

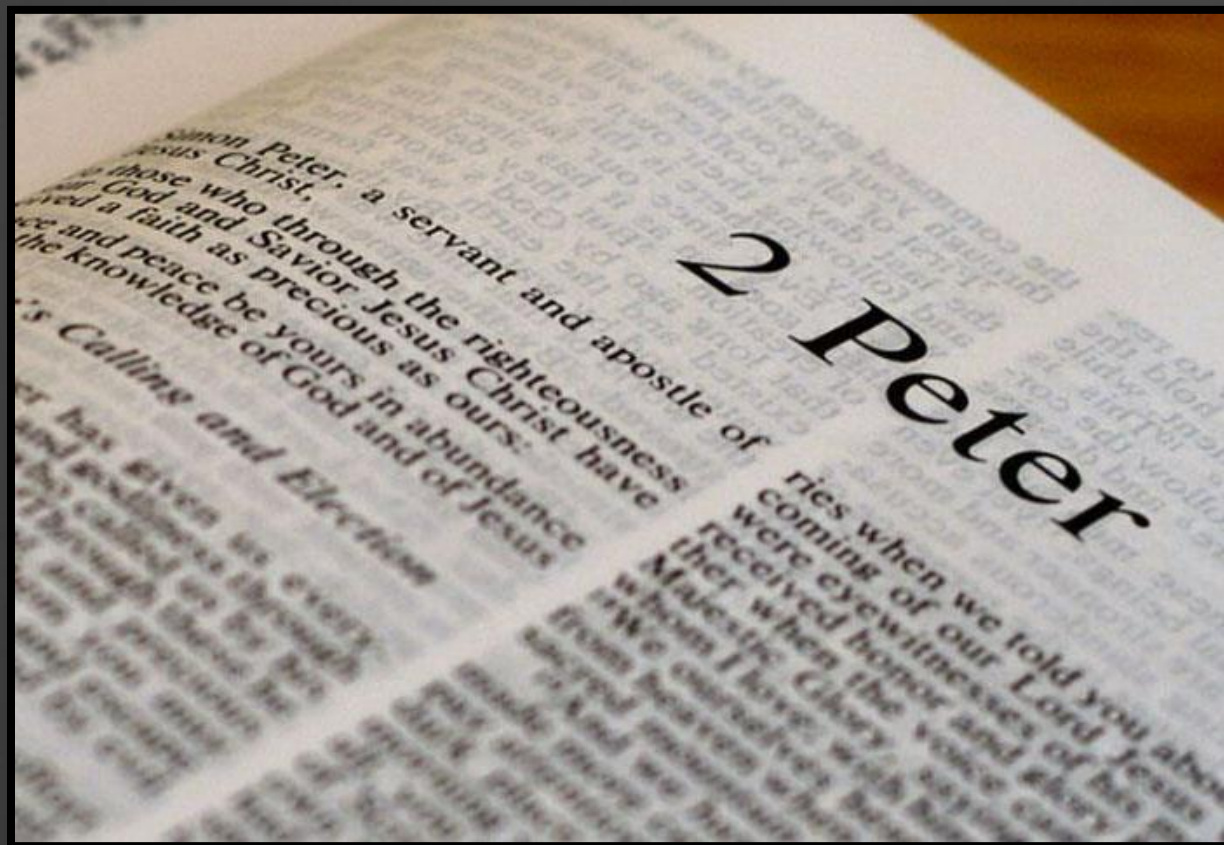
**IF YE DO
THESE
THINGS,
YE SHALL
NEVER
FALL**



Lesson Three

Virtue

Peter promised that
“If ye do these things,
ye shall never fall.”



2 Peter 1:5-7, 10

5 And beside this, giving all diligence,

add to your **faith**
virtue;

and to virtue **knowledge;**

6 And to knowledge **temperance;**

and to temperance **patience;**

and to patience **godliness;**

7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness;**

and to brotherly kindness **charity.**

10 ... give diligence to make your calling and election sure:

for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

2 Peter 1:5-7, 10

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence,
add to your **faith**
virtue;



As we read the epistles, we might be puzzled by the apparent conflict between the apostles Paul and James:

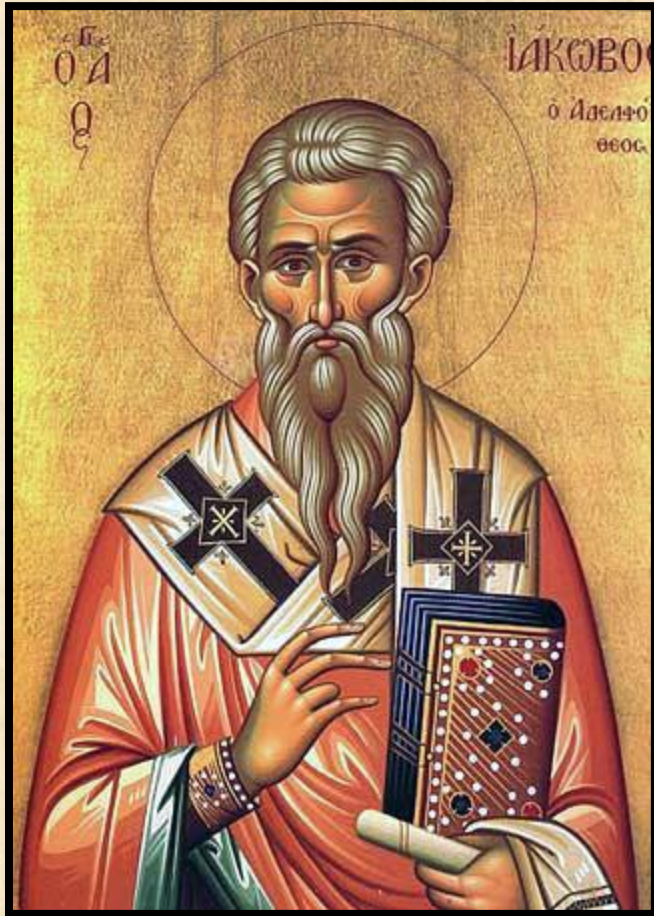


Paul wrote that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law:

for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.



