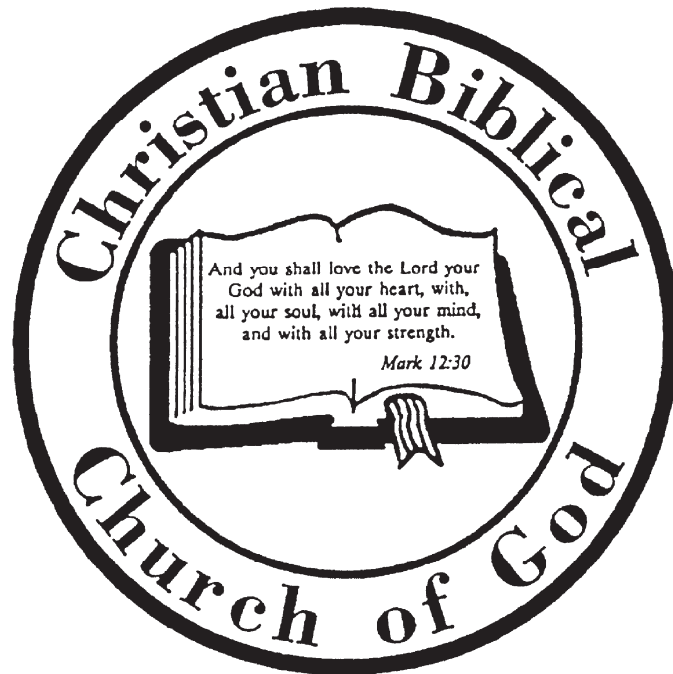


Be Strong in the Lord



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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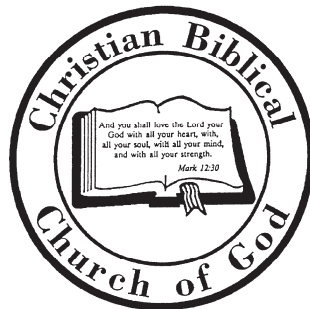
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Be Strong in the Lord

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

☐ Be Strong in the Lord I

☐ Be Strong in the Lord II

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Be Strong in the Lord

Foreword

This is a booklet composed of five sermon transcripts by a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty years, Mr. Fred R. Coulter. The reader will be informed as how to be strong in the Lord in their life. Things that separate men from God and things that keep men close to God are closely examined. The reader is exhorted to always make time each day for prayer and to not forsake the study of God's Word.

The first sermon transcript, "Be Strong in the Lord I," warns about the tendency in human beings to become complacent and open to sin when life is easy. Additionally, the Bible has to be studied continuously throughout life. The Word of God is the light given by God to His followers to show them the way to walk in. An important observation made is that the false way practiced by the world is to put emotion first. But God's way is to understand things spiritually and intellectually, and then the proper emotion comes regarding worship of God.

The second sermon transcript, "Be Strong in the Lord II," addresses the core of a Christians faith – namely being strong in Christ. But people tend to become lackadaisical and Laodicean, forsake in-depth study of the Word of God, and thereby they are weak. Expressed in this study is that in the end times, serious trouble will quickly come upon people, and those who are not strong in Christ will abandon their relationship with God. Noted also is that leaving Christ and coming to embrace error starts with the process of pleasing people rather than pleasing God. Mentioned is that by being faithful to God, when one is old and gray, God will take care of them.

The third sermon transcript, "Be Strong in the Lord III," is a study of just how crucial is the doing of what God's Word says to do, and not being doubtful of God's concern for one. In the latter days all those who would live godly in Christ Jesus will need the help of the angels of God. Those who would receive help from God cannot be narcissistic, set on serving themselves, but rather they must do what God says to do. They must love others that are in Christ, must take care of others that are in Christ, and be concerned for others that are in Jesus Christ.

The fourth sermon transcript, "Be Strong in the Lord IV", looks at what the children of the devil do versus what the children of God do. Noted is that the children of the devil want to have a society whose laws and doctrinal beliefs are an image of their doctrinal beliefs—which are the opposite of the commands given by Jesus Christ. The children of God do what says is to be done in His Law.

The fifth sermon transcript, "Be Strong in the Lord V," is a study of the three foremost factors which influence a Christian in their walk with God. These "big" three are the (1) the self, (2) the society that one lives in, and (3) Satan. Of note also is that the environment that the Laodicean Church will be in is one where people are so busy that many people simply will not take time for God.

The reader, upon finishing this transcript book, will realize what Solomon said, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit." Only in serving God and standing for Jesus Christ can people obtain peace of mind and joy in their lives. People following their own thoughts, having worldly

wealth, having a life full of physical pleasures: These things leave people feeling empty, alone, and without purpose.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie and Prentice Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

Be Strong in the Lord I

(Hope)

Fred R. Coulter

How to be strong in the Lord! This is going to become more and more important for us as we go down in time toward the return of Christ. The thing that is going to see us through is *being strong in the Lord*.

Let's see something that really applies to our day in a very important way, because we have all the comforts that we have today, and all the conveniences and everything around us is just right there. I thought about it when I got up this morning and I wanted a real cold glass of water. We had a bottle of water in the refrigerator, and I pulled it out and poured a cold glass water.

I thought: we have water running into the house and we have drinking water delivered to the house. Here's this refrigerator, it's got everything in it. And if that's not enough, we have two freezers for extra things and we have another refrigerator, which has more things in it. Then we have an auxiliary refrigerator down in the garage for little things that we keep there for the 'poochy-poops,' because we feed them turkey hotdogs. That's why we have the cleanest clean dogs in the world. They don't eat unclean food, and they've never had a case of worms. Think about that!

I got to thinking: look at this, everything is at our fingertips. We want light, *switch!* We want water, *the faucet!* If we want something from a faraway country we go to the supermarket. When we want to go someplace, we saddle up our car and take off. We don't have to have a donkey or a horse or go by foot. Lo and behold, we get in our cars and we sit there; you can have it outside 120 degrees and you're tooling along down the road in an air-conditioned car, and it's about 75 degrees. If that's too warm turn it down to 65 degrees. If you want to enjoy yourself, turn on some music, put on a CD and listen to music. If you want to listen to the news you listen to that. Every pleasure is right there at our fingertips.

Likewise at home we have all the gadgets and so forth. You can tell how Laodicean we are by the number of gadgets that we have. You don't have to get up and do anything. You can sit there using your remote control and click! They even have it now where you don't even need any keys. When they get *the mark of the beast* everything will be fixed up for *the mark of the beast*. You just go along and pass your hand before the door and the door opens. They will even have things where you will not need any remote controls. You can just sit there

and think about it; if you have a chip in your head, you can make it work!

So, with all of these things, and man approaching how man should consider it, and maybe even how people in past ages would look upon it. If you resurrected someone say from the 700s_{A.D.}, or maybe the 700s_{B.C.} and bring them into our society today, they'd be scared to death, first of all because of the cars. They wouldn't know what those things would be. If you've got them on a plane, they would wonder what kind of 'bird' this was. They wouldn't understand all the modern conveniences, they would be in awe with the lights and hot water; just turn it on. They would be in awe of all these things, and they would conclude you must be gods!

But with this kind of living comes complacency and sin and acceptance of it. Let's look at the parable of the ten virgins. Here's a warning for us today. If this is not describing the difference between those who are diligent and those who are lazy, I don't know which parable does.

Several have asked me why, with *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, why don't you do red letters? Well red creates a problem in printing, and red gives a false illusion that those are the only meaningful words that we need to follow. A lot of people would do that. You also need to realize, that every 'jot and tittle,' though not spoken by God, is *God inspired*. So, I think putting it in red letters would defeat the purpose of having all of the Word of God together. Some people may disagree with me on that, but nevertheless, I think that that has some merit to it.

Matthew 25:1—these are the words of Jesus: "Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be compared to ten virgins, who took their lamps *and* went out to meet the bridegroom."

A lamp can be the Word of God; 'Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and Your statutes are a light unto me.' So, all of those of us who are in the Church have Bibles. How many use them to read and to study? *Continuously! Daily!* Jesus said, 'The words that I speak to you they are Spirit and they are Life' (John 6), which then is all the Word of God. So, they went out to meet the bridegroom.

Verse 2: "And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. The ones who were foolish took their lamps, *but* they did not take oil with them" (vs 2-3).

The lamps symbolize the Bible and oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit. They were not using the words of God—which are Spirit and Life—with the Holy Spirit to develop the character that they need. They had no reserve. It's important to understand; we have to have a reserve. We need to realize that.

Verse 4: "But the wise took oil in their vessels *along* with their lamps." A vessel means *a container, a bottle*. They had a bottle of oil with them so when they needed it, they could pour it into the little lamp. The lamps were much like seashells that you could put a little oil in there, and the wick would come over on the side and you light the wick and it would draw the oil out. Of course, over a short period of time you'd need to put more oil in it. This is something that we need to understand, too, because with the Spirit of God we need to be renewed daily. We need to be renewed every Sabbath, need to be renewed every Holy Day. That's what the oil in the lamp is all about.

Verse 5: "Now, when the bridegroom was gone a long time, they all became drowsy and slept." We're right at this point, because it looks like there's going to be more time than we've anticipated.

Dolores and I, after we were married, moved over to Boise, we were driving in the car one day and we looked at each other and we said, 'Hey were not getting old!' Because we thought Jesus was coming in 1975, and we got married in 1965, and this was, I think, May 1965. We said 'Hallelujah, we're not going to get old!'

So, here we are now 40-plus years later. And if you look at some of my old videos, you can see my skunk streak down the middle of my hair; now it's a totally white. So, we don't know how long it's going to be. Because of that, you get drowsy, you get sleepy, you get lazy. You don't have time for prayer; you don't have time for study. Which is like saying, 'God, You save me, but I don't have any time for You. However, when trouble comes You better rescue me!' Well, we're going to see that that's not so.

Verse 6: "But in *the* middle of *the* night there was a cry..."

What happens if you're awakened in the middle of the night? You're in a deep sleep, your eyes are heavy, and you wake up with a start. You wonder what's going on. This is illustrative of the fact that ***things will happen when you least expect them!*** Is that not right?

"... 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps" (vs 6-7).

We've had false alarms, and everybody was diligent up to the time that it should have been. What

happened in 1844-45 when the SDAs and Miller were wrong in the return of Christ? *You talk about not understanding prophecies!* Wow! They were out there standing all day. Some of them were on top of rocks, on top of stumps and they had their hands in the air, praying, 'O Lord, take me up, take me up, take me up.'

We had a lot of people preaching fire, hell and brimstone, when it looked like Jesus was going to come in 1975. A lot of people zoomed into the Church to save their necks, because there was a way of escape to go to the place of safety: Petra.

So, this is illustrative of what happens when men have it wrong, and people trust in men. But what happened? *1972 and 75 came and went!* Then what happened? *Things began to settle down and get corrupt!* That's what he's talking about here. And then when it gets down to the pinch:

Verse 7: "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps." 'We have to get ready. I have to pray. I haven't been praying for three years, but if I pray 20 minutes a day for the next month, I'm in good shape.' But they found out that's not enough, because they didn't know.

Verse 8. "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, because our lamps are going out.'"

The only way that you retain oil in your vessel, is that you pray and you study and you live God's way *every single day!* That doesn't mean you aren't going to have troubles, because it says that they all slumbered and slept:

Verse 5: "Now, when the bridegroom was gone a long time, they all became drowsy and slept." Showing that everyone has their problems and weaknesses, but you don't let them get you down.

But the five foolish saw that they had lost a lot, so they wanted to get it from the wise. You can't do it. You can't do this like jumping the car when you have a dead battery. You can't put jumper cables. You can't put jumper cables on someone's ears, and put them on someone else's ears, and by magic transfer all that information to the one who's deficient so that now you have all of what the other person has. *You can't do it!*

Verse 9: "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest *there* not *be* enough for us and *for* you. But instead, go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'"

What this means and shows is that there is an individual responsibility for everyone who has the Spirit of God and who is a true Christian, ***they have to be responsible for their own lives!*** Not the minister! We're going to see here in a little bit, the

minister is to teach the people *how* to live their lives, not live their lives vicariously for them and always tell them what to do, because this also leads to another problem, which is this: If you always rely on a minister to tell you what to do and he's willing to do that:

1. he is not a good minister
2. you do not put yourself in a position to be led of the Holy Spirit of God so you can *make your own decisions*

That becomes very important to understand. And you see why that this parable is here, because we're going to also see that there a lot of ministers and brethren who are derelict in their standing before God, because:

- they are more interested in pleasing people and one another
- they are more interested in their social contact with brethren

rather than standing for the Truth, even if no one else is around.

I've had a lot of people say, 'We go to our church, but we get spiritually fed from Fred.' That's like standing where there is a crack right between your feet, with one foot on one side and one foot on the other side. What are you going to do? It's like in California and all of a sudden there are earthquakes and the crack goes apart, and there you are? If you're lucky, it will only spread far enough for you to do an extreme version of the splits. But otherwise you're going to fall into the cavern. Remember the story of the splits: *The minister is not going to be split for you so you can be saved!* Remember that!

They are going to be a lot of people that are going to come at the last minute and say, 'Teach me, teach me! Let me learn let me learn!' Well, we'll be able to give to them. We'll say, 'You want to know? Here is an iPod with 1600 sermons on it; have a go at it. Here are 20 books that we have done that explain all about it; have a go at.' And maybe if they get in and work hard, and listen long and diligently, they may be able to get enough oil to avoid the problem.

But we can also look at this on a generational basis, too. We have the older generation, and we have the younger generation. And the younger generation is feeding off the older generation and relying on them for things, rather than the younger generation. So, all you young people out there—let's say 40 and younger—you better get your act together. You better decide *what* you're going to do; you better decide *how* you're going to live your life. Quit relying on the older generation. Now, were going to be kind and good

and help you in every way that we can, but the help is not a substitute for your own work and getting things done that you need to get done.

There's going to come a day, and this applies to all of these 'good Protestants' who are expecting to be raptured, and many in the Church of God expecting to go to a place of safety.

Verse 10: "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut." When the tribulation breaks, they're going to say, 'I thought I was going to be raptured away! I thought I was going to go to Petra!' *No!*

Verse 11: "And afterwards the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But He answered *and* said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you'" (vs 11-12).

You have to go out and give your life for God so that He knows you. He will know you by your works. If you want to wait to the last minute for works, your day will come, and the last minute will be upon you.

What do we do between now and then? *We still don't know how long it is to the end!* I read a paper about the latest NASA moon project. They're going to send a rocket to the moon, crash it deliberately toward the south pole of the moon and have another part of the rocket land four minutes later.

When the first one lands it plumes up the dust and everything, which will make a crater 30 feet wide and 15 to 16 feet deep. They're looking for water, which may be frozen in some of the craters. With the dust they're gathering for four minutes on the second one before it crashes, that will send all the information to NASA so they can go up there and build their base. They expected to do this in 2009. You tie that together with the thing that says, 'there will be war in heaven'; that's not just Satan alone. Satan has to use people, so there will be people there.

How much time do we have left, and if we have much more time, what is our attitude toward growing and overcoming? *I know exactly how human nature is! I have human nature myself!* I exercise 3 to 5 times a week, and when I feel really on top of it, boy I'm there really doing it. But when I'm not on top of it, my human nature says, 'Well you don't have to do quite as much. You really did a lot yesterday. So, it's the same way with everything.'

Today we don't buy things until we need it. Very few people have things in storage. Now we have some, perhaps more than other people. But nevertheless, even all the things we have in storage,

just say for example you can't buy food at the supermarket for 60 days, we would be out of food, easily. Even with all the things that we have.

Whereas, when people had to depend on growing their own food, taking care of their own animals making sure that they had it for what, a whole year! That was a different story. Then when they faithfully followed the 'land Sabbath,' the crop of the sixth year would be for three years. And they could eat at the sixth and the seventh and the eighth year, until the crop came in that they planted at the eighth year, which then would be harvested in the ninth year.

None of us have any of that mentality at all. I know I don't! When I get gas, I wait for the gas tank to go way down. When Delores is with me, she always reminds me. 'Look at how low that gas is! 'Oh, no! I'll get gas in plenty of time.' Well what would happen if I got really, really low, and the gaslight was on and I pulled into a station, and it was the last place I could go, and they were out of gas? Now what am I going to do?

This is how we live our lives. Unfortunately this is how we live our lives spiritually, too! Jesus knew how people would live their lives; even ministers and disciples and apostles!

Let's see what Jesus told Peter. This is really a good example of how we can have so much self-confidence that we become filled with pride and cockiness and think we know everything. Thus was Peter. He even had so much confidence that when Jesus said He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the priest and the elders, and be killed the third day, Peter came up to Him and took him to the side began to correct him, and say, 'Lord, that's not going to happen; *because I am here!*' (Matt. 16).

Who was the one who took the sword and *hacked off the ear of the servant of the high priest?* Peter! You can rest assured he was not aiming for the ear! He got the ear because the guy turned his head down, and the sword sliced off his ear. Of course, Jesus put it back on and healed him. And I bet that that soldier was there all night feeling his ear feeling his ear. Is it bleeding? How did it get back?

I wonder what he thought when they crucified Jesus. I wonder if he was converted on the Day of Pentecost. Makes you wonder; very possible. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing.' Here is a great lesson to learn.

Luke 22:25^[transcriber's correction]: "And He said to them, 'The kings of the nations lord over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors.'"

Look at any two-bit dictator: Chavez, Castro, Hussein, Hitler, Stalin, Mao tse Tung, Mussolini, and on back into all of the Caesars and clear back to Nimrod who started the system.

Verse 26: "But *it shall* not be this way *among* you..." Everyone who is an elder and teacher listen up! Especially those who run their church corporations with an *iron* fist of hate, and yet, claim they are the 'church of brotherly love.' Watch out, your day of judgment is coming!

"...rather, let the one who is greatest among you be as the younger, and the one who is leading as the one who is serving" (v 26).

We are called to serve the brethren: to teach them, to help them so they may obtain eternal life, and that they may be *spiritually strong* in an independent way to spiritually stand before God on their own two feet, and have confidence, faith, hope and love.

Verse 27: "For who *is* greater, the one who is sitting *at the table*, or the one who is serving? Is not the one who sits *at the table*? But I [Christ] am among you as One Who is serving."

- Did He not wash their feet?
- Did He not tell them to do this one to another? *Yes!* Why?

because

- the servant is not greater than his Lord
- the disciple is not greater than his teacher
- the messenger is not greater than the one who is sent

Verse 28: "Now, you are the ones who have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint to you, as My Father has appointed to Me, a kingdom; so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and may sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (vs 28-30). What greater thing could you get? *Yet, this was not enough for Peter!*

Verse 31: "Then the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon, listen *well*. Satan has demanded to have all of you, to sift as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and **when you are converted, strengthen your brethren**'" (vs 31-32).

That's what every minister, elder and teacher needs to do: *strengthen the brethren!* You can trust God in this: ***If you are not strong in the Lord, you're not going to strengthen the brethren!*** So, here's Peter, 'Lord, I don't need that!'

Verse 33: "And he said to Him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.' But He said, 'I tell you, Peter, *the* cock shall in no

wise crow today before you have denied knowing Me three times” (vs 33-34).

Did that happen? *Yes it did!* That’s why Jesus said to reaffirm. This is another thing that is very important. This is why Jesus wanted to reaffirm what He told Peter: *to strengthen the brethren*. This was after He was resurrected and He appeared to them at the Sea of Galilee.

John 21:14: “This *was* now the third time *that* Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples after being raised from *the* dead.... [they were all out there fishing; they really didn’t know what to do] ...Therefore, when they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonas, do you love Me more than these?’....” (vs 14-15). He said this three times because Peter denied him three times.

“...And he said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs’” (v 15).

How do you feed lambs? Have you ever had a lamb? We had a lamb one time up in Salt Lake City and we thought it’d be a great pet. It was. So, we got this little lamb that had to be bottle-fed. We had a place that we could keep it out in the yard. Our kids were real little at that time, and we would go out and feed the lamb. We would have this bottle with a big nipple on it, and we’d give it to the lamb. He would almost invert the bottle, sucking so hard on it.

Wherever you would go the lamb would follow you. Just like the old tale about ‘Mary had a little lamb’ and so forth. Well, you didn’t have to be Mary, all you had to do is be the bottle carrier. He followed you wherever it would go. As it got older it demanded to come in the house, because we would feed it, run into the house and shut the screen door, which was aluminum screen door with a glass on it. And this lamb would come up, and it would jump up and kick the bottom of the door to get more! It wanted to be fed.

Which ties in with what? What should our attitude be in learning? What did Jesus say? ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled!*** Now when they get older, you have to give them other things to eat. So He said, ‘Feed My lambs.’

Verse 16: “He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonas, do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Shepherd My sheep.’”

Shepherding is not *ruling over*. Shepherding is *leading* them to follow Christ, because Christ is *the Chief Shepherd!* Peter learned that lesson.

Verse 17: “He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, *son* of Jonas, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’”

Every time any minister or elder gets all uplifted in what he is doing, he better go back and read this. Another thing, too, is that very few of them have as good a wife as mine, because if I am not doing this, she will well let me know. That’s why she always says to me before I speak, she has burned a little place in my brain: Fred, just talk!

Did Peter strengthen the brethren? *Yes, he did!* You read what he did in Acts 2-10. Then you find that, yes:

- he did learn the lesson
- he did strengthen the brethren
- he did teach them
- he was an apostle to the circumcision

We find at the end of 1-Peter 5, that Peter was in Babylon. Why was he in Babylon? That’s not Rome! That’s the city of Babylon over there and in what we call Iraq today. Why was he in Babylon? *Because there are more Jews in Babylon than there were in Judea!* He was over there teaching the Jews. So, he writes this letter:

1-Peter 5:1: “*The* elders who *are* among you I exhort, even as a fellow elder, and an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that is about to be revealed”—because he saw Jesus transfigured.

Verse 2: “Feed the flock of God *that* is among you... [Did Peter learn the lesson? *Yes, he did!*] ...exercising oversight... [not over-lordship, there’s a difference] ...not by compulsion, but willingly; not in fondness of dishonest gain, but *with an eager attitude*; not as exercising lordship over *your* possessions... [these people belong to me] ...but *by* being examples to the flock *of God*. And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you shall receive an unfading, *eternal* crown of glory” (vs 2-4).

So he *did* learn the lesson and that’s what he taught and preached. He is to strengthen the brethren. That’s what we need to do here. How are we strengthened?

