



*Christians and the
2020 Elections*

By

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Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you." 1 CORINTHIANS 1:9-11

I haven't personally heard from anyone in Chloe's household about political divisions among Christians today, but social media has certainly been saying a lot about it lately. It's pretty obvious that Christians are divided about politics and upcoming elections. Some of the words I've read might even appear to be *unloving* –

If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." 1 JOHN 4:20-21

This article is NOT about the political battles being fought in the United States or any other country in the world or how anyone should vote in upcoming elections. This article IS about what we can learn from Jesus Christ and His apostles that might help Christians do what pleases God in all things – including politics and elections.

What pleases God is that His children love each other and do not allow *unnecessary* things to divide them from one another. I say *unnecessary things* because there are some things that should be divisive. Christians do need to confront and even pull away from other believers at times (or those who claim to be Christians), but for specific reasons. Here are some examples –

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.” MATTHEW 18:15-17

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5

[Be sure to read 2 Corinthians 2 where Paul wrote about forgiving the offending brother and receiving him back into fellowship. That's a good example for us to follow today as well.]

“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.” ROMANS 16:17-18

“But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.” JUDE 17-19

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.” ACTS 20:29-31

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.” 1 JOHN 2:18-19

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.” 2 JOHN 1:9-11

As we read through 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul mentioned the *divisions* in that church multiple times (e.g. 1:10; 3:3; 11:18; 12:12-30; 14 – 15). There were many reasons for the divisions, but Paul called them out for being immature and sinful in their attitudes toward fellow believers –

“I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” 1 CORINTHIANS 3:2-3

There are specific reasons for Christians taking positions that divide people within churches. I hope you can see that Jesus and His apostles did command Christians to take tough stands in the areas of theology and morality. It's part of being faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

However, our question is does dividing from another believer biblically include personal views on voting and politics?

Voting and Politics

What is voting and politics? It's something that Christians didn't experience during the early centuries of the Church. Christians had little if anything to say about how local and national leaders governed or were chosen to govern. When Christians did get some say in government years later, things often didn't go well.

Doing a deep dive into the history of the Church's involvement in government and politics centuries later shows us much about what *not* to do as followers of Christ. Why? Because what they did was often not in line with the clear teachings of Christ and His apostles.

Remember what Jesus told His disciples about making disciples?

"... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

MATTHEW 28:20a

Does that include how Christians should respond to human governments? Yes, it does.

Here are insights from two of Jesus' apostles. First, Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome and second, Peter's letter to the *pilgrims of the Dispersion*.

The Roman Church included Jews and Gentiles and was located in the capital city of the Roman Empire. Some members of the church were even part of Caesar's household. Peter wrote to Jewish believers who lived in many parts of the Roman Empire (e.g. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia).

What did Paul and Peter tell them to do about government and politics?

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God." ROMANS 13:1-2

"Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." 1 PETER 2:13-17

Nero was Emperor of Rome from 54 AD – 68 AD, so he was the top governing authority Paul and Peter referred to when they wrote their letters. With that in mind, read this verse again – "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

Nero followed Claudius as emperor and Galba followed Nero. Rome had 12 emperors in just the 1st century AD. They ruled during the life of Christ on earth and the lives of the apostles. No one elected emperors. They became emperors because they succeeded through birth or other means (sometimes violent means).

Jesus was born, lived, died, rose again, ascended to Heaven, sent the Holy Spirit and began building His Church while the Roman Empire had its own form of earthly *kingdom building*. What did Jesus say about how we respond to the demands of earthly rulers?

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” MATTHEW 22:21

We pay taxes to earthly rulers, but should give our lives to God because He is our Creator and Savior.

What did Paul say about how to respond to human governments? “... be subject to the governing authorities.”

Paul added this to that statement –

“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.” ROMANS 13:2

What did Peter say to do? "... submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake." Why? "... that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

There is a higher purpose for submitting ourselves to the laws of governing authorities on earth. It's for the *Lord's sake*. Our obedience can put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

But, you might ask, what if the government tells Christians they can't preach the Gospel of Christ or make disciples in obedience to Christ's command?

