Needle*

Mark 10:27-27 (17) And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?
(18) And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.
(19) Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.
(20) And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.
(21) Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
(22) And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.
(23) And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!
(24) And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!
(25) It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
(26) **And they were astonished out of measure**, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?
(27) And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.
The very disciples of Jesus, whom He was preparing to teach His gospel message were astonished. So much so they asked among themselves, "who then can be saved??" The contrast between the small size of the needle's eye and one of the

largest indigenous animals is to be preserved for its very improbability. In one of the most vivid scenes portraying Satan's accusatory nature, the patient patriarch Job bore the brunt of Satan's slander. The sons of God had come to present themselves before God, and Satan came also. God asked Satan if he had considered Job, a righteous man who hated sin. In answer to God's question, Satan retorted: "You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (Job 1:10-11). Satan's accusations seem fairly easy to understand—God had blessed Job with physical and financial blessing and it was due to those blessings that Job served God. But!, if one is not careful, he or she will miss another of Satan's false implications embedded within the statement. Satan subtly implied that it is easier for a man to serve God if he is rich and his possessions are increased, than it is for him to serve God if he is poor. Unfortunately, this idea has been maintained by many in the past and the present. In truth, however, Satan's implication is false. It has never been easier to follow God if a person is financially wealthy. On the contrary, wealth often has great potential to have a negative effective on a man's relationship with God. The message is that salvation is impossible from men, it comes from God alone. With God, He only needs an opening of the mind, the size of an eye of a needle, for Him to come pouring in and set up room for an oasis. The exaggerated and contrasted size of the eye of a needle and a camel is deliberate and is not an overt judgment on riches or poverty. Jesus reflects on how hard it often is, for the rich to enter the kingdom of God because riches become a distraction. The aim is not, then, to explain away the paradox. For the fact is, with God all things are possible. **For by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**: (Eph 2:8). *To those who reject God's grace, the gates of heaven will not be opened unto them.*

Is it possible to reject God's grace? Yes, if grace be hidden in the camel of unbelief. Can belief be found? Yes, turn to;
Hebrews 1:1-2 (1) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
(2) **Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
Galatians 1:6-8 (6) I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
(7) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
(8) **But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**
Paul marveled they were so soon following a way thatpretends to be the Gospel of Christ. Could this happen in our age? Yes, the book of Mormon claims to be "another testament of Jesus Christ." Joseph Smith, claiming to be a prophet, stated that one called "Moroni, a glorified resurrected being" appeared to him and instructed him in the ancient record that had been hidden. Was Joseph Smith one of the 'WE HAVE PREACHED' in verse 8? He was not, he would correspond to those in;
2Corinthians 11:13-15 (13) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
(14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
(15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
We read that God hath spoken unto us by His Son, Neither Joseph Smith nor Mohammad qualifies. There is not another gospel, yet the book of Mormon claims to be "another testament." The Koran, not spoken by Christ, is false as well.

The "we" Paul speaks of are the original apostles picked by Jesus Christ. Not only does the book of Mormon contain bad grammar, refutes any claim to inspiration, but it contradicts the Bible. The book of Mormon is no different than the koran, both are false. I mention this to make you aware of the impossibility of a camel passing through the eye of a needle. Both the book of Mormon and the Koran cannot pass through the eye of the salvation needle because neither of them came from God. But the grace of God will flow through the eye of the salvation needle without measure, let's turn to;
Matthew 7:13-15 (13) **Enter ye in at the strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
(14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
(15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
straight--honestly, honorably, or virtuously:(dictionary.com)
These are good Christian attributes, but not the strait Jesus was referring to.
strait--(1) The Strait of Gibraltar. A narrow passage of water connecting two large bodies of water.
(2) Strict, as in requirements or principles. (dictionary.com)
One cannot pass from the sea of sin and corruption into the sea of salvation unless he passes through the strait of baptism. The strait of baptism is strict and unyielding in it's requirements and principles. When one will obey God, it is only then He will translate one into the Kingdom of His dear Son. Therefore, hear ye Jesus! He is the one who has spoken unto us in these last days and He established the ordinance of salvation to make one sinless and pure in Him. Turn to;
Mark 16:15-16 (15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Jesus established the way that one shall be saved, all other ways completely misses the eye of salvation! In reference to Mark 16:16; Listen to this misguided quote;
From Prophecy Plus Ministries "The Church of Christ says this means water baptism is essential. Where is the word "water?" Where is the word "essential?" I believe that Mark 16:16 is saying believing in Jesus is essential not water baptism is essential. *The Apostle Paul was confronted with unbelief, He said;* But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8). *King Solomon had warned centuries earlier;* There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 16:25). *So, is Mark 16:16 speaking of baptism in water? Jesus spoke the words in Mark16:16. It would be wise to seek out His counsel to clarify;* Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5). *Philip taught believers baptism in water; (Acts 8:36). Peter taught believers baptism in water; (Acts 10:47 and 1Pet 3:20-21). Paul taught believers baptism in water; (Gal 3:27). It was not intended that the word be left to chance or to private interpretation. The gospel cannot be hidden like a needle in a haystack, yet the world cannot receive it. Turn with me to;* **Isaiah 55:8-11** (8) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
(9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
(10) For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
(11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that

