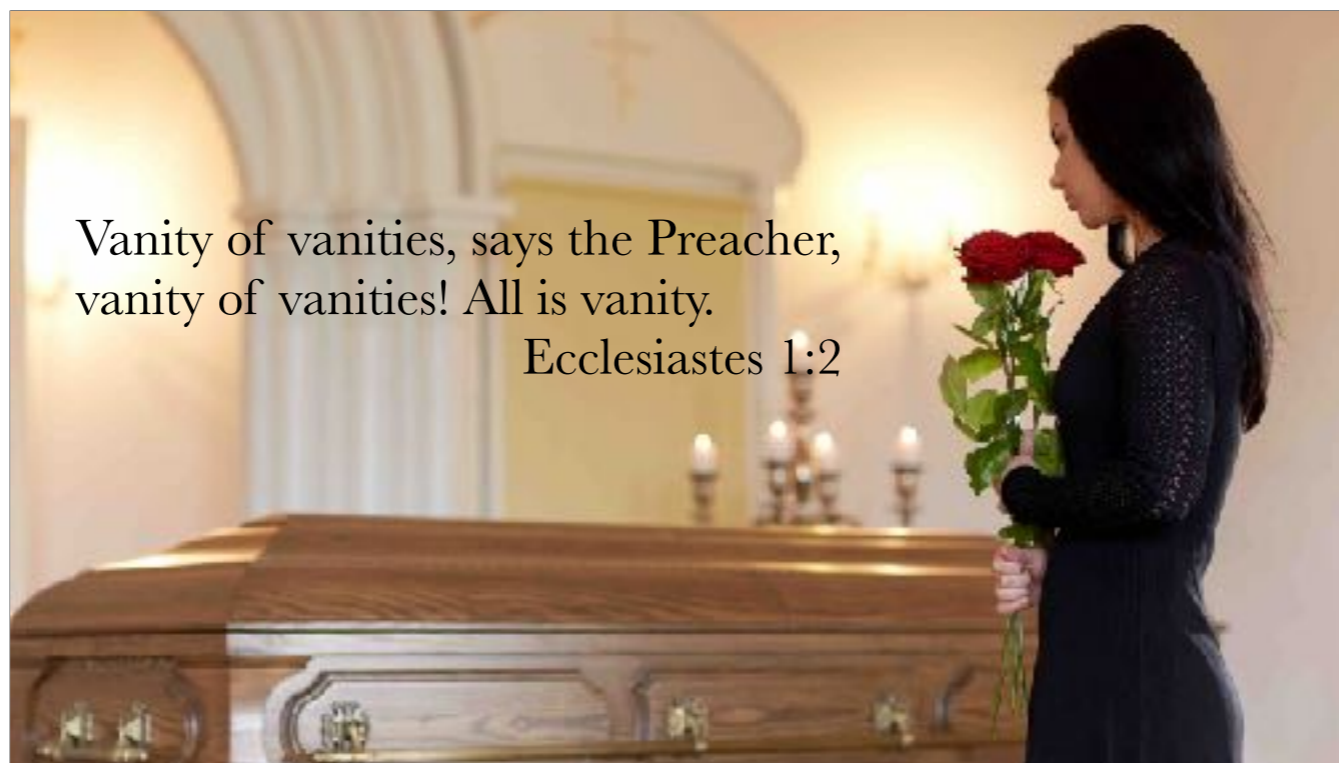


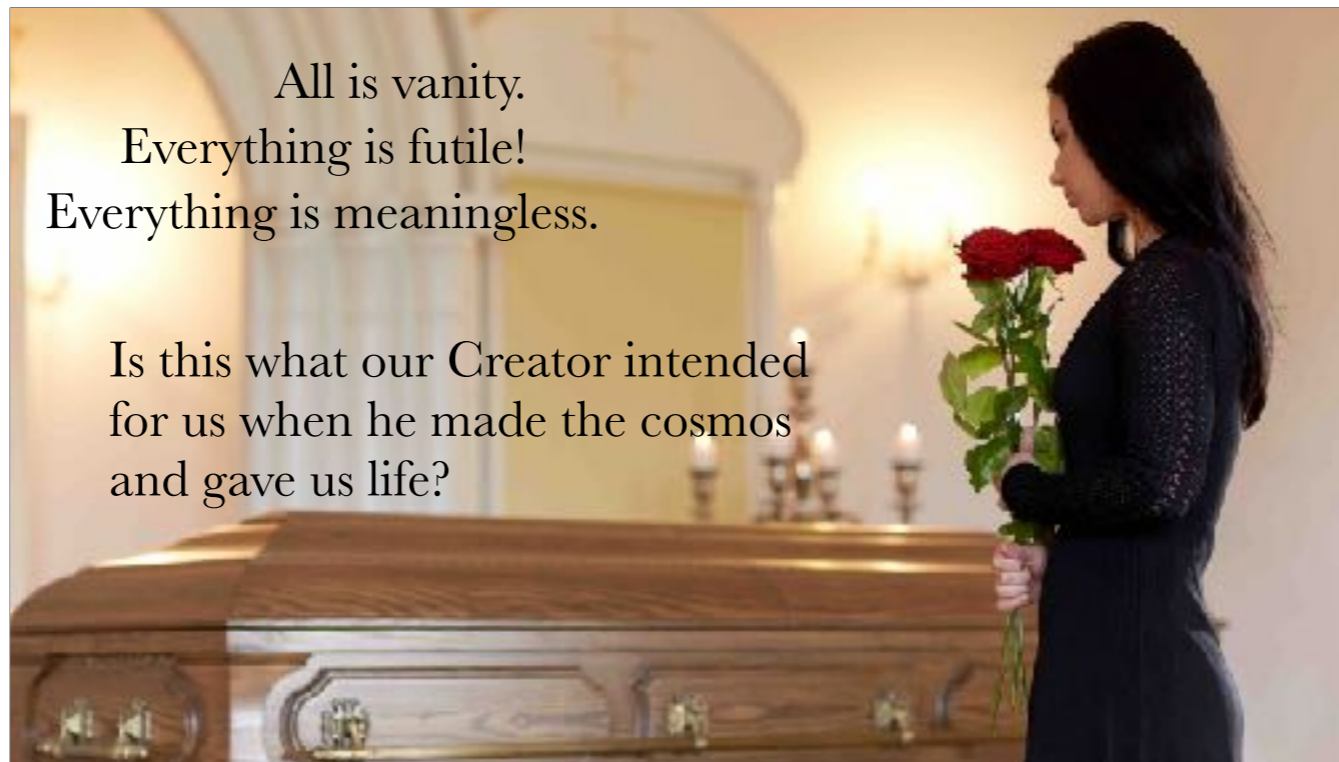


• Ecc. 1:2



Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
Ecclesiastes 1:2

- Ecclesiastes 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
- NET: “Futile! Futile!” laments the Teacher, “Absolutely futile! Everything is futile!”
- NIV: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”



All is vanity.
Everything is futile!
Everything is meaningless.

Is this what our Creator intended
for us when he made the cosmos
and gave us life?

