

**To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday,
October 25, 2026**

**Are You on the Narrow Way and Going Through
the Strait Gate to Heaven? - A Spiritual Audit – Part 4**



This is the final sermon, I started on March 8, 2026, wherein I pushed us for a mid-life performance appraisal from God's Word. It occurred to me that there are many places in the Scriptures that clearly state what the right way looks like. So, this is a self-assessment of whether you are in the narrow way and passing through the strait gate to eternal life or not (Mat. 7:13-14). Do the signs indicate you have a lively hope for heaven (1 Pet. 1:3) OR a hypocrite's hope that will perish (Job 8:13, 27:8)?

**8. ARE YOU DOING THE SPIRITUAL LABOR/WORK OF GOD AND
OVERCOMING THIS WORLD OR ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY SLOTHFUL
AND TAKING YOUR EASE? (Continued)**

I propose there are 4 principal ways we do spiritual work/service to God:

1. Public ministry/testimony and not being ashamed of Christ and His Word.
2. Personal spiritual enrichment, fidelity and love of Christ's Words and doctrines and mortification of the flesh.
3. Charity, unfeigned love and support toward the body and one another.
4. Praying and giving of thanks to God

4. Praying and Giving of Thanks to God

1 Thes. 5:16 *Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* 1 Tim. 5:18 *I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.* Acts 6:4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer...* Ac 12:5 *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.* Rom 12:12 *... Continuing instant in prayer.* Eph 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.* Phil. 4:6 *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* Col. 4:2 *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;* 1Pe 4:7 *But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.* Jas 5:16 *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.* Eph. 5:20 *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Prayer is an integral part of the experience of being dedicated to Christ and His interests. I just want to set the record straight. If you think you can sit back and take your ease on any of these performance requirement and say “I am too busy with my personal interests,” or “I have too much other work to do”, or “I am too busy raising my family,” or “I have a career to tend to,” or “I have community interests I need to tend to...” “Someone else will do it” - you are underestimating your duty. You in essence become the man that buried his talents in the ground. Mat. 25:14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods...* 26 *His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed.* This is a self-assessment. You do not want to be lazy here.

Jas 1:25 *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be*

blessed in his deed. It is to “him that overcometh” that receives the crown. The King, our Master does not need lazy servants. We serve an austere God (Luke 19:21-22). 1 Pet. 4:17 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?* The LORD will not suffice for wild grapes (Isaiah 5:2, 4). Isaiah 33:14 *The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?* The LORD does not need us, he can raise up stones to do this work (Mat. 3:9). Do not fool yourself. What happens to the wheat? It goes in His garner (storehouse). What happens to the chaff?



Psalms 1:4 *The ungodly are ... like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

Mt 3:12 *Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly **purge** His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with **unquenchable fire**.* THE PURGE IS COMING. During the harvest you would use a fan to move air across the wheat/barley to dislodge the straw, dirt and waste/refuse/trash from it (chaff). Christ is going to **thoroughly** that is thoroughly (completely, fully, entirely, with great attention to detail), purify, cleanse, separate and distinguish His Elect from the reprobate, wicked, and ungodly. The grain will be safely stored in the granary, barn, or silo and chaff will be burned up with unquenchable fire (divine wrath and judgment). Christ uses

preaching as the fan in His hand. This is not a pleasure cruise where you can take your leave



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9. DO YOU DEPART FROM INIQUITY AND HAVE YOU PURGED YOURSELF FROM VAIN COMPANY AND SPIRITUAL LEAVEN?

2 Tim. 2:16 *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some....20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 **IF A MAN THEREFORE PURGE HIMSELF FROM THESE, HE SHALL BE A VESSEL UNTO***

HONOUR, SANCTIFIED, AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE, AND PREPARED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK.

Duet 7:1 ...The LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites... seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 ...thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: 3 **NEITHER SHALT THOU MAKE MARRIAGES WITH THEM; THY DAUGHTER THOU SHALT NOT GIVE UNTO HIS SON, NOR HIS DAUGHTER SHALT THOU TAKE UNTO THY SON. 4 FOR THEY WILL TURN AWAY THY SON FROM FOLLOWING ME, THAT THEY MAY SERVE OTHER GODS: SO WILL THE ANGER OF THE LORD BE KINDLED AGAINST YOU, AND DESTROY THEE SUDDENLY.** 5 **BUT THUS SHALL YE DEAL WITH THEM; YE SHALL DESTROY THEIR ALTARS, AND BREAK DOWN THEIR IMAGES, AND CUT DOWN THEIR GROVES, AND BURN THEIR GRAVEN IMAGES WITH FIRE. 6 FOR THOU ART AN HOLY PEOPLE UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: THE LORD THY GOD HATH CHOSEN THEE TO BE A SPECIAL PEOPLE UNTO HIMSELF, ABOVE ALL PEOPLE THAT ARE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.** 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 **KNOW THEREFORE THAT THE LORD THY GOD, HE IS GOD, THE FAITHFUL GOD, WHICH KEEPETH COVENANT AND MERCY WITH THEM THAT LOVE HIM AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS;** 10 And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. 11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

