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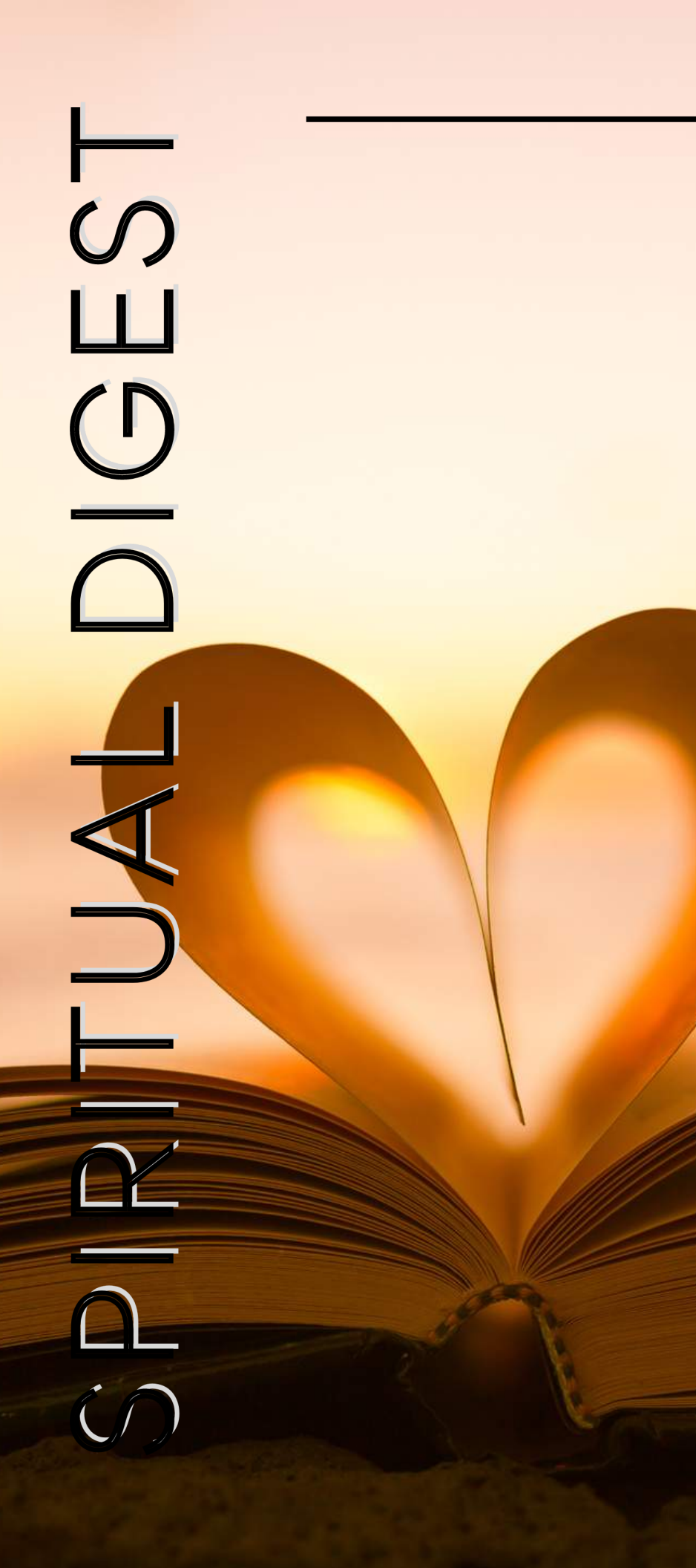
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**SPIRITUAL DIGEST**





