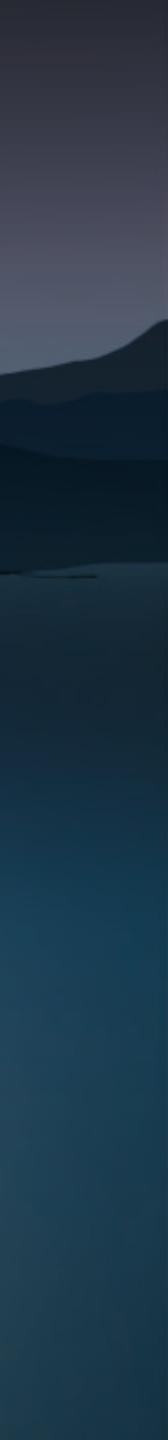
A Life Transforming Experience



How Heaven's War Became Ours

Dee Casper paconference.org/CORE



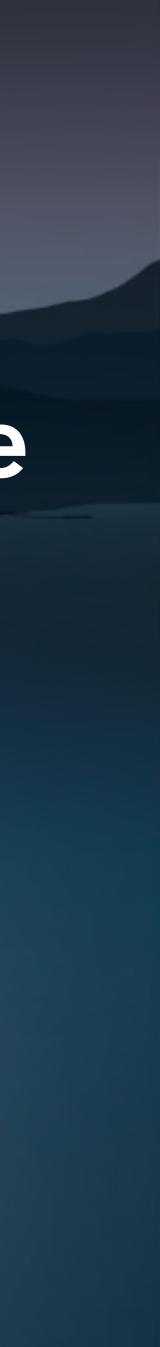
The goal for tonight and what we won't be doing



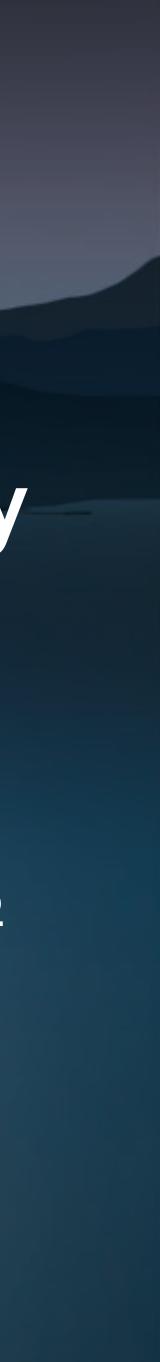
Resources can be provided to give a more exhaustive explanation on how to identity the antichrist. See Dan 7, 8, Rev 13, 17, 2 Thess 2, etc.



The law that none "liveth to himself" Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. It was this that incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man's acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth." -Testimonies for the Church Volume 6 236



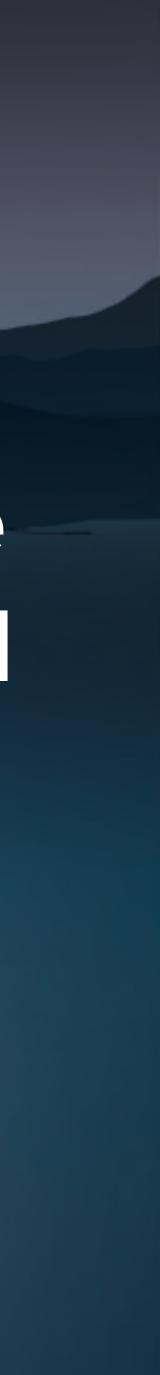
"Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy Satan has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name. - Education 154.3



It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life. Education 154.4

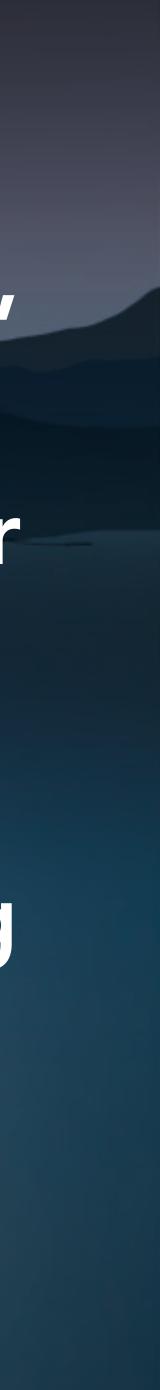


From the very beginning of the rebellion Satan has sought to portray God as being selfish, while at the same time alluring others to live for themselves and abide by his own kingdom principle. As we'll see this evening that is a campaign that is still alive and well.



Satan has a storefront on earth right now that is responsible, not only living out principles of selfishness, but it has also influenced the entire world with it's teachings and example. Thus continuing Satan's propaganda campaign that has been going strong since his fall.

This apostate system is called the mother of harlots, and it has many daughters (Revelation 17:5). Those daughters are religious movements that bear similar traits to the mother in leading people to serve out of fear, and selfishness and in putting themselves and their own preferences first. They are also giving a theology to the world that distorts the character of God and His unselfish love.



