

"Contemplative Verse" written & produced by the Richard Gray collection 650 515-1682 Copies available: *certified-environmental.com/Contemplative*

The God of all comfort

There is a deathly contradiction claiming God's kingdom while denying the need for inner spiritual rebirth. Jesus taught the necessity of being born again from above to enter God's kingdom. Without this divine birth, humans are just fallen beings full of sin and earthly desires. If scholars continue to dismiss this as mere enthusiasm, it will lead to widespread moral corruption and a lack of true Christian values.

The overall message should be a call for genuine inner spiritual transformation and rebirth to be a true follower of Christ.

- Christians argue the reason church is in a fallen state is because it has turned away from the Holy Spirit, which is essential for true spiritual life and fulfillment of the gospel.
- Just as the Jews needed Christ to fulfill the Law, Christians need the Holy Spirit to fulfill the teachings of the New Testament.
- Without the Holy Spirit, the teachings of the gospel are just empty words, and Christians are no better than the Jews who didn't recognize Christ.
- The Holy Spirit must be the guiding force in a believer's life for true spiritual transformation and salvation.
- Religious rituals and outward practices are meaningless without inner spiritual renewal through the Holy Spirit.
- The true purpose of religious practices is to point people toward an inner spiritual life and rebirth.

True Christian behavior, both for individuals and nations, must reflect the spirit of Christ, characterized by love and humility, rather than pride and violence. This writer calls for a rejection of war and violence, emphasizing inner spiritual transformation. The message is that genuine spiritual life and salvation come from embracing the Holy Spirit within, not just following external religious rituals.

Both Protestant and Catholic churches pursuing wealth, power, and worldly success, contradicts the teachings of Christ. If Jesus had told his followers to seek these worldly things, the churches would be doing a great job. But Jesus did not, so modern church actions are wrong.

Condemn the widespread use of oaths and swearing's, which goes against Jesus' teaching of simple and honest communication. Highlight the moral corruption and hypocrisy in Christendom, where dishonesty and vice are as common as in any secular society.

The writer calls for a return to genuine Christian principles and condemns the hypocrisy and moral corruption they see in the church.

The God of all comfort (allegory)

Once upon a time, in a quaint village nestled in the rolling hills of Tuscany, lived a humble cobbler named Angelo. Angelo was known for his exceptional craftsmanship, creating shoes that lasted a lifetime. However, what truly set him apart was his unwavering commitment to simplicity and inner spiritual integrity.

Angelo's workshop was modest, with just a few tools and a single wooden bench. He spent his days mending shoes for the villagers, always with a warm smile and a kind word. Unlike some of his peers, Angelo never sought wealth or recognition. Instead, he found joy in serving others and living a life of quiet reflection. One day, a wealthy merchant, Lorenzo visited the village. Lorenzo was known for his extravagant lifestyle and lavish parties. He had heard of Angelo's renowned skills and wanted to commission a pair of the finest shoes, adorned with jewels and gold.

When Lorenzo entered Angelo's workshop, he was taken aback by its simplicity. "Is this all you have?" Lorenzo scoffed. "How can you create anything of value in such a humble place?"

Angelo smiled gently and replied, "True value is not found in external splendor, but in the integrity of one's heart and the sincerity of one's actions."

Lorenzo, intrigued by Angelo's words, decided to stay and watch the cobbler at work. As days turned into weeks, Lorenzo observed Angelo's unwavering dedication to his craft and his genuine kindness towards others. Slowly, Lorenzo's heart began to change.

He started helping Angelo in the workshop, learning the art of shoemaking and finding fulfillment in the simple act of creation. Lorenzo realized that true Christian behavior wasn't about displaying wealth or status, but about nurturing one's inner spirit and living a life of humility and service.

Years passed, and Lorenzo became a different man. He abandoned his pursuit of worldly pursuits and chose a life of simplicity and inner peace. The villagers, once skeptical of the wealthy merchant, now saw him as a transformed soul, embodying the very essence of Christian integrity.

And so, Angelo and Lorenzo continued their work, side by side, in the modest workshop that had become a symbol of true Christian behavior—one that valued inner spiritual integrity and simplicity above all else. The end.



Whether private Christians should give up their property and rights, which require taking oaths. They argue that, like the Jews who were taken captive in Babylon, Christians are also in captivity under a corrupt Christendom that forces them to take oaths to keep their possessions. God will understand and accept the limitations of Christians under this fallen system, just as He did with the captive Jews.

The main point is that the necessity of oaths in Christendom shows that the church has strayed from the Spirit of Christ. The widespread use and acceptance of oaths have led to a loss of piety and respect for God's teachings. The writer criticizes this system and emphasizes the need for genuine spiritual purity and adherence to the Spirit of Christ.

