The Law of God

Supplement 1

to

ANCIENT WISDOM

THE LAW OF GOD: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

And the Lord spoke all these words saying:

1
I am the Lord thy God, Who brought thee out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.
Thou shall have no other gods beside Me
Εγω ειμι Κυριος ο Θεος σου, οστις εξηγαγον σε εκ γης Αιγυπτου,
εξ οικου δουλειας.
Ουκ εσονται σοι θεοι ετεροι πλην Εμου
{Exodus 20:1–3}

2
Thou shall not make to thyself an idol,
nor likeness of anything, whatever things are in the heavens above,
and whatever things are in the earth beneath, and whatever are in the waters under the earth.
Thou shall not bow down to them, nor serve them,
for I am the Lord thy God, a jealous God,
recompensing the sins of the fathers upon the children, to the third and fourth generation to them that hate Me,
and bestowing mercy on them that love Me to thousands, and on them that keep My commandments
Ου ποιησεις σεαυτω ειδωλον,
ουδε παντος ομοιωμα, οσα εν τω ουρανω ανω, και οσα εν τη γη κατω,
και οσα εν τοις υδασιν υποκατω της γης.
Ου προσκυνησεις αυτοις, ουδε μη λατρευσεις αυτοις,
Εγω γαρ ειμι Κυριος ο Θεος σου, Θεος ζηλωτης,
αποδιδους αμαρτιας πατερων επι τεκνα, εως τριτης και τεταρτης γενεας τοις μισουσι Με,
και ποιων ελεος εις χιλιαδας τοις αγαπωσι Με, και τοις φυλασσουσι τα προσταγματα Μου.
{Exodus 20:4–6}

3
Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,
for the Lord thy God will not cleanse him that takes His name in vain
Ου ληψη το ονομα Κυριου του Θεου σου επι ματαιω,
ου γαρ μη καθαριση Κυριος ο Θεος σου τον λαμβανοντα το ονομα αυτου επι ματαιω.
{Exodus 20:7}

4
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
Six days thou shall labor, and shall perform all thy work.
But on the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God;
on it thou shall do no work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy servant nor thy maidservant,
thine ox nor thine beast of burden, nor any cattle of thine, nor the stranger that sojourns with thee.
For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, and the sea and all things in them, and rested on the seventh day;
therefore, the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it
Μνησθητι την ημεραν των σαββατων αγιαζειν αυτην.
Εξ ημερας εργα, και ποιησεις παντα τα εργα σου.
Τη δε ημερα τη εβδομη, σαββατα Κυριω τω Θεω σου;
ου ποιησεις εν αυτη παν εργον συ, και ο υιος σου, και η θυγατηρ σου, ο παις σου, και η παιδισκη σου,
ο βους σου, και το υποζυγιον σου, και παν κτηνος σου, και ο προσηλυτος ο παροικων εν σοι.
Εν γαρ εξ ημεραις εποιησε Κυριος τον ουρανον και την γην και την θαλασσαν
και παντα τα εν αυτοις, και κατεπαυσε τη ημερα τη εβδομη;
δια τουτο ευλογησε Κυριος την ημεραν την εβδομην, και ηγιασεν αυτην.
{Exodus 20:8–11}

5
Honour thy father and thy mother,
that thou may be established and originate, and that thou may live long on the good land,
which the Lord thy God gives to thee
Τιμα τον πατερα σου, και την μητερα σου,
ινα ευ σοι γενηται, και ινα μακροχρονιος γενη επι της γης της αγαθης,
ης Κυριος ο Θεος σου διδωσι σοι.
{Exodus 20:12}

6
Thou shall not kill
Ου φονευσεις.
{Exodus 20:13}

7
Thou shall not commit adultery
Ου μοιχευσεις.
{Exodus 20:14}

8
Thou shall not steal
Ου κλεψεις.
{Exodus 20:15}

9
Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor
Ου ψευδομαρτυρησεις κατα του πλησιον σου μαρτυριαν ψευδη.
{Exodus 20:16}

10
Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife;
thou shall not covet thy neighbor's house, nor his field, nor his servant, nor his made,
nor his ox, nor his beast of burden, nor any of his cattle, nor whatever belongs to thy neighbor
Ουκ επιθυμησεις την γυναικα του πλησιον σου;
ουκ επιθυμησεις την οικιαν του πλησιον σου; ουτε τον αγρον αυτου, ουτε τον παιδα αυτου, ουτε τον παιδισκην αυτου,
ουτε τον βοος αυτου, ουτε τον υποζυγιου αυτου, ουτε παντος κτηνους αυτου, ουτε οδα τω πλησιον σου εστι.
{Exodus 20:17}

Summary:

in the Old Testament:

The Lord our God is One Lord.
And thou shall love the Lord thy God
with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and all thy strength
Κυριος ο Θεος ημων, Κυριος εις εστι.
Και αγαπησεις Κυριον τον Θεον σου
εξ ολης της διανοιας σου, και εξ ολης της ψυχης σου, και εξ ολης της δυναμεως σου.
{*Deuteronomy 6:4–5*}

…thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself;
I am the Lord
…και αγαπησεις τον πλησιον σου ως σεαυτον,
Εγω ειμι Κυριος.
{Leviticus 19:18}

in the New Testament:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind.
This is the first and the greatest commandment
Αγαπησεις Κυριον τον Θεον σου, εν ολη τη καρδια σου, και εν ολη τη ψυχη σου, και εν ολη τη διανοια σου.
Αυτη εστι πρωτη και μεγαλη εντολη.
And the second is like it:
you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
In these two commandments all the Law and the prophets hang
Δευτερα δε ομοια αυτη,
αγαπησεις τον πλησιον σου ως σεαυτον.
Εν ταυταις ταις δυσιν εντολαις ολος ο νομος και οι προφηται κρεμανται.
{Matthew 22:37–40}

The New Commandment given by Lord Jesus Christ the Savior,
The Son of God, the Word–God

I give a new commandment to you,
that you love one another as I loved you, that also you should love one another.
By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love among one another
Εντολην καινην διδωμι υμιν,
ινα αγαπατε αλληλους καθως ηγαπησα υμας, ινα και υμεις αγαπατε αλληλους.
Εν τουτω γνωσονται παντες οτι εμοι μαθηται εστε, εαν αγαπην εχητε εν αλληλοις.
{John 13:34–35}
This is My commandment,
that you love one another as I loved you
Αυτη εστιν η εντολη η Εμη,
ινα αγαπατε αλληλους καθως ηγαπησα υμας.
{John 15:12}

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…And where I go you know, and the way you know …
…I am the Way and the Truth and the Life…
{John 14:4, 6}

It is the final hours before Lord God Jesus Christ completes His will at this world and gives it a chance of salvation: He is going to leave the world, to come back, to the Father, from where He – the Word–God – came. Everything had been said, and everything had been explained {*Matthew; Mark; Luke; John*}; now, it is the time of departure. Again, He reminds His disciples and through them all generations of His followers: you know the Way, you have the Door, follow Me, observe My commandments, and you enter the life everlasting {*John 5:24–30; 6:28–58, 63; 8:31–36, 51; 10:1–18, 27–30; 12:44–50; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17*}.

The main purpose of each human being born into this world is immortality with God: we all are created and born in the Earth to evolve into the children of God and to go further, into the Kingdom of the Father; we are destined to claim our divine inheritance and to dwell with God in His world forever. Those who want to accomplish the purpose of existence at the Earth and to live, have to overcome the difficulties of the road (that is hostile conditions, darkness of ignorance, predators seeking to enslave the mind and body and to kill the soul, and other dangers) and to reach the destination – the Kingdom of God.

God provided us with the guidance and knowledge, which is intended to facilitate our sometimes intolerably difficult journey: with His help, we learn

— where we can find the Light that would illuminate darkness in which we all have to make the first steps

— the means of protection from the predators

— the rules, which we have to observe if we want to protect our mind and body from diseases, corruption, degeneration, and avoid failure (the failure is the state of being lost in the endless darkness without God).

Any traveler begins his journey with preparation: he has to know how to reach his destination successfully. So, he collects knowledge of the road and how to pass it safely and timely (e.g., location of airport or train station, schedules, ticket prices, luggage requirements, and so on), he knows his own condition and the supplies needed (the traveler's guide, food, water, etc.). In general, the wise traveler is prepared to overcome all difficulties and obstacles he might encounter: he has knowledge of the road, the main points he has to come through, and what he needs to accomplish everything desirable.

So, what are the main points, the main realms, which we have to pass through during our travel? Moses named two of them when he received the Law – The Ten Commandments. The essence of them, or the two greatest commandments on which the Law and the Prophets depend, are love to God and love to the neighbor {*Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 30:19–20; Matthew 22:36–40*}. It means that, firstly, we have to cognize two states and to make them the reality of our existence: love to God and love to other creations of God.

The third is given by Lord Jesus Christ: faith in (that is acceptance of) the Word–God and observance of His commandments make a human being the dwelling of God, and we must love each other as God loves us {*John 13:34–35; 14:15–27; 15:9–17*}. Again, the basic condition – love to God and love to each other – opens the final realm in which we discover the Kingdom of God within our soul–heart–mind and learn to imitate God {*Matthew 5:48; Luke 17:20–21*}, firstly, by loving the others as God loves us. In this realm we are re–born and regain our original divine nature – the image and likeness of God. Coming into this state is the successful completion of our earthly journey.

In brief, faith and adherence to the Word–God, observance of His commandments, and love to Him and to all His creations open the mind for knowledge of God; the knowledge of God is the eternal life {*John 17:3*}.

To love something means to know this something we love. The first step to the Kingdom of God is knowledge of God.

Is it possible to know God?

Many centuries theologians asserted that faith is above reason; the logical inference from this assertion is impossibility to know God.

In fact,

1/ faith***Σ1*** is the optimal state of human reason, the natural condition in which human being receives guidance and assistance of God–Creator

2/ knowledge of God is the foundation of human reasoning, life of the mind, the essence of conscience, and the source of human wisdom.

Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Savior, and Teacher, tells: you search the Scriptures, and all of them are about Me; all will be taught by God {*John 5:39, 46; 6:45–46; 14:26*}. From the beginning, those who are to become the children of God come to understanding that search for the knowledge of God is the first sign of wisdom to come, and the knowledge of God is the most precious possession of a human being, more precious than life of a human body {*Deuteronomy 6:4–9; 30:10–20; Proverbs 2:1–9; Ecclesiastes 8:5–7; Matthew 10:28; John 17:3*}.

So, God already provided us with the source of knowledge, which is the guidance to life: this knowledge was written down with the simple language of nomads, fishermen, and shepherds, yet, it enables generations to accept the most precious gift: the ability to cognize God. Our ancestors had the special name for the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible – the Book of Life; indeed, this Book contains the knowledge of life; it gives knowledge of the Light that darkness is not able to overcome {*John 1:1–5; 3:16–21; 9:5; 12:44–46*}.

Although those who open the Holy Bible first time might not believe yet, and might not comprehend the meaning right now, if they want to obtain the life everlasting, for the beginning of their journey to God, they need two things:

— the first, to ask God (Who they do not know, yet Who they want to find) to give them understanding

— the second, to continue reading until the words of the Book of Life fill the mind, become the contents of the memory, the foundation for judgment, and the light for discerning the true meaning of things***Σ2***. God promised that all those who ask will be given, and to all those who knock will be opened {*Matthew 7:7–11*}.

The truth is that a human being lives by the Word–God, by knowledge of God, in the same manner as a human body lives by bread and water {*John 6:32–58, 63; 17:3–8*}. Knowledge of God is the foundation of the world in which we live, the essence of the nature, the contents of the human heart–soul–mind, and the state in which all those who want to live must dwell.

Many reject this truth because they are unable to reconcile evil we see around us with the foundation of our faith – knowledge that God is the Absolute Good and, in the presence of God, evil does not exist. However, they do not take into consideration the purpose of this world into which first human beings were exiled after the original sin***Σ3*** – rejection of the warning of God that the price of the forbidden knowledge is death and the choice to accept lies of the brute as the truth {*Genesis 2:16–17; 3*}.

This world is similar to the classroom, to the training ground on which a human being has to accomplish his intention: to cognize the good and the evil. It means that we all are free in our search of the meaning of existence:

— some of us see it as acceptance of the good, create the good, and benefit the others

— some of us see it as acceptance of the evil, commit crimes, deceive the others, and bring evil upon the others

God does not intervene with our freedom of choice. If He wills, He assists those who ask His help and firstly, beg for the complete knowledge and wisdom***Σ4*** to overcome the power of the evil, to cognize the good, and to choose the good as the only way and the means of existence, so, they would be able to come into the Kingdom of God after completion of earthly life as those who completed training/battle come home.

The First Stage

There is no possibility to enter the world of God, His kingdom, for those who are not prepared {*Revelation 21:1–8; 22:14–15*}; observance of God's commandments–law makes His creation ready for His Kingdom.

The First Commandment

The first step, the beginning of preparation, is simple: it is acceptance of the first commandment, which should become the foundation of perception, reasoning, memory, imagination, consideration, contemplation, making opinion, judgment, and all mental processes, which have the collective name of intelligence–thinking and which are the basis on which the greatest gift of God – wisdom – comes.

For all those who want to live, the first step into the life everlasting is acceptance of the first truth:

"I am the Lord thy God, Who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
Thou shall have no other gods beside Me"
{*Exodus 20:1–3*}

The current inhabitants of the Earth live in other conditions: in many countries physical slavery became the shameful memory of the barbarian Past; the land of Egypt is different; many people are convinced that they are free to live their life according to their choice. However, the bondage of ignorance and sin and subjection to the evil still are the destiny of those who live in darkness, without God.

The main obstacle at the road to any knowledge is inability to believe that this knowledge might be needed. Probably, inability to believe is the real meaning of terrifying warning of God: many are called, but the chosen are few {*Matthew 22:14*}.

So, the first step at the road to God is taken if we learned the first of The Ten Commandments {*Exodus 20:1–3*} and accepted as the absolute truth that

— there is One God – our Creator and Almighty God Who released us from the bondage of sin, ignorance, and evil

— only our Almighty God has the absolute power and authority over the world and over us, the creations of God; we have only One God, and we have no other gods beside our Lord and Creator. There is no one else who would have any authority over the world and over us.

Acceptance of the first commandment opens an entrance into the world in which a human being lives by each word from the mouth of God, in which perfection and mercy of God are the highest manifestations of the Absolute Good and therefore, the Highest Ideals, which a human being created in image and after likeness of God should imitate.

In this world, the physical life, life of human body, is not the main value; life of the human spirit is the only true actual life worthy of living.

In this world, a human being becomes the child of God born of the Spirit of God, the candle ignited by God Who is the Fire, the vehicle for carrying the breath of God, and the temple–dwelling of the Triune God {*John 14:15–17, 23; 17:17–26*}. In other words, in this world, the initial bond between God–Creator and Father and a human being, His creation and child, is re–established: a human being re–discovers God and His Kingdom within own soul–heart–mind, and God admits a human being home.

The Second Commandment

Those who chose to continue the road to God, should perceive, comprehend, and accept the second of The Ten Commandments as the way of living:

Thou shall not make to thyself an idol,
nor likeness of anything, whatever things are in the heavens above,
and whatever things are in the earth beneath,
and whatever are in the waters under the earth.
Thou shall not bow down to them, nor serve them;
for I am the Lord thy God, a jealous God,
recompensing the sins of the fathers upon the children,
to the third and fourth generation to them that hate Me,
and bestowing mercy on them that love Me to thousands,
and on them that keep My commandments
{*Exodus 20:4–6*}

The second of The Ten Commandments opens the ability of differentiation between the actual absolute power of the Almighty God and the power, which exists only in human imagination, yet, which men made the actuality of daily life. This imaginary power has a name: "idol." The idol–making activities are the features of the mind, which does not believe in God; they either indicate latent processes of perversion or point out to existing degeneration and abilities to commit crimes. Crimes, degeneration, and perversion are inalienable properties of the world built by evil imagination and living by false and deceit.

All living beings and other creations and creatures are made by God, and their powers are conditional, allotted to them in accordance with the will of God, for accomplishment of their purposes. Their properties, features, and manifestations (e.g., energy and power of the Sun, life–sustaining property of water, air, plants, life–sustaining or destructive power of elements, etc.), their powers to sustain or to terminate beneficial conditions of life (e.g., subtle wind that refreshes stale air or tornado that destroys houses and kills their inhabitants), the consequences of their existence and influence on other creations are the properties of their nature – that is for what they have been created. Everything in the world is created by the divine energy of God, lives by the energy received from God, and dies, if either the energy of God is withdrawn or the ability to perceive and to utilize the energy for continuation of existence is no more.

In other words, the Universe, which is opened for our perception and cognition, has only One God Who is the only authority, center, focus of life, and source of energy, power, and life for His creations. All creations of God exist by the will of God: we all

— breathe, think, create, and live by the will of God

— are empowered by His energy, and accomplish the purposes of existence because He gives the energy of life, the will, abilities, and wisdom to live

— have nothing of our own or our making; we even create by "the borrowed spirit." It means that the human mind is able to actualize its nature – to create – only if it lives by God. Mind is able to create something good and anew only if it receives from God the energy–power–wisdom to perceive–comprehend–know

– that is perfect–complete and might be unconditionally accepted
and
– that what is insufficient and how to make it complete, perfect, and beneficial for itself and for the others

Those, who have no God, live by imagination***Σ5***; they amass images–dreams, ascribe to them the features and powers existing only in their imagination, and accept them as reality. Then, they call the mass "knowledge," while it is collection of irrational figments of imagination, embody it into their laws, politics, culture, education, and attempt to live by it. However, false knowledge leads to perversion, degeneration, and ultimately, death — all of them, indeed, are the actuality of current existence.

In brief, the first commandment leads to the comprehension that

— our God is the only God and the Almighty God

— only God possesses the absolute power – the power of life

— in the world created by God, nothing has divine or any other true power.

The second commandment elaborates the knowledge, which must become the foundation for perception of the nature of things and entire world around us, for thinking and judgment:

a/ there is only One God

b/ idol–making and idol–worship***Σ6*** lead to slavery, suffering, disasters, diseases, and death of the mind and body.

The ancient pagans deified everything and sacrificed living beings, including humans, to everything – the sun, the stars, the rivers, the ocean, the stones, the trees… However, the worst kind of idols is the invisible, yet, the most blood–thirsting ones: phantom of absolute power, wealth, any kind of superiority over the others, and deification of those who have access to the power of coercion. Worship to these idols are behind mighty empires, wars, heresies, the Inquisition, totalitarian states, atheism, Marxism, Bolshevism, Communism, Nazism, all other "isms" and ideologies of death, crimes, deceit of all kinds, and other evils, which humans commit against humans and against the nature…

Knowledge of the first two commandments opens understanding of the world in which we live:

a/ understanding of the first commandment removes the obstacles for many of those who seek God. Especially for those who ask: how the world might be so evil and men commit so vicious crimes against humanity, if the world is creation of God? One of such obstacles is impossibility to reconcile seeming contradiction between

— the faith in exclusive and unique – absolute – authority of good and perfect God

— the very foundation and the daily life of all human establishments based on idol–worship and false knowledge

b/ the second commandment places the human establishments constructed with human imagination at the right place, out of the actual reality by which the human soul–heart–mind should live.

Indeed, it looks like the foundation of the world is the hierarchy***Σ7*** of power–authority over men. Kings, rulers, party leaders, popes, heads of imaginable and unimaginable political, social, religious hierarchical establishments, and all other pretenders justify their claims on the authority over their subjects–members–admirers–etc., by ascribing to themselves possession of the absolute power***Σ8***, which often is elevated at the rank of the divine power with consequent deification of those who are able to exercise it. The highest point of this authority is the power to murder, that is to deprive of life.

However, there is nothing "divine" it this kind of the authority: it is based on the access to the power of coercion, on the power of the matter/flesh over the matter/flesh. The power of coercion is exercised with weapons, media, forceful regulations of the manner of life, through armies, police, surveillance, media, education, civil and religious establishments, etc.; there are legions of them. All of them have coercion and deceit as the main weapon; all of them have similar patterns of influence: modeling of thinking, behavior, and perception by coercion and deceit.

They might act through

— direct physical impact

— persuasion

— propaganda***Σ9***, especially with intentionally crafted false "scientific" knowledge, which, in fact, is figments of imagination – the lies intended to deceive and to subdue the mind and to force people to act in the way beneficial for the deceivers

— social or religious beliefs, norms, rules, laws, criteria of evaluation, official and unofficial values intended to influence opinion–making,

— education, etc.

The power of coercion is imposed by political, law–creating, religious, social and other official and unofficial hierarchies of power, authorities, and values. False values and the entire culture of idol–worship that is death might be forced upon the people through habitual respect and imitation of behavior and thinking of the elder members of the family and people recognized as wise benefactors of mankind, celebrities, and models for imitation – politicians, philosophers, researchers, educators, priests, artists, etc.

