

THE ALPHABETS OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

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KNOW THE ABC'S OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE

REV. GEORGE PRYOR TH.M.



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BIOGRAPHY



Rev. George A. Pryor III

I am a retired, partially disabled pastor and a veteran. I have been an Ordained Reverend for over 40 years, and have served churches as youth leader, church counselor, and senior pastor. Served eight years in the United States Air Force, which included one tour of duty in Vietnam. I received an AA Degree from American River College in Sacramento, Calif., an AA in Christian Education from Charles Harrison Bible College in Sacramento, Calif., and Th.B. & Th.M. degrees from American Bible College in Pineland, Fla. Over 60 articles that have been written by me and published on the Internet. Many of them can be found at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/kbdx4mw>. My email address is: revgap@gmail.com.

I have been married to Dorthy (Yes, it is spelled correctly. That's the way she chooses to spell it.) for 52 years. We have two children who go by the names of Pat and

George, along with two grandchildren. Jeramy (Yes, it's spelled that way.) and Chantel. No spelling question here, but she is 18, need I say more?

DEDICATION



I dedicate this book to my lovely wife Dorthy, who has hung in there with me for 52 years, and to my son George IV. They have stood by me and have encouraged me, so I could again be used by God, even after surviving two major strokes within a four-year period. They have encouraged me and told me over and over that I, with the help of the Lord, could do it, if it was His will for me; and that they thought it was within His will for me to see my dream of publishing a book come true. My last dedication is to my God. He has given me the physical strength and scriptural knowledge to complete the task that will help many to develop a closer walk with Him. To God be the Glory.

INTRODUCTION



All Scripture quotes are from the
kjv unless noted otherwise.
Any bold or underline was added by me.

I START BY defining theology. The word theology is a combination of the Greek word ‘theos,’ which means deity, or God, and the English word ‘ology,’ which means, the study of. The basic definition of theology is the study of God. This little book is not intended to be a Theology dictionary but to be a highlight of important words and or phrases of Theology.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language
defines theology as:

- The study of the nature of God and religious truth; rational inquiry into religious questions.
- A system or school of opinions concerning God and religious questions.

Most people only think of Christianity in relation to theology. The fact is that all major religious groups have their own theology, i.e., Christian, Jew, Catholic, Mormon, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, etc.

The concept of theology dates back to ancient Greece. Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle used theology when discussing their gods.

Christian Theology is the unique branch of Christianity that embraces the total theme of the Bible in an exegetical approach and has its own unique words and phrases. Many of these are taken directly from Scripture and explained in-depth. The others are to be found nowhere in the Holy Canon but they define and explain a biblical truth that is definitely taught in Scripture. An example of one of those words is *rapture*, which means to be snatched or carried away in joy, love or ecstasy. This teaching is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 that says: "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*"

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

My purpose for writing is to highlight what I believe are the key theological words and phrases arranged according to the 26 letters of the English alphabet. This is not

intended to be a theology dictionary. There are more words for each letter of the alphabet, but I believe that familiarity with these words and phrases is vital to be confident in your faith and, more importantly, to be a strong defender of the truth that is presented in God's word. You will find that some words and phrases are taken directly from Scripture. Others will clarify truths that are taught in the pages of Scripture. Still others will expose error that is propagated by heretical teachings

CHAPTER I

THE ALPHABETS: A–I

A.

Apostasy

APOSTASY IS THE falling away from the truths of the Christian faith. It is a revolt against the truth of God's word by a believer. It can also describe a group or church organization that has "fallen away" from the truths of Christianity, as revealed in the Bible and adopted their own version of it. They are said to be apostate. I honestly feel the Catholic Church falls into this category. I cite two reasons why I feel that way: 1 They have added works and sacraments as requirements to be saved and; 2- Their dishonor of the Second Commandment, which says: "*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*" (Exodus 20:4). They have their

own list of the 10 Commandments. They eliminate No. 2 of the 10 listed in Exodus 20 and make two commandments out of No. 10. This action gives the Catholic Church 10 Commandments.

Apologetics

Apologetics is a unique word that confuses many who hear it for the first time.