- we need to be strengthened with *God’s Spirit*
- strength and steadfastness are always related to *hope*

Let’s see what Paul said about hope. This kept Paul going all his life. In teaching, helping,

writing and doing the things that he did in spite of trials and in spite of difficulties. You can read all the things that he went through (2-Cor. 11). Go back and read those. Read all of 2-Cor. Go through all the things that Paul went through, and many of them even life-threatening, and even to the point he said that it was so bad we despaired even of living! Then ask yourself:

- Would you endure that and still remain faithful?

or

- Are you a 'fair weather' Christian?

That as long as everything is right and 'I have all my gadgets and all of my remote controls and everything convenient, I'm going to be a good little Christian. But I don't know about what I'm going to be when the going gets tough.' Then you better answer the question before the going gets tough. What are you going to be? *That you have to be strengthened in order to do it!*

So, here's what Paul said when he was falsely accused, arrested and drug on down to Caesarea to stand trial. All false charges in everything against him, and he stood up to speak for himself. He said to the governor down there:

Acts 24:14: "But I confess to you that according to the way, which they call heresy..."

- the Jews ***to this day*** call it heresy
- the Catholics ***to this day***, following in the footsteps of the Jews (except for Sunday-keeping), call it heresy

Their contempt for true Christians is so absolutely incredible. Now that's not to say other Sunday-keeping Christians buy into the Catholics because the pope has declared them 'persona non grata'—*non-Catholics* can't be true Christians.

"...so I serve the God of my fathers, believing all things that are written in the Law and the Prophets" (v 14).

You cannot have true hope unless you understand what the prophets went through and their message! You will never be able to endure the miserable terrible times that are coming, unless you understand what they went through.

Verse 15: "Having hope in God, which they themselves also acknowledge, *that there* will be a resurrection of *the* dead—both *the* just and *the* unjust.' And in this *hope*, I exercise myself to have a conscience without offense toward God and men continually" (vs 15-16).

Notice what he has to do. He has hope! he believes! What does he do? *He exercises himself!* How?

- through prayer
- through study
- through living
- through preaching
- through teaching

That's how ***we*** need to exercise our lives as ministers and elders, and all brethren also need to exercise themselves. This is spiritual exercise:

- of prayer
- of study
- of living
- of being an example to others

That's all part of it. That's how we do it. It kept him through everything, through the thick and through the thin.

Let's look at some *hope*, where it talks about *hope and strength*. I'll tell you this, which is true. All those who believe the Law and the Prophets have been done away, they don't read the Old Testament because they are told that everything in the Old Testament has been fulfilled.

Well, if it's been fulfilled, why read it? *So, they don't learn the things in the Old Testament!* They missed the whole unity of the Scripture, as God designed it to be. If you read all of Psalms 119 *there is no way in heaven and earth that you could possibly believe that the laws have been done away;* that the statutes, the commandments, the precepts and testimonies of God and the Word of God have been done away.

Psalms 119:49: "Remember the Word to Your servant upon which You have caused me to **hope**." We're hoping in the resurrection, the return of Christ, the Kingdom of God. We're *hoping* for the blessing of the reward that God will give us, to reign kings and priests.

So, hope always causes you to keep your mind on the goal that God has for us. When you do that, that will give you the diligence to exercise yourself spiritually every day.

(go the next track)

Psalms 119 is important to understand. It is important to grasp. There are differences between positive attitudes. People can have positive attitudes and hope. Hope gives you a positive attitude *spiritually*, because you're trusting in God. Whereas, a positive attitude without God is something you work up in yourself. When it comes to 'crunch time,' it may not be there. It can be like 'pop' psychology.

Listen! Satan can give anybody a positive attitude. Think on that! He can make them feel really

good. There is what appears to be a good side, a tender side and an understanding side *that Satan deceptively portrays to ensnare people!* He has many willing accomplices out there, who are ‘do-gooders.’ So, just remember the difference between, true hope and just a positive attitude.

Here is what true hope is going to do, and we’re going to need it for the days ahead. I’m going to tell you *why* you need to be strong in the Lord, and what is really going to come down in fulfilling prophecy. Unless you’re *strong in the Lord*, you’re not going to understand. ***You’re going to have a greater and more difficult time having faith in God, and enduring the difficulties that are coming!*** It doesn’t mean that you can’t, but remember where we started with the parable of the ten virgins, the five wise and the five foolish.

Psalms 119:50: “This is my comfort...” That is, ***the hope!*** Hope gives comfort in all circumstances. And we have the comfort of the Holy Spirit, which will get into a little later.

“...in my affliction...” (v 50). Whenever you have a trial, whenever you have an affliction, God’s Word and God’s promises ***causes you to hope in Him Who sees you through all your afflictions and gives you comfort!*** Another way of saying it is, it gives you *peace of mind*. That’s what you need in times of difficulty, *peace of mind*, regardless of what’s going on.

“...that Your Word has given me life” (v 50)—‘quicken’ (KJV)—to enliven or to give you *living strength*.

Notice the things that he was up against. ***Regardless of your circumstances, if you have the hope in God, you’re going to be stronger!***

Verse 51: “The proud have utterly scorned me...” Now that could also be a prophecy of Jesus. Everybody hated Him.

“...yet, I do not turn aside from Your Law” (v 51). That’s quite something! Never let the pressure from anyone cause you to turn your back on the laws of God.

Verse 52: “I remembered Your judgments of old...” That’s why it’s important to read the Old Testament. You read what God has promised in *blessings* and what God has promised in *cursings*, and the cursings are judgment for sin and transgression. When you remember the judgments of old, for good and for evil, then you know which ones to choose.

“...O LORD, and have comforted myself” (v 52). The Holy Spirit will do that. That’s why it’s important to study the Word of God.

- it gives you comfort
- it gives you hope
- the words are Spirit and Life

That’s why *the Sabbath needs to be made the greatest day of the week* by everyone participating into it—the teachers, elders and all the brethren together, ***as well as the Spirit of God***—because God puts His Spirit, in wherever two or three are gathered together, and He teaches us. The Sabbath should be a day of:

- education
- hope
- teaching
- learning to walk in God’s way

so that ***the Sabbath truly becomes the greatest day of the week!***

1. because of your fellowship is with God
2. the teaching that you get from His Word
3. then the fellowship that you give, which should be in love

Too many people have the fellowship as the first thing. Then everything else becomes a social mix.

Notice how bad it can get *and you still have hope*, v 53: “Burning indignation has taken hold upon me because of the wicked who forsake Your Law.”

He loved God’s Law so much that he was horrified to see what was happening! Listen, brethren! I am horrified at what I see happening with a lot of those we considered brethren years ago. Where are they! What has happened?

Verse 54: “Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.... [we’re just pilgrims and sojourners] ...I have remembered Your name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept Your Law. This I had because I kept Your **precepts**” (vs 54-56).

Verse 127: ***Therefore, I love Your commandments above gold—yea, above fine gold. Therefore, I esteem all Your precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way***” (vs 127-128)

There is a proper hatred of sin! We need to understand that we have to hate those things, not imbibe in them just a little bit because it’s there. In this age, it is much more difficult for us than in ages past, because Satan the devil has many, many helpers bringing *his way* into every nook and cranny of every home, every apartment, everything that there is in the world.

A lot of things are snuck in on the premise that Fox News has: ‘fair and balanced.’ Well let’s understand something clearly, ***God is not fair and***

balanced! He does not give equal time to sin. Let's put it this way: Yes, He does, because **He punishes as 'equal time' with sin. But He blesses because of love and obedience.**

Let's see what it says about Jesus, and He was commended for this, prophesied that He would come as the Messiah. This also has to do with how things are going to be run during the Millennium.

Hebrews 1:8: "But on the other hand, of the Son *He* says, 'Your throne, O God...'" Was Jesus God? *Yes!* This is prophesied going clear back to Psa. 45. The Messiah, before He came in the flesh, was called God. In Isa. 9 He is called the 'Mighty God.'

"...is into the ages of eternity; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.... [What is the rule of that?]: You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness... [iniquity] ...because of this, God, *even* Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your companions" (vs 8-9).

There is a blessing and a reward, for hating evil, iniquity and lawlessness. It is hard for us to do so in this society, because we are living in a lawless society. The powers that be in the government and religions have compelled upon the societies to compromise with Truth and righteousness, and to accept sin on an equal basis, because you must be 'fair and balanced.'

Let's see how Paul is writing Colossians; you almost have to read the whole thing to get it all, but we don't have time for that. What I want you to understand is that Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians are the three most loving and spiritual Epistles of Paul. They were written by him when he was imprisoned in Rome; his first imprisonment, which was in a house, but nevertheless, he was still in chains.

Colossians 1:3: "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you continually since hearing of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love that *you have* toward all the saints; because..." (vs 3-5). The reason your behavior is what it is, is because of *the hope!* You have to have that *hope!*

"...of the hope that *is* laid up for you in heaven... [which is coming when Christ returns] ...which you heard before in the word of the Truth of the Gospel; which has come to you, even as *it* also *has* in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, just as *it is* among you, from the day that you heard and knew the grace of God in Truth" (vs 5-6).

Verse 8: "Who has also informed us of your love in **the Spirit.**" Very important!

- there is a *carnal love*
- there is a *social love*, of just getting along with people
- there is a *religious love*, which may be above social love
- there is a *spiritual love*, which is the love that comes from God

Spiritual love is what we are to have. *Love in the Spirit.* So, it is the Spirit to give us *faith, hope and love.*

Verse 9: "For this cause we also, from the day that we heard *of it*, do not cease to pray for you..." Brethren, I pray for you every day:

- prayers for those who are sick and in need
- special prayers for those who are in trials
- special prayers for those who have afflictions and difficulties

Every day!

"...and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (v 9). Paul didn't want them looking to him for every itty-bitty, teeny-weeny thing. To be **"...be filled...in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."** For what? *So they can make their own decisions! So they can live their own lives!*

Verse 10: "That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and **growing in the knowledge of God.**" What does that do?

Let me stop here and just say this: There are things that we know, but God wants us to come to the point of **knowing that we know!** There is a distinct difference! If you just know, someone could possibly talk you out of that. But if you *know* that you *know*, *no one's going to take it from you!*

I'll show you what we mean, I will show you the difference. This is important to understand, because this will distinguish between *true Christians* and those who are *false or pseudo-Christians*, and there are many of them out there. You can tell who they are by just listening to them talk. Not too far in their conversation they're going to let you know that the laws and commandments of God have of been done away. Those who believe that are *false Christians.*

Now, they may have a pseudo-love. They may be very sanctimonious, they may be very enthused and what they are doing, **but they are false Christians!** The sign of God is the true seventh-day Sabbath, not Sunday; Sunday never has. Today they have a lot of singers that have rock bands and so forth, so it's more of an emotional rock concert type of thing with the name of Jesus thrown in.

1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard*...” I added the word *standard*, because the Greek there is ‘en toutoo’—which means *by this*. You have to furnish the word as to what it is, because ‘en toutoo’ means ‘*by this*’ and then the question is: What? So, you furnish the word.

Verse 3: “And by this *standard* **we know** that **we know** Him... [How do *we know* that *we know*?]: ...**if we keep His commandments.**” There you go!

I’ll tell you one thing, ***you can never have spiritual strength unless you keep the commandments of God!*** God’s Spirit is where there is obedience! God’s Spirit is not where there is disobedience. It’s God Spirit that gives us strength.

Verse 4: “The one who says, ‘I know Him’...”

- I know the Lord!
- Brother, do you know the Lord?
- Welcome to our church on Sunday.
- Where do you live?
- Oh my, we have a wonderful band.
- Oh wait until you hear the choir.
- Wait until you see our preacher prance back and forth on stage, and purr a wonderful hymn to us.

“...and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him” (v 4).

What is Truth? *Jesus said, ‘Your Word is the Truth!’* That’s an all-inclusive statement. He didn’t say, ‘Almost all Your Word is the Truth. Well, 99% your Word is the Truth.’ ***NO!*** He said, ***‘Your Word is the Truth.’***

In seeing a lot of these worship services where they’re singing songs and their arms are in the air and swaying back and forth. Well, you can go to some Sunday-keeping churches, and they have ‘praise singing’ and they carry on for 45 minutes. Then they have a 10-minute sermon and they’re done. All of this is an emotional participation to get you involved into it, and you are hooked emotionally. *First of all, God wants you to understand things spiritually and intellectually, then proper emotion comes.* The false way of the world is emotion first. Do you love the Lord in your heart? It’s an emotion! ‘Listen to our wonderful music.’ And if you’re in some churches, they have ‘follow the bouncing ball’! And that’s, I think, very hypnotizing.

The Psalms also indicate that you raise your arms to God, so there’s a proper way of doing it and a proper emotion in doing it. But if you stand there waving your arms back and forth for 40 minutes, and

singing these songs like the way that they sing them, you have to question if that really from God. The bottom line is that ***you have to keep the commandments of God,*** and it says ***the commandments of God are Truth!***

Verse 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word... [we shift from commandments to ‘word,’ which then becomes all-inclusive] ...**truly in this one the love of God is being perfected....**”

Why? *Because this is the love of God that we keep His commandments!* Then this gives us the understanding on how to love each other, and love God, and so forth.

“...By this *means* we know that we are in Him.... [If someone says, ‘Well, I’m a Christian! All right, here’s a test]: ...**Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked**” (vs 5-6).

- Which day did Jesus keep? *The Sabbath Day!*
- Which Holy Days did He keep? *God’s Holy Days!*
- Did He walk in love? *Yes!*
- Did He walk in Truth? *Yes!*
- Did He loved righteousness and hate iniquity? *Yes!*

That’s how *we are to walk!*

Notice what all of this does when we put it all together. What does it do for us spiritually? ***We need to be strong in the Lord!***

Colossians 1:11: “Being strengthened with all power...” Whatever you need to see you through, whatever your circumstances are, ***God will give that!*** He will give it to you *when* you need it, provided that you’re doing like the wise virgins.

“...according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy” (v 11). Regardless of what comes! Whenever it gets tough and you need to endure and things look like they’re totally upside down and ought not be upside down, then remember the Scripture that says: ***all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose!*** Everything will work together for good.

Many times we don’t see the good, until we come out on the other side of the trial and look back. Many times we can see God’s hand in it *after* we have gone through it, when we couldn’t necessarily see it when we were going through it. I know I’ve experience that, and I know all of you have, too.

Verse 12: “Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance

of the saints in the Light.” In other words, always keeping your mind on the goal. What is God going to do for you? *That’s how you remain strong!*

Verse 13: “Who has personally **rescued us** from the power of darkness...” This is quite a verse because here in the Greek the word *rescued*, in the middle of voice verb, which means that God has had a personal hand in rescuing us from the power of darkness. So, in that you need to ask: **Why am I here in the Church of God?**

- understanding His Word
- understanding the light of God’s Word
- understanding the Truth of God’s Word

and you’re not out *there*, that is in the world, in darkness? ***Because Christ rescued you!***

Think about that the next time you watch some of these spectacular rescues on television whether it’s about a storm in the sea or flood, and you see some spectacular things take place.

“...and has transferred *us*... [we’re not there, yet, but we are transferred] ...unto the kingdom of the Son of His love” (v 13). The *King James* says ‘translated.’ You haven’t been translated, you been *transferred*. You are now under the authority of the Kingdom of God, and that’s what it means. Then it goes on showing all about Christ. Let’s go through this and read this. This becomes important when we come down to Col. 1:27, *the hope of glory*; you have seen the steps involved in building up to it.

You just don’t come along and have hope because you say you have hope. NO! ***Hope is a concrete spiritual substance or power that God has given you so that in all circumstances you have hope!***

1. He has rescued us
 - He has given us knowledge
 - He has given us His power
2. He has rescued us from Satan the devil!
3. Verse 14: “In Whom we have redemption through his own blood... [we’ve been redeemed] ...even the remission of sins.”

Not just going to a priest in some little dark closet, and you say, ‘father I have sinned.’ *My child what are your sins?* NO!

Verse 14: “In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God... [Christ; *through Christ*] ...***the firstborn of all creation***” (vs 14-15).

That doesn’t mean that He was the first created thing of God. Because if you’re the first created thing you’re not firstborn, and Jesus was not the first son of Adam and Eve. He couldn’t of been

their firstborn, but *He was the firstborn of the virgin Mary* was He not?

We are to follow Christ and become a spiritual creation through Christ. Christ was the Firstborn from among the dead for the creation of the sons of God that God is doing now. And that’s what it means.

- How important is Christ?
- How important is it when we pray and study?

That’s why we need to know who Christ was and who He is and what He’s doing.

Verse 16: “Because by Him were **all** things created...” How can He be the firstborn if He created all things, if you’re saying He was just born of the virgin Mary?

“...the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him. And **He is before all, and by Him all things subsist**” (vs 16-17). ‘He upholds all things by the word of His power’ (Heb. 1).

Verse 18: “And He is the Head of the Body, the Church; Who is *the* Beginning, ***the Firstborn from among the dead***...” He was the beginning the firstborn of all who are created through the process of conversion and the resurrection. That’s the whole meaning of it.

“...so that in all things He Himself might hold the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell” (vs 18-19).

Here’s why we have *hope*, and it’s not based on a positive attitude. It’s based on:

- the Truth of God
 - the Word of God
 - the Spirit of God
- that gives us:*
- a hope
 - a strength
 - a determination
 - a spiritual conviction

that comes no other way! We’re going to have to have that spiritual conviction.

Verse 20: “And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven.”

Here is where we begin to see how He is showing that we understand *the hope*, because we look back at where we have come from.

Verse 21: “For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled *you*... [reconciled you to God the Father] ...in the body of His flesh through death, to present you ... [this is the goal] ...Holy and unblamable and unimpeachable before Him” (vs 21-22). That’s accomplished by:

- the grace of God
- forgiveness
- remission
- redemption

all of those good things, but God wants us to be:

- Holy
- unblamable
- believable
- unimpeachable

before Him! That’s why in the sermon series The Keys to Answered Prayer, *every day we ask God to forgive us our sins!*

There is something we need to do, because we talked about *endurance* little earlier:

Verse 23: “If indeed you **continue**...”—which was a dividing line between the five wise and the five foolish virgins. The five wise continued, the five foolish did not.

“...in the faith grounded and steadfast... [if you’re steadfast, you’re strong in the Lord] ...and are not moved away from **the hope of the Gospel**...” (v 23).

What is “...the hope of the Gospel...”? ***Everlasting life in glory, to reign as king’s and priest with Christ!*** “...and not moved away from the hope of the Gospel...”

That has to come through the resurrection! That’s why all of those who believe in going to heaven, don’t understand the Truth of God. Ask them what *their hope* is. The hope of the Catholic is to make it to heaven, and to have a beatific vision of God, which is described as looking upon a bubbling mass of fire! Or looking at the sun! **NO!** How? *God has something concrete and real for you!*

Verse 23: “If indeed you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from **the hope of the Gospel**, which you have heard, **and which was proclaimed in all the creation that is under heaven**...” That is a prophetic statement reaching down to our time.

“...of which I, Paul, became a servant. Now, I am rejoicing in my sufferings for you... [you can have hope in suffering if you understand the goal] ...and I am filling up in my flesh that which is behind of the tribulations of Christ... [Jesus told him how much He would have to suffer for him, to serve

Him] ...for the sake of His body, which is the Church” (vs 23-24).

Notice how this ties in about everything that I’ve talked about in the sermon up to this point.

Verse 25: “Of which I became a servant, according to the administration of God that *was* given to me for you *in order* to complete the Word of God.” This tells us that he knew he was going to help finish writing the Word of God. That’s why we have 14 epistles from the Apostle Paul.

Verse 26: *Even* the mystery... [it’s only revealed to those who have the Spirit of God] ...that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but **has now been revealed to His saints.**”

Stop and think for just a minute about all that you understand about the Word of God, and:

- the hope
- why we are here
- the purpose of God
- the plan of God

All of these things that have been given to us in a really overwhelming way at the end. It wasn’t understood in ages past, it was gradually partly understood, but in the end-time we really understand it.

It reminds me of the joke about the evangelist who had an evangelistic campaign, and he had a tent meeting and there was a terrible storm, and only one man showed up. So, the evangelist decided to go ahead and preach to this one man in the full fury and power of his evangelizing. He got done and he went down and he talked to this one man—who happen to be a farmer who had his overalls on—and he said, ‘What did you think of the sermon?’ He said it was mighty powerful, but ‘you didn’t have to dump the whole load of hay on me!’

I think of it this way: Today, you can get the ‘whole load of hay,’ and you better be thankful that you can, and apply yourself to it.

Verse 27: “To whom God did will... [the purpose of God] ...to make known what *are* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**...” The very fact you have the Holy Spirit of God, is the greatest hope that there is because, you will be resurrected.

“...**the hope of glory**” (v 27). If we have that hope, ***there is nothing that can take us from God! There is nothing that can pull us away!*** We’ll see some other things next time, in how we can:

- strengthen our minds
- strengthen our hearts
- strengthen our thinking

Ask God to help us be able to ***think!***

I remember that many years ago I was driving down the road. It was a time of great trial and difficulty in my life and for my wife and our family at that time. I was driving down the road, when I was a loan broker going out to look for loans—and cold call and solicit loans—and all that sort of thing. I remember praying. I just said, ‘O God,

- help me to think
- help me to think right

so that I can understand!

We all need to do that! We need to ask God to help us *to think* so we can:

- *think* with His Spirit
- *think* with His Word
- *think* with His Truth

That gives us hope!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 25:1-8, 5, 9-12
- 2) Luke 22:25-34
- 3) John 21:14-17
- 4) 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 5) Acts 24:14-16
- 6) Psalm 119:49-56, 127-128
- 7) Hebrews 1:8-9
- 8) Colossians 1:3-6, 8-10
- 9) 1 John 2:3-6
- 10) Colossians 1:11-27

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 6
- Matthew 16
- Acts 2-10
- 2-Corinthians 11
- Isaiah 9
- Hebrews 1

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

The Keys to Answered Prayer

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Be Strong in the Lord II

(Trust in God)

Fred R. Coulter

Let's understand something about the Word of God and why it will stand. First of all, we know Jesus said that He didn't come 'to abolish the Law or the Prophets.' We know that Paul wrote that 'all Scripture is God breathed.' That's very interesting from this point of view, because breath is likened also to the power of the Holy Spirit. But breath is what you use when you speak. So, it is God-breathed and inspired.

I just want to bring it up, because today so many people have believed the lie. What I would like you to do is take a day or take an afternoon or take a couple of hours and write down at on the top of a piece of paper *all the lies we believe*, and just enumerate them out. It will be very enlightening for you to have a greater focus on how much of what we count as the reality of the world, is not reality in fact. *It is a created artificial reality!*

Also, how much of it is created and artificial due to everything that we see in the world. People believe that the Bible is like any other ordinary piece of literature, written by the drive-by media filled with lies, *but it's not*.