Any kind of coercion implies the ability to enslave and to make human beings physically obedient through fear of deprivation of the life–sustaining resources, freedoms and liberties, dignity, good repute, social or political status (place at the hierarchies of power and authority), family members, friends, and ultimately, life.

Each level of hierarchy has its limits of abilities of deprivation, or it might be said that those under its authority live within a particular range of insufficiency based on the power to deprive of life–sustaining knowledge, means, and possessions.

The most advanced (by the abilities of enslaving) establishments pretend on possession of the comprehensive or absolute power – over body, mind, and soul, which keeps a human being in their claws even after death. Such kind of authority demands deification of the head of the hierarchy with inseparable pretenses on the divine status that is on the place of God. Historically, this kind of authority was ascribed, for instance, to the "sacred" kings–priests of the heathen antiquity, to the "divine emperors" of pagan Rome, and to the popes–prefects of the Inquisition.

Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ commanded the Christians to separate the power over human body from the power over human mind–soul–heart living by God, and be not afraid of physical death {*Matthew 10:28–31*}.

So, what gives a Christian the power to discriminate between the absolute power of God and the pretenses of those who are able to kill a body, yet who are incapable of creating life and have no real power over the human spirit? The power that enables a Christian to retain the freedom of spirit, freedom of thinking, and freedom of choice between the good and the evil, is in knowledge and observance of the commandments of God.

Those, who comprehend the meaning of the first and second of The Ten Commandments and who believe in the unique almighty and absolute power of One God, are ready to make the next step: they must confirm their comprehension by their actions. The second commandment names the actions, with which a human being confirms understanding that our God is the only One God and there is no other gods beside Him. These actions should prove that the foundation of the reasoning is the knowledge that

— there is only One God

— there is no other gods

— idols are figments of corrupted and evil imagination, which must be avoided by any means, even for the price of own life.

And I think of incompatibility of two worlds – the world living by God, and the contemporary world of daily life through which I have to pass to reach home:

— around is the heathen – idol–worshiping – world, which is destined to vanish in the fire of annihilation, and which might be described with one phrase summarizing the heathen Greek theological thought: the world is full of gods

— within is the world in which the Lord my God is the only One God, and there is no other gods.

Those, who make the first steps at the road to God, encounter the uninterrupted war between these two worlds: the battlefield is the human mind, and the price of failure is death for the defeated ones and for their children up to the fourth generation {*Exodus 34:6–7*}. If a human being wants to live and to give children a chance to life, the second world full of idols must never be accepted as the possibility of existence; its foundation within the human mind — idol–making and idol–worship***Σ6*** — must be annihilated…

The Third Commandment

The third of The Ten Commandments:

…Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;
for the Lord thy God will not cleanse him that takes His name in vain…
{*Exodus 20:7*}

After learning of the first and the second of The Ten Commandments, the mind is prepared to comprehend the meaning of the prohibition: do not take the name of the Lord God in vain.

What is the name of God – **το ονομα Κυριου του Θεου**?

The Greek word **ονομα** is a compound word: it contains roots/parts of at least three words: **ον**, or **οντος** — being, **νομ** — law, **ομαδα** — group, cluster, knot.

If applied to God, the meaning of **ονομα** exceeds the usual function of "name" – the human identification. The logical block "the name of God" refers to the Being/living Law that originates the particular group/cluster/unity (e.g., the universe, the earth, mankind) existing because of this Law. The name of God refers to the entirety of the attributes of God, including the Absolute Good, the Absolute Power, Omnipotence, the Highest Holiness, the almighty and all–forgiving and perfect Love, the Source of life, the Highest Wisdom, the Glory of God, the Light of the world, the Fear and the Sanctification, the Sanctuary, the Father, the Teacher, the Supreme Judge, the consuming Fire, the Beginning and the End {*Exodus 3:13–14; 19:18–24; 33:18–22; 34:5–7; Deuteronomy 4:24; 32:3–4; Psalm 144(145); 145(146):5–10; Proverbs 2:6–9; Isaiah 8:13–14; 40:10–26; 66:1–2; Matthew 10:28; 23:8–10; Luke 12:49; John 1:1–18; 11:25–42; 17:4–6; 1 John 4:8–19; Hebrews 10:30–31; 12:18–29; Revelation 21:5–7; 22:13*}.

For those who believe in God and who belong to His kingdom, the name of God is sacred, because it is the reference to the greatest Holiness recognized as the Absolute. The Lord's Prayer {*Matthew 6:5–13; Luke 11:1–4*} tells: **αγιασθητω το ονομα Σου** — the name of God is hallowed {*Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2*}.

The name of God must be mentioned only in the prayer, with faith and love, when a human being

— asks God's help

— expresses love to God by thanksgiving and praise for all blessings and gifts received from the Creator

— worships God in spirit and truth.

Any other forms of reference to God are in vain: the mentions, which do not express the love and faith in God, are empty and disrespectful; they are abomination to God. Those who take the name of God in vain are condemned: they will not be cleansed of their sins and iniquities; consequently, they will remain under the power of evil and perish with the evil.

Since the first time, when Enos, the grandson of Adam, began to hope to call upon the name of the Lord God {*Genesis 4:26*}, the mind has been striving to obtain the highest state of perfection. Although it was destined to live within the world of the matter, in the world that exists because of the human choice to cognize the good and the evil, the good–loving mind began the road back, to the house of the Father, from which human beings have been exiled. Knowledge of the name of God allows finding of this road and secures the safe passage through the difficulties and obstacles. The name of God not only reminds us Who is God; the calling on His name initiates connection with the Creator: it works as the password opening the closed door.

Within the mankind's universe, the highest state of perfection is imitation of God. This state comes when

— the name of God fills up the mind

— the heart is the vessel that carries the law of God

— the soul is taught by the Holy Spirit

— love to God and love to the others became the meaning of existence

— observance of the commandments of God is the manner of daily life

— a human being discovered the Kingdom of God within and became the living temple of the Living God {*Matthew 5:21–48; 22:37–40; Luke 6:36; 17:20–21; John 13:34–35; 14; 15; 16; 17; 1 John 2:1–6; 3; 4:7–21; Deuteronomy 30:10–14; Psalm 104(105):1–7; Isaiah 51:7–8*}.

The entrance into this state is opened when the mind comes to understanding that the greatest reward of righteous life is the ability to call upon the name of God incessantly, when it perceives the name of God as the highest treasure, when it unconditionally accepts that the name of God

— is holy because He, Who man calls by this name, is the Holy Life that creates, bestows, and sustains life

— is sanctified, worshiped, and glorified because He, Who man calls by this name, is the Holy Lord of hosts Whose creations proclaim His glory

— is loved because He, Who man calls by this name, is the almighty life–creating Love of God, the Absolute Good, and the Light without darkness

— is blessed because it refers to the Perfect Righteousness, Highest Justice and, in the same time, the Highest Mercy

— is horrifying because it refers to the omnipotent Law that creates life and annihilates the evil in all its embodiments and manifestations including living beings, which became the servants of evil and inflict the evil on the others

— is terrifying because of the omnipotence of Him, Who man calls by His name {*Exodus 3:13–15; 20:7; Deuteronomy 30:15–20; 32:3–6; Psalms 98(99):1–5; 102(103); 144(145); Isaiah 6:3; 40:10–26; 45:18–25; 46:8–13; John 17:6; 1 John 1:5*}.

God protects those who have known the name of God and learned to call upon the name of God with love and faith. God hears them and delivers them; He saves them and gives them life everlasting even if they must go through suffering, humiliation, poverty, lethal man–made diseases, persecutions, condemnation, capital punishment, and other horrors, which human beasts devised and apply to subdue, enslave, and murder those destined to live under the authority of evil establishments.

So, what awaits those who call upon the name of God with faith, love, and reverence, who have confidence in the promise that they will be heard and hope that they will be saved? They are loved by God as His children and as His Own possession; they receive knowledge and understanding that

— they belong to the Lord God, and their place in the House of the Father is prepared for them

— they know the name of God

— they are purified and illuminated and completed by God, because they received from the fullness of God

— they comprehend the meaning of the good, justice, and mercy

— they are heard in their prayer, because God is with those who call upon Him in truth

— God is with them in the time of suffering and affliction

— their sins are forgiven, they are cleansed of their iniquities, and they have the promise of salvation

— they are saved in the time of disaster and trouble and they are comforted in their needs

— they are given life everlasting, although they have to come through death of a body

— they become able to create the good and to do everything – by thoughts, words, and deeds – in the name of God {*Exodus 3:14–15; 34:5–7; Psalm 51(52):8–9; 53(54):6–7; 78(79):8–9; 90(91):14–16; 99(100):3–5; 108(109):21–22; 112(113); 123(124):6–8; 142(143):11; 144(145):18–21;* Malachi 3:17; *John 1:12–18; 14; 15; 16; 17; Acts 2:21; 1 Peter; 2 Peter; 1 John; Romans 8; Ephesians; Colossians; other Epistles*}.

For those who believe in God and follow His Word, it is impossible to mention His name in vain, because they love God and know the omnipotence of the Absolute Power that might come to their rescue when they call upon the name of God. They know also that even if it is no chance to avoid suffering and death now, if it is the God's will to test them by difficulties and grief, ultimately, God will deliver them and recompense their suffering in His Kingdom. Then,

their faith will be fulfilled and they come to the completeness of perfection {*Matthew 7:7–11; 10:28–31; Luke 18; 1 John 4:16–18; Hebrews 11; Revelation 21:3–4; Psalm 90(91):14–16*}.

Today, within the world that worships false gods and which is filled with physical and spiritual pollution produced by the servants of evil and their ungodly establishments, many lost faith and with it, understanding of the name of God and that what it signifies. Moreover, many people developed hatred to God; they attempt to eradicate His name from daily life.

It looks like a historical trend:

— in the beginning, in the time of Moses, it was forbidden to mention the name of God in vain

— then, during the course of history, along with progressing dehumanization of the societies, many totalitarian regimes made any mentioning of the name of God forbidden

— now, in so–called "democratic" societies, the reference to the name of Christian God is "politically incorrect," that is unwelcome. For instance,

— the display of The Ten Commandments is forbidden in the courts of justice

— the references to God are "politically incorrect" for the politicians, trigger persecution of the journalists, and are avoided by the media

— the new heathens seek all possible means to make the Bible forbidden book. They attempt to forbid mentioning of the Holy Scriptures, and, until they succeed, they "edit" the Bible's texts, especially, those with definitions of sin and perversion and references to gender, as well as with mentioning of the destructive power of the Law, which annihilates servants of evil and perverts. It looks like they are inspired by the accomplishments of

a/ the papal Inquisition: in 1229, the Inquisition of Toulouse made the Bible forbidden book for the Catholic laity; the Bible was replaced by prayer books and images created by the papal theologians; many centuries, the laity (papal subjects) had to obtain special permission to read the Bible

b/ the Bolsheviks–Marxists–communists: in post–1917 Russia, the Bible was forbidden, many Christians and priests were executed, exiled in Siberia, and placed in concentration camps – Gulag; reading and possession of the Bible was a crime.

Well, at least today, the contemporary heathens – spiritual heirs of the Inquisition/Bolsheviks–Marxists–communists/pagans of Rome have some work to do before they eradicate the Bible and knowledge of God from life of those under their control: still, the Christians and Bible–readers are not

— publicly burned alive as William Tyndale was in 1526, for translation of the Bible in English

— placed into concentration camps or executed as in the time of Bolsheviks

— crucified as they were in the pagan Roman Empire.

And I think of the consequences of the processes of misinterpretation and eradication of the Christian teachings, therefore, rejection of the greatest remedy available to those who would like to be cleansed of evil and to be healed of the most lethal disease – the slavery of sin: calling upon the name of God in prayer for deliverance.

If to evaluate the progress of mankind by embodiment of the good, it becomes evident that the proper definition would be irreversible dehumanization.

If to judge by the results — general conditions of existence, quality of life, and overall health of mankind, it becomes evident that the proper definition would be degeneration, or anti–evolution. To make things worse, not many are aware of the unlimited possibilities, which the greatest power of the Lord God–Creator of the universe opens to those who beseech His help and call upon His name in disasters and troubles.

With each day and with each new disaster, the contemporary societies look more and more like the dying of thirst man in the desert. He came close to the oasis, yet, he fell on sand because he has no power to move forward; he does not believe that water exists because he forgot its taste. In his pre–death delusion, he had chosen death as the only way to stop suffering and accepted death as the reality and as the only possible future; he does not want to believe that it is possible to reach life–giving water, although it runs before him.

For some people, false pride makes impossible to admit own errors and recognize that they followed delusion covered under the mask of knowledge. Ultimately, the human mind, which rejected God, comes to the point of no return: it becomes unable to think about God and to call upon the name of God. Such a mind loses the innate ability of right judgment, because due to the preferences and frequent choices of the evil, it has lost ability to differentiate between the good and the evil. This loss makes impossible to surmount the committed evils and to turn to the good, because there is no comprehension of the consequences of own actions and therefore, the mind is unable to acknowledge the detriment inflicted on the others and to repent. What then, expects those who lost abilities to call upon the name of God and to seek His help?

There is a horrifying logic behind the power of annihilation, which is the fate of the evildoers – those who rejected the Law–commandments of God and who, thus, decided to live by the lawlessness of beasts: the logic of death, the mystery of lawlessness {*2 Thessalonians 2:7–12*}…

The Fourth Commandment

The fourth commandment completes the responsibilities of a creation–man before the Creator–God:

…Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy…
…For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, and the sea
and all things in them, and rested on the seventh day;
therefore, the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it...
{*Exodus 20:8, 11*}

With the fourth commandment, positioning of the human universe within the realm of God is completed.

On the Sabbath day, any kind of work was forbidden; even the manna had not to be collected, food must not be prepared, fire must not be burnt in dwellings, fruits must not be harvested. By the fear of death this commandment was enacted; for instance, for gathering of the sticks in a desert, a man was stoned {*Exodus 16:4–5, 14–31; 34:21; 35:2–3; Numbers 15:32–36; Deuteronomy 5:12–15*}.

The fourth commandment became one of the main identifier of the Hebrew's manner of life: wherever the Jews lived, in all countries into which they were exiled, they were known by their observance of the Sabbath day (as well as by avoidance of swine meat).

Strangely enough, but the ancient Jews observed the law of Sabbath more strictly than other commandments, especially, concerning idols, otherwise, they would not be made servants of the enemies (the nations whose idols they worshiped) and exiled from the Holy Land {*Deuteronomy 28:36–68; 29:22–28; Isaiah 1; 2:6–9; Jeremiah 7; 8:1–3; Zacharias 7:11–14; Wisdom 1:16*}. Probably, because the evident physical rest was the easiest way to exhibit adherence to the Law and to accentuate own righteousness.

Then, the fourth commandment became the manifest reason of the opposition of the Pharisees to the teachings of Lord God Jesus Christ: they blamed God for healing His creations on the Sabbath day, and they wanted to kill Him for His works of mercy {*Matthew 12:1–14; Mark 2:23–28; 3:1–6; Luke 14:1–6; John 5:1–27; 10:32*}.

So, if God–Creator established the seventh day as the day of complete rest, and it was later connected with deliverance from slavery in Egypt {*Deuteronomy 5:12–15*}, why His Son — the Word–God Who has the absolute authority over the world, Who is the One with the Father, Who came to accomplish the will of God the Father and to fulfill the Law and the prophets, and Who is the Master of the Sabbath {*Matthew 5:17–18; 28:18; Mark 2:28; John 4:34; 10:30; 12:49–50*} — heals a man and tells him to take his bedding and to carry it home on the Sabbath day?

The Ten Commandments were given to the nation, which lived in Egypt almost four hundred years, in the midst of idol–worshipers who deified figments of their corrupted imagination (idols) and sacrificed humans to idols made of stone, wood, silver, and gold. The people lived in physical slavery – under the

authority of idol–worshipers, and in spiritual slavery – in ignorance, lawlessness, under the power of false knowledge and sin. They did not know their God–Creator. They did not believe the words of truth, because they did not know the truth.

For those who live by the matter–flesh, only the material means of persuasion would work. So, to become the holy nation of priest, the "stiff–necked" and disobedient people with ruthless heart, "wicked…evil congregation" had to be forged and cleansed by the fire, hardship, and death of those who rebelled against God and openly violated the Law until they learn to observe the Law and prove by their behavior that they are ready to proceed with accomplishment of God's will; then, they will be come into the new land where the new covenant may be established {*Exodus 32:22–28; 33:1–4; Numbers 14:27–45; 15:29–41; Deuteronomy 7:6; 8:2–18; 9; 10:20–22; 11:16–19; Mark 10:5; Luke 1:26–79; 2:25–32*}.

Consequently, the people have to be convinced by physical manifestations of the power of God; for instance, such as

— wandering in the desert in thirst and hunger until, by the words of God, they would be given food and water, so they would discover that man lives not only by bread but by each word from the mouth of God

— fear to come close to the mountain, which was set on fire because God decided to make His presence observable for the people who before then lived under the influence of sorcery and magic of Egyptian diviners and believed in false gods

— instant extermination by the fire and plague of those who rebel against God and disobeyed His prophet

— and so on {*Exodus; Numbers; Leviticus; Deuteronomy*}.

All that has been done to make people to understand that the Law of God is the life of man: the Law defines the human nature and the terms of human existence; the Law carries blessing and life for those who live by the Law and curse and death for those who rejects and violates the law {*Deuteronomy 11:26–28; 30:15–20*}.

The observance of the Law (that is life according to the human nature) purifies the body – house of the spirit; it clarifies perception, gives wisdom and understanding of righteousness with which man is able to discern the image and likeness of God–Creator within himself; it enables the mind to perceive knowledge of the created things and comprehend their nature. The observance of the Law is so important for the mind and body that those who turn away from hearing the Law make even their prayer abominable {*Proverbs 2:1–9; 28:9*}.

The seventh day, the rest of the Lord, came after God–Creator's works were completed and He saw that everything He created is good {*Genesis 1; 2:1–3*}. Physical rest, the rest of the body in the day sanctified by God, introduced the meaning of completion; it was needed to open the heart for understanding of the spiritual foundation of the Law and to prepare to worship God, Who is the Spirit, in spirit and truth {*John 4:23–24*}.

At due time, when the chosen people evolved and became ready to perceive the knowledge of God, which is intended to transform a human–beast into the human–child of God, the meaning of the Law was revealed at the higher level. Those who accept the Christian teachings understand that the Word–God is the beginning and the end – everything for His creations: Lord God Jesus Christ is the Beginning of life, the Law that lives in the heart of man and speaks through mouth of man, and the summary of all written by the prophets; He – the Almighty, ***ο Παντοκρατωρ*** – is also the End–Fulfillment of the Law {*Deuteronomy 30:11–14; John 1:1–4, 16–18; 5:39; Romans 10:4, 8–13; Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13*}.

So, the mandatory rest of a body on the Sabbath day prepared the human mind for ascent at the higher level, at which the spiritual Sabbath would become the most desirable state of the human spirit.

Now, the Sabbath lives within the soul–heart–mind of the Christian–child of God. Although someone might have to work physically in all days, including the seventh day (that for the Christians is Sunday, day of resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ), the spiritual Sabbath is the holy rest of the human spirit. As any aspect of the spiritual life, the Holy Sabbath is the ultimate freedom and joy of heart abiding in God; it is the inalienable possession of man, which none of earthly authorities is able to take away.

The spiritual Sabbath unfolds as the quietness (or stillness) of the soul–heart–mind in God, when there is nothing to seek, and nothing is wanted, because everything is given and accepted and completed; it comes with understanding of the perfection of God, comprehension of the consummate completion of His creations, and acceptance of the peace given by God.

The meaning of the peace of God is unity with God. Unity with God is life in God, by God, and with God, when God Who we know as the Holy Trinity – God the Father, the Word–God, and the Holy Spirit (see **The Creed**, in Folder ***The Foundation***) – comes to dwell with His creation***Σ10***. Such life is the true meaning of the Sabbath, the accomplishment of perfection, which might be obtained only with God. The Prophets foresaw this coming of God when they wrote about the life–giving water in desert, the blessed bread of life rained from the heaven, the rain that animates and feeds the human soul–mind–heart (that is awakes the scorched earth and gives it life), and the river of the living water —– fulfillment of all and everything is in Lord God Jesus Christ {*Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 32; Psalm 62(63):1; Hosea 6:1–4; Zacharias 10:1; John 6:27–63; 7:37–39; 14; 15; 16; 17; Revelation 21:6*}.

And I think of the end of earthly existence, which many identify with the physical death, when the human spirit returns to God Who gave it. In this new phase of life, would we not discover that we just took another turn, made one more step, and still, are going through the never–ending way of cognition that awaits those who are God's Own? Indeed, would the Omnipotent and Absolute Power of life–creating Love that is God ever cease to create the good in its highest manifestation: life?

Could it be then, that the spiritual Sabbath, so desirable now, is a rest on the long way, similar to the life–sustaining slumber during which the health is restored and the new power for the next days of life is given?