It has nothing to do with apologizing. The Christian has nothing to apologize for, but there are many things that need explaining and defending; and that is exactly what apologetics is all about. It equips the Christian to be obedient. In I Peter 3:15 it says: *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”*

It also equips one to easily spot heretical teaching or positions like the first A and B highlighted here, along with others that will be covered as we progress through the alphabet. You can refute them based on the truth of the Bible. Paul admonishes us in Eph. 4:14–15 that this should be done in love. His actual words are: *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the*

truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

Atonement

Atonement theologically speaks of God's acting in human history to reestablish the original relationship between God and man by dealing with sin. To atone means to make amends, to repair a wrong done. Biblically, it means to remove the guilt of man. The Old Testament atonements offered yearly by the high priest were temporary, and foreshadow the real and final atonement that was to be made by Jesus. Jesus' atonement was adequate for the sins of the whole world. In 1 John 2:2 it says: *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”* This atonement is made effective by the exercise of the saving faith, which is granted to unbelievers by God. In Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8–9 & Titus 3:5 it says: *“Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast; Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”* Man is a sinner and cannot atone for himself. In Rom. 3:23 & 5:8 it says: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory*

of God; but God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” It was the love of the Father that sent Jesus to die in our place for our sins. In 1 John 4:10; 1 Pet. 3:18 & 2:24 it says: “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins; for Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit; who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” Because of the atonement, our fellowship with God is restored. In Rom. 5:10 it says: “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” For more see Reconciliation under R.

B.

Baptismal Regeneration

Baptismal regeneration is the belief that water baptism is essential to salvation, that it is the means where forgiveness of sins is made real to the believer. This is heresy. It is the wrong and most misunderstood purpose and power of water baptism. Paul said that he came to preach the gospel, not to baptize. In 1 Cor. 1:1:17 it says: “*For Christ sent me*

not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” If baptism was an essential to salvation, then Paul would have included it in his standard practice and preaching of the salvation message of Jesus, but he did not. We are complete in Christ and water baptism is only a symbol of that completeness. In Col. 2:10–12 it says: “*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” The one and only real requirement to be saved is found in Ephesians 2:8–9, which says: “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*”

Born Again

This term was created from what Jesus said to Nicodemus in Jn. 3:5.

The new birth is enjoyed by a Christian upon his conversion and regeneration. It is a work of the Holy Spirit within a believer. It is related to faith in Christ. It means that the person is no longer dead in sins (Eph. 2:1), no

longer spiritually blind (1 Cor. 2:14), and is now a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). And can now understand spiritual things (I Cor. 2:16).

C.

Communicatio Idiomatum

The Communicatio Idiomatum is Latin for the Communication of the Properties. It is the theological position that the properties of both the human and the divine natures of Jesus are attributed to the one person of Christ. An example of this would be in John 17:5, where Jesus, the man, says; *“And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”* We see here that Jesus who was born on earth says He had glory with the Father before the world was. This is because the one person of Christ has two natures: God and man. Jesus is the Divine Word made flesh. In John 1:1.14 it says: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God; and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.”* We see in the single person of Christ both the attributes of divinity and humanity. You will see its English version in the H section as Hypostatic Union.

Comma Johanna/ Comma Johanneum And sometimes referred to as Johannine Comma

It focuses on the 13 words that come after the first comma in the verse, such as in 1 John 5:7, which appear in some early printed Greek texts (notably those of Erasmus), later versions of the Latin Vulgate, and in the King James Version of the Bible. See these words below underlined *in italics* in the KJV and the same verse from the newer ESV, NIV and The NASV.

7 *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”* (1 John 5:7–8), KJV

7 *“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.”* (1 John 5:7–8), ESV

7 *And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.*

8 *For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.* (1 Jn 5:7–8) NASV

The preceding explanation is a bold attempt to discredit the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and (1 Jn. 5:7) is usually used as the main support verse. The attempt fails because the doctrine of the rinity has numerous verses of support

both in the Old and New Testaments and here are some of them.