That's a different situation, which is why Acts 5 is important for Christians to know and understand. These are words the Apostle Peter spoke many years before he wrote his letters –

"And the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!' But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.'" ACTS 5:27-32

The apostles taught the Church two ways of responding to governmental authorities: the Acts 5 way and the Romans 13 / 1 Peter 2 way. It's important that Christians understand each way and how to respond in the way that pleases God in every situation.

We also need to understand that God is in control of EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING! That includes voting and politics. Let's keep our focus on the race Jesus has called us to run for Him.

Following the context in chapters 13 and 14, here's what we see –

[From NKJV outline]

- Submit to Government
- Love your Neighbor
- Put on Christ
- The Law of Liberty
- The Law of Love

If Christians today did what Paul wrote in Romans chapters 13 and 14, we'd be in much better shape. We would be more loving and kind toward each other. We would major on major things and not on minor things.

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things ... Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” ROMANS 14:1, 4

If voting and politics are giving you heartburn right now, I highly recommend you read Romans chapters 13 and 14 and think seriously about what you see there. Pray after you read it and see what God shows you.

I understand the issues in our current election. I was a career journalist and covered hundreds of elections during four decades of news coverage. Many important things can be at stake in elections, but what concerns me is how Christians are being pulled away from what Jesus has commanded us to do. Christians often get bogged down with *temporal* issues instead of that which is *eternal*.

Eternal Investment

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, wants us to focus on what's *eternal*. That's clear from His own words in the Gospels and the Book of Revelation, His actions while on earth, and the words and actions of His apostles.

So, look at each aspect of a political campaign and determine for yourself what you believe is eternal and what you believe is temporal. Once you've done that, invest yourself in what is eternal.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." MATTHEW 28:18-20

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ACTS 1:8

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. 2 TIMOTHY 4:2-3

When you talk with other Christians in person or on social media, invest in what’s eternal. When you talk with unbelievers in person or on social media, invest in what’s eternal. Don’t get pulled into “disputes over doubtful things.”

How can I know what’s eternal and what’s temporal? Read the Bible. Jesus and His disciples have made the differences abundantly clear. Don’t let the ‘world, the flesh and the devil’ confuse you about what Jesus has called you to do for Him and what the Holy Spirit has gifted you to do for the glory of God.

Satan is a *deceiver* and a *divider*. He loves to cause trouble among Christians. That’s why God warned His children about Satan’s devices. We are not to allow Satan to deceive us or divide us. Don’t allow Satan to do that to you this election season or at any time for that matter.

What do you think we’ll be talking about in Heaven? Voting? Politics? Elections? Or other things that concern that which is eternal? Once Jesus has judged every human being who ever lived, including the “small and great” (Revelation 20:12), and we step into the future God has for His people, will we refer to the election of 2020? Will we discuss our political affiliations during our life on earth? Or will we talk about loving the Lord our

God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength; loving our neighbor as ourself; and loving one another as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us. When we know the answer to those questions, we'll know what to do when the subject of politics or elections comes up again.

[Published two days after the 2020 Election in November .. written and scheduled for publication in October, three weeks before the election.]

The *People* of the United States have spoken. Even though some races are contested, we now know many of the winners in political races across the country.

I know many Christians have been deeply invested in this election. That's why I wrote an article called [The Great Divide?](#) in September. Here's what I wrote toward the end of the article –

“Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, wants us to focus on what's eternal. That's clear from His own words in the Gospels and the Book of Revelation, His actions while on earth, and the words and actions of His apostles.

So, look at each aspect of a political campaign and determine for yourself what you believe is eternal and what you believe is temporal. Once you've done that, invest yourself in what is eternal.” THE GREAT DIVIDE?

Focus is key to how we move forward following the elections. More about that in a few minutes.

[Disclosure: I am writing this article in October, three weeks **before** Election Day. Knowing how the election turns out and responding to specific race results is not the focus of this article. My intention is to present a Christian perspective rather than a political one. My greatest concern is that we serve God and His eternal purpose no matter what happens in any election.]

