

Where were YOU that day?

On a clear Tuesday Morning

Sept. 11, 2001 @ 8:46 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 11, Boeing 767 w/ 20,000 gals jet fuel

... with 92 souls aboard





Lesson Author's Theme

Jesus' resurrection empowers believers for holy living

1 Peter

13-16 Obedient – Set Your Minds, Conform Not, Be Holy

17-21 Reverent – Revere in Fear, Redeemed by Christ

22-25 Compassionate – Love Purely ... Imperishable Seed





To Be Holy in Unholy Times Not for the Faint of Heart



Law of the Jungle

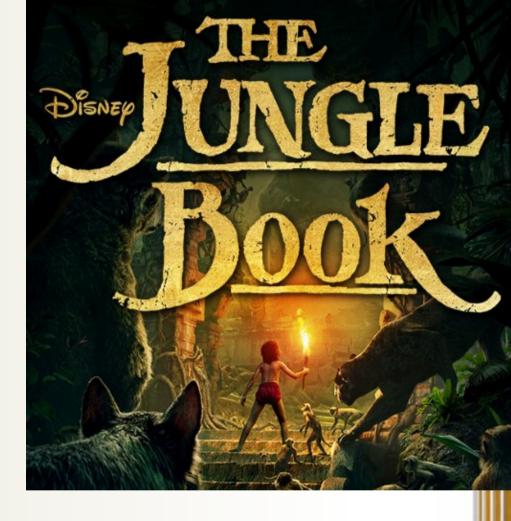
The wolves teach their young:

NOW this is the law of the jungle, as old and as true as the sky.

And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf that shall break it must die....

The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.

The strength of the CHURCH is the Christian, and the strength of the Christian is the Church.

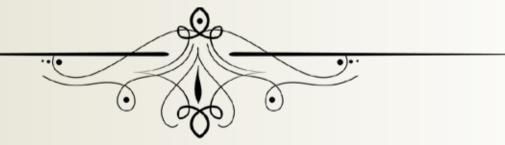


Heart of BOTH is Love

Key Verse 1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other,

love one another deeply, from the heart.





Holy, holy, holy

Our God is ... and asks us to be The more one reads the Bible, the harder it gets—so it seems

The higher the standard grows

Jesus—the pinnacle ... gets higher and higher

15 years ago ... Sept. 11, 2001

Evil paid us a visit . . .

Where were YOU that day?

Sometimes, it's HARD to be holy



13 Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ., KJV & ASV

We begin with "Therefore" = "for this reason"

That is, based upon the previous 12 verses & their HEART

Based upon our Salvation, secured by God's power

- ✓ based upon the Church that God foreknew ...
- ✓ that was made possible by the Resurrection of Christ
- ✓ a salvation that will be our inheritance when Christ returns
- ✓ that the prophets and angels desired to look into

God gave us a Living Hope ... Therefore, upon that Hope



¹³ Therefore, *GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND*, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ., KJV & ASV

HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible of the Quarterly) 13, Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be serious and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible 13, Wherefore, having the loins of your mind girt up, being sober, trust perfectly in the grace which is offered you in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

NIV 13, Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. as you know, NIV is my preference most of the time

Message Bible 13, So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives.



¹³ Therefore, <u>GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND</u>, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ. KJV & ASV

"gird up the loins" – is common language used as a metaphor Exodus 12:11, Israel was to eat the Passover with "your loins girded ... sandals on feet ... staff in hand ... eat in haste." Luke 12 starts off warning to NOT fear those who can kill the body, but, rather, fear God who "has authority to throw you into hell." After a parable of the rich man who stores up only to die, Luke 12:35-36, "Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning," like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet ... when he knocks they can immediately open the door."

¹³ Therefore, *GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND*, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ. KJV & ASV

Gird your loins . . . Keep your lamps burning

Maness Loose-Leaf translation: Lace up the Boots of your Mind

For the Master may return at any moment ...

We have a Living Hope ... with multiple layers

AND we should focus on ONE element above all

The "GRACE" that comes when Christ comes . . .

Today, as evil infects the world ... even this day,

even 15 years later ...



Where were YOU that day?

Especially hard to be HOLY when you are STRONGER than an evil enemy!

On a clear Tuesday Morning

Sept. 11, 2001 @ 8:46 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 11, Boeing 767 w/ 20,000 gals jet fuel

... with 92 souls aboard



Where were you?

