

## Contend For The Faith

May 6, 2020 Lesson #16 Word Of Faith: Jesus Christ's Atonement

Heresy is never promoted in a manner which exposes its darkness for all to see. Rather, its poison is wrapped in familiar Christian language to make it more palatable. The WOF movement has craftily packaged its counterfeit gospel to look like the real thing.

### The Atonement of Jesus Christ and Word-Faith Theology

Quote: The most serious errors of the WOF movement involve the teachings on the atonement of Jesus Christ. *Their theology has completely rewritten and redefined the atonement.*

Peter's Warning: II Pet. 3:16 which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Twist scripture to their and others' destruction

JC Ryle: "To regularly hear unscriptural teaching is a serious thing. It is a continual dropping of slow poison into the mind."

WOF Doctrine: Man Is A "Little god."

Kenyon: When man was created, he was made as near like God as possible. Man belongs to God's class.

Kenneth Hagin: Man was created on equality with God and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority. God has made us as much like Himself as possible. He made us in the same class of being that He is Himself.

Kenneth Copeland: "God's reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself. Man, Adam in the garden, was an exact duplicate of God. He was God manifested in the flesh just like Jesus. Adam looked just like God. Jesus and Adam were identical."

Benny Hinn: God came from heaven and became a man. He made man little gods. Man was created in the "god class." He has a uniqueness about him that even angels do not have. Man has the God given right to choose his own words and speak them; thereby setting his own divine destiny and own destination. God's desire to create Adam was to reproduce himself.

Capps: God created Adam, gave him all this authority and power and said to him, "Be god over the earth as I am God over the heavens." (Capps, Authority in Three Worlds, pp. 16-17).

Creflo Dollar: "If horses produce after their kind, they produce horses. If cows produce after their kind, they produce cows. So if the Godhead is making man after His kind, then man is a god. You are gods because you came from God. The only human part of you is your body. The real me is just like God."

Casey Treet: The Father, Son & Holy Ghost had a conference and said, "Let us make man as an exact duplicate of us. Say it outloud. I am an exact duplicate of God. When God looks in the mirror, He sees me. When I look in the mirror, I see God. Some people say to me when they are mad, 'you just think you are a little god. Who do you think you are? Jesus? Yep! Since I am an exact duplicate of God, I am going to act like God.

BIBLE: *Man is not, nor ever will be, a god.*

There is only one true God [John 17:3]. He will not share His glory with another.

Isa. 43:10 "Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

### WOF Doctrine on The Fall:

1. When man, Adam, rebelled, he forfeited the nature of God and took on the nature of Satan. He betrayed God by turning over to Satan what God had given him.

[Deity {false}, dominion {true}]

Recall: They believe man was an exact duplicate of God; God manifest in the flesh.

So they teach Adam lost his "god-hood" and transferred it to Satan.

Note: They stress the loss of dominion over the earth, not sin, as the root problem.

- Therefore, God lost His legal right to the earth and was banished from it.

K. Copeland: When Adam fell, all the dominion and authority God had given to Adam was handed over to Satan. God did not have access to earth and needed an avenue back into the earth.

God's access back to earth came through the Abrahamic covenant.

### Doctrine About GOD: God is not sovereign. God needs permission to act.

"God the Father cannot do anything in this earth realm without permission."

"Satan had gained ascendancy in the earth by gaining Adam's authority, and God was left on the outside. God couldn't come here in His divine power and wipe them out. He had to move in an area where it would be ruled legal by the Supreme Court of the Universe" (Capps, Authority in Three Worlds, p. 51).

Copeland: "God formulated a scheme to take back the earth, but in order to execute His plan He had to find a human who would invite Him or give Him permission to work within the earthly realm. Finally, God chose Abraham and in return for allowing God to bring the Messiah through his lineage, Abraham received unlimited health and wealth."

Benny Hinn & Miles Munroe: Prayer is man giving God permission or license to interfere in man's affairs. Prayer is earthly license for heavenly interference. God has never done anything on earth without a human giving Him access. God has the power but is always looking for that "someone" to give Him permission. God has the power and authority but man has the license. God can do anything but He can only do what you permit Him to do.

Jesse Duplantis: God has the power to take life but He can't and won't. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Therefore, you choose when you live and when you die.

This would come as a surprise to King Herod when he was eaten by worms and died and to Uzza when he reached up to steady the Ark and God struck him dead. Also to EVERYONE on the face of the earth except 8 people who were saved in God's provision of the ark = Jesus Christ.

