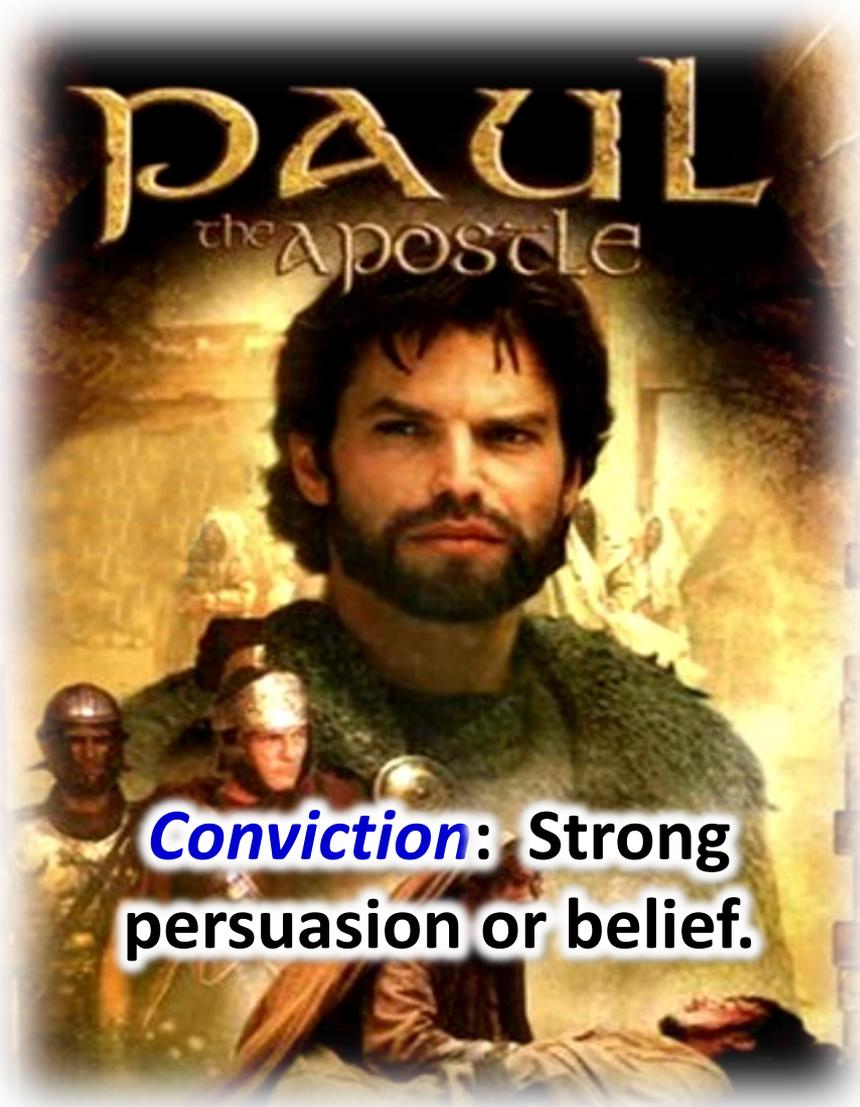


Conviction or Convenience?



Conviction: Strong persuasion or belief.

1 Thess 1:5 “Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit & with *[Thessalonians]* ***full conviction.***”

Heb 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the ***conviction*** of things not seen.”

2 Cor 4:17 Momentary *light* Affliction



2 Cor 11:24-28

5x Whipped w/ Lash

3x Beaten w/ rods

3x Shipwrecked

1x Stoned

Danger Everywhere

Sleepless, Hungry

Concern for all churches

2 Cor 4:17 “For *momentary*,
light affliction is producing for us
an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”



Conviction or Convenience?

Eph 6:10 “Finally, be **strong** in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

v11 Put on the **full armor of God.**”

Josh 14:10 “**I am 85 years old today.**
11 I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for **war, for going out & coming in.**”

ARE YOU A **WARRIOR** or A SPECTATOR ?

Declaration of Independence

“ And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the *protection of divine Providence*, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor.”

GRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
States of America,

The thirteen united
The political bands which have connected them with another
land respect to the opinions of mankind
equal rights that they are

56 Men signed the Declaration of Independence

5 were **captured** by British as traitors & tortured.