8:46 Flt 11 *crashed* into 80th flr of WTC2, North Tower of the World Trade Center

@ 9:03 UA Flt 175 hit WTC1, the South Tower

@ 9:37 AA Flt 77 hit the Pentagon

@ 10:03 UA Flt 93 ... Passenger Heroes died as they took over the plane



Where were you?

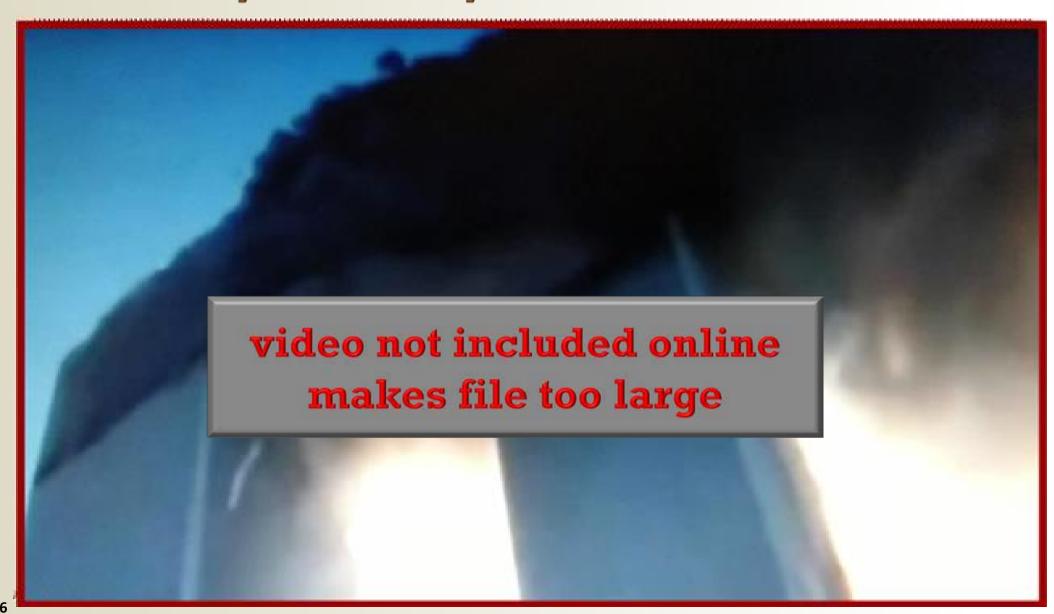
@ 9:59 ... WTC1 South Tower collapsed

@ 10:28 ... WTC2 North Tower collapsed





Where were you that day? - 55 second Video



Where were you that day?

Afterward . . . a f t e r w a r d

We LINKED Terrorist Attacks to al-Qaeda

Killed 2,996 people ... over 6,000 injured

Caused \$10 billion in property damage causing \$3 trillion in total costs

Osama bin Laden became Most Wanted in world history

To our U.S. Congress & the world, President Bush promised **ACTION**

Our World CHANGED



Where were you?

Our World CHANGED

One of the most famous photos became Firemen RAISING our Flag

We were ONE color - DUST colored

You could NOT stop us NOW!

We

WILL

Respond!





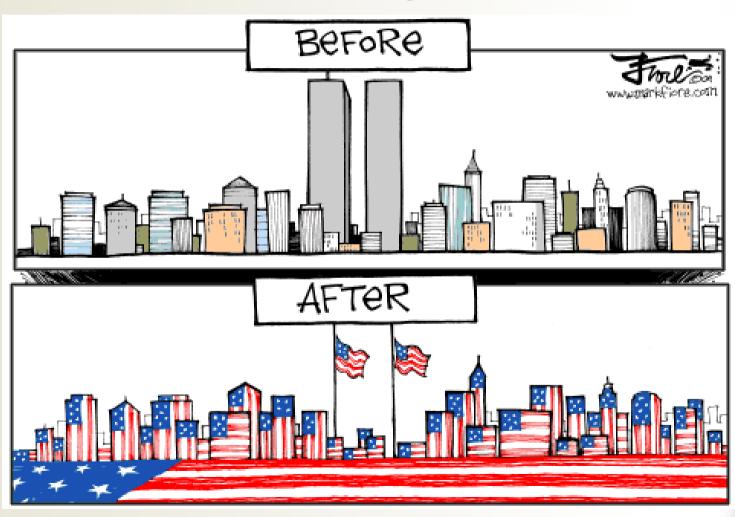
Where were you?