In The Old Testament, "LORD" is distinguished from "Lord." In Genesis 19:24, it says: "*Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;*" In Psalms 2:7, 12, the Lord has a Son and it says: "*I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee; Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*" The Spirit is distinguished from the "LORD" in Numbers 27:18, it says: "*And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;*" and from "God." In Psalm 51:10-12 it says: "*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*"

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." God, the Son, is distinguished from God, the Father. In Psalm 45:6-7 it says: "*Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*"

In the New Testament, John 14:16-17 is where Jesus speaks to the Father about sending a Helper, The

Holy Spirit and it says; *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;*

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” This shows that Jesus did not consider Himself to be the Father or the Holy Spirit. Consider also all of the other times in the gospels where Jesus speaks to the Father. Was He speaking to Himself? No. He spoke to another person in the Trinity, the Father.

Each member of the Trinity is God: The Father is God In John 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2 it says: *“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed; to all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ; elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”* The Son is God: as stated in John 1:1, 14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:8–9 that says: *“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God; And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth; Whose are*

the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen; Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." In Hebrews, the Father recognizes the Son as God (Hebrews 1:8) and says: *"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."* and John again recognizes The Son as God and the giver of eternal life in (1 John 5:20) that says; *"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life; The Holy Spirit is also recognized as God. In 1 Corinthians 3:16; Acts 5:3–4 it says: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"; But Peter said, "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."*

The One who indwells is the Holy Spirit as stated in John 14:16–17; Romans 8:9; Acts 2:3–4a: *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."*

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."

Paul recognizes all three in his salutations in *II Cor. 13:14* that says: "*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*"

Peter and Jude agree with him (*1 Pet. 1:2*; *Jude 20–21*) and they say: "*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.; But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*"

As a Trinitarian believer you should be aware of the comma Johannean argument, but NOT be weakened in your faith by it. As you can see, it is a solid Biblical doctrine. More will be seen about the Trinity under alphabet letter T.

D.

Depravity

Moral corruption, a state of corruption or sinfulness. Total depravity is the teaching that sin has touched all aspects of the human: body, soul, spirit, emotions, mind, etc. This teaching is based on Scriptures like the following; in Jeremiah 17:9; 1 Cor. 2:14a; Romans 3:10–18 it says: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him. As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

“Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood.

“Destruction and misery are in their ways. And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

E.

Eternal Life

This is life everlasting in the presence of God. *“This is eternal life, that they may know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent”* (John 17:3). There are two senses in which this is used. First, as Christians we possess eternal life. In 1 John 5:13, it says: “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ.” It is obvious that we are not now in heaven or in the immediate presence of God. Though we are still in mortal bodies and we still sin, but by faith we are saved (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8), which says: *“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”* We possess eternal life as a free gift from God (Rom. 6:23), which says: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Second, eternal life will reach its final state at the resurrection of the believers when Christ returns to earth to claim His church. And we will receive Glorified Immortal bodies (1 Cor. 15:51–54), and it says: *“Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.”*

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory." cf. (Isa. 25:8). It is then that eternal life will begin to be experienced in its complete manifestation.

F.

Fall, The

This two-word term was created by theologians to explain the simple truth that Adam and Eve sinned. They broke the law of God and lost the intimate fellowship that they had with Him. There is an old proverb that describes them completely and it is: "The guilty flees when no one pursues." This is a spin off or paraphrase of Proverbs 28:1, which says *wicked* instead of *guilty*. I would not go as far as to call our ancestors wicked but they were definitely guilty. God came down to visit and they ran and hid. Sin has a way of making one afraid of our merciful and loving God. Since Adam represents all of humankind, when he sinned, all of humanity fell with him cf. (Rom. 5:12).

Free Will

Free will is the freedom of self-determination and action, independent of external causes. It is the ability to make choices. A choice is free if it is consistent with a person's desires and nature. The natural nature of man is to hate God. It is stated in (Rom. 3:10–11a): “*There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*” Free will is of two main types: compatibility and libertarianism (more research is needed if you desire to understand the difference).

G.