Imagine Jesus, the peaceful Lamb of God, leading a violent army after his Sermon on the Mount, or Paul leading a destructive force. This idea is absurd and blasphemous.

Therefore, a Christian who engages in the violence of war is acting completely against the nature and Spirit of Christ. Such a person cannot be considered to be led by Christ's Spirit or united with him, just like those who came to arrest Jesus with swords and clubs.

A Christian kingdom should exhibit the same goodness and unity with Christ as individual Christians. Criticize the idea that pride, wrath, ambition, envy, and other vices are only evil when committed by individuals but become acceptable when carried out by a whole nation.

The behaviors expected of individual Christians—love, humility, and peace—should also apply to Christian nations. They argue that any nation exhibiting pride or wrath is under the influence of Satan. True redemption for fallen humanity involves being freed from these vices through the transformative power of Christ.



Redeeming love of God

Divine love is constant and unchanging, always working towards bringing all fallen nature and creatures back to their original state of goodness. It explains that what might seem like wrath, punishment, curse, or death is actually the work of purifying love, aiming to eliminate all darkness and evil. The divine actions of creating, illuminating, sanctifying, threatening, punishing, forgiving, and redeeming are all part of the same unceasing divine nature. Ultimately, even those who have faced severe consequences will come to understand and reunite with this ever-redeeming love of God.

Repent and turn to God while they are still alive ("whilst thou hast Adam's flesh upon thee") because the opportunity for repentance and salvation is available to them during their earthly life. Dying without repentance will result in severe consequences: suffering and separation from heaven.

To prevent this fate and ensure salvation, Jesus Christ, embodying divine love, came into the world. He is described with attributes like infinite pity, boundless compassion, meekness, bleeding love, humility, patience, and redeeming mercy. Known as the Lamb of God, He takes away the sins of the world through these virtues.

God's infinite love and mercy, as demonstrated through Jesus Christ, aims to provide a remedy for all sinners, even those who have deeply rebelled against God. The ultimate goal is to deliver them from the harm and destruction they brought upon themselves.

Finally, contrasts this divine love with the destructive nature of war. War is depicted as a monstrous force, likened to a fiery dragon representing Satan, which opposes the redeeming virtues of Jesus Christ. In other words, while God's love works towards healing and redemption, war embodies evil and destruction.

In summary, the author calls for repentance and highlights the contrast between God's redeeming love and the destructive nature of war, urging people to embrace divine mercy and turn away from destructive actions. War is depicted as honoring destructive acts, which is contrary to the teachings of Christ.

Furthermore, the author highlights a greater evil of war: the loss of countless young lives who never get the chance to fulfill their spiritual potential. These young men, who could have become followers of Christ and heirs to eternal glory, are instead cut down before they can experience the benefits of life, learn from age and experience, or find spiritual redemption. War forces them into violent conflict, causing them to forget their spiritual purpose and rush into battle with reckless abandon.

Ultimately, this booklet reaffirms the belief that God's providence is one of love and salvation. It suggests that through divine wisdom, all forms of evil will eventually be transformed into good, and what was lost will be found again. God's purpose is to save every sinner from eternal death, emphasizing the unchanging nature of God's love and salvation.

Divine wisdom

The wisdom of this world is very different from the wisdom that leads to spiritual salvation. Worldly wisdom is considered foolish by God. It supports evil and keeps people from truly understanding or experiencing spiritual rebirth, which is necessary for salvation. Instead of helping people confess and repent for their sins, worldly wisdom encourages them to hide and defend their sins. It turns spiritual truths into mere stories and promotes a way of life that satisfies earthly desires.

Worldly wisdom keeps the conscience quiet, allowing people to live in sin without feeling guilty. It can make good things look bad and bad things look good, deceiving people into following false values. Those who possess worldly wisdom can manipulate praise and criticism to suit their own interests, maintaining their comfort and avoiding spiritual challenges. When learning and religion are influenced by worldly wisdom, they lead to greater craftiness and produce outwardly righteous people with hardened hearts.

In essence, true wisdom comes from above, leading to spiritual rebirth and salvation, while worldly wisdom keeps people away from this truth.

Worldly wisdom, at its highest form, can change how things appear without changing their true nature. It can make virtue look bad and vice look good, deceiving people. This wisdom is like a skilled speaker who can praise or criticize anyone as he wishes, based on his own needs and interests.

People with this wisdom keep themselves strong and confident by ignoring the inner voice that calls them to spiritual truth. When learning and religion work with worldly wisdom, it leads to cunning and deceit, creating outwardly righteous people with hard hearts, worse than outright sinners.