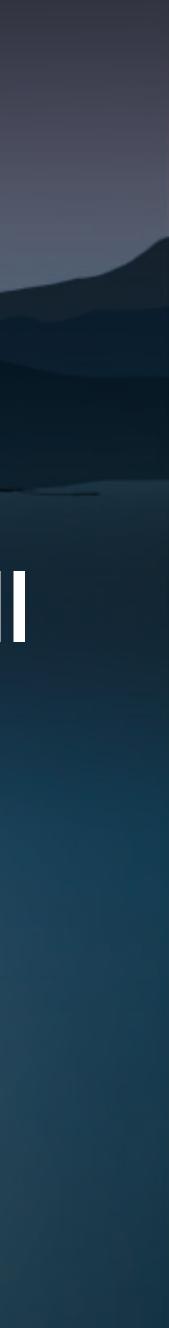
She is known for her opulence and display in religious matters, and according to Revelation 18:9-19 she has shaped the way that the leaders of the known world do commerce and life. All in the context of elevating self and at the expense of others.

But lets pan back and see how we got to where we are today.

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. -Revelation 12:7-9

Verses 3-4 tell us that Satan persuaded a third of the angelic host to buy into to his smear tactics towards God and His character.

In Ezekiel 28 we see how he did this and how he fell in the first place.

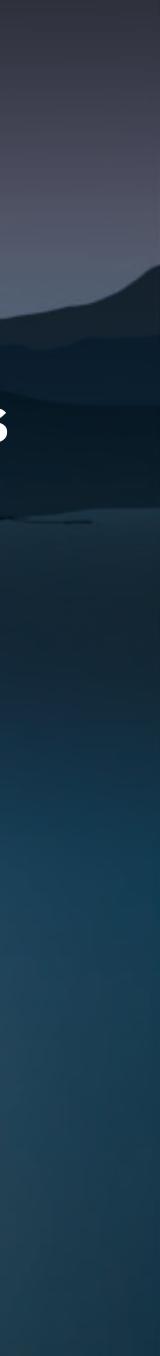


1 The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, 2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god 3 (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! 4 With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; 5 By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches

-Ezekiel 28:1-5



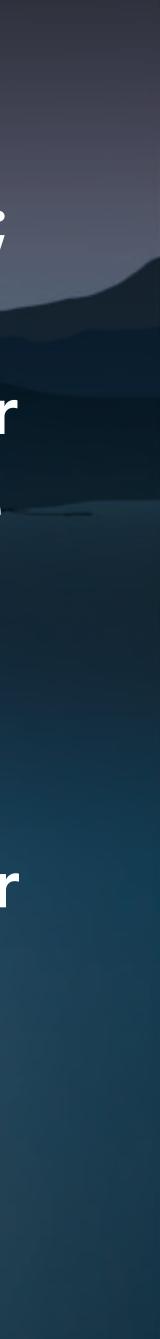
6 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: '<u>Because you have set your</u> heart as the heart of a god, 7 Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, And defile your splendor. 8 They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas. 9 "Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'? But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you. Ezekiel. 28:6-9



10 You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.' " 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were

created.

-Ezekiel 28:10-13



14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, <u>Till iniquity was found in you</u>. 16 "By the abundance of your trading [rekullah to sell or gossip] You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. -Ezekiel 28:14-16

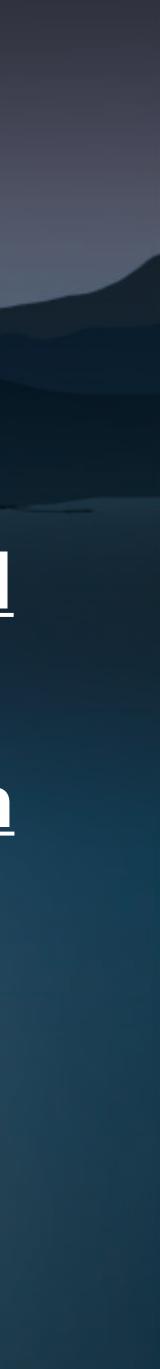


17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, <u>By the iniquity of</u> your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." ' " -Ezekiel 28:17-19

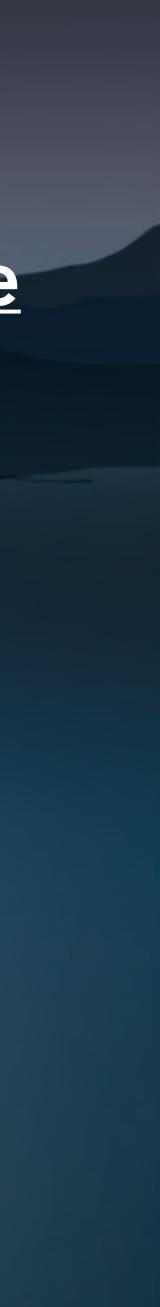


12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

-lsaiah 14:12-13



14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?' -lsaiah 14:14-17



A spirit of selfishness, self exaltation, pride, envy, striving for advancement, etc is a spirit that originates from Lucifer, and as we'll see is one of the crowning traits of the beast powers of Revelation.