We want to go through and realize how we need *to be strong in the Lord*, and it's going to be a combination of God's Word and God's Spirit, because we are on the verge or the cusp of terrible and horrendous things that are going to happen. This is why I'm giving this short series on *To Be Strong in the Lord*. I've got a stack of things that portend the future that is going to come down hard, and it's going to be very difficult for a lot of people to handle.

I want you *to be strong in the Lord first*, so when you hear some of the things that are coming down, then you won't be fearful. Because in bringing them out, I am not going to try and put a fear guilt trip on people, but to state the facts of the Bible so that we *know and are prepared spiritually and mentally*, and hopefully as much as we can physically, too, for what's coming down.

I think the stock market (at the giving of this sermon) is just a little kind of breath of bad news. The stock market dropped in one day 400 points, and because the Fed pumped in a lot of extra money, it came back 300 points. The Chinese have threatened to use the nuclear option on the dollar, which is that we're going to bail out of dollars entirely. I don't think we're going to grasp what kind of effect that that's going to have on the world, on America and on each one of us.

When it happens, we must first be prepared *spiritually*. Not only with the Spirit of God in us, but also that the Spirit of God within us *we have stirred up and we are strong* so that we can endure the things that are going to come and not get despondent. When they come it's not the end, there is a whole lot more to come after that.

2-Peter 1:19: "We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word..."—the whole Bible up to that point. Confirmed means that *it was confirmed by the inspiration of Christ!*

"...which you do well to pay attention..." (v 19). What happens when everything is nice and convenient and everything is fine and working well, you take a lot of things for granted that are essential. Just like today we arrived at our meeting place, and the water is supplied by a pump from a well and the pump is not working. Which means the bathrooms don't work, and we had to improvise to get some water for just that little thing. It brought to our mind how quickly we need water and how essential it is.

But people become lackadaisical and Laodicean and don't pay attention to the Word of God and don't study the Word of God, and it becomes old hat to them. Like one man said to me one time, 'What are you going to do when you come into the Church and after five years you know everything in the Bible?' I said *what a misconception!*

The Bible is designed and inspired by the mind of God and *you will never know everything in the Bible throughout your entire lifetime!* And it's such that we, as human beings, just because of the way that our minds function the way that we work, we must constantly renew the information that is there and renew God's Spirit, and that's why we have the Sabbath. So, Peter says, "...pay attention..." I guess they say today, 'Listen up!'

"...as to a light shining in a dark place..." (v 19). The dark place is the world, and the light is the Word of God.

"...until the day dawns..." (v 19)—the return of Christ. So, we have to keep at it until the return of Christ.

"...and the morning star **arises** in your hearts" (v 19)—the resurrection. When you are resurrected you will shine as the stars of heaven.

Here's how we're able to do this, v 20: "Knowing this first..."—Greek 'protos'—*primary, the basic foundational underpinning* of all the Scriptures

that we are to know.

“...that no prophecy of Scripture... [any utterance of Scripture] ...originated as anyone’s own *private* interpretation” (v 20).

This is where so many, many people, including those within the Church—brethren and ministers—go astray; they bring their own private interpretations. You’re to let the Bible interpret the Bible, and let the Word of God tell us what it is. And there’s a way to do that. That’s why we have the 14 Rules of Bible Study in *The Holy Bible in It’s Original Order, A Faithful Version* (Appendix A).

Verse 21: “Because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but the Holy men of God...”

What are Holy men of God? Monks off somewhere in a monastery? *No!* Moses was a Holy man of God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. All the men of God who wrote the Scriptures had the Spirit of God, and in writing it **God directed their minds**, because it’s God breathed.

“...spoke... [and wrote] ...as they were moved by *the* Holy Spirit” (v 21). *God used these men* in such a way, that they spoke and wrote **for Him**, not for themselves, not for other human beings, but **for Him!** When we understand that:

- we realize that Jesus Christ is ‘the same yesterday, today and forever’
- we have the words of God here
- we realize how important they are for us at any time in history

not just for us today, but ***even in the end-times when there are troubles coming!*** A lot of people can be ‘glad time’ institutional Christians, when everything is going good.

“...moved by the Holy Spirit.” What does that do as far as the Word of God is concerned? What does that do? In doing the Bible project and going through the Old Testament and everything, it has certainly brought out the fact that as Jesus said, ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words won’t.’ That’s what it says right here:

Matthew 24:35: “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but **My words shall never pass away.**” Why? *Because when God speaks it is, and it is true!* There is no lie in it.

Let me just tell you something that’s important to understand, which is this: The way you can tell a false ‘Christian’ *worldly* preacher is that one of the first things he will say is, ‘God didn’t mean what He said.’ In other words he saying that God is a liar!

Now, the epistle to the evangelist Titus by Paul, and this is what we really need to grasp; Titus 1:1: “Paul, *a* servant of God... [Paul says in Galatians ‘and not of men’!] ...and *an* apostle of Jesus Christ, according to *the* faith of God’s elect and *the* knowledge of *the* Truth that *is* according to Godliness; in *the* hope of eternal life, which **God Who cannot lie** promised before the ages of time” (vs 1-2).

Let’s also understand that within the Word of God it contains many blessings for love, faith and obedience. But also half the promises of God are the guarantee that if you sin as an individual, the penalty is going to come upon you if you don’t repent. If you sin as a family or a nation it is going to come upon you because God is in charge of everything everywhere at all times. When we grasp that point, this will give us

- more faith in God
 - more understanding of the Word of God
- and we can truly go before God and ask Him to:*
- strengthen us
 - help us
 - encourage us

Because of what Paul said—what he taught what he believed, and his faithfulness to God—it eventually cost him all those who were supposed to be converted in Asia. Because he says in 2-Timothy, ‘All in Asia have deserted me.’ That’s quite a statement! There will be times when you have *to be strong in the Lord* that you’re going to have to stand alone. If you do things to please people, many people will come and associate because of the pleasing of people.

What Paul wrote is quite a thing, and this adds to the Word of God. This is where we need to come in our lives individually and every elder and teacher and minister needs to come in his life in relationship to what he teaches. Now, it doesn’t mean that you have to be hostile and obnoxious toward people. I suppose there may be an occasion when that is necessary because of the hostility and obnoxiousness of people coming toward you.

Galatians 1:1: “Paul, *an* apostle, not *sent* from men nor *made* by man, but by Jesus Christ and God *the* Father, Who raised Him from *the* dead.”

Consider this fact concerning the New Testament: Paul wrote the most epistles: 14. He also supervised Luke in writing the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. This counts for two-thirds of the New Testament. That’s important to bear in mind because only eight men were responsible for writing the New Testament. That becomes very important to grasp.

With this attitude that we are going to read, do you think for one moment that Paul would’ve written

anything contrary to the will of God? the Word of God? the inspiration of God? **No!** As evidenced in here, he did not do that. When he got challenged with it he said, 'I am what I am by the grace of God,' not of what he did himself.

Verse 2: "And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world..." (vs 2-4). That's the whole process of:

- conversion
- salvation
- growing
- overcoming.

"...according to the will of our God and Father" (v 4).

So, the very fact that you're converted and have God's Holy Spirit and understand God's Word, ***it's according to the will of the Father***, not because of any great thing that any of us individually have done. Let's understand something. The most that we, and anybody, can claim concerning the Word of God is that ***it's built on Christ and the apostles, and with God's Spirit He will teach us what we need to know!*** Yes, we need teachers, and teachers need to be responsible and preach the Word of God.

Verse 5: "To Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen." Here Paul sets the stage for what he's going to bring in the rest of this epistle.

Verse 6: "I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him..." Isn't this what happens? We've seen it, and it is rather astonishing how people can do that.

"...Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another Gospel... [there is only one] ...but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ" (vs 6-7).

How do they do that? *By changing the words of God!* You know all about the worldly holidays, getting rid of the Holy Days of God. Rather than take the challenge of God and obey and prove the Word of God, they throw it out and say that Sunday, Christmas, Easter and all of this sort of thing, and make God serve with *their* sins.

"...but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!" (vs 7-9).

Stop and think about the Christendom of this world, and how it began in its full-fledged form under Constantine, a pagan Roman emperor. The truth is that *he was never converted* and was not even baptized until he was ready to die. Think about all of the curses that have come upon the followers of Orthodox Christendom. I'm not going to include all the other cursed religions of the world; don't even have to mention them. They're already cursed because they never accepted Christ, but here they profess to accept Christ. Look at all of the curses that have come upon them. And the greatest curse that comes upon them is *being cut off from God* and not understanding the Word of God and not knowing of what they strongly affirm.

Years ago I wanted to find out what it was like at a Catholic Mass. I decided to go to a Catholic Church. This was down in Pasadena. One Sunday a friend of mine and I went over there to a Catholic Church and went in and we sat down and went through the whole thing that they did. It's totally contradictory to the Word of God from the get go, the whole setting of it. Their buildings are filled with idols and statues and little coves where they burn candles for the dead, and you light a candle and a prayer goes up.

How can a candle convey a prayer to God any greater than if you pour your heart out to God in your own prayer? *Can't do it!* That's no different than the Tibetan Buddhists who have prayer wheels. They're insane as could be in their religion. They don't practice anything they just walk around and hit all the spinning prayer wheels, and the prayer wheels send prayers up to God. ***Utter nonsense of men!*** That's all part of being accursed from God because they are unwilling to follow the Word of God.

Verse 10: "Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ." Quite a profound statement! A good check for every teacher and elder. If you're trying to please people, are you really a servant of Christ?

Verse 11: "But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not according to man." Remember, Paul is responsible for two-thirds of the New Testament. Keep that in mind when you read that.

Verse 12: "Because neither did I receive it from man... [he didn't bring it from Judaism or from paganism] ...nor was I taught *it by man*; rather, *it was by the* revelation of Jesus Christ"—which is now recorded in the Bible for us. That's why the Word of God is not going to perish. That's why when things in our lives—troubles and difficulties where we are living—come along, we need the Word of God to

strengthen us. We need the Spirit of God to strengthen us, *because we're going to have to stand!*

Let's see about 'the day of trouble,' because there's going to be troubles coming. What about Galatians in relationship to the seven churches in Rev. 2 & 3 and the problems enumerated in Galatians and those enumerated in the seven churches in Rev. 2 & 3?

I would have to say, that there would probably be a good corollary between Galatians and Thyatira, if you read the message to the Thyatirans. Yes, they're going into a gospel that's perverted. What did the Thyatirans do? *They allowed that 'woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit fornication and to sacrifice things to idols!'* I would say Galatians comes very, very close to that.

That would be an interesting study. Go through all the Epistles of Paul and take the seven churches of Rev. and kind of outline the things that are there in the seven churches of Rev. Then take the Scriptures that you find in Gal. and 1st and 2nd Cor. and I would have to say 1st and 2nd Cor. probably would fit into the Laodicean Church with all their false teachings, lukewarmness and all of that sort of thing. That would be an interesting study in itself.

The truth is that leaving Christ from the Truth to embrace error is not like flipping a coin. It's more like we have discussed, you're following the light then you turn around, you're still in the light but you're walking away so it's a process. This is what Paul is talking about here, it starts with the process of pleasing people *rather than pleasing God*.

There're are going to be days of trouble that are going to come:

- What do we do?
- How do we handle it?
- Where do we turn?
- *We've got to be strengthened in God!*

Psalm 20:1: "May the LORD answer you..." This is a plea to God to hear anyone in the day of trouble. At the end-time we have 'the beginning of sorrows.' Isn't that a lot of trouble? Then that's going to evolve into the Tribulation. We are facing times, and we don't know when it's going to come. We don't know how far down the road these things are going to be. But nevertheless, the day of trouble is coming.

I daresay that all of us have experienced a day of trouble in our own lives, even while we've been Christians. I know I have, you have, every one of us. So, here's a prayer.

Verse 1: "May the LORD answer you in the

day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob set you on high"—Who was the One Who became Jesus Christ. So, we look to God to help us.

Verse 2: "May He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion. May He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah" (vs 2-3). In other words today all the works that you do:

- your prayer
- your study
- your yieldedness to God
- walking in God's way

those are the sacrifices that we give today.

Verse 4: "May He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans." What is the thing that we have to have in our heart continually? *Seeking the Kingdom of God* as we covered in the sermon series: *Keys to Answered Prayer*. You always start out with God the Father, His will in heaven and earth and seeking the Kingdom of God.

Verse 5: "We will shout for joy in your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up banners...." Always remember this: ***In spite of all the difficulties our victory is going to come through Christ!*** When it says set up your banners, that means the banners of victory. Of course, the victory will come with the resurrection. That's why Christ says, 'Don't take thought about your life, what other men can do to you.' Yeah, they can take your life; they can kill the body but they can't take your life. What are they going to do when they see you resurrected?

"...May the LORD fulfill all your prayers. Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed..." (vs 5-6). Let's understand something else here. ***Everyone who has the Spirit of God has been anointed from God; that is the anointing of God for each one of us!*** Not the king who is anointed, but if he's anointed king then he is held more responsible as being king.

"...He will answer him from His Holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand" (v 6). This reminds me of a story of a Seventh-Day Adventist German in WWII who was drafted into the Weimar. He couldn't get out of it, so God gave him grace and favor in the eyes of his superiors. He said, 'I keep the Sabbath and I can't work on Saturday.' All during the war they put him in the Transportation Department and worked it out that he did not have to work on Saturday Sabbath. He would come in and do mechanical work on the trucks and so forth on Sunday.

In the midst of one of the most wicked armies, wicked regimes, terrible oppression of killing and things, was God able to save? *Yes, He was!* Likewise,

with us!

Verse 7: “Some trust in chariots...” Today it’s cars. And you see this latest ad with Mercedes-Benz. ‘I love you, I love you,’ laying on the hood of the car and stroking it and petting it! It’s only going to cost you \$70,000 for that car anyway; you better love it!

“...and some in horses, but **we will remember the name of the LORD our God**. They are brought down and fallen, but we have risen and stand upright. Save, O LORD; let **the King** [God] hear us when we call” (vs 7-9).

Now let’s see how *we get strong in the Lord*. It is a process! It’s not something that all of a sudden you believe in God, you believe in Christ and now you have perfect faith in everything. No, it doesn’t work that way.

I think it’s interesting if you would study the book of Deuteronomy and go through it, that you will find that it is the most spiritual of all the books of the first division of the Bible being the Law. Let’s see how we are strengthened.

Deuteronomy 11:1: “Therefore, you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge and His statutes and His judgments and His commandments always.”

When trouble comes, don’t give up on God. Trouble and trials come and they come from God so that He can test our heart, our mind and our attitude and see what we’re going to do.

Verse 8: “Therefore, you shall keep all the commandments which I command you this day, **so that you may be strong...**” Keeping the commandments of God in spite of all the circumstances around gives you spiritual strength.

“...and go in and possess the land where you go to possess it” (v 8). We’re going into the Kingdom of God, not the land.

Verse 13: “And it will be...”

Part of the things that I stressed in the sermon series: *Keys to Answered Prayer* was that you claim the promises of God. And you rightfully can come claim it because you’re not demanding of God, because He’s already promised it. So, if you claim the promises of God in a humble, repented, yielded, yet, strong attitude, God will bless you.

“...**if** you will hearken diligently to My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (v 13).

That’s the commitment! That is why, and we need to understand that *it is damnable and accursed*

thing to do for any minister, to make people follow him as a person! As one man in the *Journal* recently wrote, the only way you’re going to have salvation is if you’re with me! **NO! The only way you’re going to have salvation, is if Christ is in you and you love God!** Tactics like that—and that is a tactic—take you away from Christ. Just step back, watch what happens, take the long view, and just realize that *if it’s contrary to the Word of God it can’t be right regardless of how good it sounds!*

Verse 16: “Take heed to yourselves...” This is the whole thing that’s important. We have to be honest with ourselves and police ourselves; it’s not up to the minister or anyone else to police you. That’s where the world has it wrong. They expect the police to make people keep the law. They can’t do it. They get more police and what you have is more and more lawbreakers. So, they have more and more police. And in a lawless society, you have more and more lawbreakers. That’s contrary to what God wants. **God wants you to police yourself, to live your life before Him with His Word and His Spirit in you, that you are connected to God!** So, we have to:

Verse 16: “**Take heed to yourselves that your heart may not be deceived**, and you turn aside and serve other gods, and worship them” (v 16). That’s precisely what Paul was talking about there and Gal. 1.

Verse 17: “And the LORD’S wrath be kindled against you...” If there’s any one thing you don’t want, you don’t want God mad at you! But if you’re:

- in a repentant attitude
- trusting in God
- Christ in you
- loving God
- loving the brethren
- loving your neighbors
- doing the things that please God
- studying His Word
- putting it in your heart and mind

then God will be there with you!

“...and He shut up the heavens...” (v 17). This is what we are going to see, because we’re going to be facing this; so we might as well just put a little introduction into the problems that are coming right here.

“...so that there will be no rain...” (v 17). God said that He’s is going to

- rain in one place
- blow in another place
- mildew in another place
- flood in another place

- drought in another place
- fires in another place (Deut. 28)

If that isn't our evening news, I don't know what is.

"...and so that the land will not yield her fruit, and you perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD gives you. Therefore... [here's what we do]: ...you shall lay up these My words in your hearts and in your souls, and bind them for a sign upon your hands so that they may be as frontlets between your eyes" (vs 17-18).

Now today it's written within our heart and in our mind, because what is important is that all of us, after learning and studying the Word of God and we go out for the next week:

- that we all can stand before God
- that we can all individually love God
- that we can all individually keep His commandments.

That's what God wants, and that you have this relationship with God.

Verse 19: "And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

This is really quite a tremendous chapter, Deut. 11, when you come to understand it.

(go to the next track)

Psalm 35—this is how you fight your enemies. You have to do what you can do, but if God delivers you from your enemies, don't take it into your hands to go beyond that. For example there was a woman I heard of, and I think she was even in the Church, that there was a man who broke into her apartment and was stealing things. When she came home she scared him off. Rather than be satisfied with the fact that God delivered her, maybe she lost some of her goods, yes, but she went out and chased him down and he killed her. So, after God has done things for you, don't go out and take matters into your own hands!

Psalm 35:1: "Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me..." Remember this: ***If God is for you who can be against you!***

"...fight against those who fight against me" (v 1). Does God have a better way of taking care of the enemy than we do? *Yes, indeed!* Remember that *you're never going to change the society through the ballot box!* You're never going to bring righteousness into the world because people have 'moral' values. Never happened!

You're never going to get rid of the conspiracy of Satan that has cast a pall over all nations

and is thoroughly into all religion, governments, business and so forth. Only Christ can do that.

Verse 2: "Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help." Ask God to help you; *He'll intervene!* It may be a tough battle; it may be a protracted battle.

Verse 3: "Also draw out the spear and the lance against those who pursue me; say to my soul, 'I am your salvation.' Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion, those who seek after my soul; let them be turned back and humiliated, those who devise evil against me. Let them be as chaff before the wind; and let the angel of the LORD drive them away. Let their way be dark and slippery; and let the angel of the LORD pursue them" (vs 3-6).

Just stop and think for a minute, how God literally did this during the days of Jehoshaphat. And how the Assyrian armies came down—also during the days of the Hezekiah—and were ready to conquer Judah, and how Hezekiah, especially, and Jehoshaphat took it before God. In the case of Hezekiah he laid the very letter of threat from the Assyrians right before God at the temple. He read it and said. 'Yes, God, true he has done all these things.

The Word came to him, 'I will fight the battle for you, you won't have to lift a hand.' What happened? *They got up the next morning and went out there and all the 185,000-man army of the Assyrians were dead!* The king of Assyria fled back to Assyria because he didn't have any more armies, and he went into the house of his god and his two sons killed him for being so incompetent as to allow that to happen. ***God took care of it!*** Then they were how many weeks bringing in the loot and burying the bodies. So, there's a good example of that.

Psalm 34—here it's good to also read this into the record. How we can be strong in the Lord. And ***to be strong in the Lord is to trust in the Lord***, look to Him to help us, and so forth.

Psalm 34:1: "I will bless the LORD at all times... [good times, bad times, in between times] ...His praise shall always be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together" (vs 1-3). When trouble comes here's what we we're to do, and this is where our strength is:

Verse 4: "I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears." You don't have to be fearful. This is why I'm going through this, before I bring many of the things that are going to be quite astounding and fearful, indeed, when you hear them. You are going to see them, and you're going to have to live through them. But God will

protect you and be with you.

Verse 5: “They looked to Him and were radiant... [enlightened] ...and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard, and saved him out of all his troubles” (vs 5-6).

Remember: ***A sign that God is with you is not the absence of troubles!*** Some people think that if you're God's why do you have troubles? ***No!*** The answer is ***you are delivered and saved out of all your troubles!*** God does His part; we do our part. We also have to be ‘wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.’ Here's another thing that helps you *be strong in the Lord* when you understand that God has to take care of the enemy. ‘The angel of the Lord encamps about them that fear Him and delivers them’ (Psa. 35)

Whatever your troubles take them to God. And here's another key that's important, too: While it is good to seek wise counsel, *no man, minister, brethren or anyone in the world can save you in the place of God. God alone is going to save you!* It also falls into we have the things we need to do. So, if we say, ‘O God, bless me with a good crop’ and you never sow the seed and get out there and work, then don't say, ‘God, I asked for a good crop and You didn't give it to me.’ His answer is, ‘*You're the one to sow, and I'm the one to make it grow!*’

Verse 8: “O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.” That's where were going to focus.

Verse 14: “Depart from evil...” What is that? ***Repentance!*** That's why every day in our prayers we ask God to forgive us our sins, which is *repentance*.

“...and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry” (vs 14-15). God will hear!

Sometimes the problems are so deep and so complicated that even though you're praying and God is in there deliberating step-by-step, you won't see the results of it until sometime down the road. But keep at it.

Verse 16: “The face of the LORD is against those who do evil.... [do not ever envy the evil or the wicked] ...to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of **all** their troubles” (vs 16-17).

One of the biggest difficulties that people have is that when troubles and difficulties come, *they blame God!* It's His fault! ***NO!*** It's the fault of the way that the world is, and Satan the devil and other people, not God's fault. Here's what we need to do.

Verse 18: “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are of a contrite

spirit.” The whole purpose of all of the things we go through, is for us to realize and understand that ***self is vanity!*** We need ***God, His Spirit and His way!***

Verse 19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.” Trusting in God is where your strength comes from:

- you love God
- you believe God
- you have faith in God
- you have to trust God
- trust God that He will do His part
- you trust God that He will help you do your part.

Sometimes we have to ask God: ‘Lead me with Your Spirit so I know how to do my part.’

