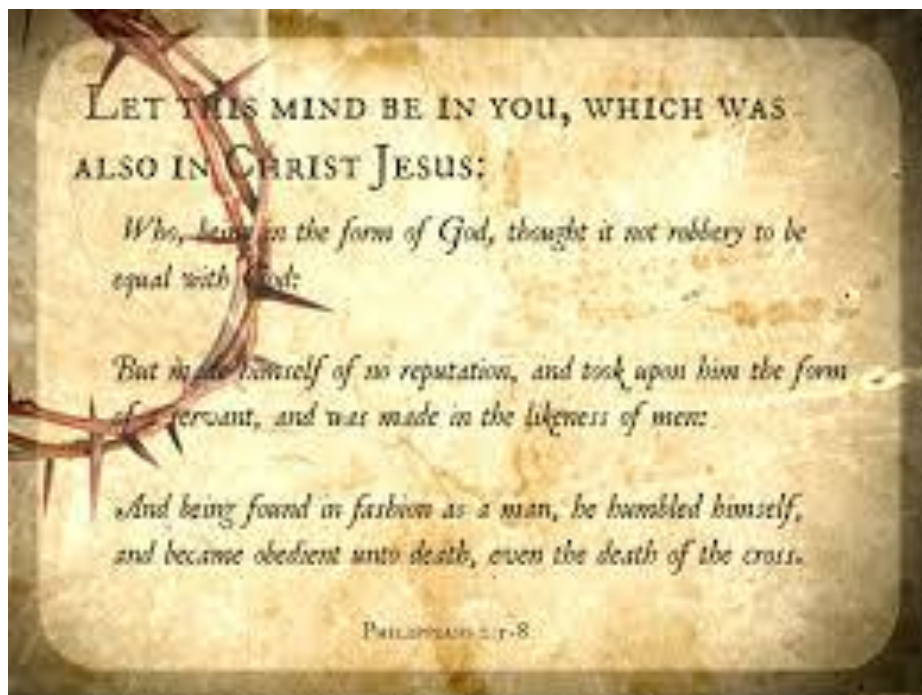


Note: This is a revision of an article previously published 2 years ago, “The Death of Egoism.” The Lord is strongly emphasising this theme as we draw near to the time of the separation of the “sons of Light” from those walking in the darkness and futility of their own minds. More than ever, we need to have our perspective sharpened, as self-interest and self-promotion are rampant and increasing in all the world, including the Christian world. In addition, we must counteract the false gospel that is being preached, earmarked to appeal to the “spirit of the age.” People’s predominant self-interest, and preoccupation with themselves. David

Therefore Humble Yourself

To all of us the command comes from the throne of God Himself. Therefore, we must humble ourselves and develop a trembling awe and a total distrust in self.



***‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’
“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of
God, that He may exalt you in due time. Be sober, be
vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like
a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”***

1 Peter 5:5, 6, 8.

Brothers and Sisters,

There is an urgency in my spirit right now concerning the subject of humility. The article is quite long but can I urge you to *make time* to read it all. In addition, prayerfully consider those you might forward the article to.

The upside-down Kingdom.

It has been said that the Kingdom of God is an upside-down Kingdom compared with this world and its norms. The fact of the matter is, it is this world's systems that are upside-down, and that includes much of what is happening in the Christian world!

“For others all seek to advance their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Philippians 2:21 Amplified

Becoming like Jesus is the key to truly being successful in this life and the next, as far as God is concerned

.

It is unlikely you will hear any sermons on *humility* this week or any week, because it is not a popular, exciting, or motivational subject these days. It is however, God's way for us. That is if we intend to be a part of His last day's Body of Christ/Bride of Christ.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

“For all those things has my hand made, and all those things have been, says the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.” Isaiah 66:2

“For thus has said the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is The Holy One; I dwell in the high place and in holiness and with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit to cause the spirit of the humble to live and to cause the heart of the contrite ones to live.”

Isaiah 57:15

We are at the crossroads.