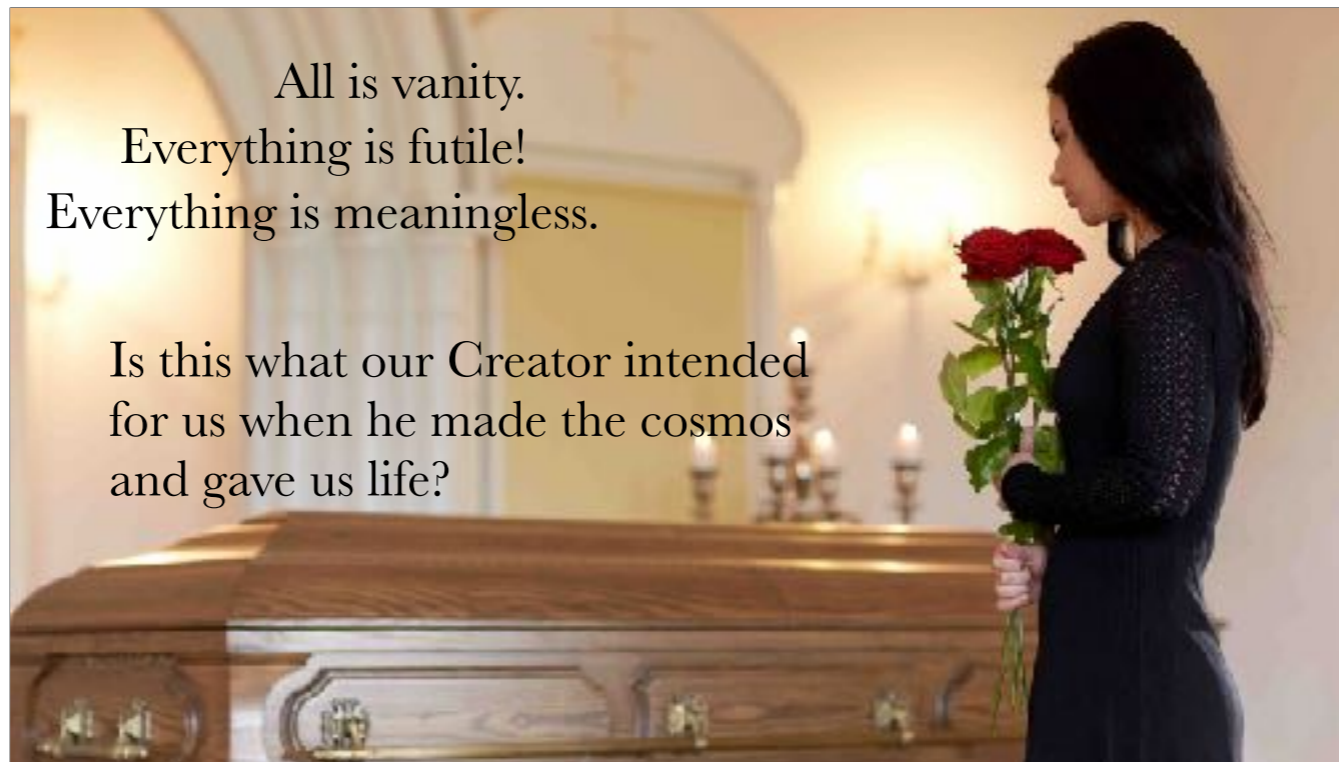
- Vanity, Futile, Meaningless
- Is this what our creator intended when he made the cosmos and gave us life?
 - The problem is not what Jehovah did in his creation.
 - Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
 - It's not about this physical world.
 - Yet too often we cling to this misconception and think of it first in our studies



All is vanity.
Everything is futile!
Everything is meaningless.

Is this what our Creator intended
for us when he made the cosmos
and gave us life?