James seems to hold a different view:

James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ...



James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Is a man justified by *faith*, as Paul wrote?
Or is he justified by *works*, as James wrote?

How can they both be right?

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ...



James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

To be **justified** is to be freed of the guilt and penalty of sin.

There is only one way for sinful man
to be justified:

Romans 3:24-25

- ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;



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Propitiation: atoning sacrifice



There is only one way for sinful man
to be justified:

Romans 3:28

Therefore we conclude that a man
is justified by faith without the
deeds of the law.



Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ...



James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

What then was James talking about?

Galatians 2:16

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James 2:24

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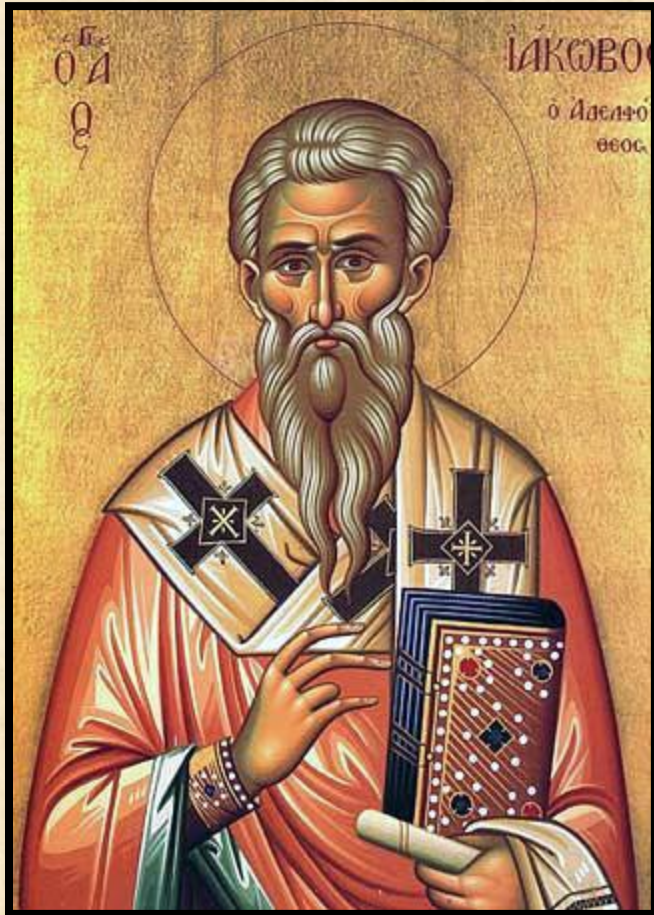
Paul and James were speaking of works associated with two very different laws.



Paul was referring to “the works of the law” – the law of Moses; the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2-4

- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from **the law of sin and death**.
- 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

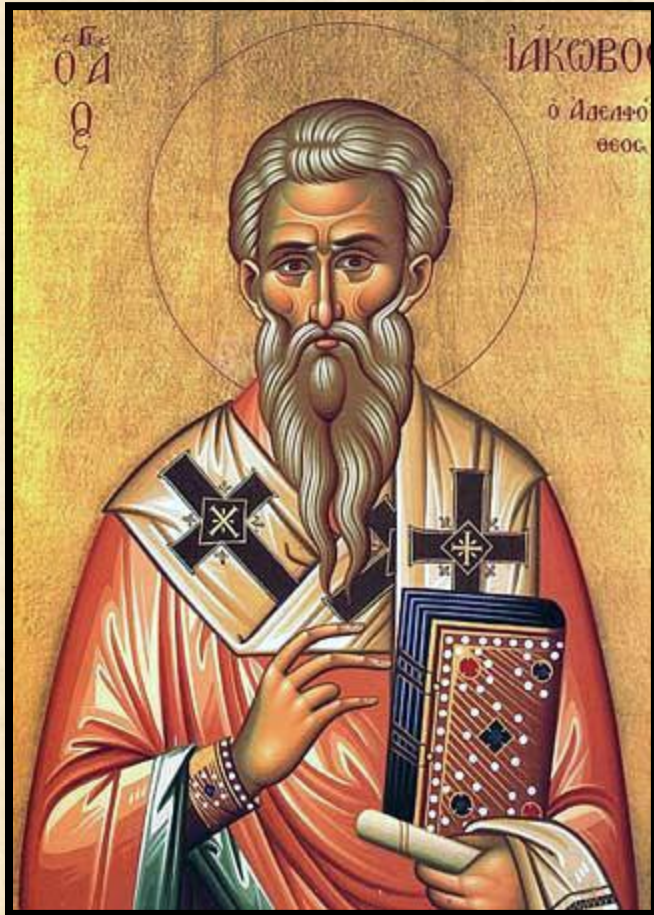


James wrote of works associated with “the perfect law of liberty.”

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.

James was not writing about saving grace; he was writing about living faith.