This cannot be the spirit that rules the people of God. We desperately needs Jesus and His Spirit of humilty, gentleness, unselfishness, and a willingness to be overlooked and unappreciated.



What was heaven's reaction to this spirit that overtook Lucifer and the subsequent actions that he took?

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

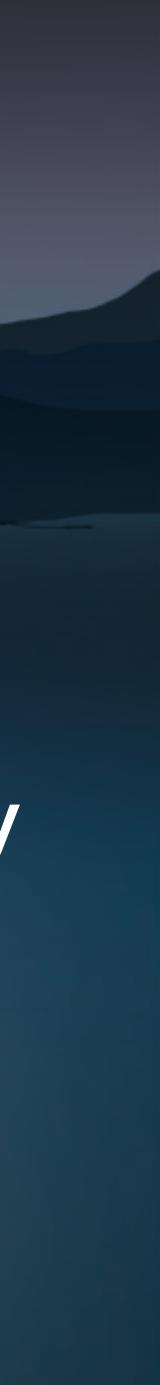
Jke 10:17-20



Apparently there are traces of Lucifer's spirit in the response of the disciples when they gain victory over the demons. And Jesus has to tell them to pump the brakes.



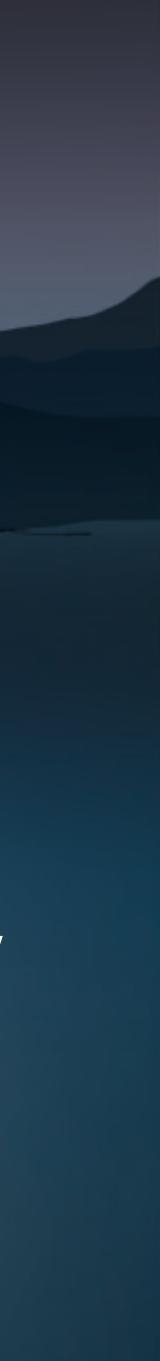
It's also very easy to lose sight of the fact that Revelation 12's war in heaven was a domestic dispute. It was a family affair. Love and harmony preceded this dispute. And that love in the heart of the Father and of Christ doesn't go away just because someone in the family has turned on Them.



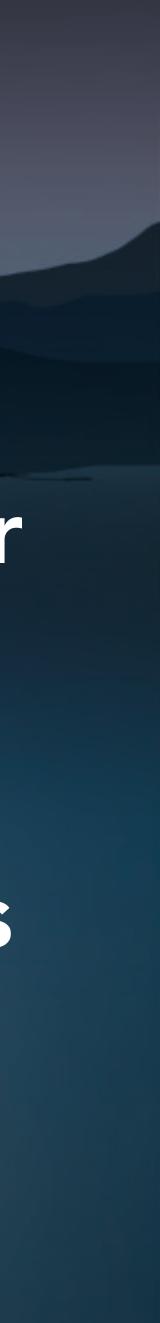
This tells me that when I reflect the spirit of Lucifer and strive for supremacy, or put myself first, or become envious of my neighbor, that Jesus and the Father don't stop loving me either.

One more little bit of history found in the book of Job.

The book of Job is the first book written chronologically in the Bible. It's interesting that the book opens up with Satan, who, when asked about why he is at this gathering, confronts God and he says that not only is God selfish, but Job, His follower is too. And that Job only obeys out of selfish reasons. Not love. And that God "buys love" through giving gifts and favors. Take those away and no one will serve You.



God isn't threatened by this at all. He allows for Job's testing and at the end it's proven that God was not working through selfish principles at all, nor does He demand things of His people out of selfishness. He gives all free will, and it's love that leads Him to do so. Love is what leads His followers to reciprocate and to obey.

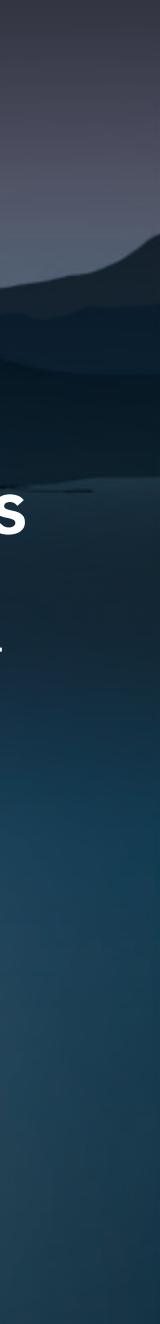


So the first book that God has recorded for humanity gives us the big picture of this conflict between good and evil, unselfish love and selfishness. This is THE territory on which the Great **Controversy is fought. Every act of obedience/** disobedience, and every act of worship are birthed out of these two principles.