Imagine the two arrows in the picture above pointing left say, **Religion and Babylon**

Babylon, or the Whore of Babylon the Great, is a figure of evil mentioned in Revelation. Her full title is given as "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and Abominations of the Earth." Revelation 17:5 (Source: Wikipedia)

Now imagine the one pointing right says, **Zion-City of God**

"The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes, He does not keep silence, before Him is a devouring fire, round about him a mighty tempest. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people: 'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!' The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge!" Psalm 50:1-6 (Emphasis mine)

We are at the time of needing to make a decision. If we are to be a part of Zion, the City of God, a decision must be made now, to completely separate ourselves from everything that is foreign to God's purposes. The emphasis is on, *now*.

It requires that we develop a complete distrust of our own pre-conditioning by family, the society we lived in, our education, and indeed, the "spirit of the age" which is all about self-promotion, and getting oneself ahead of the crowd. Mankind is being herded onto the road to destruction at an alarming rate. We must separate, and not allow the demonic powers that be, to deceive us.

Take Paul's example and instruction to heart.

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 2:4, 5, 14.

Listen to what Edward Kjos says concerning the powers of deception at work all around us.

“Now, more than ever, it is imperative to walk in the plane of the spirit. If you walk in the realm of the soul, then you will be prone to the deception that is being propagated in that realm; a realm of the senses and intellect, which are being controlled by the spirits of darkness, to a great degree.

The scriptures speak of the jeopardy within the church, where we find the “ministers” of light, who are seen parading around, and believing in their own deception; that of having been called of God, and doing God’s work in the church.

These pastors and shepherds have fallen to their own deception, being both deceived and deceiving those within their parishes. Do not assume that it is that easy to discern these ministers of unrighteousness (2 Corinthians 11:15), because it is not. It is far more subtle than you can imagine.

The admonition of Matthew 25 is, ‘.. *if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived.*’ This concern alone, sheds a great deal of light on the realization, of just how subtle the deception is, within the church.

(Taken from the book: “Unwrap The Sons” by L Edward Kjos and J Ann Kjos, chapter 23, pages 190 and 192. Published by SonsofGod.com)

In the light of what Edward and Ann have said, please read the scriptures by the Apostle Paul recorded above again, to get a clear perspective on what Paul was actually saying.

With the Church-Age drawing to a close and the Kingdom-Age emerging, it is the time of separation. The “sheep separated from the goats” and the “wheat from the tares.” It is imperative we understand and get quite clear in our minds and heart what the qualifications are, for being a member of God’s last day’s Body of Christ.

It is a critical time in world history, and, a critical time in Church history as well. Before Satan can be overcome and God's Kingdom fully established on earth there has to be a united company of people raised up who are free from self-interested, egoism.* This is so that Christ can be fully manifested in them, to the world.

This is the FINAL BATTLE for men's souls, the time when egoism must be put to death in all those who are on the Lord's side.

Egoism is the enemy of the Cross of Christ and a primary means of access for Satan in people.

God's New Breed

God is calling for the emergence of His new breed of Kingdom people.

If you are wondering who they are, they are described in Revelation 12:14

- They overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb.
- They overcome him by the word of their testimony.
- They love not their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

In contrast, egoism is a fast growing epidemic.

* **egoism**, *n.* (Ethics) *theory that treats self-interest as the foundation of morality; systematic selfishness; opinionatedness.* (The Concise Oxford Dictionary).

I read recently that in some studies, it showed that most people spend 95% of their time thinking about themselves.

Consider these questions:

How will this situation affect me?

How can this person help me achieve my goals?

How can this company help me to be more successful?

How can this job improve my status in people's eyes?

How can I earn more money?

How can this house, car, career change... make me look better in people's eyes?

What can this Church do for me?

How can I gain status and get attention by attending this particular Church?

Will it help my business networking, if I join this Church?

How could my appearance on this particular TV or radio show, get me more speaking engagements, sell more of my books, sell more of my records, and open doors for me?

How can this person introduce me to influential people who could help expand my ministry?