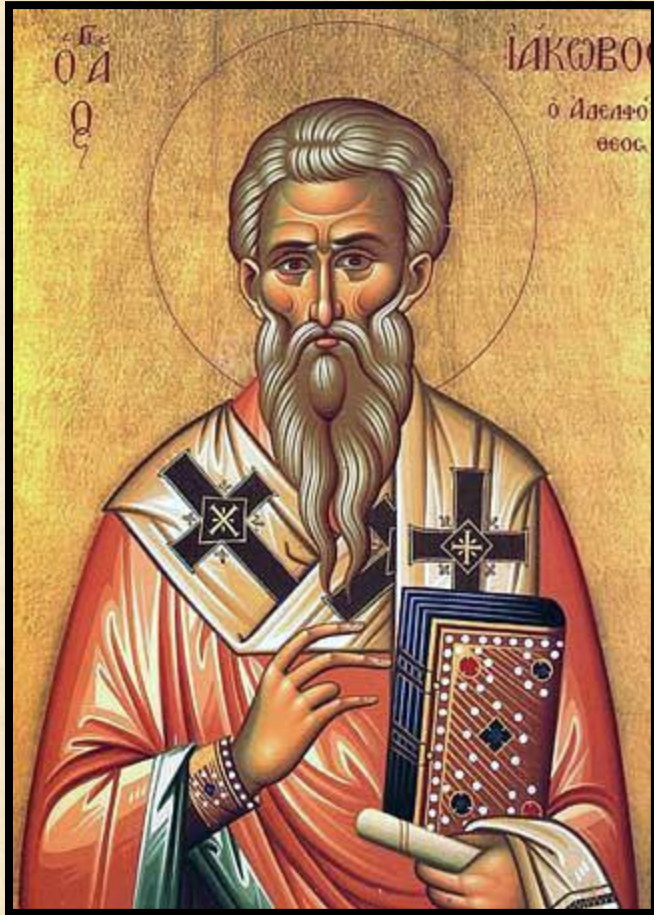


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Authentic, living faith is expressed in deeds,
not words:

James 2:15-17

- ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
¹⁷ Even so faith, **if it hath not works**, is dead, being alone.



The greatest deceiver you will ever face is not the devil. It is the person staring back at you when you look into a mirror.



James 1:22-24

²² But be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves.

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word,
and not a doer, he is like unto a man
beholdng his natural face in a glass:

²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth
his way, and straightway forgetteth
what manner of man he was.

9 *Because of his strength I will give heed unto thee;*
 For God is my high tower,
 10 My God with his loving-kindness will meet me:
 God will let me see my face upon mine enemies.
 11 Slay them not, lest my people forget:
 Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down.
 O Lord our shield,
 12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips,
 Let them even be taken in their pride.
 And for cursing and lying which they speak,
 13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, as that they shall be no more:
 And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob.
 Unto the ends of the earth.
 14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like a dog, and so go round about the city.
 15 They shall wander up and down for food,
 And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.
 16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yes, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning.
 For thou hast been my high tower,
 And a refuge in the day of my distress.
 17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises:
 For God is my high tower, as God of my mercy,
 Lament not because he is hostile, and Proud be not.

For the Chief Musicians, as in Sheminith. A Psalm of David, to serve upon the organ, when there shall be an offering of incense, and when the voice of the organ shall be heard.

50 *Thou hast broken us down; Thou hast been angry, oh ye Streets of Jerusalem.*
 1 *And ye that say, We will build a tower, and we will make a bulwark for us, and we will not see the Lord.*

2 *Then hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it; thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.*
 3 *Thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.*
 4 *Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee.*
 5 *That thy beloved may be delivered.*
 6 *God hath spoken in his holiness: I will exult.*
 7 *I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.*
 8 *I will build a tower, and I will build a tower, and I will build a tower.*
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61 *Hear my cry, O God; Altered unto my prayer.*
 1 *From the end of the earth will I call unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed.*

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2 *Then hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it; thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.*
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James 2:25-26

- 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.
- 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

What is one thing we don't want to forget?



2 Peter 1:8-10

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:



In the words famously – though inaccurately – attributed to St. Francis of Assisi,

“Preach the Gospel at all times and, if necessary, use words.”



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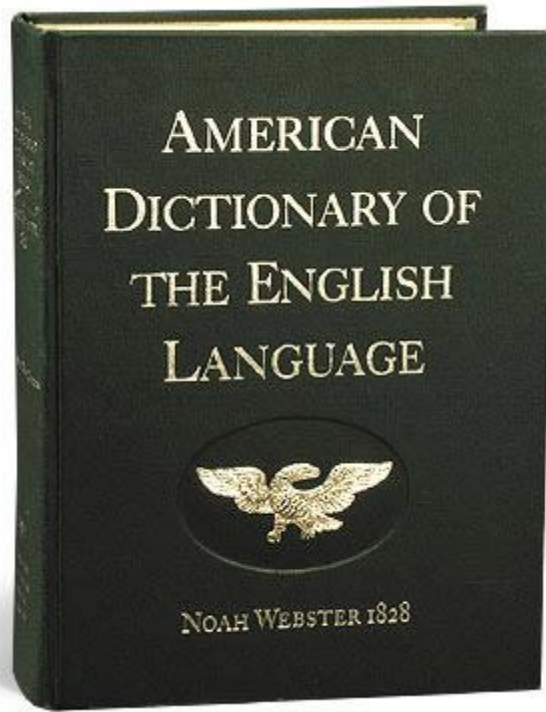