- What is the source of this problem?
 - It's us.
 - It's us striving to live without God.
- The Preacher sought meaning in a variety of aspects of life.
 - Wisdom
 - Pleasure (not necessarily sinful things)
 - Toil
- He tried to understand the things that happen in life
 - Wickedness
 - Oppression
 - Death
 - Wealth
 - Honor

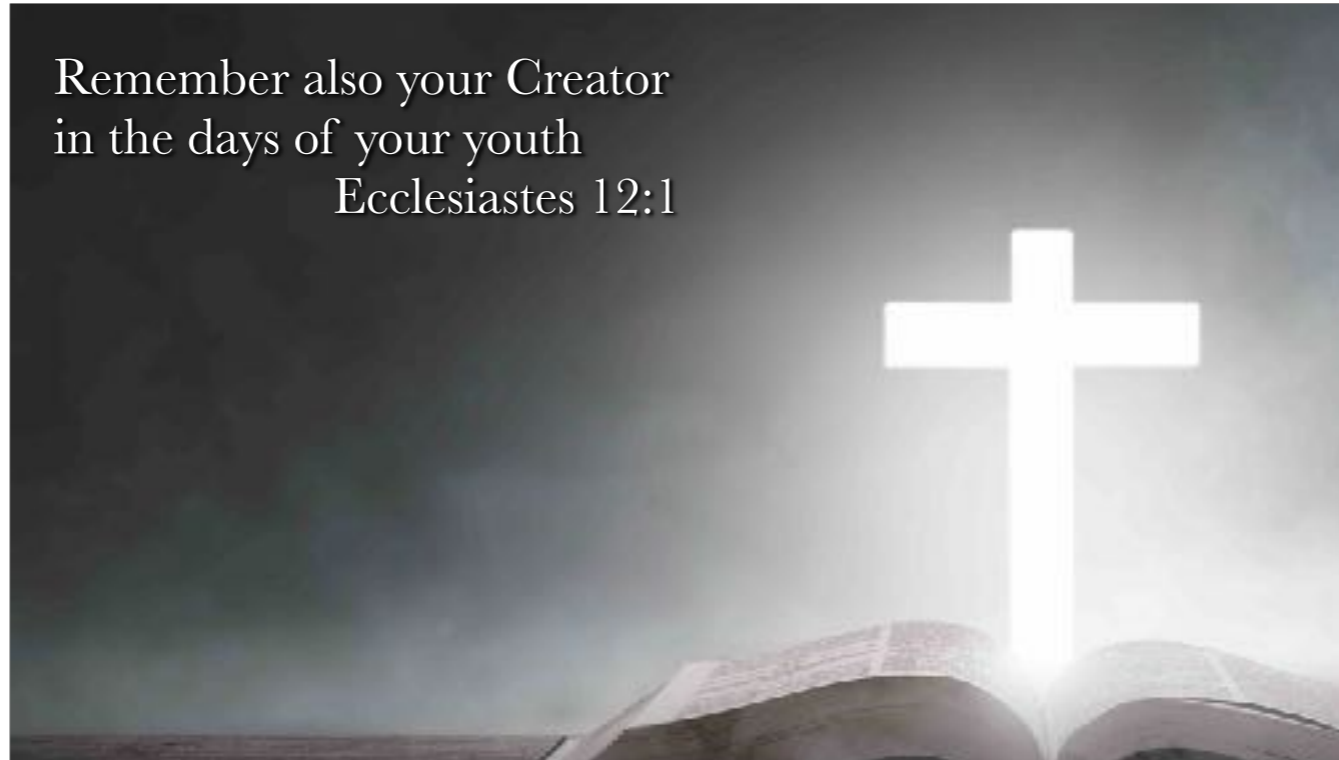


All is vanity.
Everything is futile!
Everything is meaningless.

Is this what our Creator intended
for us when he made the cosmos
and gave us life?

- Vanity, Futile, Meaningless

Remember also your Creator
in the days of your youth
Ecclesiastes 12:1



- Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;

Remember also your Creator
in the days of your youth
Ecclesiastes 12:1

The end of the matter; all has
been heard. Fear God and
keep his commandments, for
this is the whole duty of man.
Ecclesiastes 12:13



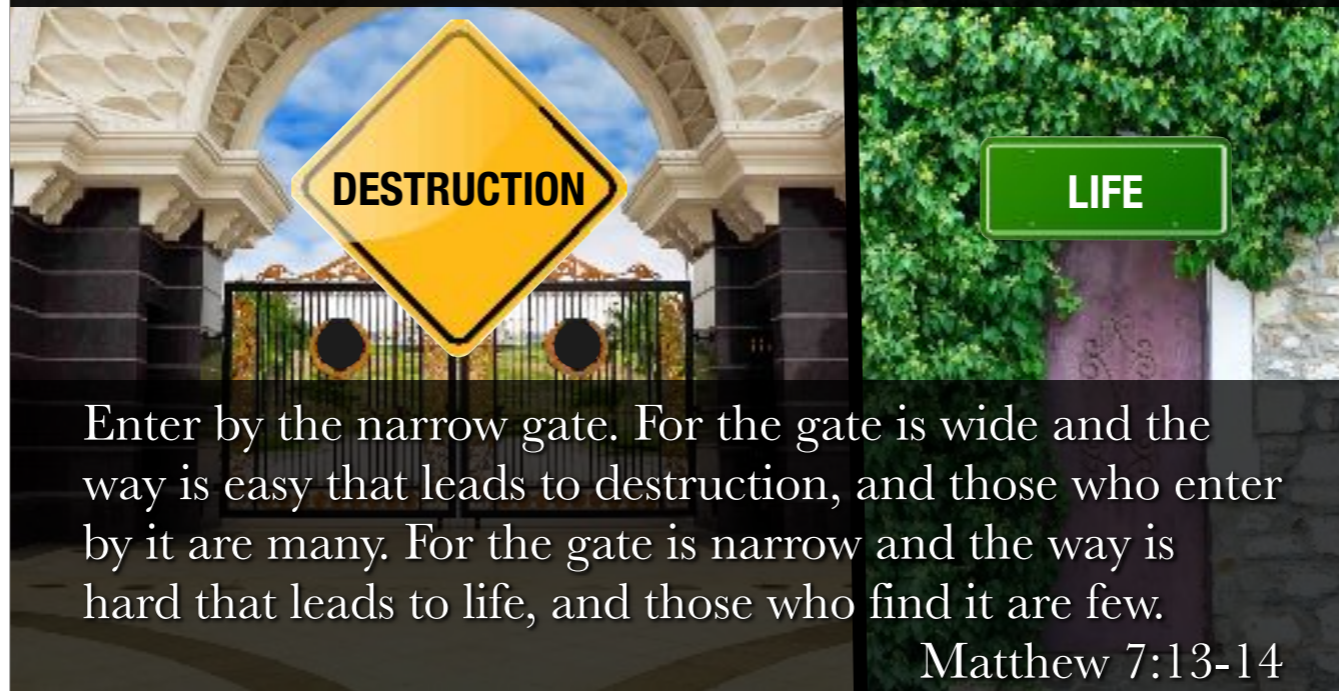
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 — The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

