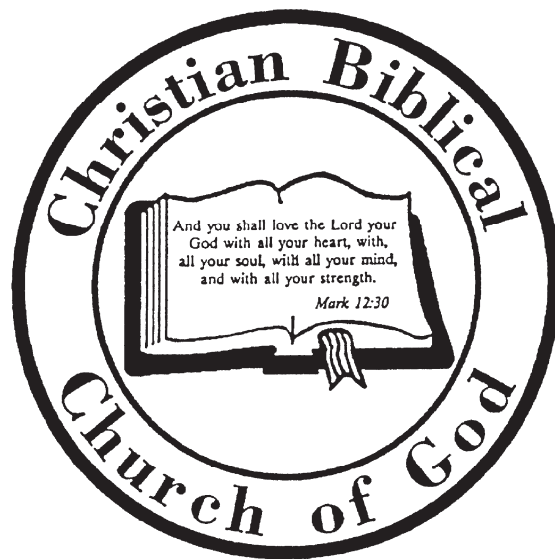


# **Christ and Our Calling**

**TROL—Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love**



**Transcript Book**

By Fred R. Coulter

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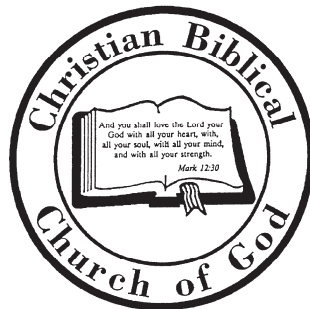
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## Christ and Our Calling

Series of 7 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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# Christ and Our Calling

## *Foreword*

This transcript book is a series of seven sermon transcripts, given by a minister of Jesus Christ for over 50 years – Mr. Fred R. Coulter, that cover details of God working with those who are called to Him. The reader will appreciate after reading how precious is the opportunity to understand the Bible and become God's child. An understanding will be given as to what God means for people regarding God's truth, repentance of rebellion against God, obedience to God, and Love for God and man. What follows is a brief summary of different topics covered.

In the sermon transcript, "Christ and Our Calling I," things expanded upon are:

- Man can do nothing of lasting good without God.
- All nations fall after they reach their highest achievements and become corrupt.
- Life comes only from the Spirit, so the flesh profits nothing.
- Everything comes from God.
- People without God's Spirit are still held by God to keep the Ten Commandments, though only in the letter of the Law.

In the sermon transcript, "Christ and Our Calling II," things that are expanded upon are:

- The Christianity promoted by this world is not acceptable to God.
- The mind without God's Spirit cannot be subject to the Law of God.
- Judaism has cut people off from Christ.
- The world is in darkness due to being under the power of Satan.
- The mind, without God's Spirit, is desperately wicked.

In the sermon transcript, "Christ and Our Calling III," things that are expanded upon are:

- The whole world is under the Law.
- The world wants to believe that every religious practice that comes into the mind of individuals is justified.
- What it means to have Christ is to have eternity to live
- Baptized into Christ is to be conjoined to Him.

In the sermon transcript, "Christ and Our Calling IV," things that are expanded upon are:

- The spiritual meaning of the Law God expects to be understood by those belonging to Christ.
- The world vainly tries to get rid of sin by denying obedience to the Law.
- There are many things in the world that are really desirable, that look so good, that sounds so good, but in following after them human nature can get people to compromise with God's Law.
- It is not God's will that His ministry be occupied telling people everything that they need to do: rather the people are expected by God to control their own lives.
- A life of keeping God's Word is a life that will perfect one in God's Love.
- The perfection of a Saint does not come until the resurrection—until then the carnal mind and the lust and pull of the flesh will still be there.

In the sermon transcript, “Christ and Our Calling V,” things that are expanded upon are:

- God uses people to bring about His will and often the people that He uses are not aware of the fact that it is God that is prompting them to action.
- In the Old Testament, under the Old Covenant, the Jews were the chosen people. But since they rejected Christ they were scattered nations around the world.
- Darkness is the way of the world and its author is Satan.
- An educational system based upon Satan is a system based upon emotion, not fact, but rather on how they feel about a matter.
- Judaism does not have God because anyone denying the Son is rejected by the Father.

In the sermon transcript, “Christ and Our Calling VI,” things that are expanded upon are:

- The Apostle Paul taught the same teachings as the other apostles.
- When Churches of God go to the world to see how the churches of the world (which belong to Satan) are run what happens is confusion and turmoil within the Churches of God. God’s teachings are unequally yoked if people try to combine them with the teachings promoted by Satan.
- God will scatter His church because of apostasy and to protect the Truth.
- For all peoples everywhere, the most important thing in life, is to be received by God.
- There are two parts of God’s Spirit regarding His temple in the New Covenant.
- The situation is explained where people do something, though they think it is for God, it is contrary to God’s Will.
- The two most important things for a person with a relationship with God is noted.
- Christ began destroying the works of the devil by preaching the truth.
- The fate of Satan and all the demons is explained.
- Since all in Adam will die the receiving of the Holy Spirit does not prevent those people dying.

In the sermon transcript, “Christ and Our Calling VII,” things are expanded upon are:

- When a person says “yes” to God, that person will be more responsible to God.
- Things that God is the author of start out simple.
- Judgement by God, because it may not come instantly, does not mean that it will not come.
- God will only consider those who are obedient to His law as justified in His sight.
- The second resurrection is unknown by Satan’s world, and this makes the Bible incomprehensible to them.
- A follower of God needs to test for many different spirits that false teachers have.
- There is a need for ministerial authority. What type is noted.
- The only way you really learn love is that you learn to have forbearance and understanding of the individual. That’s why brethren pray for each other.

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



## Christ & Our Calling I Politicians, Preachers

### The answer to the condition of our world is Truth Repentance Obedience and Love

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. I don't know if you've been watching the conventions or not, but we've had two weeks non-stop convention, first the Republican and then the Democrat. I guess it's the old, old story. The more that things change the more they stay the same. We don't know what's going to happen with it.

I'm going to cover a couple of verses here, because everyone is going to try and solve the problems. 'The Donald' says, 'I'm taking the gloves off.' I don't know what that means. I don't know if he gets to be President is he going to give a million dollar reward for those 30,000 missing e-mails? We'll have to see what happens. You couldn't have anything as contrasting as this. This is what 'the Donald' may have to do. I don't know if he'll be able to do it.

Psalm 39:1: "I said, 'I will take heed to my ways so that I do not sin with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle while the wicked are before me.' I became dumb, keeping silent; I said nothing good, and yet, my sorrow grew worse. My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue... [I'm going after Hillary] ... 'O LORD, make me to know my end and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how short lived I am. Behold, You have made my days as a handbreadth, and the span of my days is as nothing before You. Surely every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah'" (vs 1-5).

- What can man do that is of lasting good without God? *Nothing!*
- What can we do without God's Spirit? *Nothing!*

Verse 6: "Surely every man walks about in a vain show! Surely they are in an uproar in vain... [Hillary better listen to this] ...He heaps up riches and does not know who shall gather them."

This, I believe, has got to be the most difficult and the most corrupt of elections that we are facing. Dolores and I were talking about that this morning.

How did we end up this way, when we started out so good? *I guess that's the story of all human life!* It just builds and builds and builds.

What I want you to do is to read Ezekiel 20-21, and then 22. I couldn't help but thinking of this while watching the convention and everything going

on, and how that men cut off from God can only see so far, and can only do so much. They always miss the point. We were talking, and it reminded me here of Ezek. 33. Who is at fault? *Everyone has their part in it, that's for sure!* Where did it start? How did it happen?

Ezekiel 22:17: "And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me....'" (vs 17-18). All the good is gone. Here there were two policemen shot yesterday. How many today? It's amazing how people get wrapped up and believe lies, whatever the slogan.

"...All of them *are* bronze, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the middle of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver" (v 18). God is looking at it, 'What good is there?' What is fire to do? Fire is to purge and to cleanse these things, but if you melt them all together, what do you have? You've something that is good for nothing. So, this is the whole lesson here.

Verse 20: "As *they* gather silver, and bronze, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the middle of the furnace, to blow the fire on it to melt *it*, so I will gather *you* in My anger and in My fury, and I will cast *you in* and melt you."

What did we cover here a couple of weeks ago? *We're facing the worst conditions since the creation of the world.* It's going to build and build, which then tells us maybe we have a considerable more time than we have thought.

Remember what it says about the 'stranger within your midst.' They will 'come up very high above you and you will be brought down very low.'

- How far yet do we have to go?
- How far yet do the strangers have to go?

If you look at it from this point of view: 'I'm going to run out and vote for Trump because he's going to make America great again.' All right, if he's elected and you have eight years where things are a little improved, what's coming after that?

If he's elected, if you think there's vengeance against Hillary today, think of what it's going to be against 'the Donald' in four or eight years. Think what is going to happen. The reason that they can't solve these problems is ***because they don't know the origin of them!*** Can you ever have enough police or soldiers or eavesdroppers to stop

all terrorist attacks? Does know there are terrorist attacks? *Yes!*

Sidebar: I have to tell you something on Pasadena. Harry Curley and I drove around the campus area. As I mentioned last week, I've got a nice picture of the campus, the trees, the mountains in the background. When things were going good there at Ambassador College in Pasadena, everyone said, 'This is just like the Millennium, a little piece of the Kingdom of God on earth.'

It was beautiful, well taken care of, lovely. But what happened? That's a long history we won't get into. What did Jesus say to the disciples and apostles when they said, 'Lord, look at these beautiful buildings of the temple here.' Jesus said, 'You see this? There will not be one stone left upon another stone.' I think they probably sat there and said, 'How is that going to be?'

This is how I felt driving around the campus. In one spot they've got all these condominiums that they put there the last few years. Drive around a little further and you've got some new ones that are coming up where the student center was. The only two buildings that are going to be left are what we called Ambassador Hall and Mayfair. Those two buildings are still there. Otherwise, three-story expensive condominiums in what are called Ambassador Gardens.

Then we drove down from there and came to where the Hall of Administration was. Last time I was there they were getting ready to tear it down. This time there was not one stone left upon another stone. They dug it up and removed all of the foundation and building, expanded it out, and they are putting in a new building there.

I thought to myself: ***you never want to go against God!*** In the long run His correction is going to come. Now you know why it's important to understand the model prayer: Forgive us our sins as we forgive others. Yes, indeed! Look what happened. It was classic. Remember this: ***All nations fall when they reach the highest point and become corrupt!*** That's exactly what happened to the Church. Those who came in an infiltrated and took over were probably sent by God as correction to find out:

- Do you love Me?
- Do you value the Word of God?
- Do you want to keep the Word of God?
- What is it that you want?

Could God have stopped this at any time, if it would have been handled correctly? *Yes!* As we're looking at them, where they're putting in the new foundation. There was a place where trucks drive up, so we were able to drive up there and look in it. It

was just unbelievable. I think both Harry and I really had some sad feelings because of what's going on. But what a thing!

Just like it is here, v 21: "And I will gather you and blow on you... [v 22]: As silver is melted in the furnace, so you shall be melted in the midst of it; and you shall know that I the LORD have poured out My fury upon you" (vs 21-22).

Sad thing that has happened; let's look at what's happening to Protestantism. Did you know that at the opening of their convention with the Presbyterian church in the United States, they had an imam open with prayer? What has happened? Have we reached out height as a nation? As a people? *Yes, indeed*, and we're coming down, *down, down*. What was the first one to go? We'll see here in a minute.

Verse 23: "And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, say to her, "You are a land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation"' (vs 23-24).

What have we been having? *Wind, drought, flood, fire!* Right now, while we're speaking, there's a fire just south and west of us in Monterey County and there's one in Southern California. When that's over, there will be another one someplace else. Why do all these things happen over and over again? Does it drive people to God? It should! 'O Lord, help us.' For us, it teaches us a lesson: ***Don't ever leave God!*** Think about that.

Here's why it's happened, v 25: "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst... "Today if you believe in a conspiracy you are a nut. There are many conspiracies.

What does it say of Satan the devil? *He has deceived the whole world!* If you really want to make some people mad, really mad, you tell them that because of our sins we're having all of these terrorist attacks. They'll get angry, 'How can a God of love do that?' That's not the question. The question is that **if you believe He's a God of love, why don't you love Him?**

I've got a book here we'll cover in the second half. It's called *The Naked Gospel!* By time he's done with it, it is really naked.

"...like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. Her priests have done violence to My Law and have profaned My Holy things.... [keep in mind the Law, that's important] ...They have put no difference between the Holy and the profane, and have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have hidden their eyes from

My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” (vs 25-26).

If they are not called, how is it going to drive them to God? ***It's not to drive them to God for spiritual salvation necessarily!*** That is a calling! But God judges all nations according to the letter of the Law (Jer. 18). Even nations that were never given the Law, if they do the things that are in the Law of God, God recognizes that.

Analyze the question: How many of the laws of God, as a whole, does this nation keep? First four? That's what Dolores and I were talking about. You look at the first four, none of them. How do they treat the Sabbath and the Holy Days? *'You don't need to keep those!'* The best they say is that they are ceremonial.

We'll find out, the *lawlessness of the priests, pastors, and ministers are responsible as the first layer of responsibility in causing the problems!* Because they don't read the Old Testament, they do not understand how God really, really works. When He says He's going to raise up a nation that's going to come and tear Israel apart—which happened with the Ten Tribes and they went into captivity. It happened with Judah twice. Did they learn the lesson? *No!* Not even to do things in the letter of the Law. First thing they can do:

1. stop lying
2. believe the Word of God
3. keep the Ten Commandments in the letter of the Law

If they did that, wouldn't this nation be a different place, entertainment-wise, activity-wise, if in the letter of the Law the whole land kept the Sabbath. Look at how much sin goes on Friday night to Saturday night. Think of that.

It should drive them to God, to stop doing the things that are wrong in their lives, if they will listen. To be called to salvation is an entirely different situation. For them to say that 'in the Old Testament they received salvation by keeping the Law.' If it was good enough to keep the Law in the Old Testament, and you received salvation, why then did Christ need to come and die?

Another thing, the Old Testament talks about all the nations of the world. New Testament is the preparation of the coming kings and priests of God to rule with Christ when He returns. It's entirely different and the standard is higher than the Old Testament.

As I've said, how many times, just analyze the news and analyze television with the Ten Commandments, and you'll get a good picture as to why all of these things are coming. Look at all of

those. Look at all of those who are trying to do right, but they haven't come to the first point of coming to the true God in the letter of the Law, getting rid of all of their idols, quit their false preaching and keep the Sabbath.

Here and there, there's a Sunday-keeping church that does that. But just think about it. If you have a '100,000' channels on your television set, look at EWT, that's the Catholic channel. Watch them. Go through the whole ceremony of the Mass with in mind what God requires. The only thing I can figure is that ***this has got to be a worship of Satan!*** They have idols everywhere. They have the chants. They have all the physical things that they do. God doesn't want any of that. What does God want? What is it that God wants?

Here's what God wants, Isa. 66; this answers the question: What can I do for God? That's the wrong question. The questions should be: What can God do for me? *and then* What does God want me to do? This will tie in with part of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool... [that's pretty terrific, we can't even get off the ground] ...Where then *is* the house that you build for Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?'"

Supposedly the greatest thing that was done in the Old Testament by man was the temple that Solomon built. Here's God's answer:

Verse 2: "'For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,' says the LORD. 'But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word.'"

In other words, wanting to love God, wanting to obey God; that's the important thing. What did God even tell Israel? Here's what God told them to do, after He told them that they really didn't have the Spirit of God to do it, but nevertheless, in the letter. Here's what God would want:

Deuteronomy 6:1: "Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it."—that you live.

Here's what you hear on television today: 'The Muslims kill homosexuals and adulterers, and all of this sort of thing.' You read it in the Bible that God said that would be the ultimate judgment for them. Since God is a God of mercy, love and forgiveness, do you suppose that in many cases of these things people were given a chance to change and repent? *Of course!*

You just don't take everyone and kill them. You find out if they've done this, is it true. Now, 'Do you want to change your life and do you want to repent or do you want to rehabilitate?' That's what they call today. How many people today have been on drugs, and different things, and they've been rehabilitated and are now good citizens? That's what God would want. Actually, 'penitentiary' comes from 'penance,' which means it's a take-off of repentance. Maybe in incarceration you'll repent. You'll say, 'What am I doing here?'

Sidebar: The other night I was watching I Almost Got Away with It. You watch that and Forensic Files and you think what people can do to find criminals. Think what God does Who knows the mind and heart. That's what God wants: change. Even if you obey in the letter of the Law and love God by keeping His commandments, and love your neighbor as yourself, just think how nice that would be. Look at all the locks, bars and things we have to have today.

You get these women advertising for the National Rifle Association today, telling how good it is. 'I've got my gun and no one is going to come and take it.' Isn't that a sad commentary that society is so bad that you have to have guns to protect yourself. Will all those guns protect you in the long run if God says, 'Unless you repent...'? **NO!**

Here's what God wanted in the letter, v 2: "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."

How many cut their lives off short because they sin? *Many!* You go back and you read Exo. 21-23; all those are the statutes and ordinances of God. God says how to handle theft. *You repay!* What does that do? *That stops a lot of theft!*

If you steal cattle, you give them four for the one. If you steal sheep, you give them five. How about if we applied that to cars? If you're caught stealing cars, you're going to buy them a brand-new one. 'I can't afford that.' We have a system of work programs and you can work and you can buy his car for him because you stole it. Would that not cut down a lot on thievery?

God said this. If you see even your enemy that his donkey, horse or cow has fallen on him, or his wagon has turned over, you go help him. Is that not loving your enemy as yourself? *Yes!* Is that not what God said and Christ said? *Yes!*

To run the average society in the letter of the Law, you have to keep the commandments of God.

Even in the family. What if you have a nice family, but there's one that goes out and he causes a lot of problems and sins, drugs, and all this sort of thing. What happens? Mom and Dad are all upset. The whole family is upset. Everybody is affected.

What happens when he changes and repents, stops—or she stops? There are more consequences with young women; that's why God lays so much stress sexually on women, because so much happens. Children come! What is the thing that both parties say they are going to do? *Help single mothers!* I've said how many times, tell them to find a husband, take care of them.

Here's what God says, v 3: "Hear therefore, O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it, so that it may be well with you..." Everyone wants it to be well with you.