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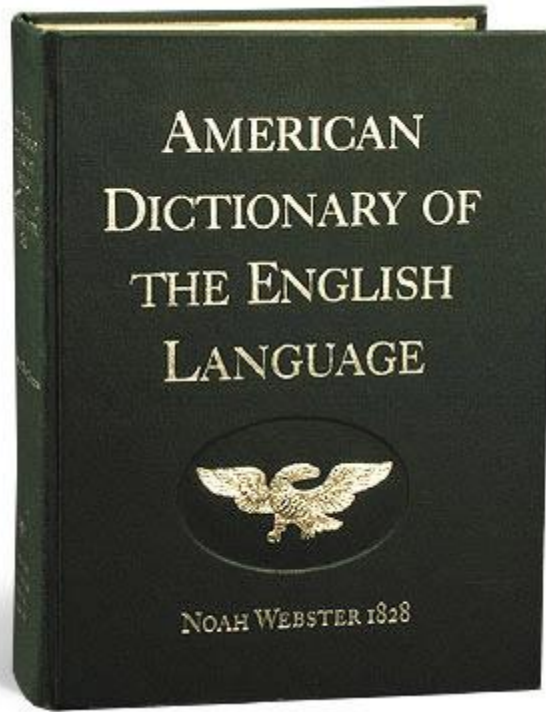
“Preach the Gospel at all times
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In other words, “Add to your faith, virtue.”



VIRTUE is voluntary obedience to truth; the practice of moral duties stemming from sincere love to God and his laws.



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God “hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).

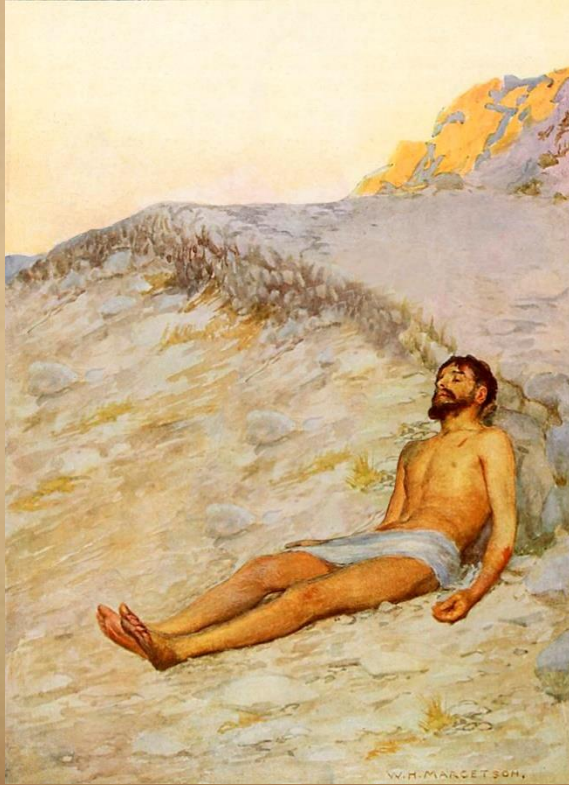
Virtue

The parable of the good Samaritan is a story of a virtuous man; a man whose faith in the great commandment was evidenced by his deeds.



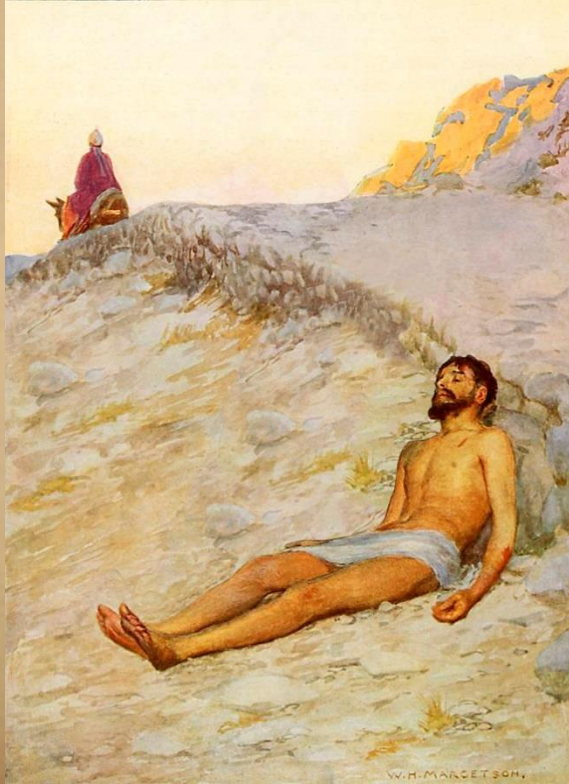
Luke 10:25-29

- 25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?
- 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?
- 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.
- 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.
- 29 But he, **willing to justify himself**, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?



