

HOPE IN THE RUT

LESSONS FROM LAODICEA



**TRUTH ON THE
WEB MINISTRIES**

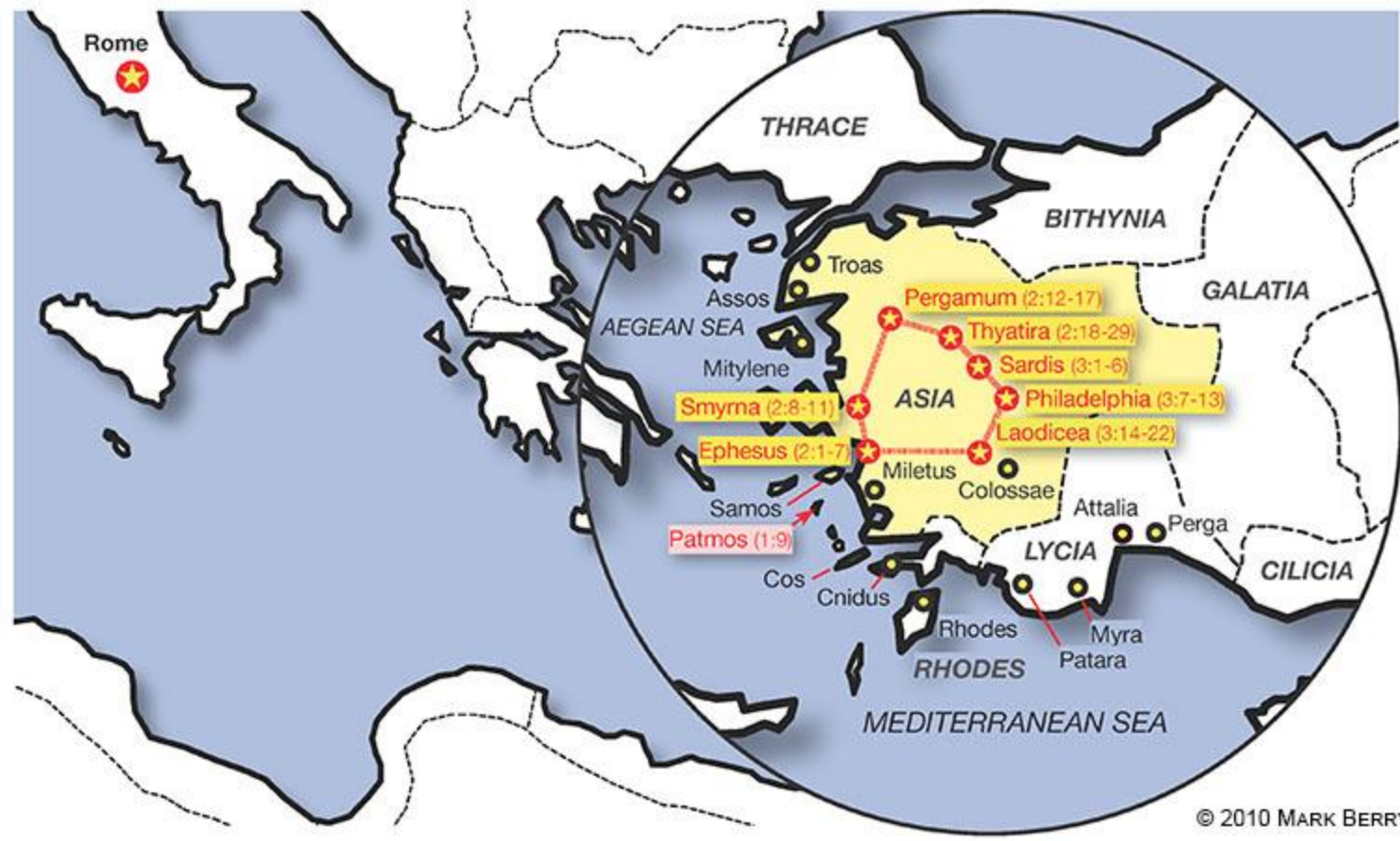
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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

A CHURCH OF GOD IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



HOPE IN THE RUT



“One of the most famous cities of Asia, Laodicea, was in the same year [60 AD] overthrown by an earthquake and without any relief from us recovered itself by its own resources” (Tacitus, Annals, 14:27).



