I was going to add this to the intro of the <u>Essay... The Familial</u>... but, decided to break it up into a separate essay.

Reading through Romans... I saw the connection of what I wrote in... *The Familial*... with what I'll share here—how to expand the heart... flourish the soul... and, to avoid the destruction thereof... ¹⁰ For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: (Mark 7:7-10).

In the USA, there's a death tax... exit tax if you decide to become a citizen elsewhere... along with all the other taxes on the fruits of a person's labor. Ultimately... the world's kingdoms want to strip our life of its wealth—empty the coffer of our children's children... ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (Matthew 6:19). Yes... we're to pay taxes... but if we invest our life into the world and its causes... we'll be faced with a bitter end (Romans 13; Matthew 22:15-21; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 21:26-35).

With God... there's also a *death tax* so to speak—it's 100%... the eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. However... Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, paid *this tax* at the Cross for us if... we accept Him as our Savior and remain faithful during our life. If we do... we can accrue wealth that will leave with us when we meet Him again—the world has no claim on it... the kingdoms of man can't touch it if we protect it in our life (John 14:15-17; 1 Peter 1:3-5... also see the Essay... Gotta Have Money... blog post Paper or Plastic). As I mentioned in *The Familial...* does this also relate to an inheritance for our children's children... the future generations?

Where would you rather focus the *fruits of your labor...* make the investment in with your life?

What is this wealth?

I've heard... good works do not maintain your salvation.

I agree. The saving of our soul is only through Jesus Christ—we're *sanctified*... ¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:10-11).

However... if I'm reading Romans 6 correctly... good works, through the power of the Holy Spirit, don't maintain... they actually grow us in sanctification... holiness... in Christ. If sin leads to further sin... ¹⁹ ... as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness... it seems to also work the other way... present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification (NASB)—we bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit as we grow towards our hope of experiencing permanent sanctification that won't corrupt away... ²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (Romans 6:19-23).

We can grow in holiness... ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty...

¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God...

I saw this principle when I wrote the book... <u>Unnaturally Cheap</u>. In the natural, investors... or business owners... who earn a high consistent return on capital generally attract additional capital to use. God illustrates this principle of... *growth of ability... youth to maturity... becoming skilled with the Word of God... from a milk to meat diet of the Word of God...* in the *Parable of Talents...* ²⁸ Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath... in <u>Matthew 25</u>... also, in the *bearing of fruit from good ground...* ²⁴ And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. ²⁵ For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath... in Mark 4.

We start out... the more we grow... the more we gain... the more we have—we can explode upward... i.e. eventually resurrected to Eternal Life in the New Jerusalem. Or... the more we destruct... the more we lose... until we don't have—we can implode downward... i.e. eventual eternal torment in the Lake of Fire. Through life... our souls can grow while our flesh...literally... *contracts...* ⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life...

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. ¹⁴ Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless...

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish...

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. ²⁶ For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 7:1; 2 Peter 3:13-14; Ephesians 4; 5:26-27; Hebrews 10:22-27).

⁴ LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am. ⁵ Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. ⁶ Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. ⁷ And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. ⁸ Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish...

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God... ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. (NASB) (John 6:63; Psalm 39:4-8; Romans 8:18-25).

Holiness is described in the scripture that I based the <u>Essay... Fill er' Up</u>... on... ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (<u>Psalm 45:6-7</u>; <u>Hebrews 1:8-13</u>).

I see it expressed as a heart that has its *capacity increased...* a soul made *fat and prosperous...* ³² I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart...

Maybe Jabez was seeing this... ¹⁰ And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested. (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).

Good works through the power of the Holy Spirit enrich the giver and benefit the receiver. Credit is given to the Saint's "bank account in Heaven" while the Love of God... the Fruit of the Holy Spirit... is also experienced by the recipient—both parties have just experienced who God is... that they'll truly desire and trust in Him (Matthew 6:19-21; 5:15-16). Faith becomes alive... ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2; 3)... and, something that's alive is growing... not decaying.

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and <u>largeness of heart</u>, even as the sand that is on the sea shore...

¹⁷ The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh. ¹⁸ The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. ¹⁹ As <u>righteousness</u> tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death...

²⁵ He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat...

²³ Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles...

² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth...

¹⁸ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen...

¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (NASB)...

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁴ And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are <u>full of goodness</u>, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. (Psalm 119:32; 1 Kings 4:29-30; Proverbs 11:17-19; 28:25; 21:23; 3 John 2; 2 Peter 3:17-18; Romans 8:11-13; 15:13-14).

"Good works" in the flesh... without the Holy Spirit... are <u>dead</u> works. The "world peace plan"... praying to and worshipping the *white washed plaster of dead people* (like trusting the spiritually dead... praying to statues... idols... trusting the flesh)... the religious rituals... ²⁷ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity...