12 had their **homes ransacked** and **burned**.

2 **Lost sons** serving in the Revolutionary Army.

2 Had their **two sons captured** by the British.

9 Fought and **died from wounds** or hardships.

They signed and they **pledged their lives**, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

They signed knowing full well that the penalty would be **death** if they were captured !

Sacrificing to Build Up the Church



Eph 4:12 “For the **equipping** of the saints for the **work of service**, to the **building up of the Body of Christ**.”

1. What is the **NEED** of the Church now?
2. How can I **SERVE** this church in the next 5 years?
3. How **MUCH** am I willing to sacrifice 5%, 25%, 75% ???

Lk 14:27 Carry Your Own Cross

Luke 14:27 “Whoever does not *carry his own cross* and come after Me *cannot be My disciple.*”

BKC “Jesus intended to impress on the people their need to *examine* their resolve to follow Him.”

“It means daily identification with Christ in shame, suffering, & surrender to God's will. It means *death to self, to our own plans and ambitions*, and a willingness to serve Him as He directs.” Bible Expos Comm

As disciples we must be willing to lose everything .
We are willing *to be a spectacle even when losing our lives!*

Lk 14:28 Count the Cost



Luke 14:28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build *a tower*, does not first sit down and *calculate the cost*, to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Buy a car, Remodel house, Have a Baby, *Build the Church?*

