

## The Missing Piece

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Heb 10:30-31

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."  
It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

*There is nothing quite like the thunderclap of a lighting bolt to conjure up the immeasurable power of the Almighty, Living God! That jagged streak of white light stretching across a black sky and the heart-stopping crash naturally gets our attention! My dad use to tell us that it was the angels bowling in heaven but I knew in my heart that this display was God showing us that He is in charge.*

*Not too many years ago, I was visiting my parents along with my youngest brother Paul. As an evening storm was approaching, Paul said, "Let's go out and watch the lighting before the rain comes." I was game and so we went down the walkway to the road where his truck was parked. The house is situated on a very high hill surrounded by 100 foot trees, behind us was solid woods. I never perceived any danger as the storm was still a distance off. In the blink of an eye things changed drastically!*

*A bolt struck a tree about 20 yards behind us in the woods — the blinding flash and deafening crash were simultaneous. Our hair stood straight up as we were forced to the ground while a heat-flash burned the inside of our bodies head to toe! I thought to myself, "Surely I am going to die!" My brother shares the same recall, and we both felt that we lost consciousness for a second or two. We regained our faculties at the same instant; relieved that we were alive, Paul said, "Let's get the hell out of here!"*

*In shock, we quickly ran to the house. Our mom made a pot of tea but we couldn't hold the cup steady because our bodies shook uncontrollably for an hour or so. Paul and I had been caught in the static field of the bolt. Electricity had traveled through the tree roots that were under our feet. That night we remained dumbstruck as though we were in the hands of the Living God. I believe He wanted my full attention; I have gladly given it to Him since!*

Hebrews 10:35-39 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

*To this day I am awestruck by His electrical storms but I am more in awe of God's 'plan of salvation' revealed to us throughout scripture, His instruction book explicitly written over a 2,000 year period. The Bible leaves little room for confusion or doubt if one makes*

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*a concerted effort to read it along with the desire to establish a relationship with the One who inspired this living work of literature!*

*Scientist Sir Isaac Newton stated: "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane (world, secular) history; I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily."*

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Matt 13:16-17 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

*I believe every person born is unknowingly missing a piece of themselves. Kind of like a 500 piece puzzle on the card table that is all put together except for a lost piece; without that missing piece it will never be complete and might as well be tossed.*

*We search for acceptance and love hoping to attain wholeness by finding our life partner, establishing a family or landing the right job. Despite realizing these incentives which are totally justifiable in living our lives, they remain nevertheless unable to totally complete us. That is because we're created with the desire to merge or be at-one with God which is only possible through a genuine connection with our Savior, the Creator. Christ made it clear when He said what the two most important commandments are:*

Mark 12: 29-31 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

*By doing what His important commandments ask of us is the beginning of the only relationship that can possibly complete us. We were made in the image and likeness of our Creator and I guess that makes us God-kind not human-kind. As brethren we are gaining a faithful bond with Christ and His Father through their Holy Spirit, that necessary component that leads each of us to the knowledge of His truth and which opens our minds to understanding.*

2 Tim 3:12-15 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*Growing up in the late 50's early 60's, 'God' was a part of everyday life. Kids were taught that God was in control and that we were under the protection of angels. I never*

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*doubted this was true. Everyone I knew, whether family or friend, religiously attended church on Sunday; that day of worship when no work was done within our household.*

*During my lifetime **Spirituality**, which is the practice of attaining 'higher consciousness' with a sense of peace and purpose, and **Humanism**, which advocates that one can live a morally responsible and fulfilling life without believing in God became new concepts which caused many to ditch 'old-time' religion which teaches God-worship.*

*I delved into 'Spirituality' for a good 25 years but I held onto my foundational Christ-connection. I was deceived in darkness and depended on my own understanding, never realizing how far I was from His truth until I was called in my early 50's. I am eternally grateful to the Father for the opportunity He affords me. There is no created thing that shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:39)*

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

1 John 4:17-19 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

*Outside of fellowship with brethren, the only time 'God' is brought into conversation these days occurs when someone uses the exclamation, "Oh My God!" While this expression is used in abundance, it began as a sincere religious invocation by people who had reverence for God but now has become a common phrase of surprise, anger or shock. How very sad that young kids use this expression in excess, without even a vague understanding of its spiritual context: possibly not knowing what the word 'God' even means.*

Gen 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

*What happened to teaching children the 10 Commandments, God's ideals or stories from the Bible? My Aunt Martha used to say to me when I was in high-school, "What's wrong with old-time religion? It's good enough for me! Why isn't it good enough for you?" I was involved in a Pentecostal group at that time. I was always searching for God outside of the Catholic Church and after I left home I even studied Hinduism and Buddhism. The one thing I hadn't studied ever was the Holy Bible. I did however love looking at the 'holy pictures' as a kid but never once read Scripture on my own until I was called.*

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Mark 5:17-19 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

*How many children these days are not being brought up with some basic understanding about God? Are they taught right from wrong? Do they have a moral compass? How many school shootings are done by kids? In many ways God's truth has become 'hidden treasure' to the masses, especially the world's youth.*

*People are offended by 'things of God' because His ways are politically opposing our world where 'wrong has become right' and 'right has become wrong'. Is it too hard to read the Bible? Is it too difficult to repent? As Paul would say, God forbid!*

Acts 26:15-18 "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

*Recent generations without God-basics are being brainwashed with theories of 'Evolution' while 'LGBTQ' has kids questioning their own gender identity and sexual orientation. I've spent time with teens and younger kids in the last couple of years and these kids are convinced that all animals, including humans, evolved from a single cell that came out of the ocean. I overheard a teen say to his younger brother, "The reason why we love the beach so much is because we came from the water and we feel like we are 'home' at the ocean!" Then I heard his 87 year old grandmother commenting on how smart these kids are and how she never once believed that God exists.*

