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation when equal privilege and equal opportunity are given. The local church must recognize the privacy of every believer in it, and that privacy must be protected.

2) **Marriage:** this is the framework for category two love, and it becomes a basic stabilizer of the human race. From the start, marriage was designed for one man and one woman.

3) **Family:** as the basis of protecting the human race. Members of the human race start out as the most helpless creatures, and must have all kinds of protection and training, and the family is designed to provide this.

4) **Nationalism:** when the nationalism concept is broken down, the freedoms of the individuals are destroyed, and within the framework of those empires, you usually find persecution of Christianity, and no true evangelism.

Nationalism is designed to protect the rights, freedom, and the privacy of a large number of individuals within the human race. These divine institutions are designed to protect human freedom in the devil's world, so that bona fide evangelism can exist in every generation. God often overrules in history so that this can exist. When this happens, Satan must attack, not only these four divine institutions, but the content, and message of the Gospel, as well as those who deliver it.

So, the one who rules the universe (Jesus Christ) says in John 15:18, "If the world hates you [keeps on hating you, and it does], you know that it has hated Me before {it hated} you. The one who rules the world is Satan; Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19, John 8:44, and 1Jo 3:8, describe the person of Satan, the greatest genius of all creatures. The strategy of Satan as the ruler of this world is mentioned in 2Co 2:11 and in many areas of scripture. He is an organizational genius with a great organization of demons (Eph 6:10 12).

He is the originator of murder and violence in the human race (Gen 6:4-11, John 8:44). He hates the communication of Bible doctrine (Mat 13:9,39, Rev 12:13,15). He is the enemy of the Church, and the Royal Family (Rev 12:9 13, 24). He is the enemy of Christ (Rev 12:4), and the enemy of Israel; all anti Semitism is satanic (Rev 12:4, 13, 15 specifically document this). In every generation, he uses all his power to destroy Israel, but he will never succeed. Satan is also the enemy of all unbelievers. We are told that the greatest deceiver of all time blinds the minds of unbelievers in 2Co 3:3-4.

Satan's strategy is based on conspiracy and deceit, which explains the basis of war. He manipulates nations (Revelation 12:9, 23; 20:3,8). Satan tries to neutralize perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine through worry, fear, anxiety, mental attitude sins, and reaction to historical disaster (1 Peter 5:7 9), all to distract the believer from the plan of God. Satan uses both cosmic one and cosmic two to keep the believer from occupation with Christ by getting their eyes on people (Gen 19:28, 20:1; Jeremiah 17:5), or to get their eyes on self (1 Kings 19:10; 1Co 1:10 11), or to get their eyes on things (Hebrews 13:5 6).

Religion is the creation of Satan promoting his own merits, his own works, to gain the approbation of God. Satan's counterfeits of the plan of God include a counterfeit Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3 4), counterfeit ministers (2 Corinthians 11:13 15), counterfeit doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1), a counterfeit communion table (1 Corinthians 10:19 21), counterfeit spirituality (Galatians 3:2 3), counterfeit righteousness (Matthew 19:16 28), legalism (Matthew 23:13 36), power and dynamics like miracles, healing, and tongues (2 Thessalonians 2:8 10), and a system of gods (2 Thessalonians 2:3 4). All of these strategies are designed to attack the divine institutions, and the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ was the target in the angelic conflict before the Church-age began, and now every believer who is still on the earth in this intensified stage of the angelic conflict is the target. So, you're a target for intense hatred, unjust treatment, slander, and gossip. 1 Peter 2:11 says, Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

This world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it; don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. 1 Peter 2:12, Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. Live a

commendable life among the people of this world so that your actions will refute their prejudices, and they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when He arrives.

1 Peter 2:13-16, Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bond slaves of God. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules or living in carnality.

1 Peter 2:17, Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.

1 Peter 2:18-20, Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

1 Peter 2:21, For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step by step.

1 Peter 2:22-23, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; Our Lord never did one thing wrong, never said anything improper. They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back. He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right.