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:14

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith **the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:15-16

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because **thou art lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth.**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast **left thy first love**. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will remove thy candlestick out of his place**, except thou repent.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:2-3

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for **I have not found thy works perfect** before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.



HOPE IN THE RUT

rut *noun*

- A long deep track made by the repeated passage of the wheels of vehicles.
- A habit or pattern of behavior that has become dull and unproductive but is hard to change.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;

and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:



HOPE IN THE RUT

James 1:23–24

For if any be a hearer of the word, and **not a doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and **straightway forgetteth** what manner of man he was.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Deuteronomy 32:15

But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; **then he forsook God** which made him, and **lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**

Hosea 8:14

For Israel hath **forgotten his Maker**, and **buildeth temples**; and Judah hath **multiplied fenced cities**: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall **devour** the palaces thereof.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Hebrews 10:38–39

Now the just shall **live by faith**: but if any man **draw back**, my soul shall have **no pleasure** in him. But we are **not of them who draw back** unto perdition; but of them that **believe to the saving of the soul**.

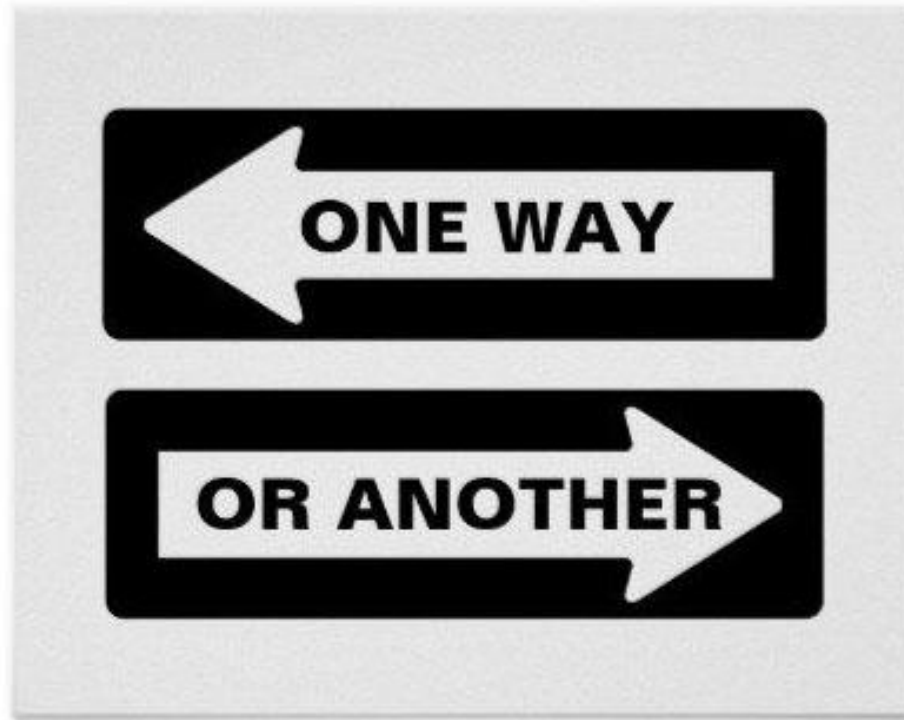
1 Corinthians 9:27

But I keep under my body, and **bring it into subjection**: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

(Phil 3:12–14)



HOPE IN THE RUT



**Press Forward
Backslide**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Ephesians 5:14–17

Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead**, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise, **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, **but understanding what the will of the Lord is**.

(Heb 2:1, 3:12-14)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

A wise person is **hungry for knowledge**, while the fool **feeds on trash**.

(Luke 8:4-15)

“It occurs to me it is not so much the aim of the devil to lure me with evil as it is to preoccupy me with the meaningless.”