**RELIGION SAYS EARN  
YOUR LIFE. SECULAR  
SOCIETY SAYS CREATE  
YOUR LIFE. JESUS  
SAYS, 'MY LIFE FOR  
YOUR LIFE.**

**- TIMOTHY KELLER**



# HOW CAN YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMY?

**Matt 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you,**

**Matt 5:45 So that you may become sons of your Father who is in the heavens,**

There are many sins which we do not realize are sins. But once we know, we should say, "God, I have sinned! I need Christ to live out His life!" I can testify that once a man mistreated me and I said a few rash words to him. I knew that it was wrong to say rash words to others, but I argued that he was more wrong than I and that he had not apologized to me. I was wrong only a little. Should I have apologized to him instead? Yes, God wanted me to do this. The person had offended me, but I had forgiven him and was no longer angry with him. Yet I still had to apologize. I thought I was doing quite good already, but I was still

short of the standard of Matthew 5, which says that we have to love our enemies. ...I had written a letter acknowledging my rash words, but since I could not love him, I decided I would not send the letter. I decided that I would write another one when I could love him. I did not hate him, and I had forgiven him, but I could not love him. Only God could love him. God says that loving is the truth and not loving is sin. I wanted to overcome, and I wanted to fight with faith. I said to the Lord, "If You do not cause me to love him, I cannot love him." When I said that I could not love and that God is the only One who can love, I found myself loving him. On the one hand, the truth tells us that we should love. On the other hand, grace supplies us with the strength to love. Such dealings sometimes take a few seconds and sometimes take a few days.





## IN ADAM OR IN CHRIST?

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**Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."**

**1 Cor 15:22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

The Bible shows us that the life of a Christian is a life of faith. The righteous receive life by faith; this is the initial experience. The righteous also live by faith; this is the ongoing experience. There are two worlds before us. One is the physical world, and the other is the spiritual world. When we exercise our physical organs, we are living in the physical world. But when we exercise our faith, we are living in the spiritual world. When we exercise our eyes to look at ourselves, we are still sinners; we are still unclean, proud, and no better than any other person in the world. But when we exercise faith to look at ourselves in Christ, we see

that our temper and stubbornness are gone. Everything is gone. There are two worlds today, and every day we have to make a choice between them. ...If we live according to the senses of our physical organs in the physical world, we will substantiate the physical world. If we live by faith in the spiritual world, we will substantiate the spiritual world. In other words, when we exercise our senses, we live in Adam [the fallen man] , but when we exercise our faith, we immediately live in Christ. We are always between these two things. When we live by our senses, we live in Adam, and when we live by faith, we live in Christ. When we live in Christ, everything in Christ will be our experience.

# F U N B I B L E F A C T S

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- 1 The bible was written over 15 centuries.
2. The bible has over 40 authors.
3. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament was originally written in Greek.
4. The bible has a total of 31,173 verses
5. The longest verse in the bible is Esther 8:9

# CONSTANTINE: FIRST CHRISTIAN EMPEROR

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Of Constantine's early years, we know only that he was born in Illyria, a region in the Balkans. His father, Constantius Chlorus, was already a Roman official on the rise. Helena, the daughter of an innkeeper and Constantius's wife, gave birth to Constantine around A.D. 280 in Naissus, just south of the Danube. By the time Constantine was 31, he was in line to become emperor of the western empire—and more.

In the spring of 311, with 40,000 soldiers behind him, Constantine rode toward Rome to confront an enemy whose numbers were four times his own. Maxentius, vying for supremacy in the West, waited in Rome with his Italian troops and the elite Praetorian Guard, confident no one could successfully invade the city. But Constantine's army was already overwhelming his foes in Italy as he marched toward the capital.

Maxentius turned to pagan oracles, finding a prophecy that the "enemy of the Romans" would perish. But Constantine was still miles away. So, bolstered by the prophecy, Maxentius left the city to meet his foe.

Meanwhile, Constantine saw a vision in the afternoon sky: a bright cross with the words By this sign conquer. As the story goes, Christ himself told Constantine in a dream to take the cross into battle as his standard.

Though accounts vary, Constantine apparently believed the omen to be a word from God. When he awoke early the next morning, the young commander obeyed the message and ordered his soldiers to mark their shields with the now famous Chi-Rho.

Maxentius's troops fled in disarray toward the surging Tiber. The would-be emperor attempted to escape over the wooden bridge erected to span the stream, but his own army-turned-mob, pressing through the narrow passage, forced him into the river, where he drowned by the weight of his armor.

Constantine entered Rome the undisputed ruler of the West, the first Roman emperor with a cross in his diadem.

Once supreme in the West, Constantine met Licinius, the ruler of the Balkan provinces, and issued the famous Edict of Milan that gave Christians freedom of worship and

directed the governors to restore all the property seized during the severe Diocletian persecution.