1 Peter 2:24-25, and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Now, it's not just people hating you; remember it is a system that hates you. It is a type of thought; it is a thought, it is a system, it involves certain people. If you think only in terms of people hating you, remember there is a system that hates you. And that system is religion, and legalism, and it despises you.

There are eight reasons for the world's hostility towards the believer.

- The cosmic system hates the Lord Jesus Christ (and we are related to Christ). Jesus Christ has always been despised by the cosmic, and yet He came to save it, John 3:17, "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."
- The cosmic system hates the believer because once a person is in the plan of God they no longer belong to the world. Colossians 1:13, For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, (Philippians 3:20). For our citizenship [politeuma, or heavenly privilege] exists in heaven, from which place we eagerly anticipate the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; He no longer belongs to the cosmic system.
- The cosmic system hates the believer who has positive volition toward God and His Word rejecting both the demonic doctrine and human viewpoint.
- The cosmic system hates every believer since they are pre-designed to be exalted above the unbelievers and angelic beings. The spiritually mature believers are the recipient of fabulous blessings in time and eternity.
- The cosmic system hates every believer because they are recipient of 40 fantastic grace gifts at the point of salvation, logistical provision, spiritual resources, assets, problem solving devices, protection and power available inside the divine dynasphere.
- The cosmic system hates every believer since they alone can fulfill the plan and the will of God; they alone have the capacity to execute the purpose of God in their lives, contrary to the will and schemes of Satan.
- The cosmic system hates every believer since they are the representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. They are the visual manifestation of His glory upon reaching spiritual maturity.
- The cosmic system hates every believer who is going in the right direction, opposing Satan's operation in the world.

John 15:19, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." You're born again now; you are disciples now. The Greek word for love here is the imperfect active indicative of *phileo* which is *ephilei*, meaning a personal rapport love. Satan is in opposition to the plan of God; that is what this verse teaches. Every believer is in the plan of God, and therefore it is the policy of Satan to hate anything in the plan of God. Since the day of your salvation, you have been in union with Christ, you are in the plan of God by the baptism of the Spirit, by all of the 40 things or more that happened at the moment of salvation. So, whether you like it or not, or whether you know it or not, Satan hates you.

You're to love the individual, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but has eternal life. But not the system, 1 John 2:15-17, Do not love the world [cosmic system], nor the

things in the world [cosmic system]. If anyone loves the world (cosmos system), the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world (cosmos system), the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world (cosmic system). And the (cosmos system) world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. When people are saved, they are snatched out from the cosmic system (Jude 1:20-23).

John 15:18-19, "If the world hates you (and it does), keep on knowing that it has hated Me before {it hated} you. If you were of the world [second class condition, but you are not], the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

Chosen here refers to the doctrine of election; billions and billions of years ago, when election was put into operation, Ephesians 1:4-5, you were snatched out of the cosmic system. In eternity past, billions and billions of years ago, God the Father elected every believer in the Church-age. He elected Christ, and every believer is in union with Christ.

So the believer responded to the grace of God in time, which was designed in eternity past, and the moment he responded to the grace of God, faith in Christ, he entered the plan of God. At that moment the antagonism of Satan began; the believer is moved out of cosmic system into the plan of God, this is called grace plan. In one second of time, you become the object of satanic antagonism, and that is something you cannot change.

John 15:18-25, *"If the world hates you [first class condition, and it does], keep on knowing that it has hated Me before {it hated} you. If you were of the world [second class condition, but you are not], the world would love or have personal love rapport with its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But {they have done this} in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'"*

The key word is *hate*, and it appears 8 times in 10 verses of John 15. This is what we would expect from a world that is out of touch with God, and out of union with the Lord Jesus Christ. There is union with Christ and union with fellow believers but because of this hate there is disunion with the world. The objective of this study is to define the reasons for the cosmic hostility and hatred toward the believer.

- The cosmic system designed by Satan hates the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:18).