Across our beloved land ... Patriotism spread

One musician after another

Song and ballad after another

For a time, we were as united as we ever were



¹³ Therefore, *GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND*, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ. KJV & ASV

Gird up the loins of your mind ... with minds READY for action ... With the BOOTS of your mind LACED UP set your Living Hope on GRACE . . . Can it be clearer?

Grace is unmerited favor, a gift ... through unmerited favor, God GAVE salvation that will be REVEALED when He comes.

Can it be clearer? – in Girding, we have responsibility in our Hope

Clearly – we are, you and I are ... to be READY for action, sober

ARE you ready for action?



Gird up for what? Minds ready for WHAT action?

SET and fix OUR HOPE on the grace-given salvation ...

Yeah ... that's easy for YOU to say, SAINT Peter

You don't know what I am facing ... the trouble I know

How does one do that? ... "Gird one's mind"?

WHAT ACTION? What are the benefits of doing that?

What happens if I fail? or what happens WHEN I fail?

Next verse please ...



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

15-16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

How does we "Gird their minds" and ready themselves?

THE ACTION ... is to

- 1. NOT Conform ... to old evil desires
- 2. BE Holy . . .

Two sides of the same coin ... we have to do BOTH

That is, we strive to Not Conform and Be Holy be God is Holy
I suspect there's one or two here GOOD at "not conforming"



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

15-16 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Please ... look at these again

First, in verse 13: "gird your mind" ... SET your mind on HOPE

We STRENGTHEN our HOPE by **OBEDIENCE**

Seeing the "BE HOLY" to be the HARDER ... Peter ADDs more:

Be HOLY for TWO Reasons

1. Because God Asks ... and, 2. Because God Himself is Holy

Holy, Holy – okay, why not just ask

me to **MOVE** a mountain

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

We could be tempted to leave it here ...

"Be Holy" ... enough said ... have a good day

OBEDIENCE: Perfect Obedience IS Perfect Holiness

Yet, for those of us on earth ... and that read the Bible ...

NOT EASY

Remember our talk on Free Will ... well, here's the hard part

We ARE somehow responsible this side of heaven ... and Peter even goes further in the rest of his precious book



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Outside of EVIL and facing EVIL ... there are disgusting things Hard things to face ...

It's hard to be "holy" to those who have NO IDEA

In my traffic over the years, like in Facebook, I run into people who try to hold ME HOSTAGE to my own Christianity—THEIR view of it

That is, because I am Christian, I SHOULD SHUT MY MOUTH

How DARE I say something BAD about someone ... or anyone

THEIR view of what I SHOULD BE ... I should be SILENT

Worse ... there MIGHT be times when THEY ARE RIGHT



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holy, holy, holy ... divine words we KNOW apply to God

But to you and me ... well, let me ask ...

Let point my finger at YOU . . .

How HOLY are YOU?

That is easy ... easy, easy, easy ...

The pastor COULD ...

That Music Minister COULD ...

That Sunday School teacher ... BLAH



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holy, holy, holy ... divine words we KNOW apply to God

How many fingers are pointing back?

For those of us who have been around just a *little* while ...

Some of this IS BORING ...

Your finger pointed at ME ... does not really bother me that much ...

UNLESS ... oh, here it gets juicy ...

Next slide pleeeeazzze



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holy, holy, holy ... divine words we KNOW apply to God

Now see those "Evil Desires"

In our Daily Ledger, give an account

Do a study ... Tally your Win/Loss Ratio

Check off your COMPLIANCE List

Good Girl ... Good Boy ...

You're UP 3 Today

Juicy? ... naahh ... Juice is turning sour FAST!



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holy, holy, holy ... divine words we KNOW apply to God

Your finger pointed at ME ... does not really bother me that much ...

DAH juice please ...

Does not BOTHER ME, ME, ME ...

- Unless I want your VOTE
- Unless I want your SALE

➤ Unless I want your MONEY-Money-money ...

Then, YOUR VIEW of me matters to ME-Me-Meee



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Holy, holy, holy ... divine words we **KNOW** apply to God Then God goes and ASKS US ... asks you and me to be HOLY

What is HOLY?

When we get serious about it ... Who Is Holy?

Jesus ... that's all folks.

So ... is Peter asking us to do the IMPOSSIBLE?

Yes and no ... it IS impossible to be Jesus this side of heaven But do NOT miss what Peter has been saying ...



¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires ... be holy ... it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Don't MISS what Peter has been saying ...