Yet, all that is possible to know today is written by St. John the Apostle: the Word–God still works as His Father does, and the new world will come soon {*John 5:17; Revelation 21:5; 22:1–13*}.

The First Stage: Summary

The first four of the Ten Commandments define the attitude and the responsibilities toward God. However, they are more than stipulation of proper behavior. They define the only state of human soul–mind–heart, which is natural for a human being–creation of God: this state is love to God. The summary of the first–fourth Commandments penetrates the Holy Scriptures – they all about God {*John 5:39*}:

— in the Old Testament

thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and all thy strength
{*Deuteronomy 6:5*}

— in the New Testament:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind:
this is the first and the greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
In these two commandments all the Law and the prophets hang…
{*Matthew 22:37–40*}

St. Matthew the Apostle uses the word κρεμαντα, with the root κρεμ–, which originates meaning to hang, to depend, and to execute by hanging. This word visualizes the actual connection of the commandments with their Source – Almighty and Perfect Love Who is our God and Who is perfected–accomplished–competed in us {ο Θεος αγαπη εστιν … τετελειωμενη εστιν – *1 John 4:8, 12*}. Then, referring to the Perfect Love, St. John the Apostle uses the

word τετελειωμενη with the roots τε(λ) (the end, ending) and λε(ι) (polished, completed, accomplished by action/work/deed). The same roots are in the last word, which Lord Jesus Christ spoke in the end of His earthly suffering — τετελεσται – "completed" {*John 19:30*}: the will of God–Father, the salvation of the world, has been completed.

So, the texts of the Gospels point to the Perfect Love–Source of the Law and revelations given through the prophets: this Love would be hung on the cross for the salvation of the world; the Perfect Love, God, Who is the Beginning and the End, Who gave the Law, accomplished it for the sake of salvation of His Own fallen creatures, and made His followers acceptable (completed and perfected them) for the dwelling of God revealing to them and explaining the Triune, the one Only True God.

If we learn to observe the commandments, we might come to understanding of the words of Lord Jesus Christ in His last hours at the Earth:

— If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and We will make an abode with him {*John 14:23*}

— they may be one as We are One: I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected – τετελειωμενοι – into one… that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them {*John 17:22–26*}.

Love to God enables us to observe His words—commandments; love to God begins transformation of a human being into the dwelling–temple of Living God {*John 2:19–21; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19–20; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ephesians 2:18–21*}; love to God leads us

from
the death, which is the only just judgment we deserve
for all that we have done to the others, to the world, to ourselves, and to our God

to
the life that began on the cross on which the Perfect life–giving Love is crucified–hung,
so we shall not die, but enter the life everlasting

Love to God is the beginning of the way, in the end of which we become that what we have been created to be – the children of God…

The Second Stage

…and thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself…
{*Leviticus 19:18*}

With observance of the first four from The Ten Commandments, we learned to love God. Now, we are ready to continue the journey home, to the Kingdom of God. The second stage we have to pass, the second realm we have to make our own, or the second state which we have to enter, is love to a neighbor.

Who is a neighbor?

In the Old Testament, it is τον πλησιον — someone near, near by, close to (the root πλησι– originates cluster of words with the meanings of contact, proximity, similarity, immediate, approach). Consequently, Moses speaks of "thy people" and "children of thy people" {*Leviticus 19:18*}: the "neighbors" or "thy people" include

– the sons of Abraham

– the fellow tribesmen who live near by

– people of another nation who would accept the laws of Moses (in the current terms, immigrants assimilated into the society and living by the laws of the society) and then, would be permitted to live among the chosen people or even would be allowed making sacrifice and be admitted to the assembly of the Lord {*Numbers 15:13–16; Deuteronomy 23:3–8*}.

The definition of "neighbor" was given in the time, when the chosen nation expected fulfillment of the promise of God to accommodate them in the land of Canaan. The meaning of accommodation included gradual extermination of the native inhabitants. Definitely, Moses did not include in category of "neighbors" the people of idol–worshiping nations. Moreover, their establishments and customs had to be discarded, their daughters had not to be taken as wives to sons of Abraham, idols and places of worship had to be ruined, gold and silver counted as accursed and not coveted or taken. Moses conveyed the will of God: prohibition of all contacts with the doomed humans who with their abominations defiled the face of the Earth: idol–worshipers who sacrificed own children to stones, sorcerers, diviners, mediums who pretend to contact with the dead and other spirits, perverts, etc. This prohibition was intended to preserve health of the chosen people, so, God would sanctify them, and they would not become infected with the evil – poisonous knowledge***Σ11*** of the heathen nations {*Exodus 23:23–24; 34:11–17; Leviticus 18:3–30; 20; Deuteronomy 2:31–36; 4:37–38; 7; 9:3–6; 29:16–29; 32; Psalm 90(91):13; 139(140):3; Isaiah 2:6–9; 59:2–5; Romans 3:13*}.

The meaning of any evil is deprivation and insufficiency. Consequently, as a brief introductory statement, it might be said that prohibition of any kind of deprivation is the core of

– the Law that regulates interrelations among people

– the issuing laws of Moses, rules and norms that regulate the life of the tribe.

The fifth–tenth Commandments {*Exodus 20:12–17; Deuteronomy 5:16–21*} and their explication in the laws of Moses are intended to exclude evil from the daily life of the chosen nation: they prohibit any kind of deprivation, and any action, which would result in deprivation of the neighbor of any of his possessions, therefore, which would lead to insufficiency. Life, good repute, property of any kind, honor, respect – everything that is of value for the neighbor must not be taken away from the neighbor.

In the New Testament, the meaning of "neighbor" becomes all–inclusive: we must love all, including enemies and those who hate us, those who sin against us, and those who deprive us of something valuable. We must help, assist, and alleviate the burden of needs, suffering, and grief of all who we encounter – in the same way we ourselves wish to be assisted and loved. By non–discriminating benevolence, kindness, willingness to help, and mercy we must imitate perfection and mercy of God the Father {*Matthew 5:21–48; 7:12; Luke 6:27–36; 10:25–37; 14:12–14*}.

Consequently,

— it is not proper to stone the woman taken in adultery – only someone who is without sin would cast the first stone, yet, there is none without sin {*John 8:2–11*}

— it is not proper to divorce the wife who lost love of her husband: Moses gave a commandment concerning a letter of divorce because of the ruthless heart of men (σκληροκαρδιαν); everyone who dismisses his wife (if not for her adultery) makes her to commit adultery, and anyone who marries divorced woman, he himself commits adultery; it is not proper to set apart that God yoked together {*Matthew 5:31–32; Mark 10:2–12*}

— it is not the business of man to judge the others; firstly, we must judge ourselves and to purify own heart, mind, and hands; then, no sinners would exist, and no judgment would be needed {*Matthew 7:1–5; Luke 6:37–42; Isaiah 1:2–20*}.

With a few words of the Word–God, the entire edifice of human justice is overthrown. Those who love the others are not able to sin against the others: they became unable to inflict harm, to betray, to deprive of anything of value, to humiliate, to ridicule, to make suffer. Then, if there is no sin and evil, no judgment is needed.

Indeed, love is the fulfillment of the law {*Romans 13:10*} and therefore, the ultimate freedom from evil and sin…

…Honor thy father and thy mother,
that thou may be established and originate (σου γενηται**),**
and that thou may live long on the good land,
which the Lord thy God gives to thee …
{*Exodus 20:12*}

The first of the Commandments, which define relations among the people, is devoted to the parents. Life begins with parents, family is the natural foundation of the society, and obligation to father and mother is the starting point of any civilization, which accommodates normal human existence – that is existence in accordance with the human nature. God establishes the direct connection of "honor thy father and thy mother" with

a/ life–sustainability – γενηται (the ancient compound word that conveys very complex meaning including abilities to be born/established, and to originate–create; seemingly, close to the current meaning of sustainability), which English translations of the Bible either miss or mention as "it may be well with you"

b/ longevity

c/ dwelling on the good/beneficial/profitable land.

Other texts of the Holy Scriptures elaborate the fifth Commandment:

– whoever smites his father or mother must be put to death {*Exodus 21:15–16*}

– to be obedient to father and do not despise mother because of her old age {*Proverbs 23:22*}

– to sneer at mother is sign of folly {*Proverbs 15:20*}.

Lord God Jesus Christ reiterates the responsibilities before the parents: "honor your father and mother," and "the one speaking evil of his father or mother, by death let him die." The Lord also rebukes the Pharisees and scribes that they annulled the commandment of God by their own tradition, when the people tell their parents "Gift [to God] is whatever you would gain from me," they avoid responsibility to sustain them. So, they honor God by their lips, yet, their heart is far from Him {*Matthew 15:3–8; Mark 7:9–13*}.

If applied to the parents, the meaning of "honor," includes respect, devotion, obedience, loyalty, concern for well–being, sharing possession, and above all, support in the time of need and any kind of assistance, which would be beneficial to the parents, especially in their old age. It is not enough to love father and mother from a distance, or in the depth of heart; God's Law requires definite behavior: respect, politeness, and material support in all needs. The consequences of such behavior also are definite: life–sustainability, longevity, and life "on the good land" {*Exodus 20:12*}.

Why the Law connects honor and love to the parents with the ability to sustain life, longevity, and prosperous and comfortable life "on the good land"?

Parents – father and mother – start a family: they not only become one flesh {*Genesis 2:23–24*} from which the new life emerges; they are the wholeness, which must not be put apart by men {*Matthew 5:31–32; Mark 10:2–12*}, because the family secures continuation of existence of mankind. A family is the core of the society, the seed of civilization, and foundation of the state and social order. In the parents' house a child should come to understanding and learn

— meaning of the good and evil

— how to discern the good and the evil

— criteria of judgment and evaluation, firstly, own words and actions

— such irreplaceable features and virtues as love, faith, ability to evolve, human dignity, individuality, free and independent judgment, the meaning of responsibilities for own behavior, respect to the others (starting with own parents), loyalty, concern for the others, ability to share the very own possession with the others, and other kinds of behavior, which compose the meaning of the all–encompassing word "humaneness." The child's abilities to discern good and evil and to choose the good, understanding of the meaning of responsibility, and ability to assume responsibility for own thinking, words, and actions would summarize the parents' efforts and determine preparedness of a child to enter the social life.

In general, any society is a reflection of the family values. If a family fails to bring up a human being, the society receives a human beast.

It is not a coincidence that

— the totalitarian regimes (which build own foundation from the slaves who betray and kill without hesitation and who serve any power without any reservation) consider family as the worst enemy and attempt to break the parents–children ties with all means possible

— the worst crimes against humanity are committed by those who were deprived of family, were abused and mistreated by parent(s), were neglected or lived in orphanages and other charitable institutions with the abusive and ruthless personnel

— the weak families produce consumers–beasts incapable of development. Yet, a society with majority of consumers–beasts is doomed to degeneration and decay.

Now, it is particularly clear that the contemporary societies filled with crimes, heresies, religious, social and political corruption reflect the degradation of the main human institution: the family. This might be confirmed not only by increase of teenage out–of–wedlock pregnancies, sky–rocketing rate of divorce, quantities of single–parent families, plagues of abortions, STD, crimes, suicides, violence, political and civil unrest and cynicism, and overcrowded nursing houses and charitable institutions for the elders filled with unwanted and forgotten parents. In fact, many traditional social, religious, and political institutions came to the verge of collapse because of their own degeneration as well as because of corruption of those who they should serve, educate, protect, and defend.

This degradation began in the antiquity, from Plato's mind play named philosophy, and its continuation by Aristotle. The state politics devised by Aristotle on the basis of Plato's speculations diminished the role of the family and introduced the mandatory public education with some definite purposes. Among them, for instance, are such as

a/ to fashion social animals–men after the typical model convenient for control and usage

b/ to provide the polis (city–state) with obedient subjects, which are ready for manipulation and use according to the needs of the rulers

c/ to secure stability without any unrest, hostility, and civil/other disobedience threatening the rulers.

Consequently, in the Aristotelian establishment

— role of the parents is diminished and restricted to the biological reproduction

— the Absolute Good is labeled as impractical for men, therefore, as not wanted or non–existing, and replaced with the definite practical good at the αγορα – market place's level, that is with the set of values, which reflect needs of the hierarchy of slave–owners

— the authority of the state is elevated at the highest rank; ultimately, the state becomes the main deity in the pantheon of idols designed to keep mind and body of subjects under the total control

— responsibilities before the hierarchies of power take the place of the human virtues

— gods, rites of worship, and the meaning of good and evil are defined by the state

— mythical "democracy" (public gathering at αγορα, assemblies, show of elections of the representatives, councils, etc.) masquerades tyranny of the elite

— and so on…

As any slave–owners, Plato and Aristotle assumed that the power of coercion, manipulation by opinions, and mandatory public education would fashion human beings into typical/standard replaceable manageable social animals–parts–property of the polis, therefore, would secure social stability and prosperity of the polis. However, the end of all political establishments built on the Plato–Aristotle's model ***Σ12*** was, is, and will be the same: destruction through degeneration, revolution, and assimilation by other states (that is defeat in war or other forms of assimilation).

The reasons of failure also are the same: destruction of family and substitution the slogans and lies for the family values and human virtues that are the foundation of morality***Σ13*** that defines life and evolution–development of human societies. Slaves and free men differ not by physical freedom and confinement, nor social or religious status, nor the place at the social and political hierarchies. Two inseparable sets of attributes differentiate a slave ***Σ14*** and a free human being; both of them are the foundation without which the abilities to evolve and to create become unobtainable:

freedom of conscience and freedom of choice of good and evil
↕
responsibilities for own thinking, words, and actions

There is no freedom without responsibilities for own thinking and actions; there is no possibility to actualize the nature – to create the good and the new without virtues–knowledge of good; there is no human being without freedom of conscience and without human virtue; there is no chance of survival for the societies and establishments which are not founded on righteousness and virtue***Σ15***.

Family is the setting allotted for nurturing the free thinking mind, independent spirit, and responsible behavior; family secures continuation of existence of mankind, and family values preserve the societies from unrest, violence, degeneration, and bestialization. If a child honors and loves his parents, he is able of learning to honor and love all the others. So, the child has a chance to come to the Love, on which all the Law and the Prophets hang {*Matthew 22:36–40*}: the road to the Love begins in the family…

The Sixth–Tenth Commandments

Thou shall not kill.
Thou shall not commit adultery.
Thou shall not steal.
Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife;
thou shall not covet thy neighbor's house;
nor his field, not his servant, nor his maid,
nor his ox, nor his beast of burden, nor any of his cattle,
nor whatever belongs to thy neighbor
{*Exodus 20:13–17*}

The sixth–tenth commandments define the relations among the people; their essence is love to the others: the one who loves other human being will not deprive him of any of his possessions, connections, anything that is dear to his heart and may define the meaning of his life.

The commandment "thou shall not commit adultery" crowns responsibilities before the family; the others define responsibilities before the neighbor. All of them name the reasons of all crimes and foretell their consequences – suffering, grief, distress, injustice, social and political unrest, corruption: they expose the points through which the evil enters the world of men.

From all the possible definitions, which would identify the utter corruption and hypocrisy of the Pharisees who were expected to observe the Law, yet, who in fact, substituted their lies and customs for the Law of God, became unable to recognize the Messiah, and wanted to murder Him — Lord God Jesus Christ has chosen "evil and adulterous generation" {*Matthew 12:39; 16:4*}.

So, why adultery is such a crime?

The marriage of man and women forms the wholeness, the unique setting for reproduction of the society, state, civilization. Dignity of marriage secures dignity of family's derivatives – society, state, nation, civilization. By committing the act of adultery, people violate the marriage vows and commit the act of betrayal: adulterous husband betrays his wife, and adulterous wife betrays her husband.

Betrayal is abomination to God: betrayal is the worst sin from the sins against love. Even if the victim forgives the adulterous spouse and the family apparently still lives (for instance, "for the sake of children"), the original wholeness is broken and it cannot be restored. That is why adultery is the only acceptable reason of divorce {*Matthew 5:31–32; Mark 10:2–12*}.

Betrayal triggers the chain reaction of evil, which affects the entire society, nation, state, and civilization, because betrayal destroys the family. Destruction of the family culminates in the destruction of all its derivatives (society, nation, state, civilization) and everything with which the adulterer is connected. Betrayal annihilates the very ground for love and perfection. None of those who committed adultery and did not repent might ever be trusted: those who betray the family are well prepared to betray everyone and everything. Betrayal sustains the oppressive regimes; it is main component of foundation on which slavery and corruption flourish. In fact, betrayal is present in violation of any of The Ten Commandments: it indicates rejection of God and disregard of the interests and well–being of the others.

The Summary

Generally speaking, the entire history of mankind might be seen as the description of violations of the Law of God and the consequences; for instance,

– the destruction of all empires begins with the adulterous and covetous rulers; it moves forward through political assassinations, institutionalized deceit and corruption

– assassinations, false accusations of political and other competitors, thievery, fraud and deceit resulting in deprivation of the others, injustice, and fear to be deprived of life and life–maintaining resources sustain the power of coercion by which the oppressive regimes and tyrants live

– from the very beginning, wars became the expression of envy of kings (and then, other rulers/leaders/heads of the hierarchies) and the means of acquisition of new lands, slaves, and other valuables stolen from the conquered nations.

The history of ancient Israel {the Books of *Kings*, *Chronicles*, Books of *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah*, *Daniel*, and *Maccabees*} reveals the corrupting influence of the ancient kings that violated the commandments of God and the consequences:

starting with the disobedience of Saul
↓
through the indiscretion of David who took Bersabee and by the sword of enemies murdered Urias, her previous husband
↓
through the multitude of wives–daughters of other nations who corrupted Solomon's heart and brought him to idol–worship
↓
through the chain of kings – idol–worshipers and violators of the commandments of God,
who persecuted the prophets sent by God, yet, accepted lies of diviners
↓
the lower and lower the chosen nation went under the rule of corrupted kings,
guidance of defiled priests, and evil imagination of false prophets who divined for money
↓
until
↓
the chosen nation was rooted out from the Promised Land and sent to the Babylon exile
↓
then, scattered over other lands to serve other nations in humiliation and distress

The history of ancient kings***Σ16*** confirms the warning of Samuel the Prophet, with which he attempted to prevent the ancient Israel from the deadly mistake to disregard God and to become as all other nations: to have a king, mortal man, who would represent them and to lead their battles { *1 Kings 8:4–22; 10:17–19*}. With this choice, the original design of the holy nation of priest was abolished, and the hierarchy of earthly power became inevitable choice for all human establishments.

What is wrong with the hierarchy, if obedience and respect to the authorities are the Christian virtues {*1 Peter 2:13–25; Romans 13:1–10*}?

Slave by body might be freeman by the spirit {*John 4:23–24; 8:31–36; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:13*}: until submission to the earthly authorities or "the masters/owners" requires violation of the Law of God, submission is not true slavery. The true slavery***Σ14*** is submission to sin and worship deified leader/slave–owner/idols; this slavery leads to death of reason and assassination of the soul.

With their choice to disregard God, the chosen people of the Past have discovered the main pattern of total ruin***Σ17***, and diligently applied it toward all and everything that they encountered in their religious, social, and political life.

All hierarchies of power by their nature act through the power of coercion, therefore, require submission of the majority to the will of the minority–ruling person/group. The earthly rulers always attempt to take the place of God in the heart and mind of their subjects and to become the main model for imitation, because the optimal state of any hierarchy of power is imagined as the absolute power: complete enslavement of all those who are the foundation of the hierarchy, which is accomplished through control of the behavior, thinking, conscience.

All hierarchies of power might be described with two main features: slave–owners and slaves; difference is in the details, particularly, in the limitations of liberties and rights of the subjects. For instance, "sacred kings" of the heathen Antiquity and the medieval popes pretended to possess the power over destiny of their subjects in the after–life; the manifest power of current presidents of "democratic" states, which do not restrict freedom of conscience, is limited to the power of deprivation of life and other material resources, for example, waging wars. However, the foundation is the same, and ultimately, democracies as well as tyrannies prepare ground for totalitarian establishments.

In brief, it might be said that the main purpose of any hierarchy of power is the absolute power; the absolute power does not exist without its foundation: absolute slavery. Slavery is abomination to God, because where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom {*2 Corinthians 3:17*}. It means, for instance, that when the slaves of Egypt freed by God and intended to evolve into the holy nation of priests, have chosen the mortal king instead of God, they, by their own choice, entered another form of slavery.

Then, crimes of the kings and crimes and suffering of the people were inseparably linked. With time, kings (and consequently, all heads of the hierarchies of the power) became the embodiment of the destiny of the state/system they ruled/controlled: the more iniquities and violations of the Law people committed the worst kind of rulers they received and the heavier the burden of their enslavement became. The more corrupted rulers the people had the more corrupted the people became and the more evil and crimes they committed. This infernal link began to define the very fabric of the society and eventually, formed common patterns of disintegration and collapse of the societies and states.