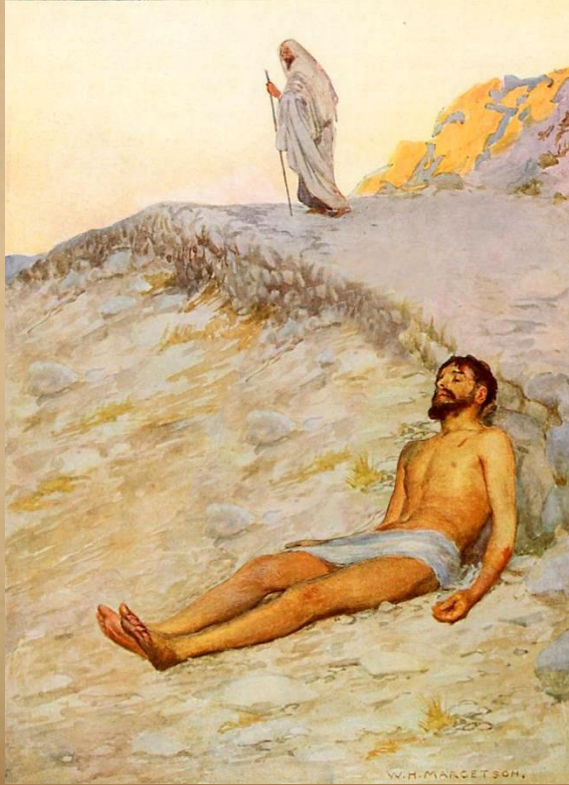
Luke 10:30

And Jesus answering said,
A certain *man* went down from
Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell
among thieves, which stripped
him of his raiment, and wounded
him, and departed, leaving *him*
half dead.



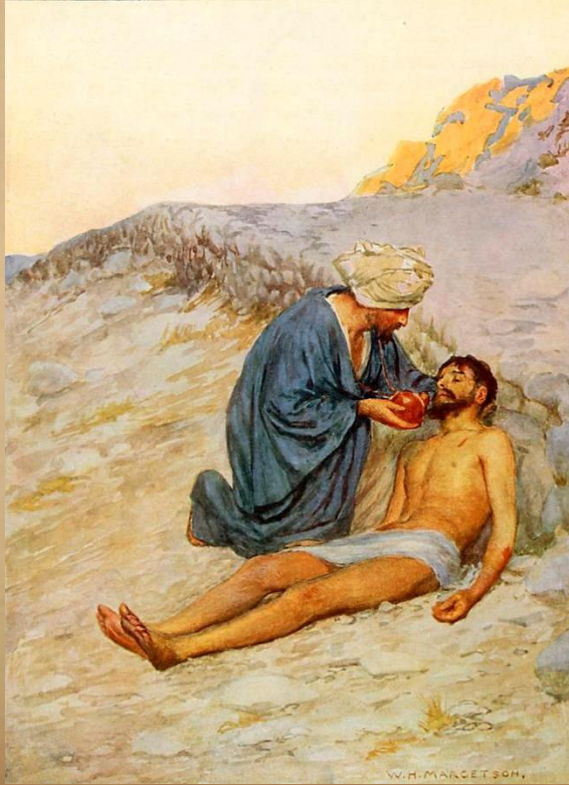
Luke 10:31

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.



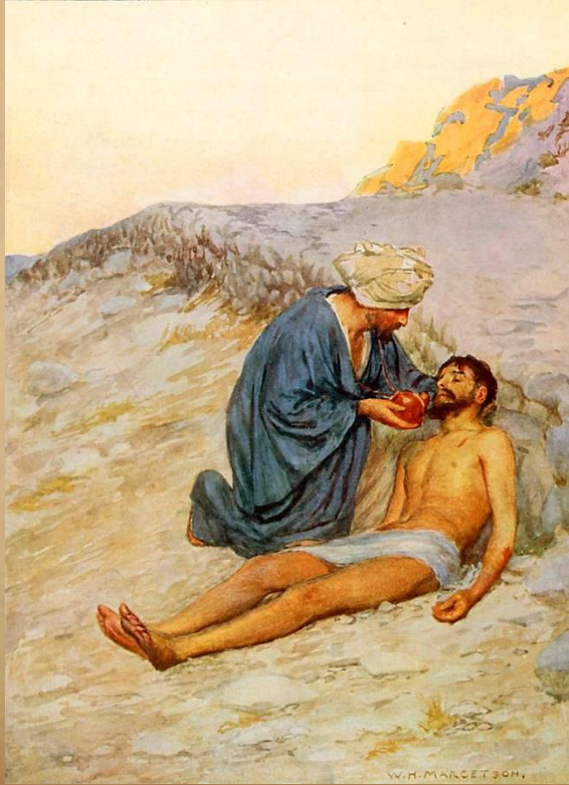
Luke 10:32

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on *him*, and passed by on the other side.



Luke 10:33-34

- ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on *him*,
- ³⁴ And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.