TWO GATES

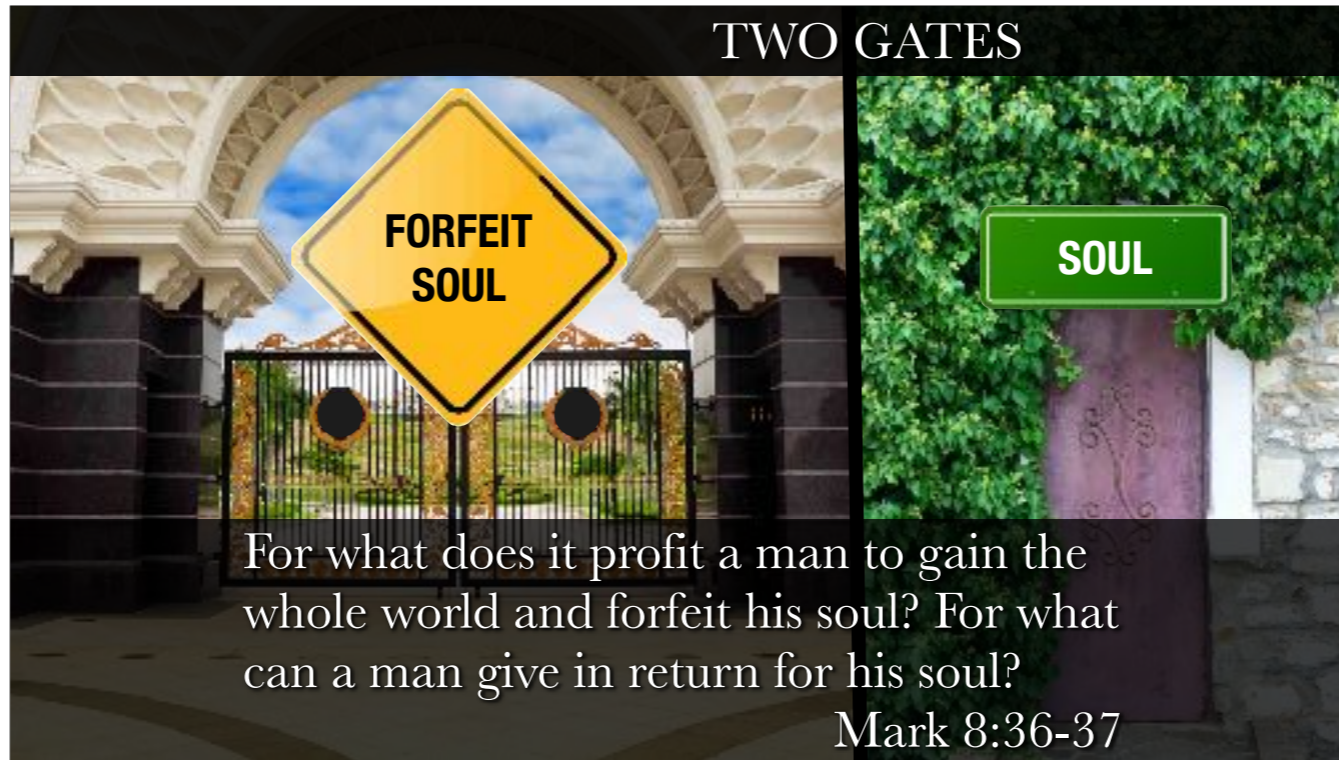


- Matthew 7:13-14 — “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

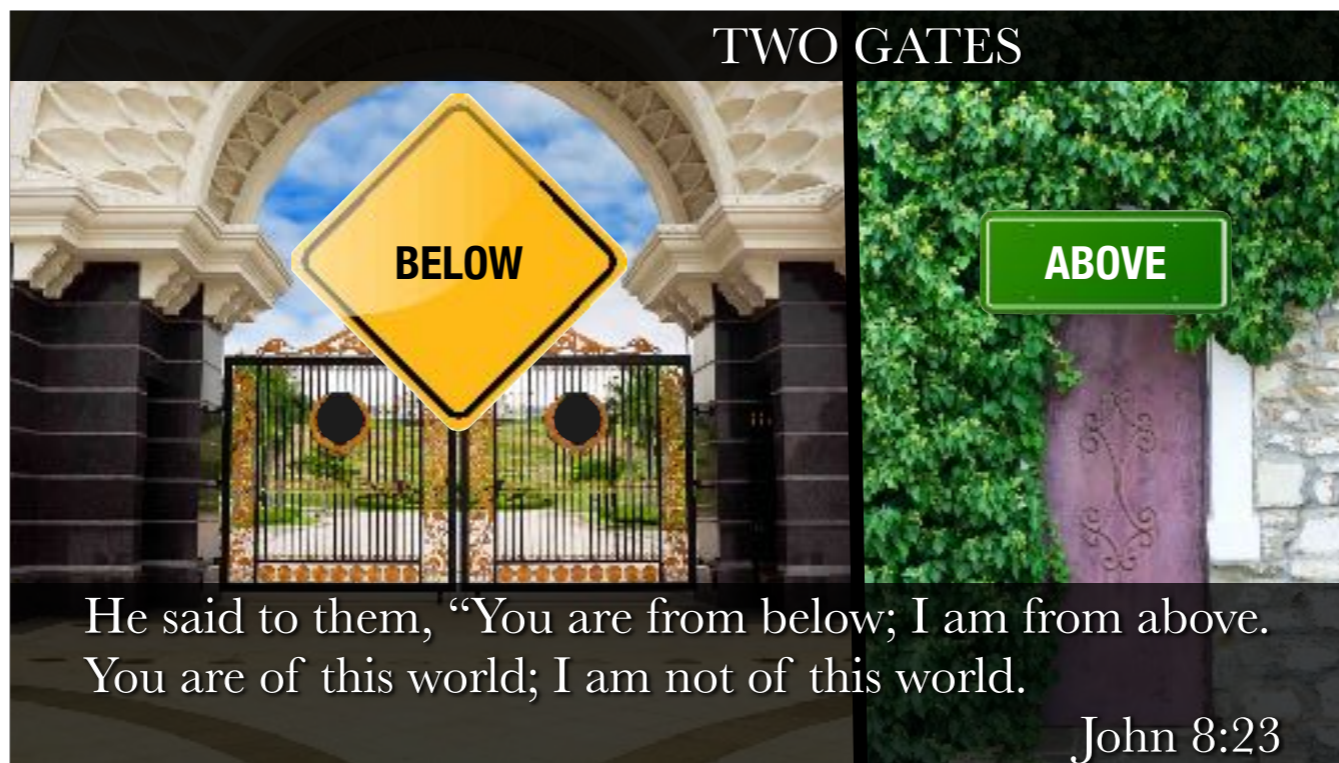
TWO GATES