Grace

Grace is unmerited favor. It is God's free action for the benefit of all. Grace is the product of God, which is given by God because of who God is not because of who we are. It is the means of salvation through the exercise (Eph. 2:8–9). Humanity deserved to be lost in the death of sin (Rom. 6:23a), but because God loved His creation, He graciously intervened and provided a way of redemption through His only begotten Son (Rom. 6:23b).

Gnosticism

Gnosticism is a theological view that was in existence during the time of Jesus, and prevailed strongly after the resurrection of Jesus as the New Testament canon was being compiled. Generally speaking, Gnosticism taught that salvation is achieved through special knowledge (gnosis). This knowledge usually dealt with the individual's relationship to the transcendent Being. It denies the incarnation of God as the Son. In so doing, it denies the true power and value of the atonement and the source of all knowledge. If Jesus is not God, He could not atone for all of humanity and we would still be lost in our sins.

This view is definitely in error, according to clear teaching from Scripture. Such as (Isa. 44:24–25; Rom. 11:33; II Pet. 1:2–3) that say these words: *“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and He that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.*

“That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish. O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!; Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things

that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him."

H.

Holy, Holiness

A quality of perfection, sinlessness, and inability to sin that **is possessed by God alone**. As Christians, we are called to be holy. In 1 Pet. 1:16 it says: "*Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.*" This does not refer to our nature. It is a command of our practice and thought. We are to be holy in obedience as in 1 Pet. 1:15, which says: "*But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*" God has made us holy through His Son, Jesus. In Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:9 it says: "*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" It is a quality or condition of being at one with God. All Christians should strive to achieve this.

Hypostatic Union

This is the union of the two natures (Divine and human) in the person of Jesus. Jesus is God in flesh. In John 1:1 & 14; 10:30–33; 20:28; Phil. 2:5–8; Heb. 1:8, it says: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth. I and my Father are one.*

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?”

33 The Jews answered him, saying, “For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God?

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” He is fully God and fully man (Col. 2:8–9) that says: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit,

after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

Scripture just verified that, He has two natures: divine and human. He is not half God and half man. Therefore, there is a “union in one person of a full human nature and a full divine nature. Note: This is very similar to The Communicatio Idiomatum, which was discussed under C. Second Note: Jesus has two natures, but only one personality. He can NOT be classified as a schizophrenic. The heretics and false teachers will try this one, but you now know it’s NOT true.

Hermeneutics

This fancy sounding word is the study of Scripture translation and interpretation. It is a good subject to have at least a basic understanding of that will strengthen your faith in the accuracy and dependability in the copies of God’s word that we have available to us today.

Hamartiology

Hamartiology is the study of the doctrine of sin. It encompasses topics such as the fall of Adam and Eve, degrees of sin, original sin and human accountability for sin.

Hell

This little four-letter word confuses most people including believers because it has dual meanings.

Let me start with the description of hell as used in the Bible. It refers to the grave as in (Psalms 16:10) and in most cases it refers to the abode of the Devil/Satan and the temporary holding place for the departed spirits of unbelievers. The context will determine its use. Jonah described the belly of the great fish as hell. (Jonah 2:2), which says: *"I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice."* It is not the lake of fire. The lake of fire is a different location that I believe is deeper down in the heart of the earth. The grave, hell and the lake of fire are all in the heart of the earth and each has its own identified space. The grave is where bodies are placed after death and can be an above-ground tomb, or more commonly, 6 feet in the earth. The spirit leaves the body at death and will either go to its temporary abode in hell or in paradise. Up until the resurrection of Jesus both were in the heart of the earth separated by a great gulf as stated in Luke 16:22–26 that says: *"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried."*

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

*And beside all this, **between us and you there is a great gulf fixed:** so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence."*

There is a passage in I Peter 3:18–19 that has caused some confusion and misunderstanding that Jesus went to Hell and suffered for us. Luke 16:19–26 makes it very clear that both hell and paradise (Abraham's bosom) were in the heart of the earth at the time of Jesus' death. Those on one side could see and communicate with those on the other side but could not pass over. In Luke 16:26 Jesus went to Paradise after He had *finished* His suffering on the cross. In I Pet. 2:24 it says: "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*" That is where He promised the thief on His right that He would take him. Luke 23:43 says: "*Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*" There He preached across the gulf to the ones in Hell and let them know that they were there because they chose not to listen to the prophets of old, as stated by Abraham (Luke 16:29–31) that says: "*Abraham*

saith unto him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

And he said, 'Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.'