The contemporary history is not different. Gradually, the institutions of power, social and religious establishments aspiring for the absolute power have been transformed into the devices for corruption and extermination of men. The higher level of the hierarchy of power men occupy the more evil they commit, the more evil they plant in the mind of their subjects and servants, the more hatred they evoke, and the more crimes and suffering follow.

However, all hierarchies of power based on enslavement of men harbor within themselves the core of own annihilation: slavery. Slavery initiates destruction–ruin/death of any establishment, which it sustains, because

a/ slavery is death of reason, therefore, any establishment founded on slavery has no chance to develop and prosper enough to sustain well–being of all its members/subjects, whichever money its accumulates and whichever weapons it produces

b/ slavery is not consistent with the human nature: revolution or another kind of civil unrest/war is the natural end of all oppressive establishments.

The ancient empires and kingdoms knew the wrath of slaves' rebellion: even the fear before idols of the Inferno was not able to curb hatred of slaves toward their owners – slavery and false gods are responsible for destruction of the heathen Antiquity. The similar processes are at work now.

The unspeakable evil and bloodshed of the relatively recent Past – religious wars, persecution of "heretics," revolutions that thundered during last eight centuries in the countries, which supposed to live by the Law of God, because they identified themselves as the Christian nations, yet which have learnt the plague of the Inquisition and the power of the "hierarchical" papal church (England, France, Germany, and other countries), still live in the memory of people and in books and movies.

However, on the ruins of old kingdoms and empires the new ones were built and then, destroyed: totalitarian states of the twentieth centuries are the complete logical embodiment of the ideals of the heathen philosophy, starting with the phantom of "absolute" power of a ruler, within the settings known as "the Western civilization." Their design is based on the patterns actualized by the following phenomena:

— the Inquisition

— the self–ascribed papal right to define the meaning of good and evil

— deification of the popes (and then, other heads of other hierarchies) as the "divine"/deified persons who are above human laws and, therefore, are entitled to overthrow the Law of God.

These establishments became the embodiment of denial of the Law of God. They grew into the greatest slave–owners in the history of mankind. Among their worst crimes are transformation of men into the slaves and establishment of total control and total surveillance based on betrayal. In an attempt to obtain the absolute power over their subjects and to deprive them of any freedom of conscience, thinking, choice, they fashioned the majority of population after Judas Iscariot and transformed it into the informers who without hesitation betrayed to authorities own parents, brothers, sisters, friends, co–workers.

The scale of their victims is unknown – even today: the precise number of men, women, and children murdered and tortured to death by the Inquisitors, Fascist, Nazis, Bolsheviks, Communists, and others of a kind is not known. In addition, the multitude of victims of the first and second World Wars are counted on millions estimated from 56 [Trager] through 80 [Wikipedia] million men, women, children.

The evil of these establishments is unprecedented, and the very fact of their existence signifies aggravating degeneration of mankind. Although some of them disappeared from the face of the Earth, their poisonous inheritance of the neo–heathenism, beliefs in racial/national supremacy, so–called "liberation" and other movements with underlying ideologies of neo–Marxism, Bolshevism, Communism, Socialism, etc., false ideals and slogans of beehive democracies, attractiveness of tyrannical oppression seen as an embodiment of the "absolute/world power" — still lives. On this ground, the institutionalized hatred to God and denial of His Law actualized through ecumenism and globalizm movements penetrated many state and social institutions of so–called "free democratic" countries, and revealed the latent before, yet, irreversible processes of degeneration of human nature and destruction of the world, which humans were created to dominate and cherish in love and perfection.

The contemporary civilizations and countries in all continents and parts of the world are in the constant state of war – apparent (military) and hidden conflicts of interests fueled by the lust for power and riches, insufficiency of resources, pollution, overpopulation of some regions as well scarce population in other regions of the world, poverty, illiteracy, injustice, and other evils created by the previous and current generations. Everything became contaminated and defiled by human greed, vice, corruption, and degeneration in such a degree that strict observance of the Law of God is considered as mental disorder: the very mention of God the Creator became strange to the ear of God's creations – men.

Erosion of faith and family values is accompanied with denigration of other traditional values, especially those, which unify the people into the self–sustaining system/wholeness – business enterprise, state, nation. Loyalty, devotion to the mutual purposes, mutual respect, patriotism, national pride, respect to those who serve in truth and dignity, who defend and protect, who fulfilled their duties of obedience to their rulers and died in the wars — all of them faded and disintegrated as the old pictures in family album forgotten in a damp basement.

In general, the current societies are well prepared for the unconditional acceptance of ideologies – the current version of the heathen cults of the arch–evil***Σ18***, which accommodate anger, hatred, violence, which cover crimes again peoples and societies by the names of their gods, and which places of worship spread evil, because they became the places where men contemplate death of other men and crimes against other societies and nations.

The establishments, which are intended for protection of the main human institution – family and its derivative – society, underwent transformation into the enemies of family and society. The political, social, and religious organizations, including schools and churches, the public officials, leaders of the different levels of hierarchies of power convey the messages of evil and corruption, because their policies, rules, norms, laws, words, and actions (in a course of their business, occupation, responsibilities, personal life opened to the public) are not founded on the Law of God.

In return, hatred, envy, betrayal, infidelity, and cynicism describe the feelings toward the rulers/leaders of all levels and all establishments – state, political, military, religious, social, commercial, etc. These feelings, ignorance in the matters of faith, lack of knowledge of the Law of God, and unfulfilled expectations explain anti–social behavior, mental disorders, and crimes of the ordinary members of the society.

Human and especially woman's dignity, innocence of children, understanding of the uniqueness and preciousness of each person are forgotten. Value of a human being is measured in the terms of market; for instance, such as sources for organ–harvesting, buyers of IVF (artificial insemination techniques similar to those for the artificial reproduction of meat cattle intended for slaughter), consumers of the drugs, vaccines, and cosmetics developed on the rodents and other laboratory animals and on chimeras (e.g., human–avian, human–plant, human–swine cells), targets for applications of expensive medical tests and procedures, which are prescribed for the sake of profit, not because they would improve health and alleviate suffering of the sick, and so on.

Figuratively speaking, population of the developed countries is transformed into the cattle, which is produced, kept, and slaughtered for the profit: the people are formed into herds of consumers of all kinds of poison — spiritual, mental, and physical, which destroy conscience, mind, and body, and which are distributed through all channels, including entertainment, media, markets, commercialized medicine, politics, religions, education, science, commerce.

Deforestation and pollution have reached unprecedented scales. People have polluted and poisoned rivers, seas, oceans, lands, destroyed natural habitat of many living species; their crimes against the nature explain scarcity of plentiful before fishes of the sea and beasts of the land, plagues, abnormal mutations of the plants, insects, sea creatures, animals, and humans. All of them are the signs of the coming death: the Earth is dying along with her inhabitants, including degenerating mankind, and who can stop it, if men discarded the Law–foundation of life, lost wisdom and forgot its source – God?

Scientists, researchers, analysts in vain seek the reasons of the crises and explanation of the current world–wide economical downfall, impoverishment, and other problems in an attempt to prevent them in the Future, to stabilize the world economy, and to improve life and health of the world population. Until they recognize that all the current problems are the consequences of violations of the Law of God, they cannot be successful. Uninterrupted military conflicts, lack of reasoning, denigration of human values, false pride and hatred to other states and nations, and other consequences of violations of the Law of God – The Ten Commandments – formed the problems of the Present; they will result in annihilation of mankind in the Future.

Isaiah the Prophet diagnosed the current problems many centuries ago; he also warned of the end {*Isaiah 1; 2:6–9, 12, 17–21; 9:18–20; 13:9–11; 59:1–18*} and gave advice how to avoid it {*Isaiah 1:16–20; 58:6–12*}.

However, the time is different now: the violations of the Law, evil and iniquities of men overflow the measures and the end is determined, although only God knows the time of the Last Judgment {*Matthew 23:34–36; 2 Peter 3:1–15*}.

All that is left is a chance of salvation

for a chosen few (let it will be all of us!),
for those human beings who during the last days left before the end
would come to love and knowledge of God and would obtain their salvation
yet
not for the entire world,
which men transformed into the Inferno for humans, animals, and all living creatures,
into the edifice of evil built on the ruins of the temple of God
{*Matthew 24:1–44; Mark 13; Luke 12:22–40; 17:26–30; 21:5–36; John 12:46–50; 2 Peter 3:1–15*}

Although the people and especially their rulers, habitually disregard Moses' warning given in the times of the Old Testament {*Deuteronomy 28; 29; 30*}, and the reminder given by Lord God Jesus Christ {*Matthew 5:17–18; Luke 16:17*}, the Law, by which the world lives, has not been canceled. The current state of the world affairs — poverty, diseases and plagues, military conflicts, social unrest, religious, social, and political corruption, crimes against men and against the nature, chain of man–made and natural crises — might reveal the powers of annihilation at work to those who seek understanding of the Present and knowledge of the Future.

I give a new commandment to you,
that you love one another as I loved you, that also you should love one another.
By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love among one another
{*John 13:34*}
This is My commandment,
that you love one another as I loved you
{*John 15:12*}

The third stage of the road to God unfolds as cognition of the Christian love; this is the last stage of the earthly journey, the last realm we have to pass, and the ultimate lesson we have to learn, if we want to become the children of God and to return home, into the Kingdom of God.

The two greatest commandments of love are well known: with them, the human civilization began. In the time of the New Testament, God again tells us about love {*John 13:34–35; 15:12–17*}.

Why God speaks of a "new commandment," what is the difference, and why this love distinguishes the followers of Lord Jesus Christ from all other human beings?

To love a neighbor as we love ourselves is not enough. Our love to the others must be perfect in its completion: we must love each other in the same way as God loves us {*John 13:34; 15:12*}.

How God loves us? He lays down His life for our salvation {*John 3:16–18; 10:11, 14–18; 12:23–26; 15:13–14*}.

God explains us the meaning of the perfect love:

— the one who loves his enemies, he imitates mercy and perfection of God the Father {*Matthew 5:44–48; Luke 6:27–36*}

— he who loves Lord God Jesus Christ, keeps His words and observes His commandments {*John 14:15–17, 21*}

— the one who lays down his life for his friends has the greatest love {*John 15:13*}

— he who loves God and observes His commandments, dwells in love of God the Son as He, God the Son, dwells in love of God the Father {*John 15:10*}

— love to God gives a human being the knowledge of God the Father and God the Son – the Word–God; this knowledge is the eternal life {*John 17:3*}

— a human being, who loves God and in who God dwells, comes to completion by the perfect love and returns to God: through Lord God Jesus Christ a human being is unified with God and dwells with God in the eternity {*John 17:21–26; Revelation 21:1–7*}.

— to him who loves God and observes His commandments, the Holy Spirit of God is sent from the Father, in the name of the Son: the Holy Spirit of truth, comes to a human being, dwells in him and with him, comforts, teaches, and gives understanding of the words of God. The knowledge of God, love to God and understanding of His words given by the Holy Spirit, enable a human being to fulfill the commandments of Lord God Jesus Christ and to do the works of God, so, God the Father will love him, and He and His Son, the Word–God, will come and make their dwelling with him {*John 14:21, 23; 17:24–26*}.

Love to God and observance of the commandments of God transforms a human being into the dwelling of the Holy Trinity: this transformation is the meaning of salvation, the purpose of every human being born into this world, and completion of the earthly journey.

And what is about the others?

The Old Testament's commandments, which are intended to prevent deprivation of the others of all their possessions and valuables, therefore to prevent evil–insufficiency of any kind, is not enough. We must learn how to supplement and to heal insufficiency of the others by our love, how to create the good, which would benefit the others, so our love would complete/perfect all – those who create and give and those who accept and evolve – into the unity with our God Who is the Perfect Love.

In summary, we, the Christians, perceive and learn the perfect love through love to God, imitation of God, observance of His commandments, knowledge of God, and love to the others in whom we recognize the same image and likeness of God that lives within us: everything begins with love and is completed by love – the greatest good of men.

Only those human beings will have life everlasting and enter the Kingdom of God

who learned to love God
who observed commandments of God
who cognized the love of God
{*1 John 3:16–17; 4:7–21; 5:1–13; Revelation 22:14*}.

Hence, the Christian's road to God

— begins with observance of the Law of God – The Ten Commandments, which define the nature of men through the responsibilities before the Creator and before other men

— unfolds before those who understand that Lord God Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the only Truth, Light and Life of the world, and the Way to God the Father

— leads to perfect love and cognition of God, to the absolute freedom, when a human being, through Lord God Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes the child of God, is unified with God the Father and Creator, and enters life everlasting {*John 1:1–18; 3:3–7, 16–21, 35–36; 4:23–24; 6:28–69; 7:37–39; 8:12, 24–25, 34–36; 10:1–18, 27–30; 11:25–26; 12:44–50; 14; 15; 16;17*}.

…I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me…
{*John 14:6*}

The essence of the road to God is perfection in love; this road has three stages:

1/ perfection in love to God
2/ perfection in love to the others
3/ Christian love, when a human being
— becomes the child of God
— receives the authority to do the works of Love
— becomes the temple–dwelling of the Holy Trinity
— obtains the peace of God
— is ready to return home, in the Kingdom of God
because he has accomplished the purposes of existence and his earthly journey is completed

The first and the second stages restore the normal human nature and transform a human beast into a human being.

Through the observance of The Ten Commandments, a human being

a/ is healed: the healing power of God revives the heart of stone, wipes out dullness and moral blindness {*Isaiah 6:9–10; John 12:37–41*}, and restores clarity of perception and understanding. In a human being who observes the Law of God, the power of God heals soul–heart–mind; as a result, he converts into the normal human state – righteousness and wisdom, which are the indications that the image and likeness of God are within

b/ learns to love God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength

c/ learns to love the others.

In summary,

the observance of The Ten Commandments opens the road to the eternal Life, leads a human being close to the Kingdom of God, and prepares a human being for acceptance of the Word–God Who would give him the authority to become the child of God and place in His Kingdom { *Matthew 5:17–19; 19:16–26; 22:36–40; Mark 12:29–34; Luke 10:25–28; 18:18–27; John 1:1–18; 14; 15; 16; 17; Revelation 22:1–5*}.

The third stage — perfection in Christian love — is opened to those who had accepted that Lord God Jesus Christ is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him {*John 14:6*}.

When love to God becomes the essence of a human being, the power of eternal Spirit–breath of God {*Genesis 2:7*} is again ignited within His creation {*John 3:3–7; 6:63; 14:15–17; 15:26*}. Then, the human being becomes able to discern within the others the same image and likeness of God that is within his own soul–heart–mind: the human being becomes able to love the others as he loves himself and as God loves him.

Love to God and love to the others evoke abilities to discern the true Light – the Light of God {*John 1:4–5, 9; 8:12; 12:46*} that illuminates everyone who seeks the road to God within the darkness of this world of the matter allotted for cognition of good and evil.

The Gospels explain the meaning of perfection in Christian love and provide instructions how to achieve the most important purpose for the sake of which a human being lives. The model of Christian behavior is our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Imitation of His love to His followers and observance of His commandments transform the human heart–soul–mind into the temple of the Living God: through the Word–God – Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the original human nature is recreated within mortal flesh and a new being, a child of God, is born into the life everlasting.

How to discern the presence of immortal God within a mortal man? The child of God is recognized by the power to create the good and to accomplish the will of God. The Gospels and other Books of the New Testament describe some visible manifestation of this power which is revealed through the actions of Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles {e.g., *Mark 16:15–18; Luke 6:19; 10:19–20; Acts 5:1–16; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 8*}. By this power, the Old Testament's prophets***Σ19*** spoke and confirmed that they are the messengers of God. This power is the work of the Holy Spirit of God revealed through those who became the living temple–dwelling of the Almighty Trinity.

Hierarchies of coercive power and human establishments founded on human pride, riches, and power of weapon have nothing in common with the actual power by which the world was created and is sustained – the power of the Spirit of Almighty God {*Zacharias 4:6*}. Before this power, the mightiest armies and greatest empires and multitudes of nations are as nothing, and when actualized through a human being, this power is not concerned with the might measured by the values of men. This power sustains the invincible human spirit, makes a frail human flesh able to withstand the power of coercion of those who kill the body, and enables a lonely and weak human being to defeat the world of evil {*Matthew 10:28; John 16:33; 1 John 5:1–5*}.

The ability to perceive this power differentiates those who serve God and those who serve the earthly masters. When this power works openly,

— those who see the results of its work, identify them as supernatural phenomenon or confirmation of "the unlimited abilities of man" and begin to chase it through rigorous exercises and special training and techniques, which give only temporary deceiving illusion of the power over the matter, which dissipates along with the matter

— those who carry it and who are able to discern it, humble themselves before its Source–God and praise God for His mercy, because even to feel the presence of this power within the others is the greatest joy and reward of the righteous.

For the Christian–child of God, the greatest sign of this power is the ability to love God and to love the others as God loves His creation – a human being. This ability is revealed through acts of creation of good and perfection of the others, which very often are hidden within the ordinary acts of assisting, serving, and carrying for the others.

For instance, a human being, who is granted the power to heel, applies this gift without any reward or recognition, sometimes, without knowledge of those who need to be healed. The very act of manifestation of this power through the healer is the greatest reward and the greatest joy for the healer. Another act of a kind is mercy and benevolent help to those in need: everyone has something to share with those who have none – water, food, money, shelter, knowledge…

The acts of mercy reveal the meaning of love (and especially love to those who have less because of their violation of the Law or sins of their ancestors) as the power to replenish insufficiency, enrich understanding (for instance, to replenish the vital energy, which is weakened in the sick, to sustain body by giving food and water to the hungry, to awake the power of reasoning in the ignorant), and as the result, to awake within the others the hope and the power to evolve and to reach their state of the optimum.

In summary, any act of assistance committed for the sake of good/development/evolution of the others belongs to the realm of the works, which Lord God Jesus Christ mentioned in His last hours {*John 14:12*}:

he that believes in Me, the works which I do that one shall also do, and greater than these he will do, because I go to My Father

This act discloses one of the purposes of the Christian love among each other: the increase of the quantity of those who would evolve into the children of God. This act also explains why a human being, in his beneficial works for enemies and evil people in the same manner as for friends and good people, must

– imitate mercy and perfection of God Who sends His life–sustaining rain and sun–light to all –– the righteous and the unrighteous { *Matthew 5:38–48; Luke 6:27–36*}

– be merciful and kind to all –– friends and enemies, servants and rebels, the evil and the good, the righteous and the sinners until the time allotted to their choices culminating in perfection in good (or corruption in evil) passes and they, as the fruits of harvest, are complete and ready to stand before the judgment of God.

If to know, for instance, that the acts of healing and mercy committed by the power of the Holy Spirit replenish insufficiency of the others and increase the good within the world, and if to evaluate the world by the suffering and crimes of men, it is possible to assume that the quantity of those, who are the children of God living within this world now, is small…

If to recall the time of destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, when Abraham implored the Lord to spare the entire city for the sake of ten righteous {*Genesis 18:17–33*}, the only hope for the world is to know that the mercy of God has no limits. By the new commandment to love each other as God loves His creations, by forgiving the crucified criminal, and by giving up His life for the salvation of the world {*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:17–20; 23:32–43; John 3:16–17; 10:10–18; 13:34–35; 15:9–13, 17;*}, Lord God Jesus Christ teaches us the true and only perfection that a human being must seek relentlessly until he lives: perfection in love. Such perfection might be seen, for instance, as the mercy, which replenishes insufficiency and satisfies the spiritual and bodily hunger of the others – friends as well as enemies, so all of us might grow up in truth and understanding and ultimately, evolve into the children of God.

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The One Coming to Christ

…come to Me, all those laboring and being burdened,
and I will give you rest…
{Matthew 11:28}

The one who set his mind on comprehension of knowledge of God with the purpose to become a follower of Lord God Jesus Christ – a Christian ***Σ20*** – begins with a simple preparation: the silent prayer to God – within own mind, unnoticed and unknown to those who might be a part of daily life, who might be apparently connected to the one as family members, friends, co–workers, and yet, who, at the same time, because of different convictions, beliefs, and ways of life might be as far from the one as the East is far from the West {*Psalm 102(103):12; Matthew 6:16–18; 10:16–39; 15:8–9; Luke 12:51–53; 21:16–19; Ephesians 6:18*}.

To begin the road to God, the one does not need to obtain a particular social status or wealth, to belong to a particular race or nation, to go into particular places of worship, to wear special clothing, to seek court's approval, incite unrest, to follow special rituals and innovations of men. God is the Spirit and He seeks those who worship Him in spirit and truth: God sees and judges the inner man – his soul–heart–mind {*1 Kings 16:7; Psalm 43(44):21; Matthew 6:16–18; John 4:19–24; Romans 10:12–13; 1 Corinthians 6:1–8;* Colossians 2:2–23; *Isaiah 58:2–14; Zacharias 7:4–10*}.