Our Inheritance IS-IS-IS!! a GOD-protected Salvation ... truly

Our Living Hope ... is in a HOLINESS to come with Christ

Still, Peter reminds us that here, on earth, even TODAY ...

Be Holy

What does that mean . . . It means TRY . . . It means WORK

It means to TRY-try to be Holy ... with a LIVING HOPE

Holy – one thing about LIVING everyone knows

Apostle Paul said it eloquently in a few of those sublime verses we've been referring to in *Philippians 3:10-14*

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

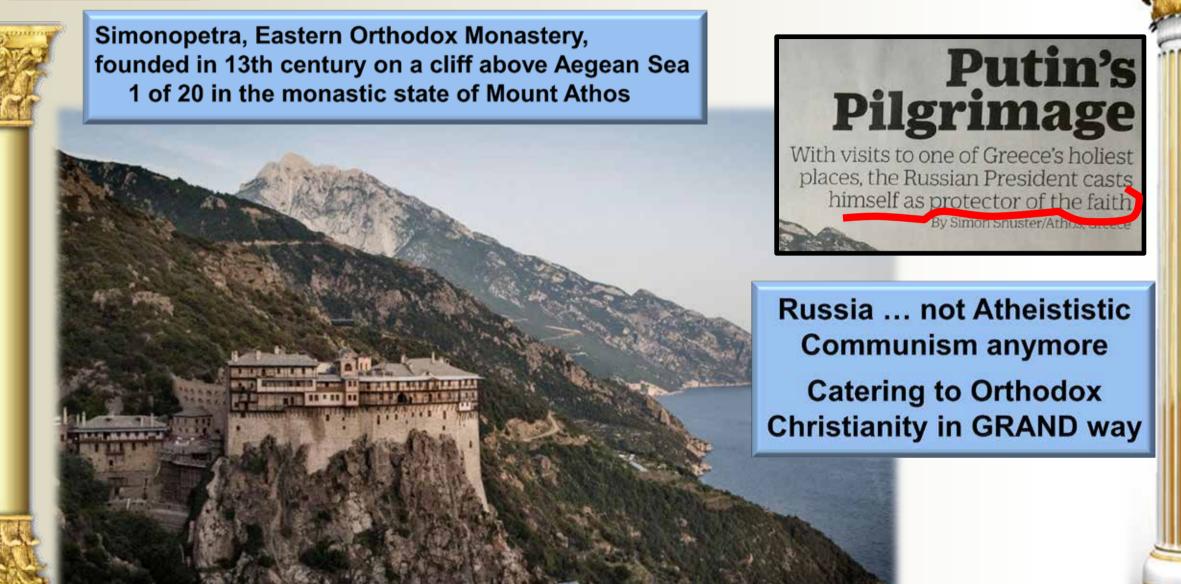
- Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me....
- But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

So then ... TODAY ..., WHO IS HOLY?





magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster





magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster

Patriarch Kirill of Russian Orthodox Church before a reliquary, bejeweled box w/ holy relic In main church St. Panteleimon, Mt. Athos



Monks walking at Greek Monastery of Vatopedi on Mount Athos, Greece





magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster



5x size of Manhattan - 20 Monasteries

For the last 1,000 years, governed by a council of Orthodox monks

Greek constitution guarantees "ancient privileged status" of selfgovernance

Rules strictly enforced:
No women are permitted to visit

Female animals banned, with the occasional exception of cats and songbirds too difficult to keep off



Men not baptized into the Orthodox faith are discouraged from even visiting

Really—not my idea of "HOLY"

I mean, who does the cooking?

TIME

magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster



i.e., Protestants are in the MINORITY in Europe



magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster

Now, President Putin of Russia has gone on "pilgrimage" – to help to show his "devotion"

- **ü** He REGAINS favor w/ Russian People
- **ü** Putin arranged for Orthodox Patriarch to visit Catholic Pope for 1st time since two churches split in A.D. 1054
- **ü** Billionaires are funding renovations
- **ü** At Putin's request, respected priest takes relic on tour of Russia, a belt woven of camel hair by Virgin Mary
- **ü** 3,000,000 bowed and prayed before it, the first one being President Putin!



Politics and Church ... hmmm

Can ex-KGB President be HOLY?

Is catering to Kremlin HOLY?

Aaah ... I mean ...

Holy Politics Batman!



magazine—"Putin's Pilgrimage," this week, 9-12-16, by Simon Shuster

Then . . . to make matters MUCH worse!