And he said unto him, 'If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.'" Jesus let them know that this is where they would remain until they were cast into the lake of fire for their final abode (Rev. 20:10–15) kjv: *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Jesus relocated paradise when He rose in Eph. 4:8a-10; II Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7 that says: *"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive. How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which*

it is not lawful for a man to utter. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” Hell remained in the heart of the earth and enlarged itself as stated in (Isa. 5:14–15 that says: “*Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.*

And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled.”

I.

Impute, Imputation

Impute means to reckon to someone the blessing, curse, debt, etc. of another. Adam’s sin is imputed to all people (Rom. 5:12–21), therefore, we are all guilty before God. Our sins were put upon, imputed, to Jesus on the cross where He became sin on our behalf as stated in 2 Cor. 5:21 that says: “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” This was the fulfillment of the prophecy that Isaiah gave in Isaiah 53:4–6 that says: “*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted But he was wounded for our transgres-*

sions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Let us lift our voice in Praise with King David as he stated it in Psalms. 32:2 that says: "*Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.*" (NIV). Understanding imputation is very important. Imputation is the means of our salvation. Our sins were put upon, imputed, to Jesus on the cross. Our sins were "given" to Jesus. When He died on the cross, our sins, in a sense, died with Him. The righteousness that was His through His perfect obedience to the Father in His complete obedience to the Law is imputed, given, to us. In short, our sins were given to Jesus. His righteousness was given to us. Technically speaking our sins were imputed to Jesus. His righteousness was imputed to us.

Intelligent Design

The theory of intelligent design (ID) holds that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause rather than an undirected process such as natural selection. **ID** is thus a scientific disagreement with the core claim of evolutionary theory that the apparent design of living systems is an illusion that can be adequately explained by only natural causes. This short explanation just scratches the service of this issue. I must

say that it is the side that every sincere professing Christian should be on.

To believe otherwise is to say that God is a liar and He informs in His Word that it is impossible for Him to do that. Cf. In Heb. 6:18 Paul cited a strong source of evidence that surrounds us each day and that is creation itself cf. (Rom. 1:20). The scientific world is gradually coming into the knowledge of the truth that true believers already know. If interested, you can find a very eye-opening video on you tube at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ibc8sD5sgw>

CHAPTER II

THE ALPHABETS: J–R

J.

Justify, Justification

TO BE JUSTIFIED is to be saved, made righteous. It is a divine act through which God liberates and individual to be and become all that he or she is meant to be, allowing the individual to act fully and completely in the image and likeness of God. It is a lifelong process. For Christians, justification is made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Justification is a gift of grace. In Rom. 3:24, 5:1 it says: “*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” It is not an achievement

or accomplishment of the individual. Those who are justified may be expected to act with the same loving kindness, regard for the poor, and love of peace that Jesus so powerfully exhibited.

When God sees the Christian, He sees him through the sacrifice of Jesus and sees him without sin.

K.

Kingdom of God, The

The kingdom of God is a focal point in the teaching of Jesus. For Jesus, “the kingdom of God” or “the kingdom of heaven,” begins in the life of the individual who exhibits the love and justice of God. It was this immediate sense of the reality of the “kingdom” that Jesus had in mind when he said that “*The kingdom of God is come unto you.*” (Matt. 12:28). The notion also refers to the end of time when God’s reign will be complete. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven appear to be variations of the same idea. Some people will split hairs with you and say there is a difference, which is unimportant. Don’t get caught up into majoring on the minors. Entrance into the kingdom of God is by a new birth. In John 3:5, it says: “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” I must insert a special

note here. The water that is being referred to is the water in the womb of the mother that a baby is born out of. It does NOT refer to water baptism. Repentance is also required. In Matt. 3:1–2), it says: “*In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea. And saying, ‘Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*” In order to do this, the divine call must be made. In 1 Thess. 2:11–12, it says: “*As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children. That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*”

L.