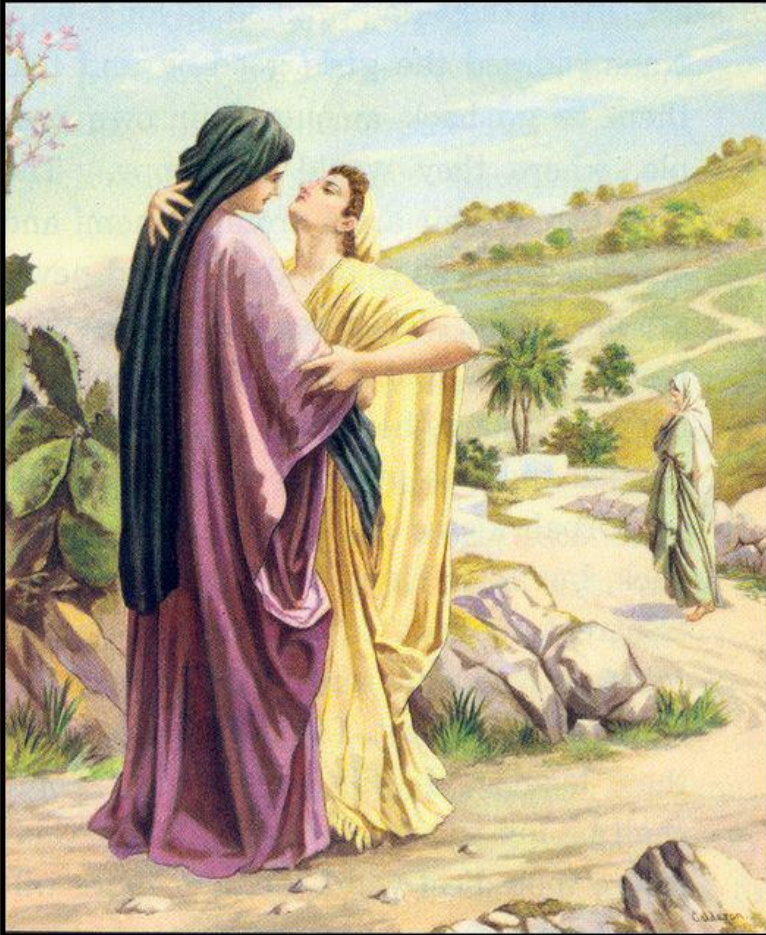
Luke 10:35

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

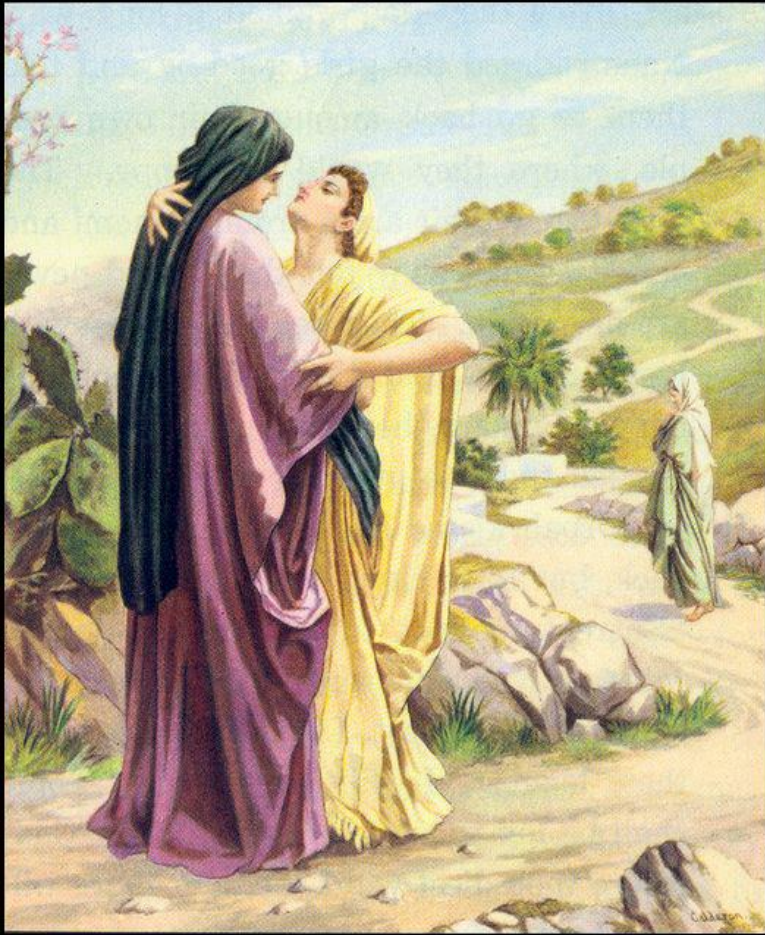


Luke 10:36-37

- ³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?
- ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.



To live virtuously is to do what is *right*,
not what is easy for you:

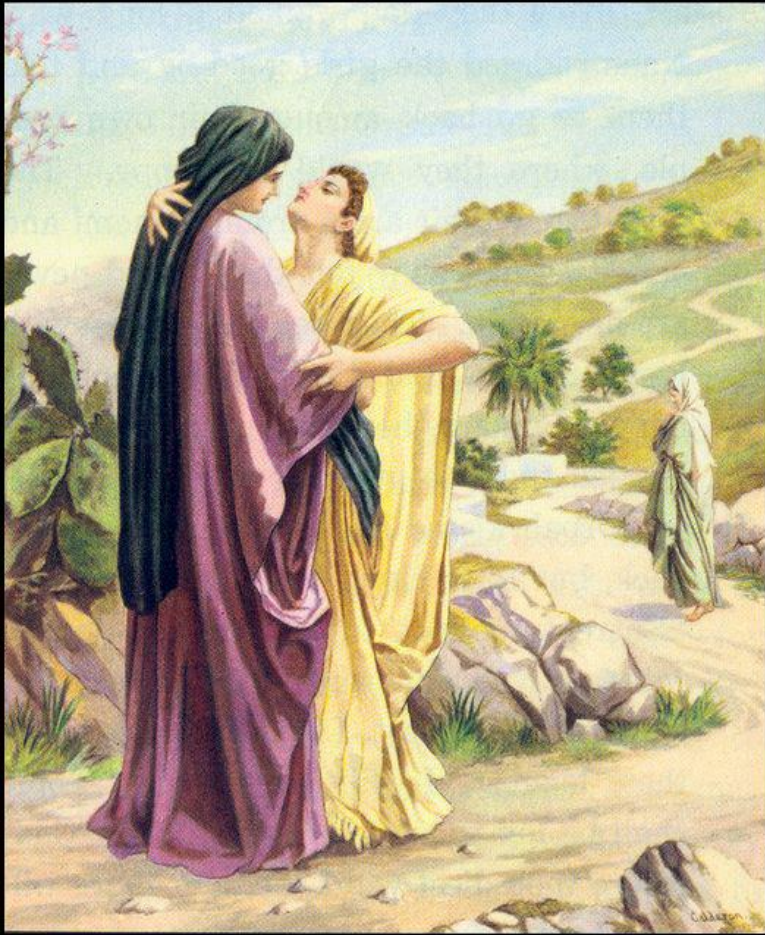


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not what is easy for you:

Free of any obligation to her mother-in-
law, Ruth chose to do what was right:

Ruth 1:11

And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters:
why will ye go with me? *are there yet any
more sons in my womb*, that they may be
your husbands?