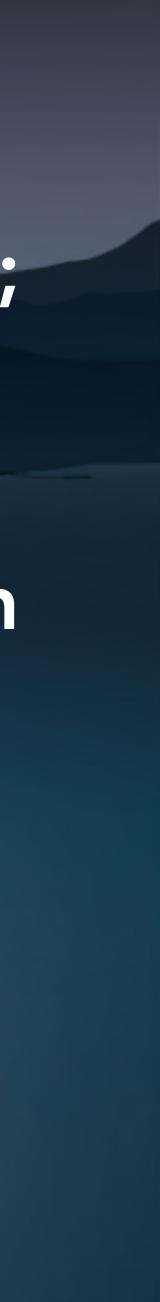
At the end of time people will either worship God out of true love for Him and what He has done in Christ, or they will worship Satan out of selfish motives to save their own physical lives.

And there will be a massive battle over how to preach the message of God's truth in a way that truly reflects His character of unselfish love and not through force or coersion.

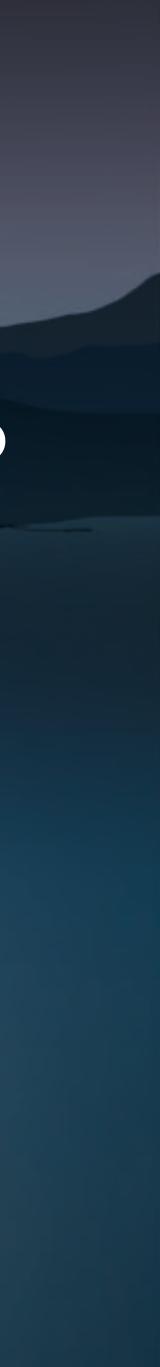
The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be <u>commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority.</u> -Desire of Ages 22.1



Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, "with healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. -Desire of Ages 22.1



These two approaches are shown very clearly in contrast to one another in Revelation 13 and Revelation 14. One is giving a clarion call to worship upon threat of death or imprisonment. The other is giving an invitation to true worship through painting a picture of God's unselfish love and inviting a response.



Revelation 13

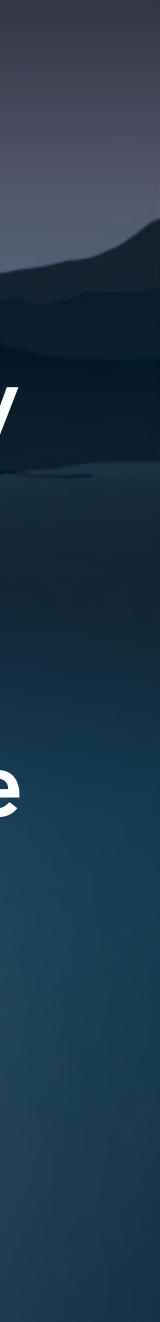
Revelation 14

So based upon the counsel we were given in Desire of Ages we should be using a Revelation 14 approach to giving the Revelation 14 message.

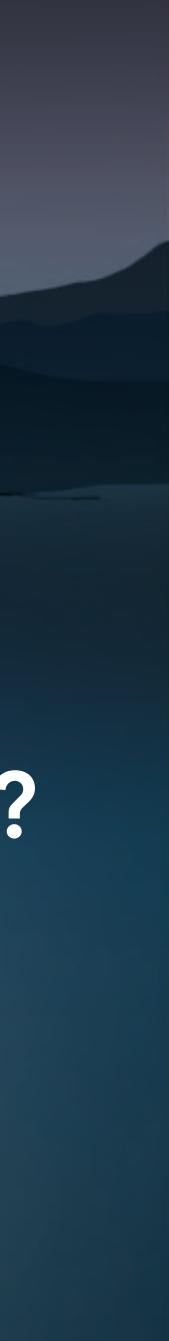
That means that fear should not be the bedrock or soil through which we present truth. Because fear leads to selfish motivations, and that isn't God's method.

What about "fear God and give glory to Him"?

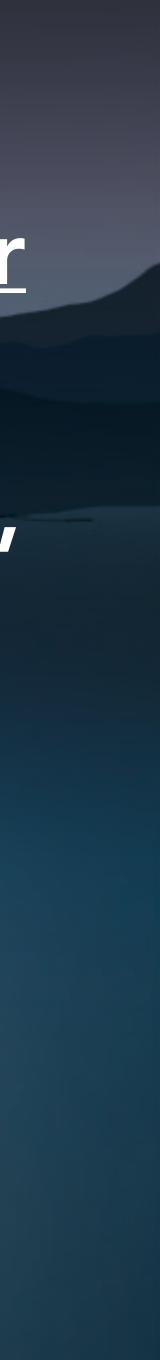
First of all that's not the first angel's message. Many times we jump ahead to that. But we just read that the message begins with the "everlasting gospel" and the call to fear God and give glory to Him is the appeal or the call to action of that sermon.



