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1 Cor. 11:1-Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

1 Cor. 4:16-Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

Luke 1:3- it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus

2 Tim. 2:2-The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Acts 20:33-35-I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

1 Thess. 2:9-12-For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2 Sam. 12:14-However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.

Rom. 2:24-For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.

Philip. 1:21-For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1 Cor. 9:16-For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

Jer. 20:8-9-For each time I speak, I cry aloud; I proclaim violence and destruction, Because for me the word of the LORD has resulted In reproach and derision all day long. if I say, “I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,” Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding *it* in, And I cannot endure it.

Acts 20:26-27-Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Heb. 11:6-And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him

1 Pet. 2:23-and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

1 Pet. 4:19-Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

1 Cor. 13:1-3, 4-7, 13-If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,**5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 John 4:8-The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:16-have come to know and have believed the love which God has [a]for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Prov. 24:16-For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in *time of* calamity.

Heb. 12:2- fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 9:1-2-Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Acts 22:4-I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons.

1 Cor. 15:9-For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Tim. 1:13-even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

Acts 9:23-When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him.

2 Cor. 11:23-33-Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in [a]far more labors, in [b]far more imprisonments, [c]beaten times without number, often in danger of death. **24** Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. **26** *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; **27** *I have been* in labor and hardship, [d]through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and [e]exposure. **28** Apart from *such* [f]external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches. **29** Who is weak without my being weak? Who is [g]led into sin [h]without my intense concern? **30** If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. **31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, **33** and I was let down in a basket through a window [i]in the wall, and *so* escaped his hands.

1 Thess. 3:2-3-and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, **3** so that no one would be [a]disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

2 Cor. 1:6-But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

2 Cor. 12:10-Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with [a]insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Rom. 8:18-For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

11

Acts 16:1- Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

Acts 14:19-20-But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe

Ps. 34:19-Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Dan. 3:17- If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

Heb. 13:8-Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

12

John 15:18-21-**18** “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

John 16:33- These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

McGee-"Melvin Laird, long before he was Secretary of Defense, made a statement in San Francisco at a Republican convention. I do not know the circumstances which prompted the statement, but he said, 'In this world it is becoming more and more unpopular to be a Christian. Soon it may become dangerous.' We are seeing the accuracy of this statement. Real Christianity and real Christians are becoming very unpopular. "I am not really moved today when the press cries that there is no freedom

of the press. The bleeding-heart press has played that theme for all it's worth, but have they said anything about the fact that real Christianity is stifled by the press? When was the last time you read a sympathetic article of the biblical position? The media stifles news that presents real Christianity. If a fundamental preacher gets any publicity, it will be distorted and misrepresented. Of course, if a preacher gets on the wrong side of the law he will make the front page; but if he saves a group of people from going to hell he is ignored. Friend, we are moving into an orbit when Christians may have to pay a price to stand for the faith."

13

Matt. 13:19-When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

Constable-The wickedness of "evil people (men)," particularly charlatans ("imposters"), will increase as time passes ("proceed *from bad* to worse"). They will not only deceive others, but their sins and other deceivers will deceive them ("deceiving and being deceived") *increasingly*, too. Such is the perversity of sin.

Num. 6:24-26-“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”