Eusebius in his Church History recorded the Christian jubilation: "The whole human race was freed from the oppression of the tyrants. We especially, who had fixed our hopes upon the Christ of God, had gladness unspeakable."

Constantine's faith was still imprecise, but few questioned its authenticity. In 314 Constantine sent a message to the assembled bishops at the Council of Arles. He wrote about how God does not allow people "to wander in the shadows" but reveals to them salvation: "I have experienced this in others and in myself, for I walked not in the way of righteousness. ... But the Almighty God, who sits in the court of heaven, granted what I did not deserve."



A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S  
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E  
W A Y



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## What Made You Die For Me?

1

What made You, Lord, to die for me?  
Why would You die for me, Your enemy?  
You took my place to hang on a tree,  
To be a curse, a curse for me.

### CHORUS 1

What made You die for me?  
I was Your enemy.  
Lord, You became a curse for me.  
Oh, what a mystery!  
My God, You died for me!  
You died for me, Your enemy.

2

I never thought that You would be  
So full of love and tender mercy.  
How could You love a person like me?  
You loved me, dear Jesus, Your enemy.

### CHORUS 1

3  
You loved me, Lord, so very long;  
And with a love enduring and strong.  
Although I mocked and cursed You so long,  
You waited and prayed for me all along.

### CHORUS 1

4

I was a man who was just sin,  
Which issued in a life full of sins.  
My heart toward You was in rebellion,  
But, Lord, You touched me with Your compassion.

### CHORUS 2

Your love has conquered me,  
Even Your enemy.  
In love, dear Lord, You came to me.  
Nothing could change me  
But love and mercy.  
Your love, dear Lord, has conquered me.

5

One little turn and You were there,  
Waiting for me with Your loving care.  
How could I still remain Your enemy?  
Your love, dear Jesus, disarmed me.

### CHORUS 2



# MARK 3

## WEEKLY BIBLE CHAPTER READS

**Mk 1:1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

**Mk 1:2** Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way,

**Mk 1:3** A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths."

**Mk 1:4** John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins.

**Mk 1:5** And all the region of Judea went out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

**Mk 1:6** And John was clothed in camel's hair and had a leather girdle around his loins, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

**Mk 1:7** And he preached, saying, He who is stronger than I comes after me, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

**Mk 1:8** I have baptized you in water, but He Himself will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

**Mk 1:9** And in those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

**Mk 1:10** And immediately, coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens being parted and the Spirit as a dove descending upon Him.

**Mk 1:11** And a voice came out of the heavens: You are My Son, the Beloved; in You I have found My delight.

**Mk 1:12** And immediately the Spirit thrust Him out into the wilderness.

**Mk 1:13** And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

**Mk 1:14** And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

**Mk 1:15** And saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has drawn near. Repent and believe in the gospel.

**Mk 1:16** And passing beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net in the sea, for they were fishermen.

**Mk 1:17** And Jesus said to them, Come after Me, and I will cause you to become fishers of men.

**Mk 1:18** And immediately leaving the nets, they followed Him.

**Mk 1:19** And going on a little, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who also were in their boat, mending the nets.

**Mk 1:20** And immediately He called them, and leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, they went after Him.

**Mk 1:21** And they went into Capernaum, and immediately, on the Sabbath, He entered into the synagogue and taught.

**Mk 1:22** And they were astounded at His teaching, for He taught them as One having authority and not like the scribes.

**Mk 1:23** And immediately, there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, saying,

**Mk 1:24** What have we to do with You, Jesus, Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God.

**Mk 1:25** And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be quiet and come out of him!

**Mk 1:26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and shouting with a loud voice, came out of him.

**Mk 1:27 And they were all amazed, so that they discussed among themselves, saying, What is this? A new teaching! With authority He orders even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.**

**Mk 1:28 And immediately the report concerning Him went out everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.**

**Mk 1:29 And immediately, going out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.**

**Mk 1:30 And Simon's mother-in-law was lying down with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her.**

**Mk 1:31 And He came to her and raised her up, holding her hand, and the fever left her, and she served them.**



last week...



## BIBLE TRIVIA

1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
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