The soul–heart–mind of man might become either the temple of the Living God or the nest of the evil and den of the robbers: the outcome is the result of the one's own choice, thoughts, words, and actions. The road to God begins in the one's own spirit, in the depth of own soul–heart–mind, and through Word–God, Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Life and the Light and the Truth of a human child of God {cf.: *Matthew 15:19–20; 21:12–13; Mark 7:6–9, 21–23; John 1:1–5, 9–13; 2:19; 8:12; 14:6; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 7:17–23; 12:13; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 6:18*}.

The one can arrange the initial phase of preparation as three–fold daily activity:

a/ to begin with **The Jesus Prayer*Σ21***, which should be read in the beginning and in the end of everything – the new day, when the one awakes, and in the evening, when the one goes to sleep, before starting and in the ending of the work, studies, and so on… Whatever fills the days of life, whatever has the beginning and the end, should begin and end with prayer to the Word–God Who is the Beginning and the End, Who is the Holy Wisdom of God and Head of all powers and all authorities over the human soul–heart–mind as well as over the entire universe, Who is the precious corner–stone, on which the ***ΕκκλησιαΣ22*** – Church of God – is built, and without Whom man is enabled of nothing {*Matthew 18:20; John 15:4–6; 1 Peter 2:4–6; Ephesians 1:17–23; 2:1–22*}

b/ to continue with **The Lord Prayer*Σ23*** and **The Prayer of giving the Holy Spirit*Σ24***. If the one seeks God with all heart and mind, with faith, the Holy Spirit, Who is sent by God the Father in the Name of the Word–God – Lord Jesus Christ, will teach and guide and lead into the eternity with God { *Proverbs 2:3–11; 3:5–35; Joel 2:28–29; Matthew 7:7–11; 21:21–22; Luke 11:2–13; John 14:15–26; 16:7–15, 24, 26; Hebrews 11:1–40*}

c/ to devote the time left after the daily necessities (job, family duties, household chores, and so on) to reading the Holy Bible:

1/ start with the Gospels; first, **The Gospel According to John**, then the others – **According to Matthew, Mark, Luke** – they all lead to the same Door and convey the words of the same Good Shepherd {*John 10:7–18*}

2/ continue with the **Psalms** and the **Books of the Old Testament** – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and all the following (especially, the Books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Malachi), which explain many events from the Past, the Present, and the Future

3/ finish with the **Acts** and **Epistles** of the Apostles (firstly, *1 John, 1 & 2 Peter, James, Jude, Romans, Ephesians*), then, **Revelation**.

The Jesus Prayer opens the mind to the Word–God Whose grace {*John 1:17*} will instantly {*Joel 2:32*}, although might be unnoticeable in the very beginning, start to work and to transform the heart–mind of the one who with faith and hope seeks God. The Name of Jesus Christ is the seed of the Kingdom of God that having being planted into the heart–mind grows into the mighty tree – the invincible empire of free human spirit that is loved and led and taught by God Himself {*Psalm 31(32):7–8; 118(119); 138(139):1–18; Matthew 13:2–23; Mark 4:1–32; John 14:26; 17:1–26; James 1:17–25*}.

Only through Lord Jesus Christ a human being comes to his Creator {*John 14:6*}: the starting point and the ending point of everything is the prayer to Jesus Christ Who will come and heal and forgive and illuminate and lead into His marvelous Light – the eternity with God – the one who opens his heart–mind to the Son of God, the Good Shepherd and Savior.

The Lord's Prayer – to God the Father – and the prayer of giving the Holy Spirit should be read in the beginning and in the end of day, before the meal, at any time when the one needs guidance and help in the daily needs and troubles, or when the ones perceives the presence of God.

The Holy Bible is the greatest treasure: it conveys the words of God leading into the eternity. Even if, at the beginning, something is not perfectly clear, the one should continue reading: as it was with all preceding generations, God will answer, open the mind for understanding that His law defines the greatest

good of man, and give the knowledge to everyone who seeks Him with faith and hope {*Deuteronomy 6:4–8; 30:9–14; Proverbs 2:3–11; John 14:15–26; 16:13, 24–27*}.

As soon as the heart–mind advances in learning and understanding the words of God, the one should begin to observe them, especially, The Ten Commandments and the words of Jesus Christ conveyed by the Gospels {esp.: *Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 5; 6; 7; Luke 6:20–49; 10:25–37; John*}, and to embody them into own words and actions At this stage, the Epistles of the Apostles should be studied as the practical guide, because they will teach how to establish life appropriate for a Christian and how to develop the Christian virtues, which, in the Present, the many either forgot or never learned.

When the one feels ready, he should find the Christian Orthodox Church, in which he might complete his preparation for becoming full–fledged member of the Church of God at the earth – to be baptized, to partake in the Holy Communion {*Matthew 26:26–28; 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Luke 3:16–17; 12:49; 22:19–20; John 1:33–34; Acts 19:1–5; 8:26–39*}.

At this stage (the choice of the church – for instance, in the US: American, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, or any of other Orthodox Churches – and the particular place of worship), the one should be careful, because in the current time and within the godless societies, some churches have been transformed into the establishments, which operate more as social/political clubs than the temples of God. Furthermore, in contradiction to the words of God {e.g., *Malachi 2:7–9*}, some priests became more concerned with material possessions, political advantages, and fulfilling of own immoral desires more than with the true value of human soul seeking God. Such priests

– cover their earthly ambitions with lofty words

– confirm their "sainthood" and pretenses on top hierarchical positions with academic degrees in theology and philosophy earned in the papal educational institutions

– propagate ecumenism***Σ25*** (ecumenism is based on the sacrilegious idea of unification of Christian Orthodox Church with the papal establishment, this idea and issuing propaganda with slogans of unity and "brotherly love" between the Christians and Catholics cover the war for eradication of Christianity) as "the will of God Who desires the unity of all"

– spread heresies, especially, by calling for compromises in the questions of faith, by forgetting the reasons of the Great Schism and the history of Christianity, by discarding the crimes against God and against Christians committed by the papacy and the papal subjects, by justifying the idea of modernization/adjustment to the current times (that is descent at the level of the godless and corrupted societies, acceptance the sin as the norm, the black as the white, and the will of men as the will of God)

– in contradiction to the instructions of St. Paul the Apostle, propagate acceptance of all and total unification {even with those who do not wish change their manner of life founded on heresy, sin, and disgrace – e.g., *in: 2 Peter 2:12–22; Romans 1:21–32; 1 Corinthians 5:9–13; 6:1–20; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Galatians 5:14–26*}

– corrupt and deceive many.

The litmus (or acid) test is the position of a particular church and its priests toward unification with the papal establishment (therefore the ability or inability to identify the Orphism***Σ18*** – ancient cult of snake–worshipers, on which Plato–Aristotle's philosophy is built – behind the Aristotle–Aquinas' political theology that is the official doctrine of the papal church of Rome, Vatican) and acceptance of idol–worshipers (although they might be deceived and earnestly believe that they worship true God) as the fellow Christians, before their ignorance is healed and before they are baptized as Christians.

Nevertheless, whatever the one might encounter, he should never accept ignorance, vice, deceit, and imperfection of men as the obstacle to his own coming to God. Christianity is the peace in God {*John 14:27*}, yet, in the same time, it is the never–ending spiritual battle with the evils {*Ephesians 6:10–18*}, which manifest themselves through corruption and ignorance those who have rejected God and chose to follow heresies and false teachings of men. From the beginning of Christianity, for everyone who seeks true knowledge and wisdom, the evil is always the part of the universal test {in: *Luke 4:1–12*}, and heretics, false teachers, and sinners are the part of trial {*Matthew 7:15–24; 24:5, 11, 24; John 8:31–47*}:

– the spirit of anti–Christ was already unleashed in the time when St. John the Apostle still lived {*1 John 2:18–19; 4:3; 2 John 7*}

– St. Peter the Apostle warned against false prophets and false teachers who introduce deadly heresies {*2 Peter 2:1–22*}

– St. Paul the Apostle warned against the grieving wolves who would not spare the flock after his departure {*Acts 20:29–30*}

– St. Jude the Apostle wrote of dreamers who live by their lusts, pollute the flesh, and have no Spirit of God within them as of the waterless clouds, fruitless autumn trees, and animal–like ones {*Jude 7–19*}.

Then, one more thing to remember: wherever the Spirit of God is, there is freedom and peace {*John 8:31–36; 14:15–26; James 1:25; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18; Galatians 5:13–26*}. In Christian Church, there cannot be coercion in the religious matters, forceful conversion, hypocrisy, and assertion of unreserved submission to men who pretend on superiority and especial status in the church: to self–deified men who sacrilegiously pretend on the place of God and, in contradiction to the Holy Scriptures, present themselves as mediators between God and men, while there is only One Mediator between God and man – Lord Jesus Christ {*Matthew 15:7–9, 14; 23:2–35; Mark 9:33–35; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–12*}.

Such coercion and false pretences are sacrilege and crime before God, because they

1/ are the attempts to interfere with the will of God Who is the only Leader {**Καθηγητης** – *Matthew 23:10*} of every one of His creations

2/ take away the precious gift of freedom, which God the Creator bestows onto every one of His creations {*John 8:31–36; 2 Corinthians 3:17*}

3/ deceive God's creations and masquerade the earthly ambitions of those to whom St. Paul the Apostle refers to as to the sons of perdition and ravenous wolves not sparing the flock {*Acts 20:29–30; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4*}.

A Christian lives in the peace of Lord Jesus Christ, by the perfect law of freedom explained by Lord Jesus Christ and given by the Holy Spirit, and in the Church that is the God's Own. Therefore, the one should never give up independent unbiased reasoning, which only knowledge of God sustains: meekness and humility before God does not mean transformation into the unreserved slave of men who make enslaving and preying on the others the source of own earthly wealth and earthly advancement. Trust in God does not include unreserved trust in men and spiritual self–enslaving to men, whoever they are, whichever sainthood they ascribe to themselves, whichever power of coercion they possess, and even whichever miracles they create {e.g., *Matthew 24:4–5, 11, 24; 1 Corinthians 7:23; 2 Corinthians 3:17*}.

Therefore, if the one desires to accomplish the ultimate purpose of man – to save his soul and enter the eternity with God, the one's mind should be tuned to the words of God, not to human fantasies born by corrupted imagination and earthly ambitions. The one should set the words of God as unassailable core of own thinking, reasoning, and judgment; he always should compare all the sermons, "apostolic/pastoral" encyclicals of the "fervent supplicants for all before God," uttering, and especially, actions of clergy and the people**,** which he might encounter when he becomes a member of a particular religious establishment, with the words and commandments of God {e.g., in: *Matthew 7:21–23; Luke 10:25–37; John 13:34–35*}.

The Word–God granted the universal criteria of judgment and evaluation of all world's affairs, events, people, and their words and deeds: the Christians have

1/ the universal criterion of judgment given by Lord Jesus Christ – evaluation by the fruits, that is by the good for all and every human being as the ultimate result {*Matthew 7:12–20; 15:7–9*}

2/ the universal criterion of evaluation of actions and words by which they recognize the essence – love to each other {*John 13:34–35; Matthew 7:12*}.

If the words and actions of man lead to the good of each person (not to the abstract common good, with which politicians of all times and all establishments staring with Aristotelian Polis sacrifice many for the sake of the privileged few) and reveal love to the others, they are accomplished in Christ.

For instance {*Mark 7:20–23; Luke 6:45; 1 Corinthians 12:3*}, the Christian's heart does not originate evil and does not train itself in blasphemies against Lord Jesus Christ. The Christians do not accept the heretical assertion that the church cannot imitate the mercy of God to the relapsed sinners. The Christians do not justify executions and betrayal of the heretics and different–minded as, for example, Thomas Aquinas the main theologian of the papal establishment has done***Σ26***.

In summary, although the Christian has no right to cut the corrupted tree or to uproot the poisonous weed {*Matthew 13:24–30, 36–41*}, for instance, to kill heretics and to destroy the heretical establishments masquerading under the name of Christ, he has freedom to reject the evil fruits (heresies and false teachings, and corrupted "priests" along with their deeds and crimes incompatible with the Christianity***Σ27***), so they would not poison his mind and conscience, and they would not corrupt his body.

All those who are coming to God know that the inner peace, freedom, love of God, wisdom, and the eternity await the one who decides to begin the road to God, follows the Light, lives by the Truth, and accomplishes his journey victoriously, according to the commandments of God {*John 1:1–18; 14:6; 1 John 5:1–5; Revelation 21:6–8; 22:1–5, 10–15*}.

Let the road of everyone of us be completed in truth and love to God and to the others…

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Σημειωσεις – Notes

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NOTES include *Excerpts* from and *Reprints* of Current posts,
my published books, and other works posted in 2008–2019 @ my websites.
The referred files (e.g., *CHRISTIANITY*, *The Absolute, Selections_&_Reprints*)
are offered for download @ Library Pages of my websites
***Christian's Mind & the World* – https://alicealexandrasofia.com**
***Sunday's Thoughts* – https://alicealexandrasofia.net**

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Σ1 According to the Christian teachings, faith is life: the life–bearing knowledge of God and the unity of the acquired knowledge with the manner of life; the just one lives by faith {*Habakkuk 2:4; Luke 7:50; 1 Peter 1:9; James 2:14–26*}.

St. Paul the Apostle defines faith as the substance of all expectations and the evidence of the unseen {*Hebrews 11:1*}; those who have faith see the unseen and eternal {*2 Corinthians 4:13–18*}.

Faith is the optimal state of reason; otherwise Lord God would not seek it in His creations {in: *Luke 18:8; John 9:35–39; 11:25–26*}. The Holy Scriptures provide the comprehensive definition of faith: all knowledge, all treasures of wisdom, all fullness of life, all power, and all authority are in Lord God Jesus Christ – He is της πιστεως Αρχηγον και Τελειωτην – the Author/Chief of faith and the One Who completes, makes perfect, consummates faith {*Matthew 8:5–13; 9:20–22; 14:29–31,36; 17:20; 21:22; Mark 9:23; 11:24–26; Luke 5:20; 8:49–50; 17:6; John 3:16, 36; 14:12; 15:4–7; 1 John 2:20–21, 27; 5:12; 1 Corinthians 13:2, 9–13; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1, 32–34; 12:2; Romans 14:23*}.

Through faith, the mind learns love and knowledge of God – the knowledge that is the eternal life {*John 17:3*}.

In other words, faith is the state of cognizance/knowing God, love to God, living by God, and unity with God. Faith gives comprehension of the essence of all events that compose life of the soul–heart–mind. It might be also said that faith defines process of human evolution, because faith allows obtaining completeness of knowledge of the Word–God and prepares for the eternity with God {in: *John 6:27–29, 44–48; 8:31–32,34–36; 14; 15; 16; 17; 2 Peter 1:1–11*}.

The Holy Scriptures provide the simple and detail instructions for all who have faith in God.

See
– **Concept of Faith** – in Supplement 2 to ***Selections_&_Reprints***
– **Sunday of Saint Thomas** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 7***
– **The Establishment of Faith; The Thomas' Sunday** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 5***

Σ2 Discernment is a special feature of normal reasoning: the one's ability to discern → perceive → comprehend → cognize the essence of things and, subsequently, to be adequately positioned within the world, securing therefore own survival → development, and achievement of the purposes.

In other words, discernment is the set of abilities, which make possible for the mind understanding of the people, events, phenomena, conditions and terms of their existence, their potency, and whatever the one encounters. The mind that has normal discernment is able

1/ to comprehend the essence of the law according to which the object was created and exists

2/ to identify compliance with the law according to which the object of consideration was created, exists, and either evolves or undergoes annihilation, and therefore, to evaluate its present and future potency and possible impact on the one's present and future

3/ to identify relevance to the one, for instance,

a/ a possibility to be used for facilitation of existence or development

b/ threat

c/ neutrality or irrelevance

See ***The Discernment***

Σ3 The lies of the crafty brute of Genesis, which the humans accepted as the truth initiating therefore, coming into being the root of all evils — the false knowledge, expose the reality of perverted logic, which made possible the **original sin**.

Knowledge of the law facilitates understanding of the original sin, through which evil and death entered the perfect world created by God and given to man to love, to cherish, to toil, and to lead to evolution.

If the one does not accomplish the will–law of God, he commits sin: he serves the enemy — the arch–evil, because the one can have only one master {cf. in: *Matthew 6:24; Luke 4:5–8; 16:13–15; John 14:30; 17:*14–16}. The one who sins also enthrones the arch–evil as his god and puts the knowledge of the evil at the place of the knowledge of the law of the only One True God. The root of the original sin (and any sin) is overthrowing of the Absolute – rejection of the authority of God.

If to define sin as violation of the law of God, or as rejection of the words–commandments of God and the following inability to accomplish the will of God, the **essence of the original sin** might be envisioned as the subversion of the Absolute accomplished through the chain of substitutions:

acceptance
of the imagined authority of the pretender/liar
instead of the true authority of true God
↓
acceptance
of the false/lies
instead of the truth
↓
acceptance
of death
instead of life

In **practical sense**, the original sin is the two–fold action of the first men, because of which death became the actuality {*Genesis 3*}: Eve and Adam

1/ disregarded–rejected the truth – words of God

2/ accepted the lies – words of the crafty brute–serpent as the truth.

Hence, they faced the consequences – death instead of immortality, for which they have been created {*Wisdom 2:23–24*}, because, by committing sin against God, they cut themselves from the Divine energy – the Source of life.

Subsequently, in their new condition ***[[***being in sin that is in the state of fear of God's judgment and attempt to go into hiding {*Genesis 3:9–11; John 3:20–21*}***]]***, they became unable to withstand the Light – God, therefore, to accept and to carry the Holy Spirit of God. With their actions, Adam and Eve established the pattern of death, which would be repeated countless times by their descendants – mankind.

As Jeremiah the prophet would tell many centuries later concerning the evil of men and their consequent inability to carry life to which he refers to as to the living water {*Jeremiah 2:13*}, they committed two evils: rejected God – the Source of the water of life and carved out of themselves the broken vessels incapable to carry the water of life.

Hence, through the original sin, the typical **pattern of death** came into being:

rejection of God as the only Source of Truth and authority
[[without understanding that with rejection of God, Who is the Source of Life,
the one rejects the very own life***]]***
↓
acceptance of the false of the liar,
because of apparent/material attraction and desire to possess it
[[without understanding that appearance–surface might differ from the true essence–core***]]***
↓
disobedience and distrust to God
[[without understanding that, because of distrust to God followed with dismissal of the Absolute authority of God,
the one has to serve another deity – imaginable/false, because there are no other gods***]]***
followed with
↓ ↓
rejection of truth → acceptance of lies
↓
death

The essence of the **typical pattern of death**:

separation from the Source of life →inability to accept–contain–utilize the energy of life →degeneration–perversion →collapse–disintegration →death

In the **theological terms**, the original sin is the first act of idol–worship – **apostasy**, which has initiated/brought forth the realm of death. Within this realm of death,

the words/truth of God the Creator might be disregarded
[[Eve disobeyed words of God, and accepted as truth the words of the crafty brute***]]***
↓
the lies might take the place of the truth
↓
the actual absolute authority of God the Creator
might be supplanted with the imagined authority of liars, false gods/idols
[[humans disregarded the warning of God, and accepted lies of the crafty brute;
furthermore, they attempted to hide themselves from God the Creator
revealing the instant collapse of reasoning/mind disconnected from God and unable to receive
πνοη δε Παντοκρατορος – the breath of Almighty God, the Divine Energy, that sustains life of reasoning/mind***]]***
↓
instead of the worship of True God the Spirit, people can choose the worship of "other gods" –idols,
which are figments of human imagination, and which often are embodied into the material objects
or can impact life of men through the material objects and power of coercion
[[e.g., disobedience to God and following attempt to hide themselves from God
opened the path for the lawless "son of perdition," through whom "the mystery of lawlessness" works,
who makes god from himself, takes his sit at the temple of God
{*2 Thessalonians 2:3–12*},
and falsely asserts himself as the highest authority in the matter of life and death – here at the earth and in the after–life***]]***

In the **contemporary terms**, the one could infer that the original sin became the core/code of special realm/reality/system, in which

1/ difference among the levels of complexity has been disregarded
[[the root: assumption that
the immortal man created by the Spirit of God and living/taught by the Divine energy – breath of the Almighty
can accomplish ascent to the highest levels of authority and power (becoming "as gods") by circumventing the will of God
(God forbade cognition of the evil)
through learning the knowledge of evil, which the warning of God already associated with death
(death is disintegration–dissolution of the wholeness of life)***]]***
↓
2/ the mind operates upon the assumption that
a system/event/thing at the lower level of complexity
[[an object within the world given into dominion of man –
e.g., the tree of learning of the knowledge of good and evil***]]***
could have potency to initiate and actualize evolution of man
[[who was created in image of God and likeness to dominate the world and lead it to evolution;
therefore the human mind already had the highest complexity within the world given into the dominion of man***]]***
and can empower man making him capable of ascending at the higher levels of knowledge
[[at the level defined by the crafty brute "as gods knowing the good and the evil"***]]***;
this assumption, which might be referred as *simplification*
became the foundation for creating knowledge, making decisions, and pursuing purposes,
even those of survival, development, and evolution
[[e.g., conviction, upon which the contemporary natural, biological, and medical sciences operate:
by studying nature of rodents the one can obtain knowledge of human nature,
and develop remedies that would cure human diseases***]]***
↓
3/ the reasoning/mind operates upon assumption that
it might create adequate knowledge
upon false knowledge and without observing the law of God
[[the root: rejection of the words of the Creator, and acceptance of the assertion of the creation as the truth***]]***

The lies of the crafty brute of Genesis, which the humans accepted as the truth initiating therefore, coming into being the root of all evils — the false knowledge, expose the reality of perverted logic, which became the reality of the earth cursed for the sin of men. After exile to the cursed earth and acceptance of this perverted logic, the mind was able to create the heathenism.