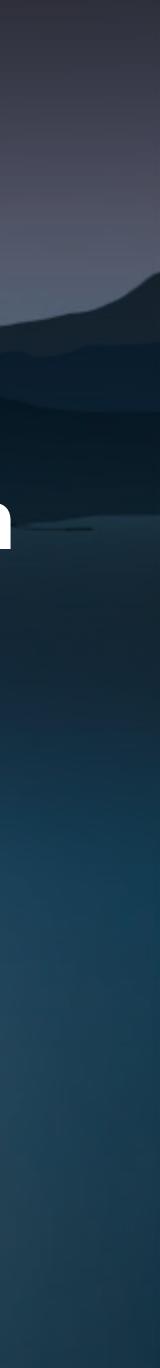
Second of all how can we give glory to God when fear robs us of power, the ability to love and be loved, and to make sound decisions (2 Timothy 1:7)?



<u>The love of God ever tends to the fear of God—fear</u> to offend Him. Those who are truly converted will not venture heedlessly upon the borders of any evil, lest they grieve the Spirit of God and are left to their own way, to be filled with their own doings. The Word of God is the Guidebook; turn not from its pages to depend upon the human agent. - The Upward Look 371.7

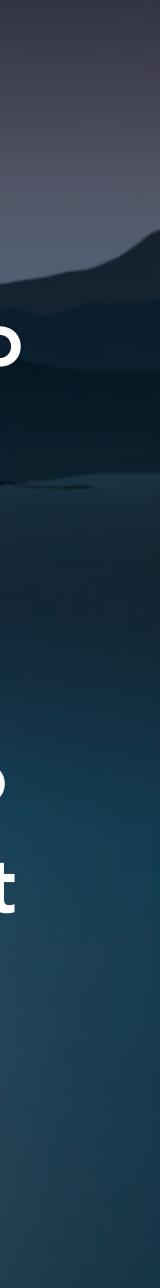


God appeals through the intellect and the heart according to 2 Timothy 1:7. Not fear. Because again fear robs us of power, of the ability to love (God and others) and to be loved (by God and others), and it keeps us from being able to make sound ecisions.



The three angel's messages are deeply rational and logical. While rooted in God's love for man and a desire to spare him from harm and deception.

This same spirit of selfishness/self-exaltation is at the bedrock of the apostate papal system that Satan raises up to counter God's movement of other-centered love. From Nimrod (To rebel) establishing what will become Babylon in Genesis 10, to the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, through Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel's day exalting himself, to the prophetic fulfillment of Babylon in the Papacy as laid out in 2 Thessalonians 2, Daniel 7, Daniel 8, Revelation 13, Revelation 17, etc.



1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. -2 Inessalonians 2:1-4



There's only one other place in Scripture where the phrase "Son of perdition" is used.

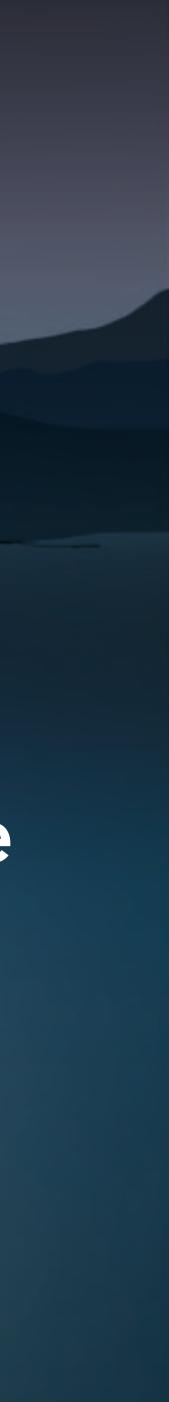
"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except <u>the son of perdition</u>, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."

John 17:12

Judas was cherishing a spirit that was not in harmony with God's kingdom principle. The apostate papal system is built upon the same foundation. It started with God, and deviated from that course through selfishness and covetousness. This system, like Judas, has betrayed Christ.



When we cherish a spirit of independance, stubbornness, and selfishness it's the spirit of antichrist. anti=in the place of We place our own wisdom, preferences, desires in the place of Christ in our hearts.



We see similar language regarding the spirit of selfishness in the prophetic passages about the antichrist and the false prophet.



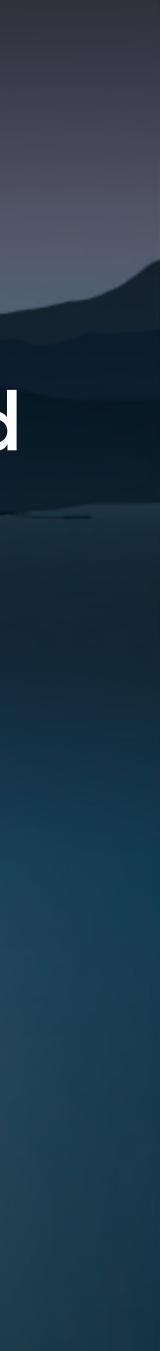
11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. 12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. -Daniel 8:11-12