Psalm 40:1: “I waited patiently for the LORD...” God is not going to necessarily do it immediately unless you need immediate help. Be patient! I know a lot of people say, ‘Well, one of my faults is that I'm not patient.’ That's a fault of everybody! We have to learn it. Patience is the first step of endurance!

“...and He inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a Rock, and established my steps.... [when the deliverance finally comes]: ...And He has put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise to our God; many shall see and fear, and **shall trust in the LORD**” (vs 1-3).

Read the whole book of Esther. Look at the terrible circumstances that developed, how bad they became and seemed to get worse and worse, even to the threat of the extermination of all the Jews within the Persian realm. How did God deliver them? *By the hand of Mordecai and the courage of Esther*, against implacable foes!

How did the deliverance finally come? *The king couldn't sleep one night!* What do you do when you can't sleep? *You get up and read!* So, he got up and he read. He said I haven't read the chronicle of the kingdom lately; bring it to me. He started reading the chronicle of the kingdom, and he saw that Mordecai saved him from a conspiratorial assassination by some of those who were closest to him. He called his servant in there and he said, ‘Has anything been done to this man in saving my life?’ And he said, ‘No my Lord.’ So, the king thought on that. The next morning Haman, the enemy of the Jews, who got the order signed to exterminate them, came into the king and he was hoping to really get all the blessing and action of everything going on. So, he came in and the king said, ‘Haman I need your advice. Tell me what the king should do to the one whom he

favours.' Of course, Haman said—thinking that's got to be him—'Put him on the king's horse, put his robe of authority upon him and have someone take him through the city and say, *this is the one whom the king honors.*'

The king said to Haman the Agagite, 'Good, you do that to Mordecai, because he saved my life.'

So, God will work things in ways that we have no way of understanding. And as a result of that, the Jews have the Feast of Purim.

"...many shall see and fear, and shall trust in the LORD" (v 3). Didn't that happen? What did it say because the Jews were delivered? *Many converted to Judaism because they didn't want to be on the wrong side of God!*

Verse 4: "**Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust** and does not respect the proud, nor those who turn aside to lies." Isn't that exactly what we just discussed? Then the rest of it goes right into a prophecy of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 115 is really quite a Psalm. In going through the Psalms for the Bible project I was struck at how many difficulties and problems that David had. Yet, he was one in whom God delighted.

Psalm 115:1: "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto Your name give glory for Your mercy and for Your Truth's sake." That needs to always be the focus of what we do in whatever circumstances we are in.

Verse 2: "Why should the nations say, 'Where now is their God?' [Where is He?] ...Our God is in the heavens; He has done whatever He has pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; they have noses, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; they have feet, but they do not walk; they do not make a sound through their throat. The ones who make them are like them, and so is everyone who trusts in them" (vs 2-8).

You can take this part of this Psalm and you can superimpose this on the way that the world is today around us. They have all kinds of idols, which are the works of their hands.

Verse 9: "O Israel..." Put your name there. Just like it is, 'O Israel, love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.'

"...**trust in the LORD**; He is their **help and their shield**. O house of Aaron..." (vs 9-10). We can say to the ministry today, though we're not the priesthood of Aaron, the same principle applies,

because what was the priesthood to do but to teach the people.

"...**trust in the LORD**; He is their **help and their shield**. O you who fear the LORD, **trust in the LORD**; He is **their help and their shield**" (vs 10-11).

Here's what happens, v 12: "The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed of the LORD Who made the heavens and the earth" (vs 12-15).

God has brought us to a tremendous relationship with Him! Never forget that. *He's called us to the greatest calling that we can have, in eternal life and spiritual glory for all eternity!* Always keep that in mind when troubles, difficulties and trials come.

Verse 16: "The heavens, even the heavens, are the LORD'S; but the earth He has given to the children of men." Then here is another little Scripture which proves the point: *as long as there's life there's hope!*

Verse 17: "The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence. But as for us, we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. O praise the LORD!" (vs 17-18). Quite a Psalm on trusting in God; that really inspired me.

Psalm 71 talks about when we get old and gray that God won't forsake us, and there are many of us reaching that point. I know Jim Hyles wanted me to look at a video that I did clear back in 1988, and he put it on a DVD for me. It was about the ACLU and all the problems, all the different things that they were supporting. When I saw the video, I saw myself much younger.

At that time the way my hair grayed, it grayed on the sides, and then came up toward the crown of my head, so at that point I had that skunk streak right down the middle of my head! One time there was a woman who came up to me and she was very serious, and she said, 'Do you tint your hair? *Because I had that skunk streak!* And I said 'No, I don't tint my hair.' Now, today I'm white headed! And someone said, 'Well at least you have hair!'

Psalm 71:16: "I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD... [that's how we are to do it] ...I will speak of Your righteousness, even of Yours alone. O God, You have taught me from my youth... [however long you been in the Church] ...and until now I have declared Your wonderful works. But now also when I

am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me..." (vs 16-18).

No, God won't forsake you—old and gray, weak and rusting, falling apart—that's just the way that the human body has been designed. It's designed to wear out and die. Everybody who ate nothing but organic food all their lives, and drank the purest water possible all their lives, *died!* We are to do the best we can in eating and drinking, that is true. We need to **trust in God** to not forsake us when we're old and gray.

Comment was made they died that's true, but they didn't have heart attacks and diabetes and all of the cancer and all the modern diseases that we have today, which are additional curses upon us.

"...until I have declared Your strength to this generation, and Your power to everyone who is to come. And Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You Who have done great things. O God, who is like You?" (vs 18-19).

Verse 1 is the introduction to this Psalm. So, if you're discouraged because you're getting old, read this, believe it, ask God for help. If there are things you can do, ask God to lead you to understand what you need to do. And do the best you can.

You're going to die, even those who eat organic foods and things like this, still come down with diseases and so forth. That's not the answer to everything. But the comment was made that their dad died in his sleep and that's the way to go. I think with today's so-called modern medical methods, they don't let people die when it's time for them to die. They crank them up and keep them going and collect tens of thousands of dollars while they keep their physical bodies going. So, there is a balance.

But I need to tell you one other account. I forget the name of the man, and I forget the name of the king. But this was in England. There was a man who was the longest-lived man in England. He had a very simple diet, he ate all the vegetables and everything that he grew. He ate the lamb that he raised, took care of himself and he lived to be 157-years-old. He lived through the reigns of the 11 kings.

Finally, the last king to celebrate his 157th birthday invited him to the palace to eat with him. He went to the palace and ate with the king, and drank with the king, and, of course, it was over a process of a couple of days. He went home and three days later died. The king's food killed him! Now you know why Daniel didn't want king's food.

Psalm 71:1: "In You, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame." Ask God to lead you, guide you, give you the understanding, so

you're not put to confusion.

Verse 2: "Deliver me in Your righteousness... [not our own] ...and cause me to escape... [it may be with the skin of your teeth] ...incline Your ear unto me, and save me. Be my strong Rock of refuge to which I may always go..." (vs 2-3). *Always go to God!* Never let prayer be the last thing you do. Let prayer always be the first thing that you do!

"...You have commanded to save me; for You are my Rock and my Fortress. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and ruthless man, for You are my hope, O Lord GOD, my trust from my youth" (vs 3-5). Then he recounts that this was even from his mother's womb.

All of these things are **to strengthen us spiritually in the Lord**. We need to be fortified in spirit, in mind, in everything so that we can withstand the troubles and difficulties that are going to come.

Psalm 118:5: "I called upon the LORD in distress; the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place.... [What a relief!] ...The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.... [if you're first on God's side] ...What can man do to me?" (vs 5-6).

Matthew 10:28: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but do not have power to destroy the life..."

Psalm 118:7: "The LORD is for me as my Helper..." God may even intervene and bless other people and cause them to help you, in whatever way you need. I think about it many, many times this way. How many people does God have to bless in the world, so that there are enough brethren who can give tithes and offerings to whatever church they are in for the carrying on the work of that church, regardless of what they are doing? We won't make any judgment value on it.

But consider where you work, consider what you do, consider where your income comes from etc. etc. etc. There's always someone else there, who is doing something so that God can bless you, and it will be a benefit to you. God is active with many, many people doing many things, just out in the carnal world, so that we can live, that we can have the opportunity to love God and worship Him, trust Him and serve Him, etc.

"...therefore, I will look in triumph upon those who hate me" (v 7). Don't take it in your hands to do it, *let God do it!*

Verse 8: "**It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man**. It is better to trust in the LORD than to trust in princes. All the nations surround me, but in the name of the LORD I will

destroy them” (vs 8-10). That is a direct prophecy of Christ at His return. They’re all going to submit! Quite a thing!

Just think about how God has used America as a blessing to the whole world to fulfill His promise that he gave to Abraham, that in you shall all the nations of the world be blessed. That’s going to expand out through the Millennium when Christ is here, and Abraham is here, and then it’s going to be magnified even more. But what does Israel always do with the blessings that God has given? *They always corrupt themselves by their lovers.* (Ezek. 16:31^[transcriber’s correction])

The reason that so many things are going to come upon America, is because of the blessings that God is given America, and how we have taken it to turn it into, as it were, *a rejection of God after God has given it, and to pursue lovers of other nations that they may be our friends.* They are all going to end up being our enemies, *because we’ve excluded God!* So, that’s why I’m giving what I’m giving, because *we need to be prepared*, because that’s coming down the road.

Now let’s see how we are to get our heart and our mind. Israel was going in and Joshua was given charge to help lead the Israelites into the ‘promised land,’ and it was going to be a lot of fighting, blood, guts and gore, but God was going to bless them and fight their battles for them. Here is the attitude that we need to have so that

- we can be strong in the Lord
- we can have courage in the face of danger
- we can have wisdom in the time of trouble
- we can have the blessing of God to be with us
- we can be provided a way of escape, which God will give us

Joshua 1:5: “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.... [God held that up right to the end] ...As I was with Moses, *so I will be with you. **I will not fail you nor forsake you.***” That’s why *never, never blame God* when troubles come. *Never blame God!* He’ll help you out of it.

Verse 6: “Be strong and of good courage...”—regardless of the circumstances. Remember what happened when they sent the spies into spy out the land, and only Joshua and Caleb came back and said, even though these are strong and mighty cities and giants are there, they’ll be like grasshoppers before us because of God. And the other ten said, ‘Oh no, we can’t do it!’ So, ***regardless of the circumstances don’t get discouraged or despondent!***

“...for you shall divide for an inheritance to

this people the land, which I swore to their fathers to give it to them.... [the goal for us is eternal life in the Kingdom of God] ...Only be strong and very courageous... [this ties right in where we began in Deut. 11] ...so that you may observe to do according to all the Law, which My servant Moses commanded you....” (vs 6-7). To do all that My servant Jesus Christ, My only begotten Son has given and commanded you to do.’

“...Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may prosper wherever you go” (v 7). Spiritual prosperity and blessing is the goal! Not physical; the physical will come as God desires to give it to us.

Verse 8: “This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth...” Now, we have the whole Bible today as never before, and you can apply it to that.

“...but you shall meditate therein day and night...” (v 8). In other words, it’s going to guide you in all your thoughts, all your actions, everything that you do. It doesn’t mean that you become a religious nut. It means that you become right-minded before God with His laws and His commandments and the teachings of Christ, and the teachings of Christ through the apostles and New Testament, and just add all of that together.

“...that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it, for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, neither be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you in all places where you go**” (vs 8-9).

And remember this: *You have the Spirit of God in you!* Does He go with you wherever you go? *Yes!* That’s what to remember.

Let’s see what Jesus told the apostles, and notice how similar this is to Joshua 1. There’s a certain parallel here, too. Just as Joshua was going to take the children of Israel into the ‘promised land’ into an area they had been before, so also the apostles were going to start in Jerusalem and go out and be witnesses into all the world.

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, **so that in Me you may have peace....**”

- peace of mind
- peace of understanding
- resolution of conflicts

“...In the world you shall have tribulation. **But be courageous! I have overcome the world**” (v 33). ***God will give us the victory!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Peter 1:19-21
- 2) Matthew 24:35
- 3) Titus 1:1-2
- 4) Galatians 1:1-12
- 5) Psalm 20:1-9
- 6) Deuteronomy 11:1, 8, 13, 16-19
- 7) Psalm 35:1-6
- 8) Psalm 34:1-6, 8, 14-19
- 9) Psalm 40:1-4
- 10) Psalm 115:1-18
- 11) Psalm 71:16-19, 1-5
- 12) Psalm 118:5-6
- 13) Matthew 10:28
- 14) Psalm 118:7-10
- 15) Joshua 1:5-9
- 16) John 16:33

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2-Timothy
- Revelation 2; 3
- Deuteronomy 28
- Esther
- Ezekiel 16:31
- Deuteronomy 28

Also referenced:

- Appendix A: 14 Rules for Bible Study (*The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*)
- Sermon Series: *Keys to Answered Prayer*

FRC:po/bo
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Be Strong in the Lord III

(Prepare and Trust God in Everything)

Fred R. Coulter

If I go back to when I was baptized, that's 1960, and we've been living in the end-times all the way through those years. We've seen ups and downs, good and bad, we've seen everything that Christ tells us is going to happen there in Matt. 24 and Mark 13, all those things we've seen come and go.

Yet, we're still quite a ways from what appears to be the end, and when the end comes what is it going to be like? Mike and I were talking about that, and we're thinking, in going through the prophecies—especially in Jeremiah—how bad it was back then, and what is it going to be today?

Let's just look at one Scripture we've gone over before many, many times. It was a warning and a call to repentance for them at that time. But prophecies have a way of having applications in people's lives at any time through history, especially so when we consider our understanding of who Israel in prophecy is, or who Israel in the end-times are—the 12 tribes—and the blessings that God has poured out upon this nation, and we look and see where it is heading.

It kind of heads in these things incrementally; it doesn't happen all at once. Let's see what it was like here and then let's ask:

- What is it going to be like in our day?
- Why do we need to be strong in the Lord?

Jeremiah 7:1: "The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying... [he was a priest so he could stand right there in the temple and let them have it] ...'Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, "Hear the Word of the LORD, all Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD"" (vs 1-2).

If we can take this and sort of superimpose this upon America, where we have the largest number of churchgoing people on Sunday. I've got an article that shows that even some of these evangelists demand \$10,000 a speaking engagement. Then you look at their lives multiplied over and over again. So, as we read these things let's see how they can apply to us.

Verse 3: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel..." Remember that before God does anything *He gives a chance for repentance!* That's what this is.

"... 'Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Do not trust in

lying words....'" (vs 3-4).

And if that's not true... I mean, if you follow the political scene as it is today, WOW, that's something! Or the religious scene! How that Christ did everything, all the Law is done away, and all you have to do is just come to this church and you'll be in the rapture and you'll make it.

"... 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.' For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; *if* you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your hurt" (vs 4-6).

What do we have? *All of these things are the sins that they were doing then, and the very sins that are happening today!*

Verse 7: "Then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever. Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know; and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'?" (vs 7-10).

So, I answered Mike with another Scripture here in Jeremiah, which I have used quite often to show the mercy of God. In answering the question: How bad can it get?

Jeremiah 5:1: "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places... [in other words, search out the whole town] ...if you can find a man... [one man, now that's how bad it was] **...if there is one who does justice, who seeks the Truth; and I will pardon her.**"

So in talking about this, Mike asked me: How bad do you think it's going to get? I thought, down here in Southern California perhaps an example of how bad it can get, may be the worst parts of East L.A.: run by gangs, no police force, the police don't go there, everyone does evil; you have murder, gangs, drugs. If that expands out even more in the nation, perhaps that may give us an idea of what it's going to be like.

We need to be prepared! We need to be

strong *mentally, spiritually and also physically* as possible! But let's focus on the *spiritual*. What we need to do to really have a mindset so that when some of these disasters happen we can maintain our equilibrium, maintain our relationship with God, and understand what we need to do. The strength in any of these things comes because you have prepared; ***you have prepared spiritually!***

I think in this society there are going to be a lot of people totally unprepared! There are some physical things we need to do, that is true. But I tell you what, you're not going to store up, say a years worth of food, and sit there in quiet contemplation without someone knowing that you have something somewhere. If they know that you have something somewhere, they're going to try and find that somewhere so they can have something that you have, and they will not be too nice about it!

But as we see these things come along, what we need to do is ***really have a concerted effort of growing in strength spiritually!***

Timothy is talking about the faith that his mother and grandmother had, and he said he was convinced it was in God:

2-Timothy 1:6: "For this reason, I admonish you to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands." God has given us His Holy Spirit. But it is something that must be:

- used
- worked
- stirred up
- constantly renewed

That's why we have Sabbath every week, because spiritual things do not remain in a physical mind, without the Spirit of God uniting with our spirit and we actively use God's Spirit. So, *stir up the Spirit of God*, "...the gift of God that is in you..."

Verse 7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear..." It's going to be difficult when fearful things happen, to not completely fall apart.

"...but **of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness**" (v 7). This is something we do daily:

- through prayer
- through study
- through yielding to God
- through living God's way

and all of that combined. This gives us *the strength spiritually* and *the ability to see the problems* that come along. Know that these things are going to happen, and yet, not get discouraged and say: Why is God going to let this happen? Why is God going

to do this?

Well most people in America do not count the murder of little children in the womb in a most gruesome and horrible way as a great thing anymore. But ***God counts it as one of the worst things in the world!*** Plus all the other sins, plus all the things that have taken place.

Let's see how we can be strengthened. Here's how David did it. Think about this, and think about everything that's in the world. Of course, we all have to live in the world—don't we? We all go out there and we work in the world and we're around people in the world. What is going to happen when this occurs?

Psalm 12:1: "Help, O LORD, for the Godly man ceases..." There are still a number of people today trying to do good. But what's going to happen when this day arrives?

"...for the faithful disappear from among the children of men. They speak falsehood each one with his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak" (vs 1-2). Of course, most of the world lives in a make-believe reality created by television, music, and lies of the society. When the reality hits, what are they going to do?

God is going to do this, v 3: "The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaks proud things." If I were some of these politicians, I'd be mighty afraid. In looking at the political scene, at least in my lifetime, I have not seen such an array of political midgets seeking to become President of the United States. Remember, the nation will get what it deserves, and I'm afraid it's going to be Hillary.

Verse 4: "Who have said, 'With our tongue we shall prevail... [whether it's lies, flattery, whatever, we're going to make it] ...our lips are our own; who is lord over us?' 'For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, I will now arise,' says the LORD. 'I will set him in safety from *him who puffs at him*'" (vs 4-5).

Here is a promise of protection from God, right here. We need to claim that protection and ask God to watch over us. We're not at the hundred percent level. I wonder, if you could put it on a percentage basis, what percentage the society is right now as God would look at it? We'll just have to see as it goes along.

Why does this happen? Verse 8: "The wicked walk on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men." That tells us exactly what the political situation is everywhere.

Let's see what we need to do. We need to

make a determined effort, every one of us. It is a spiritual and a mental determination. Psalms 108—here's what people need to do. Since we have gone along, and we have seen this within the Church, many of the things that I've read about and have described that happened within the Church, what happened when the vilest of men were raised to the top of the Church? *Same thing! God judged, yes, He did!*

I've heard people say it many times, and I think it's true, as it happens to the Church it parallels what's happening in the world, kind of goes hand-in-hand—doesn't it? *Yes!* Because of that, people have been hurt mentally, spiritually, and emotionally—disillusioned by hypocrites, disillusioned by liars from the pulpit—they all back away.

They say all right, I've got to protect a little place for myself. The commitment that was asked for before was to an organization and two men. That's the wrong application of the commitment. This is sort of a protective device that is a normal response to give yourself a buffer so that no one can come close and cause you personal problems any longer.

So, what we need to do, we need to take that reaction, and we need to apply it in a little different way. We need to apply it to serving God. We need to apply it with a mental and spiritual resolve.

Psalms 108:1: "O God, **my heart is fixed...**" That's where the strength is going to come from. *It's going to come from God!*

- God is always true
 - God is always right
- God is the One Who will:*
- protect you
 - watch over you
 - strengthen you

in whatever your circumstances are!

Verse 12: "Give us help from trouble, for vain is the deliverance of man. Through God we shall do mighty things, for it is He who will tread down our enemies" (vs 12-13). Of course, the final victory is going to be through Christ.

Psalms 112:1: "Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments." We can put there: *everything that God stands for, not just His commandments!*

Verse 3: "Wealth and riches shall be in his house... [those are promised to us in the coming kingdom] ...and His righteousness endures forever. To the upright there arises light in the darkness; he is gracious and full of compassion and righteousness.

It is well with the man who is gracious and lends freely; who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he shall not be moved forever... [if there are some things that you slip in, you're not going to be moved forever] ...the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance" (vs 3-6).

Who's doing the remembering? *God is!* That's why I've said many, many times before, ***when all else fails remember that God loves you!***

- God has called you
- God is dealing with you
- God wants you in His kingdom
- He hasn't called us in vain

He's called us to do the things that please him, in spite of everything that is all around us.

Verse 7: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings..." We're going to see plenty of them. I couldn't help thinking of the families there with the mine cave-in in Utah, and all the efforts that they're doing with the continual shifting of the mine and everything. It takes some kind of special person to go down in the mine and mine coal or whatever it is. I don't think I have the type of personality that would really do well at that. But nevertheless, we're going to see difficulties in things that come.

And financially, the market falls and the Fed is able to rescue it. But what's going to happen when they won't be able to rescue it? What are we going to do?

- if you don't love God
- if you don't believe God
- if you haven't set your mind and heart first

Then it's going to be very discouraging and you're going to wonder: Where is God?

"...his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD" (v 7). So, ***you trust in Him at all times!*** 'The angels of the Lord are encamped about those who fear Him and trust Him!' We're going to need the help of angels about us when these evil days come.

Verse 8: "His heart is established... [fixed, established, trusting] ...he shall not be afraid until he sees his desire upon his enemies."

Now let's look at the opposite of this: the person who is not fixed, who is not steadfast. This is something you have to prepare for. You just don't say, 'All right my heart is fixed.' ***No!*** It's a commitment that is always reinforced and built and you grow in it.

And just a little aside on James 1:1. If you write a letter and send it to someone, do you know where they are if you send it to them? *Of course!*

What did James do?

James 1:1: “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes, which are in the dispersion: Greetings!” Where did it go? *Everywhere there were synagogues of the Jews that were known!*

Verse 2: “Consider *it* all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials.” That can only come with a spiritual attitude and understanding. That *‘all things work together for good for those who love God are the called according to His purpose.’*

Verse 3: “Knowing that **the testing of your faith produces endurance**. But let endurance have its perfect work... [don’t cut it off; don’t cut it short] ...so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything” (vs 3-4)—spiritually. *Our whole lives are those things where God is working and dealing with us:*

- to help us
- to mold us
- to bring us closer to Him
- to help us develop the character and mind of Christ

“...so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.”

