

The background features a gradient from dark blue on the left to light blue/white on the right. Several bright, diagonal lines of varying thickness and color (from white to light blue) cross the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

CONTEND!

Bondservant

- What is a bondservant?
- But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’⁶ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever. *Exodus 21:5-6*
- Why does this matter?

What are You?

- Called
- Sanctified
- Preserved

The Greeting

- Mercy
- For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:15-16*

- Peace
- And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. *Rom 8:28*
- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

- Love
- For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39*

- Beloved
- Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. *Hebrews 7:25*

Contend!

- Contend - To strive or struggle
- Earnestly - Sincere and intense conviction
- The Faith - The Gospel
- And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will. 2
Timothy 2:24-26

Why?

- Crept
 - Use the Back door, Subtly, Steal in

If you think that he is coming in as the devil, you are wrong. His ministers pretend to be ministers of light. - McGee

Another Three

- Condemnation
- Ungodly - Use grace as a way to **practice** immorality
- Deny the Lord & Jesus

Extra Credit

- 2 Peter 2
- Acts 20:29-30
- 1 Timothy 4:1-3
- 2 Timothy 3:1-9
- 2 Timothy 3:13
- There are a lot more, but this will get you started.
- It is important to evaluate whether or not a man who teaches and preaches the Word of God is a Godly man.

History Lesson

- The Exodus
- Angels
 - 2 Peter 2:4
 - Genesis 6
- Sodom & Gomorrah
 - In Like manner
- What is the bottom line???

- God knows how to judge sin
- But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and *be sure your sin will find you out. Numbers 32:23*
- Sometimes we think that God is just up there waiting to smite us when we mess up.

- “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!” *Ezekiel 18:30-32*

- that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. *Romans 10:9*
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9*
- As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us. *Psalms 130:12*

The Deeds

- Likewise
- Dreamers
- Defile the Flesh
- Reject Authority
- Speak Evil
- Natural
- Corrupt themselves

3 Things We See

- Cain
- Balaam
- Korah

Describe Them

- Spots
- Serving only themselves
- Clouds without water
- Trees without fruit
- Raging waves
- Wandering stars

Story of Enoch

- Execute judgment
- Convict deeds
- Convict words

- The end result is that they will be judged

Just a Little Bit More

- Now
 - Grumblers
 - Complainers
 - Controlled by sin nature
- Future
 - Sensual
 - Cause Divisions
 - No Spirit

Some Key Verses

- What they are is evidenced by what they do
- They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. *Titus 1:16*
- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ *Matthew 7:21-23*

What We Are To Do

- Study the Word of God
- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*
- All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. *James 1:22*

The Beauty and Mystery of Prayer

Many Christian Atheists believe in God but don't practice regular prayer, believing they aren't good enough, don't know how to pray, or that God won't answer their prayers. Yet the truth is this: the God of the universe is ready to hear from you. Perhaps it's time to call on Him, and to listen to his answer.

God will answer some prayers the way you want, and others He won't. That's the mystery of prayer. Even though we can't reduce prayer to a formula, we are instructed to pray honestly, openly, and continually. Part of our prayer lives will be not only talking to God but also listening for His voice. We communicate with our God who is always present, always listening, and always caring - and the One who does all this is love.

Why not start praying now? Talk to God about whatever is on your heart. Cry to Him if you need to. If you're hurting, unload on Him like Habakkuk did. He can handle it. If you feel alone, ask Him to comfort you with His presence. If you've been away for awhile, tell Him you're ready to come home. If you're angry let it rip.

If you're a Christian atheist who rarely prays, it is my prayer for you that you would, together with other Christians, discover how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God, the God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

- Keep yourself in the Love of God
- Looking

Others

- Compassion
- Snatch

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In Christ Alone