Sidebar to finish the story from the program I Almost Got Away with It: Here was this young man. He decided he'd rob banks. So, he robbed a bank and got away with it. Then he would tell his wife that he's out working and doing things, but he's out really scouting out banks. He got away with robbing five banks over a period of time. Finally he was caught. His wife didn't know a thing. Police came and searched the house and got in all the nooks and crannies of the house, came out with bags of money.

'Did you know this?' *Never saw it before!* Only thing in his favor was that he never caused any violence. He did confess his sin when he was caught, because they caught him. They gave him five years. He had a lot of time to think about it. It showed how he was really sorry for what he did. He's not being called to salvation or anything like that, but he reformed and he changed. He has a truck-driving job and he's doing well. He said, 'What I did was really stupid, greedy and wrong.' *All in the letter of the Law!* If that would happen with this nation, just think what would happen. That would be something, wouldn't it? *Yes!*

"...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" (v 3). That's us today; a land full of milk and honey. Only problem is we've got a mountain of debt and that's like a guillotine hanging over this whole nation.

Verse 4: "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. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart. And you shall diligently teach them to your children..." (vs 4-7).

We did that as a nation. That's how we had the educational system. When it says, 'this is the one I'll look to' (Isa. 66). Let's see all the 'religious' efforts of people when they don't obey. If you go to the Vatican on a pilgrimage at certain times, you get indulgences. Indulgences are a written certificate of forgiveness of sin by whomever. They can't do that. But people go, and then they go out and do what they want to. It's like the Mafia: they lie, cheat, steal, kill, swindle, and then the Catholic Church buries them. Just like this:

Isaiah 66:3: "He who kills an ox *is as if* he killed a man..." Come to the temple and your heart isn't right, even in the letter of the Law, that's what it's like.

"...he who sacrifices a lamb *is as if* he broke a dog's neck; he who offers a grain offering *is as if* he offered swine's blood; he who burns incense *is as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations" (v 3). This is why we are where we are today.

Look at how many abominations that we have as a nation. Look at the government, thinking nothing, not one word in the Democrat convention about a \$21-trillion debt. *Not a word!*

What's going to happen? Every once in awhile you see these advertisements, 'You better get a little gold; you better get a little silver, because the economy is going to collapse. When it collapses, it's going to be the greatest collapse in the history of the world,' which is true. There are a lot of people who know.

But here's what happens if people don't, in the letter of the Law, as a nation turn to God, v 4: "I also will choose their delusions, and I will bring their fears upon them because when I called, no one answered..." There have been enough people out there telling in various ways, 'Don't do this; don't do that; don't do the other thing.'

"...when I spoke, they did not hear. But they did evil when I spoke, they did not hear. But they did evil before My eyes and chose *that* in which I did not delight" (v 4). We can apply that to the nation. Look at your nightly news and take a look at it.

Ezekiel 22:26: "...they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."

What happens when you turn away from the Word of God? *You become more and more secular.* Isn't that correct? *Yes, indeed!*

Why did God give His Sabbaths? He gave the weekly Sabbath, because He made us in such a way that we need to be educated with the Word of God, even in the letter of the Law, so that we have a guidance in what to do with our lives just living in the world.

Wouldn't it be nice if everything was done in truth, and you could have a handshake and that was it? And you knew that the other person would keep his or her word and you would keep your word? Try this—I've mentioned this before; this is one of the goals that I have—you have your internal mind and your internal language going. You are thinking and you're talking to yourself and you're answering to yourself. You're trying to make a decision. Then you think of something, and then you say, 'I've got to do this, but....' You never do it.

What did Jesus say? 'Let your 'yes' be *yes* and your 'no' be *no*.' (Matt. 5). Try that with your internal reasonings. Let your 'yes' really be *yes* and your 'no' really be *no*. I think you're going to find that's a tough one, because your mind is there still working away. So, this is why we need the Word of God.

Verse 27: "Her rulers in her midst *are* like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood and to destroy souls, to get unjust gain.... [Remind you of a foundation, or two? or three? or four?] ...And her prophets have covered themselves *with* whitewash, seeing false visions and divining lies unto them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression and committed robbery, and they have troubled the poor and needy. Yea, *they* have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them who should build up a wall for the land, and stand in the breach before Me, so that I should not destroy it. But I did not find one" (vs 27-30).

Jer. 5:1 says God told Jeremiah to find one man. 'We'll do justice and we'll do good and I'll forgive this whole thing against Jerusalem.' Think of it. Therefore, couldn't find one, let's hopefully that with the Churches of God there is more than one. But *even the Churches of God suffer from allowing false teachings to come in!* You can read Rev. 2 and 3. That's why we need these things.

When I saw the whole Hall of Administration—Dolores and I have been there. I've been up in Herbert Armstrong's office, up in the upper left hand fourth floor, the biggest office, and so forth. Talked to him personally on many occasions. We were at the other end of the hall where another evangelist was and when we got there to see him it was such an emotional time and difficult time in the Church. We were talking about

some things and he kept pointing to the ceiling. We found out later that it was because it was ‘bugged’—in the Church of God. *Imagine that!*

I looked at that and thought, just like Jesus said. ***‘Not one stone left upon another.’***

(go to the next track)

### **Christ and Our Calling—Part One**

Let’s examine the main cause as to how of all these things take place, based upon Ezek. 22—the prophets, the priests, and the civil leaders. Then the people follow along. That’s what happens.

I’ve got this book *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley. Jesus plus nothing, no additives. I’ll read from this in a little bit, but let’s come here to 1-John and let’s understand something. If you have Jesus only, do you have it all? Isn’t that what they say? ‘If you have Jesus, you have it all.’ It comes out this way.

In serious discussion with someone coming out of Protestantism, we had a Bible study at his house and he had quite a few people there. I started going through certain places in the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John is one of the most important of the four Gospels.

- What does the Gospel of John reveal, more than anything else? *The Father!*
- What did Jesus say how we are to pray?
- Lord Jesus?

That would not be wrong, but if you leave out the Father, then you are not correct. You only have half of it.

- What is it? *Our Father!*
- How do you end it? *In Jesus’ name!*

1-John 2:21: “I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth...” Even though we know the Truth, we have to have things written to us, to confirm, support and defend it.

“...but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth” (v 21).

What was the first thing that Jesus said when He was tempted by Satan the devil? He was talking to Himself, as a man. Since He’s the Creator of mankind, that applies to all men and women. ***He said, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God!’***

No “...lie comes from the Truth.” However, if you only bring part of the Truth, or some of the Truth, or half of the Truth, you’re incomplete and in effect you create a lie by misusing the Truth. Isn’t that an amazing thing? Politicians do this all the

time; they are absolutely the best. But they have to take second place to preachers.

Verse 22: “Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?...” That applies to the Jews. ‘He’s not the Messiah.’ What happened to them because they rejected Him? Where is their temple? Where is Jerusalem? Where are the Jews? *Scattered exactly as God said!* Can you fight against the Word of God? *No, you can’t go against it!* You can’t throw away some of it.

Someone is going to say, ‘The Old Testament, how can you live by every Word of God? You’ve got to kill all homosexuals.’ Please understand this; this is very important: After the Flood God gave to Noah the instructions that if a man kills a man, he shall be killed by man. What was that? That was *the administration of death* given to all nations. They had to administer and run their own nations.

God was no longer going to have part in the administration of death. I’ve given a sermon on this, why you cannot have Sharia Law within other geographical areas. God designed it so there is only one sovereign within a geographical area. That sovereign is responsible for the laws and for administering up to the death penalty for crimes.

Paul shows that for the Church those were set aside (2-Cor. 3). The answer is only God can modify His Law. Man cannot modify God’s Law, but God can modify His Law for man. Because the Church was to go into all the world, what did Jesus tell the disciples and apostles? ‘Go into all the world to all nations, preach the Gospel.’ But He did not give them the administration of death. The Gospel is called the administration of life.

We do not come into any nation, as a church, and carry out our own civil laws. When God was dealing as Israel as a nation, they had civil laws, civil judges, priests, and the high priest, who was the ultimate or the supreme court of the land at that time.

Today that is all gone. Today what is the greatest penalty that the Church can administer to anyone who sins within the group? *Disfellowship! Separation!*

When Jesus said, ‘Man is to live by every Word of God,’ He means all of those things that had to do with our conduct, our living, and our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ, which was given through the Gospels and the apostles. That’s what we are to live by.

We keep the Ten Commandments, because we’re to live by every Word of God. We also love God and love our neighbors, love each other as

Christ has loved us. This is the important thing that we are to do. When someone comes along and says, 'You're just like the Muslims.' *No, we're not!* I bring this out because this is important to understand here.

Verse 22: "Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you; if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father" (v 24).

- If you deny the Son, *you deny the Father*
- If you deny the Father, *you deny the Son*

That's what's important here. We need to understand that as we're going along. Live by every Word of God.

Today it never, never ends. There are people today who have been in the Church of God for a long time who are saying that Jesus was not God before He became human. And that the Holy Spirit is the Father of Jesus. In the Church of God today! I just got that a couple of weeks ago. That's why important you have to hold onto the words of God.

I want you to write down four letters: **TROL**. This is what we need in our relationship with God and what people need coming out of the world: **Truth Repentance Obedience Love**. There's another four-letter thing that we have, an acronym: **IFMA**. That doesn't mean If-ma. That is: **Independent Free Moral Agency**. That's why people get off the beam. They use their free moral agency to choose their own way, rather than continuously choose God. So we'll look at these two: **TROL** and **IFMA**.

We're going to do a short series in John 1 and in the Epistle of 1-John and see that these four things are there all the way through: **Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love**.

1-John 1:1: "That which was from *the* beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes..." John is affirming as a witness he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. He was with Christ from the beginning. He was with Him in everything that you find in the Gospels.

"...that which we **observed** for ourselves..." (v 1). When Jesus was doing different things, they were watching Him. Observed here is *an intense way of looking*, almost to the point of *gawking*. They were observing everything Jesus did, hearing everything that He said. Walking with Him,

talking with Him, sailing in the boats with Him and so forth.

How about when they fed the 4,000 and the 5,000? *That was quite a thing!* Think of what they went through when they said, 'We've got five fish and a couple loaves of bread.' Jesus said, 'Tell them all to sit down.' So, they sat down, 5,000 of them.

Jesus looked up into heaven and blessed the food. He told the disciples, 'Take this and go out and feed them.' Every time they broke a piece of bread off, there was more, broke some bread off, there was some more. Give them a fish and here was another one. Can you imagine what was going through their minds? 'We saw this; we experienced this.' So, John is affirming that what they saw, what they did, what they experienced, everything that they heard, is why they were preaching and teaching what they were. *It is from God and you better pay attention to it!*

"...we observed for ourselves and our own hands handled..." (v 1). Remember what Jesus said, after He was resurrected? He appeared to them right in the middle of the room. He said, 'Come here, feel Me. Put your finger in the hole in My hand.' Remember Thomas wasn't there. Christ came back eight days later, Thomas was there, and Jesus said, 'Thomas, come here.' He backed down at that point.

"...concerning the Word of Life" (v 1). This is quite a thing. What was it that came to Ezekiel? *The Word of the Lord!* Let's stop here and go back to the Gospel of John at the beginning. The reason that this was written was to show us who Jesus really, really was and is. Think of this. In the world, people go to religions so they can be better people. That's a good cause. You find that people who have some religious convictions generally have better behavior, except the ministers who steal all the money.

A calling of God to eternal life is not just to make you a better person in society. You should be. It is to prepare you for eternal life and transform your mind so that you can be trained to enter into the Kingdom of God as a son or daughter of God and rule the world with Christ. That's a whole totally different thing. John is writing this so we know who we're dealing with and who is dealing with us.

- there are false christs
- there are false saviors
- there are false teachings

We have the Word of Truth as never before, yet, people are deceived as never before. It is an unreal thing that goes on.

John 1:1: "In *the* beginning was the Word... [the Word of Life] ...and **the Word**... [the Word is 'ho logos'] ...was with God, and the Word was

God.” I won’t get into the technicalities of it, but the second one here ‘God,’ does not have a definite article.

The Jehovah Witnesses say He was a god (little g). Not so! This means, in the Greek, He had exactly the same attributes as God. He was with God. With is from the Greek ‘pros,’ which means *toward God, facing Him*. In Greek face-to-face is this: ‘pros pros opon.’ This is the meaning.

Verse 2: “He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him” (vs 2-3).

How could He create Himself, if He was not God first? If Jesus, as they say, and some of them do, He was just a created human being. Didn’t exist until the conception in the womb of the virgin Mary. Then how could all things have been created by Him, if He didn’t exist until that minute? *Could not have been!*

Verse 4: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it” (vs 4-5). That was Christ’s coming; the world in darkness. Who is the author of darkness? *Satan the devil!*

Back here in Isaiah are the words used in the *Messiah!* There’s one part that starts out, ‘Darkness has covered the earth,’ *gross darkness*. This is what it is. The people living in darkness, unwilling to turn to the light, cannot comprehend it. They didn’t comprehend Jesus. Today they want to deny Him.

Verse 5: “And the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it.” Then it talks about John. Then it talks about Christ coming to His own.

Verse 14: “And the Word became flesh...”

What does it say in v 1: “...the Word was God.” *God became flesh!* Paul says ‘God manifested in the flesh.’

People read that and say, ‘That was written by a man.’ This is always good when you run into an atheist. ‘You believe in evolution?’ *Yeah!* ‘Where did you get that?’ *I read this book!* ‘You don’t want to read the Bible because men wrote, why do you believe what they wrote?’ When it says that these men were moved by God to write what He wants them to write. If God can’t move people to write what He wants to write, He is indeed most helpless.

Remember the story of Baalim, the false prophet. He was hired to come and curse, dedicated to come to curse, paid to curse! He got up there and *God made him bless*, seven times.

The whole Bible was written by forty men. That’s it! Why don’t you do this, if you don’t believe that, find one law that Moses said, ‘I give you this law myself. Comes from me.’ *Can’t find it!* Same with the prophets. Find one prophet who preached something that didn’t come from God. Can’t find it in all the Word of God. Some people say, ‘I’ll believe it if Jesus would come down and tell me.’ Do you really want that? If He came down to tell you and you didn’t fall down and repent...

Verse 14: “And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us... [that means temporarily dwelt among us] ...(and we ourselves... [goes right back to what he was writing in 1-John 1] ...beheld His glory...” Didn’t Peter, James and John go on the Mount of Transfiguration and see the vision of transfiguration. After that, do you think that you would tell one syllable of anything that wasn’t true? *or* Write anything that wasn’t true? *No!*

“(...beheld His glory, *the* glory as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father), full of grace and truth” (v 14). Then he talks a little bit more about John.

This is an expression of the full Gospel, summarized in this one verse, v 16: “And of His fullness... [everything He came to do, everything He said, everything He taught] ...we have all received... [all the apostles] ...and grace upon grace.” {note sermon series: *Grace Upon Grace*}

What is that? Short summary: ***Having the Spirit of God the Father and Jesus Christ within you and direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ, direct!*** That’s a great grace, is that not? Isn’t that a fantastic favor and blessing that you have been given permission by God, and receive His Holy Spirit, that you can get on your knees and cry out, ‘Father, in heaven above.’ You have direct access to God. That is an amazing thing!

Verse 17: “For the Law was given through Moses, *and* the grace and the Truth came through Jesus Christ.” We already talked about the letter of the Law.

We need to really understand this as much as we can. We have the Word of God, we have the Bible, it’s printed on paper. Reading and understanding brings a spiritual aspect to it and the spiritual meaning behind it.

Just like, as human beings, God has given every one the spirit of man. That’s what makes you different from the animals. There’s a spirit of animals: spirit of cow, spirit of dog, and all of that. They have to have enough spirit to live, but that’s different from us, the spirit of man. ***God wants a***



***spiritual relationship with us now through His Holy Spirit!***

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit that gives life; **the flesh profits nothing...**” Life only comes from the Spirit. ***The flesh profits nothing!*** Just like we read back there in Isa. 66. If you build God a temple, the greatest temple in the world, what did you build it out of? *From the things that God created!* What honors God more? A repentance heart and attitude in loving God? Isn’t that more than a building? *Yes*, because that’s a spiritual thing.

“...The words that I speak to you, *they* are spirit and *they* are life” (v 63). That’s why when you study the Word of God,

- you’re inspired
- you’re encouraged
- you’re corrected

It is a spiritual thing that takes place. What makes you change your mind? What makes you repent? *The spiritual aspect of the Word of God and God’s Spirit!*

Those who are interested in God and want to know about God, and are sincere in studying the Word of God, God will send one of the seven spirits. We’ve got a sermon series on that: *Spirit of God-Spirit of Man: Seven Spirits of God* These seven spirits keep God informed what’s going on, on the earth all the time. God says He even knows when a sparrow falls. He even knows how many hairs you have on your head. He knows all of that.

Think about it! Let me just tell you one thing that I do just about every night. I wake up sometime during the night and I’ve got a little tray of apples back in the refrigerator. I go get an apple and I go sit down in this chair and I eat the apple. Many times I think about how fantastic that apple is, especially when it’s crisp and has that nice snap when you bite it and it’s full of juice and it tastes so good. Then I think about how God created everything in the world. I think about the different things He’s created. Do I like meat? *Yes!*

Sidebar on eating: I was talking to a Vietnamese the other day. He’s a mechanic who works on my car all the time. I had to get the smog done. He said, ‘How old are you?’ I told him how old I was. He said, ‘You know, all of my friends in Vietnam are dying at about 50-55.’ I thought to myself, that’s sounds a little bit like the Scriptures. ‘You want a long life, do what I say.’ Isn’t that what God says? Honor God (Prov. 3), give you a long life. Then it flashed in my mind about Andrew Zimmer, who eats all these unclean foods. While he was talking to me and telling me that his friends died between 50-55, and he says, ‘They drink a lot and

get drunk, smoke. Some of them up to three packs a day.’

I was thinking something else in addition to that. I was thinking of what Andrew Zimmer ate when he went to Vietnam. They brought out live snakes and he selected one. They cut its head off and he took the blood and ate it. I thought, I didn’t tell him—I was tempted, but I didn’t—I was thinking I should tell him, ‘Why don’t you write them and tell them to quit eating pigs, snakes, shellfish and things like that, in addition to quit drinking and smoking. Maybe they’ll live to be older.’

What is that? What did I just describe? What is the principle behind it? *God is no respecter of persons!* You can go to the Himalayas and you can find these people who live on very sparse diets. One of their favorite things is the inner core of the apricot seed and they live to be 120. God is no respecter of persons. Wherever you are on the earth, you are subject to the laws of God—*period!* Whether you believe it or not! Try having no gravity!