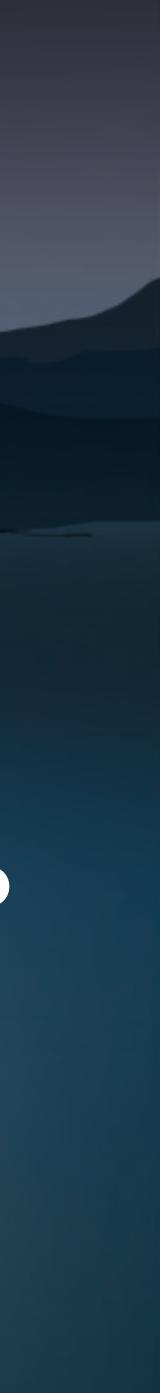
25 Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means. 26"And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future." -Daniel 8:25-26



11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. -Revelation 13:11
He speaks the dragon's language, which is self focused and leads to self exaltation and self worship which is essentially worshipping the dragon



12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.
-Revealtion 13:12
He leads others to engage in this type of living and they too will worship the beast (and in turn the dragon)



Selfishness is itself an act of worship. False worship.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. -Revelation 13:13-14 Working miracles gets people to overlook the deceitful root

structure that uplifts the dragon's system of worship

In contrast in Revelation 14 God's special people have the Father's name written in their foreheads (His name is His character, and His character is one of other centered love. The fact that it's in their forehead means that they truly believe this and it drives their decision making) and they follow the lamb wherever He goes.

The beast power in Revelation 13 is discussed as forcing people to receive the Mark on their forehead or in their hand. But God's people only receive His mark on their forehead. Because He knows that beliefs drive actions in His kingdom. Only unselfish love can drive true obedience and service that will be acceptable.

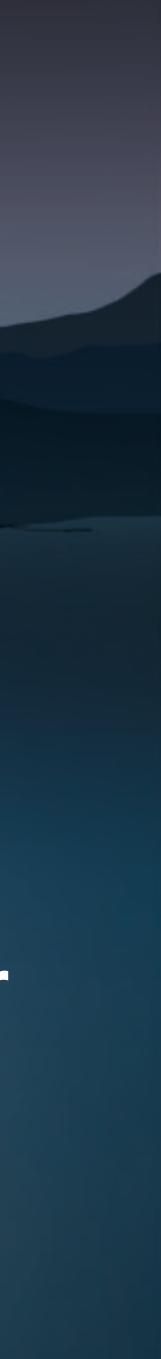


The warning of the third angel is to show that selfishness leads to destruction, and out of His love for those who are in danger of being led astray He gives a clarion call to true worship fueled by love (Galatians 5:6).



1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." -Revelation 17:1-2

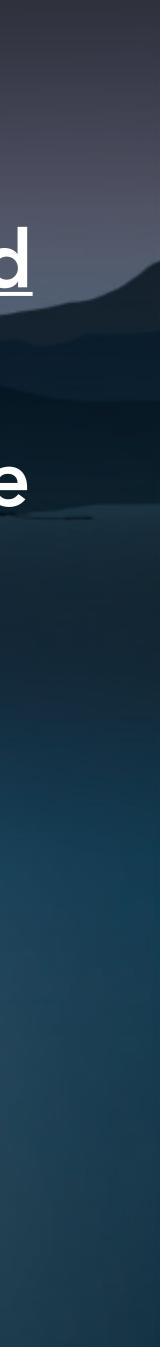
came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show Part of the wine in her teachings is selfishness and greed for gain. She taught the kings of the earth how to do trade and



3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. -Revelation 17:3-5



1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." -Revelation 18:1-3



4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "<u>Come</u> out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. velation 18:4-6



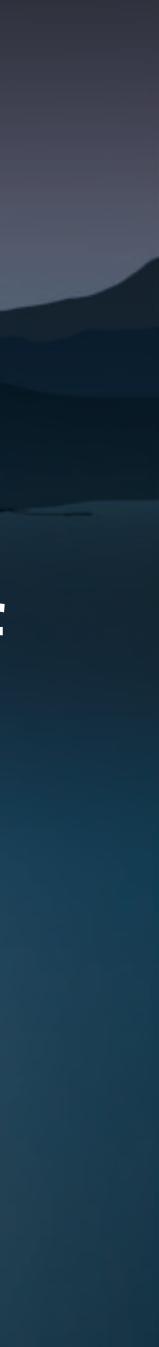
God isn't just calling people out of Babylon. He's calling Babylon out of His people. Forsake Satan's kingdom principle and embrace Mine.

7 In the measure that she <u>glorified herself</u> and <u>lived</u> <u>luxuriously</u>, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, "I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. -Revelation 18:7-8



9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, "Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come. -Revelation 18:9-10

11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. -Revelation 18:11-13



14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, "Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! -Revelation 18:14-16

17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, "What is like this great city?' -Revelation 18:17-18



The kings of the earth have attributed their wealth and success to her. She has been serving as a storefront for the dragon and his way of doing life.

In Revelation 19 God's bride has made herself ready. She has successfully refused Satan's efforts to live for self and has chosen to consecrate herself fully to Christ. In verses 7-8 she can be arrayed in fine linen which is the righteous acts of the saints.



Let's take a look at a few of the dangerous teachings of the papacy that are at war with the Gospel.