How can I get more people to give me more money to my ministry, to help me expand it and get more money to help me expand it, to get more money to help me expand it, to get more money to help me expand it, and have more people aware of my ministry, who will give me more money to help me expand it, to make me more well known and in demand, etc. etc. etc.... ?

How can I get to be a part of the Sunday worship team where people will see me and be impressed with my music training and skills?

How will a degree from this particular college/university, look on my Resumé and improve my chances of getting invited to pastor a Church or be a worship leader?

How will this new person in my life, help me get noticed by more people?

I wonder what might happen if I attend this big meeting put on by this high profile teacher.... amongst the thousands there I might meet someone who can open doors for me!

Did you notice what the emphasis was in every question?

I, me, my, I, me my, I me, my, I me, my...

All about me!

Egoism is the primary enemy of the Cross, and the primary access point for Satan to manipulate people for his own ends.

The Cross calls for a complete denial of self, and a handing over to Christ. He calls for us all to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. There can be no exceptions to this if we are to be a true follower of Jesus.

“And he said to them all, ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.’” Luke 9:23

As long as egoism reigns in a person they can never be an overcomer for Christ, and they will disqualify themselves from being a part of God’s last day’s Body of Christ.

It is separation time.

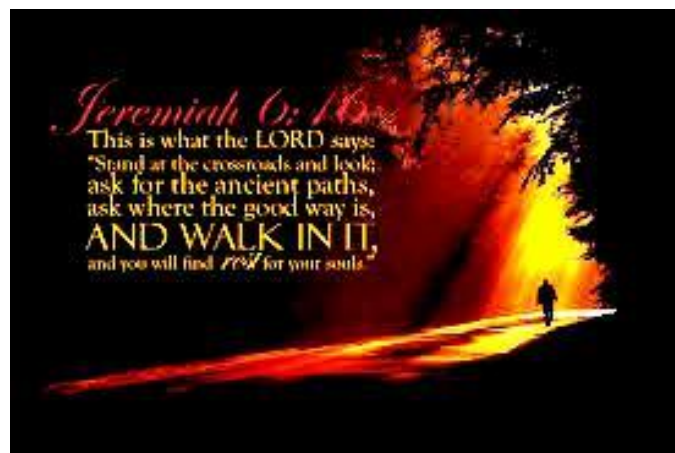
A separation between those on the Lord’s side and those who are still hell-bent on nurturing their fallen personality.

The call is coming to us now, in the 21st century:

Please read on, as you may be thinking that this subject doesn't pertain to you. Egoism is rampant in the Church and is increasing. In my lifetime, I have seen a dramatic rise of it. It is the major spirit driving the world and it is defiling all that is Godly in unprecedented ways. It is also the major reason for all the tension, uprisings, and wars in the world.

This subject pertains to us all, *including me*. I have been one who has been addicted to ego and the need for recognition, and it still rears its ugly head demanding attention, from time to time. It has a powerful potential to corrupt and destroy us.

We are at the crossroads



To progress in God's Kingdom Way, and to escape from all that is carnal and devilish, we must get rid of (put to death), the most important malady (sin) we face right now. I say most important, because it opens the door to demons and all sorts of aberrations who draw their energy from it. Even if we are not greatly addicted to it personally, it is still possible for us to tolerate it in others and see it as O.K. This is because it is all around us, and we have become accustomed to it.

We can be like the frog put in a saucepan of water and then put on a stove. As the heat gradually increases the frog doesn't jump out (so I'm told), and eventually through its inaction, it's boiled to death.

The need to seek fame, personal glory, commendation, recognition, praise, exaltation and adoration from others are the result of a deep vacuum left in the human soul as a consequence of Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden.

We all crave love and acceptance.

We have inherited the deep, psychological and emotional pain experienced by Adam and Eve when they were rejected by God their

Father. As a result, we (mankind), have sought to have our own pain quenched by seeking significance and credence from others. Human beings will go to extraordinary lengths to get noticed so we will receive commendation from others. We need our ego “stroked” like you would stroke a dog to give it pleasure.

Fame gives us credibility, and meaning.