Liberalism

In Christianity, “liberal” is a word used of those who acknowledge the significant role of human reason, science, the arts, and other fields of research in the pursuit of truth, and the attempt to frame and express the faith while taking such sources of knowledge seriously. Conservative Christians see this as a threat to the faith and urge, instead, reliance upon the Bible as the exclusive source of truth, even though there are numerous passages in the Bible itself that point to nature and human reason as valuable and important. These sources, however, should be judged by the truth of God’s word and not in the reverse.

The result of liberalism is often a denial of essential biblical doctrines such as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His resurrection, and salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone.

M.

Millennium

This word literally means 1,000 years. In the study of end time's doctrines (eschatology) the millennium is the duration of Christ's rule over the earth. In Revelations (Rev. 20:4), it says: *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

The big debate among believers includes when the millennium will take place and what it actually is. The terms that have arisen out of this debate are pre-millennialism, amillennialism, and postmillennialism. Pre-millennialism teaches that the millennium is yet future and that upon Christ's return, He will set up His earthly kingdom. Amillennialism teaches that the millennium is a figu-

rative period and that Christ's rule began when He first became human. Post-millennialism teaches that through the preaching of the Word of God, the world will be converted and will then usher in Christ and the kingdom of God. There are good Bible-based arguments for each position and at least two of them are wrong. Paul said in I Cor. 12:14 that we now see through a glass darkly and know in part, but when Christ comes back it will all be clear. This was not an exact quote, but a paraphrase of what that verse says.

N.

Naturalism

The belief that all of human experience and events in the time-space continuum can be explained as a function of causes, which are purely natural and open to scientific understanding and explanation. This eliminates God from the picture. This can get you killed when you ignore the omniscient God of this universe

O.

The letter O enjoys the privilege of hosting three of the main spiritual attributes of God as described by theo-

gians. These are His being omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. God knows all things; He is present everywhere at the same time and He possesses all power. Knowing and understanding these truths should make a believer keenly aware that they cannot fool God; they cannot hide from God and that He is able to deliver in all situations that we face in life. We must believe that and not let the enemy deceive us to the point that we doubt it.

Occult

Occult means “hidden.” It covers practices that are not approved of by God and religious authorities, for example, astrology, casting spells, consulting with spirits, magic, sorcery, witchcraft, Quija boards, tarot cards, astrology charts and contacting the dead, séances, etc. In Isaiah 47:13; Deut. 18:10–12a, it says in order as listed: “*Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD.*”

P.

The following is heresy straight from the pit of hell Pre-Adamites

Pre-Adamites is the teaching that there was a race of people before Adam and Eve, who lived in the Garden, and that the fall of Satan caused a widespread destruction of the world. The result of this destruction was so vast that the world needed to be re-made with Adam and Eve being the first of the new order. This teaching attempts to make God a failure and a liar, which He states that He cannot be. In Heb. 6:1718a, it says: *“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.”*

Q.

Quran, The

The Qur'an/Koran is the Holy Book of Islam and the religion's most sacred writing. Muslims consider it the actual word of Allah (their god), and not the words of Muhammad to whom it was given. Muslim tradition states that the angel Gabriel visited Muhammad and gave him the words directly from Allah. These words were Allah's

words of wisdom, truth, and commandments to His creation. The Qur'an (which means recitation) was revealed in the Arabic dialect used by the Quraish tribe of Mecca of that time. This dialect became the formal Arabic of the Islamic nations due to the distribution of Qur'anic scriptures throughout the Islamic empire. In the Arabic the Qur'an is poetic in style with rhymes, meter, and shifts in line lengths. Those who speak the language say it is a beautiful work.

The Quran is divided into 114 chapters, called surahs. The word surah means "row." Today the Koran is arranged with the longer surahs first and the shorter ones after, with the entire book is divided into 30 approximately equal lengths.

R.

Reconcile, Reconciliation

Reconciliation is changing for the better a relationship between two or more persons. Theologically, it refers to the change of relationship between God and humanity made possible in the life and work of Jesus.