-The teaching of eternal torment/purgatory -Denying the right, and example, of leadership in marriage -Baptism by sprinkling instead of immersion -Infant baptism and consequences if not -Veneration of saints/idolizing people -Priests forgiving sins -Discouraging personal study of the Word for the laity -The church controls your destiny -Focus on a man as head of the church, and denying the priesthood of all believers -Denies liberty of conscience

-Using fear to lead people to serve God -Indulgences and paying for your sins -Communion and transubstantiation (Jesus crucified repeatedly) -Theistic evolution and denying the intrinsic moral value of a human being by denying the creation model -Changing God's law of love to uphold idols -Changing the Sabbath and uplifting man's traditions



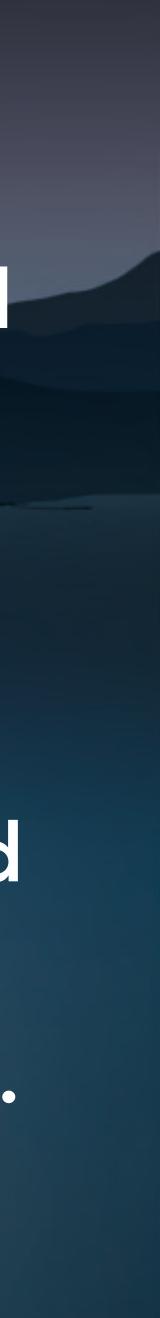
These teachings and many more led to a repugnant picture of God that caused a violent reaction against Him.



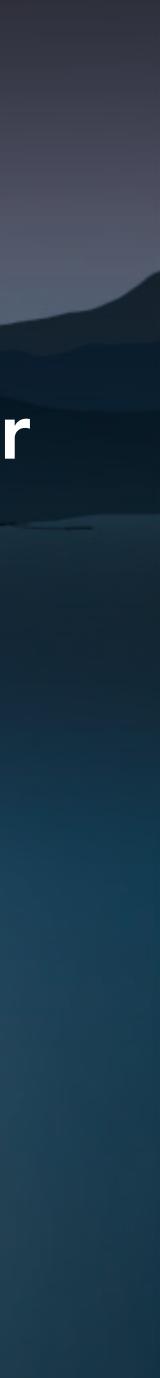
Revelation 10/11 Beast out of the bottomless pit (Atheism) removing the papacy's power. French Revolution and modern day atheism are birthed because of the papal influence and teachings of the dark ages. If God is like that, then there is no God.

Dark Ages theology rendered people incapable of loving God because they were terrified of Him. It led them to hate Him. One can't truly worship when the heart is filled with fear.

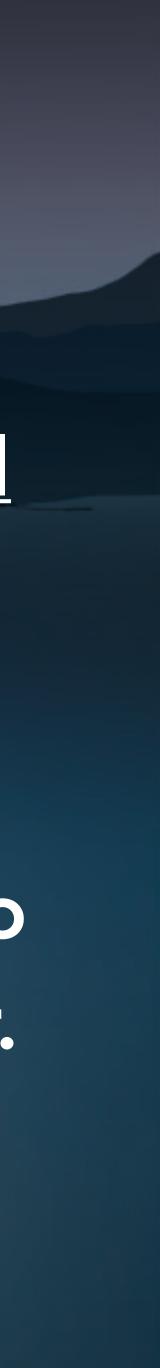
Interestingly enough it's at height of the darkness that God brings the Gospel to Luther and the other reformers. But the light shines brightest when it's needed most and this is when Adventism comes on the scene. Adventism's message is best suited to reach Muslims, Atheists, and to bring healing and freedom to Catholics and protestants alike who have unhealthy pictures of God. God has raised up our movement to set the record straight.



A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. -The Great Controversy 572.2



They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world would be saved in their sins. Here is the secret of its power. -The Great Controversy 572.2



12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. **Jatthew 24:12-1**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. John 4:7-11

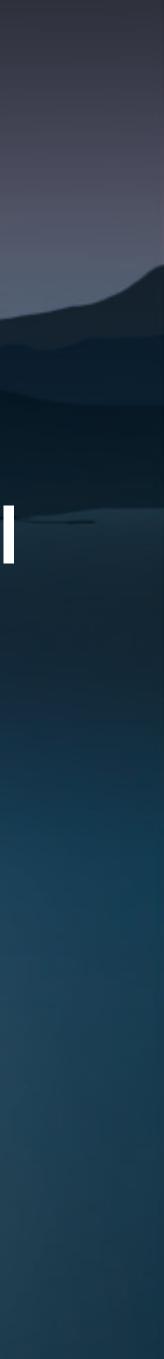


4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. **Corinthians** 13:

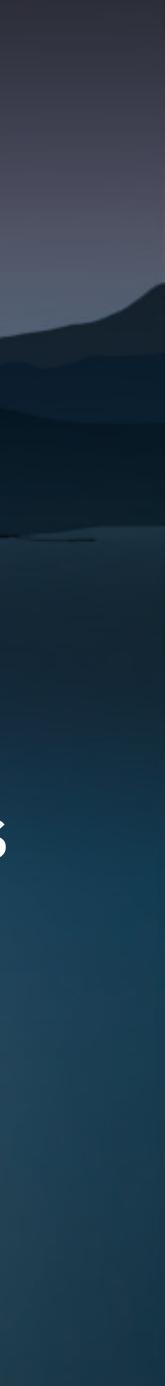


By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." -John 13:35

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. -John 15:12-13



The papacy today and it's role in Bible prophecy wasn't birthed in a silo. It's the last stop of the train, but it didn't start the train. We need to take a step back and realize from whence it came and see if any of those traits are in us or have influenced us.



