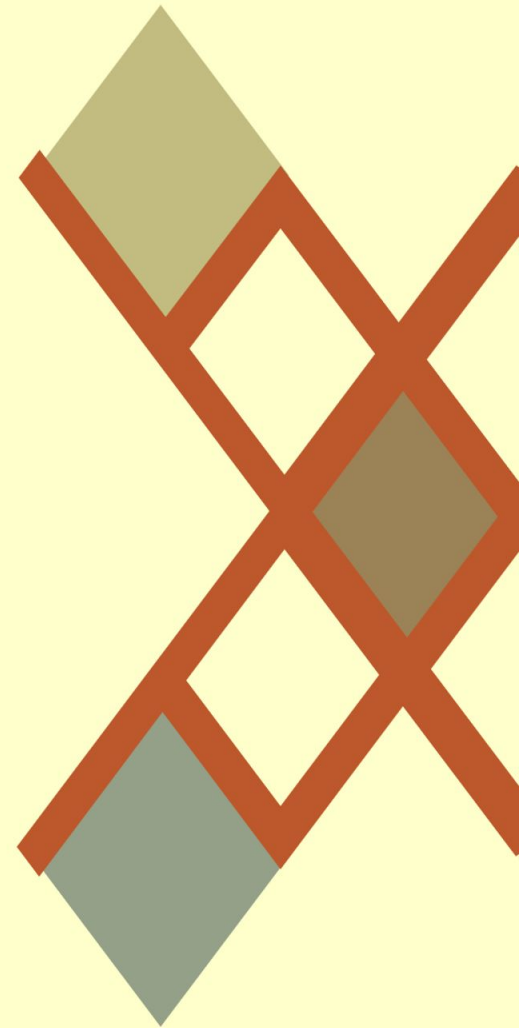


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AN
ACCEPTABLE
SACRIFICE
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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

□ **1 John 2:3-6** By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN

TRUSTING GOD AND ACTING RESPONSIBLY

□ **Ecclesiastes 10:18** Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks.

□ **Proverbs 20:4** The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has

DON'T GET LAZY

- Laziness is a downhill slope
- Although Christians may have moments of plateau, we will find that most of our walk with God is uphill
- **Ephesians 5:11-16** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
- With our minds, we discipline ourselves to do what God desires

PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

□ **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

□ **Proverbs 3:11-12** My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, for whom the LORD loves He reproofs, even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights.

THE PERIL OF HUMAN WISDOM

- **2 Corinthians 1:12** For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.
- **James 3:13-17** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

PARABLE OF TALENTS

□ **Matthew 25:26-30** "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, **lazy** slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

□ The talent had been given on the basis of ability

CHOOSING TO SUPPRESS

□ **Romans 1:18-21** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress** the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

□ **Romans 11:36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

□ **Suppress:** *katecho*: to hold back: to hold

REFINING PROCESS

- **Malachi 3:2-3** "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a **refiner's** fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.
- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Romans 14:17-18** ...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this *way* serves Christ is acceptable to God and **approved** by men.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- Discipleship is like an internship program
- Model of Jesus:
 1. Teach to the larger group--observe
 2. Recruit disciples from the larger group
 3. Train disciple(s) with teaching
 4. Take your disciple(s) with you
 5. Send your disciple(s) in a way you can monitor

Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out

 6. Release your disciple(s) to replicate ministry
- Noteworthy: Jesus chose the disciples after prayer

GOD GETS IT RIGHT!

□ **Romans 11:33-36** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

□ **Isaiah 40:28-31** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and

COVENANT PROTECTION

□ **2 Thessalonians 3:7-13** For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. As for you, brethren, do not grow weary of