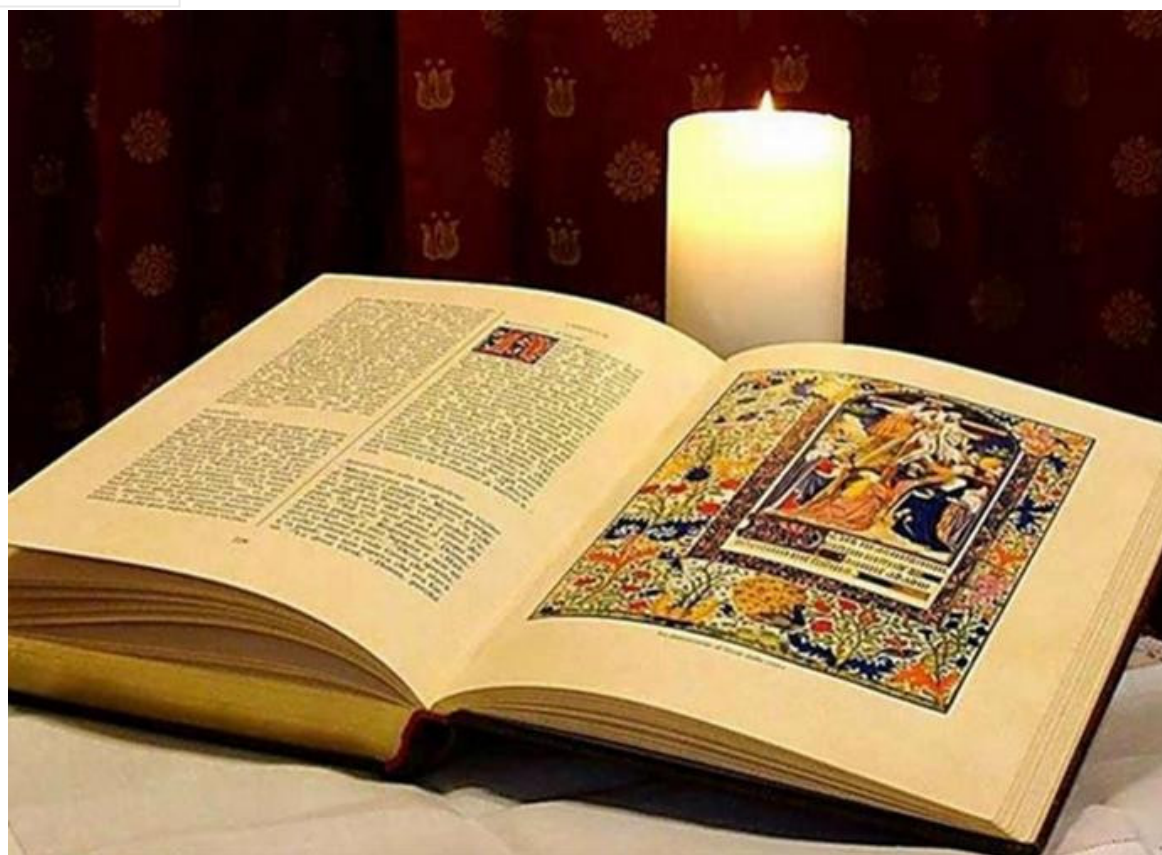


GOSPEL PEARLS

A rock solid alibi

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Jesus said to his disciples: "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates," "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

But wisdom is vindicated by her works." (Matthew 11: 16-19)

Those who refuse to convert always have an alibi ready for not taking up this difficult but happy path. Such people rationalize that St. John was too severe and that Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard, so in both cases they feel good about not having to change their lives. We must be careful not to use lame excuses every day so as not to convert, because without doing God's will and converting our hearts to Jesus each and every day, we will not enjoy eternal life. On the day of our judgment, our alibis will melt away like snow in the sun.