Facebook post: "God gave dominion to man at his creation. Man gave it to Satan when man sinned. Jesus came and bought dominion back, but it is up to man to take control and let God control things through us. We are His hands, feet and mouth on this planet. God cannot do anything here on earth without our agreement and granting of authority to Him."

Dr. Piper: God cannot do anything here on earth without our agreement and granting authority to Him?????? Oh my! Not the God of the Bible.

Rom. 9:15-16 "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." The Bible declares God is Sovereign. He needs no one's permission, agreement nor granting Him authority.

Instead of recognizing the absolute sovereign power of God as revealed in the Bible, the Word of Faith adherents embrace a false god who cannot operate apart from their faith.

### WOF Redeem Man & Creation

- In order to redeem mankind and creation from Satan's "legal" control, Jesus as the second Adam, had to die not only physically but spiritually. [false teaching]
- Jesus took on the very nature of Satan on the cross. [Denies Deity of Jesus Christ]
- He completed the atonement of redemption in hell. [Denies sufficiency of the cross]
- Jesus was the first born again man. [Denies the holiness of Christ's nature]

Salvation for the WOF is the removal of the nature of Satan from man and the restoring of the nature of God in man. Salvation becomes a matter of re-discovering one's place of godhood and learning to rule as kings on earth. Man gets his "godhood," his deity back.

### WOF Doctrine: Jesus Finished The Atonement In Hell

Charles Capps: *Jesus suffered and died on the cross, descended into hell, spent 3 days serving a sentence in hell where He was tortured by demons. He was then born again and released from hell on a technicality. When Jesus was in the pit of hell, in that terrible torment, no doubt the Devil and his emissaries gathered around to see the annihilation of God's Son. But in the corridors of hell, there came a great voice from heaven: "Turn Him loose! He's there illegally!" And all of hell became paralyzed. [Capps, Authority in Three Worlds, p. 143]*

*Jesus was born again before his eyes and rose from the dead with God's nature. [Ibid p. 189]*

Kenneth Copeland: "God has to be the greatest failure of all time." "Satan conquered Jesus on the Cross." He describes Christ in hell as an "emaciated, poured out, little, wormy spirit."

"To redeem humanity, Jesus died spiritually as well as physically and Jesus accepted the sin nature of Satan which caused His spirit to die. At that moment, He cried, 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?' Jesus' death on the cross and His shed blood did not atone for our sins.

The atonement took place in hell through the devil's torturing of Jesus AS A MAN for three days and three nights. However, Satan took Jesus illegally to hell because Jesus had never sinned. This "technicality" enabled God to use His "force of faith" to revive Jesus' spirit, restore Jesus' divine nature, and resurrect Jesus' body. Through the resurrection process Jesus was "born again." This was God's payment to Satan so that He could get back into a universe from which He had been banished.

F. Price "Do you think the punishment for our sin was to die on a cross? If that were the case, the two thieves could have paid our price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God. Satan and all the demons of hell thought they had Him bound. They threw a net over Jesus and dragged Him down to the very pit of hell itself to serve our sentence." [*Ever Increasing Faith Messenger*, June 1990, p.7]

K. Copeland: "The righteousness of God was made to be sin. He accepted the sin nature of Satan in His own spirit. And at that moment that He did so He cried, 'My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?' [He said God asked him] Why do you think Moses, upon instruction of God, raised the serpent upon that pole instead of a lamb? That used to bug me. I said, 'Why in the world would you want to put a snake up there - the sign of Satan? Why didn't you put a lamb on that pole?' And the Lord said, 'Because it was a sign of Satan that was hanging on the cross.' He (Jesus) said, 'I accepted in my own spirit, spiritual death; and the light was turned off.'" [K. Copeland, *What Happened From the Cross to the Throne?*]

Benny Hinn "Ladies and gentlemen, the serpent is a symbol of Satan. Jesus Christ knew the only way he would stop Satan was by becoming one in nature with him. You say, What did you say? What blasphemy is this? No, you hear this! He did not take my sin; He became sinful. He who is the nature of God became the nature of Satan when he became sin. [Benny Hinn broadcast on TBN, December 15, 1990).

Bible: John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- It is a foreshadowing of Christ's work on the cross.
- Greek word for lifted up = exalted
- Gaze on the serpent & be cured of snake-bite; Look to Jesus; believe & live eternally

According to these teachers and others, we can now summarize the teachings of what it means for Christ to have died spiritually.