Verse 5: “However, if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...” God is going to do it. That’s why there needs to be prayer involved.

“...Who gives to everyone freely and does not reproach *the one who asks*; and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all because **the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven by the wind and tossed to and fro**” (vs 5-6).

Now, there’s nothing more unstable than water. It can be humidity as a vapor, it can be liquid as a glass of water, but the water is subject to whatever forces are against it: be it the wind, be it the tide, or whatever.

That’s why we had the tsunami’s when we had the earthquake there in the Indian Ocean some years ago. “...driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*.” You can’t be one way one day and one way the next day.

Verse 7: “Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. **He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways**” (vs 7-8).

- there is the opposite of having your heart fixed
- there is the opposite of establishing your way with God

We don’t want to be double-minded and unstable!

I was talking to someone about all of these Hollywood people that are narcissistic, and all they want to do is just serve themselves and have their own way. Whatever the press says that’s what they want, if they can get the photo op, or they can get the name recognition or whatever, that’s where they go. That’s a good example of being *unstable in all of your ways*.

Let’s see how God dealt with a couple of His prophets. Anyone who wants to be a prophet, you better think about it. Here’s Jeremiah, he’s probably 17 or 18, and had a 40-year ministry altogether. God called him and said, ***‘I formed you in the womb, I’ve created you for a purpose, I’ve sanctified you, and I want you to do what I tell you to do.’*** So then, Jeremiah answered:

Jeremiah 1:6: “Then I said, ‘Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak; for I *am* a youth.’.... [which means under 20] ...But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, “I *am* a youth,” for you shall go to all that I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak” (vs 6-7).

Jeremiah’s example is very important, because he went through all the extremes of corruption, to the destruction and captivity of Judah, lived through it, and then was able to take the daughters of the king to Ireland. He had a long ministry ahead of him. It’s just like us, once we start our Christian walk, we don’t know what lies ahead. *He didn’t either!*

God says, v 8: “Do not be afraid of their faces; for I *am* with you to deliver you,” said the LORD. And the LORD put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth’” (vs 8-9).

Very similar to Isaiah who saw the vision of God’s throne, and he said, ‘who will go?’ Isaiah said, ‘send me, Lord.’ Then one of the angels took a coal off the altar and touched his lips and said your clean, now go speak the Word of the Lord.’

Verse 10: “See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”

Now then, after God told him what was going to happen, v 16: “And I will pronounce My judgments against them regarding all their wickedness in that they have forsaken Me, and burning incense to other gods, and worshiping the works of their own hands.... [we do that today] **...You, therefore, must gird up your loins, and arise, and speak to them all that I command**

you....” (vs 16-17).

We’re going to have to virtually do the same thing in the end-time. We’re going to have to endure the things that come along. The reason I’m going through this is because I don’t think, even though we can read some of the things that are coming, we have a full enough comprehension to realize how mentally and spiritually we need to be fortified. But nevertheless:

“...Do not be dismayed... [discouraged or frustrated] ...at their faces...” (v 17). He did get discouraged. You read a little later on he said, ‘O God, why did you call me to do this? This is so terrible!’ God said, ‘You’re going to be spared.’ Sometimes the circumstances can look really, *really*, **really** bad, and the circumstances can tend to get you down. But don’t let them get it get you down.

“...lest I confound you before them. For, behold, I have made you a fortified city this day...” (vs 17-18). This is the mental resolve that He gave Jeremiah, that we’re going to need.

“...and an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land.... [talk about ‘You and me, Lord, this is it’] ...against the kings of Judah, against its rulers, against its priests, and against the people of the land. **And they shall fight against you; but they shall not overcome you. For I am with you,**’ says the LORD, **“to deliver you”**” (vs 18-19).

In some cases, by the skin of his teeth. But God still delivered him! *Yes, He did!* This is how we need to have this kind of **mental resolve**. Now, some people call that hard-headedness, but *it is actually spiritual strength*, because still within you have *feeling, compassion and mercy*. When Jeremiah saw all that was going on, he said, ‘*Oh, my eyes are like rivers of water*, when I see all these things going on, and what’s going to happen to them.’

Ezekiel 3:1: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, eat what you find. Eat this scroll, and go speak to the house of Israel.’ So, I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, cause your belly to eat, and fill your belly with this scroll that I give you.’ Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was like honey for sweetness. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, go! Go up to the house of Israel and speak to them with My words. For you *are* not sent to a people of a strange speech and of a difficult language, *but* to the house of Israel; not to many people of a strange speech and of a difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I had sent you to them, they would have hearkened to you. But the house of Israel will not be willing to hearken to you, for they will not be willing to hearken to Me; for all the house of Israel *are* of a hard forehead and a stubborn

heart. Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces and your forehead strong against their foreheads. I have made your forehead as an adamant stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or dismayed by their faces, for they *are* a rebellious house” (vs 1-9).

I tell you, that’s something! That’s the kind of resolve that we are going to need. Why? Let’s see some of the things that we are going to face, we’ve been facing them. Isn’t it interesting that when we talk about prophecy and the things that come along, we always come back to Matt. 24, because that is the framework on which everything in the end takes place?

Jesus talks about false prophets, nations rising against nations, and earthquakes in different places, Matthew 24:10: “And then shall many be led into sin... [the whole society is being led into sin, incrementally step-by-step] ...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.” That sure sounds like today, hating one another.

That’s why we need the love of God; that’s why we need the love of each other! Brethren, when it’s all over and said and done, remember that those of us who have God’s Spirit, we are all that we have, that’s it! We’ve got to love each other, take care of each other and be concern for each other, especially in the days that are ahead.

Verse 11: “And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many; and because lawlessness shall be multiplied...” (vs 11-12). I can understand how it’s going to be multiplied, with all the things we have to multiply it, all of the media, all of the things that we have at our fingertips for anyone.

“...the love of many shall grow cold.... [that’s why we need the love of each other] ...But **the one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved**” (vs 12-13).

But let’s see something that’s important. Why we need to have the kind of attitude that I’ve been talking about.

Verse 21: “**For then shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until this time, nor ever shall be again.**”

How long we have to go we don’t know. But I tell you what, we’re going to face worse things than what we read up there with Jeremiah and Ezekiel. How many of us are going to pass from the scene before then, we’ll just have to wait and see. We don’t know, because He also said that you don’t know the day, you don’t know the hour. But we need to be strengthened with God, and strengthened

in His might and His way in order to do the things that God wants us to do.

(go to the next track)

Now let's come back to the book of Psalms, and let's see that ***being strong in the Lord is trusting Him!*** Regardless of what our circumstances are, regardless of what comes along, we need to trust God in everything. Now, it'll generally work out differently than we think.

Psalms 56:1: "Be gracious unto me, O God, for man would swallow me up..." Sometimes you feel like that just out in the world, especially if you're stuck in traffic and can't go anywhere.

"...fighting all the day, he oppresses me. Those who lie in wait for me would trample me, for many are those who proudly fight against me. When I am afraid... [so when you start getting afraid] ...***I will trust in You***" (vs 1-3). That's where it has to be, *trusting* God! Trust is ***faith in action!***

Verse 4: "In God I will praise His Word; in God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?... [some of these are prophecies relating to Christ] ...All day long they pervert my words... [I didn't know they had the drive-by media back then] ...all their thoughts are against me for evil. They stir up strife; they hide themselves; they watch my steps as they wait for my soul. Because of iniquity cast them out. In Your anger cast down the people, O God. You number my wanderings, O put my tears into Your bottle..." (vs 4-8). In other words remember all of my anguish and everything I'm going through.

"...are they not in Your book? When I cry out to You, then my enemies will be turned back. ***This I know because God is for me***" (vs 8-9).

Remember this: ***Regardless of the circumstances, God is never against you!*** Even in the most terrible trial that you may go through, or the most unusual circumstances you may come across. ***God is for you!*** That's why He's called you. Let's look at it this way: Did God call us to fail? *No!* *God has called us to succeed at the greatest thing that He has for those whom He calls: to be in the first resurrection!* God is *for* us.

Verse 10: "In God—I will praise His Word; in the LORD—I will praise His Word. In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (vs 10-11). Jesus said, "The worst they can do is kill the body." *After that, it's all in God's hands!*

Verse 12: "Your vows are upon me, O God; I will give thank offerings to You, for You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God

in the light of the living?" (vs 12-13). Just look at that as the resurrection. Just look at that as a tremendous and wonderful thing that God is going to do.

Psalms 57:1: "Be gracious unto me, O God..." If you are in a terrible difficult trial, and it's more than you can handle ***then you need to trust in God!*** If it's such that you are overwhelmed ***then claim the promises of God!*** Here's what God told Moses when he wanted to see his glory.

Exodus 34:5: "And the LORD came down in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD God, merciful... [when we ask God to have mercy on us, He will have mercy on us] ...and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth'" (vs 5-6).

The way that you approach God, is to take Scriptures like this, and incorporate them in your prayers and *claim the promise*. God says he's merciful.

- Oh God be merciful
- You promised that You would be
- You're a God of Truth who cannot lie
- You're a God of love Who has called us and Who is for us
- Who has given us the greatest hope of any people on earth

Verse 7: "Keeping mercy to the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear *the guilty*..." That is the unrepentant; God's going to take care of the sins of other people.

When you ask, how can God allow this, whatever it may be, God is doing it *to show His power*. So, if they don't repent then God sooner or later will come. Look at what Israel did here at this point and look what Aaron did at this point, in making the golden calf and causing the children of Israel to worship the golden calf. And He's saying, ***'I will forgive!'***

You don't like to compare sin, but sin is sin. However, have any of us done what they did? If God forgave them, will He forgive us? *Yes, indeed!* That's why we're to ask God's forgiveness every day.

Psalms 57:1: "Be gracious unto me, O God, be gracious unto me; for my soul trusts in You; yea, ***in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge*** until these great troubles pass by. I will cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me" (vs 1-2).

Remember, *we have nothing we didn't receive!* Everything physical *and* spiritual all comes from God, likewise for everyone in the world. Does God provide breath, air, water and food for everyone in the world? *Yes!* That's just an extension of God's love even to those who despise Him and hate Him.

Verse 3: "He shall send from heaven and save me; He rebukes him who would swallow me up. **Selah**.... [stop, think, meditate] ...God shall send forth His mercy and His Truth. My soul is among lions; I lie among those who breathe out fire, the sons of men whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.... [notice what he does]: ...Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth. They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they have fallen themselves. **Selah**. **My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed;** I will sing and give praise" (vs 3-7).

That's the attitude that we need to have to be strengthened in the Lord.

I know in going through all the Psalms many, many times, it has really helped and strengthened me in my life. We all need to be strengthened. We all have the weakness of flesh. We all have sins and problems and difficulties. God made us that way, that's just the way that life is. But God is there to help. God is there to intervene. Now, if you're in real trouble, and you really feel bad, do like this:

Psalms 61:1: "Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth I cry to You when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the Rock higher than me... [to Christ] ...for You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower against the enemy. I will dwell in Your tabernacle forever; **I will take refuge in the hiding place of Your wings.** **Selah**" (v 1-4).

Of course, we are going to abide in the tabernacle of God forever. What does Rev. 21 say? '*Behold the tabernacle of God is with men.*' Men made perfect. Our goal is to dwell in New Jerusalem.

Psalms 70:1: "Make haste, O God... [sometimes you need God's intervention immediately] ...to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD. Let them be ashamed and confounded, those who seek after my soul; let them be turned backward and put to confusion, those who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame, those who say, 'Aha, aha!' Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say without ending, 'Let God be magnified'" (vs 1-4).

This is how we're going to be strengthened for the things that are going to take place in the future.

I've got a little white box up here, and in little white box I've got a whole stack of news reports. Some of the things that are going to be cut loose, the stage is already set. What I'm going to do is go back and look at the incrementalism of how it took place, and how we came to where we are today.

Psalms 11:1: "**In the LORD I have taken refuge**... [always] ...how *then* can you say to me, 'Flee like a bird to your mountain'?.... [some things you can't get away from] ...For lo, the wicked bend their bow; they make ready their arrow on the string, so that they may secretly shoot at the upright in heart. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (vs 1-3).

That pretty well helps answer that there are going to be times worse than it's ever been since there was ever a nation. And we're going to live into that time. We're going to have ***to be strong in the Lord, trusting him in everything!*** An organization is not going to help you. As a matter of fact:

- organizations will fail you
- people will fail you
- schemes will fail you
- **but God will never fail you**

Verse 4: "The LORD is in His Holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven. His eyes behold; His searching gaze tests the children of men. The LORD tries the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.... [God is going to take care of them] ...Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone; and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup" (vs 4-6). Which is also a prophecy of *the seven last plagues!* God is going to take care of it.

Verse 7: "For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face." He is:

- watching over us
- being with us
- preserving us
- helping us

1-Peter 5:6: "Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God..."

I suppose living back in the Midwest has some benefits, though I don't like those tornadoes. And they have some storms back there that my wife continually reminds me that it puts the fear of God in you. Maybe that's why that's the 'Bible Belt' back there, who knows. But I tell you what, some of

those displays of an awesome power of God, humbles you! *Yes, it does!*

So, “Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God...” Let’s put it this way: You can yield to God in trust, in faith, in love and grow in humility through that. **OR** You can be humbled through circumstances that take you down, because you didn’t do the former. But nevertheless, here is the key:

“...so that He may exalt you in due time... [God will take care of you in due time] ...casting all your cares upon Him, because **He cares for you**” (vs 6-7).

Here is the struggle that goes on when you’re in a difficulty, problem and trial that you are going through. This we’re going to have to face on a daily basis when we come to the real upheaval that’s going to occur. Satan is ‘Johnny-on-the-spot’ to offer you *his* way. That’s why you have to know to choose **God’s** way.

Verse 8: “**Be sober!**.... [that is realistic of everything] ...**Be vigilant!**....” *Being on guard!* By the way, the word for, ‘keep the garden’ for Adam, was to **guard** it. He wasn’t very vigilant was he? “...**Be vigilant!**....” Not sleepy, not folding hands. What is the Proverb? ‘*A little sleep, a little folding of hands, and so shall your poverty come upon you.*’ Not only physically, but spiritually, because He cares for you.

“...For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith... [that is trusting God] ...knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in the world” (vs 8-9).

Whenever I’m going through difficult times, I always remember this, v 10: “Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus... [always focused on the goal] ...after *you* have suffered a little while, Himself **perfect you, establish, strengthen, and settle you**.... [that’s the whole purpose of it] ...To Him *be* the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 10-14). Quite encouraging words!

When you study through the Apostle Paul’s life and everything that he went through, he came from the two extremes: From being a hateful enemy of God and the people of God, God called him, converted him, and made him one of the hardest working apostles of all. When you figure the whole New Testament together, his 14 epistles, plus Luke wrote under his supervision for the books of Luke and Acts, you’re dealing with little less than two thirds of the whole Bible written by Paul.

If Paul couldn’t be honest, no man could,

after all that he went through, and when he was called, remember, God told Annas in Syria, ‘You go down there to Saul, he’s down at this house, and he’s blind. I want you to lay hands on him because I’ve chosen him.’ Annas said, ‘Lord, he’s wreaked havoc with the Church.’ God says, ‘He’s a chosen vessel of Mine.’

Notice that He didn’t send any of the apostles there. He just sent Annas. Annas baptized him. And part of it was, that he was going to preach the Gospel to the children of Israel, and to the Gentiles, and Paul was going to suffer in his life greatly!

That humbled Paul; that made him effective and it made him a vessel of God’s Spirit. That really is a fantastic thing related in the Epistles of Paul when you read them.

- there is God Spirit
- there is conviction
- there is belief
- there is humility

that comes through all that Paul experienced. We find it manifest re in Eph. 3. Paul is talking about the great plan of God, which is been hidden from the ages past.

Ephesians 3:7: “Of which I became a servant according to the gift of the grace of God, *which* was given to me through the inner working of His power. To me... [notice how all of these things brought Paul to the humblest position possible] ...who am less than the least of all the saints, was this grace given, that I might preach the Gospel among the Gentiles—even the unsearchable riches of Christ” (vs 7-8).

But notice his attitude: He considered himself ‘less than the least of all the saints.’ A true example of what Jesus said, ‘**He who is going to be great among you is going to be the servant of all!**’

I remember that as an upside down pyramid. They like to have the corporate pyramid with a great mucky muck at the top. Well, Jesus said, ‘He who was the greatest is going to be the servant of all.’ So I look at that as an upside down pyramid, and Paul probably felt right down at the bottom of that upside down pyramid. That’s what the Spirit of God does.

Verse 9: “And that I might enlighten all *as* to what *is* the fellowship of the mystery that has been hidden from the ages in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly *places*, **according to His eternal purpose**...” (vs 9-11). God has called you according to **His** purpose. ***This is what’s going to strengthen***

us in the times ahead!

“...which He has wrought in Christ Jesus our Lord, in Whom we have boldness and *direct* access with confidence through His *very* own faith.... [Christ’s faith in us] ...So then, I beseech *you* not to faint at my tribulations for you...” (vs 11-13). He didn’t have a pity party when he was in jail. He said, look I’m going through this for you.

“...which are *working* for your glory. For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He may grant you... [this is what Paul’s prayer is to give to us] ...according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man**” (vs 13-16).

- that’s how we’re to be strong in the Lord
- that’s where it’s going to come from
- that’s where we’re going to have our minds fixed

that’s how we are going to be:

- the brazened wall
- the pillars of iron
- the rock of flint

against all the evil that’s going to come

Verse 17: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith... [Christ in you the hope of glory] ...*and* that **being rooted and grounded in love**... [love of God, love the brethren, love of neighbor] ...you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height... [to have a full understanding of the plan of God.] ...and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; **so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**” (vs 17-19).

That’s what God wants! *That will give you strength regardless of whatever the circumstances are in your life!*

- He will help you
- He will bless you
- He will be with you
- He will strengthen you

At the resurrection you’re going to be filled with all the fullness of God. Now, here’s a promise:

Verse 20: “Now, to Him Who is able... [that means has the *power*; Greek: ‘dunamis’] ...to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, to Him *be* glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 20-21).

So, that’s how we are to be strengthened in the Lord! When we see the fearful things that are

going to come,

- trust in God
- be strong in the Lord
- fix your heart

God will be with you!

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in It’s Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 7:1-10
- 2) Jeremiah 5:1
- 3) 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- 4) Psalm 12:1-5, 8
- 5) Psalm 108:1, 12-13
- 6) Psalm 112:1, 3-8
- 7) James 1:1-8
- 8) Jeremiah 1:6-10, 16-19
- 9) Ezekiel 3:1-9
- 10) Matthew 24:10-13, 21
- 11) Psalm 56:1-13
- 12) Psalm 57:1
- 13) Exodus 34:5-7
- 14) Psalm 57:1-7
- 15) Psalm 61:1-4
- 16) Psalm 70:1-4
- 17) Psalm 11:1-7
- 18) 1 Peter 5:6-14
- 19) Ephesians 3:7-21

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Mark 13

FRC:po/bo
Transcribed: 1-14-16

Be Strong in the Lord IV

(Children of God vs Children of the Devil)

Fred R. Coulter

We're going to approach this from a little different point of view. What sort of sprung this in my mind was a special on CNN: Christian Warriors. All the Protestants are getting involved, and I think it's quite astonishing that it shows the schizophrenic problems that Protestantism has. They come to church and say:

- you've been freed from the Law
- God has abolished the Law
- you don't have to keep the Law

Then they go out in the community and say that you must keep the Law, the part that they want you to keep, which is really educational from the point of view that they fail to realize that you have to have all the Bible, all the Scriptures, all the Truth applied. Not going through and taking little bits here and saying, 'Okay, we agree with this, let's run with this.' or 'We agree with that, let's do that.'

There was even one community that they showed—I just watched the start of it—that is calling the town Ave Maria. It's in Florida. They built a church and now they're building a town around there. What they're going to do is resurrect the old Catholic Medieval society. That's what they're going to do; where the pope reigns supreme! They eventually ended up with those who didn't agree with them, they were heretics and they ended up with the Inquisition.

- everyone wants to be religious
- everyone wants to have their own version of things
- everyone has to have their own doctrine

As God says, 'Why do you take My name and cast My Law behind your back?'

They all want to come and reform the society in the image of *their* doctrinal beliefs, rather than try to have a society that reflects the laws and commandments of God.

Gal. 3 will help us understand some of the problems and difficulties that they have, but also help us understand how we can be *strong in the Lord!*

Galatians 3:22: "But the Scriptures have shut up all things under sin..." This is why God has to call; all are under sin, which means they're all under judgment to God. This is why we have things in the world the way that they are.

Just like these Baptists—I think it's Vision

America—that fail to realize that once you come to Christ, you don't do away with law, you *perfect* it. You don't eliminate it, you make it *spiritual*. God wants as many people converted as possible—and we understand this through the meaning of the Last Great Day and the second resurrection, which the world does not understand. Once you leave:

- the Sabbath
- the Holy Days
- the laws of God
- the words of Christ

and selectively pick out what you want, then you are a victim of Satan. He comes and says, 'Aha! There's no resurrection, you go to heaven!' The Catholic version of the kingdom is that the Kingdom of God is the reign of the pope; the Kingdom of Heaven is where the souls go when you die; or hell or purgatory, one of the two.

So, God has shut it all up under sin, and unless God calls them and opens their minds, the best they're going to have is partial understanding in different things, only as they agree with the Word of God.

No man can provide anything good, except that it is based in the Law of God whether they know the Law of God or not. It's just like with evolutionists. They must begin with nothing, but they always begin with something. Then all of a sudden Voila! you've got the creation. So, likewise with the Word of God.

You can't begin with part of it—agree with part of it and accept part of it—because it's going to get you in trouble. That's why everything that human beings do comes to corruption, regardless of the best intentions, the most sincere devoted law-abiding people in the world.

"...so that by *the* faith of Jesus Christ..." (v 22). Now we're talking about something entirely different. It's not faith that we generate. It's not belief that we cling to. *If you believe* that there is a God, *if you believe* that there is a Creator, James says, 'You do well. But even the demons believe and tremble.' But to have the faith of Christ is entirely different.

"...the promise might be **given to those who believe.**" (v 22). This is a whole new thing, because this is with the Spirit of God. This is not commandment-keeping vs no commandment-keeping. This is the carnal mind, even though it may be decent and 'religious'—because men are a

combination of good and evil—vs the goodness that comes from God and His Spirit.

Verse 23: “Now, before faith came...” What day did *the faith* come on? *Pentecost with the Holy Spirit! Faith without the Holy Spirit is carnal belief!* There are a lot of people who have carnal beliefs in many different things.