which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

John 14:16-17 and 26 (16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

(17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Did Jesus ordain baptism? Yes He did (Mark 16:16, Matt28:19).

Did the Apostles teach baptism? Yes they did, turn with me to;

1Peter 3:18-21 (18) For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

(19) By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

(20) Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were **saved by water**.

(21) The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 10:46-48 (46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

(47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

(48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 8:35-38 (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at

the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
(36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
(37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
(38) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.
There are many religious organizations that deny baptism in water. We started this discussion with a needle. Is finding salvation like looking for a needle in a hay stack? No it is not, unless the gospel be hid. Please consider wisely;
2Corinthians 4:1-5 (1) Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
(2) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
(3) **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost**:
(4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
(5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
Once upon a time long ago, a man was riding across the desert. He was reading something that was somewhat disturbing because he did not understand. Philip ran to join him! Beginning at the same reading, Philip expounded unto him Jesus Christ. The Eunuch was not a Christian when Philip joined him but he was concerned. He was honestly searching for truth, and Philip, teaching the word of truth opened unto him an oasis that came flooding in. Philip began where the Eunuch was reading and God's word came flowing into him.

When he learned baptism was a condition of the gospel to become a Son of God, he was not hesitant in asking, "what doth hinder me to be baptized?" That's not the case with many. Many argue that baptism is not necessary and therefore deny for themselves salvation. They deny baptism and therefore remain in a sinful condition. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for an unbeliever to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. They have rejected the gospel out of unbelief, therefore, it will remain hidden to them until they open their ears and see with their eyes. Salvation is not difficult to find, however the requirements are strict. Turn to;
Acts 8:26-38 (26) And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.
(27) And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,
(28) Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
(29) Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.
(30) And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
(31) And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
(32) The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
(33) In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.
(34) And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

(35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
(36) And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
(37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
(38) And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.
The Eunuch did not understand what he was reading, and indeed he stated to Philip he did not understand. But when Philip opened the eye of the needle, God's grace by faith in Christ came flooding into him. In his excitement he exclaimed, "here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?" Philip replied, "if you believe you may." He answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Upon that confession Philip baptized the Eunuch. Jesus knew what had to be done. By faith He knew the cross was waiting and that on it He would crucify sin in His flesh. He also knew 'Faith only' would not complete this act. It would take His works on the cross. In light of this knowledge, how could one think "faith only" would be the requirement of salvation without crucifying the old man of sin in Christ Jesus? Turn your Bibles to;
Romans 6:3-6 (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
(4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
(5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

There are several things that one should observe about baptism.
(1) Only believers are proper candidates for baptism upon confession of faith.
(2) only the baptized into Christ crucify the old man of sin!
(3) only the baptized have part in His death, burial and resurrection!
(4) only the baptized will be passed over by the blood of Christ!
(5) only the baptized are the saved and added to His Church.
The needle's eye of salvation is not too narrow for you and your friend Jesus, because He said; Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you (Jo 15:14). Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41).
The facts are; God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis by faith in Christ. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and baptism is the effect of that faith. The gospel teaching is; first believe the testimony of God, by faith repent of your sins, with your mouth express your confession of faith, I believe Jesus is the Son of God and be baptized for remission of sins thereby receiving the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. Will you accept it's invitation? Also if one needs prayer for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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