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ARE YOU IN THE WORLD AND NOT IN THE WORD?



“Jesus replied, ‘You must Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’”

(Matthew 22:37-38.)

Dear Chosen One:

In Deuteronomy Chapter 6:4-6, God commanded Moses to instruct the people of Israel and to teach them His commandments and Laws. This one read: **“Hear O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children.”**

Here is my question for those of you who are reading this newsletter? Are you all in with God or are you unsure? The Bible tells us in the Book Of Acts Chapter 11:26 that the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians at Antioch. Christians are followers of Jesus Christ, people who belong to Christ. Christianity is NOT a Religion; it is an Organism—a Living thing which allows Christians to have a personal relationship with JESUS.

Here are eight questions you need to ask yourself.

1. Am I on fire for God or cold?
2. Am I the Salt of the earth or have I lost my saltiness?
3. Is my Light shining or am I hiding it from others?
4. Do I know what is Right from wrong?
5. Do I know Truth, or do I believe the lies I am being told?
6. Am I pleasing God, or have I become a people pleaser?

7. Am I a Christian publicly or am I keeping my Christianity a secret?

8. Do I operate in Faith or fear?

I am happy you are able to answer these questions honestly for yourself. In Exodus Chapter 24: 17, the Glory of God looked like a devouring (consuming) fire to the Israelites. King David says, **“My thoughts grew hot within me and began to burn, igniting a fire of words.”** (Psalm 39:3)

In Revelation 3:15, the Spirit of God spoke these words to the Church at Laodicea **“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth!”**

If you consider yourself to be a Christian a believer of God’s Word, a follower of Jesus Christ—you belong to Christ. Therefore, you need to be **hot**, enthusiastic for the things and the people of God. The Prophet Jeremiah says, **“And I can’t stop! If I say I’ll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire...”** (Jeremiah 20:9)

If you are a Christian and you are not impacting the lives of unbelievers around, you—then you have lost your saltiness. Salt adds flavor to food. The Bible says, in Matthew 5:13, **“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it lost its favor? Can you make it useful again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.”**

Before, Jesus left the earth, He told us to **“Go into all the earth and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.”** (Mark 16:15) It is our

duty to spread the Gospel so that the Good News can impact others. When we fail to do that, we are useless, and we are no good for the Kingdom of God.

In the beginning of Scripture, it tells us that the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was all over the surface, **“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be Light,’ and there was light. And God saw that it was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness.”** (Genesis 1:2b-4)

As Christians we are instructed to let our light shine. When we allow our Christ light to shine, that light brings hope to those who are sitting in darkness. The world is filled with darkness, and we need to let our light shine.

Jesus says, **“You [and I] are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see.”** (Matthew 5:14) The Apostle Paul tell us that our hearts were filled with darkness, but now we are full of light from the Lord, so let our behavior show it. (Ephesians 5:8) When you and I come in contact with others, we should hear them singing **“You light up my life, you bring me hope to carry on.”**

However, we must not take the credit for being the light but use this opportunity to point people to the Greater Light—Jesus!

Know right from wrong. To know what is right and do wrong—the opposite—is a sin. 1 John 5:17 says, **“Every wrong is sin, but not all sin leads to death.”** We all struggle in this area of life, however, when

we know what is right, we have to take a stand regardless of what others think.

Remember, God’s laws and rules were placed in the Bible not to punish you, but to help guide you through life. You know stealing is wrong, so do not do it or encourage others to do it so you can benefit. Lying is wrong, it is also called “falsifying information,” so do not do it to get out of a ticket or when filing your taxes.

The law does not change because you decided to jump lanes and drive in the bike lane. No! The Bible says, **“Do not pass along false reports. Do not cooperate with evil people by telling lies on the witness stand. Do not join a crowd that intends to do evil. When you are on the witness stand, do not be swayed in your testimony by the opinion of the majority.”** (Exodus 23:1-2) As a Christians it pleases God when His children do what is right, just, and fair.

Truth is pure! It does not need the majority of votes to decide its truthfulness. It does not depend on natural or human laws to validate it. Truth is not facts that can be changed over a period of time. TRUTH is ABSOLUTE! Truth is a person. Jesus says in John 14:6, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Today some people will tell you there are other ways that lead to God, and you do not have to go through Jesus Christ God’s Begotten Son. Lies, lies and more lies! Jesus says, if you want to get to God the Father, you have to go through Him.

If you want to know Truth, then you have to train your ears to listen to the Holy Spirit—the inner voice.

Many people will come claiming that they are Truth —like Jesus. But if you know Him for yourself, you will recognize these imposters—who sound good, look good, having a form of godliness but have no real power. These individuals are lovers of pleasure not lovers of God and the truth is not in them.

The Bible warns us that in the last days many people--yes even Believers who claimed they know God will come and distort truth in order to draw you away from God to themselves. The Apostle warned the Church in Acts Chapter 20:28-31. Jesus told His disciples, **“if you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples, then you will know the Truth and the Truth will make you free.”** (John 8:31-32)

People of God, truth comes from reading the Word of God. Search the Word, meditate on the Word, feed your spirit from the Word of God and once you find Truth no one can make you believe their lies again. When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior—Truth comes in your life. Praise God!

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU ON THE OUTSIDE

Contact Ms. Christian Green, NYC Health Justice Network. (646) 856-0368 Email: cgreen7@health.nyc.gov

Women only Reentry Program: Reentry Rocks Email: reentryrocks@gmail.com

LadyCoach Transportation providing services from NYC to NYS Prisons (Greenhaven, Fishkill, Downstate, Bedford and Taconic Call 1800-838-9704 www.theladycoachway.com