- Jesus was separated from the presence of God
- When Jesus' blood was shed on the cross it did not completely atone.
- Jesus went to hell and finished the atoning work in hell.
- Jesus was born again

Question: Where was Jesus Between His Death & Resurrection

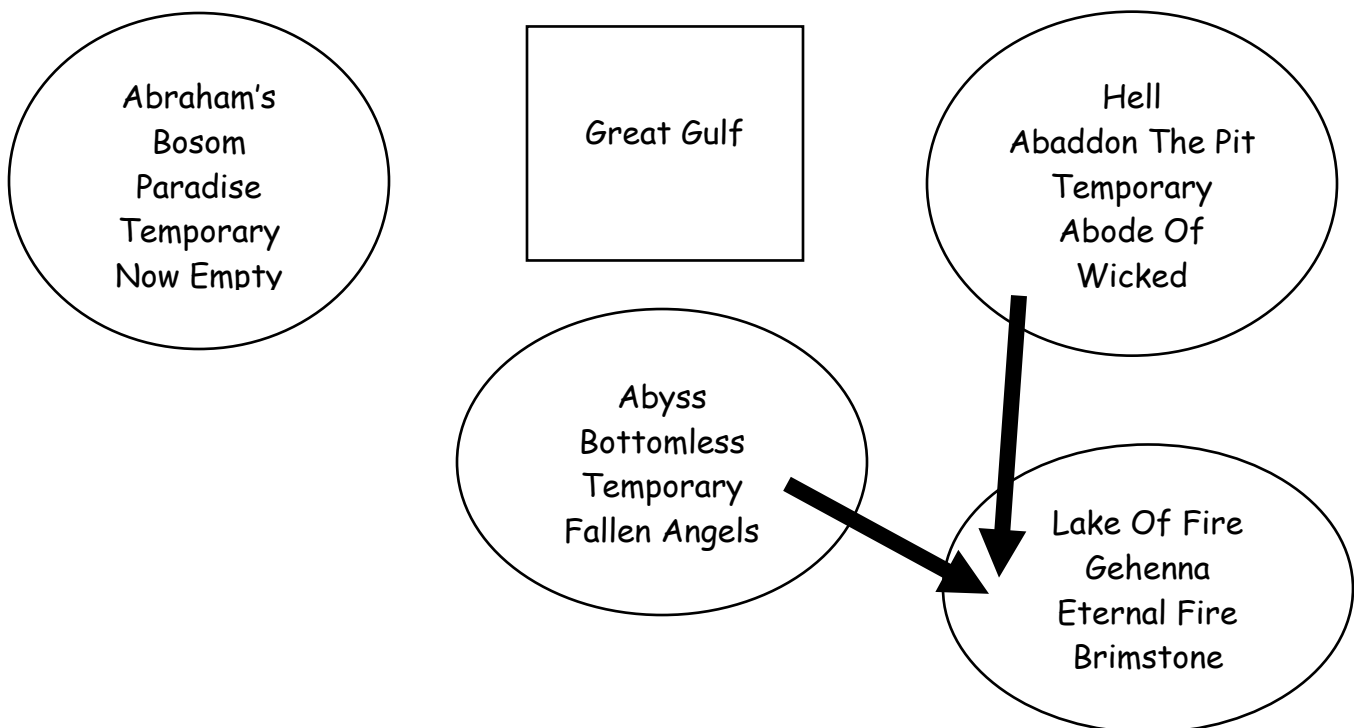
WOF: Jesus was in hell being tormented by demons.

Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Based on the OT and Luke 16, it seems the repentant thief would be at Abraham's bosom, a place of comfort and rest for the righteous dead. Jesus calls it "Paradise."

