The Law of God

Σημειωσεις – Notes

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my published books, and other works posted in 2008–2019 @ my websites.
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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*** – 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…"

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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]]***

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: after 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