- Matthew 7:13-14 — “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

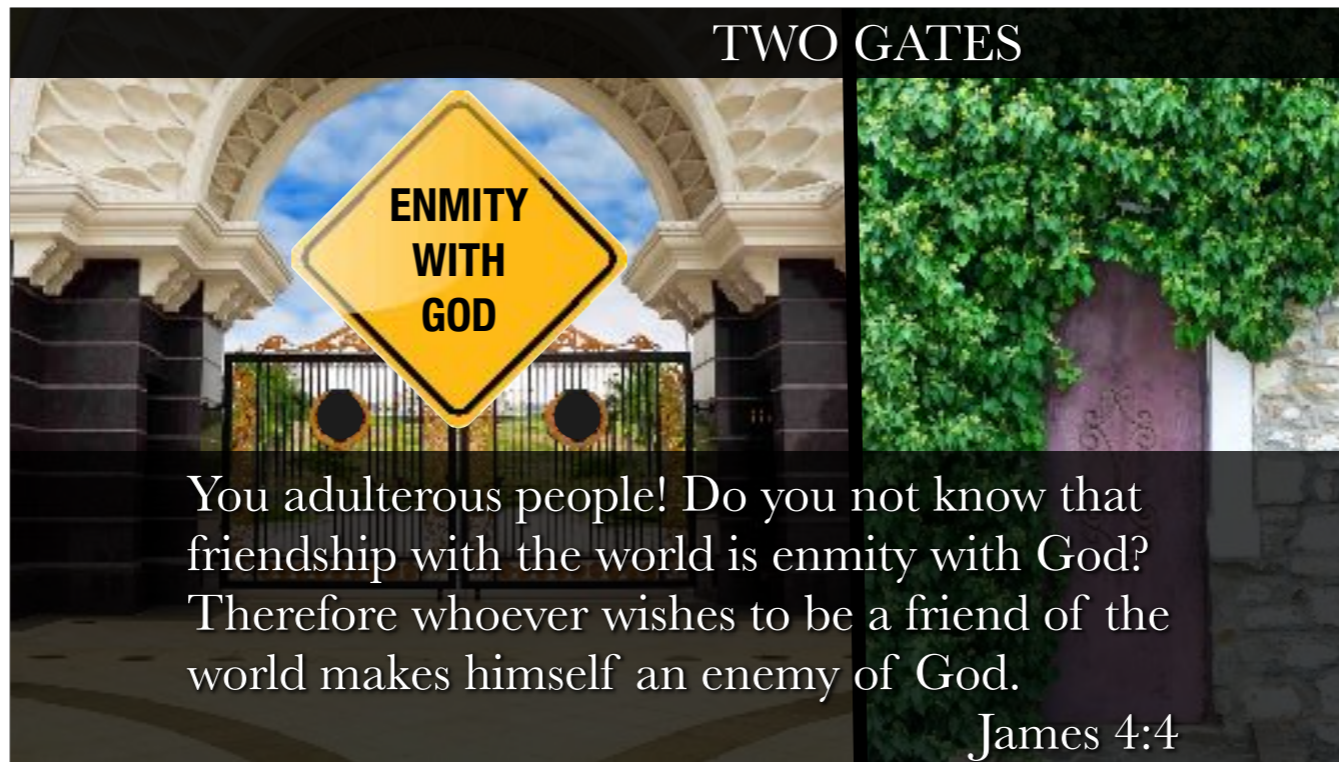


- Mark 8:36-37 — For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?