## The Place of The Dead: The Unseen World

1. Sheol = 64 references = Found only in the OT = the abode of the soul & spirit of dead
  - ❖ Place where righteous and unrighteous expected to go down upon death
  - ❖ Sheol has different compartments - references talk of the lowest Sheol [Deut. 32:22; Ps. 86:13]
  - ❖ Those who went down to Sheol were in a state of consciousness [Jonah 2:2]
2. Hades = 10 references = Found only in the NT = abode of the soul & spirit of dead
  - ❖ Hades is the same place as Sheol
  - ❖ Place for the righteous and the unrighteous - It had 2 main compartments
  - ❖ Unbelievers were in Hell [rich man]. They are still there in torment. Temporary
  - ❖ OT Believers were taken to Abraham's Bosom [Paradise; it is now empty]
  - ❖ It was a place of consciousness
  - ❖ Temporary holding place; it is not the eternal state.
3. Hell
  - ❖ What people call HELL, is what the OT calls Abaddon or The Pit.
  - ❖ It is the unrighteous side of Sheol or Hades. It contains humans only.
  - ❖ Place separated from God - It is not the Lake of Fire
4. The Abyss
  - ❖ 9 NT passages. Seven are in Revelation. [Luke 8:31; Rom. 10:7]
  - ❖ The abyss, bottomless pit, is a temporary place of confinement for fallen angels.
  - ❖ It is never associated with humans.



Ps. 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. [written by David]

In Acts 2:29-31 Peter tells us that David, in writing Psalm 16, foresaw the resurrection of Christ, "that he [soul and spirit] was not abandoned to Hades nor did his flesh see corruption" [reference to Jesus's body of flesh]. This passage explains what happened when a human being died prior to the death and resurrection of Jesus. At death, soul and spirit normally went to Sheol [Hades], and bodies [flesh] decayed.

Acts 2:27 "Because You will not abandon my soul to hell, nor wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" [undergo decay].

Acts 2:31 "He looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did not see corruption."

None of these verses say that Jesus went to hell and suffered. The Bible says Jesus went to Paradise, his body did not undergo decay, and he made proclamation to the spirits now in prison. [I Pet. 3:19]

For anyone to say that Christ suffered in hell at the hands of the devil by taking our place, the person has read into the text things that are simply not there

The Bible says in I Cor. 4:6 "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other." WOF teachers have exceeded what is written in the word of God and in so doing violated Scripture.

Christ's journey to Hades demonstrates that he was indeed made like us in every way. Not only did he bear the wrath of God on our behalf; he endured death, the separation of his soul from his body. His body was in Joseph's tomb [Luke 23:50-53], his soul was three days in Sheol, "in the heart of the earth" [Matt. 12:40].

But as Psalm 16 makes clear: Jesus is not only like us, but different. Jesus's body was buried, like ours, but it did not decay. Jesus's soul went to Hades, like the Old Testament saints, but wasn't left there. God raised him from the dead, reunited his soul with a now-glorified body. Jesus Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection harvest.

Now those who die in Christ bypass Paradise.

II Cor. 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Question: Did Jesus die spiritually? Was Jesus born again in hell?

WOF: Christ's physical death was insufficient to atone for sin. He also had to die spiritually.

Truth: Bible emphasizes Christ's physical death as the payment for sin.

Heb. 9:22 Without the shedding of blood, [physical] there is no remission.

The Bible clearly states in Heb. 10:10 "We are sanctified through the offering of the body [physical] of Jesus Christ once for all."

BIBLE: Jesus was not "born again." He could not be born again since He did not have a sin nature. The sacrifice had to be perfect -- Christ alone had no sin nature.

II Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

I Pet. 1:19-20 "But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Spiritual Death of Jesus Doctrine: Danger

If Jesus died spiritually, then He ceased to be God because God is Spirit.

If Jesus ceased to be God for an instant, then He was never God to begin with.

God cannot cease to be God.

Truth: God cannot sin, God cannot deny Himself, God cannot act outside of His character and His nature. God cannot cease to be God.

Truth: Jesus finished the atoning work on the cross, never stopped being divine, did not suffer in hell, and did not need to be born again.

WOF View of Man: Born Again

Copeland's Tape: "When you say I am a Christian... I am a little Messiah walking on earth... you are a little God on earth running around... you ARE everything He was and ever shall be."

As "little gods," Christians have access to the "God-kind of faith," which can be used to get virtually anything they want. Since, Christians, NOT God, have authority in the earth over Satan, sickness and disease, believers should never pray God's will be done."

Copeland: from a conversation he said he was having with the Spirit of God: "Son, realize this, follow me in this and don't let your traditions trip you up. The Spirit said, "think this way.

A twice born man whipped Satan in his own domain." I threw my Bible. I said, "What?" He said, "A born again man whipped Satan. The first-born of many brethren defeated Satan.

You are the very image and the copy of that one." I said, "Goodness gracious!" I began to see what had gone on in hell. I said, "You don't dare mean, that I could have done the same thing?"

He said, "Oh yeah. If you had the knowledge of the Word of God that he had, you could have done the same thing because you are a reborn man too."