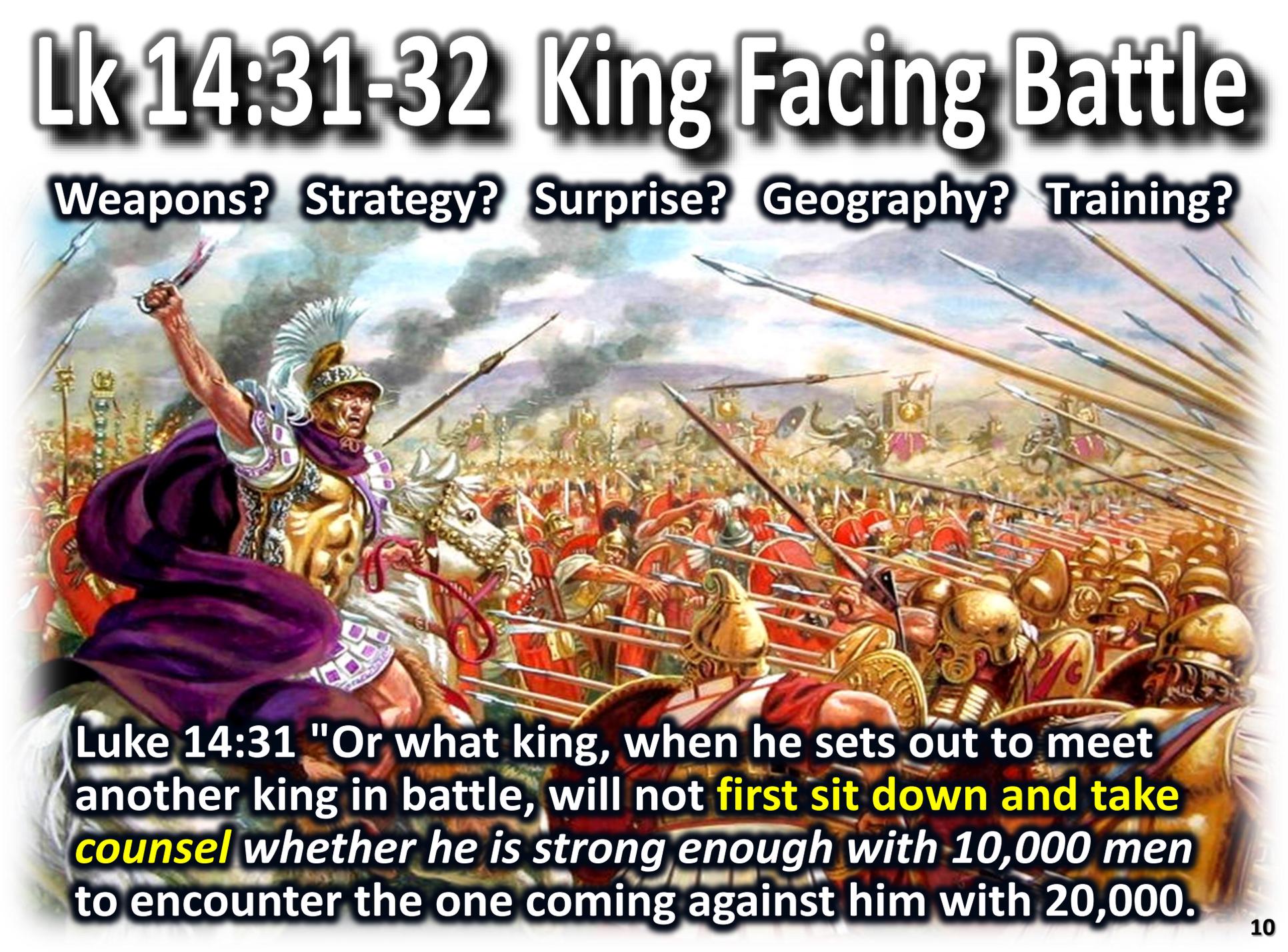
Lk 14:28 Count the Cost



Lk 14:29 Otherwise ... all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, “This man began to build and *was not able to finish.*”

Lk 14:31-32 King Facing Battle

Weapons? Strategy? Surprise? Geography? Training?



Luke 14:31 "Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not **first sit down and take counsel** whether he is strong enough with 10,000 men to encounter the one coming against him with 20,000.

Lk 14:33 Give Up Everything



Lk 14:33 "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple **who does not give up all his own possessions.**
[ie If Necessary. Acts 12:12 Mary had a house]

Extra Time? Extra Love? Extra Effort? Extra Funds?
Come on Sunday morning? What about Sunday night?

Eccles 3:2 Time to be Born & Die

At 6 Yrs “Mommy, I love you.”

At 10 Yrs “Yeah, Mom, whatever.”

At 16 “My Mom is so annoying.”

At 18 “I wanna leave this house.”

At 25 “Mom, you were right.”

At 50 “I don’t wanna lose my Mom.”

At 70 “I would give up Anything for
my mom to be here with me.”



Things change. We lose people Eccles 7:10

Lk 14:34 Give Up Everything

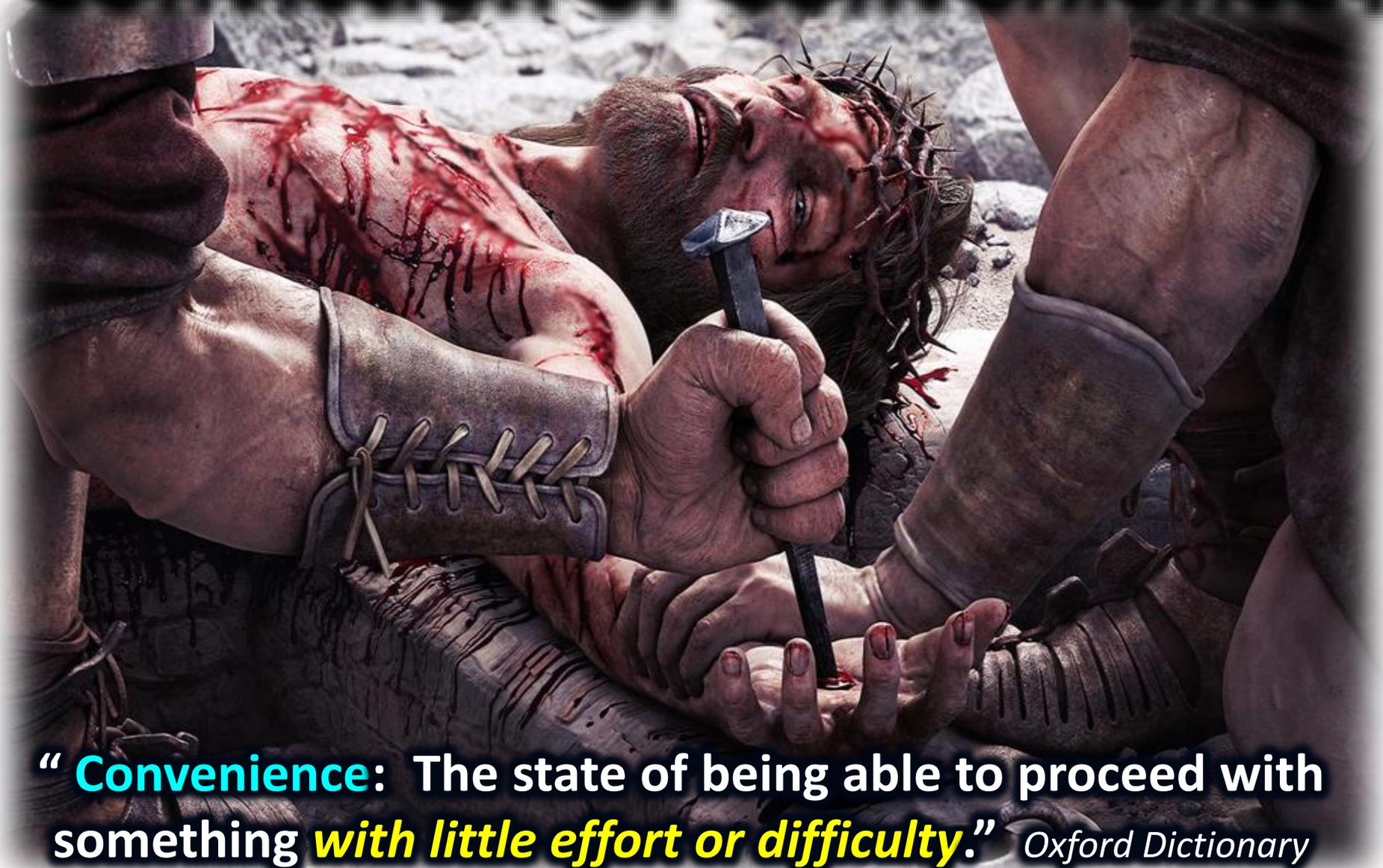
Lost the Power
of **Purity?**
(1 Pet 1:16)