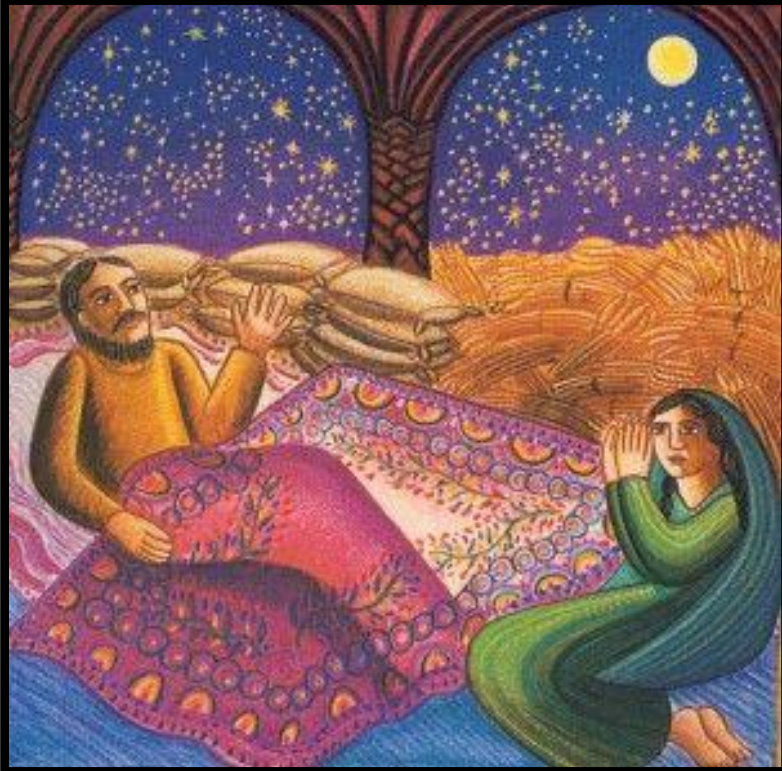


Ruth 1:16-17

- ¹⁶ And Ruth said,
Intreat me not to leave thee, or to
return from following after thee:
for whither thou goest, I will go;
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
thy people *shall be* my people,
and thy God my God:
- ¹⁷ Where thou diest, will I die,
and there will I be buried:
the LORD do so to me, and more also,
if ought but death part thee and me.



When she offered herself to Boaz, Ruth cemented her reputation as a virtuous woman:



Ruth 3:10-11

- ¹⁰ And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.
- ¹¹ And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: **for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.**







Romans 7:4

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.





The virtuous woman of the Proverbs is a picture of a church that walks in love and submission to Christ:

Proverbs 31:10-12

- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman?
for her price *is* far above rubies.
- 11 The heart of her husband doth safely
trust in her, so that he shall have no
need of spoil.
- 12 She will do him good and not evil all
the days of her life.



Proverbs 31:29-31

- ²⁹ Many daughters have done virtuously,
but thou excellest them all.
- ³⁰ Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain:
but a woman *that* feareth the LORD,
she shall be praised.
- ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands;
and let her own works praise her in
the gates.

We were *created* unto good works.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We were *created* unto good works.

We should be *zealous* of good works.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**

We were *created* unto good works.

We should be *zealous* of good works.

We should *maintain* good works.

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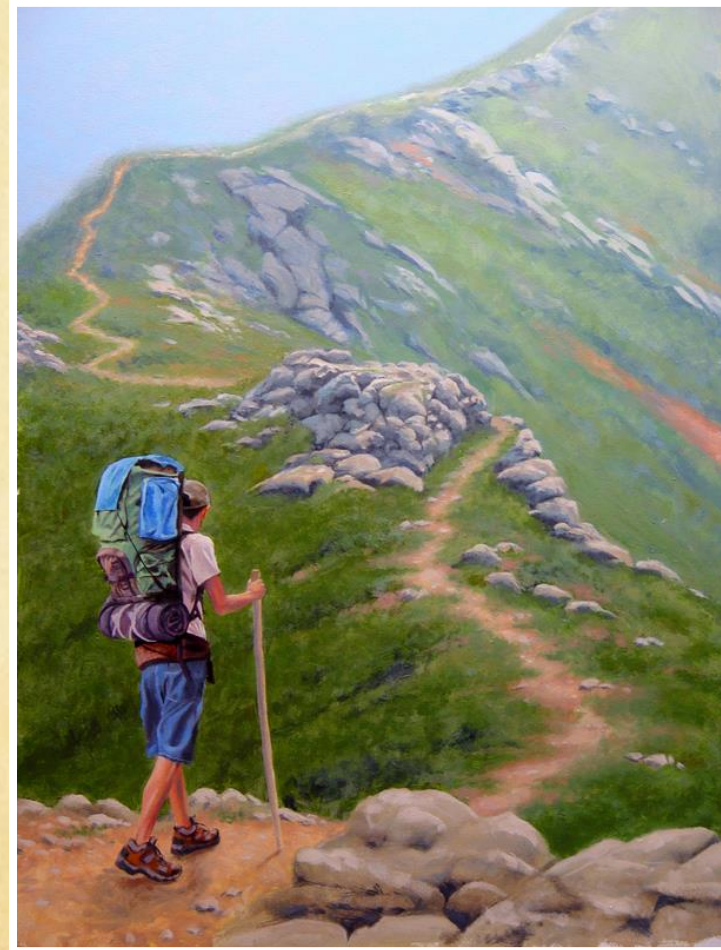
Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 3:8a