We can be addicted to fame. Seeing our name up in “lights,” being noticed, loved, and admired. It is what we crave.

Does this surprise you?

It should not, because it is the way we are wired. Full of doubts, fears and concerns about what people are thinking about us, we desperately chase after praise and accolades from others in order to feel O.K.

Let me ask you this.

Could this be that the above is something you have been practising your whole life in some form or another, and, that you do not realise it is what you have been doing?

Please pray now and ask the Lord to shine His Light into your soul realm, before you read on.

For the born-again Christian who wants to go all the way with the Lord as an overcomer, this is the *one thing* that will separate us from God, give place for the Devil, and prevent us from being a part of God’s last day’s company of overcomers.

We are at a time in history when the separation of those who “*love not their lives to the death*” must now take place, and nothing less than Christ’s own perfection be enabled to reign.

Just as it was for the Apostle Paul and others down through history, so it must be for us.

Paul said: “***I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***” [Galatians 2:20](#) (Emphasis mine)

A last day’s clarion call is sounding.

Like Moses calling the faithful in the Children of Israel to come forward, the Lord is calling us to come forward today:

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.” Exodus 32:26

Who is on the Lord's side?

It is time to take our place and possess our “Promised Land!”

It is the time for the overthrow of Satan and all his devious tactics. He has kept billions of people in bondage for over 6000 years, and effectively separated them from the TRUE source of life. This source is the absolute acceptance and integration of Christ into them by self-denial.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY ONE who should be getting the glory!

He is the ONLY one worthy of ALL honour and praise. And, He cannot give this glory to another. There is however, the way of the Cross for us too. It involves the death of egoism. And, it can only come about by the complete work of the Cross and the deflection of all personally received praise and glory being deflected to Jesus. He is our ONLY source of glory. God is bringing “*many sons to glory*,” HIS glory.

[Hebrews 2:10](#)

His glory far exceeds anything we can imagine, and it most important we seek it, not for ourselves, but so we can reflect His glory.

We must face the current situation.

I'm reluctant to keep mentioning what follows here, but this is the only way we can get a clear perspective on where things are at in the Church today, and how far we have fallen.

In sharp contrast to what we have been talking about previously about God and Jesus getting all the glory, the following is the reality. The names of mega-churches and celebrity “pastors” are being promoted and marketed heavily every day, by every available means.

Here are some recent quotes to drive the point home. Because of what we are seeing and hearing daily, we become accustomed to it, and accept it as O.K. to talk this way.

“One of the most influential churches in the world today.”

“One of the fastest growing churches in America!”

“The preacher's preacher. The late (name here) was virtually incomparable!”

"He has received numerous honors, including 13 honorary degrees and doctorates. He has also received Grammy and Dove Award nominations for... Newsweekly named... among America's "Top 10 Religious Leaders." Time Magazine featured ... on the cover of its ... issue with the provocative question: "Is This Man the Next Billy Graham?"

Who is getting ALL the glory here?

Not only do we crave it but we also give it. And, we think we should, because it is what everyone wants. Praise, recognition, and commendation.

I do not mean we shouldn't commend our brothers and sisters. But, there is a difference between flattery and genuine encouragement. One feeds the ego and the other lifts up and edifies.

A lot of our enthusiastic honouring of others is done so **we** will get noticed, and receive the same.

We are also personally capable of setting things up so that people will feel compelled to praise us. Often a lot of hard work is put in to get what we want. And, we can fool ourselves that we are doing it all "for the glory of God."

Hiding Jesus.