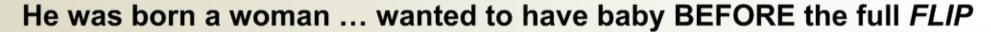
In this same TIME magazine ...

On the NEXT page after Holy Mt. Athos

A two-page PHOTO spread w/ article

Of a Bearded, HAIRY MAN ...

Yeah—HE is Breast-Feeding his first child!



So in TIME magazine ... We go from the Holy Mt. Athos DIRECTLY to Bearded hairy Man-Lady Breast-Feeding ...

Whew ... maybe Russia will protest the proximity ...

Worse, all I'm thinking is HOLY COW Batman?

Dat Not Mooooraculous



Not Holy

We are inundated with the NOT HOLY

And you KNOW . . . we all KNOW . . .

TIME magazine KNEW what they were doing

No mistake there . . . the editors of TIME very clearly . . .

CONTRASTED Russia's Holiest with America's "profane progress"

"PROGRESS" defined by the liberal anti-Christian, often atheist

I almost cancelled my subscription ... perhaps I should

Yet, I would have NEVER seen Mt. Athos otherwise ...





Be Holy

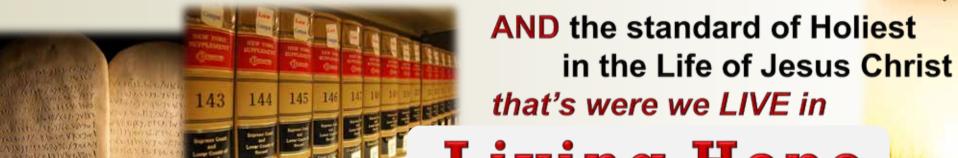
try to be Holy ... with a LIVING HOPE

Not merely about obeying the Law ... Mosaic Law or Law of Land

Obeying the law is a given ... unless, as Nero did, making law

demanding that you reject God

BETWEEN the Law of Moses and Law of our Land



Living Hope

try to be Holy ... with a LIVING HOPE

Moreover, because of the N.T. Word and high Standard of Christ

We are FREE to **DO MORE** than is required under the Mosaic Law and the Law of our Land

We are even REQUIRED to do more ... in \mathbf{Love}

More than compliance, hardest part of Holiest is \mathbf{LOVE}



Be Holy

try to be Holy ... with a LIVING HOPE

Marvelously ... as in 1 & 2 Peter ... in the N.T. ... especially in the words of Christ ...

We have a LOT of guidance ... less LAW ... LOT of PRINCIPLES

A LOT of responsibility from which to CHOOSE ...

"Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God ..."

"Love God with all your heart, soul ..."

"Love others as yourself ..."

Golden Rule: Do unto others as you'd have them do to you!



Dah Holiness Matrix

Pharisees

Dah LAW—Do & Do Not

Love God

Don't Murder

Don't Steal

Don't Lie, Cheat

Wash Here & There

Go to Synagogue

Give to Synagogue

Pray Beating Chest on Corner

Jesus

Dah Law—plus LOVE

Peace

Forbearance

Kindness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

Give to Samaritan

Pray in secret



Be Holy

try to be Holy ... with a LIVING HOPE

- Now ... can a Police Officer be a Christian?
- Can an Army Combat Soldier be a Christian?
- ❖ Is LETHAL force to protect your family & country HOLY?
- **❖ Was David's premeditated murder of innocent foreigners HOLY?**
- Is drinking wine like Jesus did Holy today?

Taking a piece of Hebrews 11:32 WAY OUT CONTEXT,

"I do NOT HAVE TIME to tell you about" ... so much more ...

But I do have a GREAT example ...



TRY to be Holy with a LIVING HOPE

Mother Teresa (1910-97)...
now Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Born in Kosovo, died in Kolkata, India

Gave her ENTIRE life to helping the POOREST of the world . . .

She said

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

I see God in every human being.

When I wash a leper's wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience.



TRY to be Holy with a LIVING HOPE

Mother Teresa also said,

At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me,

she's right

I was homeless and you took me in.

MOST will NOT opt for a monastery ...

we ALL know MOST will NOT GIVE their life for the poor ...

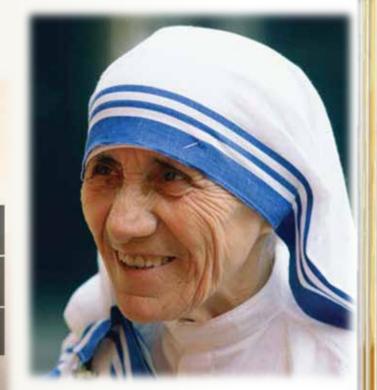


TRY to be Holy with a LIVING HOPE

One my favorites, Mother Teresa said,

I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.