Think about this: All of your bodily functions to get rid of toxins and everything function by gravity. What’s the problem when they’re in space, when there is no gravity? What they have learned is that men were not made to live in space. They can live there for a while, but you have to bring everything to them. I’ve seen a special program on the space station toilets. I’ll just leave it at that; it’s a difficult proposition.

Think about just the ordinary thing of living, walking, breathing, eating, and all of this. God is no respecter of persons. But the calling of God is special; it is spiritual! This is why God wants you to prove the Word of God to be true.

John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the Way... [there is a way of man that seems right and the end thereof is death, sooner or later] ...and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Just like we read in 1-John 2, ***you must have the Father, you must have the Son, you must have the Word of God and you must have the Spirit of God!*** That’s why there are so few. Not because we’re anything great. ***No!*** It’s our calling! God does things upside down. Let’s see who He is calling to rule the world. It isn’t ‘the Donald,’ and it isn’t Hillary. It isn’t Prince Charles and it isn’t Angela Merkel or Netanyahu.

1-Corinthians 1:25: “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men...” Does God do things to surprise men? *Yes, indeed!* But God has no foolishness in Him. I am sure He has a sense of humor.

“...and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (v 25). God doesn’t have any weakness. What Paul is doing is using this to show why it’s so important for us to understand our calling.

Today we understand this even more. Why? *Because we get world news right into our living room!* Just like happened this last week. Catholic priest in France had his head cut off by radical Islamic terrorist. Right away, right on the news. A hundred years ago you wouldn’t know that. Today we’re kind of overburdened with too much. That’s why we need the Sabbath to keep our bearings.

Can any of the leaders of the world figure this out? Can they stop it? *No, they can’t!* But God is training us so that we will be able to rule the world, and they will not be able to do that.

Sidebar: I wonder what it’s going to be like. God’s love is so great that those that He does not call, He’s going to raise to a second physical life for a first opportunity for salvation. What is it going to be like when God raises all the descendants of Esau and Ishmael? Those who have fought against Israel, blood, guts and death for 2,500 years? Their minds are opened! What is that going to be like?

Verse 26: “For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are highborn *among you*.” Yes, what is your genealogy? Today you can send in a sample of blood and find out where you came from. You are a little of this, you’re a little of that, you’re a little of the other.

Verse 27: “Rather, God has chosen the foolish things of the world... [Why me? *Because we’re the foolish!*] ...so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things.”

Like Hillary used this against Donald, where he said, ‘I alone can do this.’ He might be able to do some things, but he can’t solve the problems. He may bring them down a little if he’s President, but how is he going to solve them? He’s not Christ!

Verse 28: “And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen... [that’s us] ...*even* the things that are counted as nothing—in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are; So that no flesh might glory in His presence” (vs 28-29). Can you imagine?

Remember Mohammed Ali. When he was at his strongest and his best, ‘I’m the greatest.’ Everyone told him he’s the greatest! He died an ignominious death, unfortunately with bad Parkinson’s disease, because he got his head beat

around all the time. Just think, if God had called him. ‘God, you had to call me because I’m the greatest,’ or whomever. That’s why God did the things that He did to pharaoh. He was counted the greatest thing on earth.

Sidebar: God said that He’s done all the things there to the Egyptians in bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt, that His name may be glorified throughout the world. It’s recorded and spoken of to this day. Think of that! Do you find any monuments from Nebuchadnezzar? Might find a little one from Julius Caesar. Look what the great men of the world have done just in our time. Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse tung, and others wherever they may be. ***No flesh might glory in His presence!***

Verse 30: “But you are of Him... [the Father] ...in Christ Jesus, Who was made to us wisdom from God—even righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, ‘The one who glories, let him glory in *the Lord*’” (vs 30-31). ***Knowing that everything comes from God!***

I’m sitting in the chair eating this apple, say like midnight or one o’clock, something like that. I’m thinking on the creation of God. I’m thinking of the title of the book, *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* Think of all the people in the world that God has created from this little, itty-bitty pinpoint of life. And look at us!

What is it going to be at the resurrection? What is that going to be? ***It’s going to be so fantastic that we hardly have a clue, except we remember we were just a little pinpoint of dust and look at what we are now!*** That’s something.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Psalm 39:1-6
- 2) Ezekiel 22:17-18, 20-26
- 3) Isaiah 66:1-2
- 4) Deuteronomy 6:1-7
- 5) Isaiah 66:3-4
- 6) Ezekiel 22:26-29
- 7) 1-John 2:21-24
- 8) 1-John 1:1
- 9) John 1:1-5, 14, 14, 16-17
- 10) John 6:63
- 11) John 14:6
- 12) 1-Corinthians 1:25-31

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ezekiel 20-21, 33
- Jeremiah 18
- Exodus 21-23

- Matthew 5
- Jeremiah 5:1
- Revelation 2; 3
- 2-Corinthians 3
- Proverbs 3

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermons:

- *What is the Administration of Death*
- *God's Law, Civil Law, Sharia Law*
- *More Understanding Grace Upon Grace*

*Sermon Series:*

- *Grace Upon Grace*
- *Spirit of God-Spirit of Man: Seven Spirits of God*

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## Christ and Our Calling II

### Spiritual Eyes See the Light of the World

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. I'm going to bring a commercial that costs nothing.

Let me explain how we came to what we have now. When we first started Christian Biblical Church of God, we only had seven people, plus our family. That was it! We would record the sermons, and so forth. Through the years we gradually added more people. Now we have a mailing list of about 3600 just in America. We have about 500 in Australia, 300 in Canada, very small in New Zealand. We have a small office in the Netherlands and South Africa and so forth.

Through the years in collecting these sermons, because we were small, we were able to go systematically through the Bible. We have many, many studies. When the WCG began to collapse, people began to write to us and we would send them a care package. We were using cassettes back then, which came in a box. Now we're using CDs.

What we did, we kept the empty cassette box and we would send a care package. Someone would write in and say, 'Tell us about you, what do you think, what do you teach, what are you doing.' So we worked up a care package. We ended up with six care packages. Those would go out with sometimes as many as fifty tapes. We're interested that people come to God and that they come to understand the Bible and do what they need to do.

Over the years that expanded out. We ended up with six. Then we looked at it and said for brand-new people—because now we're getting brand new people, never having been in the Church of God—we decided to split them up.

Now we have ten study packs. Even so, everything is designed so that people can study their Bibles. We now have a total of eight study packs. We have two more to go Every study pkg. Has a cover letter"

#### Letter from Study Pack #1:

With this first package you are embarking on a new journey, one that will open your eyes, enlighten your mind and inspire you in your Christian walk.

Study Pack #1 focuses on the Bible itself, covers several introductory Christian doctrines. It includes the books, *God or No God?*, *Fourteen Rules for Bible Study*, *Why Christianity is Failing in America*, and *How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law*, all of

which cover important fundamental Biblical concepts.

You will also find eight study papers: Bible Design, Unity of Scripture, Whatever Happened to Moral Absolutes, How the Christian World Has Been Deceived, How to Mark Your Bible, Jesus Was Taught By God the Father, Who and What is a True Christian?, What is the Purpose of the New Testament?

You will also find sermons and studies on CDs. Beginner's Basic Bible Study (2 parts), Nature of God's Law, The Gospel, New Age Bible Versions, God is a Personal Being, How to Pray, The Ten Commandments, and The Kingdom of God.

That's all in Bible Pack #1. They get the CD with the letter and the study packs are put together in a spiral binder. So far we have eight of them. They're all designed to take you through the Bible, to understand it. Here they are. This is what Ken does, puts these all together. We make these right here.

The thing that is important is *the Truth of God*. We have the latest one—study pkg. #8—which is *Holidays or Holy Days, By Who's Authority?*

It goes through what authority did God give to the apostles. Ken just reminded me that he's the caboose. First it has to be recorded. Then it has to be edited. Then it has to be collected, then digitized. In order to get some of these that we did on cassettes, we sent hundreds and hundreds of them off to Jeff Williams in Florida and he converted them to digital CDs.

Now we have them on CDs, which is very easy to handle. I suppose, with the memory sticks and everything they have now, we could possibly put everything we have on a memory stick. We have the Internet. We'll have these on the Internet. People can download them there. That's an important thing.

I was watching the news and it looks like they finally have Donald Trump on track. He's been calling Hillary 'Lying Hillary.' Now he's calling her 'the Queen of Corruption.' As bad as she is, people do not understand that *Christianity in this world is worse*. Hardly anything is true.

There was a real good video, Jonathan downloaded it for me, put it on CD, it was how to convince an atheist that there is a God. It was really

quite good. The fellow did really good until he got to the point ‘now that you can see to say there is no God, and you can understand that there is a God,’ then he started right out with Jesus and forgiveness of sin, which was fine. But the whole thing with Protestantism is to get them in church, get them to accept Jesus, and their sins forgiven, and the finished work of God is don, when that’s only the start. It’s amazing what has happened to Christianity in this world.

Here’s what we do, the Church and all of us. 2-Timothy 4:1: “I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”

Judgment is on the house of God now and judgment is also on the world now as God’s judgment coming down toward the close of the age.

Verse 2: “Preach the Word!.... “ That’s why with renaming the church website: **truthofGod.org**. They can come to:

- thetruthofgod.com
- thetruthofgod.net
- thetruthofgod.world
- truthofgod.church

They can all get to the website with that now. We should be getting that up and going so more people can get to the website.

Verse 2: “Preach the Word!....” Everybody wants to take a little bit of the Bible here, maybe a little bit of the Bible over there, and then combine it with what they think and what they want. It’s amazing.

Every once in a while I check up on the Catholic EWTN. The other night they had from Baltimore a Mass for all of the past Knights of Columbus. The truth of the matter is they don’t know how many are in hell, how many are in purgatory, or how many in heaven, so they have to have this Mass so those who are kind of half way in between: ‘Only burn your feet, we’ll pray for you and get you out. We’ll move you up to purgatory where you’ll get a little water and put the fire out. Hopefully, if your relatives pay us enough for enough Masses, we’ll get you up out of there and halfway to heaven.’

They have this big pageantry. They have the hall set up, decorated, idols everywhere, paintings everywhere. They have a choir over here and the choir is singing a dirge. Can’t even make out what they are saying. Then in march the Knights of Columbus. They come in, with the feathers in the hat, their sword on and all dressed up. I got to thinking, how different is that from a South

American Indian tribe all dressed up with feathers, having their swords and spears, and walking in to the medicine man who is the shaman of the tribe. They come in and here come all of the priests from the local diocese all dressed up in white robes and gold crosses. Here come the lesser bishops, then the main bishop. He has on this hat. They go through all of these things and all they ever do is have a Mass.

They do quote a little Scripture. They have a little deacon come around and he picks up a little Scripture book and he holds it up in the air. He walks over here to the other side, puts it down. Then the bishop gets up and puts on his bonnet, it has two tails going down at the back. He comes over and he reads some Scripture. They think they’re serving God.

Just because they read a few Scriptures, people are satisfied. I’m sure if you asked them, ‘How did you like that?’ they would say, ‘That was wonderful.’ Like this fellow who talked with the atheists, he asked them, ‘Are you a good person?’ *Oh, yeah, I’m a good person.* Then he got into a few things, like ‘When was the last time you lied?’

Here is why we do what we do. It has to do with the Bible, the Word of God, the Truth. We have right online: Truth of God. We preach the Truth of God from the God of Truth, and we accept no traditions—Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, or any other religious tradition—that people have. ***Just the Truth of God!***

This is what Paul means here when he says: “Preach the Word!” What is the Word of God? *Your Word is the Truth!*

“...Be urgent in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine. For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of teachers, having ears itching to hear what satisfies their cravings*; and they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths” (vs 2-4). That’s what we have, *myths and fables*.

That fits right in with what we’re going to cover here in 1-John. Remember what we had in part 1—*Politicians, Preachers, Christ and Our Calling*—TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience, Love. That’s what we find in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John. We’ve got a whole study pack on that. We have a book *The Seven General Epistles* that covers that. We’re revising it to the smaller size at the present time, because we’re almost out.

This is a tremendous summary of what God wants us to understand; 1-John 1:3: “Which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order

that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship... [that's what it is in the Greek] ...indeed, our fellowship... [he's defining it for all of us] ...*is* with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ." ***That's what grace upon grace is!*** Let's see what this grace does:

- blessing
- favor
- kindness
- God's special intervention in your life

Grace is more than the forgiveness of sin, *far more!*

Ephesians 2:12: "*And that you were without Christ at that time... [whatever your circumstances were in the world] ...alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*" That's where a lot of people are today, nearly all of them.

Verse 13: "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ.... [the start of our relationship with God] ...For He is our peace..." (vs 13-14)—also:

- our High Priest
- our Intercessor
- our Elder Brother
- the Son of God
- the One Who was God in the flesh

"...Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition" (v 14). That was the division between Judaism, the Jews and the Gentiles.

The Protestants believe that the laws of God have been done away. One of the verses that they use to do that is right here in v 15. But the Greek does not tell us the way that they interpret it.

Verse 15: "Having annulled in His flesh the ***enmity***..." What is the enmity? What verse describes the enmity? ***'The carnal mind is enmity against God, is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be!'***

"...the law of commandments contained in the ***decrees of men***..." (v 15). What were the decrees of men? Let's see what it is; it never fails, human beings want to improve upon God and improve upon the Word of God. When you do that, what are you saying? *God is not perfect* (Mark 7)!

This is what the Jews did. A lot of people think that Judaism is the religion of the Old Testament. That's why we have the book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* In that book you're going to find a whole chapter on some of the thousands and thousands of laws ***that the Jews have added*** over the Word of God. This then nullified it. The Jews would have nothing to do with

any of the Gentiles, would not be a room with them, would not eat with them, would not fellowship with them. They lived apart, and to this very day, most of the Jews do.

Mark 7:1: "Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem came together to Him. And when they saw some of His disciples eating with defiled hands (that is, unwashed *hands*), they found fault" (vs 1-2).

Maybe as a child growing up your mother found fault with your dirty hands. This was *religiously, a tradition*.

Verse 3: "For the Pharisees and all the Jews, holding fast to the tradition of the elders, do not eat unless they wash their hands thoroughly. Even *when coming* from the market, they do not eat unless they *first* wash themselves. And there are many other things that they have received to observe, *such as the* washing of cups and pots and brass utensils and tables. For this reason, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, *saying*, 'Why don't Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?'" (vs 3-5). Notice what was important to them: *traditions of men, fables, fairy tales*.

Verse 6: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites...'" If you think Donald Trump speaks kind of 'off the cuff, Christ really let them have it.

"...as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me'" (v 6). God wants to have a relationship with you spiritually, with His Spirit. Not just washing hands or washing feet, not just any of the laws that they have. If you don't have that book, you write for that book and get it and you read some of those things. That's just a few of them from a thick book called *Code of Jewish Law*.

Give you another example of hand-washing: Here you are sleeping in bed, sound asleep. You wake up. You can't do anything unless you first pour water over your left hand and then your right hand three times before you do anything. Because when you go to sleep, the demons in you leave, except for your fingers and hand, so you wash them off. However, in emergency—that may come along once in a while—they have many of those things.

That's why they have one, which is contrary to the Scriptures. In an Orthodox Jewish home you have dishes for all non-dairy products, dishes for dairy products, because you can't mix the two and you can't eat them together. They say they follow Abraham and Sarah. Abraham's wife brought a fatted calf that was killed and roasted and had milk and bread and gave it to the God of the Old

Testament and two angels to eat. If it's good enough for God, why isn't it good enough for you?

"...Why don't Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?' And He answered *and* said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me"' (vs 5-6).

Remember that Scripture and watch some of these religious channels and think about it. Are they really teaching people to come to God, to repent to God, to have a relationship with God? What is it that they are really doing?

Verse 7: "But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men... [that's the end result of what happens] ...For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men, *such as* the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.' Then He said to them, '**Full well do you reject the commandment of God...**'" (vs 7-9).

That's serious business. How does that come about? *Because they are rejecting Truth and following their own ways!*

"...so that you may observe your *own* tradition. For Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother"; and "The one who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death." But you say, "If a man shall say to *his* father or mother, 'Whatever benefit you might receive from me *is* corban'" (that is, *set aside as a gift to God*), "he is not obligated to help his parents"" (vs 9-11)—and you excuse him.

Think about what they have done with all these religious practices. Eph. 2—here's what God wants. This is why He wants ***Truth, repentance, obedience, and love.***

By the way, we're working up a new booklet combining a couple things together in it. We have a booklet *Is the Ministry the Government of God?* J.H. Allen, who wrote *Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright*, also had a fantastic article on the Nicolaitans. We're going to combine the two together in a single booklet.

***Grace upon grace is your direct connection with God the Father and Jesus Christ!*** Like Paul explains:

Ephesians 2:15: "...decrees *of men*, so that in Himself He might create both into one new man, making peace... [that is Christ] ...and *that* He might reconcile both... [Jew and Gentile] ...to God in one body through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. Now when He came, He preached the Gospel—

peace to you who *were* far off and to those who *were* near. For through Him we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father" (vs 15-18).

How did Jesus say we are to pray? *To our Father!* He didn't say, 'Remember My mother.' But *to the Father!*

Verse 19: "So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but *you are* fellow citizens with the saints, and *are* of the household of God. You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone in Whom all the building..." (vs 19-21).

This is what God wants. He has called us so that we can be those who are going to help administer the Kingdom of God on earth when Jesus Christ returns.

You think about this: ***What a surprise that is going to be to the world when the resurrection takes place!*** Here God has His army already prepared; they've been sleeping all this time in the grave. He brings them all up to the Sea of Glass. We find out what we need to do, come down to this earth, Satan is removed and we start teaching the people the Word of God. That's a tremendous thing!

This is why God has all of these things for us. The latest Study Pack is #8: *Holidays or Holy Days: By Whose Authority?* Man has no authority:

- to change the Word of God
- to add to the Word of God
- to teach anything other than the Word of God

so that we all come together and grow together. That's what you call *fellowship*.

Ephesians 3:1: "For this cause I, Paul, *am* the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles, if indeed you have heard of the ministry of the grace of God that was given to me for you... [grace upon grace] ...how He made known to me by revelation the mystery (even as I wrote briefly before)" (vs 1-3).

He was called to turn people from darkness unto the Light—and the Light is Christ. It's a mystery to the world. Do you know that if you understand the Bible, and know about the plan of God, do you realize how few a number of people in the world that understand that? Understand the mystery of God. It's the secret of God that He reveals to His saints. That is a fantastic thing.