Eve accepted lies/false assertions as the truth, because they were sustained by the apparent beauty: the tree appeared as pleasant for eyes to see and its fruits as ωραιον εστι του κατανοησαι – ripe/suitable/mature for contemplation {*Genesis 3:7*}. It was situated within the perfect world given into the dominion of man, and Eve desired to know it. Therefore, she disregarded the essence (death) of the false knowledge (lies of the cunning brute) for the sake of appearance – the beauty of the surface.

Hence, from the **practical point of view**, the one might envision the original sin as **simplification**; for instance, substitution of the surface–appearance for the essence–reality.

Consequently, in St. James the Apostle's words, she conceived the desire/lust, the conceived lust brought forth sin, and sin, being fully formed, brought forth death {*James 1:14–15*}.

Since, the model of the original sin is repeated each time when the mind chooses

to reject the true knowledge of God for the sake of lies
↓
to disregard the law of God
for the sake of material advantages or conveniences
↓
to believe simplified inadequate assertions
instead of true knowledge
↓
to prefer the visible material reality to knowledge of its true essence
↓
to worship idols instead of God
↓
to reject the way of righteousness and justice and wisdom
[[that is life by the law of God***]]***
and to follow the majority,
who are running after false gods/idols, perverted customs,
and corrupted liars –rulers, politicians, false prophets, priests–apostates, and self–deified leaders,
and consequently, have to face
corruption, misery, spiritual (and often, material) poverty, hopelessness, suffering, and despair
[[that is life by the material values of the world that is controlled by the arch–evil
{*Luke 4:5–8; John 8:31–47; 14:30; Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13–15*}***]]***

IN SUMMARY,

the original sin has

a/ opened the reality, in which the actual absolute authority of God the Creator might be supplanted by the imagined authority of false gods/idols ***[[***and therefore, the true religion of only One True God might be supplanted by the worship of figments of human imagination intently brooding over the evil: by the heathenism, the essence of which is worship of the arch–evil that either takes images of different idols/false gods or is worshiped directly as it is in religions and cults openly based on the serpentine mythical theology of the Orphics***]]***

b/ initiated realm, within which the mind might operate with the logic of simplification disregarding the law of the adequate complexity

c/ initiated the reality of death, in which the adequacy of levels of complexity is not observed, inadequate knowledge/lies might be accepted as truth, and false knowledge might be created–accepted–actualized, although it initiates collapse and leads to the total ruin.

Acceptance of inadequate/false knowledge as truth originated the logic of simplification – the logic of death; death – because it operates with false knowledge that contradicts the Truth of God. It has, for instance, initiated the work of imagination–creator of assumptions in those who were flesh and who made all flesh of the pre–Flood world to pervert its ways upon the earth. Starting with the original sin, imagination of man was set to be intently brooding over the evil since youth {*Genesis 3:7; 6:2–14; 8:20–22*}, thus, to accompany the mind focused on the evil until the end of the world.

The logic of death could be the consequence of the initial trap masked with a natural desire of ascension to the highest level of perfection – man was created to evolve and to dominate the evolving world. The lies alleged a possibility to become "as gods" through cognition of knowledge of the good and the evil.

In fact, human beings already were "as gods" by their very nature: they were immortal beings created in image of God and likeness – they were formed by God the Spirit and they lived by the breath–energy–Spirit of the Almighty Immortal God the Spirit {*Genesis 1:2, 26–27; 2:7; Job 32:8; 33:4; John 4:24; 10:34; Wisdom 2:23*}.

Thus, the initial task of the perverted logic was to undermine knowledge of the divine nature of man and to denigrate him at the level of material arrangements that live not by the Spirit of God, but by the derivatives – fruits, therefore, not by πνοη δε Παντοκρατορος – the Divine Energy/breath of God that teaches the mind, but by the energy transformed for sustaining the lower levels of complexity ***[[***e.g., fruits of the tree, or knowledge of things that are not consistent with the nature of the world (for instance, such inconsistency is knowledge of death within the world created for immortality)***]]***.

After expulsion from the Paradise, and on the post–Flood earth, this task is accomplished by

— the heathenism – false religions according to which human beings were sacrificed to demons, deified beasts, and other idols, and which sustain themselves with the laws that demand corporal punishment, mutilation, beheading, capital punishment of men created by God and that justify slavery, forceful conversion, discrimination, persecution and extermination of people of other religions and walks of life

— the atheist–marxist–darwinist ethics–free sciences, which denigrated man at the level of animals ***[[***in compliance with the Orphic mythical serpentine theology***]]*** and study the human nature through studies of rodents, animals, insects, plants

— social and political doctrines based upon Plato–Aristotle's philosophical–political–religious utopias derived from the Orphic mythical serpentine theology and Orphic philosophical doctrine, which denigrate man at the level of slave of his imagined/false gods/idols and present him as an inferior creature whose nature must be improved by transforming it into likeness of the nature of beasts.

To protect the mind from contamination with the false knowledge, the Christian should remember that any concept, assertion, doctrine, religion is build upon a general core that embodies the attitude toward God and attitude toward man; this core provides the key for understanding of the framework of knowledge: the source–root, and the destructive potential. Hence, to discern the first signs of the lethal poison of the arch–evil behind any religion, any article of faith, any philosophical, political, social, religious doctrine is to comprehend the core/main message: the attitude toward God and the attitude toward man.

In particular,

1/ any contradiction of the words of God signifies lies of the arch–evil

2/ any shadow of hostility to a human being, any disrespect to freedom of thinking, freedom of the conscience, and dignity of a human being, selective justice, acceptance of the possibility of coercion in the matters of conscience, religion, and morality, assertion of own right to sacrifice another man's life, freedom, and well–being for the sake of any figment of imagination/idol, belittlement of one human being for the sake of another man, group, or establishment, justification any form of discrimination, any coercion in the matters of religion, conscience, political and other convictions – any of these reveals its source/root: the arch–evil that was murderer of man from the beginning and father of lies {*Genesis 3:15–16; John 8:42–44*}.

Consequently, any concept, doctrine, religion, etc. that conveys negative attitude–hostility–animosity–disrespect to the Triune, the only One True God the Creator and to His creation – a human being should be rejected as the false and dangerous misconception, because it leads to collapse of human reasoning, to which death of people and ruin of their establishments are the inseparable companions {e.g., in: *Isaiah 59:1–15; Wisdom 1; 2:21–23*}

See

— ***The Absolute***

— ***CHRISTIANITY*** (also as Supplement 1 to ***Selections_&_Reprints***)

— **Notes 22**, **27**, **28**, **41**, **141**, **211 to** ***Selections_&_Reprints***

— Systems terms and definitions – in ***Introduction to the Systems Logic***

Σ4 **Wisdom** is the power of reason/intelligence, with which a human being survives and evolves into the child of God. This power is given by the Holy Spirit Who comes because of the Word–God, the Holy Wisdom of God – Λογος/Αγια Σοφια – to the one who has faith in Lord Jesus Christ, the Word–God, who loves God, who accepted the knowledge of God, and who proved his love to God with observance of His commandments and with the deeds of good {*John 14:14–26; 15:10–17; 17; 1 John 3; 4*}.

In *1 Corinthians 2:6–16*, St. Paul the Apostle writes of the Holy Wisdom given by the Holy Spirit, of the power of God, which is the foundation of faith, and of intelligence, reason, mind of those who just/exactly follow the reasoning of Christ {δε νουν Χριστου εχομεν – *1 Corinthians 2:15–16}*.

Hence, human wisdom is the state of empowerment, when a human being, who has been receiving the Divine Energy and knowing the Law of God, becomes the co–worker of God and creator of works that actualize the will of God within the world given into the dominion of man {*John 14; 15; 16; 17; 1 Corinthians 3:9*}.

Wisdom might be also defined as comprehension of the Law of God and the subsequent ability to observe the Law: to live according to the Law of God, to embody the Law of God into daily life – the reality of own existence. As such, wisdom initiates and sustains human evolution, which is the process of transformation into the immortal child of God prepared for the eternity in the presence of God.

See **Notes 9** and **272** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ5 See **Note 38** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ6 Idolatry/idol–worship is violation of the first and the second of The Ten Commandments {*Exodus 20:1–6*}, or the heathenism; in practical sense, idol–making is blasphemy, because it is materialization of the idea of God the Spirit.

See ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization***, and **Idolatry** – ***reprint*** in **Note 29** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ7 See **The Concept of Hierarchy**, and **The Hierarchy** – ***reprints*** in **Note 178** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ8 The phantom of the **absolute power** of man is assumption that one human being is capable to exercise the absolute power over mind–conscience–body of other human beings transforming them into unreserved slaves and executors of the leader's commands. The phantom of the absolute power exists only because of deceit – the false belief that a mortal man ***[[***who is not able to prolong own earthly life***]]*** is able to decide or at least to influence the post–mortem destiny of human soul by imposing his will onto deities, which his subject worship.

To the contrary, the absolute power over men and all living creatures belongs only to God the Creator: any man/leader/ruler/king/priest that pretends on the power over human soul attempts to elevate himself at the rank of deity — that is to take the place of God — and therefore, coerces his dependents–subjects–followers–slaves–citizens to become idol–worshipers.

Σ9 The broad term ***propaganda*** refers to intentionally created false knowledge, which is intended to purposefully manipulate thinking and behavior of a particular group, society, nation, state. As everything founded upon false knowledge/lies or using false knowledge/lies, propaganda has the primary source: the arch–evil {*John 8:44*}.

In fact, propaganda is the most sophisticated weapon of destruction, because it transforms a human being into the slave

a/ incapable of perception of truth

b/ unable to differentiate the good and the evil

c/ managed by the creators/users of propaganda.

See **Note 307** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ10 **The Concept/Teachings of the Holy Trinity is given in the Holy Scriptures**: initial or introductory knowledge – by the Books of the Old Testament, and completed knowledge sufficient for preparation for the eternity – by the Books of the New Testament.

The initial knowledge of **the Triune God** is the core of the Abraham's religion {*Genesis 18:1–19*}, and therefore, should be recognized by any religion that venerates Abraham as the father of nations and traces to him the roots of its theological doctrine. This knowledge of God the Creator is completed by Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Word–God.

Then, in the time of the New Testament, Lord Jesus Christ, the Word–God, revealed and explained the Almighty God the Creator, **the only One True God** {*John 17:3; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Mark 12:29*}, as the **Triune God**, the inseparable indivisible **Unity** of

– **the Word–God** begotten by the Father and working the works of the Father

– **the Holy Spirit**, by Whom the world lives, Who dwells with and within the children of God empowering them to accomplish the will of God and to live by God and in God

– **God the Father**, from Whom the Word–God and the Holy Spirit come

THE ONLY ONE TRUE ALMIGHTY GOD THE CREATOR
Ο ΘΕΟΣ ΠΑΝΤΟΚΡΑΤΩΡ ΠΟΙΗΤΗΣ

GOD THE FATHER
Ο ΘΕΟΣ
↓ ↓
THE WORD–GOD **THE HOLY SPIRIT**
Ο Λογος, Αγια Σοφια **Ο Παρακλητος, το Πνευμα το Αγιον**

Rejection of Lord Jesus Christ and knowledge of Him and the Father, Who sent Him, was the act of rejection of the one Only True God: the ultimate apostasy, for which the ancient Vineyard of the Lord has been annihilated. The Christians know that those who do not believe in Lord Jesus Christ have no God the Creator, therefore, the original sin and its consequences – the "wrath" of God, death – remain upon them, and their destiny is eternal separation from God {*John 1; 2; 3:1–36; 5:17–47; 6:27–70; 8:12–59; 9:39–41; 10; 11; 12:10–50; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 19:13–16; Matthew 21; 23; 24; 25; Luke 23:22–31; 2 Peter 1:2–11; 1 John*}.

The Holy Trinity – the inseparable Unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – the only One True God, is worshiped by the Christians in Spirit and Truth – in Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit {*Mark 12:29*; *John 1:1–18; 4:23–24; 6:63; 10:30; 14; 15; 16; 17; 1 John 1; 4; 5:1–7*}.

See

– the **Concept of the Holy Trinity** – in **Introduction to Christianity**, **Part 1. The Foundation**, in ***CHRISTIANITY***; also Supplement 1 to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

– **The Feast of the Holy Trinity** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 7***

Σ11 This poisonous knowledge – source of corruption – is the doctrine of serpent–worshipers: the Orphism, which underlies the cults of the arch–evil in the image of the serpent and which became the foundation of many heathen religious that existed in the Middle East. The Holy Scriptures refer to this knowledge as to the wine produced by the vine of Sodom that carries the rage of serpents and incurable rage of asps {θυμος δρακοντων ο οινος αυτων, και θυμος ασπιδων ανιατος – *Deuteronomy 32:16–33*}, as to the lethal poison of asp and viper {e.g., in: *Deuteronomy 32; Psalm 90(91):13; 139(140):3; Isaiah 59:2–5; Romans 3:13*}.

The warning concerning the lethal poison of idol–worshipers – that is death, which watches over those who turn away from God, is one of the main themes of the Holy Scriptures, which runs through the entire Book of Life {e.g., *Deuteronomy → Psalm 90 → The Book of Isaiah → The Gospel According to Luke → The Epistle to Romans*}.

Obviously, the Holy Scriptures refer not to the poison produced by creatures of flesh, which might be rendered harmless with physical power and weapon of men; the poison is knowledge of the idol–worshipers.

Later, through the philosophical doctrines, social and political utopias of Plato, Aristotle, and their followers, this knowledge "produced by the vine of Sodom" and carrying "the incurable rage of asps" penetrated the Western civilization.

See

– ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization***
– **Notes 22**, **56** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ12 See ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization*: Doctrine of Plato; Doctrine of Aristotle**

Σ13 Thinkers of the antiquity defined **morality** as an expression of the normal human nature: godliness, virtue, goodness, truthfulness, honesty – all components of the norm, which also is referred to as **righteousness**.

Theology defines **morality** as a description of the normal human nature – as an attribute of a being created in the image of God and likeness Who is calling His chosen ones to Himself through glory and virtue helping to escape corruption by lust of this world {*2 Peter 1:3–4*}.

As such, morality might be envisioned as knowledge of the Absolute Good of God. If the Absolute Good of God became the absolute good of a human being and is implemented into his thoughts, words, and actions, it means that morality has reached its highest point: virtue.

See **Note 345** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ14 See **Concept of Slavery** – Supplement 3 to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ15 See **The Virtue and Survival** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 5***

Σ16 See

– **Notes 83** and **22** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***
– ***The Vineyard and Its Lessons***
– ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***
– ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization***

Σ17 The total ruin is accomplished in accordance with the common pattern of culmination of the evil → death also known as **διαφθορων pattern** – total–complete ruin of man and collapse–disintegration–ruin of his creations–establishments, with which he expected to sustain life, to secure survival, and to evolve.

In particular, the διαφθορων pattern describes the utter collapse → ruin of any system, which violated the law/perverted the code according to which it was created/arranged, and allowed subversion of its absolute truth – the original knowledge upon which it has been built/arranged and in which, subsequently, the alien knowledge takes the place of the original meanings of truth that initially, in the time of the system's creation/construction, was embodied into

religious, social, political, moral, and other laws, norms, and values
↓
religious, social, political, educational, and other establishments
created to maintain and to protect the system
↓
behavior, interrelations, and other aspects of the daily life of the people
whose existence, prosperity, development, and survival
the system is intended to sustain and to secure

The διαφθορων pattern can be always discerned within the totality of the events identified as revolution, war, defeat, impoverishment, assimilation by enemies {e.g., as it is in: *Deuteronomy 28:47–48*}, and overall processes of disintegration of empires, states, and other establishments/systems.

Personal διαφθορων reveals itself through completed – total – corruption because of heresy, apostasy, or crimes against God and His creations, when a human being is not able to achieve any of good purposes ***[[***e.g., survival, improvement, optimization, development***]]***, is unsuccessful in his endeavors aimed to prosperity and increase of overall quality of life, lives in ignorance, bewilderment, injustice, unrighteousness, hardship, and dissatisfaction with the fruits of his labor, even if he possesses riches, fame, and has access to the power of coercion.

The Old Testament prophets described conditions of spiritual and material neediness, and ignorance of the mind, which are the consequences of the collapse described by the διαφθορων pattern {e.g. in: *Isaiah 59:1–15; Micah 6:11–15; Habakkuk 1:1–17; 2:15–17; Haggai 1:6*}.

In the New Testament, the self–ruined people of incurable devastation are referred to as to

a/ the ones who already have been judged {ηδη κεκριται – *John 3:18–20*}, because they love darkness more than the Light, their works were evil, and they go into the darkness so their works may not be exposed

b/ the ones who are ***not of God***, who are children of the arch–evil {in: *John 8:42–47; 1 John 3:4, 8–10, 15*}

c/ false prophets and false teachers, "clouds driven by tempest, for whom the eternal darkness is kept" {*2 Peter 2:1–22*}

d/ the dreaming ones defiling flesh, fruitless, uprooted, not having the Spirit {*Jude*}

e/ the ignorant ones do not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God,; for instance, such as that, nevertheless developed "new teachings."

One of such "new teachings" was the **Pharisee–Sadducee–Herodian heresy** developed on basis of the doctrines, which sustained the cults of the heathen nations surrounding Israel. The Lord's definition of the leaders of ancient Israel as "offspring of vipers" {*Matthew 23:33*} exposes the source of

corruption: the doctrine of serpent–worshipers – Orphism. The definition given by the Lord summarizes the Israel's history of rejection of God, violations of the Law, and idol–worship, which resulted in inability to recognize the Messiah and the time of visitation { *Malachi 3:1–9, 17–18; 4; Luke 19:41–44; John 1:9–11*}.

The words of God, Who sees the true essence – the soul–heart–mind – of man, reveal the tragedy of the chosen people who, following their leaders, became the evil and adulterous and sinful generation, the ones who are not of God, the murderers of the righteous men and prophets sent by God, the likeness of the arch–enemy that was the murderer of men from the beginning, the hypocrites, evil and devoid of reason "blind guides" who lead the ignorant ("blind") people incapable of comprehension the truth into the pit {*Matthew 12:34; 16:1–4; 23:1–35; Mark 8:38; John 7:25–26, 30, 44–49; 8:44–47; 9:39–41*}.

The source of corruption is the false knowledge: the doctrine of serpent–worshipers: the Orphism, which underlies the cults of the arch–evil in the image of the serpent and which became the foundation of many heathen religious that existed in the Middle East. The Holy Scriptures refer to this knowledge as to the wine produced by the vine of Sodom that carries the rage of serpents and incurable rage of asps {θυμος δρακοντων ο οινος αυτων, και θυμος ασπιδων ανιατος – *Deuteronomy 32:16–33*}, as to the lethal poison of asp and viper {e.g., in: *Deuteronomy 32; Psalm 90(91):13; 139(140):3; Isaiah 59:2–5; Romans 3:13*}.

The warning concerning the lethal poison of idol–worshipers – that is death, which watches over those who turn away from God, is one of the main themes of the Holy Scriptures that runs through the entire Book of Life {e.g., *Deuteronomy → Psalm 90 → The Book of Isaiah → The Gospel According to Luke → The Epistle to Romans*}.

Obviously, the Holy Scriptures refer not to the poison produced by creatures of flesh, which might be rendered harmless with physical power and weapon of men; the poison is knowledge of the idol–worshipers.

Later, through the philosophical doctrines, social and political utopias of Plato, Aristotle, and their followers, this knowledge "produced by the vine of Sodom" and carrying "the incurable rage of asps" – The Orphism, which underlies the cults of the arch–evil in the image of the serpent – penetrated the Western civilization.

The Books of the Prophets – Amos {e.g., *Amos 7:8–17; 8:1–14; 9:1–10*}, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi – convey the images of the nation in different stages of διαφθορων.

The one could identify similar processes of annihilation through analysis of problems and threats, which the contemporary states and nations encounter. For instance, **διαφθορων pattern** explains

– at the theological level – ruin of the apostates

– at the philosophical level – collapse and disintegration of human establishment built upon violations of the law of God and upon heathen philosophical doctrines

– at the physical/material level – destruction of human body by Ebola viruses and adverse changes of the environment that make continued existence of the original system-violator of the law impossible.