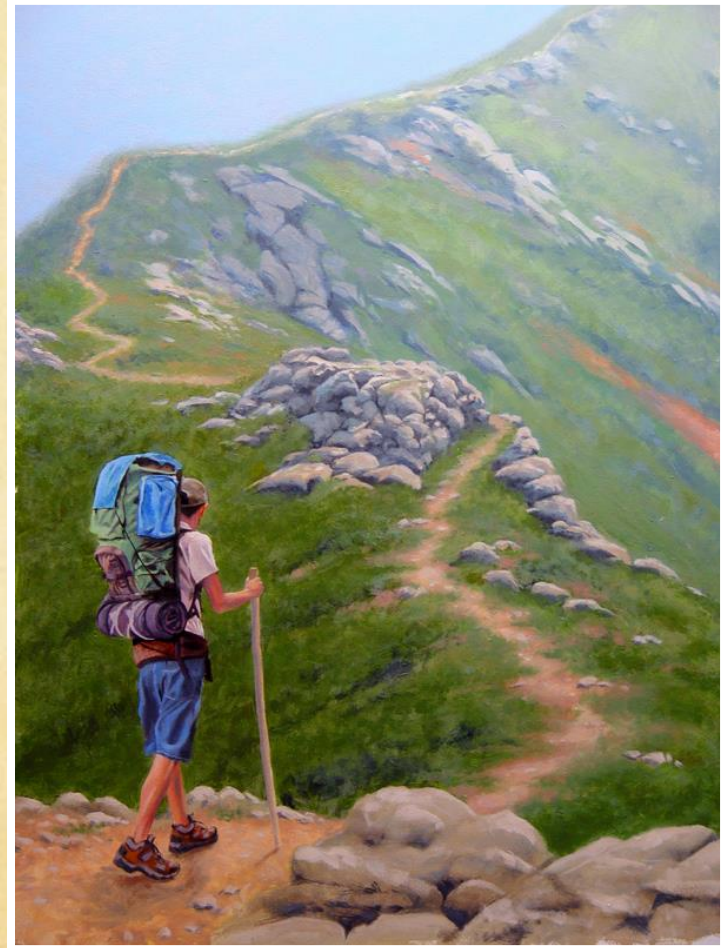
This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works ...

Christianity begins with faith toward God. But faith without works is dead.



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To our faith, we add virtue. We add works to our faith.

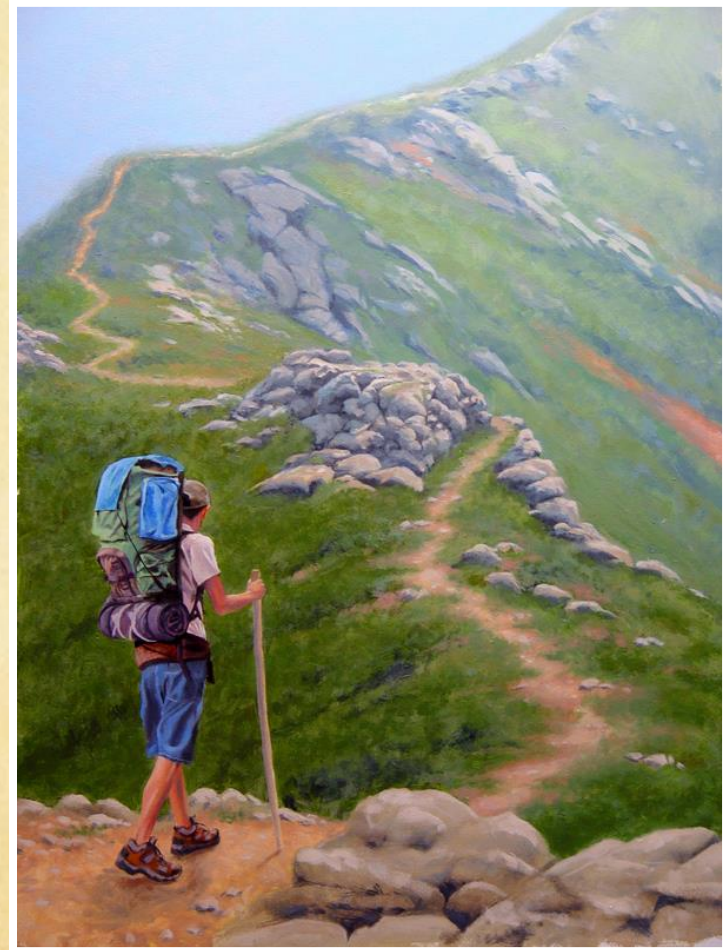


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Our deeds are the expression of our faith, in voluntary obedience to truth.

Elevate your walk from doing what you HAVE to do to what is the RIGHT thing to do. Add to your faith, virtue.



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Up Next:
To Virtue, Knowledge.



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