Verse 4: "So that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ), which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men... [wasn't made know before Christ. Think of how many people

grew up knowing absolutely nothing] ...as it has now been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets by *the Spirit*" (vs 4-5).

What Paul is bringing out here, the whole Church was given this knowledge and understanding of and written down.

Verse 6: "That the Gentiles might be joint heirs, and a joint body, and joint partakers of His promise in Christ through the Gospel."

Think about it, being called to be a son or daughter of God, spiritually and living *forever*. That's an amazing thing.

Verse 8: "To me, who am less than the least of all the saints... [through everything that Paul went through, he got more humble through his whole lifetime] ...was this grace given, that I might preach the Gospel among the Gentiles—even the unsearchable riches of Christ... [that's quite a statement] ...and that I might enlighten all *as to* what *is* the fellowship of the mystery..." (vs 8-9). That fellowship is through prayer, with God's Spirit, you have direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven above.

One other thing, this is an amazing Scripture; John 14:21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him."

That's a *calling*! Why did one day your life suddenly change? *You began to answer the call of God!*

Judas didn't know how this was going to happen, v 22: "Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered and said to him... [here is one of the most important Scriptures in the Bible] ...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word... [not traditions of men, not myths, not fairy tales, not fables] ...and My Father will love him... [the great Sovereign of the universe] ...and We will come to him and make Our abode with him'" (vs 22-23).

This means through the Spirit of God. Jesus said that He would send the Spirit from the Father. The Spirit has two components to it:

1. the Spirit of Christ
2. the Spirit of the Father

Between that and with the Spirit of God within us through *prayer, study, living*, everything, we have fellowship direct with the Great Creator of the universe. That is astonishing! That's why it's a mystery. God doesn't do this to everyone in the

world. The fellowship. That's what the fellowship really is.

This is why he says that 'our fellowship is with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ.'

1-John 1:4: "These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full. And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is Light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth" (vs 4-6).

- we need the Truth
- we need repentance
- we need obedience
- we need love

go to the next track)

Let's look at the difference between darkness and light. The Bible has quite a bit to say about that. Jesus said He was the Light of the world. When He came into the world, as the Light of the world (John 1), the world didn't comprehend it. It doesn't comprehend it *because human beings are spiritually blinded* whenever they go against the laws of God. It's automatic.

Let's see that. We are told that there is no darkness at all in God. We're also told that if we say we have fellowship with Him, and are walking in darkness, we are lying to ourselves. Isn't that really the greatest deception when people lie to themselves and live in lies? Here's what happens:

Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil... [that's the high-water mark of this age] ...who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

Here's what happens then. It's sort of a convoluted way of thinking. This ties right directly in with Rom. 1, because when they reject the Truth, *they reject the way of God*, they reject the laws of God, what happens? *They blind themselves! Blindness is spiritual darkness!*

Verse 21: "Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: who justify the wicked for a bribe... [that's on the highest levels today] ...and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!" (vs 21-23).

They're going to bring upon them all these things. We can be thankful Christ is going to return soon, however long that will be. However, He's going to have to come and put an end to it. The whole world now is under the power of Satan the



devil. He's deceiving the whole world, which means the world is in darkness.

Isaiah 60:1: "Arise, shine; for your light has come... [the return of Christ; His first coming and second coming] ...and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you, for behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness *the* people ... [there's no salvation except the return of Jesus Christ] ...but the LORD shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you" (vs 1-2).

Let's see how the book of Proverbs describes this. If you do a study through the Bible, you will find that there's a lot about light and darkness.

Proverbs 2:12: "To deliver you from the way of the evil *man*, from the man who speaks wicked things, those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness" (vs 12-13)—the way of sin, the way of the world.

Verse 15: "Whose ways *are* crooked, and are devious in their paths." Maybe 'the Donald's' been reading a little of the Bible, who knows.

Let's look at the contrast in Prov. 4. What we can see from this is that the Bible as a whole is a unified whole. What John is writing about is nothing new, but with the spiritual application of Christ.

Proverbs 4:18: "But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shines more and more to the perfect day.... [the perfect day is the return of Christ] ...The way of the wicked *is* as darkness; they know not at what they stumble" (vs 18-19).

Doesn't that describe the world today? The world is upside down. No one knows how to straighten it out. Anyone comes along with a right solution, immediately debunked.

Let's see something concerning the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Let's come to Acts 26, and here is what Jesus told Paul when He called him what he was to do. The whole world is filled with darkness. When Paul was called his name was Saul, and Jesus knocked him to the ground:

Acts 26:14: "Then all of us fell to the ground... [the ones who were with Paul] ...and I heard a voice speak to me, saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is* hard for you to kick against the pricks.' And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting'" (vs 14-15). Whenever there's persecution against us, that's persecution against Jesus.

Jesus tells him, v 16: "Now arise, and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you *as* a minister and a witness both of what you have seen and what I shall reveal

to you. I am personally selecting you from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you... [here's the purpose of the Gospel and the Spirit of God]: ...**to open their eyes...**" (vs 16-18)—spiritually, because if you're walking in sin, you're walking in darkness.

"...that *they* may turn from darkness to light, and *from* the authority of Satan to God, so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified through faith in Me" (v 18).

That's quite a thing, too, when you tie together all the writings of the Apostle Paul and all that he has written. That is really something. That was his mission. That's why we have

- the Word of God
- the Spirit of God
- the Truth of God

*the Truth of God includes everything:*

- all the Word of God
- His laws
- His commandments
- His statutes
- His precepts
- His Holy Days
- His Sabbath

All of those are the Truth of God.

1-John 1:6: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him... [that's with God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth. However, if we walk in the Light... [the Light of God's Word] ...as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin" (vs 6-7). He's including himself there.

The thing that got me started on this was the man who wrote and said, 'Nine years ago I accepted Jesus and I haven't sinned since.' I wonder how long it was that the Apostle John was an apostle, and he was the one whom Jesus loved? He includes himself, he says, '**We.**'

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us." Self-deception is the first thing.

What is the Scripture? '*The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.*' That takes place today. People leave the Truth and incrementally are led away. Then they come to a point. Let's look at this in the Gospel of John, chapter three. Since it's talking about the blood of Jesus Christ, we're going to see something very important here. Very interesting, indeed!

We all know the verse. The world loves to quote this, but they don't go any further. So we're going to read John 3:16, and we're going to read the verses afterwards and see what it says:

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish..." Perish means to not even exist, because when we die, the Bible calls that *sleep*. In Ecc. 12 it says when we die the spirit goes back to God. Heb. 12 tells us that when we come to God, Mount Zion in heaven above, that's through prayer, that we come to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Wherever it is that God keeps all of those who are sleeping, they have not perished. Their existence, *sleeping*, has been stored. Isn't it interesting that they have this for a computer. You can put a computer to sleep. Everything is still there, but it's sleeping. It's not working. That's very similar to what it is with the spirit of man, the Spirit of God has been perfected. That goes back to God. How He's going to accomplish the resurrection, we won't know until we're resurrected. That's going to be something.

There is a difference. Here's the difference, because Jesus told the Pharisees that the one who believes in Him 'shall not taste of death forever.' You need to analyze that statement. That's what it says in the Greek. If you taste of death, you haven't completely perished, because God has the record of your life; same way for those for the second resurrection.

1-Corinthians 15:17: "But if Christ has not been raised, your faith *is* vain; you are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ have then perished" (vs 17-18). Notice the difference in dying, is called sleeping.

The same word for perished is used there. What Jesus is talking about is the second death (Rev. 20).

John 3:16: "...so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish..." That's what it is in the Greek. It's in what is called the subjunctive case. Whenever it's in the subjunctive case, it means that there are conditions that have to be met in order for the *may* and *not* to be applied.

We can put it the other way: If you don't believe and reject God and reject Him completely, and you qualify for the Lake of Fire, you will perish. Those who believe in Jesus Christ, have their sins forgiven, have the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ, and are faithful unto death, they will die, which is sleeping, and they will not taste of death forever (John 8). The wicked are going to perish, no longer any hope of anything.

"...may not perish, but may have..." (v 16)—conditions applied. What are the conditions?

- What did Jesus tell the man that He healed after 38 years? '*Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you!*'
- What did John write? '*If we say that we know Him and are walking in darkness, we are lying to ourselves.*'

Conditions! We're going to see more conditions. That's why it's in the subjunctive here.

Verse 17: "'For God sent not His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.'"

At that time He did not judge the world. That happens all the time, but not then. He says a little later on, 'I have many things to judge of you.'

Verse 18: "The one who believes in Him is not judged... [because we repent] ...but the one who does not believe has already been judged because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment... [judgment is always there] ...that the Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who practices evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his works may not be exposed; but the one who practices the Truth comes to the Light, so that his works may be manifested, that they have been accomplished by *the power of God*'" (vs 18-21).

Let's look at this now. What happens when you're in the light? *You have spiritual eyes, you can see!* If you start going astray, and you don't take corrective action, you're walking away from the light.

Have you ever been in front of a car that's been parked with the lights on, so you can see where you're going? Your back is to the light, but you still have some light to see by, as you're walking away. That's the best description I can give of apostasy for those who are walking away from the light. They think everything is still good, because they can still see.

Finally you get so far away that the light has no effect on you at all, and you're back in darkness. That's why we need to keep coming to the light. That's why everyday *prayer and study!* When you pray, you're worshiping God; you're talking to God. When you study, which is an extension of worship, He's talking to you through His Word. When you do that, you're using the Light of the Word of God to correct your own thoughts, to correct your own behavior. This is the authority of God in your life. This is part of grace upon grace.

- God will help you
- God will lead you
- God will guide you

Another thing comes along with that: *The longer that you live with the Spirit of God, and are doing that, with the Light of God's Word in your life, the less you think of yourself!* Also you realize that everything there is comes from God, every single thing! Therefore, you come to understand: What can you really, really do apart from God? **Nothing!**

Let's see something very important here. This is concerning Jesus, Who came in the flesh. They didn't understand what Jesus was saying about healing the man there in this account. Realize this: spiritual work is going on all the time. Every Sabbath is to be an increase in the working of God's Spirit. While we rest physically, we grow spiritually.

John 5:17: "But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I work.' So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, not only because He had loosed the Sabbath, but also *because* He had called God His own Father, making Himself equal with God" (vs 17-18). Yet, that's right in the Bible in Ps. 82.

Notice what Jesus said. This is what is to happen to us spiritually, as we grow in grace and knowledge.

Verse 19: "Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself...' *I can do nothing of Myself!* Not even a carnal person in the world, because God created that individual.

"...but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder" (vs 19-20).

Verse 30: "I have no power... [Greek is 'dunamais,' which means *literal power*] ...to do anything of Myself..."—out from Me; that I am going to do something from Me for God.

The more that you have the Spirit of God, the more that you're walking in the Light, the more that you're coming to the Light, the more that you're growing in grace and knowledge. I'm including myself in it, as well. All of us, the more we realize that we can come to the same statement that Jesus said, '*Of Myself I can do nothing; I have no power.*' God has given you a life; you're custodian of that life.

The one thing He has given you, and every human being, is Independent Free Moral Agency

(IFMA). ***We must choose!*** That's quite something—no power. The one Who was God before He became a human being said He had no power of Himself to do anything.

1-John 1:8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us."

- What does Paul call human nature? *It's carnal!*
- What is carnal nature? *It's against law!*
- What does he say that we have within us? *The law of sin and death!*

If we say we do not have sin, you are deceiving yourself. That was quite interesting when this fellow was talking to the atheists and got them to admit that you do lie to yourself.

Verse 9: "If we confess our own sins..."—to God, not to any man! ***No man can forgive you!*** Why do we confess them to God through Christ?

"...He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (v 9). That's what God wants in our lives, "...cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- that's called growing in grace and knowledge
- that's called building the character of God
- that's called developing the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit

*Let God's Spirit:*

- work in our lives
- work in our minds
- cleanse us

Verse 10: "**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar...** [that ties in with Isa. 5] ...and **His Word is not in us.**"

That tells you another thing. How does God's Word get in us? He's given us the ability to learn. He's given us His Spirit. He wants it written in our heart and our mind. Here's the whole purpose of the New Covenant, right here:

Hebrews 10:15: "And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, "This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days," says *the* Lord, "I will give My laws into their hearts... [which is Truth] ...and I will inscribe them in their minds"" (vs 15-16).

They know that the human mind has been made to learn, to remember, to actually etch within the very cells of the brain what you learn, very similar to what we call in a computer a digital entry. It is such that it needs to be exercised with prayer and study and the Word of God.

It says, 'The Word of God is not in us if we say that we make Him a liar.' How do people make God a liar? Let's just take Sabbath: They say, 'You don't have to keep it; the church changed it to Sunday.' Then you're saying God is a liar. Take any one of the commandments and do it.

Here's the other part of the bargain. Remember what we read here, 'He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins.' See how this ties in with this next verse:

Verse 17: "And their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again." Now, where remission of these *is*, it is no longer *necessary to offer sacrifices* for sin... [that is animal sacrifices] ...Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter into the *true* Holiest..." (vs 17-19). Directly into the Holy of Holies in heaven above through our prayers.

You read in Revelation that when we pray, our prayers come up to God like incense. I think the Holy Spirit filters out all of the distractions of our thoughts that are not directly related to praying to God. It's spiritually edited on the way up.

Verse 20: "By a new and living way, which He consecrated for us through the veil (that is, His flesh), and *having* a great High Priest over the house of God, let us approach *God* with a true heart... [not fooling ourselves] ...with full conviction of faith... [because what God has said, He will do] ...our hearts having been purified from a wicked conscience, and our bodies having been washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast without wavering to the hope that we profess, for He Who promised is faithful**" (vs 20-23).

Now we're ready for 1-John 2. I want you to look at the difference between the way that John wrote chapter one. 1-John 1 says *we, we, we*. Almost all the rest of the way through the epistle it is *I*. What was the difference? Probably when they were putting the New Testament together, they collectively wrote this first part of what is 1-John 1. That included John, probably Andrew, probably Philip, probably Mark, probably Timothy, who were there on the assembling of the New Testament together. We find that in the very last few verses of the Gospel of John, where John is explaining in chapter twenty-one what went on.

They say right there in an inserted statement: 'And *we* testify that what he wrote is true.' Who are the *we*? *The same ones that were here!*

When it says *we*, including John and the ones that I mentioned that were there, they counted themselves as need of having forgiveness of sin. How long had they been converted? John died approximately between 98<sub>A.D.</sub> and 100<sub>A.D.</sub> He was

converted 70-plus years, and he still included himself in that statement *we*. That's quite a thing.

1-John 2:1: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And *yet*, if anyone does sin, we... [there it is again, including himself] ...have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous." That's a pretty powerful verse right there.

Why is God so willing to forgive sin when we truly repent? *Because we have all inherited the law of sin and death coming from Adam and Eve!* Paul writes of that.

Romans 5:10: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His own Son, much more *then*, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *this*, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the reconciliation. Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way death passed *into*... [part of our very being] ...all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned" (vs 10-12).

That's why even little children sin. You can even see it when they're infants. They get angry if they don't get their way! *Yes, indeed!* A lot of people don't know why babies cry so much. That's because they haven't learned to speak. Dolores said over the years, with the children we've had, she's learned to tell when they're hungry, when they're frustrated, when they're angry, when they're spoiled and demanding, all in the cry.

It passes into us and that is called the law of sin and death in Rom. 7. What does that do? The law of sin and death, you don't realize how automatically you sin until the Spirit of God really convicts you with it.

Paul said that in his flesh there was no good thing, *nothing!* But when he was on the way to arrest the Christians, before he was knocked to the ground by Christ, he thought he was a pretty big deal. He had authority and commission from the high priest to even go to Damascus to get the Christians, bring them back to Jerusalem in chains, put them in prison and torment them. Even agreed with the killing of Stephen. So, he understood the law of sin and death. So did all the apostles.

1-John 2:1: "...yet, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous; and He is *the* propitiation..." (vs 1-2)—meaning: *continuing source of mercy and forgiveness, not just an atonement for a single event.*

"...and not for our sins only, but also for *the* sins of the whole world" (v 2). Isn't that amazing?

He understood the plan of God was going to be for the whole world.

I often wonder about John after he got the vision of the book of Revelation, about 95-96 A.D. In vision he did see the return of Jesus Christ. But I wonder what he thought after seeing everything that's in the book of Revelation, and he didn't have a clue that it would be about 2,000 years later before those things would unfold.

But he says, "...for the sins of the whole world." Also, when we get to the Holy Days, and we get to the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, think how many sins that that sacrifice is going to cover: ***all of the human race, for all who repent! That's mind-blowing! That is fantastic!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 4:1-4
- 2) 1-John 1:3
- 3) Ephesians 2:12-15
- 4) Mark 7:1-11
- 5) Ephesians 2:15-21
- 6) Ephesians 3:1-6, 8-9
- 7) John 14:21-23
- 8) 1-John 1:4-6
- 9) Isaiah 5:20-23
- 10) Isaiah 60:1-2
- 11) Proverbs 2:12-13, 15
- 12) Proverbs 4:18-19
- 13) Acts 26:14-18
- 14) 1-John 1:6-8
- 15) John 3:16
- 16) 1-Corinthians 15:17-18
- 17) John 3:16-21
- 18) John 5:17-20, 30
- 19) 1-John 1:8-10
- 20) Hebrews 10:15-18-23
- 21) 1-John 2:1
- 22) Romans 5:10-12
- 23) 1-John 2:1-2

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 1
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- Hebrews 12
- Revelation 20
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#### Books:

- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Judaism: Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin
- *Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright* by J. H. Allen

#### Booklet: *Is the Ministry the Government of God?*

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## Christ and Our Calling III

To truly know God requires truth, repentance, obedience and love

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

A lot has been happening in prophecy, but I'm not going to cover prophecy for a while. I want to see how it develops. Keep your eyes on Turkey, because that is Edom/Esau in prophecy. It's going to be a major player in the Middle East.

My supposition is that since the major powers are all exhausted in fighting in the Middle East and the Middle East countries do not want westerners in there fighting against them, that the perfect solution is to finance Turkey to go in and straighten out the remnants of their Ottoman Empire, which they used to rule.

We've been in the book of 1-John, a very small epistle, but a very powerful epistle. Also, one that is easy to understand in both the Greek and the English, and most languages, because it has a very simple Greek in its writing. God inspired it that way so there would be no contesting over which word means what.

We've come down here through 1-John 2:2: "And He [Jesus] is *the* propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world."