Mother Teresa



Oh yeah, she is so right

17-21 Reverent – Revere in Fear, Redeemed by Blood of Christ

How now shall we live? Peter tells us clearly . . . savor these jewels . . . the REST of our lesson

^{1 Peter 1:17} Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

As you TRY to be HOLY ... in your Living Hope ...

Remember, this is not your home ... you're just visiting

Moreover, your neighbor OR your enemy will NOT judge you ... next jewel please ...

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ For you KNOW that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

17-21 Reverent – Revere in Fear, Redeemed by Blood of Christ

Not Gold ... or \$400 million dollars ...

But with Precious Blood of Christ that redeemed you ... AND

²⁰ He—Jesus—was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

REVEALED in the 1st Century for OUR sake ...

²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Through who? Jesus Christ ... we believe ... who God RAISED All so that our Faith and Hope are in God ...

How NOW shall we then live?

Last jewel of the lesson ... so practical



22-25 Compassionate – Love Purely ... Imperishable Seed

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

In the Jungle ... where we live ... remember

The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack.

The strength of the CHURCH is the Christian, and the strength of the Christian is the Church.

Heart of both is Love

love one another deeply, from the heart.



22-25 Compassionate – Love Purely ... Imperishable Seed

Love ... I know that is a hard word, sometimes MUCH harder than "Be Holy"!

Peter knows, too, so he closes,

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

²⁴⁻²⁵ For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Love ... because you have ETERNAL LIFE ...

Love ... because you Never Perish



Love ... Love is a very hard word

Especially in the JUNGLE ...

Where were YOU on that very clear Tuesday Morning

Sept. 11, 2001 @ 8:46 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 11, Boeing 767 w/ 20,000 gals jet fuel

... with 92 souls aboard

Yes, and YES again ... listen to 1 Peter 1:22 love one another deeply, from the heart.



by Alan Jackson, first released 11-7-01

Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?

Were you in the yard with your wife and children, Or working on some stage in L.A.?

Did you stand there in shock at the sight of that black smoke Risin' against that blue sky?

Did you shout out in anger, in fear for your neighbor ... Or did you just sit down and cry?



by Alan Jackson, first released 11-7-01

Did you weep for the children who lost their dear loved ones, And pray for the ones who don't know? Did you rejoice for the people who walked from the rubble ... And sob for the ones left below?

Did you burst out in pride for the red, white and blue? And the heroes who died just doin' what they do? Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer, And look at yourself and what really matters?



by Alan Jackson, first released 11-7-01

I'm just a singer of simple songs, I'm not a real political man

I watch CNN, but I'm not sure
I can tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran

But I know Jesus and I talk to God, And I remember this from when I was young Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us ... and the greatest is Love



by Alan Jackson, first released 11-7-01

Did you open your eyes, hope it never happened, Close your eyes and not go to sleep?

Did you notice the sunset the first time in ages, Or speak to some stranger on the street?

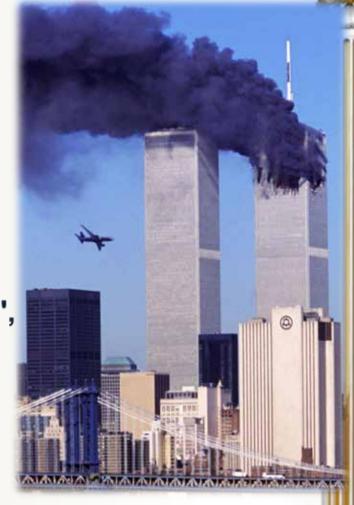
Did you lay down at night and think of tomorrow, Or go out and buy you a gun?

Did you turn off that violent old movie you're watchin', And turn on "I Love Lucy" reruns?

Did you stand in line and give your own blood?

Did you just stay home and cling tight to your family Thank God you had somebody to Love?

... thank God you had somebody to Love?



by Alan Jackson, first released 11-7-01

I'm just a singer of simple songs, I'm not a real political man

I watch CNN, but I'm not sure
I can tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran

But I know Jesus and I talk to God, And I remember this from when I was young Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us ... and the greatest is Love

Yes ... yes sir...

YESSS SIRR ... Saint Peter