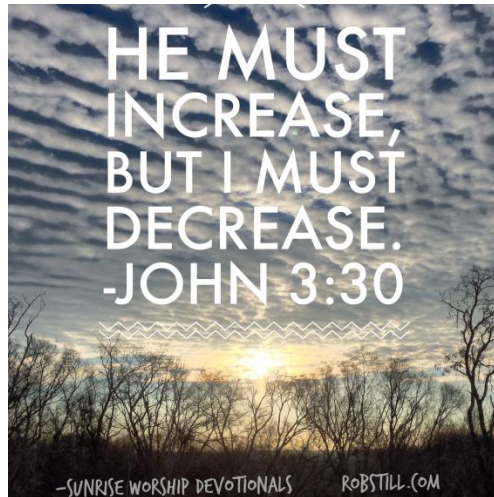
The insidious problem is this. More and more we are hiding Jesus. By promoting our churches, our unique name (branding), our superstar preachers, our programs, our ministries, and the King of kings and the Lord of lords is having to take a backseat, and be hidden!

Jesus is NOT getting all the glory. He is the one we must praise and glorify. Not men, organizations and programs!

Fame is addictive and most people crave it to overcome their deep sense of poor self-worth. Others seek it because of a competitive spirit to be the best in their field, a common worldly pursuit in our day. Fame is addictive and when assumed, blocks the work of God. Besides, it being an enemy of the Cross of Christ, and it is also a promotion of Satan's agendas.

Jesus' name is the name above every name, and we must now do all in our power to lift it up and refuse to accept any glory for ourselves in the process.

Remember what John the Baptist said?



Who will put egoism to death today, so the final battles can be won?

Why we seek fame.

As we have said, all of mankind has a driving ambition to be noticed, affirmed, congratulated, and actualised. We are all *longing* for acceptance and recognition. Deep in our heart of hearts there is a deep void that only God can fill. But, in spite of our new birth we can still be seeking legitimacy for our existence from others. "Notice me, promote me, accept me, confirm me, congratulate me, tell me I'm O.K." If we don't get the praise and adoration we want, we can feel deeply rejected. Rejection is the big one. We've inherited the intense pain experienced by Adam and Eve, and we can continue to try and numb our pain by manipulating others to give us what we crave.

The whole world is obsessed by fame, fortune and notoriety. The success of reality shows like

American Idol and others like it, are because they offer to take people out of obscurity and put them into potential, international stardom. With TV and the Internet they can be seen, heard, and admired by millions. Talk about feeding the ego!

Material possessions is the other means of getting attention. The bigger house (mansion), the new flashier car, nice clothes etc. are all sending out a loud message. "Look at me, I'm successful, I'm doing O.K., I'm doing better than most, notice me please... now!"

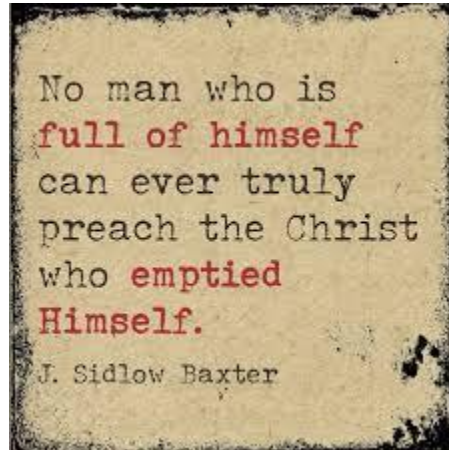
In saying what I've just said you are may be joining me in your scorn at those who succumb to the above traps, and think you are not like them. But, are you sure you are not like them?

Fame is addictive, and Christians seem to be just as ready to seek it as often as non-Christians. The number of "Christians" fronting up at the

various national “Idol shows” is a huge phenomena. And Satan's lie to them is that if you become famous they can be a wonderful and powerful witness to the world for Jesus Christ. Wrong!

When you humble *yourself*, that's when He will exalt you. If He exalts you, it will be in His Kingdom way and order, not the world's.

[1 Peter 5:6](#)



Deception.

As mentioned earlier deception is one of Satan's biggest weapons, and the Bible says he is deceiving the whole world. Can the very elect be deceived? According to [Revelation 12:9](#), Satan has deceived the whole world and in [Mark 13:22](#), it's possible the very elect can be deceived.

Satan is on the warpath and able to deceive millions, because collectively we are largely self-absorbed, self-motivated, and intent on self-actualization and the meeting *our* needs.

This is NOT the way to get God's endorsement and help, and it opens the door for Satan and deception.