If you would ask a Protestant how God is going to take care of that, the whole world, and then you explain to them that it means everything from creation to the return of Christ—that means everything in the Millennium and that means the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20)—they wouldn't have a clue. Why? *We will see as there's an answer to it!*

We have seen contact with the Father and Jesus Christ, repentance and walking in the light, or being in the darkness (1-John 1).

Verse 3: "And by this *standard...*" Greek: 'en touto,' which means *in this*. Since it's written with some ellipsis in this, you supply the word *standard*.

"...we know that we know Him..." (v 3). How many people know God? How many people *know that they know* God?

You can probably go to any Sunday-keeping church and they say, 'Do you know the Lord, brother?' *Oh, yes, I'm born again. I know the Lord.* 'How do you know the Lord?' *I've got this wonderful feeling in my heart and I feel good and love everybody.* 'Really!'

Notice the answer is conditional, and remember what we've covered concerning conditions and independent free moral agency (IFMA). We've got TROL and IFMA.

*If* God opens our mind. *If* we go to church every Sunday; *if* I'm nice to my neighbor; *if* I think I'm a good person. *No!*

"...if we keep His commandments" (v 3). That's quite a statement. Is that hard to understand? *No!* In every language it is easy to understand.

Sidebar: Matthew 24:12: "And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of many shall grow cold." You first have to love God before you can love other people in reality *the way God wants you to love them*. Even sinners love one another and help out one another. Even thieves have honor. If you steal from someone else and share it with them, that's fine, but if you steal from them you're gone.

"...if we keep His commandments" (v 3). In the book of Revelation there are two very important Scriptures concerning commandment keeping:

1. Rev. 12:17 describes the Church as those who 'keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus'

*That adds a little more to it!*

2. Rev. 14:12 is speaking of Christians, here are 'those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus'

It takes faith to keep the commandments. It takes no faith to disobey; everybody does that automatically.

I got this book *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley. He doesn't know how true that is. What does he have on the front of it? *A fig leaf*, because he's repeating exactly what Adam and Eve did.

When you get a book like this, you can go through it and you can find the pages and you will know that you don't have to read the whole book. As we have pointed out many times, the ones who are responsible for all the lawlessness and all the crime and everything:

1. the religious leaders
  2. the politicians
  3. the people
- in that order*

from *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley: The Secret Formula...  
*Really?*

If the Scriptures say that the law has no place in the life of the believer, the most logical question is this: If the law isn't our moral guide, then what is? As Christian we have an inborn desire for our behavior to turn out right.

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way, which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death." It's repeated in Prov. 16:25, and other places as well.

In fact the desire to please God is what drives some to embrace the error of law-based living.

Did you know you're living in error?  
How can that be?

Romans 8:7: "Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God; neither indeed can it *be*." Why? *Because it's not in our nature to do so!*

Taking the Ten Commandments away from a believer can be spiritually akin to taking a safety blanket away from a child. The child may feel insecure, but removing the crutch is essential to helping them become mature.

It's natural for adults to feel insecure when something they've seen as a foundation for their lives is figuratively yanked from them. But realizing our release from the Law is an essential step toward Christian maturity.

That's why we have the book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* I'll have a little more to say about that when I talk about the Holy Days. 'Just a little question to prime the pump': What human being is so great that he can add-to what a perfect God has already dictated or commanded?

The Apostle Paul minces no words in making freedom clear to the first century church and to us today. The Law was never intended to serve as a foundation for the Christian life. We have no right or Scriptural basis by which to select portions of the Mosaic Law and claim that these should supervise believers. Paul teaches that believers are led by the Spirit are not under the Law.

He doesn't even understand what *under the Law* is. The whole world is *under the Law*. Most people do not even understand that. They have no conception of what it means to be *under grace*, except 'I've got my sins forgiven.'

Thus even the Ten Commandments are not designed to guide our daily living.

Think about that. You can kill, you can commit adultery, you can steal, you can lie, you can covet, you can have idols. Amazing! This is in print. Is there nothing new under the sun? We will see what John calls them here in just a minute. I also need to say this. Even within the Churches of God there are several things that always course through.

1. the nature of Christ

Was He the God of the Old Testament? *or* Did He only exist at the time of conception? Was God the Father His Father? *or* was Joseph His father? *or* was another man His father?

2. the keeping of the Holy Days  
3. tithes and offerings

You can add on other things to go with that.

We have no right or Scriptural basis by which to select those portions. Thus the Ten Commandments are not designed to guide our daily living. The Ten Commandments are described as a ministry of condemnation that brings death. Who wants that in their life?

*You're going to face 'it's given to all men once to die.'*

We're also informed that sin gains an opportunity through commandments...

*No, it defines it so we can repent, including the big ten.*

...the Law causes sin to increase, not decrease...

*How does that work?*

...Therefore, we can expect more struggle and more sinning if we adopt the Law as our guide for living.

That's partially true, because the Spirit of God and the Law of God will reveal in your mind the sins within, those secret thoughts you never share with anyone. But God knows them.

Conversely, our release from the Law directly results in a release from sin's power. Apart from Law sin is dead. In fact, what the Law couldn't do, in its inferiority, Christ has already done, that is for us. Through placing us in perfect standing before God, our calling is to break free from the Law and cling to the Spirit alone as our guide for daily living.

It's worse than a *naked* gospel; it's annihilated! I wonder how many people will take that book and

think this is good. What does this justify? *Every religious practice that comes into the mind of individuals!*

1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him” (vs 3-4). We just read what the author said.

We’re going to see that this is a lie. This is the lie of Protestantism over and over again. It’s what the rest of the 1-John 2 covers, because those who speak this way are actually the antichrist. They are against Christ.

Verse 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word...” That’s a broader statement. That means everything that God has provided for us: ***His Word!***

“...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him” (v 5).

Here’s the standard, the ultimate reason why we do what we do, v 6: “Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked.” What is sin?

- sin is the transgression of the law
- sin is lawlessness

and that’s the broader meaning of it. Lawlessness is anything that is against God’s Word.

It’s like one ex-Protestant told me one time. He said, ‘In the church I went to, they told us if you have Christ you have everything.’ ***They never tell you what it means to have Christ!***

What did Jesus tell the rich man who came to Him and said, ‘Good Master, what should I do to have eternal life?’ Jesus said, ‘If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ He said, ‘Oh, boy, I’m doing that.’ Sound a little different from what we read in *The Naked Gospel*? Did Christ say that? *Yes, He did!*

Jesus said, ‘Don’t call me good. There’s only one good and that is God.’ Why did He say that? *Because He could not claim perfect goodness in the flesh*, even though He was God in the flesh because He had the flesh and the flesh is the law of sin and death. ‘But if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.’ Then Jesus listed all the commandments except the Sabbath. What do the Protestants do with that in Matt. 19? *They say, ‘See, He didn’t list the Sabbath, so you don’t have to keep the Sabbath.’*

Psalms 19:7: “**The Law of the LORD is perfect**, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts

of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes” (vs 7-8).

When you understand and really know that the one Who was Jesus Christ, was the Lord God of the Old Testament, when He says, ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments,’ what does that include? He said, ‘If you love Me, you will keep My words and the words that I bring are from the Father.’

Verse 9: “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (vs 9-10).

Here’s what the author didn’t like, v 11: “Moreover by them... [the Law, the testimony, the commandments, the precepts] ...Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors?...” (vs 11-12). Completely opposite of what he wrote. Did God put in every man to want to do what is right and serve God? *No!* That right is to do whatever you please.

“...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults” (v 12).

- How does God do that?
- Why are the commandments important?
- What did Jesus say concerning the words that He spoke to the disciples?
- *The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and Life!*

What happens with God’s Spirit in your mind that is being written in your mind and in your heart? You don’t get God’s Spirit unless you first repent and are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. It doesn’t come any other way. There must be baptism, after true repentance. That is a covenant burial.

Everyone talks about Christ and dying for our sins. Everyone talks about the New Covenant and how great that is, whether you are a Protestant or whatever.

What is required with covenants? They don’t know. *It requires a symbolic death!* That, in the case of animals, was used in Gen. 15, as a prophecy of the future death of Jesus. The covenant that He made with Abraham and the covenant that He was going to bring with His death. ***You have to bring forth evidence of death and shed blood!***

That’s what God did with Abraham (Gen. 15). What happened in Gen. 22? Both parties have to have a death, not just one. So, He told Abraham, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and take him over to Mount Moriah and offer him for a burnt sacrifice.’



After Abraham set up the altar, put the wood on it, and of course Isaac had to carry the wood up. That was a type of Christ. Just as Abraham was ready to take the knife and cut Isaac's throat, the angel of the Lord stopped him. The angel said, 'Abraham.' He said, 'Here I am.' *Don't lay a hand on him, because now I know that you fear Me!* From Gen. 15 to Gen. 22 was a 40-year period, the number of trial.

The evidence of the sacrifice in Gen. 15 on God's part were those animals that were laid open in a maledictory sacrifice and He passed between the parts. Abraham's sacrifice was his own son, which God provided a substitutionary sacrifice in the ram caught in the thicket, a prophecy of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ for us.

Christ is a sacrifice; His shed blood forgives our sins. What is the sacrifice *you* bring? What do *you* show as evidence of your death? *Baptism (Rom. 6)! We are baptized into the death of Christ and conjoined to Him!* So, unless there is complete repentance... That's why I labeled this as TROL: truth, repentance, obedience and love.

Now then, when you're buried—didn't Paul say, 'I died.' How can he die and still write an epistle? To be in baptism! That's why baptism is important.

This book is nothing but satanic trash, designed for carnal people who want to feel good about their lives. We have to bring forth the evidence of our death so that *the covenant between God*—through the sacrifice of Christ—*and us* can be accomplished through our death in the watery grave.

When we receive the Spirit of God, what does that do? What did Peter tell the Sanhedrin when they hauled him in there? *You killed Christ!* You always resist the Holy Spirit of God, to whom God gives to those who obey Him. How are you going to obey? Is that New Testament doctrine or not? *Yes, it is!* Out of the mouth of Peter. You think that's good enough? You think the Catholic Church would accept that? Nope, it has to be out of the mouth of the pope.

Verse 12: "Who can understand his errors?..." That's what Paul said. He said, 'I didn't understand lust, though I had my mind full of it, until the commandment came to my knowledge which says, 'You shall not covet.' *The Spirit of God reveals that to you!*

"...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults" (v 12). Not just make me a good person in the community. Not make me happy so everybody accepts me. "...cleanse me from *my* secret faults."

That's why God created the human mind and gave the spirit of man so we could think. He gives

His Spirit so it can unite with our spirit, and God can begin the perfecting within us through conversion. That's how it works.

Verse 13: "And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me..." What does it say in Rom 6? *Sin shall not rule over you!* If you have the Spirit of God and if you have the commandments of God written in your heart and in your mind. Why? *What you are doing with that, then, you are developing the mind of Christ and the conscience of God, where then you can see where your sins originate from within!* Even many people in the Church don't understand that.

Sidebar: I get reports of people still hating one another in the Church. One question for you: Do *you* believe, if you have that kind of heart toward anyone in the Church, that *you* will ever be in the Kingdom of God? *You better examine yourself and repent!*

"...then I shall be blameless... [How are we to be before God? *Blameless!*] ...and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (vs 13-14).

If that is not New Testament doctrine, I don't know what it is. Isn't that amazing? What does it say? *The one who says I know Him, and does not keep His commandments is a liar!*

What does it say about the Holy City, New Jerusalem? *No liar will enter in there!* Who is the father of lies? *Satan the devil!* See what happens when people assume things and never read the Bible? Never really desire God to the point that God will lead you to repentance so you can enter into that baptismal covenant? *In that baptismal covenant you pledge your death, if you don't complete the covenant!* That's what it is.

Exactly the same as the Lord God of the Old Testament pledged His death to Abraham, after He had those sacrificial animals, and He walked down the maledictory trail. He knew He was going to die.

Only the death of God manifested in the flesh can cover the sins of all human beings. No other man could; no other woman could; no animal can. Why? *Because He created all human beings, beginning with Adam and Eve!* He's responsible for the whole world and all people. This is why John is writing what he's writing.

We're going to concentrate on law and commandments; however, I want you to go through and study all of Psalms 119. This is interesting; the Word of God is like this: You study it one time, and then you study something else, you study something

else. Then you come back and study it again and again. That's why we go over and over it.

It must have been sometime in the past year, in studying through Psa. 119 it caught my eye that it says **I** all the way through. In most cases, when it's all **I** that's nothing but vanity. I counted them. In 172 verses there were 135 **I**s. It is **I** as a person, directed toward God, not **I** as a person am great. So, that's the difference.

- How many years have I been in the Church
- How many years have I been a minister?
- How many times have I studied the Bible?
- How many times have I read that?

The reason is, is because the words are Spirit and life. You learn and you learn.

It's like looking at a piece of dirt. You look at the dirt; get rid of it. Put it under a microscope—look at that! Take the smallest part of that and put it under a super microscope and there is still more there. That's the way it is with the Word of God. That's why it's a lifetime study.

Psalm 119:1—Cursed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord. That's what that author would have you read it. *No, it says:*

Psalm 119:1: "**Blessed** are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD." It is your guide. It doesn't superintend you, as he says, out here like a policeman. It guides you within by His Spirit.

Verse 2: "Blessed are they who keep His testimonies and who seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways" (vs 2-3).

Notice this, this is fantastic! Amazing! Think about how many people are out there trying to make their lives better, do better, be better, be stronger, be smarter, be more beautiful, have more muscles and all of this sort of thing. *None of that amounts to anything!*

This is where life really is, right here, v 4: "You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!" (vs 4-5). He's complaining of the weakness of human nature.

Verse 6: "Then I shall not be ashamed when I have respect unto **all** Your commandments.... [each and every one] ...I will praise You with uprightness of heart when I have learned Your righteous judgments. will keep Your statutes; O forsake me not utterly... [wonderful Psalm] ...With what shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With all my heart I have sought You; O let me not wander from Your commandments" (vs 6-10).

Isn't that quite a difference from what he wrote here? *This book is the satanic gospel of death!*

(go to the next track)

Exo. 20—the Ten Commandments. We're going to cut right into the middle of the second commandment, after it says don't make and don't bow yourself down to:

Exodus 20:6: "But showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Verse 5: "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me." How do you hate God? *By rejecting His commandments! By making idols!* People can be ever so nice and present such a wonderful thing.

We were talking here and Darlene was telling me about this Rabbi Schneider, a Messianic rabbi, and he goes right down the line with the Old Testament. When it comes to the New Testament, here he is online with his prayer shawl and his coat. Then at Christmas time he is wearing Christmas things. *Why? Because Christians are the ones who send him money!* The Jews don't send him any money; same way with Jonathan Cahn. Always remember this: every false prophet has to have enough proof to sound convincing.

Deuteronomy 5:9: "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments" (vs 9-10).

Now you know why John wrote what he wrote. We're going to do a little quick survey through Psa. 119.

Psalm 119:17: "Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your Word." That's more than commandments, that's everything.

Most of these, who write like this guy does here know nothing about Judaism. They know nothing about what it is to be under law. They know nothing about what it is to be under grace. They don't because, what happens? See this pen? What caused it to fall? *The law of gravity!* All the laws and commandments of God are automatic. They are just like the law of gravity.

- if you keep them, you're blessed
- if you break them, you're cursed

That's for anybody in the world anywhere. Salvation is a calling, which is different from keeping the commandments in the letter of the Law. God expects that of the whole world and that's why He judges the

whole world the way He does. He says that very clearly in Jer. 18.

- if a nation does good, God will bless it
- if a nation sins and does wickedness, God will bring evil upon it

I wonder if there would be such a graph as, you start about 1893 when they had their warning from the Catholics about *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants* (Appendix F, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*). I wonder if you could draw a line on how the lack of knowledge, *lack of knowledge*, **lack of knowledge** to our day, what that has done to the general population.

It's easy to condemn people like this, because it's obvious. My wife has been more right on things than being wrong. She's been wrong occasionally. She helps me a great deal if I give a sermon that she thinks is vanity, she will let me know.

Paul said that there are people who sinned without the Law. What does that mean? They sin without the knowledge of the Law, which means the law works automatically.

I got an e-mail from man who wrote and said, 'The population must be just rife with sin and terrible things going on, because in Fairfax, Virginia, the mayor of the city was arrested for having multiple male sex partners and passing out meth to everyone so they can have a great and glorious time.'

I looked at that and I thought I just wonder what it's like across the United States. Look at Colorado: 'We're cool; we smoke pot; we eat pot. We're wonderful people, we're losing our brain.' They'll never tell you that. Guess who is going to win Colorado? *Hillary-Billary!*

Verse 17: "Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your Word. Open my eyes so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Law"" (vs 17-18).

Remember how we talked about it. It's all spiritually based. How many things can we derive out of the Word of God, if we:

- yield to God
- repent
- yield to God
- grow and overcome
- study
- apply it
- think about it
- live by it
  - ✓ day-by-day
  - ✓ month-by-month
  - ✓ year-by-year

How much can we know? Think how much is in here that even we don't know, even though we know what we know. Amazing!

Verse 113: "I hate those who are double-minded, but Your Law do I love." In James 1 and 4 it talks about those who are 'double-minded, unstable in all of their ways.' Another way of saying it is two-faced.

Verse 114: "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your Word. Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God" (vs 114-115).

Wonderful! Think about what the author said in this book. Think about what I read. Compare that with the Word of God.

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).

That's something! Those are good words. It helps you; it gives you spiritual strength in a world where there is nothing but lawlessness on every side.

Verse 29: "Remove from me the way of lying..." The carnal mind is deceitful above all things. The human heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9).

They've run surveys and they have found that the average person lies three times in eleven minutes, either to themselves about something, or to themselves about other people, or to themselves in conversation with other people. 'Hi, how are you doing?' *I'm doing fine*. But to himself he thinks: I never want to see you again.

"...and grant me Your Law graciously" (v 29). How are you going to have Law and grace together? Look at that. I wonder how he would explain that.

Verse 30: "I have chosen the way of Truth..." The way of lying is the way of the world. Is the whole world deceived by Satan the devil? *Yes!* Is that the way of lying? *Yes, that's the way of the world!*

Verse 30: "I have chosen the way of Truth... [Your Word is Truth, Your righteousness is Truth, Your commandments are Truth] ...I have laid Your judgments before me."

Verse 32: "I will run the way of Your commandments for You shall enlarge my heart." That's interesting. Run, anxious to do it, wanting to do it. Not just walk in it, but run.