- Once a person is in the plan of God, as a believer priest, they no longer belong to the world (John 15:19).
- The slave is not greater than His master (John 15:20). If they hated the Lord Jesus Christ, they will also hate you. Therefore, you will have problems and difficulties that you will have to face alone. In John 15:20, the Greek word for remember is *mnemoneuo*; it is a command to call to mind something that you've learned and already know. So, you recall an established fact, that a slave is not greater than his Master, and apply it to the situation that you're going through. Once you are identify with someone, and they become rejected by others, it's only a matter of time before you will be rejected.

Paul experienced the same thing in 2 Timothy 4:9-18: *Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service. But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.*

When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching. At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord Jesus Christ had previously taught that the servant is not greater than the master (John 13:16; Matthew 10:24). He quotes His previous teaching, which they had learned, and they are now commanded to remember or recall it to mind. In this verse the word if, is a first class condition, If they persecuted Me [and indeed they have], they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

The verb is *dioko*, which means to pursue, put pressure on, or to persecute. It refers to certain points of time that are now all gathered up into one. Jesus wasn't persecuted every minute, but there were times when the pressure was on, and that pressure is now declared. The future tense of *dioko* says that the believers were not a target yet. As long as Christ was on the earth, He was the target, but in the Church-age, every believer is now the target. Once Christ leaves the earth, the individual believer becomes the recipient of the intensification of the angelic conflict.

If they had kept my saying (tereo). Tereo is also a first class condition. It means to guard something that belongs to self. Many who were in *kosmos diabolicos* came out of it by faith in Christ, and they accepted what Christ taught. When Christ leaves the earth, the apostles are going to find themselves with a nucleus to begin the Church-age. This is their encouragement; you may be hated, but you're going to have a job. This introduces

another part of the mystery doctrine of the Church-age which all believers should be initiated into: The Doctrine of Ambassadorship.

An ambassador is a high ranking minister of state or of royalty sent to another state to represent his sovereign country. By analogy we are spiritual aristocracy as members of the Royal Family of God, and Christ is the King who has sent us into a foreign country, the cosmic world. At salvation, every believer enters the Royal Family of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and at the same time he becomes a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. Ambassadorship stems from being in union with Christ caused by the baptism of the Spirit. Every Church-age believer is Royal Family of God representing the King of kings and Lord of lords during his time on this earth.

Therefore, two commissions are given to the believer at salvation: the royal priesthood as a part of the equal privilege of election; and the royal ambassadorship as a part of the equal privilege of predestination. We represent ourselves before God and we represent God before men. So, ambassadorship emphasizes that every believer is in full time Christian service. Common functions and services are all commanded by the scripture, so there is no confusion between what your spiritual gift demands and the functions which are common to all believers, such as witnessing, prayer, and the perception of doctrine.

Ambassadorship is the fulfillment of the imperatives of production in the Bible. In addition to the mandates of scripture, there are many avenues of expressing your ambassadorship, such as utilizing the faith rest drill and virtue-love as problem solving devices with emphasis on spiritual self esteem. Spiritual self-esteem, a result of consistent residence in the protocol plan of God under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and momentum from metabolized doctrine, becomes the maximum expression of ambassadorship.

The Profile of the Ambassador

- An ambassador does not appoint himself. We are appointed by God at the moment we believe in Jesus Christ. God also gives us the power and ability to handle the job.
- The ambassador does not support himself. The Church-age believer, as an ambassador for Christ, is provided for by logistical grace.
- The ambassador's instructions are always in written form, so he has no doubt as to what he should do. We have the policies, problem-solving devices, instructions, principles, doctrines, and concepts in written form in the scripture.
- The ambassador does not belong to the country to which he is sent. Our citizenship and home is in heaven. We are also citizens of a client nation to God (John 15:19).
- The ambassador does not live in the foreign country for his own personal interest. We are to live here on earth solely to serve in the interest of our Lord and Savior. We subordinate all personal interest to the function of our ambassadorship, which includes the attainment and function of the spiritual skills, the filling of the Spirit, cognition of Bible doctrine, and execution of the pre-designed plan of God. Our

- production skills, which include our ambassadorship, are in place as of the moment of salvation, but are not effective until we develop spiritual skills.
- The ambassador does not treat any insult to himself as personal. This is the royal ambassador's function in both spiritual self-esteem and impersonal love for all mankind. We tolerate others and hold no grudges. When you are insulted, treated unfairly, or ridiculed, you have tremendous problem-solving devices and the spiritual strength to leave the matter in the Lord's hands.
 - When an ambassador is recalled, it is tantamount to a declaration of war. This is analogous to the rapture of the church. The tribulation is analogous to the period of war.