Those who grasp the hand of the *social gospel* expose their soul to the ravaging of the wolves who view the poor... the helpless... the hungry... as just a number... the proverbial notch in the bed post... a stepping stone... a means to an end... for the building of their personal kingdom of riches and power in this age... ⁴ Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, ⁵ Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? ⁶ That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?...

²⁰ Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, ²¹ (Touch not; taste not; handle not; ²² Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?... poison and rot the soul of those who are engaged in them... ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing...

²² A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones...

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit... ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 23:26-28; Colossians 2; 1 Corinthians 13:3; Proverbs 17:22; Matthew 7:15-27).

 $^{^{\}rm 10}\,{\rm The}$ soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes...

³ Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts. ⁴ Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. ⁵ Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up...

²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: ²⁵ Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul...

⁶ Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: ⁷ For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. ⁸ The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words...

²⁴ Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not. ²⁵ The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe...

The *social gospel* preachers want to save <u>the world</u> through peace plans... goodwill... unity of man... but, when one disagrees with them... their goodwill turns to hatred—they set out to destroy their opponent.

In contrast...

The true Gospel... the Gospel of the Kingdom of God... is about the salvation of people through the atonement blood of Jesus Christ ... not the programs of man... this corrupted earth... this world... this age (John 18:35-37; Luke 12:49-53). When one disagrees with it... God's children (the Christian) still reach out, with the compassion of the Holy Spirit in them, to love... pray for... hope for... the redemption of that person by Christ. We're not out to destroy the person... we know that's God's call when the wrath of God... God's judgment... is exercised on the world at Christ's second coming... and, at the end of the Millennium, on all of humanity that's ever lived (Revelation 20:11-14).

Before Christ returns... we hope that the whole world would be saved... all people will decide to join us... in preparing for the coming King of kings to set up His Kingdom where true world peace and unity will exist—where we'll experience the Love of God for eternity... and, we'll escape God's judgment leading to eternal torment in the Lake of Fire.

Is this age really worth saving (Mark 13:19-20)?

We feel like a genius with the smart phone or tablet... powerful and popular with siri, alexa, and social media... entitled from the handouts of the nanny state—we think we're in the spotlight with the microphone. Then, we wonder if the applause is just in our imagination—we start to lament... my soul feels empty... I want to feel like a human again... I want to feel the satisfaction of a job well done... the growth from solving a problem... to have a face-to-face satisfying relationship with a real person... to feel the warmth in a hand shake... the comfort of a hug... experience the confidence from the love in a faithful true marriage.... the bond of a true family... the trust in a true friend (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; Ecclesiastes 5:12; 4:8-12; Proverbs 31:11-12; 18:24; 27:10). Technology... artificial intelligence... doesn't have a soul—if treated like there's one... man's soul becomes warped and twisted... repulsive to the soul of those growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:5-8; Ephesians 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Unless people cry out to the Lord... accept Jesus Christ for who He is and receive the Holy Spirit... their soul is withered... dried-up... dead... ¹⁴ But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. ¹⁵ And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul [a wasting disease among them (NASB)]. (Romans 10:13; John 6:35; Psalm 33:18-20; 106:14-15; Amos 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein...

² Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GoD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: (Amos 8:4-6; Proverbs 21:10; Psalm 28:3-5; Proverbs 22:24-25; 23:1-8; 29:23-25; John 12:4-6; Ezekiel 28:1-10).

We're either... alive and growing... or dying... or dead (<u>Romans 5</u>)—God will get our answer to His question during our life... What do you want Me to do for you? (<u>Matthew 20:29-33</u>... see the <u>Essay... What Do You Want?</u>).

We're either compounding up...or down... ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (NASB) (Romans 2:5-11).

And...

We can compound up while the *light still shines*... ¹⁰ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. ¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. (Romans 13:10-14).

And... if we do, we'll have confidence in God, who saves, when He settles the score... He renders His judgment... ⁶ Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed [⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-13)]; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand...

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. <u>1 Timothy 6:17-19</u>

⁴ Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? ⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world <u>rich in faith</u>, and <u>heirs of the kingdom which he hath</u> <u>promised to them that love him</u>? <u>James 2:4-5</u>

⁴Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. ⁵ My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: ⁶ When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Psalm 63:4-6

²³ Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. ²⁴ Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath. <u>Proverbs 21:23-24</u>

²³ He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue. ²⁴ Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer. ²⁵ He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. Proverbs 28:23-25

⁸ The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. ⁹ Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness...

¹³ For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. ¹⁴ Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. (Psalm 20:5-9; 28:8-9; Isaiah 41:8-14).

All text reference scripture quoted or discussed is King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bold, colored lettering, brackets [my understanding of things right now... or possible cross-reference], and underline—mine.

Updated 5.18... added Psalm 28 scripture pp.4,6; Psalm 39, p2