Many are feeling neglected and under attack.

When we become nervous, oppressed, unsure, fearful or offended, it can often be assumed we are under “spiritual attack.” It may well be an attack, there can be another reason. Loneliness and the feeling, “I’m the only one,” is devilish and common when working for God. Just like Elijah, after defeating the prophets of Baal in a spectacular way (1 Kings 18), we can feel like him, “no one cares or notices me, I alone am left, and people want to kill me!”

When the above happens we usually do one of two things - sometimes both.

1. Step up activity in a feverish way to get noticed and to try and induce

a positive response from more and more people. By the way, sometimes people will hear your not so subtle cry, and will give you what you want. Out of a good motives, they will tell you what you want to hear. But it's a temporary fix. It doesn't last, and doesn't satisfy.

2. Or, we can go into a state of depression and darkness, feeling all alone like Elijah did, and want to go away and hide, crying “poor me, I'm the only one left!”

The answer to our fame (ego) addiction and, or, depression.

I received a revelation from the Lord a few days ago when He led me to read through the book of Hebrews again. I pray that this will be a help to you, as it has me.

In Hebrews 4 we read:

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Hebrew 4:1

“... but the message they heard did not benefit them (the Children of Israel) because it was not mixed with faith, that is the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power.” [Hebrews 4:2](#) Amplified
(Emphasis mine).

“Again He sets a definite day, a new Today, and gives another opportunity of securing that rest.”

Hebrews 4:7 Amplified

“Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter into that rest (of God) to know and experience it for ourselves - that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of disobedience into which those in the wilderness fell.” [Hebrews 4:11](#) Amplified

God level rest.

When we look outside of God for our needs to be met, and especially look to other people to meet our needs, we will *never, ever*, find what we are looking for.

Our identity is found in God, not in the opinions of others.

We *don't* have to necessarily fit in.

We *don't* have to win.

We *don't* have to hurry.

We *don't* have to be concerned about what others think of us.
We *don't* have to do what other people do.

This is not to say we don't respect others or never cooperate with them.
What we are saying is this. All we do should be done under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Like **Jesus**, we must only do what we see the Father doing and we must only say what we hear the Father saying.

There now remains a *rest* for the people of God.

This passage from Hebrews is about us entering into rest *today*.

It's NOT just talking about the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth (Millennium).

It's about *today* and it's about *entering in - today*.

The leaning of *your entire personality* (fears and doubts) on Jesus.

It's all about *leaning*. His yoke is *easy* and His burden is *light*.

"Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Sweet, sweet, surrender, how sweet it is!

Get praise from God, not men.

"... whose praise is not from men but from God." [Romans 2:29](#)

Jesus is calling. He is inviting us to partner with Him in the fierce battle that lies ahead. Deception is abounding and Satan is going to go harder and harder to distract us and stop us. Jesus Church and His Kingdom will soon be established on the earth.

Humble yourself - let go and let God.

Let go and let God, is more than just a cliché. It is profound. And, its outworking can be miraculous. But it is something we must do to make it through, and if we are to be God's overcomers.

"And when the Chief Shepherd is revealed you will win the conqueror's crown of glory. Likewise you that are younger and of lesser rank be subject to the elders - the ministers and spiritual guides of the church, giving them due respect and yielding to their counsel."

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility - as the garb of a servant, so that it's covering cannot possibly be stripped from you, with freedom from pride and arrogance - toward one another. For God sets Himself against the proud - the insolent the overbearing, the disdainful, the presumptuous, the boastful, and opposes, frustrates, and defeats them - but gives grace (favour and blessing) to the humble.

Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation) under the hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you. Casting the whole of your care - all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all - on Him; for He cares about you affectionately, and He cares about you watchfully.” [1 Peter 5:4-7](#) Amplified (Emphasis mine).

I'm praying for you and all those who are preparing themselves right now, to be the true Body of Christ and His Bride. Remember, it is the wise who enter in, and the foolish are shut out.

Matthew 25:1-13

Your Brother,

David

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