Concerning **total ruin**, which is described by the **διαφθορων pattern** (for instance, destiny of Solomon's kingdom) and which follows heresies, and apostasy, see

– ***The Vineyard and Its Lessons***
– ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas. Political Theology***
– ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization***
– **The Future** (2012) – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 5***
– **The Total Ruin** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 8***

Σ18 See ***Heathen Philosophy and the Western Civilization***, and ***Ancient Civilizations: Legacy Overview***

Σ19 See **Note 91** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

Σ20 The Christians are the small group of the ones who know and worship the Triune God, the only One True God, and who live, or at least attempt to live, by His commandments/law – by love and mercy to the others. Presently, some of them are identified as the Orthodox Christians: they have accepted the original Christian Teachings given by the Word–God – Lord God Jesus Christ, and they keep the traditions established by the Apostles of Lord God Jesus Christ.

Hence, the Christians are the ones who

– **accept** The Ten Commandments and commandments–words of Lord Jesus Christ as the law of God the Creator {*Matthew 5:17–20, 21–48; 6; 7; 19:16–26; 22:36–40; Mark 12:29–34; Luke 10:27–37; John 13:34–35; 15:12, 17; Exodus 20:1–17*}

– **believe** in Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Word–God, Who gives knowledge that is the everlasting life {*John 3:16–21, 31–36; 6:28–58, 63–69; 11:25–26; 17:3, 6–26*}

– **live** by the words–commandments–law of God and accept the Word–God and His words as the Absolute Truth {*John 14; 15; 16; 17*}

– **worship** the Triune God, the only One True God, in Spirit and Truth {*John 4:23–24; 10:30; 12:44–50; 14:6–28; 15; 16; 17*}

– **love** Lord Jesus Christ and accomplish the will of God by observing His commandments–words–law and embodying them into own daily life {*Matthew 7:21–23; John 14:15–17, 23–24*}

– **confess** the Christian faith according to ***The Nicean Creed.***

The Nicean Creed was composed in 325, by The First Ecumenical Council of Nicea:

The Nicean Creed

"I believe in one God, the Father, Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages.
Light of light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.
Crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and He suffered and was buried, and on the third day He rose according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father,
Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets.
In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
I expect the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the age to come, Amen."

Σ21 Jesus Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

The Jesus Prayer is the foundation of the Holy Hesychasm. The Holy Hesychasm is the continuation (the next stage, at which the Name of God was revealed) of the ancient way of prayer and life, which was found by the Old Testament's Patriarchs and followed by the Hebrew Prophets.

In the New Testament times, the tradition ascribes

– to St. John the Apostle – the foundation

– to the Desert Fathers, especially St. John Climacus (†649–?), – development and dissemination

– to St. Gregory Palamas (1296-1359) – completion of the Holy Hesychasm as one of the pillars, on which the Greek Orthodoxy stands.

In brief, Hesychasm (from Greek word ησυχια – peace of mind; peace; liberation and quietness that gives peace; tranquil solitude; silence; stillness) is obtaining the state of the inner peace given by Lord Jesus Christ {*John 14:27*}. Ησυχια is the state of inner silence and focusing–concentration on God, when the soul–heart–mind perceives God and is receiving–absorbing the Divine energy given by God. At the level of the consciousness, this state might be described as the perfect understanding—complete knowledge—wisdom accompanied with freedom and awareness of the eternity as the actual reality of the mind living in God.

In other words, ησυχια is dwelling in the love of God: the harmony of human love to God and love of God to His creation {*John 17:23–26*}.

For the Christian, nothing in the world could even be compared with the treasure of this peace and freedom that only God gives {*John 8:31–32; 14:27; 17:23–26; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18*}.

Σ22 See **Εκκλησια – the Meaning** – ***reprint*** follows

Reprint

"Εκκλησια – the Meaning

…**For where two or three are gathered together in My name,**
there I am in the midst of them…
{*Matthew 18:20*}

The following words of God explain the meaning of the Christian Church – Εκκλησια – gathering of the people of God:

…an hour is coming and now is,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth…
God is the Spirit,
and those worshiping Him in spirit and truth must worship…
{*John 4:23–24*}
↓
I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me
{*John 14:6*}
↓
for where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them
{*Matthew 18:20*}
↓
If you love Me, keep My commandments.
And I will petition the Father and He will give you another Paraclete
that He abide with you for ever – the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive,
because it does not see Him nor know Him.
But you know Him, for with you He abides and in you will be
{*John 14:15–17*}
↓
if anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him.
And We will come to him and an abode with him We will make
{*John 14:23*}
↓
the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit Whom the Father will send in My name,
He will teach you all things, and will remind you of all things that I said to you
{*John 14:26*}
↓
this is the everlasting life that they may know You, the only One True God,
and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent…
{*John 17:3*}
↓
Sanctify them in Your truth, for Your Word is the truth…
And for them I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified in truth…
…that all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You,
that they also may be in Us.
…And I have given them the Glory that You have given Me,
that they may be one, as We are one: I am in them, and You in Me,
that they may be perfected in one…
{*John 17:17–23*}
↓
you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit…
you will receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you,
and you will be witnesses of Me… to the end of the earth
{*Acts 1:5, 8*}

Therefore, as it could be inferred from the words of God, the meaning of the Christian Church is the spiritual unity in God of the believers and followers of Lord Jesus Christ.

This spiritual unity is the unity of the spirit of man in God and with God: the perfection of unity in only One True God Who manifests Himself to His Own ones as the Holy Almighty Trinity:

through God the Son – the Word–God → by God the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete → to God the Father

The Christian Church comes into being each time when two or three Christians – who believe in Lord God Jesus Christ, follow Lord God Jesus Christ, and do the works of Lord God Jesus Christ embodying His words into the actuality of own life – are gathered together in His Name.

At this moment, the Divine Light {*John 1:9; 12:46*} ignites within the darkness of the world of the matter and the Church of Christ lives: the soul–heart–mind of a human child of God – a human being who is healed, purified, sanctified and glorified (re–created) by the Word–God, who is illuminated and given life by the Holy Spirit of God, and who is in the presence of God the Creator – is perfected by God into the spiritual unity with the brothers (other children of God) and in God.

At this moment, the comprehension of the Future – the eternal life in the presence of God {*Revelation 21:1–7, 22–27; 22:1–5, 13–14*} opens as the end of the Way {*John 14:6*} that a human child of God begins here, at the earth, in the temporal world of death.

There is only one Door into this Church, and through her, to God the Father: the Word–God, Lord Jesus Christ {*John 10:7–18, 27–30*} – He is the Beginning and the End {*Revelation 1:8; 21:5–6; 22:13*}: the Christian Church is presence of Lord God Jesus Christ and life in Lord God Jesus Christ.

And I think, how beautiful and precious is the freedom of knowledge given by God for those who are set free by the Truth {*John 8:31–36*}, who see the meaning of things {*John 14:26*}:

– who of them might ever need the hierarchical establishments – the prisons of the spirit and mind, with instituted perversion, with elaborated rituals of worship to the mortal men who are obsessed with lust for the power and self–aggrandizement until such a degree that they pretend to stand on the place of God, invent such conditions of eternal salvation of men as unreserved submission to the pope, and accept the mortal man as the "visible head" of the Church of Christ?

– who of them would ever need to confirm existence of the Christian Church through acceptance and unreserved obedience to the "visible heads," with observation of thrones, elaborated rites of obeisance to men–leaders of the papal establishments, processions, riches and manifest splendor of papal cathedrals, palaces, and castles?

Would any of the children of God ever believe those who

began with demand of submission to the "supreme power" of man
who asserts own "divine authority" over the Christian Church
↓
proceeded with the Crusades, with making the Holy Bible forbidden book,
with extermination of those who kept the words of God (e.g., as Jan Hus)
and waging religious wars and persecutions "in the name of God"
by killing and inflicting suffering and death
onto God's creations
↓
established their power through devising the laws,
which force the papal subjects to believe in uttering of men
who present themselves as the earthly substitutes of God and defy God until such a degree that
they disregarded the Holy Communion established by God
and deprived the laity – papal subjects – of the Chalice with the Life–giving Blood of Jesus Christ
↓
currently cover themselves with the slogans of "unity in Christ" and,
through the ecumenical movement – the contemporary papal Crusade against Christianity,
attempt to impose the papal power onto the entire Christendom?

The true meaning of Christian Church is the free spiritual union of the children of God who love God and who worship God in spirit and in truth; it never is accessible to those who apply the power of coercion to a body, defraud the mind, and use things of the world of the matter for enslaving of men and – contrary to the words of God conveyed by the Holy Gospels – present such actions as the seeking of "the unity in Christ."

Original post in Folder Archive_2011, Page 5_September_October_2011

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Σ23 See ***The Lord's Prayer*** – in **The Foundation of Religion**, in ***CHRISTIANITY***. ***Reprint*** follows

Reprint
"The Lord's Prayer

…**Lord, teach us to pray**…
{*Luke 11:1*}

When the disciples asked Lord God Jesus Christ to teach them to pray, the Lord gave them the prayer to God the Father {*Luke 11:1–4; Matthew 6:9–13*}.

This prayer is known as ***Πατερ Ημον*** – ***Our Father***, or ***the Lord's Prayer***:

Our Father Who is in heaven! Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ages. Amen.
{*Matthew 6:9–13*}

The Lord's Prayer defines the entire universe accommodating existence of men, and postulates the terms of human existence:
It begins with the statement, which
a/ identifies a human being as a child of God – because we address God and call Him ***our Father***
b/ introduces the setting, in which the children of God are aware of two parts of the unknown in its entirety world:
1/ the heaven, the highest realm, that is the kingdom of God
2/ one area of the world (of the world that, for the human mind, is unknown in its entirety): the material domain/world, or the Earth, allotted to earthly life of God's children.

Within the area/domain of the children of God, the Name of God is sacred; it is the greatest Holiness recognized as the Absolute ***[[***see ***The Absolute]]***. The Greek text tells:

αγιασθητω το ονομα Σου – the Name of God is hallowed

The Name of God might be interpreted as the entirety of the attributes of God – Absolute Good, Absolute Omnipotence, Almighty and All–forgiving Love, and the others. The Name of God is established as the Holy: it is terrifying because of the omnipotence of God, and it is sanctified, worshiped, glorified, and blessed. The Name of God refers to the Holy Life that has the status of sanctity and that creates and bestows life; it is the revelation of the Almighty life–creating Love of God {*Exodus 3:13–15; 20:7; Psalms 98(99):2–5; 102(103):1; 144(145):1–21; John 17:3–26*}.

The children of God are expecting the kingdom of God; they beseech God ***γενηθητω το θελημα Σου*** — let Thy will be done: let the will of God will be done here, on earth, in the world of men, as it is accomplished in heaven {*Matthew 6:10*}, in the realm of God. So, everything – including own life and the life of the world, into which we are born to cognize the good and the evil and to be prepared for the next phase of existence – will be completed in the best and in the proper (optimal) manner and way, according to the perfection of God's design/plan, therefore, according to the Absolute Good.

So, what does it mean – the will of God? Why we pray our Creator to accomplish His will in our world as it is in the Heaven – in His world, which we do not know, yet which we expect enter in the Future?

There is a difference among languages of different nations – the legacy of the Babylonian Confusion {*Genesis 11:6–9*}; this difference does not facilitate the complete understanding of words and meanings of logical blocks (e.g., definitions, concepts, assertions, ideas). Literal translation sometimes does not convey the exact meaning: the efforts to impart the precise meaning of a particular idiom, definition, word, or expression might not culminate in exact comprehension. There always could be nuances, which remain beyond literal translation, yet, they are the key to the essence, to the true meaning. Often, translators use similarities, analogies, and symbols when they attempt to secure complete understanding. However, the same symbols carry different meaning for different nations, times, and historical settings. So, in general, translation from the language of origin into other languages (and especially, within different periods of time) does not differ from modeling, and – as it happens with any simplification – true meaning might be different and richer.

In particular, the word *will,* with which the English versions of the Holy Scriptures translate the Greek word ***θελημα***, has the meanings of desire, purpose, wish, preference, choice, volition, the ability/power to have a will/desire/purpose, and the potency to accomplish that what is desirable or intended to be done.

However, in the Apostolic times (and texts), the word ***θελημα*** has also meaning of gracious design or the plan. The derivatives of this word are ***τελος*** – the end or the ending, accomplishment, proper fulfillment, and ***τελεω***– to carry into the proper end according to the nature, to accomplish absolutely, or to complete in fullness. The logical connection among these words is the **completeness** as the unity of abilities

to create–originate–beget → to accomplish–bring to the completion

For instance, when St. Matthew the Apostle conveys the Prayer of the Lord, he writes ***γενηθητω το θελημα Σου***. The Apostle uses the same word – ***γενηθητω***, with which the Book of Genesis refers to the acts of creation: God tells "***γενηθητω φως***" – let there be light (***φως***), and there was light {*Genesis 1:3*}.

Therefore, one of the literal translations is "let Thy will/plan/design comes into the being→fulfillment."

Indeed, when Lord God Jesus Christ refers to His mission, He tells that He descended from the Heaven not to do His will but to accomplish the will – ***θελημα*** – of the Father Who sent Him, and this will is that
— all that is given to Him, He shall not lose but He shall rise it up at the last day
— everyone who perceives the Son and believes in Him should have the life everlasting and He will raise him up at the last day {*John 6:38–40*}.

Hence, the one might infer that the will of God is to preserve the created life and to open the next phase of existence – this something referred as "the life everlasting" – to the ones, who are living in this temporal world.
The keys to understanding other meanings of ***θελημα*** – the will of God – are
1/ in the Gospel According to John:

In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and God was the Word. This One was in the beginning with God…
…All things came into being through Him…
In Him was life and the life was the light of men …
He was in the world, and the world through Him became…
{*John 1:1–4, 10*}

and further:

If anyone desires to do the will of God,
he will know concerning the teachings [of Lord Jesus Christ] whether it is from God…
{*John 7:16–17*}

and further:

I and the Father are One
{*John 10:30*}

2/ in the last Book of the New Testament: in the vision given to St. John the Apostle, God speaks of Himself that He is ***Αρχη*** – the Beginning (or the Head) and ***Τελος*** – the Ending; He makes all things anew, because the first things (that was created before and that what became the world of death, pain, and suffering) passed away {*Revelation 21:4–5; 22:13*}: it has come to its completion – ***τετελεσται***, of which Lord Jesus Christ spoke in the end of His earthly suffering {*John 19:30*}.

It might be concluded that

a/ the Word–God – ***ο Λογος***, Who is with God and Who created the world, is the will of God and in the same time, He is the actualization and accomplishment of the will of God the Father, the Foundation and the Power on which, through which, and with which

— the world was created in the past, has been fulfilled, and will come to its proper end in the future

— the new everlasting world will become the dwelling of men

b/ the will – ***ϑελημα*** – of God is life of the world; the will of God is the unity of the Almighty Power, the Divine energy, and the Law. This unity creates life and sustains existence of the entire world as well as of all beings

c/ the prayer of accomplishment of the will of God on the earth, which is given us by God, confirms our understanding that

— Lord Jesus Christ – the Word–God – is the actualization of the will of the Father as well as He is our daily Bread and the Light of the world, the absolute fulfillment – the Beginning and the Ending – of everything that was, is, and will be

— through Lord God Jesus Christ, we cognize the foundation of the world, accept the will of God as the absolute law, and expect the proper functioning of our place, which is just a part of the entire world {*John 14:2*}.

So, we pray that

— our small temporary world – the earth – and we ourselves within this world {man is earth – ***γη*** – *Genesis 3:20*} would have all proper means for existence until our temporal life is completed

— the rain and sun, day and night, the time to sow and the time of harvest, the time of labor and the time of rest, the time to travel and the time to go home – all, what is and will be given by God to sustain our earthly life, would have the proper beginning, the proper accomplishment, and the proper ending – ***τελος***.

The next sentence begins the list of life–sustaining necessities. Three things God named as those we should ask for: daily bread, forgiveness of debts (sins), avoiding of temptation and deliverance from evil {*Matthew 6:11–13*}.

The Daily Bread is the Word–God, ***ο Λογος***, the Light, the Way, the Truth, and the Life {*John 1:1–5, 9; 6:32–58; 9:5; 14:6*}.

In the beginning of human civilization, Moses the Prophet told that man lives not by bread alone but by each word proceeding from the mouth of God. In the end, man comes to understanding that the Word of God is the daily Bread and without this Bread there is no life {*Deuteronomy 8:3; John 6:32–58*}.

It means that when the Christians pray about daily bread, they ask for God Himself: we beseech our Heavenly Father to give us His Son, the Word–God, Who is the Truth and Light and Life everlasting. The Word–God is the Bread of life by Whom man lives.

We ask for forgiveness of our debts – that is our sins, in the same manner as we forgive those who are our debtors.

Who are those referred to as "our debtors"? They are those who have sinned against us, those who we hold guilty in our mind: who insulted us, deprived us of our possession, told us lies instead of truth, persecuted, deceived, and wronged us by any possible way. They are those who inflicted harm or murdered our relatives and friends, and those who threatened our life, well–being, health, and reputation. There are many ways and many roads leading to sin; they differ by a degree of deprivation of good and by intensity of suffering inflicted upon the others.

In general, the essence of sin is the failure to create or to cognize good that is violation of the law of God. Sin also is creation of evil instead of good: everything and anything that contains the seed of evil, that might become evil or leads to evil is sin. Each time when we fail to create good, we sin before God: we become debtors who fail to fulfill the obligations before God and bring Him "the fruits of the harvest." These fruits include our abilities to exist in the world founded upon and living by the Almighty Love.

The forgiveness of debts is restoration of life–power within a human being who has perverted his original nature because of violations of the Law and who is emaciated by own transgressions: the perverted nature is incapacitated; it becomes unable to receive the divine life–sustaining energy, which maintains life of the Universe. This part of the prayer is supplication to restore the original divine nature within the sinner who cognized evil and committed evil instead of good.

Our God is the Absolute Good and the Almighty Love – perfect and merciful, and His children must imitate His mercy and perfection. Love of God is the life–creating and life–sustaining power. Consequently, the greatest sin, which leads to death, is hatred to the others. Those who have hatred to the others dwell in death: they are children of the evil and murderers, yet, a murderer does not have the life everlasting within {*Matthew 5:43–48; Luke 6:35–36; 1 John 2:4–5; 3:10, 14–15; 4:7–8, 16*}.

If we want to live, we have to forgive our enemies – those who hate us, who anticipate our death, and who are happy when we suffer. There is no other way for those who identify themselves as "the Christians," and it cannot be, because our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ asked for forgiveness of those who crucified Him {*Luke 23:33–34*}.

The ability to forgive those who sinned against us is the measure of true greatness, because by forgiving the others, we imitate our God {*1 John 2:6*}, therefore, we confirm that we are His children and prove our readiness for His kingdom.

However, forgiveness is not acceptance. Love to a sinful human being does not mean transformation into the sinner's likeness.

The word 'temptation' usually is interpreted as a desire or opportunity to violate the Law, for instance, The Ten Commandments, violations of which are the foundation of all crimes, and violations of which originate the greatest evil: "thou shall have no other gods beside Me," thou shall not make idols – thou shall not bow down to them nor serve them; thou shall not covet whatever belongs to thy neighbor, thou shall not commit adultery, thou shall not still, and the others {*Exodus 20:1–17*}. As it is with all the texts of the Holy Scriptures, the actual meaning is richer.

For example, the "temptation" described by St. Luke the Apostle {*Luke 4:1–13*}, when he writes of the "tempter" who was allowed to speak to Lord Jesus Christ: this text provides the followers of God with the model of proper reasoning ***[[***See **The Test** – ***reprint*** in the end of this file***]]***.

In the Gospel's text, seemingly, no open violation of the Ten Commandments is required. Three tests examine the results of cognition and the consequences: completeness or insufficiency of knowledge, which differentiates a servant of God from a servant of the evil, thus, determines the Future: truth and life – evolution, or lies and death – anti–evolution of the tempted one and the world given into his discretion

Temptation might be also a trial–test by the forces beyond our control. For instance, each being comes into the world built by the ancestors and by those who lived before. The mental and physical health of any newborn child might be already damaged with "the sins of the fathers": a newcomer might bear the consequences–fruits of the violations of the Law committed by biological parents and by those who formed the parents' patterns of thinking and behavior and became "the root springing up with bitterness." These consequences are the "curse" of sin {*Exodus 34:6–7; Deuteronomy 28:15–68; 29:16–28; 30:15–20*}: the mind and body are abnormal or perverted (it means that they are born or easily become insufficient, evil, and sick) by the perversion —abnormality–illness–evil of those who lived and created their thoughts and knowledge in the past. A newborn inherits the summary, which – if embodied and actualized by the newborn's life – might make a difference:

— the accumulated knowledge of evil pushes the world into the accelerated disintegration and reduces the time allotted for the current inhabitants and their descendants to cognize the good and to embody it into their thoughts, words, and actions, therefore, to live and to accomplish the will of God

— the accumulated knowledge of the good gives the world another chance; it might prolong existence for cognition and creation of the good.