Verse 33: "Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give

me understanding, that I may keep Your Law and observe it with all my heart. Make me to walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in them” (vs 33-35).

Verse 37: “Turn away my eyes from seeing vanity; give me life in Your way.”

This Psalm is broken down into segments, as you look at it, of 8 verses per segment. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and each segment, at the top you will see has the Hebrew letter. Each one of these verses in Hebrew begins with that letter. Because this is called a Psalm of degrees, the singers at the temple were required to memorize this so they could sing it. It’s hard for us to remember 4 or 5 verses, let alone memorize the whole thing in Hebrew and then sing it.

Verse 43: “And take not the Word of Truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your judgments.”

That also tells you something else. If you sin and go against God, and continue to do so, and don’t repent, you’re going to lose what you had. This is why we have the Sabbath, because we need to be refreshed every Sabbath. If you go without keeping the Sabbath and just working, if you did that for six months, I wonder how much you would lose. Don’t know, I’m not going to experiment.

We’ve seen it in people who have done that and what happens? People have said when I talked to them, it’s kind of like there is a blank behind the eyes, nothing there.

Verse 44: “So shall I keep Your Law continually forever and ever.”

What is this fellow going to do? If we are acting as prosecutors, and we’ve taken him to court, and we put this in evidence...

Verse 47: “And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I have loved.... [think of what that is in saying they are all done away] ...And I will lift up my hands unto Your commandments, which I have loved, and I will meditate on Your statutes” (vs 47-48).

Think about how good and right God is. How loving and kind and wonderful that He is. Think about everything that He has made. Atheists don’t realize it. Everything that God has created has His stamp of creation on it by design, whether it’s a speck of dust, a living creature, an insect, a bird, or human beings.

How do they know who you are? *They have genetic testing!* How did you get your genes? *23 from your mom and 23 from your dad!* So, we have 46 genes and chromosomes. I’ve thought on that many times, working on the book and writing and

publishing it and thinking about it later on. (Book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?*)

How did God make it so that in the process of creating new human life, that from the father comes 23 genes and from the mother comes 23 genes, when everything else in your body has 46? That’s an amazing thing.

It’s like trying to answer: What is gravity? *Don’t know, but it works!* What is electricity? *Don’t know, but it works!* I don’t even think we’ve had a grasp of how great, marvelous, fantastic, awesome, wonderful... I don’t think there are human words good enough to express what God actually is, if we were to be in His presence. That’s why we’ve got to be changed from flesh to spirit. After the resurrection is when we’re going to learn more than we’ve ever learned.

Verse 59: “I considered my ways... [you think about what you’re doing] ...and turned my feet unto Your testimonies. I made haste and did not delay to keep Your commandments” (vs 59-60). Yes, because written in our hearts and in our minds that gives us: do this, do that, do the other thing.

Verse 66: “Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I have believed Your commandments.”

What happens when you really believe? First of all, what’s the greatest commandment? *Loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!* Is that not something that has to be developed and continuously prayed about and studied about? How do you love God that way? *With all your heart, mind, soul and being!* How can you love God when you throw everything away? (Reference to Andrew Farley and his book)

Verse 69: “The proud have forged a lie against Me, but I will keep Your precepts with all my heart. Their heart is gross like fat, but I delight in Your Law” (vs 69-70).

I don’t know if any of us today would have the mental capacity to memorize every word of this in English and just start right down the line. Look at how much is here.

Verse 72: “The Law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver.”

I’ve often thought about that. If you could picture this: here’s a dark room and here’s a table, and on it is a big stack of fine gold. All around the base of it are silver bars and the light is on it. Here’s another table over here with the light shining down on it and here’s a Bible. You bring someone into this room and you say, ‘The choice is yours, you can have either one. Do you want all this gold and silver or do you want this Bible over here?’

A person would think, 'I wonder what I could do with all this gold and silver.' They ought to be thinking. 'If I had this Bible over here and understood it and live by it, I could live forever.' Which is worth more? Bible? *or* The gold and silver? In today's world, gold and silver is snapped up like nothing.

Verse 73: "Your hands have made me and formed me... [through the genes and chromosomes that God created] ...give me understanding so that I may learn Your commandments."

Everything about you physically God has made. We were all little babies at one time. Can't remember that, can you? If you can remember back to two years—I think Jonathan remembers back to two or three years old. I can't! I don't know about you. I can't go back more than about 6 or 8 and it's sketchy.

But you were alive then as a little infant. You grew and you didn't look like anything like you look now, some for better, some for worse, that's how it goes. Nevertheless, that shows that God's creation is always in process and progress, physically and spiritually. Right now we're in a generational change. God is going to have to call some more people because He's going to have a harvest of all of us old folks. That's the way it goes.

***No one, except Christ, has been resurrected from the dead to live forever!*** Yes, Lazarus was brought back to life.

Sidebar on Lazarus: Why did Jesus do that? Even the disciples wondered, 'Lord, why didn't You run back there and help Lazarus so he wouldn't have died?' Jesus deliberately stayed away so Lazarus would be dead.

Jesus said, 'Lazarus is dead.' Then He came back and Martha and Mary said, 'Lord, if You would have been here, he wouldn't have died.' He said, ***'I am the Way, the Life, and the Resurrection.'*** Where was he buried? *Over here in this sepulcher!* 'Let's go out there.' All the Jews thought, Jesus wept and everybody's going out wailing and weeping and everything like that.

He gets out there in front of the tomb and they say to Him, 'By now he stinks.' Of course, he would, yes. Why did Jesus resurrect him? Simple, short prayer: 'Father, I thank You that You hear Me always.' How's that for a long prayer? 'But I say this for the sake of those who are here. Lazarus, come here!'

There he comes, all the grave clothes, taking off the napkin over his face and he's all wrapped up in all of the embalming stuff that they do. Why? *Because He wanted Lazarus to be in the first resurrection!*

How many disciples were in the upper room? *120!* You can be sure Lazarus was there and Mary was there and Martha was there. Jesus' mother Mary was there and his brothers were there. The 70 were there and the 12 were there. See how we get 120?

Jesus wanted Lazarus to have salvation, but also to demonstrate the power of the second resurrection that if you die, and you have not committed the unpardonable sin, you will be raised for an opportunity of salvation.

Verse 86: "All Your commandments are faithful... [commandment keeping and faith connected (Rev. 14:12)] ...they persecute me wrongfully; help me!" How many times a day do you ask God to help you? *Anytime you need to!*

Verse 92: "Unless Your Law had been my delight, then I should have perished in my affliction." How about that! Delighting in the Law of God. Andrew Farley, what do you have to say to that?

Verse 96: "I have seen an end to every purpose, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad." Goes on and on and on.

Verse 98: "Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients because I keep Your precepts. I have held back my feet from every evil way, so that I might keep Your Word" (vs 98-101).

How's that for having the Law of God written in your heart, mind, soul, and being to guide your steps. It's the Spirit of God that's leading you. It's not the commandments that are supervising you.

Verse 109: "My life is in my hand daily, yet, I do not forget Your Law." Another way of saying, 'I have free moral agency and choose every day, yet I do not forget your law.'

I had a man write me an e-mail, and say, 'I've studied Psa. 119 many times and I never get all the way through it. Finally I listened to it on ***afaithfulversion.org*** all the way through and I got through it.' Sometimes you can do that.

Verse 131: "I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments." How totally opposite of doing away with the Law is that? Passionate! Zealous!

Verse 132: "Look upon me, and be gracious unto me, as You are known to do for those who love Your name."

Verse 134: "Deliver me from the oppression of man, and I will keep Your commandments."

Verse 136: “Rivers of water run down my eyes because they do not keep Your Law.” That’s about what we’re coming to in the world today.

Verse 142: “**Your righteousness...** [all the commandments are righteousness] **...is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is the Truth.**” How are you going to get away from that?

Verse 143: “Trouble and anguish have taken hold upon me, yet, Your commandments are my delight.”

Verse 151: “You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth.”

Verse 163: “I hate and despise lying, but I love Your Law.” You think we’ve given enough evidence in this court case against *The Naked Gospel*? Yes!

Verse 165: “Great peace have those who love Your law, and there is no stumbling block for them.”

Verse 172: “My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Your hand help me, for I have chosen Your precepts. I have longed for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight” (vs 172-174).

There we have a quick survey of Psa. 119. There is so much more there. I imagine you could study this nearly every day for a month and still learn more.

Let’s look and see what Jesus said. You want to follow what Jesus said? Remember John 14-17 are all powerful things that we read every Passover. I imagine that Andrew Farley would say he loves God and he loves Jesus. But he is sincerely deceived and has written nothing but error and sin.

Notice Jesus’ qualification for loving Him. John 14:15: “If you love Me, **keep** the commandments—namely, My commandments.”

Did He do everything the Father told Him to do? Speak everything that the Father said He should speak? Yes, *He did!* There it is.

We’ve covered an awful lot and read an awful lot of Scripture today. We will pick it up next time in 1-John 2. I don’t know how long it will take us to get through major portions of that epistle, but I think it’s very important for us living in the society we live in today and the state of the world and the state of the churches, state of our lives that we need to stay close to God. It’s important that we go through these things.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-John 2:2-3
- 2) Matthew 24:12

- 3) 1-John 2:3
- 4) Proverbs 14:12
- 5) Romans 8:7
- 6) 1-John 2:3-6
- 7) Psalm 19:7-14
- 8) Psalm 119:1-10
- 9) Exodus 20:6, 5
- 10) Deuteronomy 5:9-10
- 11) Psalm 119:17-18, 113-115, 127-128, 29-30, 32-35, 37, 43-44, 47-48, 59-60, 66, 69-70, 72-73, 86, 92, 96, 98-101, 109, 131-132, 134, 136, 142-143, 151, 163, 165, 172-174
- 12) John 14:15

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 20; 12:17; 14:12
- Proverbs 16:25
- Matthew 19
- Genesis 15; 22
- Romans 6
- Jeremiah 18
- James 1; 4
- Jeremiah 17:9
- John 14-17

#### Also referenced:

##### Books:

- *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley
- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

#### Appendix F, *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* (*The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*)

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 8-23-16

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## Christ and Our Calling—IV Truth, Repentance, Obedience & Love

**Mishandling of Truth to create an error is a lie. Will you believe the lie of the naked Gospel?**

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

Jesus told us to *‘be on guard, that no one deceive you.’* We’ll look at a couple of those things today. But first of all I want to tell you that we have updated the booklet, *Is the Ministry God’s Government?* We have added to it *The Nicolaitans* by J. H. Allen. He’s the one who wrote *Judah’s Sceptre and Joseph’s Birthright*. Very excellent article! The wrong type of church leadership can lead people astray.

What happens when people don’t want to do things God’s way? On [churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org) I was covering Isa. 66. Remember that there can be *apparent success* with sin for a while. What we’re doing, we’re doing a short series on how to worship God.

Isaiah 66:1: “Thus says the LORD, ‘The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool...’”

If you want another study, do ‘heaven and earth.’ See how many times that God uses that. We’ll use it a couple of times here today.

“...Where then *is* the house that you build for Me?...” What are you going to do for God? There are a lot of people who want to do things for God, but they forget that *it’s what God is going to do for you* that’s more important.

“...And where *is* the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,’ says the LORD. ‘But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word’” (vs 1-2).

That’s important. We’re going to see that. What did John say about those who say, ‘I know him’—that is the Lord—and do not keep His commandments? *A liar!* New Testament!

One of the greatest hoaxes is that Catholics say of the Old Testament, ‘That’s the old Law.’ There’s a quirk in human nature; you always want something new. But they forget to tell you that the old Law is eternal, so even though it’s old, *it’s new*.

As I talked about, you can get all the gold, all the silver. You can made the best, most beautiful, the tallest, whatever, for God. What is that compared to the universe? *Nothing!* With that attitude we are less than ants going around trying to build an anthill or termites building a termite tower.

If you come to God with the wrong attitude, the wrong spirit, and you don’t have a contrite spirit and tremble at His Word—that means believe, keep, and not transgress, all combined in the one word tremble. Verse 3 tells you what it’s like. When they brought the animal sacrifices, killing an ox was the most expensive and greatest thing you could do.

Verse 3: “He who kills an ox *is as if* he killed a man; he who sacrifices a lamb *is as if* he broke a dog’s neck ... [threw the dog on the altar] ...he who offers a grain offering *is as if* he offered swine’s blood; he who burns incense *is as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways...”

That’s what human beings like to do; they call it *freedom*, except when you use your freedom to point out where their wrong. The freedom God offers is *freedom from sin!*

Here’s what happens automatically, v 4: “I also will choose their delusions...” The human heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. What a glorious Gospel it is to come and tell the carnal mind that you don’t need to keep the Gospel. You don’t need to keep the Law. Those two quotes I read in part 3, I’m going to read them again. Those are mind-blowing if you understand it says.

“...and I will bring their fears upon them...” (v 4). Is that happening today? What’s one of the greatest themes of the election? *Make America safe again*, because everybody is afraid of the terrorists! You don’t know who that could be. You could be walking down the mall and someone have a bomb. The moral of the story is to shop online. But make sure the package doesn’t have a bomb in it when it arrives.

“...because when I called...” (v 4). Everybody who has a Bible has the call of God right in their home. All they have to do is open it and read it.

“...no one answered...” (v 4)—or they answer this way. ‘Yes, Lord, but...’—the ‘yeah buts’—that’s part of their delusions.

“...But they did evil before My eyes and chose *that* in which I did not delight” (v 4). Does that sound a little bit like 1-John 2? *Yes, indeed!*

I want you to find the consistency in what we’re doing with this study in 1-John, which is *truth, repentance, obedience and love* (TROL).

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 and go in and possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers gives to you”

Remember that every human being in the world needs to remember that ***you have nothing you didn't receive!*** Don't care

- who you are, where you are
- where you live
- how young you are
- how old you are
- whatever you have
- whatever you don't have

—***you have nothing you didn't receive!***

God says, v 2: “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.” Clear, isn't it?

What did John write? *He said, ‘Hereby we know that we know Him if we keep His commandments’ (1-John 2)!*

Then 1-John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” It's irritating to the carnal mind when it wants to do something else. Irritating to the carnal mind, says, ‘Sundown Friday no night-clubbing, no partying,’ *Sabbath begins.*

Think about what's happening in America today and also in Great Britain. Did you know that the new mayor of London, who is a Muslim, is beginning to slightly enforce Sharia Law? He does it with what the good Christians believe at first, taking down the advertisements on the public transit systems where it shows nearly naked women. He doesn't say the final step is a gunnysack. Not all of England, but he's like to be all of England.

Think about what they're talking about in the election today. What's the major thing? Donald Trump is right on this. ***He says if we don't turn it around now, this nation is gone!*** Have you read and studied anything about Venezuela?

I think Trump ought to run an ad on Hillary: if Hillary gets in, here's how your county is going to look. Sooner or later it's going to come. Even if Trump gets in and even if he does pretty good for a while, that may hold it back a bit. But in the long run, in the scheme of things, that won't be very much time. Now that I'm 82 I look back and life has gone by fast; it is true that the older you get, the faster time goes. That's why you have to sleep more.

Deuteronomy 4:6: “And you shall keep and do *them*... [all the commandments and everything] ...for **this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the nations...” Israel was to be a model to the world. That's why Britain and America were great, but they took all the greatness to themselves. So, God is going to take it away from the them. The only reason we got it was *because of the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!* Not because we were more righteous; not because we're smarter; not because we're better, ***but because of the promises of God!***

Remember: ***there is nothing you didn't receive!*** Take a deep breath. Isn't that wonderful? God is so great He provides oxygen for every living thing in the world and an abundance of it. That's a pretty tall task. God takes care of it so well that you don't even notice it, everything is automatic, except when you begin to lose your breath.

“...which shall hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people’” (v 6).

When we (as a nation) were following God's way, much more than we are now, that was true. But now they look at us, because we're throwing it away, and they say, ‘You're stupid.’

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? And what great nation has statutes and judgments that *are so* righteous as all this Law, which I set before you today?’” (vs 7-8).

***If*** you say that the Law has been done away, what are you doing to yourself? *and* To your nation? What are you doing? ***They don't know! They have no idea!*** When you get rid of God, that takes away everything. They wonder:

- Why have all these fires?
- Why we have all these floods?
- Why do we have all these crimes?
- Why do we have the Muslims and the adversaries against us?
- Why do we have the drugs flooding in?
- Why do we have cities where the inner cities are nothing but...

—as David Clark the sheriff of the county which Milwaukee is in, said—

- ‘When there's no father at the head of the house, then tribal behavior begins.’

David Clark said it, not me! That's important because he is black, so he knows.

Remember all true law comes from God. He's Lawgiver. Man has wanted to go his way since Adam and Eve, so God has said, ‘Okay, go! I made



you plenty smart. Now you're a smart-aleck, you want to go your way and do your thing.'

It's like the kids growing up. When they're young, and then they start getting a little more intelligent and they can see all the faults of their parents. Then they think they're better than their parents. By time they get about 30, they say, 'You know, you were right.'

Verse 9: "Only take heed to yourself and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things, which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. But teach them to your children, and your children's children, to remember the day that you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will make them hear My words so that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and they may teach their children.' And you came near and stood at the bottom of the mountain. And the mountain burned with fire up to the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the voice of the words, but saw no likeness, only a voice" (vs 9-12).

God has done one better than that, He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Who talked to us face-to-face (Deut. 18). They said, 'Oh, we can't stand to hear that.' The fulfillment of that was *sending Christ*. Now He's done something better, as I have mentioned. I'll mention it again. The Bible, it's here. You want to know what God says? *Read it! Believe it! Study it!*

Then He talks about all the way through warning them: Don't make idols; don't transgress; take heed to yourself.

Verse 37: "And because He loved your fathers, therefore, He chose their seed after them, and brought you out in His sight with His great power out of Egypt."

In Deut. 5 we have the Ten Commandments. It says to keep them. What do we have here in Deut. 6? *The greatest commandment!*

Deuteronomy 6:2: "**That you might fear the LORD your God**... [goes right back to Isa. 66] ...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." Now He's offering eternal life. How's that for a promise?

Verse 3: "Hear therefore, O Israel... [put your name there] ...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. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart" (vs 3-6).

Let's come back to 1-John 2 and we'll pick up where we left off. This is quite an epistle. If you go back and you look at all of the epistles, all of the writings in the New Testament, what major event is spoken of by Christ but not written about that it occurred? You can read hints of it coming in 2-Peter and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John and Jude: the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

Yet, Jesus said, 'Not one stone shall be left upon another.' That's interesting when you're reading the chronology of when the books of the New Testament were written.