The Royal Ambassadorship is Specialized and Intensified in the Gift of Pastor teacher.

All communication gifts become critical and specialized functions of the royal ambassadorship because they communicate spiritual truth. Ephesians 6:18, With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray for members of your Royal Family and keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Ephesians 6:19, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, We are to have the courage to teach the mystery doctrine at the right time.

Ephesians 6:20, "On behalf of which (Gospel) I am an ambassador in chains, that in this [proclaiming the mystery doctrine], I might communicate with confidence as I ought to speak." There is a special need for those who communicate doctrine to do so with confidence. That confidence cannot exist unless they are occupied with the person of Christ and have spiritual self-esteem, because they will be faced with constant negative volition from indifferent people. With spiritual self-esteem the communicator speaks with confidence no matter what the attitude of his listeners.

The Royal Ambassadorship is also Related to Evangelism, 2 Corinthians 5:20.

2 Corinthians 5:14, For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; In other words, the Lord's love has moved us to extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our decision as an ambassador is to work from this one focused point: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat.

2 Corinthians 5:15, and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

2 Corinthians 5:16, Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. We are not to evaluate people by what they have or how they look. They looked at the Lord Jesus Christ that way once and got it all wrong.

Here is the way we are to look at each other. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and Him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.

2 Corinthians 5:19, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. God solved the problem that the world had with Himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what He has done for them.

2 Corinthians 5:20, Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. We're Christ's representatives or ambassadors. God uses us to persuade people to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ Himself, saying to others, becomes friends with God; He's already a friend with you. This is the function of every believer who witnesses and is the special function of the believer with the gift of evangelism. We are to witness through verbal communication of the Gospel of the word of God. We are not to witness only through our lifestyle, Matthew 10:16-17.

Ephesians 6:19-20, *"And pray on my behalf, that utterance [expression, articulation, verbalization] may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness [confidence] the mystery of the gospel, For which [Gospel] I am an ambassador in chains, that in this [proclaiming the mystery doctrine], I might communicate with confidence as I ought to speak."*

Get some confidence, He said in Psalm 81:10, *"I, the Lord, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt [bondage from the cosmic system]; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."* Don't worry about what you'll say or how you'll say it, the right words will be there. Some people will attack your motives, others will smear your reputation because you believe in Him.

This confidence is based upon knowledge, occupation with the lord Jesus Christ, and doctrine resident in the soul. 1 Timothy 4:10, *For this reason, we [pastors] work hard to the point of exhaustion, and we hang in there tough [keep on contending], because we have confidence in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.*

Propitiation is the God-ward side of salvation whereby the essence of God is satisfied with the salvation work of Jesus Christ. This means when the Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross He was judged for all members of the human race. That's why the New Testament says "whosoever believes" over 45 times. He is the Savior of all men, which introduces the Doctrine of the Unlimited Atonement. He died not only for our sins only says 1 John 2:2, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:2, and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Many verses teach this. John 1:29, *The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:17, *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.*

John 4:42, *and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."*

John 6:32-33, *Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."*

John 6:51, *"I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."*

John 12:46-47, *"I have come {as} light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world." Rom 11:15, God reconciled the world unto Himself.*

Regardless of race, culture, nationality, or sex, our Lord Jesus Christ died for all having no prejudice. He died for the sins of the whole world or the sins of every person who would ever live and that immediately destroyed the barrier between God and man, i.e., part of the doctrine of reconciliation. There is no barrier between God and man; it was removed by Christ on the cross. The unlimited atonement also indicated the fact that no matter what anyone says about the superiority of their race or their culture, or any expression of prejudice of any kind, our Lord set the pattern of no prejudice. Galatians 3:28,