“...we were guarded under law...”—protected by keeping the commandments in the letter of the Law. That protected you and guarded you so that you can receive the physical blessings from God. That’s why there are ‘good’ people in the world who keep part of the Law. They are law-abiding. They’re decent if they know some things about Christ, they are generous, kind and good.

But the Law in the letter was to give us certain benefits. We know that from reading the Old Testament. It’s important to understand that *if you are going to be strong in the Lord* you’ve got to be strong in the Lord *spiritually*:

- with His faith
- with His Truth
- with His Spirit
- with God dwelling in you

It’s a completely different way of doing things from the world.

Just like some people have said when they argue about the Ten Commandments... Remember the Ten Commandment controversy with Judge Roy Moore? Protestants got all upset over it. Some commentators made the remark: Whose version of the Ten Commandments are you going to believe? The Protestants? The Catholics? The Jews? *They vary considerably!* When the Jews read the Ten Commandments, it excludes Christ. When the Catholics read the Ten Commandments, it excludes the second commandment and splits the tenth. When the Protestant read the Ten commandments, Sabbath means Sunday.

You’ve got to have *God’s version* of it! It was to lead us and teach us. There’s nothing wrong with begin guarded under the Law.

“...having been shut up unto the faith that was yet to be revealed” (v 23). Paul is referring back to Deut. 5. Just like there is no such thing as *almost* pregnant, a woman either is or isn’t. Just like with the faith of Christ, you either have the Spirit of God *in you* or you don’t. One little caveat: There is a space in between where the Spirit of God can be *with* you to lead you to Christ, provided that you follow the lead and repentance that God will give.

Verse 24: “In this way, the Law was our tutor...”—teacher. The King James says

schoolmaster, and when people read that they think that’s harsh and mean. Have you ever heard of the book: *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum.

Every decent thing you need to know about life—the physical world—you should know by the time you have your full-fledged graduation from kindergarten with cap and gown, which some do today.

It was “...to lead us to Christ...” [to show us that we need God; that’s what the Law/tutor was to do] ...that we might be justified by faith” (v 24). Rom. 3 explains all about being *justified by faith*.

People really, really misunderstand v 25: “But since faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” They say, ‘We don’t need a schoolmaster.’

Once you graduate from whatever level of school you attain, do you throw away everything that you have learned? *No!* You use it! If you’ve gone to college—and whatever your degree is, let’s say it’s engineering—why did you get that degree? So, when you get out of school and out from underneath the teachers you can throw it all away? or Did you learn it so you can get a job and be an engineer?

Whatever the skill—teaching, computers, any of the trades... I’ll just tell you this right now: I would advise every single young man to learn a trade, because that’s where the money is going to be in the future, because they don’t have the trade schools that they used to have. If you want to make lots of ‘big bucks’ don’t waste your time going to college, go to a trade school and you can make lots of money faster, without the huge debt that those going to college are confronted with.

Doctors, by the time they graduate from college, do their internship and setup their practice, are in debt \$700,000 from the get-go.

When you are no longer under a tutor, that doesn’t mean that you have dismissed everything you have been taught. But since faith has come, you have graduated from a tutor, so that now Christ *in you* and *the faith of God* will lead you! The Holy Spirit will *lead and guide you!*

The interesting thing about being led by the Holy Spirit is that we must make the choice and ask God to help do what God wants us to do *spiritually*. Then the Holy Spirit will lead us. That’s worth a whole sermon in itself, so we won’t get involved in that right now.

“...we are no longer under a tutor, because you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (vs 25-26). Now you’re in a whole different

category:

- you have the Spirit of God
- you are the children of God

Just like it says in 2-Cor. 6, God says, ‘I will dwell in them and walk in the them.’ Is that not in a totally different category than people in the world trying to be ‘religious’ and trying to be ‘good’ and trying to live by the letter of the Law.

What was the first thing that Jesus did when He came? When He began teaching He taught *the spiritual application* of the Law, which is now graduate school or living. Let’s see where Deut. 5 helps explain it. When did you learn to add and subtract? *Probably before you went to school!* What is the first thing you learned to do? *Count!*

Our grandson gets on the phone and he counts! He counted all the way up to 50 for grandma. He knows how to count, and he knows his numbers; he’s just four. He knows his ABCs and he can sing the song.

Do you still use it? *Yes!* Every time you write something, you use the alphabet that you learned when you were four-years-old. But when you write, do you do things at a level that a four-year-old cannot understand because he hasn’t learned? *Yes! Of course!* It’s the same way with anything else.

Here is an account of the giving of the Ten Commandments that God gave. It’s the second account by Moses.

Deuteronomy 5:15 “...Therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath Day.” Because Protestants do not keep the Sabbath, they do not understand the value of it, or the spiritual value of the Sabbath.

Yes, even some people in the Church of God do not use the Sabbath in the way that they ought to, and do not recognize that it is the day of great fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ with us, and fellowship with each other where we learn to love God and love each other.

Yet, they want to oppose on the society that you better not have any adultery, no murder... They take *part* of it. God says, ‘**No! All of it!**’

Those were the words that were spoken and the people said that they can’t handle it, ‘we don’t want God to speak to us.’

Verse 27—they told Moses: “You go near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say. And you speak to us all that the LORD our God shall speak to you, and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.” They said that because they couldn’t stand the voice of

God. Just like today!

- if you say to the Catholics and Protestants that you’ve got to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days
- if you say to the Jews that Jesus really is the Messiah
- if you say to the Muslims that Allah is not the true God
- if you say to the Hindus that they are steeped in satanism
- if you say to the Buddhists that all they do is worship a fat-bellied, bald-headed squatting man, with his hands pointing toward heaven

or

- some woman with a dozen arms
- those less than that worship snakes, dragons and everything like this

They can’t stand to hear the Word of God!

- Why?
- What is the carnal mind? *Enmity against God and not subject to the Law of God!*

What God is doing here is using this to give a lesson and a prophecy.

Verse 28: “And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken.’” They’re well-intended.

You show me one person that’s not well-intended, even a murderer after he’s committed a murder and is in prison, reporters go in to interview him and say, ‘Why did you do this?’ The reporters come out and says, ‘Well, he/she is really a nice person.’ But they were still murderers!

Very few people—some few do—are so absolutely dedicated to evil, yet, in dedication to evil, they think they are doing good. That’s the total deception of human nature.

- this is why Christ had to come
- this is why the Holy Spirit had to come
- this is why we need the Word of God
- this is why we need the spiritual understanding of it

Verse 29: “**Oh, that there were such a heart in them...**” You cannot have a spiritual heart or mind unless four things happen:

1. repentance
2. baptism
3. the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God

4. the circumcision of the heart

Those four things *must* take place! Without that human nature—a mixture of good and evil:

- human nature well-intended
- human nature that is ‘every way of a man is justified in his own sight’

—rather than looking at and understanding God, finding God and understanding His Word.

Unless there is conversion of the heart by those four things... Protestants, especially fundamental evangelicals who believe in dispensationalism—which is a myth—say that all you have to do is believe, you don’t have to be baptized, and you will be saved. ***A lie!***

That’s the very reason that Jesus was baptized, to show that if He did it to fulfill all righteousness, you had better likewise do it or you are not even getting out of the kindergarten sandbox of understanding the Word of God.

“...that they would fear Me...” (v 29). He also says in other places ‘and love Me.’ So, first you *fear God* and then you learn to *love God*. Unless you fear God and fear the penalty for sin, you’re not going to repent. Until you repent, you cannot learn the love of God.

There’s a lot of love that people can learn: carnal love, sexual love, friendship love and things like that in the world, but that’s not based on the Spirit of God. You can’t take those kinds of love and substitute it for the love of God and the Spirit of God. This is what happens in all the ‘religions.’

“...and keep all My commandments always...” (v 29). If you want a very interesting study, go through and see how many times God says ‘*ALL* My commandments.’ I think you’ll be surprised. If God says it once, *He means it*; if He says it more than once, *that’s that much more*. And the multiple times that He talks about it means all the more. That’s the whole story of the Bible, from one end to the other.

“...so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (v 29).

The schizophrenic ‘Christian warriors’ today want to go out and impose upon society—which would be good; there would be certain blessings to come from it if they would be obedient in the letter of the law; yes there would be a benefit—but that cannot be substituted for conversion.

Let’s see what God says about the commandments even under the letter. If you’re under a tutor or instructor does the instructor have the best interest at heart? even if it’s a good

instructor for the students? What do they want to see the students do? *To learn to be proficient, to progress, to come to a point of graduation, to come to adulthood! To make them well equipped!*

That’s what God was doing with Israel! Read all of Deut. 28—everybody loves the first 15 verses, but from there to the end they don’t like.

Deuteronomy 4:1: “ And now, O Israel, hearken to the statutes and to the judgments which I teach you, in order to do them, **so that you may live...**”

Let’s understand that whenever people do not do what God has commanded, even in the letter of the Law, what happens in many cases? Not all, but many? *Their lives are cut short!*

It’s like we saw a tragic thing on ‘meth.’ This young couple, nice looking couple, never got in trouble and were always obedient at home. They went out to a party on a Friday night. (If they kept the Sabbath they wouldn’t be at a party on Friday night, but that’s just an aside.)

It was in North or South Dakota in the middle of the winter. They decided to try ‘crystal meth,’ which is absolutely the strongest thing and more profound than cocaine, and they took a lot of it. They got lost and were out in a snow storm driving. Their minds were crazy. They didn’t know where they were and they started hallucinating and thinking that someone was after them. They got on the phone and called 911 and the operator asked where they were, and they said they didn’t know. They’re out in the country, off the road, way away from everybody. ‘We don’t know, come and get us.’ *Where are you?*

To make a long story short, the boy finally decided that he needed to go get help. He didn’t know where he was or what he was doing. Had they stayed in the car they might have lived. But he went out, stumbled someplace, fell down and died. He was frozen by the time they found them. The girl went out another way when he didn’t come back and likewise died.

That’s a gruesome example, but what does that teach since we’re talking about tutors, schoolmasters and teachers? ***It teaches you that the wages of sin is death!*** If you don’t keep the commandments of God—and what is the main commandment all young people need to remember?—*honor your father and your mother!*

When they got out to this party, they decided to dishonor their father and mother, to disregard even practical sound carnal thinking in the world. And because someone enticed them to take these drugs, this ‘meth,’ their lives were snuffed out,

which means they didn't live.

The purpose of the commandments in the letter is so that a carnal society can have at least a decency of peace and a tranquility in the community. But they didn't!

So, God said that If you do it, "...and go in and possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers gives *to* you. You shall not add to the word, which I command you; neither shall you take away from it, **so that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you**" (vs 1-2). God says that He wants you to learn a lesson from this because you saw what He did in the incident of Baal Peor.

Verse 6: "And you shall keep and do *them*, for this is your wisdom..." Protestants think that if you keep the laws of God you're dumb and stupid. 'Why do you have to be under a schoolmaster'; they look at it that way. *No!* It is a spiritual application of the laws of God.

Moses was saying that even the carnal letter of the Law, "...this is **your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people'" (v 6).

The Vision America likes to say that if we get back to what the founding fathers did... Listen! The founding fathers diminished and took away from the Word of God. A lot of people say that the Constitution of America is the best form of government. *No, it is not!* Look what happened over 200 years later. What is the best form of government? *Christ in you! You govern yourself as led by Christ and the Holy Spirit!* If that were true everywhere—which is going to be in the Millennium—you're not going to need police, you're not going to need prisons, you're not going to need any of those things.

Because they started out close to God when the nation began, because they kept the commandments—except the Sabbath, which was the Achilles heel to take them down later—*God blessed them!* It was also God's time to bless the end-time descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the two grandsons: Ephraim and Manasseh. God said that He would bless them.

What is said of America? Just like it says in the Bible, *that you become like Ephraim and Manasseh!* Or that you become like Israel, because God blessed them! Even with the laws and commandments of God—part of them—they were somewhat close to God. Not as close as they ought to have been, but somewhat close to God.

Verse 7: "For what nation is so great whose God *is* so near to them, as the LORD our God *is*, whenever we call upon Him?" We could apply this to the United States of America and Great Britain before their decline and fall because of sin. I have a book called *The Late Great U.S.A.* by Jerome R. Corsi Ph.D. and the late Great Britain, because God's hand of judgment is upon us now!

We started out well, and for carnal people I think that's about as close to God as they could get.

Verse 8: "And what great nation has statutes and judgments that *are so* righteous as all this Law, which I set before you today?" Then what does Moses do?

Verse 9: "Only **take heed to yourself** ..." The battle of human nature is always, *always*, something you need to watch every day! Sometimes every hour! Sometimes, if it's tough, every minute! *The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak!* That's why we have the Sabbath every week. Think if you didn't have the Sabbath every week, where we all come together and learn. I learn, you learn, and what I teach has to be with the Word of God. Not what I think or want to do, but what does the Word of God say?

If I don't teach the Word of God, if I add to or take away from, then where does that put me?

Deuteronomy 5:32: "And you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left."

Make that another Bible study. Look at the right hand or the left, don't turn aside. You find that everywhere throughout the Bible. Why? *Because human nature is just that way!* It never fails!

Verse 33: You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you so that you may live..." Protestants say that if you do that you're putting yourself under bondage. *No, you're not!* The Law is not bondage, *sin* or *law-breaking* is bondage.

"...and **that it may be well with you...**" (v 33). God wants it to be well, but we have choices that we have to make.

"...and you may prolong *your* days in the land which you shall possess" (v 33).

Deuteronomy 6:1 "Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you..." Moses didn't say anything that God didn't tell him to say. Not a word!

What was the main thing that Moses did that

God didn't tell him to do? *God said to go to the rock and speak to the rock and it will bring forth water!* Moses went to the rock and he was so frustrated because of all of the dry mouth Israelites saying, 'Give us water! Give us water!' Moses got so mad he went up there and he *struck the rock and beat it with his rod!*

So, God said that because 'you didn't believe Me'—God still sent the water in spite of it... So, don't think because something happens and God responds that it's necessarily reflecting how good are. Moses was told by God that 'since you didn't believe Me you're not going to go into the *promised* land.' That's just something to think about.

"...so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it, that you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, **so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply**, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (vs 1-5). Then this translates into the New Testament.

(go to the next track)

Let me just rehearse for you; we won't get into the details about it, but in Appendix W: The Two Jehovahs of the Old Testament (*The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*) explains the proper translation of:

Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel. Our one God [Elohim] is *the* LORD, *the* LORD." Showing two in the God Family.

Remember the four things that I mentioned; there must be *repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit and circumcision of the heart*.

When you read through some of these verses, stop and think about them and analyze them as you go and it will give you a greater message.

Romans 2:25: "For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the* Law; on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the* Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.... [because it's the spirit of keeping the laws of God] ...Therefore, if the uncircumcised... [in the flesh] ...is keeping the requirements of the Law..." (vs 25-26).

What does this tell you about law-keeping? *You're to keep it, whether you're circumcised or*

uncircumcised! But the Protestants read that and glide right over it and never stop and think about it. Paul says to keep "...the requirements of the Law..."

"...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is **fulfilling the Law...**" (vs 26-27). All of this is part of *being strong in the Lord*.

"...judge you, who, with *the* letter and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of *the* Law? For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision which *is* external in *the* flesh; rather, he *is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly, and circumcision *is* of *the* heart, in *the* spirit and not in *the* letter; **whose praise is not from men but from God**" (vs 27-29).

As one rabbi said, 'Jesus we can understand, Paul we can never forgive.' That's based right here. These are more than fighting words, these are killing words. That's why they were always after Paul. I think of this every time: If the Jews back then had helicopters and could go after Paul... They used every other means to way-lay him!

How is the circumcision of the heart? Obviously, it is spiritually in the mind, which then takes away the carnality and hostility of the mind.

{Note sermon series: *Colossians*} We are not going to go through and have a detailed study of it here, but we just want to cover the section concerning how you become circumcised in the heart and the spirit.

Colossians 2:10: "And you are complete in Him... [that brings you to Jesus Christ and God the Father] ...Who is the Head of all principality and power."

That's important to realize because Paul talks later on about the religions of men and worshipping of angels, which is mostly what the religions of this world are all about. Particularly those related to Catholicism, witchcraft and much of Protestantism. It's all getting into a mild brand of satanism, which then is Gnosticism, and Harry Potterism carries you right into the deeper things of Satan and witchcraft. Those things we need to understand.

Verse 9: "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." So, you don't need Mary! That Catholic song, Ave Maria—which is Hail Mary—is what you would say is the anthem of that city. They're already into idolatry before they start.

Verse 11: "In Whom..."—through Whom, by Whom—Christ!

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to

the Father except through Me.”

- not Mary
- not Mohammad
- not Buddha

Through Christ! The true Christ, not a version of a Christ!

Colossians 2:11: “...you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands...” It is the changing of the heart with the spiritual addition of God’s Spirit *in you*.

“...in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (v 11). You’re able to overcome human nature. It’s a struggle as Rom. 7 says, and we do have to be diligent in doing it, but it is a process. It goes on and explains how you are circumcised in Christ:

Verse 12: “Having been buried with Him in baptism...” Baptism is a covenant death (Rom. 6); that’s why you’re baptized. You don’t come to Christ by reciting His name. You don’t come to Christ because some preacher says to raise your hand and you come to the altar and you’re saved.

You come to Christ because you die in covenant death of baptism! You *renounce* human nature. You *renounce* your way of living. *You fully accept God’s way!* Then He will give you of His Spirit, and you can grow in grace and knowledge and have the mind of Christ. “Having been buried with Him in baptism...”; it’s *with* Him. That’s why we have *conjoined* in Rom. 6

“...by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God...” (v 12). When you come to Christ by faith, God is then working *in you!* You can’t be strong in the Lord unless Christ is in you and God is in you!

You can have all of the carnal Christians of the world out there being warriors for Christ to try and shove ***their version*** of the laws of God down people’s throats. It’s still going to end up in a carnal mess, because you’re leaving out the spiritual things, and you haven’t been called of God to true repentance!

“...Who raised Him from the dead. For you... [Paul is talking about before this process of baptism occurred] ...who were *once* dead in *your* sins... [the wages of sin is death] ...and in the uncircumcision of your flesh...” (vs 12-13). The circumcision of Christ is not a circumcision of the flesh. *It is a circumcision of the heart*, as Paul said and wrote in Rom. 2.

“...He has *now* made alive...” (v 13). Let’s stop and think for just a minute; very important. People always ask:

- Why does God allow this?
- Why does God allow that?
- Why couldn’t God stop this, that or the other thing?

The basic answer is this:

- Where were you when you should have known about God?
- Where were you when you had a Bible in your house and you never read it?
- Where were you when the conscious God gave you told you not to do thus and such?

God was wondering where you were. If you leave Him and abandon Him, you’re going to die! So, ***God looks at all people in the world*** that He has not called ***as good as dead in the flesh!***

So therefore, since there is a second resurrection, He’s going to undo all the tragedies, all the deaths, all the abortions, all of those things. {Note any sermons for *The Last Great Day*} He can let these great tragedies happen, but because men believe in an immortal soul, ***a lying doctrine of Satan the devil***, they feel as though that since these people have died, how could God allow this to happen? *Because He’s going to resurrect them later on, and it’s going to be a lesson for them to learn!*

Do you want to bring them all back into this evil world again? Example: You save all kinds of people to bring them back into an evil world. They’re going to die anyway! All are going to die! You need to understand that.

That’s why it says, v 13: “For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive...” Now you stand before God with a circumcised heart, with the Spirit of God in a repentant attitude, having pledged your life in a maledictory death of baptism, having your sins forgiven. ***Now you are uncircumcised in heart and mind!***

“...He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses” (v 13). Then He gives you the grace where you can continually come to God and receive forgiveness.

Verse 14: “He has blotted out the note of debt...” What you have in the *King James Version* is one of the worst translation—outside of 1-John 3—in the entire New Testament! This is where they go to say that Jesus nailed the commandments to the cross. If you believe that then there’s no such thing as the law of gravity!

“...the note of debt against us...” (v 14). The laws of God are *for* us, *for* our well being, *for* blessing. Sin is against us.

“...with the decrees of our sins...” (v 14). Even the pagan religions—even in the old ancient Chinese religion as well as the Greek religion—had this: You would keep a note or decree of your sins. Every year you would take this and go to the priest and do certain rituals and then they would burn this note of sin. So, this is what Paul is referring to here. You can read that in Alexander Hislop’s *the Two Babylons*.

“...which was contrary to us... [What is contrary to us? *Sin!*] ...and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross” (v 14). Symbolically, all sin was nailed to the cross: past, present and future **upon repentance!** If you don’t, then God has the second death in the Lake of Fire, which—if you look at a volcano and running lava—you will know that is very, very final!

The object and purpose of God in our lives is to not have our sins forgiven. He has something greater! Just like the object of a woman being impregnated with a child is not the impregnation, it is the birth; all the development and everything that goes with that. Likewise with us. God’s object in having our sins forgiven is to give us a clean slate so we can go forward:

- to receive the Holy Spirit of God
- to live under His grace
- to do His will
- to keep His commandment in the Spirit of God

So that we can grow in grace and knowledge and the strength of the Lord. We have a goal and a purpose. We don’t have a ‘religious calling.’ We have a goal and purpose that is eternal forever. This is what is important.

Now, we will see the inner-play here very similar to what Paul wrote in Col. 2.:

1-John 3:1: “Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God!....” We’re also going to see that he also calls the others *the children of the devil*. We’re the children of God. Once we receive the Holy Spirit of God, our minds are opened, changed and God gives us of His Spirit for an absolute most binding spiritual reality of all, that we receive the Holy Spirit of God so that we can become the sons and daughters of God.

- that’s what it’s all about
- that’s why *we need to be strong in the Lord*

“...that we should be called the children of God!....”

Let me explain something here that the Protestants don’t have a clue. They read the *King James Version* and where it talks about adoption

(Rom. 8); so we are adopted. **NO!** That is not true!

An adoption is that you legally take and give your name to someone who is not of your own conception or begettal. Their genetics are entirely different. That is an adoption and done legally.

The true word in Rom. 8 is *sonship*. Here in 1-John 2 it is substantiated because the word *children* is ‘tekna’—meaning *your own begotten children*. In other words, children that have your own genes. We won’t get into a long drawn out discussion on how God does it, but let’s understand that we’re made in the image of God and we have genes and chromosomes that God used to make each one of us different and individual.

How God is going to use that at the resurrection only God knows. But I’m sure that He’s not going to dissolve them. I am sure that the genes and chromosomes that we have today can—with conversion—be part of the pattern that God is going to use to make us His sons and daughters.