Lost the Power
of **Purpose?**
(1 Pet 2:21-25)

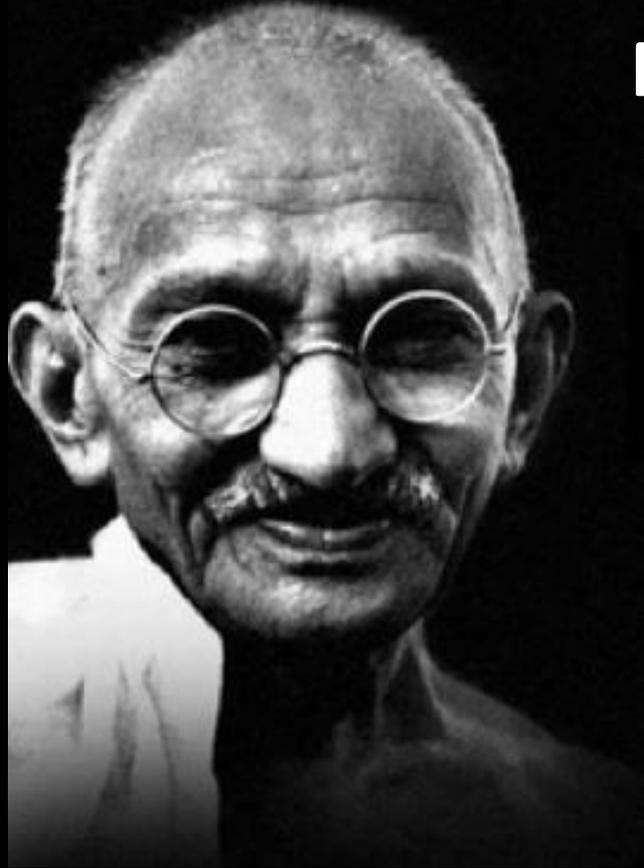
Luke 14:34 "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has **become tasteless**, with what will it be seasoned? 35 "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Conviction or *Convenience*?



“ **Convenience**: The state of being able to proceed with something *with little effort or difficulty*.” *Oxford Dictionary*

What's Best for the Church ?



Mull it over. In a week or two we'll ask you what you think.

A “**NO**” uttered from the *deepest conviction* is better than a “**YES**” merely uttered to please, or worse to avoid trouble.

Mahatma Gandhi

Until then...

Praise the LORD!

Rejoice in the Lord always

Again I say rejoice