However, the innate, starting capital – the inherited summary of knowledge of good and evil and deeds and thoughts of the predecessors {*Exodus 33:19; 34:5–7*} is not the only inheritance. At least today, the many still have the free will to choose between the good and the evil.

The Almighty Love of God – the Daily Bread from the Heaven {*John 3:16–17; 6:48–58*} gives those still living an opportunity to increase the knowledge of the good and to embody it into thoughts, words, and deeds while the measure of sins is filled {*Genesis 15:16*}.

So, each good thought, word, and action could result in opportunity for the others to be prepared for the Kingdom of God.

Today, temptation is not only an opportunity to cognize more evil – we learn too much evil passively, without inclination, through the established common manner of living, which cultivates all imaginable patterns of evil–thinking and evil–doing. For instance, the daily news with description of all kinds of atrocities and corruption fill the main time, while the good news promoting righteousness and virtues – that is healthy and righteous, or normal manner of living – are the rare event. Temptation is the opportunity to increase the overall measure of the evil by embodiment of the learned evil into own world: the mind, words, actions, relations with other people.

To prevent the increase of evil in the world, we the Christians, beseech God do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil:

— let the horrible test by the forces beyond our control would not overwhelm the mind

— let the knowledge of the evil would not stain the conscience with the desire to make the knowledge of the evil and death into the destiny of the living ones – those who are connected with us, those who we can influence, and those who depend on us in their daily needs

— let the corruption and crimes would not become the manner of life

— let we remain faithful and loyal to God

— let love to God becomes the essence of the mind, reasoning, words and actions

— let the Love of God protects us from all the evil.

In summary, in this part of the prayer, we implore God to support us with His omnipotence and save us with His grace:

– to come into us and to be our Daily Bread that is to be our Light, Way, Truth, and Life {*John 1:1–17; 6:32–58; 9:5; 14; 17*}

– to protect us from the sins–consequences of violation of His law and therefore, from the forces of evil, which are unleashed by the sins committed by those who lived before us and by those who have the temporary (earthly) power to harm us, to persecute us, and to deprive us of our earthly necessities

– to deliver us from the evil, that is to deliver us from the further cognition of the evil and to protect us from consequences of the fatal choice made in the beginning {*Genesis 2:16–17; 3*}.

The Prayer's conclusion is the unconditional recognition and acceptance of God through acknowledgment that His is the kingdom – all belongs to Him, and He is the only One Who possesses the ultimate power and glory eternally.

Three actions comprise the general meaning of the Prayer of the Lord:

1/ understanding of the love of God to His creations {*1 John 3:1–24*}

2/ our recognition of God as the only God, the only One True God, the Absolute, Who has the completeness of power and Who is the source of life and well–being of His creations

3/ our unconditional acceptance of His will and His world because of our love to Him.

In summary,

The Lord's Prayer conveys the essence of The Ten Commandments and especially, two greatest of them – love to God and love to neighbors {*Exodus 20:1–17; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:36–40; Luke 10:25–37*}:

— we recognize God as the Father, therefore, as the source of our life and well–being, as the focus of our life, and as the object of our love and reverence

— we express our love to Him by accepting His world, by recognizing His Holiness, ultimate authority, power, grace – all that is His Absolute Good and Omnipotence

— we, as children, express our unconditional love and trust by imploring Him to accomplish everything according to His will

— we ask forgiveness in the same manner as we forgive the others; it means that we acknowledge and confess our love to the others, and that we embody this love into our dealing with the others, because those who do not love are incapable of forgiveness.

St. Matthew the Apostle conveys the Lord's warning given before the Prayer: do not use vain words – do not be as the heathens who think that they shall be heard in their wordiness; then, do not be like them, because the Father knows your needs before you ask Him {*Matthew 6:7–8*}.

Indeed, in Greek, the Lord's Prayer is conveyed with 72 words, in English – with 66 words, and in Russian – in 64 words {*Matthew 6:9–13*}.

However, in spite of its brevity,

— it delineates the entire universe: God and His children, the current world open to the children of God (the present existence), and the world to come: Kingdom of God and the life everlasting {*Revelation 21:1–4; 22:3–5*}

— it reveals the foundation and the cohesive power of God's world: Almighty Perfect Love, which possesses the Absolute Power and deals with Own creations justly, according to the righteous and good Law, yet mercifully, by forgiving the debts/sins ***[[***failures to create the good and violations of the Law***]]*** of those who are able to evaluate own insufficiency, to ask for forgiveness, and to forgive the others {*Exodus 34:6–7; Psalm 144(145); John 1:12–13; 3:3–7; 1 John 3:2; 4:7–21*}.

In the contemporary simplified terms, the meaning of the Lord's Prayer might be interpreted as the concise code, which identifies the nature of a human being, its place within the realm created by God, and conditions of its existence. This prayer is also the password for identification and the key for entrance/connection of the system – human mind ***[[***see ***The Mind]]*** – into/with the realm, to which the system belongs: the Kingdom of God. It is all about return to the Motherland, our only home, the Kingdom of God…"

Σ24 The promise of the Holy Spirit in: *Joel 2:28–29; Matthew 28:18–20; Luke 11:1–13,* and *John 14:15–26; 16:7–15, 24–27.*
Also, ***The Prayer of giving the Holy Spirit*** until baptized:

Lord God Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner, and lead me into Your Church,
so, in Your Name, and by the great mercy and love of God the Father,
I will receive the greatest treasure – the gift of the Holy Spirit and the life everlasting in Your Kingdom.

Σ25 See ***Ecumenism*** and **The Universal Religion and the Purity of Faith** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 8***

Σ26 See: ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas***

Σ27 **The papal establishment – papal church of Rome/Vatican – is incompatible with the Christian Church for the following reasons:**

1. In 1014, in violation of the decisions of the Ecumenical Councils (431–870), which established **The Nicean Creed** as the unchangeable dogma of the Christian Church, the Roman pope Benedict VII included the Augustine's addition that the Holy Spirit proceeds "and from the Son" ("Filioque," which is the heresy directed against God the Father) in *The Creed of the Roman Catholic Church*, alienating the papal church from the Christendom ***[[***the Great Schism***]]***, because of papal acceptance of the heresy incompatible with the Christian faith

2. it has as its official doctrine Aristotle–Aquinas political theology ***[[***referred as "neo–Aristotelian system" [Holmes 7] or as "Christian Aristotelianism" [McKeon 149***]]]*** founded on the heathen philosophy – doctrines of Aristotle – derived from the Orphic doctrine

3. it operates upon the papal laws that the papacy adopted from the heathen Roman Empire. These laws treat heresy as treason punishable with death penalty, demand mandatory execution of the relapsed heretics, confiscation of property from heretics and non–Catholics, etc. These papal laws alone confirm that the papal Church of Rome is not the Christian Church

4. it has disregarded the most holy tradition of the Christians of the Holy Communion with the bread and fruit of the vine as it was established by Lord Jesus Christ Himself {*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:17–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26*} and revived the Manichean heresy depriving the Catholic laity of the Christian Chalice of Salvation ***[[***the communion in one element (by bread only) is the practice of the Manicheans: in imitation of the ancient rite of the Zoroastrians, the Manicheans replaced the Eucharist with breaking of bread; concerning Mani and his doctrine, see **Note 1** to ***Works of Augustine of Hippo]]***

5. it unleashed the unspeakable evil of the Crusades in the Middle East and Europe, including

1/ the Crusade during which the Christian Byzantium was destroyed, Christians temples desecrated and plundered, Christians of Constantinople robbed, raped, and killed
2/ the Crusade against the Christians of Bohemia who after treacherous execution of Jan Hus the priest rebelled against the papal heresy and demanded the Chalice of Holy Communion for all ***[[***see **Heresy** and **Priest** – in ***Selections_&_Reprints. Part 8]]***

6. it established the Inquisition, which during twelfth–seventeenth centuries waged terror of religious persecutions: tortured, burned alive, executed and imprisoned heretics and different–minded – for their beliefs and opinions inconsistent with the papal faith, and schismatics – the Christians for following the Christian teachings, loyalty to God, and rejection of the papal faith and authority of the deified pope who falsely pretends to stand at the place of God and to have a share of dignity of God ***[[***see **The Church Militants** in ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas. Political Theology]]***

7. it is headed by the popes who control the Inquisition ***[[***until recently, the popes had title of Prefect of the Inquisition, which currently operates under the name of Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith***]]***, and it is run by the Jesuits trained to hear the blasphemies against Lord Jesus Christ, therefore, to deprive themselves of the Spirit of God {*1 Corinthians 12:3*}, to accept the will of their leaders as the will of God renouncing own judgment and silencing own conscience even if they are ordered to assassinate the kings (who rejects the will of the pope), to imitate the arch–evil if it is needed for achievement of their purposes, and to perceive behavior of women as resemblance of "the enemy of the human nature"

8. during the centuries, it covered own heresy, crimes against humanity, and corruption with the name of Christ, even referring to their habit to burn people alive as to "the law of Christ," and accepting Aquinas' dictum that his church cannot imitate the mercy of God. Many centuries the Catholics robbed and plundered the people of other faiths, whom they exiled (for instance, as the Jews and the Moors who rejected conversion into Catholicism) and whom they imprisoned and burned alive as heretics. The papal Council granted the Catholics who expel heretics (and apprehend their land for occupation by the Catholics) the "holy privilege" of the Crusaders [*Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils* 234]. Consequently, generations of the Catholics believed that the Inquisition is in fact the "holy office," which acts according to the Law of God. Consequently, they betrayed their neighbors to the Inquisition, participated in torturing and execution of the victims, and enriched themselves with the property of the executed "heretics" and the expelled non–Catholics.
As the result, the pretense of the papacy and papal subjects to speak and to act on behalf of the Christians

a/ made the Catholicism unacceptable for those who evaluate faith by "the fruits" – deeds and words of the believers {*Matthew 7:15–23; 24:4–14; James 2:7–26; 3:18*}
b/ made Christianity unacceptable for those who have neither possibility nor desire to learn the Christian teachings, yet who accept as truth the papal pretenses to speak on behalf of Christendom and who consider the deeds of Catholics as true embodiment of the Christian faith

9. through the centuries, it accepts those in the state of the mortal sin, as "priests," and it is plagued by corruption, pedophilia, and perversion

10. some articles of the papal faith, which the many still identify as Christianity, are in fact the blasphemy against God and particularly, against the Holy Spirit {*Matthew 12:31–32*}; such, for instance, as
– the concept of "priest in the state of mortal sin"
– proclamations of pope Innocent III [Innocent III ref. and qtd. in: *Encyclopedia of the Vatican and Papacy* 213–214; La Due 118, 124; Willett 11] that
1/ God appointed the pope to be "His Vicar on earth"; therefore, "as every knee is bowed to Jesus, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and

things under the earth," in the same fashion all men must obey His Vicar – the pope ***[[***this, especially in the form of the ritual of kissing the papal shoe, is the direct violation of the second of The Ten Commandments {*Exodus 20:4–5*}***]]***

2/ the pope acts on behalf of the Holy Trinity, "by the authority of SS Peter and Paul, and by... own authority"

– proclamations of pope Pius XII that

1/ ascribing "the whole spiritual life of Christians and their progress in virtue exclusively to the action of the Divine Spirit," without the collaboration of the pope, leads to "deplorable ruin" [*Mystici Corporis Christi.* Encyclical of pope Pius XII *On the Mystical Body of Christ*. 1943; §65, 87]: plainly speaking, Pius XII says that, without the pope, the Divine Spirit ***[[***that is supposed to be a reference to the Holy Spirit***]]*** does not work

2/ "Divine Redeemer" ***[[***that is supposed to be a reference to Lord God Jesus Christ***]]*** gave the faith "obscurely and implicitly" providing that the papal church would elucidate and explain it [*Humani Generis*. Encyclical of Pius XII concerning some false opinions threatening to undermine the foundations of catholic doctrine. 1950. http:// www. vatican. va/holy_father/ pius_xii/encyclicals/documents/ hf_p–xii_enc_12081950_humani–generis_en. html; §21]

3/ "first of all," all papal subjects must "obey the decrees of the Council of Trent, of the Roman Pontiffs, and the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and what the liturgical books ordain concerning external public worship" [*Mediator Dei*. Encyclical of Pope Pius XII on the Sacred Liturgy. 1947, November 20. http: // www. vatican.va/ holy_father/pius_xii/encyclicals/ documents/hf_p–xii_enc_20111947_mediator–dei_ en. html; §18].

There is no one word about God and His words in this statement, although the Christian teachings {*the New Testament*} is the only source of knowledge of God and His law for the Christians

11. the very arrangement of the contemporary form of the papal church – the Vatican – is not compatible with the Apostolic traditions: a fter devastating for the papacy deprivation of its civil power over the states and their rulers, which was one of the results of the Napoleonic wars, the papacy obtained its independent status of quasi–religious establishment – the Vatican – with the help of Fascist Italy. The papacy had the positive experience of corroboration with Fascism, and the papal church of Rome became "a buttress" of the Fascism in Italy. Then, through the Concordat of 1929 with Fascist Italy under the Mussolini's control, the papacy gained at least some of the temporal power completely lost in 1870. By the authority of Fascist state, the Vatican had been granted the status of the independent state, access to control of education, and the possibility to expand the Catholic Action [ref. and qtd. in: *Encyclopedia of the Vatican and Papacy* 292–293].

Then it is understandable why the pope Pius XII refused to condemn Nazi Germany. While the papal clergy, such as Cardinal Theodor Innitzer the archbishop of Vienna, bestowed blessings upon Adolf Hitler, promoted the "divine idea" of unity all nations under the Nazis, named Hitler "the tool of God called upon to overcome Judaism" (Catholic priest Senn) and to struggle against "all–destroying atheistic Bolshevism" (the Austrian Episcopate) and (as Bishop Rarkowski did) explained to the German Catholics that behind the commands of Hitler – whatever the commands are – "stands God Himself with His will and command" [*La Documentation Catholique* ref. and qtd. in: Passelecq and Suchecky 51–52, 285; Senn and Rarkowski ref. and qtd. in: Lewy 239–242, 279], the World War II, which the Nazi Germany has initiated and slaughter of the minorities (including the Jews, the Gypsies, the Slavs, and others), which it carried out during existence of Nazi regime, took 14 millions of "racial inferiors" and 54.8 millions (estimated) of victims [in: Trager 893, 894]

12. cult of the pope – that is idol–worship; recognition of the pope infallibility stemming from the papal pretense to speak on behalf of the Holy Trinity; pope's self–positioning above the Law of God and papal pretense on the right to override any law – divine and human; acceptance of the pope as the mediator between God and man, while there is only One Mediator – the Word–God, Lord Jesus Christ; acceptance of the doctrine of unreserved obedience to the pope and members of the papal hierarchy ***[[***see **Note 374** ***]]*** until such a degree that the church must recognize black as white and vice as virtue if the pope says so; practice of indulgencies – purchase of remission of sins for money paid to the papal clergy; other articles of the papal faith and practices of the papal church, which contradict the words of God and reject the Law of God.

In summary

A. The complete incompatibility of the papal faith with Christianity is confirmed with

a) the heresy ***[[***esp., ***the Filioque]]***

b) Thomas Aquinas' blasphemies, which are elevated into articles of papal faith

c) infamous acts of the papal establishment, which might be referred to as the crimes against God and against humanity, and which include (but are not limited to) the papal attempt to usurp the place of God in His temple

– the crusades (against Muslims and against Christians of Byzantium and Bohemia)

– the inquisition

– forceful conversion

– religious wars, persecutions of the different–minded, tortures and executions (burning alive at stakes) of the heretics and those Christians who rejected the pope as the substitute of God

– antisemitism

– cooperation with Fascism and Nazism

– the physical and moral corruption of the members of the papal hierarchy who corrupt and destroy faith and life of those who are under the authority of the papal hierarchy ***[[***for instance, current world–wide scandals with child abuse, abuse of children and adults in catholic educational and charitable institutions, including the recent revelation of the Magdalene laundries in Ireland in the report from the UN committee against torture in June 2011 – which were run by Catholic nuns under protection of the state as late as in 1996 – http: //www. guardian.co.uk/ world/ 2013/feb/05 /magdalene–laundries–ireland–state–guilt; see **Note 119** (Web references) to ***Selections_&_Reprints]]***

d) papal self–deification (see **Notes 344** and **115** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***)

B. Christianity and Catholicism are two irreconcilable theological systems, because they have different foundations:

1/ Christianity is the original teachings of Lord God Jesus Christ preserved and professed by the Catholic Apostolic (Orthodox) Church (Eastern/Greek Orthodox Churches); its foundation is the knowledge given by God – the knowledge that is the everlasting life

2/ the Roman Catholicism (or Catholicism) professed by the papal Church of Rome, which accepted Aristotle–Aquinas' political theology as the official doctrine (foundation of Catholicism), is based upon **the heathen Orphic philosophy** ***[[***derivative of the mythical serpentine theology, from which the multitude of heathen cults and religions worshiping the arch–evil sprang***]]*** covered with the terminology of the Holy Scriptures; it is not monotheistic religion, because

– its credo includes the ***Filioque***

– it is based on **deification of the pope** that presents himself as the necessary component for the works of the Holy Spirit and as the one that acts on behalf of the Holy Trinity.

For the Christians, both these assertions are sacrilegious.

In other terms, the one could say that these two churches – the Christian Church and the papal church of Rome – are **irreconcilable**, because they are the different systems founded on the different definitions of their main – absolute for them – truth (*Creed*): each system that changes definition of its original absolute truth upon which it was created/established (in other terms, commits apostasy toward the original truth) becomes another system inconsistent with its original version ***[[***see **Note 44** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]]***.

C. Only because of ignorance of the Christian teachings some people continue the blasphemous practice to identify the papal establishment as the *Christian church* and the papal subjects as *Christians*.

Therefore, when, in my works, I refer to **a Christians**, I refer to the one who knows the Triune, the only One True God and who lives, or at least attempts to live, by His commandments/law – by love and mercy to the others ***[[***see the concept of the Holy Trinity, the Triune, the only One True God – in **Introduction to Christianity**, Part 3 of this file***]]***.

The Orthodox Christians are those who have accepted the original Christian Teachings given by the Word–God – Lord God Jesus Christ, and who keep the traditions established by the Apostles of Lord God Jesus Christ; this term is widely applied after the Great Schism to separate the schismatics – the papal subjects who accepted ***the Filioque [[***see **Note 44** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]],*** yet continued to identify themselves as Christians, from those who are loyal to Lord Jesus Christ and who live by His words.

Hence, the Christians should not be mistakenly identified as and unified with **the Catholics**, and the Catholics, who also verbally identify themselves as the followers of Christ and claim to propagate the Gospels, should not be identified as and unified with **the Christians** {*Matthew 7:21–23*}:

– the Christians live by the words–commandments–law of God and accept the words of God as the Absolute Truth

– Catholics contradict the words of God; they live by the laws of their – papal – establishment, in which the "priests who are in mortal sin" discharge their duties "by the power of the Holy Spirit" ***[[***see **Note 279** and **The Fruits** – ***reprint*** in **Note 133** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]]***, the mortal man – pope has the place of God at the earth, and which – according to Thomas Aquinas, the main papal theologian – cannot imitate the mercy of God.

The Christians are free people who have been set free from the slavery to the evil by the knowledge of Truth – by Lord Jesus Christ {*John 8:31–47*}.

The Catholics are the subjects of the deified leaders/popes who asserted themselves as the "substitute of God at the earth" and as the "head" of their church; the Catholics accepted ***the Filioque [[***see **Note 44** to ***Selections_&_Reprints]].*** Their church – the papal church of Rome, or the quasi–religious establishment – the papal state: the Vatican – has accepted Aristotle–Aquinas political theology as its the official doctrine and operates upon the doctrine of unreserved obedience to the pope, whom they keep as the main condition of salvation and whom they accept as unavoidable supplement to the Holy Spirit ***[[***see ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas***, ***Political Theology***, and ***Ecumenism]]***.

Some generators of statistics assert that those who identify themselves as the Orthodox Christians compose less than 3% of the world population.

See also

– ***Doctrine of Thomas Aquinas***. ***Political Theology***

– ***Ecumenism***

– **Notes 3**, **4, 22**, **41**, **44**, **77**, **86**, **103**, **107**, **114**, **115**, **117**, **119**, **133**, **139**, **142**, **234**, **236**, **278**, **279**, **281, 312, 344, 361**, **362**, **363**, **364**, **367**, **374**, **416** to ***Selections_&_Reprints***

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The explication of the terms, theological doctrines, and concepts mentioned in the paper, are in the basic file
Selections_&_Reprints (with Notes, References, and Reprints of all posts for 2008–2019),
which may be downloaded through the Library Pages of websites:

Christian's Mind & the World – https://alicealexandrasofia.com
Sunday's Thoughts – https://alicealexandrasofia.net

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