That’s why this word ‘tekna’ is important. We are the children of God! Not adopted, not stolen, not taken care of, but the children of God, which puts us into a whole different category. So, when it says that the Law was to guard us unto Christ and be our teacher, now that faith has come this is what it’s all about.

All the neophytes go to the book of Galatians as the first book they study to try and understand the Bible. Almost all of them do; they want to understand Galatians. They should start in Genesis, not Galatians. Tackle the complicated Scriptures when you’re grounded in the fundamentals.

Same way with the book of Revelation. Some people like to go and start to understand Revelation. They don’t have a clue as to the rest of the Bible. Start in Genesis and go forward. This is very important for us to understand because we now have a:

- change of heart
- change of mind
- we are converted
- we have the Spirit of God

We are going to see, as we have in the series on *The Holy Spirit*. There are two aspects of the Spirit of God:

- the mind of Christ
- the begettal of the Father

“...For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him.”

1-John 2:3_[transcriber’s correction]: “And by this

standard we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.”

You could also put there that the world doesn’t understand us. They don’t know God. You tell someone that you:

- love God
- keep the commandment
- believe in Christ
- believe forgiveness of sin by grace
- keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days

It’s almost like taking two magnets and crossing their eyes. They can’t comprehend it.

- Are you a Jew? *No, I’m not a Jew!*
- Are you a Seventh-Day Adventist? *No, I’m not a Seventh-Day Adventist!*
- What are you? *I am a Christian!*
- How can that be?

Because Jesus said that *no one can come to the Father except through Him!*

1-John 3:2: “Beloved, now we are the children of God...” John wants us to understand that as long as you have the Spirit of God, God is looking upon you fait accompli, you are children of God!

God is not in the business of calling people so that they can commit the unpardonable sin and He can throw them into the Lake of Fire. That’s going to be a rare thing. That’s why before we get into all the things that are going to happen in this world—which *are* going to happen and they’re going to be devastating, fearful, awful, mind-blowing—I want you to be thoroughly grounded in God and in Christ, so that you’re *strong in the Lord* and you realize that this is not a fear trip.

Some Churches of God have the audacity and stupidity to say that ‘if you’re not in this church you’re going through the Tribulation.’ Well, what minister is going to decide that? Is he God? *No!* God is going to decide, you’ve got a usurper taking the prerogative and judgment of God! It’s like another man says, ‘If you’re not with my groups and just me alone you’re never going to be in the Kingdom of God.

God is going to decide who is going to be there, and you’re not going to make the judgment for God! You don’t have the secret doctrine for God. God has in His Bible, His whole Word. You’ve got to have it all. That’s what John is showing here. There are two categories:

- the children of God
- the children of the devil

“...and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested... [Christ at His return] ...**we shall be like Him**, because we shall see Him exactly as He is. And everyone who has this hope in him...” (vs 2-3). The reason that we do what we do—

- change
- repent
- grow
- overcome
- keep the commandments of God
- study the Word of God
- let the Spirit of God come to us
- let the Spirit of God lead us

—is because of this hope!

Verse 3: “And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.” How do you purify yourself? *Through Christ, repentance and all the things that I have mentioned here!*

Here is the dividing line, v 4: “Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness.” *Sin is the transgression of the Law!* Lawlessness is worse. It’s not just sinning by breaking a law. ***Lawlessness in its truest sense is rejecting the Word of God totally! In its religious sense, it’s picking and choosing what you will do and won’t do***, and then casting away the rest of the laws of God, which makes it lawless. Lawless is that *you decide* what is good and evil, which goes back to the Garden of Eden.

God has given His Word, and our decision is: Do we love **God** and keep His commandments? **or** Do we love **our way more** and go that way?

What did Jesus say would happen before His return? *Sin shall abound because lawlessness will multiply* (Matt. 24). That’s what you’re seeing in the world!

Verse 5: “And you know that He appeared in order that He might take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.”

If you’ve got a *King James Version*, forget about reading the rest of it, because you won’t understand it. It is absolutely, if not the first, it’s the second worst translated place in the *King James*. You need to get *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A faithful Version* (**cbcg.org** or **afaithfulversion.org**).

It says in (*KJV*) that he was *born of God*. No one is born of God now, because that doesn’t take place until the resurrection. It says that you cannot sin, because that’s impossible. The only way you cannot sin is if you have been transformed from flesh to spirit. In Christ there is no sin. *We can be*

sinless upon repentance, but we are not without sin! We still have 'the law of sin and death' in us. One is a standing before God, and one is the reality of the flesh.

Verse 6: "**Everyone who dwells in Him...**" The way that you're going to be strong in God is that you are dwelling in Christ and Christ in you. It talks about dwelling in Christ and Christ in you (John 15).

"...does not *practice* sin..." (v 6). It could not mean *does not sin* because Rom. 7 tells us about the pull of carnal nature. You do things you don't want to do. You have 'the law of sin and death' in you. But you don't practice sin!

What happens when you sin, or the reality of sin comes, and God makes it known to you in your mind. You repent! Why? *Because you can't practice it!* You can't go on living in sin because God's Spirit is going to convict you. That's what it's talking about.

"...anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him, nor has known Him" (v 6). What is sin? *Transgressing the Law and lawlessness!* So, if a preacher stands up—you can identify all the liars in the pulpit—and says that God didn't mean what He said. **or** Christ did away with the Law. He didn't! Christ said He came to *fulfill*!

"...anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him, nor has known Him" (v 6). They had ministers coming around back then saying you didn't have to keep the Law, and say, 'I've seen the Lord.'

Verse 7: "Little children, do not allow anyone to deceive you..." Once we have the circumcision of the heart, our mind is opened to Truth, to discern error, to discern deception.

"...the one who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous" (v 7) Note Rom. 8:1-3). God does not condemn us.

Let's relate this to the sermon series: *Keys to Answered Prayer*. What do we pray for every day? *Forgiveness of sin!* We also pray for the Kingdom of God to come. We first honor God, then the kingdom to come, then His will be done on earth, and that means in our lives, as it is in heaven. Forgive us our sins! That's how we are righteous and He is righteous.

Not that we can independently from God, independently of the Holy Spirit be perfect as Christ was perfect. That's not what it's talking about. But the way that God views us is called the future perfect: God looks upon us now as we will be at the resurrection. That's evidenced in Rom. 8 where it says that 'those whom He has called, those whom He has justified, and He has glorified.

Receiving the Holy Spirit gives us a bit of the glory of God, but the glorification comes at the resurrection. But the future perfect tells us that God looks upon it as accomplished, because just as Christ said when He died, 'It is finished!' It will be completed, all of it together, because that is a future perfect completed deed.

This is going to hurt some people, and all you good Protestants out there who think that you are good people, you who keep Halloween, Christmas, Easter, New Years—all the pagan holidays—and *you know* and *your preacher knows*, that all of these came from paganism.

Note book: *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* That will be an absolute eye-opener for you, because there are millions of people who think they are doing the will of God and they are not. They are deceived! That's why this verse becomes so important:

Verse 8: "The one who practices sin **is of the devil...**" Remember, there is a good side of the devil. There is a beautiful side of the devil. The devil will come to you with *his gospel*, which is the good news of lawlessness: *the laws of God have been done away*:

- you don't have to keep the Sabbath
- you don't have to keep the Holy Days
- you don't have to observe the laws of clean and unclean meats

And on and on! That's sin! If you do those things you are practicing sin! ***If you observe Sunday, you are practicing sin every week!*** You can't find any place in the Old or New Testaments where God changed the Sabbath. You also believe a lie concerning which day is the resurrection. "The one who practices sin **is of the devil...**"

- Do you *know* the Ten Commandments?
- Do you *keep* the Ten Commandments?
- Do you *know* the commandments of Jesus Christ?

As He magnified it in the Spirit of the Law (Matt. 5-7) and through all the writings of the apostles: James, Peter, John and Jude, and the Apostle Paul.

- Are you keeping those?

"...because the devil has been sinning from *the* beginning. For this purpose the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil" (v 8). Let's see what John is building up to, because this is building up to really quite a thing to understand.

Verse 9: "**Everyone who has been begotten by God does not practice sin...**" What did Peter tell the 'religious' leaders when the apostles were

arrested? They were told, 'Don't you go out there and preach in this name anymore, because you're filling Jerusalem with all of this heretical doctrine.' Peter said, 'Do you think it's right? Who do you think we should obey? Men? or God?' For that they were beaten.

You don't practice sin, "...because His seed... [the seed of the Holy Spirit, the earnest of the Holy Spirit] ...*of begettal* is dwelling within him, and **he is not able to practice sin because he has been begotten by God**" (v 9).

- God will reveal your sins to you if you have the Holy Spirit of God
- God will convict you in heart and mind

If you turn back on the conviction of heart and mind, then you are taking the steps to committing the unpardonable sin.

Remember: ***As long as there is life, you still have choice and you can repent, there is hope!***

Verse 9: "Everyone who has been begotten by God... [the Father] ...does not practice sin **because His seed of begettal is dwelling within him, and he is not able to practice sin because he has been begotten by God.**"

Let's use another analogy here: If a woman is pregnant, she's unable to be impregnated until the completion of the birth of that child. Everything is sealed off. Likewise with God's Spirit. ***He seals you with His Spirit!***

How can something happen to a physical birth? *An accident or an abortion!* Likewise spiritually! If you with predetermined malice turn your back on God, you will lose the Spirit of God. Just like if a woman has an abortion, or she has a miscarriage, that ends it.

We began with v 1 and we end with v 10: "By this *standard* are manifest the children of God and the children of the devil...."

- the devil has his children
- the devil has his servants
- the devil is called 'the god of this world'
- the majority of people in this world serve him and his religions

There's a dividing line! It's like life and death! You either belong to Christ or you belong to the devil. It doesn't matter what you feel in your heart and how good you may think you are.

- if you don't love God and keep His commandments
- if you don't love the brethren
- if you don't love your neighbor as yourself

- if you don't continually practice the righteousness of Christ

which means when you sin—because you can't practice sin—you repent and God forgives you and you go on. All of that is implied here.

Verse 10: "By this *standard* are manifest the children of God and the children of the devil. **Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God...**"

- all of His commandments are righteousness
- the Spirit of God is righteousness
- keeping the commandments in the Spirit of God is righteousness

And the true righteousness above all of that is the love of God; that you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. Then you have the faith of God, the faith of Christ.

"...and neither is the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from *the* beginning: that we should love one another" (vs 10-11).

Today true Christians are called 'primitive Christians,' that we are like the Geico caveman. Well, let's put the shoe on the other foot. Those who do not love God and keep the teachings of Christ, as they were taught in the beginning by Him and the apostles, you are *primitive satanists*, because Satan sins from the beginning.

We will show in part five how that some of the most religious people in the world, who even profess Christ, but didn't believe Him. Jesus said, 'You are of your father the devil!'

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in It's Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Galatians 3:22-26
- 2) Deuteronomy 5:15, 27-29
- 3) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- 4) Deuteronomy 5:32-33
- 5) Deuteronomy 6:1-5, 4
- 6) Romans 2:25-29
- 7) Colossians 2:10, 9, 11
- 8) John 14:6
- 9) Colossians 2:11-14
- 10) 1 John 3:1
- 11) 1 John 2:3
- 12) 1 John 3:2-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 3
- 2 Corinthians 6
- Romans 7; 6
- Matthew 24
- John 15
- Romans 8:1-3
- Matthew 5-7

Also referenced:

Books:

- *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum
- *The Late Great U.S.A.* by Jerome R. Corsi Ph.D.
- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon Series: *Keys to Answered Prayer*

FRC:bo

Transcribed: 1/14/16

Be Strong in the Lord V

(Overcome Self, Society and Satan)

Fred R. Coulter

Know your enemy! We're going to examine and how we can resist and fight against sin and overcome:

- *self*
- *society*
- *Satan*

Stop and think about it, those of us living in the end-time have so many things that busy us that there are a lot of people who never, never have time for God. That's why at the end-time you have what is called the Laodicean Church.

Let me read an e-mail that someone sent to me, which is very interesting that they pass on to different people in the world, and so forth. As I was watching the news, I saw on Fox News that they had a 10th anniversary celebration of Princess Diana. They made a big church deal out of it and had public services and they were singing the hymn: Follow the Great Redeemer. It panned the audience of people and about half of them were singing, and half of them were not singing, and I suppose in each half that there were people who were sort of muttering a little bit.

I thought about this e-mail that was sent. It starts out:

Subject: Proud to be His child

This is a wake up e-mail for me. Read it only if you have time for God.

So, whoever wrote this said to read it from beginning to end. It starts out this way:

God, when I received this e-mail I thought I didn't have time for this, and this is really inappropriate during work. Then I realized that this kind of thinking is exactly what has caused a lot of the problems in our work today.

We try to keep God in church on Sunday morning.

Or in the cases of the Church of God, on the Sabbath.

Maybe Sunday night...

Or we could say Friday night.

...and the unlikely event of a mid-week service. We do like to have Him around during sickness, and of course, at funerals.

However, we don't have time or room for Him during work or play, because that's the part of

our life that we think we can and should handle on our own.

May God forgive me for ever thinking that there is a time or place where He is not first in my life. We should always have time to remember all He has done for us.

Every time you breathe, **God** has made that possible!

If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow the directions. Jesus said that 'if you're ashamed of Me I will be ashamed of you before My Father.'

Not ashamed? Pass this on only if you mean it!

You could say that this is a perfect Laodicean.

Yes, I do love God. He is my Source of existence and Savior. He keeps me functioning each and every day. Without Him I would be nothing, but with Christ He strengthens me.

This is the simplest test if you love God and are not ashamed of all the marvelous things He's done for you.

Do you have time to pass this on, or not? Make sure you scroll through on your computer screen to the end.

Easy vs hard:

Why is so hard to tell the truth, yet, so easy to tell a lie?

Why is it that we are so sleepy in church, but right when the sermon is over we're suddenly wide awake?

Why is it easy to delete Godly e-mail, yet, we forward all the nasty ones?

Of all the free gifts we receive, prayer is the very best one. There are no costs, but wonderful rewards; God's blessings.

Notes: Isn't it funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world is going to hell. Isn't it funny...

And we should put tragic, because it's not funny!

...how someone can say, "I believe in God" but still follow Satan, who by the way also believes in God.

Isn't it tragic how you can send a thousand jokes through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing them?

Isn't it tragic how when you go to forward this message you will not send it to many on your e-mail address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it to them?

Isn't it tragic how I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me?

I pray for everyone who sends this entire message to their full address list. They will be blessed by God in a special way for them. Send it back to the person who sent it to you, to let them know that it was sent out to many more.

There was a survey taken on Fox News as to why different nations hate America. They hate us mostly because they can't understand why a nation would be so wrapped up in worshipping God—the majority of the people, and that means Jesus Christ and God the Father, howbeit the majority is on Sunday—because they have been 'liberated' from that sort of thing. They're all now secular.

Really, it's a hatred toward Christ and a hatred toward how God blessed this nation because of the blessings that came from Abraham. We are truly the last place in the world where the Gospel is preached, whether fully in truth or partially in truth.

The other thing they hate us for is because we're hard-working. We work 40 or more hours a week. They can't understand that because they work, if they can get away with it, four days. Some like to work three days and most work four days. In Europe they get nearly six weeks vacation. It's made them almost broke!

When we get down to the thing concerning this coming election, if it goes to Hillary we're going back to an Americanized version of communism, pure and simple! Instead of relying on God, the secularists want you to rely on the government, which is filled with corrupt men from the TOP to the bottom. There are varying degrees and kinds of corruption. I'm not talking about sexual corruption. There is:

- loyalty corruption
- treasonable corruption
- secret deals at the highest levels

though denied publicly, that are going on.

We, in the end-time have a lot to fight against, more than any other generation. Also, another thing that is true is that you need to understand that being a Christian is not easy.

If you lived in a country where everyone did the same thing, had the same laws, believed the

same thing... Israel started doing that, the 12 tribes of Israel, but God had to take 40 years and purge them in the wilderness before they finally got to the mindset that when they came into the 'promised land'—when Joshua brought them in—they were willing to follow God.

How long did it last? *As soon as Joshua and the elders died, everyone forgot about God because they were out doing their pleasures and things, what they wanted to do!* They soon got involved with the gods of the other lands, they were intermarrying when God said don't intermarry. That's the same sin that came before the Flood, and it wasn't demons and women before the Flood.

So, the whole situation is entirely different because now instead of living in a nation, the true believers are scattered in all nations throughout the whole world.

This creates special problems. Here is why it's different: If you live in a nation where everyone obeys the same laws, has the same rule of faith, the society will be—if they're obedient at higher level... You won't eliminate sin, but there will be less sin, crime and so forth.

When you do away with God, you end up with lawlessness, and that's where we are coming to, and that's why I wanted to give these sermons *Be Strong in the Lord* before I dump upon you all the things that are going to come.

You will be strengthened by the Feast of Tabernacles to know what is going to come and replace it. But here's how it's different.

Now the Gospel goes out into *all* the world, *all* societies, which have different laws, different norms, different gods and different ethics. Yet, we are to live within that society and be a light to the world, and show the kindness of God and the Truth. The Protestants have it that you show the goodness of God in a mushy self-righteous attitude.

Another way you show the righteousness of God is ***standing firm for the laws and commandments of God!*** That's what He's given us to show us how to conduct our lives.

Here's how it's been from the beginning and what Jesus is explaining to His disciples when He sent them out on their missionary trip. Starting with the preaching of John the Baptist, God was beginning to turn the whole nation of Judea upside down in preparation for turning the world upside down.

Now you no longer live in a society where everyone, as a norm, generally kept the laws of God. Now you live in a society where you keep them in

the spirit, and your loyalty is not to any government, but ***your love and loyalty goes to God and Jesus Christ, before anything else!*** That's why it is difficult for us!

- Once a Catholic always a Catholic. My mother and father were Catholics, if that's good enough for them, that's good enough for me.
- Once a Buddhist always a Buddhist. My mother and father were Buddhists, if that's good enough for them, that's good enough for me.
- Once a Muslim, always a Muslim...

Yes, let me have Jihad and kill everybody I can and I will show my righteousness that way.

No! That's not what God wants! Your love and loyalty is between you and God the Father and Jesus Christ. It's going to create conflicts in many cases in your daily life. It's going to create conflicts in how you view the society in which you live when you see the society's standard of living and God's demands on how we need to live.

Matthew 10:32: Now then, whoever shall confess Me before men, that one will I also confess before My Father Who *is* in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men..." (vs 32-33). You deny God in wicked works (Titus 1), as well as saying:

- I deny Christ
- I do not believe Christ
- the Bible is a pack of lies

Or as someone just gave me a clipping of 'Brother Robinson' of the Episcopal Church, the homosexual who was ordained as a bishop. Yes, it split the Episcopal Church. It should, because there are some people who don't go along with the homosexuality that he embraced. Now he's going to 'marry' his longtime partner and still be a bishop.

But it's ***not of God***, because he's serving Satan the devil! That's part of the society that we live in. This is why God demands this kind of love, obedience, faith and loyalty.

Verse 34: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth..." It began with His ministry. His ministry—we can look back on it now and say, 'Yea, wonderful, right and good. But viewed then He was a rebel, against the establishment. That's why they killed Him!

I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (v 34). A different kind of sword. Not an Islamic sword to lop your head off. A sword of division that cuts deeper than anything. ***It separates you from everyone else!***

You are blessed if both husband and wife

are in the Church. Many are not. Here's the sword:

Verse 35: "For I have come to set a man at variance against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's enemies *shall be those of his own household*. The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me" (vs 35-38). Totally different standard of behavior!

Verse 39: "The one who has found his life shall lose it..." That is if you find your life in the world, you're going to lose it.

"...and the one who has lost his life for My sake... in Christ and the way of God, to live God's way] ...shall find it" (v 39). You shall find eternal life.

Verse 40: "The one who receives you receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him Who sent Me." No longer are you dealing with a priest who 'represents' God. A true minister represents God the Father and Jesus Christ as long he's preaching the Truth. When you reject the Truth you're rejecting God, because that comes from God. It's an entirely different story. The stakes are a whole lot higher.

Because God is merciful and kind, even in goodness, v 41: "The one who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive *the* reward of a prophet; and the one who receives a righteous *man* in *the* name of a righteous *man* shall receive the reward of a righteous *man*. And *if* anyone shall in *the* name of a disciple give to one of these little ones to drink a cup of cold *water* only, truly I say to you, he shall in no way lose his reward" (vs 41-42).

Now let's see what sort of difference this is going to provide for us. Jesus is talking about John the Baptist in Matt. 11. This is why Jesus came and all the miracles that He did as the spiritual stamp of approval of God. God was going to destroy the nation that He created, of which the remnant was the Jews at that point. Later the blessing of the end-time would come to Ephraim and Manasseh, of which the greater part of that today is the United States of America. We need to keep that in mind.

Jesus was talking about John the Baptist because John was in prison and he heard about what Jesus was doing and he sent his disciples to Him.

Matthew 11:3: "Saying to Him, 'Are You the One Who is coming, or are we to look for another?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and report to John what you hear and see: *The* blind receive sight, and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are

cleansed, and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised, and *the* poor are evangelized. **And blessed is everyone who shall not be offended in Me**” (vs 3-6). That’s particularly true in the Jewish society of that time, and is particularly true of the ongoing Jewish society scattered around the world that rejects Jesus Christ.

As a matter of fact, I was reading a very interesting article on how in the 1890s a Jewish man was reading the Old Testament and Isa. 53 was missing. He asked the rabbi why Isa. 53 was missing. ‘That’s because the Christians take that and apply it to that renegade Jesus.’ They actually removed it from some of their Scriptures. Amazing!

Verse 6: “**And blessed is everyone who shall not be offended in Me**”—because He *requires all of you!* Not just part of you, *all of you!*

Another thing to remember is that you cannot appease other religions to go along to get along. It’s like in the Netherlands, there was a Catholic priest who started out the prayer, ‘Our Father’ as ‘our Allah!’ So, they’re being Muslimized! ***They’re coming and they will not stop, they will not cease, because the people of Israel won’t repent!***

Verse 7: “And as they were leaving, Jesus said to the multitudes concerning John...”—because everybody goes to gawk and see, and that was something to see John: long hair, long beard, great flowing eyebrows and piercing eyes. If you looked at him it would pierce right through you. He told them all to repent! He called the leading ones from Jerusalem and the priesthood—the Pharisees and the Levites—***vipers!*** He got away with it because he was the son of a priest, but he didn’t get away with it totally. It was finagled for him to die.

People like to go to God, people like to go and see, “...‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by *the* wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?...’” (vs 7-8). ***No!*** You went out to see a wild longhaired priest clothed in camel hair and he ate locust and honey.