1-John was probably written somewhere about 62-63 A.D. Some think maybe a little after. There is no reference to a destroyed Jerusalem in the New Testament, yet, that was the major event for the Jews. Think about that.

There is a hint of it (Rev. 11), measure the temple. Then Matt. 24, 'the one who reads, let him understand.' We've gone over that a couple of times.

1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.... [sound a lot like Deut. 4-7] ... The one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him" (vs 3-4).

Interesting, the book *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley:

- What does it say in Gal. 3:27? *It says to put on Christ!*

The Greek means ***to be clothed with Christ!***

- Is not Christ the Gospel?
- Didn't Paul say, 'I came to preach Him as the Gospel'? *Yes, indeed!*
- What does it say to the Laodiceans in Rev. 3? *Put on the garments, because you are naked!*

Put on the garments so that the shame of your nakedness does not appear. Interesting, isn't it? What happened to Adam and Eve? ***The naked Gospel*** started in the Garden of Eden. This one quote is astonishing. I'm going to read from the book again. Sometimes it's good to repeat. After all, don't we have that with the Sabbath every week? *Yes!*

*The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley: **The Secret Formula**

So if the Scriptures say that the law has no place in the life of the believer...

Verse 3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him” (vs 3-4).

What is the Truth? *Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!* He is the Word! *‘In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Let these words be in your heart and in your mind.’* Don’t go to the left hand, don’t go to the right hand; *keep it all!*

Here’s a profound lesson concerning what Christ did. No man can add to or take away from the Word of God. Who is the only One Who can? *God, because He gave it!* Understand this. ***Whenever Jesus brought out the spiritual meaning of the Law, He raised the standard! He did not do away with it!*** So, everything becomes spiritual.

- Where does the spiritual operation work? *Right here in the mind!*
- What’s to happen to our mind? *Be transformed and renewed!*
- What’s to be written in there? *Laws and commandments of God!*
- How? *By the Spirit of God!*

You can’t put them into a carnal mind and expect them to stay there. Even in a spiritually-based mind, we have to *stir up the Spirit, continually study and grow and overcome*, because we are preparing for the greatest thing in the world: ***eternal life!***

The answer to any rebellion is this: It already happened once with Lucifer and it isn’t going to happen again. That’s why there’s going to be the Lake of Fire. You don’t agree with God, you are history.

The question is this: if the law isn’t our moral guide, then what is? As Christians, we have an inborn desire for our behavior to turn out right.

We’ve covered that (Prov. 14:12 and 16:25).

In fact, the desire to please God is what drives some to embrace the error of law-based living.

This is amazing!

How about this: you rob, steal and murder; *you’re caught!* I was watching television *I Almost Got Away With It*. I was thinking, this one guy escaped twice. He did killing and different things like that. I wonder what would have happened when he was brought before the judge if he would have said, ‘I’m a good *Naked Gospel* Christian. The Law doesn’t apply. I can do whatever I want. I can lie,

steal, cheat, kill.’ The judge is going to look down on him and say, ‘Hang him, right now.’

Worse: false religion, taking God’s name in vain to create a false religion. This man (Andrew Farley) is taking Christ’s name in vain. Unfortunately some of these things, if you read Rev. 2 and 3 about the prophecy of the churches, has also come into the churches.

Taking the commandments away from a believer can be spiritually akin to taking a safety blanket away from a child. The child may feel insecure, but removing the crutch is essential to helping them become mature. It’s natural for adults to feel insecure when something we’ve seen as a foundation for our lives is figuratively yanked from us. But realizing our release from the law is **an essential step toward Christian maturity.**

I want you to remember *step*: A direct contradiction of what we’re going to read in just a minute.

The Apostle Paul minces no words in making freedom clear to the first century church and to us today.

It’s absolutely evident he knows nothing about Judaism. {note our book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*} The problems of law/no law in the New Testament has nothing to do with Catholic vs Protestant. That’s 1500 years later. It has to do with Judaism vs Christianity.

What did Jesus say to the scribes and Pharisees about their traditions? Was it pleasing to God? What did we read in Deut. 4? *Don’t add to; don’t take away!* So, Jesus said that *you reject the commandments of God that you may keep your own traditions*. Isn’t that what I’m reading here? *A tradition of the Protestants: the Law has been done away!*

What else did Jesus say because of that? He said, ‘In vain do you worship Me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.’ It’s incredible how people can write these things and publish them and people believe it. This is glorious news to the carnal-minded person. ‘Oh, I’ll just be a good person and everything is fine.’ How do you be good? ‘Whatever I think. I’ll be nice. I’ll say please. I won’t hurt people’s feelings. I might even admit a mistake once or twice in my life.’

The law was never intended to serve as a foundation for the Christian life.

How can that be if it’s to be written in our heart and in our mind? Christ is the Cornerstone! He is the Lawgiver. So, it’s all combined together. You can’t say, ‘Christ, I want you. By the way, get rid of Your

laws, I don't like those.' Can't happen! Never happen!

We have no right or Scriptural basis by which to select portions of the Mosaic Law and claim that these should supervise believers. Paul teaches that believers are led by the Spirit and not under law.

You need to get our sermon series:

- *Grace of God*
- *Grace Upon Grace*
- *God's Grace & Commandment-Keeping*

so that you know what it means to be 'under law.' Did you know 'under law' has nothing to do with commandment-keeping? It has to do with the world's relationship with God, so they all might become guilty.

Thus even the Ten Commandments are not designated to guide our daily life. The Ten Commandments are described as a ministry of condemnation that brings death.

**No! Sin brings death!** Sin is the transgression of the Law. The Law is Holy, righteous, good and spiritual. Who wants that in their life?

Question to Andrew Farley: Are you destined to die like everyone else? *Yes, you are!* 'Oh, but my soul's going to heaven.' *No, it's not!*

I think about this every once in a while. This is going to be great and maybe we'll have a part in this. Second resurrection: It says every man in his own order. I don't know what that means, but there's an order to the resurrection. The first resurrection, but how about for those in the second resurrection?

Christ says, 'All right now, now is the time we're going to raise all those Protestants and Catholics.' Whoom! They are raised up. 'Oh, we're in heaven.' *No, pinch yourself, you are still flesh. If you want salvation, keep the commandments.* Think what that is going to be for them. All you Catholics, Mary is down there in Jerusalem. All your prayers to her were never heard. You have to have an order. Here are the Buddhists. Think what it's going to be for all the Muslims. They're all raised. They're looking around. Where's the harem? Virgins are all spoken for. If you take each order of one, you could have a lot of fun with that. But it's going to be something for these people.

We're also informed that sin gains an opportunity through the commandments...

That's to warn us what sin is. You take them away, you have no sin. That's how they get rid of sin; they get rid of law.

...the law causes sin to increase, not decrease...

**No! That is an absolute lie!** If you think of stealing and then all of a sudden you think God says don't steal, that stops sin. Same way with any of the commandments: murder, adultery, stealing, lying. We're going to hold Donald Trump to his word. He says, 'I will never lie to you.' Once you are in the political realm, may not be possible.

Therefore we can expect more struggle and more sinning if we adopt the law as our guide for living. Conversely, our release from the law directly results in a release from sin's power. Apart from law, sin is dead.

(go to the next track)

1-John 2:14: "I wrote to you, fathers, because you have known Him Who *is* from *the* beginning. I wrote to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God is dwelling in you, and you have overcome the wicked *one*."

He gives the command on how to overcome the world and not be taken in by things that look right and that appear good, when they actually are not.

Verse 15: "Do not love the world..." You talk about the world today compared to the world then. A flick of the switch and the world is pouring through your living room.

"...nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (v 15). Is that a contradiction? Is it possible to love everybody in the world, with the same degree of love? **No! Only God can do that!**

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world..." We're told not to love the world. Why? **Because we're not God!** Our carnal mind and our carnal thinking can get carried away. Especially when you think on it. It's really something you desire and want to do that looks so good, that sounds so good, whatever it may be. There are a lot of temptations out there today.

"...that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life" (v 16).

If you don't know the plan of God through the Holy Days, and things like this, you will never, never understand that verse. It's not a contradiction. **We are not to love the world!** Why? Who is the god of this world? *Satan the devil*, that is why. He's got a lot of things that look good, sound good, feel good, operate in whatever way. Here's what happens.

1-John 2:15: “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world...”

Every time you see a car advertisement, the person loves that car, even 2012 Ford Focus cars that are lemons. It's okay to hate that car!

Today we have more things, more gadgets, more of everything. People have their idols. They carry it around. You can tell who they are, because they have ‘idol necks.’ They are leaning forward looking into their idol. Everywhere you go, someone is texting.

Today they gather around in groups. They don't talk to each other, they sit there and they message to each other. Like I mentioned on **churchathome.org** that worshiping God is not like Twitter. It is a way of life and involves your whole way of living, everything that you are.

This is why he says don't love the world. “...nor the things *that are* in the world...” (v 15). Can you imagine what the Apostle John would write today if he were resurrected right in the middle of Times Square in New York City? After he got done writing, he's call fire down from heaven. That would be something!

“...If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (v 15). What is he talking about? *No one can serve two masters! He will either love the one, hate the other!* Sooner or later when everything gets down to crunch time and you have to make a choice, who are you going to choose? That's what becomes important.

This is why we have the new booklet, *Is the Ministry God's Government?* What are the Laodiceans and the Nicolaitans? Very interesting. You need that new booklet. Every time I mention something, we get lots of orders and all the study packs, as well. We've got to keep Ken busy here. That's why the love of God is the most important thing.

Verse 16: “Because everything that *is* in the world...” I'm going to describe to you the success of advertising companies, right here:

“...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life... [that's what it is, every bit of it.] ...is not from the Father, but is from the world” (v 16). Who is ‘the god of this world’?

We're talking about light and we're talking about darkness. Who is the author of darkness but Satan the devil? Darkness has a certain light to it. What did Jesus say? ***‘The eye is the light of the body. If the light in you be darkness, how great is that darkness’!***

2-Corinthians 4:1: “Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain...” (vs 1-2). That's important!

Maybe you ought to play that. Jonathan worked that up for me one time, a short video on a comedy routine of evangelicals. Remember that one? I've got it somewhere. I've got to play it. It is absolutely hilarious. That's what they do. They want to get from the people. You go on TBN and the other ones, they're always asking for money.

“...hidden things of dishonest gain, not walking in *cunning* craftiness...” (v 2)—having an agenda. Did you know that there were those in a large Church of God that were sleepers for decades until the right moment came?

“...nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” (v 2). Like Farley does in the book *The Naked Gospel*, and like so many do. It's Truth, ***Truth!*** Compare Truth with Truth:

- love of God
- faith of God
- hope of God
- all of these things

This has to be taught. If the ministers do not teach the love of God, and teach people to control their own lives, and let Christ rule in each one of their lives, by teaching them the Word of God, *they* become the ones who have to live their lives and tell them everything they need to do.

It was even said in one Church of God, don't even think about buying a car until you've consulted a minister. The ministers all drove Plymouth Fury #3, because the fury comes from God; so, this is a car that God approved. I'm not kidding; they gave the ministers on the lease program for their cars, Plymouth Fury #3.

“...but by manifestation of the Truth, we are commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God. But if our Gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing” (vs 2-3)—automatic spiritual blindness. If you don't keep the commandments of God, spiritual blindness happens and you're walking in darkness and you don't know it.

Satan's job is to try and diminish the light bit-by-bit within the Church. If he can do that with the ministers to change the Word of God, and to change the doctrines—and that happened. Leading ministers were sent off to Protestant colleges and universities. They came back with Protestant doctrines, because they were not grounded enough in the Word of God and you didn't stay in the Truth of

God to keep the apostasy from taking place. We've all suffered from that.

Verse 4: "In whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe..." If you do not believe, just like this book we're talking about, *The Naked Gospel*.

"...lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them. For we do not preach our own selves..." (vs 4-5). That's the key:

- always preach Christ
- always preach the Truth
- always preach the commandments of God
- always teach what is right
- always continue in that

"...but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (v 5).

1-John 2:17: "And the world and its lust is passing away... [taking a whole lot longer than he figured, but it's going to pass away] ...but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (v 17). Let's understand what that means. That doesn't mean that the individual won't die. Notice how kindly Jesus spoke to the priests:

John 8:44: "You are of your father the devil..." What does this tell us? The principle that Satan the devil always wants to do. If you want to corrupt the majority of the people, you corrupt the leaders first, then it comes down through all of the institutions of teaching, religion and everything.

"...and the lusts of your father you desire to practice...." (v 44). These are the priests at the temple where God put His name. What happened? *They thought their word and their traditions and their ways were greater than God's!*

"...He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it" (v 44)—and clever lies, indeed! Even using some Truth.

Like I explained on [churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org). Christianity is: you want a new car? You think, 'Yeah, I want a new car.' Most expensive car you could ever get. 'Yes, I'll take that.' But what do they deliver?

Because they say, 'If you believe in Jesus, He died for your sins. You want your sins forgiven?' Yes. 'Say, I believe in Jesus. Hooray, the finished work of God has been done in you.' You look around and they delivered to you the frame and four wheels. *Eternal life takes a whole lot of work!* Just like producing a whole car, with everything the way

that it should be. By the way, they have to obey laws to build it. Many, many laws. Not only the laws of the land, but laws of metal, plastic, inertia, gravity, all kinds of laws. Otherwise, you have a breakdown.

You cannot bring about Truth by mixing error in it! *or* Taking Truth and throwing away the substance of it and having a mere skeleton left! How can you say that this frame with four wheels and tires is a perfect car? *You can't!* Same way *we are to be perfected* (1-John 2). Hereby we are perfected, we love God and keep His commandments.

"...Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me... [that's the way it is with a lot of them] ...Which *one* of you can convict Me of sin? But if I speak *the* Truth, why don't you believe Me? The one who is of God hears the words of God. For this reason you do not hear, because you are not of God" (vs 44-47).

John 5:36: "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works that the Father gave Me to complete, the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father Himself, Who sent Me, has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice nor seen His form at any time. And you do not have His Word dwelling in you..." (vs 36-38).

You talk about a great contradiction of this book by Andrew Farley, right there! You must have the Word of God dwelling in you. Does that include the commandments of God? Yes! What did we read in 1-John 2? *'The one who is keeping His Word is being perfected in love.'*

Verse 39: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think that you have eternal life; and they are the ones that testify of Me. But you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men; but I have known you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves" (vs 39-42). Amazing, isn't it? This is why John wrote what he wrote.

Verse 43: "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; *but* if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How are you able to believe, you who receive glory from one another, and do not seek the glory that *comes* from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is *one* who accuses you, *even* Moses, in whom you have hope. But if you believed Moses, you would have believed Me; for he wrote about Me. And if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My words?" (vs 45-47).

No wonder they wanted to kill Him. Think of going to Rome, to the pope and the college of cardinals, and telling them these very words and add to it: unless you go out there and destroy every idol, every picture, every crucifix, you will not have even a ghost of a chance for salvation—***because you're not of God!***

John 8:48: “Then the Jews answered and said to Him, ‘Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?’” *There is a way that seems right to a man, the ends thereof are the ways of death!* What did Farley say? That God has put it in man to make his life right. What did Jesus say here? ***They think they're right, but they are of the devil!***

Verse 49: “Jesus answered, ‘I do not have a demon. But I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. Yet, I do not seek My own glory; there is One Who seeks and judges. Truly, truly I say to you, Jesus answered, ‘I do not have a demon. But I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. Yet, I do not seek My own glory; there is One Who seeks and judges. Truly, truly I say to you... [that's what we're talking about in 1-John 2] ...he shall not see death forever’” (vs 49-51).

What does this statement tell us? ***That you will die, but you won't be dead forever!*** Why? *Because there's a resurrection!* When it says ‘shall live forever’ (1-John 2), this has to be interpreted by what Jesus said there, ‘you shall not taste of death forever.’ The hope of every Christian is the resurrection from the dead. Always remember that *every Christian who is going to be in the resurrection, and are not alive right now, have died, every one of them!*

1-John 2:17: “...but the one who does the will of God abides forever.” Then he explains why he's writing some of these things, because there were problems within the church.

Verse 18: “Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that **the antichrist is coming...**” John writes of that in the book of Revelation. Also, this refers to the man of sin, the son of perdition’ (2-Thes. 2).

“...even now **many antichrists have risen up...**” (v 18). How do we know that they are antichrists? The Church was really undergoing quite a transformation. It's like this book *The Naked Gospel*, the Word of God is not true; you don't have to follow it. ‘Oh, this part over here is true; but this part over here...

“...by which we know that it is *the* last time. They went out from among us...” (vs 18-19). At first they left. The Church was strong enough so that they left, but did they cease their activities? *No*,

that's how the Church became so transformed by the beginning of the second century that it wasn't recognizable. They continued:

- Did they continue with the name of Jesus Christ? *Of course!*
- Did they still continue with the Father? *Of course!*
- But what did they say? *There's no resurrection; the resurrection is over; our souls go to heaven!*

By 118<sub>A.D.</sub>, the time of so-called Saint Ignatius they were believing in child/infant baptism. Why? Because the questions came up, if you have an immortal soul and baptism only takes place when you're an adult, what's going to happen to those children who die? ‘Oh, we've got to baptism them so their soul will go to heaven.’ How far removed is that from the Bible and the Word of God? Then by 325<sub>A.D.</sub>, the first pope, Constantine, Pontifex Maximus. The groundwork had been laid for the Catholic Church to form. There it is.

Verse 19: “They went out from among us, but they were not of us because if they were of us, they would have remained with us; nevertheless, *they left* that they might be exposed *to show that they* all were not of us. ***But you have the anointing from the Holy One...***” (vs 19-20).

Here's a very important section of Scriptures for this. There are some people who come along and twist and turn this and say, ‘We don't need someone to teach us; we have it right here.’ They just read these Scriptures and don't understand the background necessary for it.

“But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One...” What is that anointing? *The Holy Spirit*. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. So, you have obedience, repentance, baptism, everything involved right here in this one statement. You don't receive the anointing unless you first repent and then are baptized, have hands laid on you, and enter into the covenant relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. Then you receive the anointing.