In summary, worldly wisdom is deceptive, making bad things seem good, and prevents people from seeking true spiritual wisdom and transformation.

The prophet Isaiah describes a vision of God's kingdom on earth, where all enmity and harm cease. He uses imagery of animals living peacefully together to illustrate this idea: wolves and lambs, leopards and goats, cows and bears, lions eating straw, and even children playing near dangerous creatures without fear. This symbolizes a kingdom of love where harm and destruction are eliminated, and enmity is transformed into heavenly love.

The prophet emphasizes that this transformation happens because the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. In other words, true peace and unity come from a deep understanding of God. The wars and conflicts in Christendom are seen as evidence of a lack of true knowledge of God.

In essence, God's kingdom on earth is one of love and peace, brought about by a profound understanding of God. The presence of conflict and war indicates a failure to truly know and embrace God's teachings.

Worldly wisdom and its spirit are what have corrupted the church and taken it captive. When the church becomes like the world, worldly wisdom takes over, bringing false teachings, bad practices, and corruption. This worldly wisdom is the root of all evil in the church.

To reform the church, this worldly wisdom must be removed. Paul says that to be truly wise, one must become a fool in the eyes of the world. This means denying oneself and rejecting the wisdom and desires of this world, such as lust, pride, and greed. Worldly wisdom is driven by these desires, while heavenly wisdom is full of goodness.

The true mark of being a member of the church is living free from sin and embracing righteousness. According to the teachings of Christ, those who continue to sin are servants of sin and cannot be true members of Christ's body. The idea that a person can be reborn spiritually while still needing to sin is seen as absurd and contradictory to the teachings of Christ. Christ's message is that those who are made free by him are truly free from the need to sin.

If a faithful follower of Christ cannot achieve this freedom, it would imply that Christ's power is weaker than the

devil's, which the text considers an absurd and blasphemous idea. The common belief that Christians will always sin as long as they live is seen as flawed and contrary to the true teachings of Christ. The text criticizes Christendom for being complacent in sin and not striving to do God's will on earth or to live in purity as Christ did.

Paul and Christ both emphasize the importance of striving to enter the narrow gate to life. Our best efforts are required and accepted by God. However, not everyone who strives will succeed because Christ is the only way to eternal life. The people striving mentioned by Christ are the same as those running a race mentioned by Paul. Christ calling himself the one door to life is like Paul saying that only one receives the prize. This one who wins the prize or enters through the right door is the new person in whom Christ is truly born. Ultimately, whether we consider natural or supernatural things, our only hope of glory is Christ within us.

The purpose of Christ's life, death, and ascension was to bring about a new birth, new life, and new understanding for his followers through the Holy Spirit. Christ told his disciples that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, would come after he ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit would then guide them into all truth and be their support and comfort.

In summary, Christ's mission was to enable his followers to experience a new spiritual life through the Holy Spirit, who would always be with them.

Jesus promising abundant life is found in the New Testament, specifically in the Book of John.

In John 10:10, Jesus says: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (Abundantly)



Scripture that emphasizes the promise of *abundant* life

- 1. John 4:14 (NIV): "But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
 - This verse underscores the spiritual fulfillment and eternal life Jesus offers.
- 2. John 6:35 (NIV): "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
 - Jesus speaks about satisfying our deepest spiritual needs.
- 3. John 14:6 (NIV): "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

With God eternally

The Bible does affirm that Christians can be with God eternally. This is a central promise of the Christian faith. Here are a few verses that highlight this promise:

- John 3:16 (NIV): "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
 - This verse is foundational in Christianity, emphasizing eternal life through faith in Jesus.

- John 14:2-3 (NIV): "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
 - Jesus reassures His followers that He is preparing a place for them in eternity.
- 3. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV): "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."
 - This verse speaks of the eternal union with the Lord.
- 4. Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV): "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
 - This passage paints a picture of eternal life in God's presence.

These verses collectively affirm the Christian belief in eternal life with God



The phrase "on earth as it is in heaven" comes from the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6:10. Here's the relevant portion of the prayer:

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV): "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This line from the prayer expresses a desire for God's will to be accomplished on earth in the same way it is in heaven, implying a harmonious alignment between divine intentions and earthly reality. It speaks to the aspiration for the world to reflect the righteousness, peace, and love that characterize heaven.

This idea is foundational for many Christians as they seek to live out their faith, embodying values of compassion, justice, and community in their daily lives. It also ties into the broader Christian hope of a future where heaven and earth are fully united, as depicted in the Book of Revelation.