1 Cor 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I

verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 ¶ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator. Beloved, we must separate ourselves from spiritual leaven.

10. ARE YOU ASHAMED OF CHRIST AND HIS WORD?

Mr 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. Mat. 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 1 Pet. 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. Act 5:41 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Beloved, it is a deal breaker for the LORD if you are ashamed of His Word. You CANNOT please God and expect heaven if you have denied His Word. We have had people leave this church and the LORD because they wanted to be a friend of the world instead of suffering shame for His name. 2 Tim. 4:10 *10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*

11. DO YOU SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Mat. 6:31 *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

Nothing can come before the Lord in our priority. We must seek first the kingdom of God!

12. DO YOU GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS AND SEEK HUMILITY?

1 Pe 5:5 ...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Psalm 69:29 *But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. 30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. 31 This also shall please the LORD ... 32 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.* Ps 34:2 *My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.* Mt 18:4 WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL HUMBLE HIMSELF AS THIS LITTLE CHILD, THE SAME IS GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. JAS 4:10 HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, AND HE SHALL LIFT

YOU UP. 1 Pet. 5:5 ... Yea, all of you be subject one to another, **AND BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY: FOR GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, AND GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. 6 HUMBLE YOURSELVES THEREFORE UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU IN DUE TIME:**

13. DO YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND NEIGHBORS?

Mat. 5:44 *But I say unto you, **LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU; 45 THAT YE MAY BE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN:*** for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 **FOR IF YE LOVE THEM WHICH LOVE YOU, WHAT REWARD HAVE YE?** do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Luke 6:26 *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. 27 ¶ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. 30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. 31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 **BUT LOVE YE YOUR ENEMIES, AND DO GOOD, AND LEND, HOPING FOR NOTHING AGAIN; AND YOUR REWARD SHALL BE GREAT, AND YE SHALL BE THE CHILDREN OF THE HIGHEST: FOR HE IS KIND UNTO THE UNTHANKFUL AND TO THE EVIL.** 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

Mat. 22: 35 *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Mat. 5:5 **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH....7 BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY. 8 BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART: FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD. 9 BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS: FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD.**

Mark 12:28 *And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, *The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 32 And the scribe said unto him, **WELL, MASTER, THOU HAST SAID THE TRUTH: FOR THERE IS ONE GOD; AND THERE IS NONE OTHER BUT HE: 33 AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART, AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING, AND WITH ALL THE SOUL, AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE HIS NEIGHBOUR AS HIMSELF, IS MORE THAN ALL WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES.** 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, **THOU ART NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.****

Performance Appraisal – Self Assessment

(Signs you are in the narrow way and entering through the strait gate):

No.	Performance Goal	Rating: • Acceptable • Somewhat Against thee • Unacceptable
1.	Are you sowing to the spirit (or the flesh?)	
2.	Are you suffering and enduring spiritual persecution for Christ's sake?	
3.	Does the world hate you and are you persecuted for Christ's sake?	
4.	Are your enemies of your own house and have you withdrawn from father, mother, daughters and sons and do you receive the people of God?	
5.	Do you have spiritual adversaries and are you engaged in spiritual warfare?	
6.	Do you do the will of the Father, follow the sayings of Christ and keep God's commandments?	
7.	Is your body a living sacrifice? Are you conformed to this world? Are you entangled in the affairs of this life?	
8.	Are you doing the spiritual labor/work of God and overcoming this world or are you spiritually slothful and taking you ease?	
9.	Do you depart from iniquity and have you purged yourself from vain company and spiritual leaven?	
10.	Are you ashamed of Christ and His Word?	
11.	Do you seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness?	
12.	Do you give the glory to God for all thing and do you seek humility?	
13.	Do you love your enemies and neighbors?	

I love you all. Amen.