WOF: We become like Jesus in our born-again experience. Ultimately, there is no real distinction between a born-again believer and Jesus Christ. Many WOF teach you can reach sinless perfection. "When a person is born-again they experience exactly what happened to Jesus. Their satanic nature is replaced by God's divine nature and Christians become 'little gods' and are as much an incarnation of God as was Jesus."

Kenyon: God was in Christ, wasn't he in incarnation? God is in you in incarnation if you are born again. You are incarnate.

Hagin: "We are the body of Christ. He is the head and we are the body. The head does not go by one name and the body another. The body is also Christ as is the head.

WOF teaches that God created human beings in His literal, physical image as little gods. Before the fall, humans had the potential to call things into existence by using the faith-force. After the fall, humans took on Satan's nature and lost the ability to call things into existence.

In order to correct this situation, Jesus Christ gave up His divinity and became a man, died spiritually, took Satan's nature upon Himself, went to hell, was born again, and rose from the dead with God's nature. After this, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to replicate the Incarnation in believers so they could become little gods as God had originally intended.

Gal. 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup> Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Conclusion: Word of Faith teaches a DIFFERENT GOSPEL.

There are no adjectives to THE GOSPEL. There is no social gospel, prosperity gospel. If you add an adjective to THE GOSPEL, it is NOT THE GOSPEL.

Question: Was the atoning work of Jesus Christ finished on the cross?

A. It Is Finished: John 19:30

The word in the Greek is tetelistai and is rendered "to bring to an end" or "paid for in full" [Vine's Expository Dictionary]. Christ was saying the work of redemption [paying for sin and securing salvation] was complete. If Christ did anything else beyond "It is finished," in order to pay for sin, something is added to His completed work.

- Word-Faith teachers have added something more when they teach the atonement for salvation was completed in hell, after Christ died on the cross!

Isaiah 53:4-6, " Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The OT prophecy that deals with the atoning work of Christ tells us that he was "pierced through for our transgressions," "crushed for our iniquities," and that " the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him." The context is the cross. There is no mention here of any atoning work, of any payment for sins, or of any suffering of Christ other than in the crucifixion ordeal. However, this has not stopped many Bible teachers from teaching that Jesus went to hell and suffered there.



Col. 2:14 "having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

- "The record of our debts represents a Greek noun which is literally "a handwritten document"-- an IOU, personally signed by the debtor, acknowledging his debt.
- "He canceled is the Greek verb for "wipe out, erase"; used also in Acts 3.19 (sins),
- "The blood of Jesus washed all that was written against us off the bill of indictment, and we are free."  
Richards, L. O. (1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996).
- "This new life came when God forgave us all our sins. He canceled the written code."  
Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985).

Colossians 2:14 tells us that Jesus "canceled out the certificate of debt."

ESV, "canceling the record of debt . . . nailing it to the cross."

KJV, "blotting out the handwriting of ordinances . . . nailing it to his cross."

NKJV, "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements . . . having nailed it to the cross."

NIV, "having canceled the written code . . . nailing it to the cross."

NASB, canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, nailing it to the cross."

When was the sin debt canceled, blotted out, wiped away, erased? It was taken care of at the cross--not in hell and not by Jesus suffering there. Nowhere does the Bible teach that the atonement was finished in hell. This is so serious that anyone teaching that the atoning work was not finished in the cross is denying the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Countering Word of Faith teaching is a simple matter of reading the Bible.

- God alone is the Sovereign Creator of the Universe Gen. 1:3; I Tim. 6:15
- God does not need faith—He is the object of faith Mark 11:22; Heb. 11:3
- God is spirit and does not have a physical body John 4:24
- Man was created in the image of God, is not a "god" or divine. Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6
- Christ is Eternal, the Only Begotten Son, and the only incarnation of God  
John 1:1-2, 14-15; 18; I John 4:1-2
- In Him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily Colossians 2:9
- By becoming a man, Jesus gave up the glory of heaven but not His divinity Phil. 2:6-7

The Word of Faith movement is deceiving countless people, causing them to grasp after a way of life and faith that is not Biblical. At its core is the same lie Satan has been telling since the Garden: "You shall be as God" [Genesis 3:5].

Gal. 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

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Our hope is in the Lord, not in our own words, not even in our own faith.

Psalm 33:20-22. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

<sup>22</sup> Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

Our faith comes from God. It is not something we create.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God:

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;