We are now able to have fellowship with God. In 1 John 1:3, it says: "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly*

our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

Before Jesus came we could not have fellowship with The Father. We are reconciled to Him through Jesus His Son. In Rom. 5:1& 10-11, it says: "*Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; for if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*"

CHAPTER III

THE ALPHABETS: S–Z

S.

Sola Scriptura

SOLA SCRIPTURA IS the teaching that the Scriptures contain all that is necessary for salvation and proper living before God. Sola Scriptura means that the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, are the final authority in all that they address. In 1 Cor. 4:6a, it says: *“I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written.”* Tradition, even so-called Sacred Tradition is to be judged by Scriptures. Sola Scriptura does not negate past councils or traditions. Instead, it is above them and they are to be judged by scripture. The teaching also states that the Scriptures contain all that is necessary for salvation and proper living before God.

Soteriology

Soteriology is the study of the doctrine of salvation. It is derived from the Greek word *soterious*, which means salvation. Some of the subjects of soteriology are the atonement, imputation, regeneration, and reconciliation. All of those have been covered earlier.

T.

Trinity, The

The word “trinity” is not found in the Bible. Nevertheless, it is a word used to describe one fact the Bible teaches about God: Our God is a Trinity. This means there are three persons in one God, NOT three Gods. It is called the Godhead/Deity in Scripture cf. (Col. 2:9). The persons are known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and they have always existed as three distinct persons. The person of the Father is not the same person as the Son. The person of the Son is not the same person that forms the Godhead and is the One God. The person of the Holy Spirit is not the same person as the Father. If you take away any one, there is no God. God has always been a trinity from all eternity: “*From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*” (Psalms 90:2).

God is not one person who took three forms, i.e., the Father who became the Son, who then became the Holy Spirit. This belief is known today as the “Jesus Only Movement (also known as Oneness Pentecostalism).” It is taught by the United Apostolic and United Pentecostal churches, and is an incorrect teaching.

Nor is God only one person as the Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Way International, and the Christadelphians teach (These groups are classified as non-Christian cults).

The Bible says there is only one God. In Issa. 45:1–6, 18c it says: “*I am the LORD; and there is none else.*” The Bible distinctly says Jesus is God. In John 1:1; Col. 12:8–9, it says: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.; Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*”

The Bible also says that The Holy Spirit is God in Acts 5:3–4, and it says: “*But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.” Since the Son speaks to the Father, they are distinct persons. Since the Holy Spirit speaks also in Acts

13:2 that says: “*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, ‘Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.’*” He is a distinct person.

Section Conclusion:

There is one God who exists as three persons. The eternal Triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal activities, but without division of nature, essence, or being. The three equal the Completeness of the ONE GOD

Special Note: Sometimes when the infinite God conveys His thoughts to finite man, mystery is the result. The Trinity is one of those mysterious truths

U.

Universalism

It is the teaching that all people will eventually be saved without individual repentance through the universal redemption of Jesus. Some Universalists teach that even the Devil, after a time of punishment, will be redeemed.

This is definitely a false teaching and there is sufficient scripture that verifies that it is false.

In Matt. 7:13–14, it says: “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in threath:*

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

In Luke 13:22–23, 27–28, it says: “*And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*”

In Romans 9:27–28, it says: “*Esaias also crieth concerning Israel. Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*”

In Rev. 20:10,14,15 it says: “*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.... And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

V.

Vicarious Atonement

The theory of the atonement which states that Christ's death was "legal." It satisfied the legal justice of God. Jesus bore the penalty of sin when he died on the cross. His death was a substitution for the believers. In other words, he substituted himself for them upon the cross. Jesus hung in our place as He bore our sin in his body on the cross. In 1 Pet. 2:24, it says: "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*"

W.

Word of God, The

It is inspired as in 2 Tim. 3:16 that says: "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*"

It is truth Psalm 119:151; Jn. 17:17 that says: "*Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*"

It makes you free as in John 8:32 that says: "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

It produces faith as in Rom. 10:17 that says: “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

It judges as in Heb. 4:12; II Tim. 4:8 that says: “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.*”:

X.

