

# The Return of the Christian







**James 3: 17** But **the wisdom that comes from heaven** is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

**James 3:** 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or **deny the truth**. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is **earthly, unspiritual, demonic**. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.



**Acts 24:** 10 When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: “I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. 11 You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city.



**Acts 24:** 13 And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. 14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, 15 and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

**Acts 24:** 16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. 17 “After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.

18 I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance.

**Acts 24:** 19 But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. 20 Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin—



**Acts 24:** 21 unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’” 22 Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.”

Our hearts are turned when...

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Our hearts are turned when...

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**(1). Fear takes the wheel.**





**Acts 24: 23** He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

**24** Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.

Our hearts are turned when...

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**(2). Immorality goes unchecked.**

**James 1: 14** Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.  
15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

The most overlooked aspect of  
sinning  
is carelessness.

**Ephesians 4: 9** And they (Gentiles), **having become callous**, have given themselves up to indecent behavior for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.



**Acts 24: 25** As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. **When I find it convenient**, I will send for you.”

Our hearts are turned when...

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(3). Our soil is never (rarely)  
cultivated.



**Matthew 13: 3** “A farmer went out to sow his seed.  
4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the **path**, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on **rocky places**, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among **thorns**, which grew up and choked the plants.

Atheism has slain its  
thousands but  
procrastination has slain its  
tens of thousands.

“Almost” cannot avail;

“Almost” is but to fail!

Sad, sad that bitter wail—

“Almost—but lost!”



**Acts 24: 26** At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

Our hearts are turned when...

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(4). Normality becomes our new  
normal.

**Revelation 3:** “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.**





**What you must do today:**

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**Respond with Action**

**Acts 24: 25** As Paul talked about **righteousness**, **self-control** and the **judgment** to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”

# Righteousness

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Getting right with God

# Self-Control

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**Restrain your passions**

# Judgment

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**What's it going to be: heaven or  
hell?**

**John 3: 16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life... **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe stands condemned already** because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

There is no limitation placed upon the grace of God except man's willingness to receive it.

Curtis Mills





# The Return of the Christian