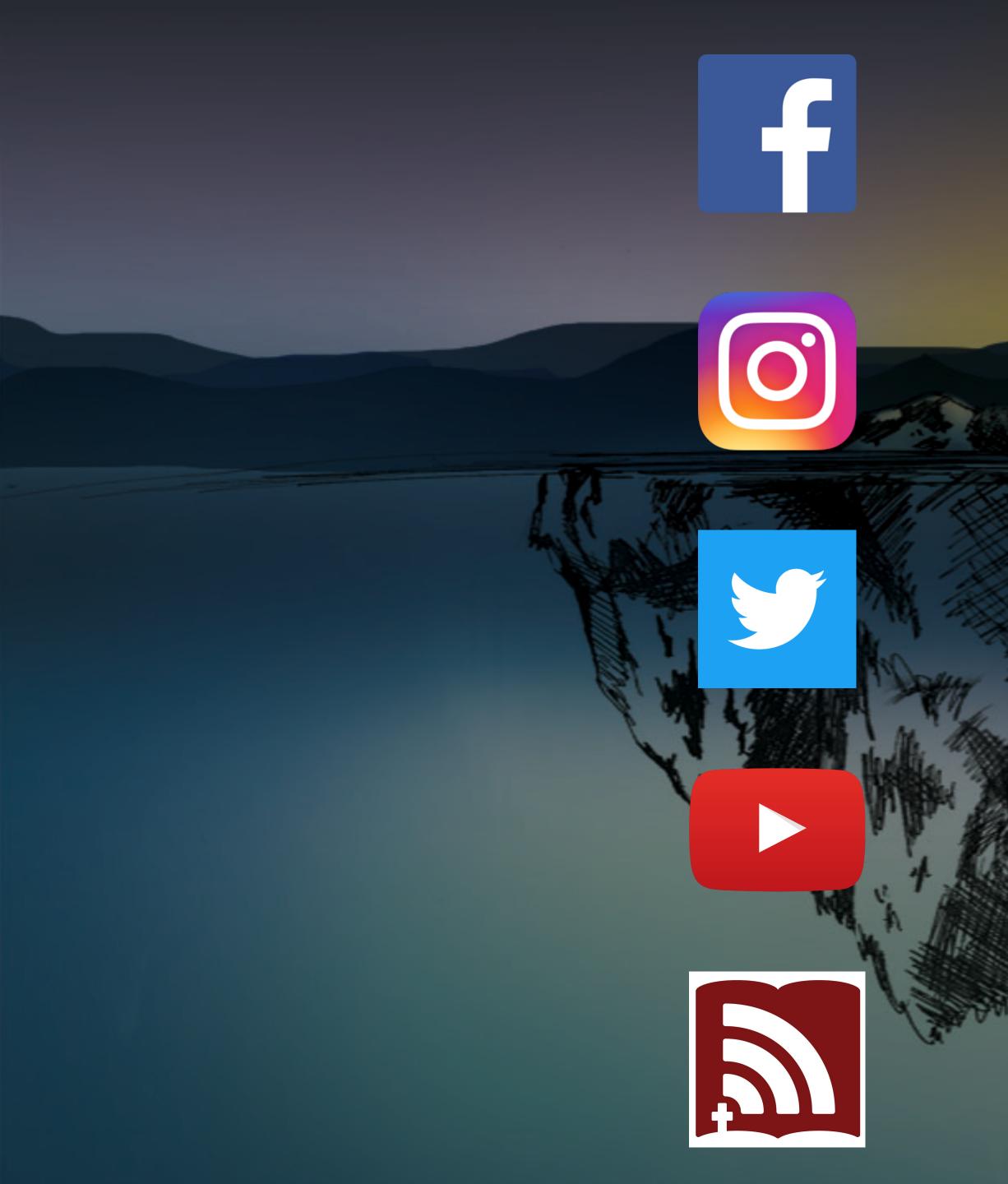
Are we drinking the wine of Babylon? Maybe we don't believe in the sacraments or the veneration of saints. But are we exalting self, or giving a picture of God that would lead people to reject Him?



Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it. -Mark 15:23 Jesus refused Roman wine to empower us to do the same.

"...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved

them to the end." -John 13:1 Jesus lived out the Father's unselfish love to the very end.



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Dee Casper