Contentedness

Contentment is a key concept in Christian teachings and is often associated with trust in God and finding peace in His provisions. Here are a few verses that speak to the idea of contentment:

- Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV): "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
 - The apostle Paul emphasizes finding contentment through reliance on Christ, regardless of external circumstances.
- 1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV): "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

- This passage highlights the value of godliness combined with contentment, and the simplicity of being satisfied with basic needs.
- Hebrews 13:5 (NIV): "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

In the context of "on earth as it is in heaven," contentment can be seen as part of living out God's will on earth. It involves trusting in God's plan, finding peace in His provision, and embodying a sense of inner fulfillment that reflects the harmony and satisfaction found in heaven.

Contentment brings a treasure trove of rewards, enriching our lives in ways both profound and subtle. Here are some of the key rewards of embracing contentment:

Inner Peace: Contentment leads to a state of calm and tranquility, reducing stress and anxiety. It allows us to find peace within ourselves, regardless of external circumstances.

Improved Health: A contented mind often translates to a healthier body. Reduced stress levels contribute to lower blood pressure, better sleep, and a stronger immune system.

Gratitude: Contentment fosters gratitude for what we have, shifting our focus from what we lack to appreciating the present moment and the blessings in our lives.

Stronger Relationships: Content people tend to be more empathetic, patient, and understanding, which

strengthens their connections with others. They are less likely to be envious or competitive.

Increased Resilience: When we are content, we are better equipped to handle life's challenges and setbacks. Contentment builds resilience, helping us bounce back more quickly from difficulties.

Greater Fulfillment: Contentment allows us to find joy and satisfaction in the simple pleasures of life. It leads to a sense of fulfillment and well-being, irrespective of material wealth or achievements.

Enhanced Focus: By being content, we are less distracted by desires and cravings. This allows us to focus on our goals and aspirations with greater clarity and determination.

Authentic Happiness: Contentment paves the way for genuine happiness that is not dependent on external factors. It is a deeper, more enduring form of happiness that comes from within.

In a world that often encourages constant striving and comparison, cultivating contentment can be a powerful way to achieve a more balanced, joyful, and meaningful life.

Spiritual contentment is a profound and deeply fulfilling state of being that transcends the material and physical aspects of life. It's about finding peace, purpose, and connection on a spiritual level. Here are some aspects and rewards of spiritual contentment:

Inner Peace: Spiritual contentment brings a deep sense of inner peace, knowing that you are aligned with your higher purpose and the greater good.

Connection with the Divine: It fosters a strong connection with a higher power, whether you call it God, the universe, or something else. This connection provides guidance, strength, and comfort.

Acceptance: Spiritual contentment allows you to accept life as it is, embracing both the joys and challenges with grace. This acceptance reduces resistance and suffering.

Fulfillment: Finding spiritual contentment often leads to a sense of fulfillment and meaning, knowing that your life has a purpose beyond material achievements.

Compassion and Love: It nurtures qualities like compassion, love, and kindness towards yourself and others. This enriches your relationships and creates a positive impact on the world around you.

Resilience: Spiritual contentment equips you with the strength to face life's adversities with courage and faith, knowing that everything happens for a reason and contributes to your growth.

Gratitude: A spiritually content person often feels a deep sense of gratitude for all experiences, recognizing them as opportunities for learning and growth.

Presence: It encourages living in the present moment, appreciating the beauty of life as it unfolds, without being overly attached to past regrets or future anxieties.

Joy and Bliss: Spiritual contentment brings an underlying sense of joy and bliss that is not dependent on external circumstances. This joy is a reflection of your inner state of harmony.

Absolute surrender

Release all your worries and desires and entrust yourself to God's care. Surrender to His will, allowing His grace to bring you peace and transform anxieties into serenity. Let go, open yourself to His love, and find joy beyond understanding. Live in this truth, guided by His light. Embrace each moment with an open heart, knowing you are never alone and always supported by His presence. Find comfort, strength, and joy in your faith, and let every breath be a testament to your connection with God.

In moments of doubt, remember that you are embraced by His everlasting arms. Let His wisdom illuminate your path, and let His love be your refuge. As you walk this journey, allow His divine guidance to be your compass, leading you to deeper understanding and unwavering faith. Cherish the quiet moments of reflection, where you can feel His gentle whisper reassuring you of His constant companionship.

Celebrate the blessings that come your way, no matter how small they may seem. In gratitude, find the courage to face challenges with a heart full of faith. Trust that His plans for you are filled with hope and promise, even when the way forward is not clear. Let your life be a testament to His grace, and let your actions reflect His love to the world.

Through every trial and triumph, remain steadfast in your devotion, knowing that His love never falters. In the embrace of His divine presence, you will find all that you need to flourish and thrive.

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