Some of the candidates Christians voted for won and some lost. Does that change how Christians should act or what they should do in the coming weeks and months?

I don't think it does and here's why.

Jesus told His disciples to make disciples of all nations and to teach those disciples to obey His teachings. Elections don't change that command from our Lord and Savior. Whether we like the outcome of an election or not, Christ's command remains the same. The teachings of Jesus remain the same. The instructions of the apostles remain the same.

The truth of Christianity is the same today as it was when Jesus spoke and the apostles wrote. No earthly power can change that. Presidents can't change it, senators can't change it, representatives can't change it, governors can't change it, judges can't change it, commissioners, mayors and councilors can't change it. No one can change God's eternal Word. It is finished and settled in Heaven.

We have work to do .. lots of work .. lots of very important work. What Christians do in response to God's commands will last forever. What people do in response to earthly rulers' commands are short-lived in comparison. I'm not saying what earthly rulers command isn't important in all of our lives. I'm saying that earthly commands affect people for a little time. God's commands last forever.

Focus

Some Christians may respond by saying that the outcomes of an election can affect many things that are vital to our personal rights and freedoms (e.g. speech, religion, assembly, etc). I understand that and hope we continue to enjoy the rights and freedoms our country has provided us for many years. However, let's not get caught up in the idea that we can't go on if we lose some of our freedoms. If Christianity stops when Christians lose some personal rights and freedoms, then it would have stopped at the beginning.

The rulers of Israel did everything they could to stop the apostles and early disciples from preaching the Gospel of Christ. They threatened them, arrested them, beat them and even killed some of them. Christians didn't stop preaching Christ and making disciples just because they lost some of their freedoms. Read the history of the Church and you'll see that story told again and again. Millions of Christians around the world today have lost their freedoms of speech, religion and assembly, but they're still worshiping, obeying, teaching, preaching and making disciples. That's the outcome of focusing on what's eternal.

As I mentioned earlier, *focus* is key to moving forward – past the 2020 election and into serving God in 2021 and beyond. What should be the Christian's focus?

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

HEBREWS 12:1-2

JESUS – He should be the focus of every Christian. Not someone who won or lost an election. JESUS – the eternal Son of God – should be our primary focus.

The Greek word translated *looking* is ἀφοράω. It means “to look away from all else at.” It’s the idea of looking away from all other things to “fix one’s gaze” on Jesus. He is the *author* (ἀρχηγός – founder, originator, first to lead) and *finisher* (τελειωτής – completer, perfecter, finisher, consummator – bringing a process to completion) of our faith. Fix your gaze on the One who *founded* your faith and will *complete* your faith. No one else can or will do that for you.

So, how should Christians look at this election? Focus on Jesus and what’s eternal, not on what’s temporal. Focus on Jesus and His truth, not on what the world tells us about truth.

The Apostle John addressed how Christians should view things of the world this way –

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 JOHN 2:15-17

That doesn't mean Christians shouldn't vote or be involved in the political process (if their country allows Christians to be involved in politics). What it does mean is that Christians should *focus* on the will of God that “abides forever.”

Decline

I've been concerned for decades about the decline of Christianity in the United States and many other countries that once stood firm for God and His Word in the world. Here's what I said about that on a radio program almost 45 years ago –

“It seems to me that unless Christians respond to God in humility and repent as Jesus said, He is going to spue out the American church and allow us to be controlled by an atheistic form of government. That’s just my personal belief, but I am concerned our days as a nation of free people are numbered. We need to do as Jesus said and repent of our sin of pride.” TEACHING NOTES ON WHY CHRISTIANS HAVE DIFFICULTY LIVING BY FAITH, 1976 RADIO BROADCAST

Do you think Christianity in the United States is in better or worse shape than it was in 1976? I believe we're in worse shape now. Here's why I say that.