There is only one entry under X.

Ex-nihilo

Ex-nihilo is a Latin phrase which means *out of nothing*. It is often used by Christians to describe the biblical view of creation, i.e., creation ex-nihilo.

Y.

Y is also limited to one entry

Yin and Yang

Yin and Yang is a dualistic philosophy of passive and active, good and bad, light and dark, positive and negative,

male and female, etc., and that they are in opposition, each is part of the whole and works together. Nothing is wrong here if you can digest it.

Z.

We now come to the final alphabet and it is also one entry and a dangerous one.

Zodiac, The

The Zodiac states that the stars in the heavens are divided into 12 main groups. Imaginary patterns are imposed upon various star patterns as an aid to remember the stars. In Astrology, the Zodiac signs are suppose to signify personality types for the people born under them. The Zodiac signs are determined by durations of time in the calendar. The 12 signs are: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. They are Satanic and it is not recommended that Christians follow this type of mysticism. As a matter of fact, the Bible forbids it as stated in in Deut. 18:10–12a; Isa. 47:13–14 that says: *“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.*

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.

Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it."

CONCLUSION



IF YOU HAVE even a basic familiarity with what has been presented here, you will have a stronger confidence in your faith and can be a champion defender of the truth. You may not be able to remember the details of each one but the terms will not be unfamiliar to you and you know where you can come for a quick review when the need arises. I didn't say if the need arises because it will if you publically proclaim your faith. Now you won't have to fear those who come to your door and tell you that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer or that He is Michael the great archangel.

As a Bible-believing Christian, you must accept the fact that there is a war of good and evil being waged in this world. You are in God's army as a defender of the good. You should strive to be a top general for the truth. No person who has spent his or her life in the military should be happy with being a private first-class for their entire career. Some Christians, however, seem to be satisfied with just professing their belief in Jesus as their savior, knowing that will get them into heaven to be there with the Lord as He

promised in Jn. 14:2–3 that says: *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” There are greater rewards available for those that will apply themselves and do more and leave the basics. The Hebrews (God’s people) which we are also because of being grafted in, were encouraged to do this as stated in Hebrews 6:1) that says: *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.”* Our graft is verified in Rom. 11:16–17 that says: *“For if the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.*

And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree.”

I will now list some of the rewards that are available to those who chose to leave from the bare minimum and qualify for something greater.

The Rewards & Crows we work for after receiving Salvation

The Bible tells us that salvation is a gift of the grace of God and there is nothing we can do to qualify for it (Eph. 2:8):

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” The bible also tells us that there are rewards that can be earned as a result of our works if they are good and righteous ones. And no gain if they are not (1 Cor. 3:13–15) and it says: *“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.*

If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved.” The Bible again tells us that there are six crown rewards that can be earned by certain individuals, which will be awarded in Heaven. They are as follows:

They are in no particular order of importance, just in the chronological order that they appear in Scripture

- 1. The Incorruptible Crown:** This one is for all those who live and die in Christ. It will be received at the Second Coming of Jesus to receive His bride (*the church*), as He prepares us to inhabit heaven. In 1 Cor. 9:25, 15:51–54, it says: *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we are incorruptible. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a*

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory.”

- 2. The Crown of Rejoicing:** This is also known as the soul winners’ crown for those that obeyed in Matt. 28:19; 1 Thess. 2:19 that says: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”

- 3. The Crown of Righteousness:** This one is available to all believers, if the condition is met as stated in II Tim. 4:8 that says: “*Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give*

me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

4. **The Crown of Life:** This one is for all who stand fast and be victorious through trials and temptations to the end. As stated in John; 1:12 that says: *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*

The Shepherd’s Crown: Also referred to as the crown of Glory and is only available to the shepherds who pleased God in their leadership. In 1 Peter; 5:2–4 and it says: *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

5. **The Martyr’s Crown:** This one is available to all, but only given to those who gave their life for the testimony of Christ, as stated in Rev.; 2:10c that says: *“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

As you can see, there is much more available than just barely making it. Much of this, though, will be beyond human imagination. As Paul states in I Cor. 2:9): *“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”*