- John 8:23 (ESV)
- 23 He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

TWO GATES



ENMITY
WITH
GOD

You adulterous people! Do you not know that
friendship with the world is enmity with God?
Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the
world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4

• James 4:4 (ESV)

• 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.



- Repeatedly Jehovah tells us that we have two paths, two ways that we can follow
- One path that is from below, leads to destruction and the loss of our soul and we are enemies of God
 - We call this Path “the world”
- The other path is from above, leads to life and the saving of our souls
 - ... and by an implication, friendship with God

What Jehovah Says About The World



- What Jehovah says about the world

•

What Jehovah Says About The World



the whole world lies in
the power of the evil one.
1 John 5:19

- 1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- Note the continuing contrast: those who are from God, vs. the world
- Condition of the world
 - under the power of the evil one
- Sometimes we think that all the evil is just because humans are so bad
 - But there's a pervasive influence
- Thinking back to the garden
 - there is Satan influencing Eve to think differently
 - question Jehovah
 - discontentment (I want more)

What Jehovah Says About The World



from men of the world whose
portion is in this life.
You fill their womb with
treasure;
they are satisfied with
children,
and they leave their
abundance to their infants.
Psalms 17:14

- Psalms 17:13-14 (ESV)
 - 13 Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, 14 from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants.
- The men of this world have focused everything on this life
 - Treasure
 - Children
 - Inheritance
- And Solomon's conclusion ... Vanity, futility, meaningless

What Jehovah Says About The World



Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

- 1 John 2:15-17: Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

What Jehovah Says About The World



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1 John 2:15-17

- Do not love the world, or things in the world
 - (Reminder if necessary, not the physical world)
- We like to think we can have both
 - Love world & love Father are completely incompatible
 - The desires of flesh & eyes and the pride of life are of the world
 - They are not from the Father
 - It's interesting that John keeps using "Father", emphasizing relationship (not just rule)

What Jehovah Says About The World



And you were dead in the
trespasses and sins in which
you once walked, following
the course of this world,
following the prince of the
power of the air, the spirit
that is now at work in the
sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 2:1-2

- Ephesians 2:1-2 — And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

What Jehovah Says About The World



Do not be conformed
to this world
Romans 12:2

- Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

What Jehovah Says About The World



Now is the judgment of
this world; now will the
ruler of this world be
cast out.

John 12:31

- John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World



- What Jehovah says about overcoming the world

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

But far be it from me to
boast except in the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has
been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14



- Galatians 6:14 (ESV)
- 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

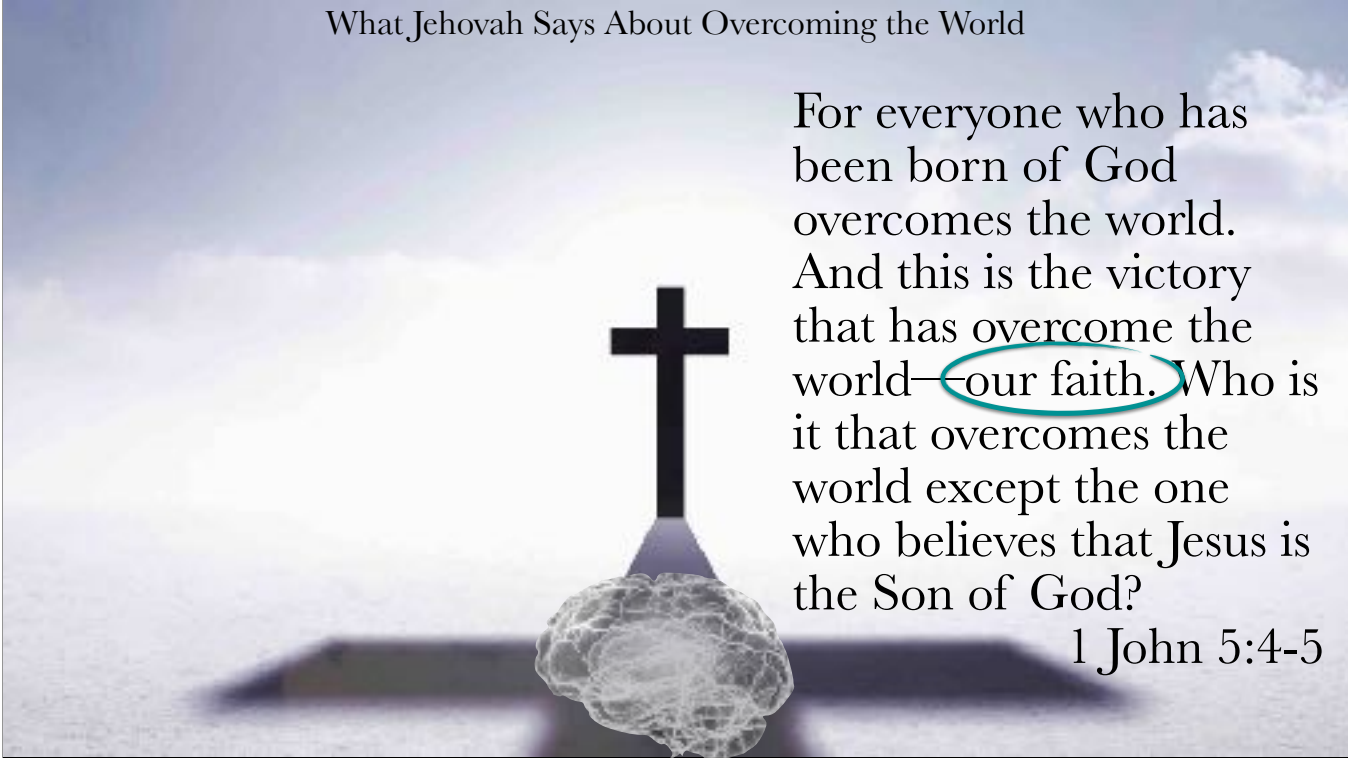
What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