I was saved out of atheism in 1971 and began learning about Christianity from the inside. I attended church and Bible studies many times a week. I got to know Christians from many different backgrounds and denominations. Even though there were obvious differences, one thing that was clear to me was their love for God and His Word. The Christians I met believed strongly in primary teachings of the Bible – like the authority of Scripture and the Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). They

believed that Jesus Christ had existed from eternity and was not God's first created being. They believed that Jesus had come in the flesh and was born of a virgin. They believed that Jesus died on a Roman cross to pay the penalty for sin and rose from the dead on the third day. That's not as true today as it was then. Unfortunately, many people who self-identify as Christians deny basic tenants of the Christian faith and have fallen into the trap of Neo-gnosticism and other heresies. You can read some of the sad statistics concerning the state of the Christian Church [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Bad beliefs lead to bad results

Christianity has been on the decline theologically for decades and that has impacted its influence on society and the culture.

“The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009.” IN U.S., DECLINE OF CHRISTIANITY CONTINUES AT RAPID PACE, PEW RESEARCH

According to annual [Gallup research](#), Protestant Christianity declined from 69% of the U.S. population in 1948 to 35% in 2019. 'Nones' (no religion) increased in the same time period from 2% to 21%. Pew Research has *Nones* at 26%. It's clear that Christianity in America is declining numerically. The number of churches in the United States has also declined greatly, which makes sense given the numbers we see above. Membership is down from 70% in 1992 to 50% in 2019. Denominations have reported for a long time the closing of thousands of churches each year. [We'll see if Covid-19 increases the number of permanent church closings.]

It should come as no surprise that the influence Christians once had in the United States is also down. 63% of the U.S. population, according to Gallup, thought religion was losing its influence in 1992. That number increased to 79% in 2019.

Warning

This information should not be a surprise to anyone who has studied the Bible and believes it to be true. God has been crystal clear through Scripture about what He expects from His people. As we read in Hebrews 1:1-2 –

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

Here’s what God spoke to Israel through the prophet Moses just before his death. It was a warning the people of Israel did not heed –

“For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:29

Even before Israel entered the Promised Land, God told them through His prophet that they would become utterly corrupt and do evil in God’s sight. Read on through the Old Testament and you’ll see that what Moses prophesied came true.

We find similar warnings from Jesus Christ and His apostles in the New Testament –

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.” MATTHEW 7:15-16

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” ACTS 20:28-30

False prophets were a big problem two-thousand years ago and they’re still a big problem today.

Five of the seven churches Jesus addressed in the Book of Revelation received a strong rebuke and warning. Here are a couple of examples. Keep in mind that Jesus was addressing Christians –

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” REVELATION 2:4-5

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” REVELATION 3:15-16

Jesus and His apostles also warned what would happen before His return to earth to judge the nations and establish His Kingdom on earth.

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” MATTHEW 24:37-39

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive

words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” 2 PETER 2:1-3

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.” 1 JOHN 2:18-19

God warns us because he loves us. Isn't that what good parents do with the children they love? They warn them about things that can hurt them. False teaching can and will hurt you. It will hurt your walk with God. It will hurt your service for God. It will hurt your church. False preaching and teaching has hurt our society and culture. I'll say it again. **Bad beliefs lead to bad results.**

Hope

You may be wondering at this point what hope Christians can possibly have in a world that seems to be falling away from God's truth at increasing speed. I will tell you that there is hope. That hope is JESUS –

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” TITUS 2:11-14

Jesus is our focus and our hope. We look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith and we look to His return as our *blessed hope*.

Christians should not fall into enemy's trap of thinking that our hope is in a political figure or government institution. Jesus Christ is our only true hope. How then should we live? "... zealous for good works". Jesus has redeemed us from every lawless deed and purified for Himself His own *special* (περιούσιος – specially chosen, select, treasured) people. Why? To be *zealous* (ζηλωτής – one who is eagerly devoted to a person or thing, passionate, zealot) of *good works* (καλός – beautiful, honorable, worthy, good .. ἔργον – task, deed, action).

We have work to do in service to the King of kings and Lord of lords! We know that the appearing of Jesus Christ is our *blessed hope* and we should want to serve Him now with all the strength He has given us.”

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

REVELATION 22:12-13

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