Today you would call that ‘weird.’ And many people were offended because of John. Sometimes God does things just to show the complete difference that something greater is going to follow. That’s what He did with John.

“...Behold, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses” (v 8). Yes, they have all the finest garments, all the matching colors, jewelry, crowns, shoes. Like Amelda Marcos, you open up her closet and 3,000 pair of shoes and she has ‘nothing to wear.’ The king has all of these garments. What will you wear to see the king? ***Well, I’ve worn that***

once... Or the queen, ‘This is not quite the right perfume for me.’ Could you image talking this way to Queen Elizabeth? You would be run off.

Verse 9: “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and *one* more excellent than a prophet. For this is *he* of whom it is written... [Jesus is telling them Who He is; they all knew Mal. 3] ...‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You.’ Truly I say to you, there has not arisen among *those* born of women *anyone* greater than John the Baptist. **But the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he**” (vs 9-11). You think about that whenever you get a little discouraged. God has something so fantastic and great for you.

Verse 12: “**For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven is taken with a great struggle, and the zealous ones lay hold on it.**”

It’s not that you’re born into a ‘religious’ family and now you are a good person because that is a ‘religious’ family. It is not that you are born in a country where they all have the same laws and standards, and now you’re just fine with God because you’re living there. ***It is no longer who you are, it is what you are!*** You belong to God!

Verse 13: “For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.” Let’s see the parallel of this. This tells us *why* it is more difficult. Being a true Christian is ***a struggle against self, society and Satan!*** It’s a constant warfare *spiritually* that must be empowered by

- love of God
- the Spirit of God
- the Truth of God
- with God’s Spirit within you

Luke 16:13—this is apropos today: “No servant is able to serve two masters... [that’s why you can’t compromise with evil] ...for either he will hate the one... [showing a process of time] ...and he will love the other; or he will hold to *the* one and will despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”

- you cannot serve God and ***self***
- you cannot serve God in the wicked ***society***
- you cannot serve God and compromise with ***evil***

Verse 14: “Now the Pharisees, who were also covetous, heard all these things; and they ridiculed Him.” Notice Jesus answer, and is the reason that they hated Him. He told the truth!

Verse 15: “And He said to them, ‘You are

those who justify themselves before men...” Read any news and anyone caught in trouble. Everyone is right! We’ll talk about self and the deception of it a little later. You’re supposed to let God justify you, not your self.

“...but God knows your hearts...” (v 15). That’s one of the names of God: *the heart-knowing God!* God is not just looking down to a nation—though He does to the nations of the world because He has to judge them—but to each one individually, and God knows the heart!

“...for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination before God” (v 15). Those are strong words! You can apply this to anything. Look at the current morass of all of these young starlet women who are in the news, who are nothing more than walking wanton women seeking their own pleasure. Everything they do they justify themselves.

God says that it’s an abomination! The news justifies them. Look at the situation with the dog fighting with Michael Vick. Justifies himself. He has to admit what he did a little bit because he got caught so deeply. But they justified him because he was such a good athlete; he is redeemable and he should play football again.

Verse 16: “The Law and the Prophets *were* until John; from that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and everyone zealously strives to enter it.”

Here are the qualification to follow Christ. You never have these qualifications at all just to live in this society. He’s talking to those who followed Him; let’s see how this all came about. He was invited to eat at a Pharisees’ house on the Sabbath and so forth. After Jesus told them that none of them are going to be in the Kingdom of God. Whoa! *They thought they were the Kingdom of God*, of which the Roman Catholic Church thinks that it is today.

The Catholics view it as the Kingdom of God is the rulership of the pope over the Catholic Church. If you belong to the Catholic Church you’re in the Kingdom of God now. The Kingdom of Heaven is where the souls go that are righteous, when you die. In order to keep people held in fear, they’ve had to create purgatory and hell.

That’s not what God wants! When you watch any religious network you will find very few ministers bring this up, because they throw out the great welcome sign: Everybody Come! Here’s what Jesus said:

Luke 14:25: “And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned *and* said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate...’” (vs 25-26). If you love God more than... And there is the sort of variance between your father, mother,

brother, sister and everything. They believe you hate them. So, you love God more than:

“...his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, **his own life also**, he cannot be My disciple” (v 26). That’s the strongest Greek form of the complete inability to be His disciple.

You actually love them more if you follow Christ, because in the long run then you’ll be able to help them into the Kingdom of God in the second resurrection, if they don’t repent in this life.

And everything will be happy from then on and you just go and attend your local church, and ‘when the rapture comes you’ll be saved.’ **NO!**

Verse 27: “And whoever does not carry his cross...”—showing troubles, difficulties, trials, tests, anguish. That’s why you have to strive zealously to enter in. That’s why you always have to:

- combat the *self*
- combat the *society*
- combat *Satan*

“...and come after Me **cannot be My disciple**” (v 27)—the *impossibility* of it! Jesus said that He is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life and **no one** can come to the Father *except through Me*.’

Recently there was an add on television trying to foster understanding and cooperation between ‘religions.’ It shows a Catholic praying with his hands together pointed to heaven, a Jew doing the same thing rocking back and forth at the Wailing Wall, a Buddhist doing the same thing rocking back and forth wherever he is praying. I don’t know if it showed a Muslim or not, but the Muslims pride themselves in that they do not commit idolatry; they have no idols ‘like those dirty Catholics and we need to behead all of them because they have all of those.’

And the Buddhists: Remember what happened in Afghanistan when the Taliban came in? Here’s this big Buddha carved into the side of a mountain and the Taliban went up there with dynamite and blew his belly and head clear out. Then the Americans said, ‘Well, we’ll rebuild this with concrete.’

The truth is that if you try to get everyone to co-exist and please each other without the Spirit of God, without the love of God, you’re false prophets daubing with untempered mortar, and it’s all going to fall apart. That’s what’s going to happen in the end-time. Then it says that you have to ‘count the cost.’

Here is the world we live in and what we are confronted with. Satan doesn’t think of it this way,

because he is the 'god of this world.' He is proud that he has all the nations of the world in the palm of his hands.

1-John 5:18: "We know that anyone who is begotten by God does not *practice* sin..." It doesn't mean you don't have sin, but you can repent of those sins. You don't live and practice sin!

"...for the one who has been begotten by God keeps himself... [and the only way he can] ...*by the power of God*, and the wicked one does not touch him." (v 18). It doesn't mean that he can't cause contrary problems and circumstance.

Here's what we need to know, and ask this question of yourself, and you have to answer it before God, v 19: "**We know that we are of God...**" Isn't that something? You know by keeping His commandments, and by His Spirit that is in you!

"...and *that* the whole world lies **in the power of the wicked one**" (v 19). Let's see how He accomplishes this.

Can you imagine, brethren, that for all these years, though we've had the Truth of God, most of the Bibles we've had—until we did *The Holy Bible in It's Original Order, A Faithful Version*—followed the pattern set by Jerome. So, the clutches of the Catholic Church, even in that much, reached into the Churches of God.

God made sure that they didn't get rid of Scriptures. Some versions added more, some versions took a little bit out, but they didn't eliminate the Scriptures altogether. God made sure that that was always there.

We need to understand how this society is the way that it is:

Ephesians 2:1: "Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins." This is before God calls us and up to the time that He calls us.

Verse 2: "In which you walked in times past... [notice the past tense] ...according to the course of this world... [this society] ...according to the prince of the power of the air..."—Satan the devil! That's why no single nation or community can ever, *ever*, *ever* set itself apart and create a righteous community on earth so that it will always be righteous, because Satan is always there and human nature is always there.

Granted, you can get away from some of the more evil things, but you can never create a truly righteous society because that's the business of Jesus Christ when the Kingdom of God comes.

(go to the next track)

The prince of the power of the air has a lot

of help now, and a lot of technology. That can be used for good or evil. But he's able to project sin everywhere in the world over and over again in this society that we are living in today. No society has ever been confronted with all of the imagery and sin coming right into your very own home via television, iPhones, cell phones, Black Berries, TV players, music that you can mainline straight into Satan and his music, pounding into your ears—or you could listen to Scriptures as you're going along, *true*. But nevertheless, all of those are there and you go out to just the ordinary store, your local supermarket, and what you have is various degrees of pornography on every magazine, and they're 99.99% geared toward women.

Satan knows—beginning with the Garden of Eden—that's who to get to first. That doesn't mean that women are sinners more than men, it just means that a woman's nature is easier to get to than a man's.

Hold on, we do use the Internet to get God's Word out, so those things I'm talking about are for good or for evil. They could also have a Bible for sale right there, or a children's Bible coloring book for sale right there. They could also have how to overcome self and sin right there. But they don't! They have how to indulge in self, how to indulge in sin, and it appeals especially to women because women know instantly. They have a view that men do not have. When they see another woman, they know exactly what she's wearing, whether it's color coordinated, whether she is skinny, fat, good looking or not, and all of vain good looking women all sort of cloister together and talk with each other and look down upon all of those ordinary kind of stout and somewhat fat women.

I've seen this happen over and over again; that's just the way it is. Men have their own secret little things that they do, too. Men have their clubs, sports and things like this. That's just the way that the world is.

What I've just said, don't think that's an attack upon women, but is that not the way that the society is. Satan knows this, and it's true, that's why God said:

Leviticus 19:29:^[transcriber's correction] "You shall not prostitute your daughter to cause her to be a whore, lest the land fall to whoredom, and **the land become full of wickedness.**"

When sexual freedom—so called, because it's actually sexual bondage—was given to women, women are the ones whom God wants to protect the morality of a society.

When the greater number of women are

given over to adultery, fornication and other sexual sins, the society deteriorates rapidly. Don't anyone think that I'm excusing men's sins. I'm not! But that's just a fact, and if you're not willing to look at facts the way the world is, then you don't really understand what is going on.

That's something that needs to be considered. Women know how to have all men's heads turned; the way they dress and what they expose. That's why God put the morality on the women, because if they are moral the men will be moral. If the women are not moral, the men won't be moral. So don't think I'm attacking women, because 55% of women have had many so-called partners. Every woman's magazine that you want to find going out of your local supermarket will have some article on how to compromise a woman's sexual morality, teaching them how to 'hook up' with men. That's where the word 'hooker' comes from.

Living in the world today, it all boils down to individual responsibility, but what I'm saying is that this is part of the society that is out there. Watch every television show and what do they have? *Everything against God!* What do all of the soap opera series do? *They're all involved in adulterous triangles!* Sooner or later! You're going to see more and more open sex on television, but there are 33-million women hooked on porn, to say nothing of the men.

Sex is the first tool that Satan uses to begin to turn people away from God. It starts at an early age. He's the 'prince of the power of the air,' and when that happens and you begin to think these thoughts then it is:

Ephesians 2:2: "...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience... [because as you think, so you are] ...among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh..." (vs 2-3). We have *all* had sin, some to greater degrees or lesser degrees. We will see that sin is a part of human nature and what that does to the society.

"...doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind... [all the sin, wretchedness and all the things that come along with it] ...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as the rest of the world" (v 3).

Here is our first defense against it, and we will see why, 1-John 2:15: "Do not love the world..." Who is the 'god of this world'? *Satan the devil!* We are to love God the Father and Jesus Christ *first!*

"...nor the things *that are* in the world..." (v 15). I don't know if you've seen this ad, I'm sure you have because I'm sure that Mercedes-Benz has

put it on every channel in the world. It starts out showing a woman hugging her Mercedes-Benz. 'I love you, I love you, I love you.' Then it shows a man, 'I love you, I love you, I love you.'

They worship the things that *their hands make*. Have you ever seen an ad saying, 'God, I love You, I love You, I love You'? *or* 'Jesus Christ, I love You, I love You, I love You'? No! But a car!

The obviously implication is that if you love any other car... Things that are in the world, whatever it is! And all of those who have all the wealth in the world and have all the things in the world, what have they found out? *They never satisfy!* And they strive for more and more. It's just like drugs, once you start you need more and more, until it comes to the point that it blows your mind, and you know you've got to stop! It's like Solomon said, 'All is vanity and vexation of spirit.'

Verse 16: "Because **everything that is in the world**—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is **not from the Father, but is from the world.**" We're not to model ourselves after the world.

Verse 17: "And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever."

With all of that, let's see what kind of world it has created and see the reasons for it. We'll put it all together, and combine everything that we have said together. The whole point is that in order to be *strong in the Lord* you have got to be able to have the spiritual strength and courage to fight and resist these things; to know the things that are right and wrong and avoid the things that are wrong.

That's why one of the greatest things that they have invented is the remote control for televisions. I use it all the time. No one can watch television with me, because if there's an ad I don't like, I'm out of here. Even when I'm driving in the car, when a commercial comes on, down goes the volume. I don't listen to commercials. I don't need all that nonsense in my mind. A lot of these commercials that are on television I don't need to see them. We'll talk about what needs to be done and especially for men.

2-Timothy 3:1: "Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.... [*They are here!*] ...for men..." (vs 1-2). Men are not to be slighted in all of this just because I happen to bring out the sins of women, and women sort of 'raise the flag': 'you're against women.' *No I'm not!* The Bible talks more about the sins of men than women.

Verse 2: "For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, braggarts, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without

natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, despisers of those who are good, betrayers, reckless, egotistical, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (vs 2-4). I just read to you the evening news and society! Lovers of self and lovers of pleasure!

Do we not have more things, more gadgets, more boats, more planes, more clothes, more sports! You've got so many sports that you watch, rather than God!

Verse 5: "Having an outward appearance of Godliness, but denying the power of *true* Godliness. But *as for you*, **turn away from all these**." That's a start of what we need to do.

Verse 6: "For from *men such as these* come those who are worming their way into houses, and are gaining control over empty-headed *gullible* women given over to *various* sins, *being* driven by all kinds of lust. *They are* always learning but *are* never able to come to *the* knowledge of *the* Truth" (vs 6-7).

Now let's look at the complicity of human nature. Here are some Scriptures that we should have memorized:

Proverbs 14:12; 16:25: "There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death."

Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Jeremiah 10:23: "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; *it is* not in man who walks to direct his steps."

That's why all the humanism in the world, rejecting God and His laws and commandments is going to fail. Look at the political system in any nation of the world. It may have some degrees of success, but it eventually fails. Look at all the ancient empires of the past. Where are they? *Archeological wonders of destroyed temples and ruined civilizations, and underground cities as they have it today.*

Romans 8:7: "...the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God..."

What lies in the human heart? What did Jesus say lies in the human heart? When Adam and Eve said that they wanted evil and we want to choose our way, God said, 'All right, I'll put a little bit of evil in you. Now let's see how you do.' That's called 'the law of sin and death.'

Let's see what Jesus said is the innermost driving force of all human beings that affects the society.

Mark 7:20: "And He said, 'That which springs forth from *within* a man, that defiles the man.'"

Everything about you comes from the inside out. Yes, the outside going in can affect you in two ways:

1. you agree with it, you accept it, you adopt it, you live by it and make it part of you
2. you reject it as not right and evil and don't go by it

We have choices of everything that we do. But here is why all societies go wrong. Let's understand that when there was Cain and Abel, there probably not many sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve around at that time. *Josephus* says that they had 56 children, so you cannot say that the society affected Cain to make him kill his brother. That came from within and motivated by Satan.

Verse 21: "For from within, out of the hearts of men... [that also includes evil thoughts] ...go forth **evil thoughts**..." A lot of evil thoughts sound pretty good: 'Let's go to a ball game on Friday night. That's good, that's fun, yes, let's do it.' *No!* That's breaking the Sabbath!

There are a lot of evil thoughts that appear good, so you have to sort it out, what is the end thereof? Notice after evil thoughts, what comes next? *Sex sins!*

"...adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; **all these evils go forth from within, and these defile a man**" (vs 21-23).

That's our human nature. That the nature of every human being on earth. Whatever degree they follow God's way, they have a little semblance of civilization. But in most cases where they don't, you have evil, evil societies. If you think ours is here in the United States of America, you ought to compare it to some of the other societies of the world that are in the grips of Satan the devil.

Let's take this on a personal level and how our choices are affected and how our choices affect what we do and affect God.

Proverbs is written for young people, men and women. We have choices. Sometimes we do things that are dumb and stupid and we escape without too much of a problem. If we learn the lesson we can go on and not do that.

I remember one man who said that when he was a boy he wanted to find out what would happen if he dropped a match into a can of gasoline. It was a

five-gallon can of gasoline. It had a little spout on it and he took the cap off the spout, lit a match and dropped it in, but it went out. Had it not gone out, he'd no longer be here.

Another man said that when he was a kid he took a 22 shell and he attached it to a board and then pressed down on the board hit where the firing pin was supposed to go, and yes, it went off and it blew up. It wasn't like in a barrel of a gun where the projectile would go out, it just blew up in pieces, and didn't hurt him.

In both cases they lucked out. Let me just say this, and we all know this as adults; young people growing up have yet to learn this. Most kids, if they are taught right from wrong when they are little, they grow up and are relatively decent until they start hitting the teens. Then when they hit the teens they are beginning to mature into adults. They are neither children—though some of their behavior is still childish—nor adults. With this new sense of development and observing the faults of adults, which they didn't see in the same perspective that they did before, now feel empowered to go choose their own way.

This can happen as early as 12 on into 13-17; dangerous, dangerous years because you feel more adult than you do a child. Plus, you also have all of the sex drives now beginning to pound in your body and in your mind, which did not affect you when you were a little child.

All of this presents you with problems and choices. Years ago when they were taught to honor father and mother they did not have nearly the problem. Nevertheless, I know, you know and everyone else knows—and even all the young people know—that when you get with your friends apart from your parents, you always do things that you wouldn't do at home. Nearly always!

Note that 30-40 years ago it wasn't so bad. You had the wild boy or girl and it was an exception. Today, 80% are wild, because that's how they're taught in school. That's what they feed into their minds with their music. That's because they have kicked God out of the society.

Here we have why all young people need to study the Proverbs. And all adults need to study the Proverbs to get your head screwed on right. If you don't, you're going to reach a point that there will not be help.

Delores and I saw a special on dying for 'meth'; once you get into that, regardless of the age—man or woman, child or adult—and get hooked on it, most of them say once you take it, once is enough. Satan's way is 'try it, you'll like it.'

It actually is so caustic to the system it changes the physiognomy of the face and of the body, knocks out all the teeth. They showed a dentist opening a 'meth mouth.' Dentists are making a fortune on it now: rotten teeth, missing teeth, gaunt, can't think, hooked! Barely able to function, set to die at an early age.

What I want to do is show you the consequences of the way that the society is today. It still affects people in the churches today, because they're coming out of this, and some are going back into it.

Proverbs 1:24: "Because I called, and you refused... [this is wisdom coming from God, even just basic wisdom of right and wrong] ...to hearken, I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; but you have despised all my counsel..." (vs 24-25). Think of our whole society:

- you can't mention God
- you can't pray to God
- you can't praise God

You can't even stand up and say when someone says, 'Why are you successful?' *Because I believe in Jesus Christ!* They look at you as a strange freak.

This is a true story: because of the educational society today, since they don't want to have one valedictorian, because that would hurt somebody's feelings and after all we don't want to hurt anybody's feelings today. So, they had many, many, and each one had to write a thesis, so is one girl wrote her thesis, and it had to be approved by the school. She gave her speech along with her thesis, in which she didn't mention Christ in it at that time, but when she gave her speech she added it in and they withheld her diploma for graduating.

There's no knowledge of God in the land! That's what we read! Sin has consequences for everybody, and sin affects your neighbors and your society, and the region and province, state or country in which you live. It affects it!

When people come to the point that sin rules, and righteousness is ridiculed, and everyone is bent on sin, then there comes a point of no return.

The reason I'm mentioning this is not only to help those to keep them from sinning because of the transgression that we so easily fall into, but also to help us understand that only God, with the return of Christ can change the world. But nevertheless, we are all held responsible for our conduct. There comes a time in anybody's life—man or woman, young or old—whether you accept the Truth of God even in the good principles of the world called Proverbs or not.

Here's what happens, v 25: "But you have despised all my counsel and would have none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity..." (vs 25-26). No one is going to help you.

"...I will mock when your fear comes; when your calamity comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and pain come upon you, then they shall call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me" (vs 26-38).

We can just witness two things to show that that is true: 9/11 and Virginia Tech—the massacre that happened there.

Verse 29: "Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, they would have none of my counsel; they despised all my correction. Therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices" (vs 29-31).

- this is why God calls us out of the world.
- this is why God offers repentance

You cannot regard the laws and commandments of God, and all the counsel of God.

Verse 32: "For the waywardness of the simple shall slay them, and the complacency of fools destroys them..... [Amazing! Quite a society that way!] ...But whoever hearkens to me shall dwell safely and shall be secure without fear of harm" (vs 32-33). Because you will know how to go against evil!

- we've seen human nature
- we've seen individual sin
- we've seen society's sin
- we've seen some of the things that Satan the devil does

We have all of these things multiplied and expanded upon us in this age, such as never, never before. If you lived in the time of say Lewis and Clark, and you wanted to get away—there were always Indians, bears and things like that out there—you could go away someplace nice and quiet. Just think of it: no television, no traffic, no deadline to meet. You could sit down and watch the creation of God, praise God for the great things that He has done. Satan wouldn't be there.

Everyone would like to have that setting, but I'm telling you it's not the 1800s! Someone said that he went up into the mountains in Colorado just like that and it was really, really nice. You always remember that.

Comments were made that there was this television show showing this man who went out into

the wilderness and had his Bible and his own little worship place and he would get out his Bible and read and stand out there and sing with a loud voice and one time this woman came by and started to make fun of him. It took a little while and then she understood why he was doing that. Today, we have a lot of people just the opposite; they're not in the wilderness in the woods, or in the mountains, ***they're in the wilderness of sin in the cities!***

You don't have a private place upon a rock to look out and see the heavens and everything around, but you have a place to live—an apartment—and you can do the same thing there. You can study your Bible, you can sing your songs. Don't stir up your neighbors or have the whole neighborhood against you, because ***it will all come down to your personal conduct in order to be strong in the Lord!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 10:32-42
- 2) Matthew 11:3-13
- 3) Luke 16:3-13
- 4) Luke 14:25-27
- 5) John 5:18-19
- 6) Ephesians 2:1-2
- 7) Leviticus 19:29
- 8) Ephesians 2:2-3
- 9) 1 John 2:15-17
- 10) 2 Timothy 3:1-7
- 11) Proverbs 19:12; 16:25
- 12) Jeremiah 17:9
- 13) Jeremiah 10:23
- 14) Romans 8:7
- 15) Mark 7:20-23
- 16) Proverbs 1:24-33

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- Titus 1
- Isaiah 53
- Malachi 3

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