*I know many from his grandmother's generation that follow Judeo-Christian traditions with no spiritual understanding. They are quite happy to keep it that way; nothing at stake and nothing to lose but little do they realize that deception has blinded them to the sad fact that they are in jeopardy of losing out on the opportunity of this lifetime and that is to receive God's promises.*

Matt 16:24-27 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

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*Christ came and saw how entrenched the teachers were in man-made traditions. He said that they looked the part but were far from being shepherds for God's people. The Pharisees and Sadducees talked the talk but weren't walking the walk. Yahshua stood toe to toe many times with these leaders, rebuking them for their corrupted ways and abuse of control. These scriptures sum it up:*

Matt 15:3 But He answered and said to them, why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matt 15:6b And you voided the commandment of God by your tradition. Hypocrites!

Matthew 23:27-29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

*After 100 years or so, 'The Way' which was established by Christ became corrupted. "Christianity became the new world's pagan system. The world accepted its new depth of understanding of pagan heritage of sun worship with its roots formed in Babylon, to its glorification through the Vatican with Sunday exalted as the day of the sun."*  
(ref: *Revelation: The visionary account of Things which thou HAS SEEN, Things which ARE, and the things which shall be HEREAFTER – Action of Belief Ministry*)

*Christianity changed the day of worship established by God from the 7<sup>th</sup> day to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, the pagan day for 'Sun worship' ergo Sunday. Most of the churches that reformed from Catholicism predominately continue to keep Sunday as the day of worship; they didn't reform back far enough! There are some exceptions: The Seventh-Day Adventists, Seventh-day Baptists and a few other small groups, but many of these churches do not follow God's holy days denoted in Leviticus 23 that clearly lays out His 'plan of salvation.'*

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

*Confucius say: "The man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake."*

*Judaism and Christianity, both self-made religions, intentionally changed God's truth. Satan deceiving the world starves followers in all corrupted religions. Knowledge abounds at our fingertips in this internet-age but God's truth is not high on the priority list. Most of what is found on the internet about God's truth is not His truth at all.*

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Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

*This world has been completely deceived; many refuse to believe that God or Satan truly exist. Satan's most valuable asset is that he is not taken seriously. No wonder he thinks he's got a shot at taking God's future Kingdom on earth! Not!*

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

*The youth of today are 'sifted like wheat' and taken in by Satan's lies. They are captivated by magic, witchcraft, wizardry, zombies, philosophy, legends of knights and intergalactic travel; not believing the scriptural account of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, or Christ's miracles and chalk them up as "bible fables." This ill-fated-generation has no clue that they are missing a piece, that God-connection. The repercussions of doom are inevitable. No wonder angels rejoice when a person does find God's truth in this broken world.*

Luke 5:10 "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Rom 1:17-20a For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, because the thing which may be known of God is clearly revealed within them, for God revealed it to them. For the unseen things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being realized by the things that are made...

*The Italian astronomer, mathematician and physicist, Galileo, whose observations revolutionized our view of the universe said, "When I reflect on so many profoundly marvelous things that persons have grasped, sought and done, I recognize even more clearly that human intelligence is a work of God, and one of the most excellent."*

*William Harvey discovered how the human circulatory system functions. His scientific studies led him to conclude: "We acknowledge God as the Supreme and Omnipotent Creator to be present in the production of all animals. All things are indeed contrived and ordered with singular providence, divine wisdom, and most admirable and incomprehensible skill."*

*These scientists from the past believed in the Creator and they gave glory to God for what they were given to know in their time. They knew that their findings were revealed to them in order to understand how everything was setup by the ultimate intelligence of the Creator. Today science has replaced God. The scripture continues...*

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Romans 1:20b-25 ...for them to be without excuse. Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves. For they changed the truth of God into a lie, and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

*Scientists today take all of the credit for new findings and give no glory to God as those men of the past did. Isaiah prophesied about people who honor Him with their lips but their hearts are far from Him. God established rules of engagement with His Law and He appointed a priesthood to lead the people but mankind thought he could devise a better plan than God's plan. Before long, God's people wanted a king and they were given kings but it wasn't going to work and God knows why. Humankind has impenitent hearts!*

Isaiah 29:13-16 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden." Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their works are in the dark; they say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?" Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Luke 18:8 "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

*Those in power don't always obey the rules and so often mislead others by holding back important information or worst yet, they change the rules. People see clergy abusing power and taking advantage of those they are supposed to be guiding. In the U.S. alone more than 6,000 priests have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse. In total the Catholic Church has paid more than \$3 billion to abuse survivors. The lawsuits continue to be filed in the thousands by people who had placed their trust in these ordained men. These abominations have caused many people to reject the very God these men represent.*

Rom 2:1-16 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and

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your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **For there is no partiality with God.** For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

*Christ will be judging all of humanity past, present, and future according to their works, their actions, how they obeyed the words of God, His laws, and His books (Bible) which will serve as the legal determination of one's eternal judgment. Why is this not taught in mainline churches?*

Rev 22:12-16a "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.

*"We've a Savior to show to the nations, Who the path of sorrow hath trod;  
That all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God.  
For the darkness shall turn to dawning and dawning to noonday bright;  
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light."*

*H. Ernest Nichol*

Matt 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 10:10b "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."



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Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

*His truth is the most valuable thing this world has to offer. Blessed are those that learn and do what He asks. He stands outside the door but we must have a longing for Him to come into us when He knocks.*

Proverb to Ponder

12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

Scriptures taken from NKJV unless otherwise noted\*

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