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. He was judged for the sins of the world so

that anyone of any race or whosoever can be saved. There is a group of individuals, usually intellectuals, sometimes just puppets, who say that Christ only died for them and that they are the elect. These are the super-arrogant types. Our responsibility as an ambassador or representative of the Lord Jesus Christ demands the understanding of the doctrine of unlimited atonement as found in 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

This is the function of every believer who witnesses and is the special function of the believer with the gift of evangelism. One of the first signs that you are getting somewhere in your spiritual life is the complete change in your spiritual motivation. This is what the word controls means in 2 Corinthians 5:14, For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; Great motivation begins when the believer personally loves God. This results in excitement over His word. Your spiritual life is going to fall apart from time to time and place to place, but motivation from your love for Christ will keep you going.

Once you reach personal love for God and spiritual self-esteem, from then on you are motivated by your thoughts or by what you think. Notice it says "the love for Christ motivates us" and not the love for people. Jonah was one of the most successful evangelists in the Old Testament but he didn't love those of Ninevah. The Lord Jesus Christ died for everyone, and Jonah learned that. He died for everyone, and that is grace. The doctrine of the unlimited atonement is one of the most magnificent grace illustrations in the entire Bible. Christ didn't die just for the elect; He died for everyone.

2 Corinthians 5:14, having concluded this, conclude is the Greek word *krino* which means to judge or to reach a conclusion. The conclusion is derived from unlimited atonement. Paul reached this conclusion concerning the unlimited atonement in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Timothy 2:6; 4:10; Titus 2:11. Peter reached this conclusion in 2 Peter 2:1; 3:9. John reached this conclusion in John 3:16; 1Jo 2:2; 4:14. The writer of Hebrews reached this conclusion in Hebrews 2:9. The content of their conclusion is revealed by the Greek conjunction *hoti* translated that; that if one died for all.

The Greek word for died is the aor-act-ind of the verb *apothenesko* which refers to the spiritual death of Christ on the cross. It does not refer to His physical death but His death in bearing our sins. The aorist tense speaks of that point of time, namely the three hours on the cross when God the Father judged the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. Christ was judged for our sins; we have never been judged for our sins nor will we ever be. All we ever get for our sins is the normal reaction of reap what you sow or the law of volitional responsibility.

The judgment of our sins would remove us from planet earth immediately. However, God in His grace found a way for the sins of the world to be judged. And, while we do feel the repercussions of our sins we are not being judged for them. So, do not consider that to be judgment. It is simply the law of consequences. Under the law of consequence, sin will have repercussion in all directions. The repercussions will be related to people, your physical body, your nervous system, your over-all health, and to your mind...but, that is not judgment; that is merely a part of the principle of self-induced misery. Your

sins, my sins, the sins of the entire world were judged only once, at the cross. This is why the evangelist who makes an issue out of your sins is wrong.

The issue is not sin; the issue is Christ. Christ has already been judged for your sins. The Lord Jesus Christ is your substitute and therefore the issue is Acts 16:31, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved. You don't renounce your sins. You don't repent from your sins. You don't do anything about your sins. False evangelism becomes heretical, misleading, and evil. Sin isn't even an issue at the last judgment for the unbeliever. When you think of sin you have to think of two things: the cross, where all sins were judged, and the law of volitional responsibility.

In 2 Corinthians 5:14 we then have a fantastic prepositional phrase, *huper* plus the genitive of advantage from the adjective *pas* translated "for all." *Huper* plus *pas* means on behalf of all which has the connotation of substitution. The word therefore is used because from the first conclusion, if one died on behalf of all, comes a second conclusion, we are all dead. *Dead* is the aor-act-ind of *apothenesko* which again refers to spiritual death.

The aorist tense speaks of that point of time when we died spiritually, when Adam's original sin was imputed to us at physical birth. In Adam all die, 1 Corinthians 15:22. This simply means that mankind is totally helpless and hopeless and unable to solve the problem of spiritual death. The moment we are born we are born physically alive and spiritually dead. We were born with a major problem that only grace can solve. Man manufactures problems; God solves them! That is grace; that is unlimited atonement.