- 1 John 5:4-5 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
- What is our victory? FAITH

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

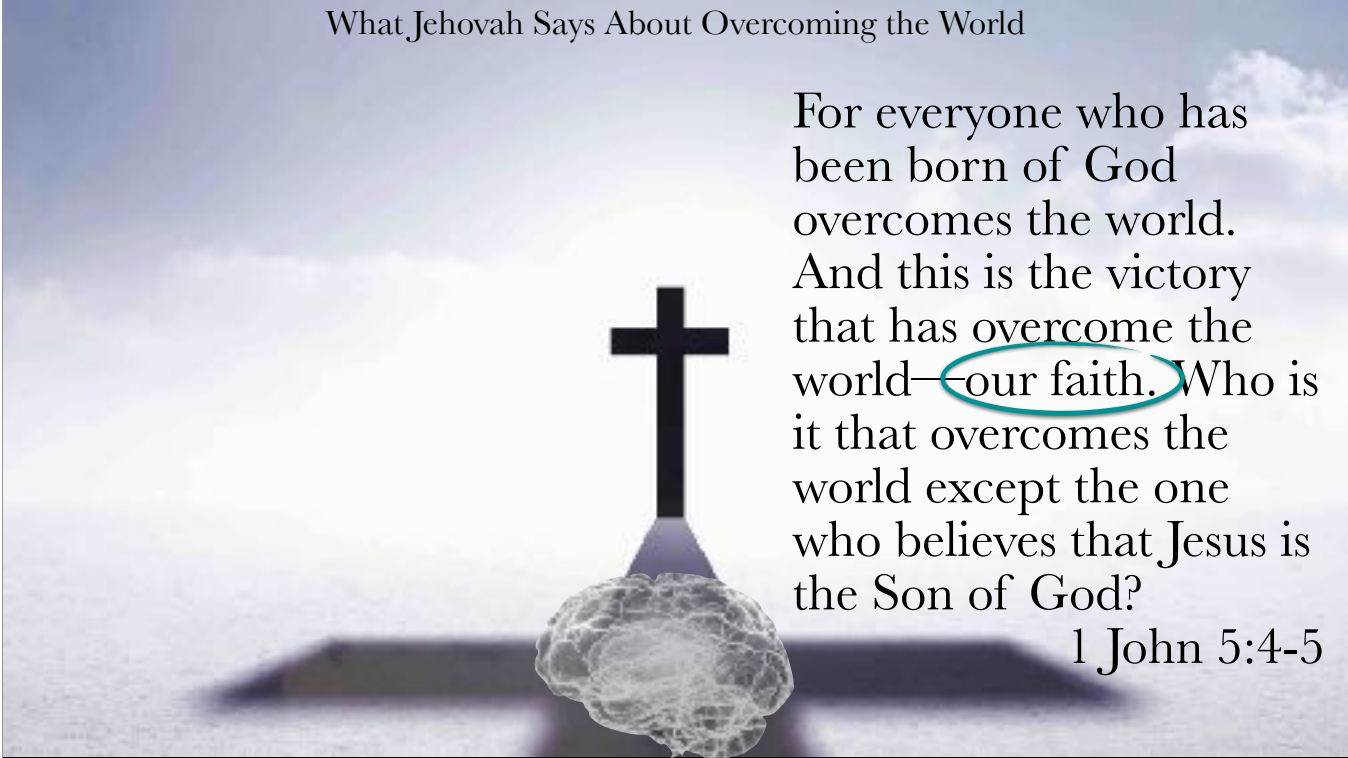


For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

- There's a lot of things he didn't say are the victory
- Perfect obedience (our works) by themselves ... there's no victory in that
 - Keep all the rules you want, but if you don't believe you won't overcome the world
 - The Pharisees fell into this trap and equated righteousness with perfect obedience — but instead they created their own righteousness and Jesus pronounced woe on them
 - Works without faith is meaningless too

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World



For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

- Worshipping God
 - Offer sacrifices — more and more
 - That's what Cain did.
 - But his was not accepted because there was no faith.
 - Engage in all the rituals — go to church, give, pray, read Bible, sing
 - Nope — this also is futility
 - Unless you believe
- It's faith that makes our service, our goodness, our righteousness and our worship meaningful
- And through it we have victory

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

For those whom he
foreknew he also
predestined to be
conformed to the image
of his Son

Romans 8:29



- Romans 8:29-30 (ESV)