Donald Miller



HOPE IN THE RUT

Proverbs 26:13–16

The **slothful man saith**, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. As the door turneth upon his hinges, **so doth the slothful** upon his bed. The **slothful hideth his hand** in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. The **sluggard is wiser in his own conceit** than seven men that can render a reason.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be **rich**; and white raiment, that thou mayest be **clothed**, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest **see**.

(Is 55:1-3, 1 Pe 1:7)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Proverbs 24:30-34

I went by the field of **the slothful**, and by the vineyard of the man **void of understanding**; And, lo, it was all **grown over with thorns**, and **nettles** had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was **broken down**. Then I saw, and **considered it well**: I looked upon it, and **received instruction**. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.



HOPE IN THE RUT

James 1:22

But **be ye doers of the word**, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves**.

James 1:25

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and **continueth therein**, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, **this man shall be blessed in his deed**.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Job 5:17-18

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: **For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Isaiah 1:5-6

Why should ye be stricken any more? **ye will revolt more and more**: the **whole head is sick**, and the **whole heart faint**. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is **no soundness** in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man **hear my voice**, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will **sup** with him, and he with me.

(Lk 22:20, 1 Cor 11:25)

John 10:3

To him the porter openeth; and the **sheep hear his voice**: and **he calleth his own sheep** by name, and leadeth them out.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Revelation 3:21–22

To him that **overcometh will I grant** to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that **hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.



HOPE IN THE RUT

Romans 12:3–5

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according **as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith**. For as we have **many members in one body**, and **all members have not the same office**: So we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another.



HOPE IN THE RUT

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who maketh thee to differ from another?
and what hast thou that thou didst not **receive**?
now if **thou didst receive it**, why dost thou glory,
as if thou hadst not received it?

- Don't hide His gifts
(Lk 8:16)
- Don't squander or hoard His gifts
(Mt 25:14-30)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Hebrews 12:12-13

Wherefore **lift up the hands which hang down,**
and the **feeble knees;** And **make straight paths**
for your feet, lest **that which is lame be turned**
out of the way; but let it rather be healed.



HELP GETTING OUT OF THE RUT



HOPE IN THE RUT

Acknowledge the rut!

Ask for forgiveness from God!

1 John 1:9

If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Gen 32:22-32, Mt 7:7-8, Lk 18:1-8, Heb 4:14-16)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Matthew 21:28-31a

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, **I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.** And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, **I go, sir: and went not.** Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, **The first.**

(Mt 24:44-51, Lk 21:34-36)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Philippians 2:12-13

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work** out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is **God which worketh in you both to will and to do** of his good pleasure.

Jude 1:23

And others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Galatians 6:7–10

Be not deceived; God is **not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And **let us not be weary in well doing**: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, **but to minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. **Use them well to serve one another.**



HOPE IN THE RUT

Reasons we doubt victory is possible

- Because the enemy has sown seeds of doubt about what God can and will do.
 - Lack of faith in God's love and power
- Because you don't want to do the work required to overcome.
 - Lack of willingness, laziness
- Because you know you will have to give something(s) up you don't want to.
 - Holding on to sin – refusal to repent



HOPE IN THE RUT

- **Trust in God and His provision**
 - (Ps 34:10, Prov 3:5-6, Phil 4:19, Heb 13:5)
- **Thank God in all you do**
 - (Ps 100:4, 1 Thes 5:18, Col 3:17, Eph 5:20)
- **Use prosperity and time for The Lord**
 - (Mt 27:57-60, Eph 4:28, 1 Tim 6:17-19)
- **Keep focused on the eternal**
 - (Mt 6:33-34, Lk 12:13-21, 2 Peter 3:13-14)
- **Remain faithful to The Lord**
 - (Mt 10:32, Mark 10:28-30, Lk 9:62, Heb 3:14)



HOPE IN THE RUT

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



HOPE IN THE RUT

LESSONS FROM LAODICEA

For other foundation can no man lay
than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:11



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