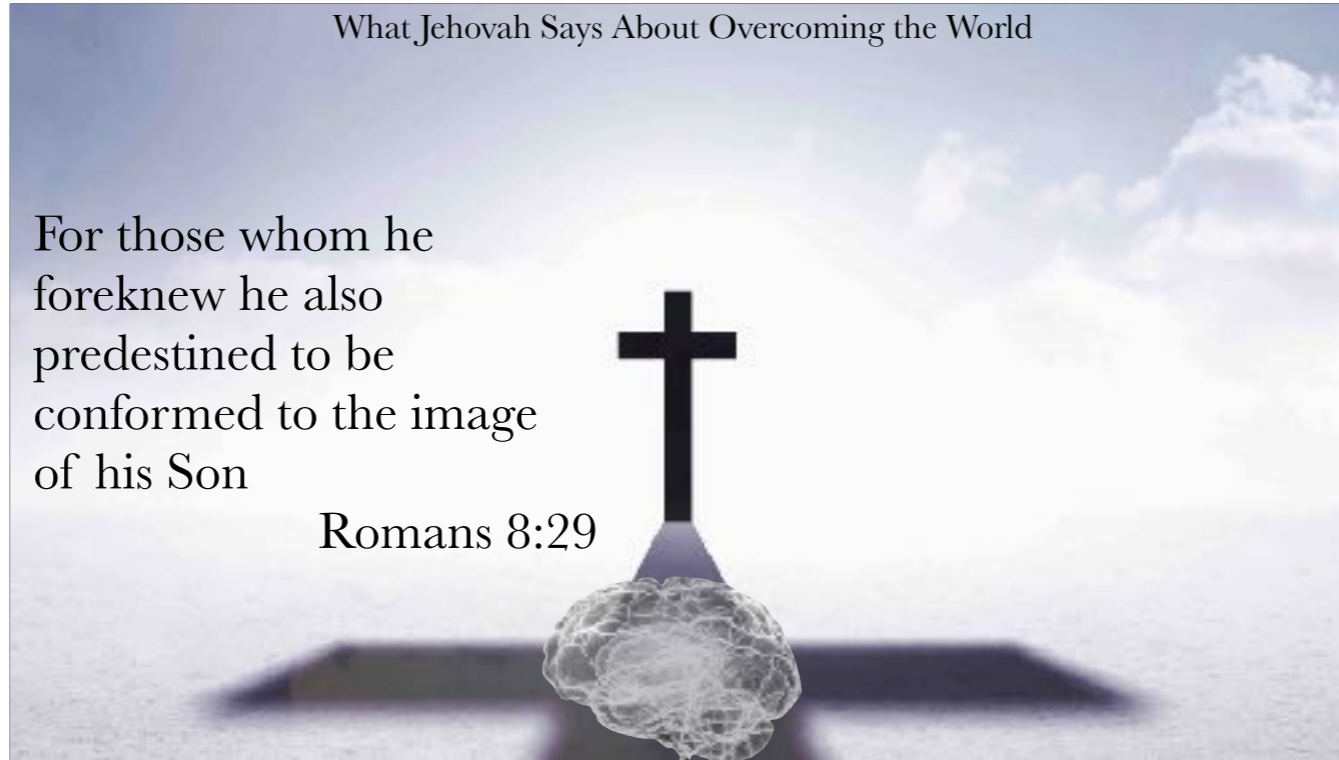
- 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- The world is crucified to us, because instead of conforming to the world we are conforming to Jesus.

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

For those whom he
foreknew he also
predestined to be
conformed to the image
of his Son

Romans 8:29



- That conforming is not just about what I do, for myself
 - He called
 - He justified
 - He glorified
 - Note the tense ... this happens when we unite with Christ in faith

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World

For those whom he
foreknew he also
predestined to be
conformed to the image
of his Son

Romans 8:29




And we all, with unveiled
face, beholding the glory
of the Lord, are being
transformed into the same
image from one degree of
glory to another. For this
comes from the Lord who
is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

• 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

- 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World



Do not be conformed to
this world, but be
transformed by the
renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may
discern what is the will of
God, what is good and
acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

- Romans 12:2 (ESV)

- 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



- Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)
- 9 Let love be genuine.
- Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.
- 10 Love one another with brotherly affection.
- Outdo one another in showing honor.
- 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
- 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
- 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- 16 Live in harmony with one another.
- Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.
- Never be wise in your own sight.
- 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

What Jehovah Says About Overcoming the World



Be Transformed!

Love	Contribute
Good	Hospitality
Brotherly Affection	Bless
Honor	Rejoice & Weep
Zeal	Live in Harmony
Spirit	Associate
Serve the Lord	Do Honorable
Hope	Live peaceably
Patient	Feed enemy
Prayer	Overcome evil with Good

- Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)
- Love, Good, Brotherly Affection, Honor
- Zeal, Spirit, Serve, Hope, Patient
- Prayer, Contribute, Hospitality
- Bless, Rejoice & Weep, Live in Harmony
- Associate with lowly, Do honorable
- Live peaceably, Feed enemy
- 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS
LEADS HOME

Come, take up the cross, and follow Me.

Mark 10:21

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Overcoming the World

1 John 5:4-5

Synopsis: The way of the world is vanity, and yet pervasive. In this lesson we are reminded that there are only two ways and that the consequences of continuing to follow in the ways of the world will lead to destruction and the loss of our souls. But through the cross of Jesus, we can be crucified to the world and have victory by our faith, confirming to the image of Jesus. (Adapted from The Cross by Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”