“...and you have knowledge of **all things...**” (v 20). They read that ‘all things.’ We don't need any more. Since we have the anointing, we know it, but that doesn't mean all things. Do they know how the universe works? *No!* This *all things* does not mean everything there is in the way of all knowledge that fills the universe. This means:

“...*pertaining to salvation....* [can't mean anything else; the truth about salvation] ...I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it...” (vs 20-21). It has to be

repeated, reinforced, verified, checked, re-checked, double-checked, triple-checked.

“...but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth” (v 21). This is telling us that on all of these kinds of doctrines we have got to be able to discern between Truth and error. If you do not keep the Word of God and the commandments of God—and have enough understanding of it to know—then some of these things can sound very enticing.

Remember what we saw on *Called to be Free*, that video? ([www.calledtobefree.org](http://www.calledtobefree.org)) That was sad to see because there were those who knew the truth and threw it away.

Remember that as long as we still are fighting the carnal mind—which we are, because we’re growing and overcoming and we haven’t been perfected yet, because perfection doesn’t come until the resurrection—that carnal mind and the lust and pull of the flesh will still be there. It’s just like if we come to the Light, Who is Christ, then we’re fine. But if we turn our backs on the Light and walk away, right at first there is still Light around us from behind. Sooner or later you’re out there in darkness. This is why we go through all of these things.

John wrote to them because *they knew*, not because they didn’t know; v 21: “I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth.”

Remember, partial truth is not whole truth. Even the courts still have this: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? *With your hand on the Bible!* Then they say yes and get up on the stand and lie! Mishandling of Truth to create an error is a lie. *true* Truth, no lie can come from that. But modified and adjusted Truth, lies can be created, loopholes can exist.

Verse 22: “Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?...” The nature of Christ and God. What happens? That cycles through periodically. Guess what’s happening now, cycling through periodically? *Jesus was not God before He became flesh!*

They have some convincing arguments. If you’ve been walking away from the Light, and you haven’t been coming to Light, and if you haven’t been studying and continuing to study, to grow and overcome in knowledge and understanding, could you be one of those who would believe the lie? Because it sounds so blessedly true.

Verse 23: “**Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either.**” So, if you deny that He was the only Begotten of the Father and the

Son of the Father, and was God before He became flesh, you don’t Christ and you’re denying the Father.

Verse 24: “Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you...”—live in you. With the Holy Spirit of God we know there are two parts to that:

1. from the Father
2. from Christ

We will make Our abode within him or her. That’s dwelling!

“...if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father” (v 24).

You can’t say, like some do, the Father was the God of the Old Testament. ‘That’s what the Jews have. We have Christ.’ *Neither one of them have God! You need Both!*

Verse 25: “And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. But you yourselves have dwelling in you the anointing that you received from Him; and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you; for the same anointing instructs you in all *spiritual* things, and is true, and is not a lie...” (vs 25-27).

There are conditions for that. You have to study, rightly divide the Word of God, pray, grow, overcome, all of those things are other Scriptures to add to it.

“...and *if you do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him. And now, little children, dwell in Him, so that when He is manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that everyone who practices righteousness has been begotten by Him” (vs 27-29).

That finishes 1-John 2. There is an awful lot in this Epistle of 1-John. This is fantastic! What we will learn in this is that all of God’s Word is a unified whole. We have the globe of the world over there on the table; here we are on this spot on earth, Hollister, one little speck of dust on the earth. Look at everything that is out there.

It’s just the same way with the Word of God and the promises of God. They are so great that we will not completely understand them until the resurrection. Then the whole education program begins again as spirit beings. You think we’re going to be resurrected and just remain static forever? Brain frozen in spiritual concrete forever? *No!* That’s going to be a fantastic thing, learning, growing and overcoming.

It will be like this. You have a pet at home? Probably have a nice dog or a nice cat. Maybe you have a cow or a horse. You talk to it. Your words, they can hear. They can understand a few of them: come, go, sit, stand, roll, jump. You can teach them that.

But what do they know about human life? *Nothing!* So likewise, as physical human beings, We can get a glimpse; as Paul says, we're looking through a glass darkly, ***but think how fantastic that it's going to be at the resurrection!***

Video: *Called to be Free* ([calledtobefree.org](http://calledtobefree.org))

FRC:lp  
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- *Judah's Sceptre and Joseph's Birthright* by J. H. Allen
- *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley
- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal

#### Sermon Series:

- *How to Worship God* ([churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org))
- *Grace of God*
- *Grace Upon Grace*
- *God's Grace and Commandment Keeping*
- *The Nature of God*



## Christ and Our Calling V

### TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience & Love

How much truth are you willing to accept? How much error will you accept?

*Stand for the Truth!*

Fred R. Coulter

Today we have a tremendous opportunity to really know the Word of God, much more than in years past.

Just as an aside: You've heard me mention this before, but it's just impressing upon my mind even more, three things out of Matt. 24.

Matthew 24:11: "And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many." Some of the false prophets coming along that are making inroads are Messianic Jews.

I want to read a Scripture in Rom. 3 that can no longer be claimed by the Jews as giving them superiority. When the Messianic Jews come, they present an error about them that they are more chosen than other people for the Word of God, which is not true today. The only time that was true was up until the first coming of Christ, and shortly afterwards.

Romans 3:1: "What then *is* the advantage of the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? Much in every way. Primarily in that they were entrusted with the oracles of God" (vs 1-2).

The Jew here refers to the Jewish community. It wasn't the Jews from Judah or the Pharisees. It was Aaron, the Levites. Those had to be the descendants of the Levites within the Jewish community.

I've given sermons referring to Jonathan Cahn. He has many things right. That's the problem with *false* prophets. They may have many things right. They may have many things that they can understand in some prophecies. For example, for his Jubilee year he is a year off.

Jonathan Cahn means he comes from the Cohen's or he is probably from the Aaronic priest line. He has the Jews come to temple on Friday night and the Christians come to church Sunday morning. So, you see how people can get off with that.

Why does Jonathan Cahn do that? Did Paul teach the Gentiles to keep the Sabbath? *Yes, he did* (Acts 18 for the Corinthians.)! Jonathan Cahn does not. If he would read Isa. 58 and Isa. 56—which is part of the Old Testament—he would see that the Gentiles were demonstrated to keep the Sabbath in those two chapters. There is no advantage to the Jew today.

Somebody gave me some other Messianic information here. They get into sacred names and all of that sort of thing. That's one that a lot of people trying to find the Truth trip over and come across and some get swept up into it. That's to say nothing of all of the Christian ones. Yet, at the same time, I've received some reports that there are some Assembly of God churches converting to Sabbath-keeping. Interesting! So, we're living in very interesting times. This is why we need the Word of God.

This is what we're seeing today, more and more: Matthew 24:12: "And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of many shall grow cold.... [that's the way it is in the world; that's what we have] ...But the one who endures to *the* end, that one shall be saved.... [that involves us] ...And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed in **all the world** for a witness to **all** nations; and then shall the end come" (vs 12-14).

How thorough is that going to be? Come to Mark 13:10: "And the Gospel must first be published among all nations."

God has been actively using people. God uses people and He uses people sometimes that people don't even know that God is using them. The whole Bible has been translated into over 450 languages. The New Testament has been translated into 2200 languages. The book of Mark probably has been translated into about 2500 languages.

Has this prophecy been fulfilled? *and* being fulfilled? What's another way of doing it? All of you have your mobile digital devices. Let's think on this for a minute. If you come across some people that you know and talk to, they want to know some things, ask them if they have a Bible. They'll probably say *yes*.

Then you ask them, 'Have you read it?' They may say, 'Not recently.' Or maybe they haven't read it at all. 'Well, how did you get your Bible? *My grandma gave it to me*.' That's nice; do you know what the Bible is? Do you want to know what God would say to you if He would be here to speak to you? He is, right here in the Bible. These are the words of God.'

That's quite a phenomenal thing, sent into **all** the world. God has fulfilled His responsibility to

the human race in doing that, but whether they believe it or follow it or not is another story. That's quite something. 'This Gospel will be preached in all the world.'

Randy Vild and I were talking on Thursday; we go over things at his house for **churchathome.org** and everything that we're doing. We were talking about Twitter. Like everything else, it can be a blessing, or a curse, or a stumbling block. When you send a message on Twitter, you're allowed 140 characters. People do a lot of Twittering in communicating. This fits right in to the modern times; *you summarize and you're shallow*. Plus, kids have been educated that they don't know how to think the way they need to. Everything is done on emotion and music and separation, in too many cases, from the family.

When they get into teens, they are in a special category, as if no one else has been teens ever before. They have their own music, their own communications, and Twitter and Facebook fits in very nicely with that. But the problem is it makes you *mentally shallow*. You don't want to get into the deep things in the Bible. You want everything a summary.

Why then did God not Twitter? He gave us the whole Bible because we need the whole Bible. Especially in the end-times we need the whole Bible so we can understand what we need to do. Not only that, so we can see the prophecies, we can prove and understand that it came from God a long time ago.

**Overview of the General Epistles and the structure of them, and that adds to the importance of them:**

1. James—the first of the General Epistles

James was the brother of Jesus. The next two epistles are by Peter.

2. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter

Who was Peter? *Peter was one of the leading apostles!*

3. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> John

Peter and John were the ones who went into the Gate Beautiful and healed the man who had been lame from birth. They were the two leading apostles. John wrote three short epistles.

4. Jude

Jude was a brother of Jesus. What do you have? *Brother of Jesus, two leading apostles, and another brother of Jesus!* How's that for authority? That's something! James was probably one of the very first of the epistles written. We have a chronology of that.

The reason we have, with *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, all the commentary—which you need to read and study—all of the appendices—which you need to read and study—and the most important appendix in the Bible is Appendix Z. That one explains all the difficult Scriptures of the Apostle Paul.

If you read and study through the General Epistles, we're going to see—by the way we have a book on the *General Epistles*. We're just about out of the first printing of them, so we're going to downsize it to the 7 by 10 size and put it in that.

Acts 6 is important in canonizing the Bible and understanding what was going on. Remember the sermon that I gave on *Jesus' Stenographers*? How do you think—and this was important in the ancient world—they got the exact words of the order of a king, a record of the king? Remember, they had records, because you read the book of Esther and Ahasuerus the king didn't know what happened with Mordecai in saving his life.

God stirred up Ahasuerus so he couldn't sleep one night. He got up and was reading a book of records. How do they get the book of records? *They had scribes, and they had several ways of writing!* They had shorthand, because when the king gave a decree, probably had two or three scribes right there writing it down. They would get together and put it together and afterwards have the king sign it.

They also had beeswax tablets. You could put little marks on there. Hebrew is very good for that. They could abbreviate words. I have my own abbreviation. I made my own shorthand, which I developed nearly 50 years ago now. I can go back and read in what I first wrote. The way that came about was that I was at my first Feast of Tabernacles and they were giving the sermons and going so fast. I was writing down, writing down. I decided I could not write every letter, so I started abbreviating:

- *the*—a little squiggle
- *that*—two squiggles
- *God*—G
- *Jesus Christ*—JC
- *here*—hr
- *want*—wnt
- *grow*—grw

and so forth; you eliminate certain letters.

How then do we have the direct words of Christ? *They were written down when they were given!* You read Matt. 5, direct quotes from Jesus. All the Gospels, direct quotes. Now we're ready for Acts 6.

Acts 6:2: “And after calling the multitude of disciples to *them*, the twelve said, ‘It is not proper for us to leave the Word of God in order to wait on tables.’”

- *they knew* they were writing the Word of God
- *they knew* that Christ was God in the flesh
- *they knew* that the message came from the Father

This was a tremendous and momentous point in history.

Verse 3: “Therefore, brethren, search out from among yourselves seven men of good repute, full of *the* Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word” (vs 3-4).

- What were they doing? *Compiling and finalizing the Gospels!*
- What was the first Gospel? *Matthew!*

They were commissioned by God to do it. Very interesting!

- How come we don’t have an epistle from Barnabas?
- How come we don’t have an epistle from Apollos? *Because they weren’t commissioned to do that!*

They were busy and this is within the first year.

- What was the most necessary thing to have written down for the second year? for those who were converted?

Remember they started out on Pentecost with 3,000, then short time after that 5,000. After that the whole city of Jerusalem was so full of Christians that they were persecuted and driven out.

- What did they have to have for all the newly baptized Christians by the next year?
- How many of the disciples? *There were 120 in the upper room!*
- Who were the 120? *We can identify 70 of them as disciples that Jesus sent out!*

Then there’s Lazarus, Mary, Martha, the mother of Jesus, the brothers of Jesus—James, Jude, and so forth—they had 120!

- How many of the 120 were at the last Passover? *11-1/2, because Judas left, he was there part of the time!*

***They had to have everything about the Passover written down for the next Passover!***

- How could you take the Passover, the way Jesus said to take it, unless it was written down?

Verse 4: “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word.” Why? *So they could remember, so the Holy Spirit would bring remembrance to them as Jesus said, and the ministry of the Word!* This could not be preaching and speaking, because they were together. They were writing it.

Sidebar on a Jewish heresy: Today the Jews keep the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It’s not the Passover, it’s the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which they have renamed Passover. Why? *Because the Passover of the Old Testament had to be observed in the land!* When they were in the Diaspora, they couldn’t keep the Passover and they couldn’t get back to the land to keep the Passover. Rather than keep the Passover, they renamed Unleavened Bread as Passover. In order to have eight days, they added another day at the end of the last day of Unleavened Bread.

Why do we keep the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup>? That’s why we have *The Christian Passover* book. If you haven’t read *The Christian Passover* book, or haven’t read it recently... There are some people who read it every year. Why is the Passover so important? *Because that’s the covenant between you and God the Father and Jesus Christ!* That has to be on the correct day, at the correct time, with everything correct. Because the Jews do not follow anything in the New Testament, they don’t understand what Jesus said:

Matthew 28:18: “And Jesus came *and* spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go *and* make disciples in **all nations**...’” (vs 18-19)—including all the Gentiles!

Today the Jews are not the chosen people. They are the ones who had been chosen, but because of their sins they were rejected and their temple destroyed twice and scattered into the world. Are they scattered into the world, every nation? Are there problems and difficulties in Jerusalem today? *Yes, indeed!* God said He would make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for the whole world (Zech. 12). The Word of God is true.

- this is why we need to study the Word of God
- this is why we have the Sabbath Day
- this is why we get away from the things of the world and concentrate on what God says

There is so much here for us and we are living in the last generation. *God wants us to know* so that we can bring whatever witness we can to the world.

My prayer every day, brethren, is for all the brethren everywhere, regardless of what church they may be in, for the ministers that all of us can repent and that we can all preach the Gospel. That we can all teach the right things and be a witness to the world. God has done His part; He has sent His Word. It is up to us to do our part.

“...baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...” (v 19)—that doesn’t mean there’s a trinity. Nowhere, *nowhere*, **nowhere** does it say God the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit is God.

Sidebar: Have you a George Ricker Berry *Interlinear: Greek-English New Testament*? Most theologians and scholars somewhere along the line have to compromise the Truth to retain status within their organization or reputation in the world. George Ricker Berry did very well.

Verse 20: “Teaching them to observe all things... [each and every part] ...that I have commanded you...”

- What did He say concerning the Passover? *‘This do in remembrance of Me’!*
- Is that not a command? *Yes!*
- On what night was it done? *On the 14<sup>th</sup>!*

This is why we keep a 14<sup>th</sup> Passover and the Jews keep a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover, because they’re not keeping the Passover.

“...And lo, **I am with you always**... [That’s the important thing. He is with us always. How? *With His Spirit in us! With His Word to us!* That’s an amazing thing!] ...*even* until the completion of the age.”

I’m going to read John 14 with the proper translation. Let me tell you this, and it’s very important. There is no way to mix up the Greek relative pronoun *who* and *which*. There is no way. *Who* and *him* are in the masculine. *It* and *which* are in the neuter. ***In the Greek there is no way to confuse that!***

George Ricker Berry did a very good job with his *Interlinear*. But when it came to John 14, what did he do? This is why you have to understand the Word of God.

John 14:14: “If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.” Subject to the will of God. Sometimes you’ll ask something and it won’t happen for a long time. You’ll go along and then all of a sudden you’ll think that God answered that prayer.

Verse 15: “If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely My commandments. And

I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: ***Even the Spirit of the Truth...***” (vs 15-17).

Everything to do with the Spirit of God—and we’ve got this in an appendix, you can read it in the *Faithful Version Bible*—the Spirit is always in the neuter gender, never in the masculine. The definite article and the relative pronoun are separate. You cannot mix them up. It doesn’t refer to *he* or *him*, because the Holy Spirit is always neuter. In neuter-gender there is a different relative pronoun. There is a different personal pronoun, both.

In the Greek it reads *the Holy Spirit*—‘auto’ that is neuter. Can’t miss it. That has to be *it* or *which*. Masculine gender, if the Holy Spirit were God, it would be ‘**autos**.’ The relative pronoun for the neuter-gender is just an ‘o.’ The relative pronoun for the masculine-gender is ‘os.’ Why did he do that? I’ve checked out every other place where it’s *which* Berry has it correct.

This is the correct translation, “...which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be within you” (v 17).

In John 15, Berry translated it correctly. He did not do *whom*, he did *which*; John 15:26: “But when the Comforter has come, which I will send to you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of the Truth, which...”

You can read Appendix K that we have in the back of the *Faithful Version Bible*. **How much truth are you willing to accept?**

- God is perfect
- Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life’
- He is perfect
- His Word is true
- His commandments are true
- His statutes are true
- His precepts are true from the beginning
- His Word is true

**How much of Truth are you willing to accept?**

This is where we get back to Twitter. If people receive a little verse for today they feel comfortable, but that has nothing to do with God. That’s only a passing thought.

- some people might accept 10% of Truth
- some people maybe 25% of Truth
- some people maybe 50% of Truth
- some people maybe 75% of Truth, like the SDAs

What happens when you do not accept 100% Truth?

What we just covered here concerning the Holy Spirit—it, which, and so forth—a first-year student in New Testament Greek would know the error that we just covered. But men think they can change the Truth so that they will be acceptable.

How do people accept Sunday? ‘Well, it was changed.’ They never check it out. Randy has a beautiful clip by Drew Carey. That’s fantastic! Here’s the whole audience of the correspondence convention out there and he’s telling them ‘if you believe in Christmas, Easter, and New Years, you’re a pagan with a Christian name on it.’ They all just sat there, didn’t do a thing.

But if you ask them, ‘What are you?’ *They’d probably say they were a Christian!* ‘What do you practice?’ *I keep Sunday.* ‘That’s Baal’s day.’ They reject the Truth and put in the error.

We can reverse that a little bit and say for those of us who know the Truth, **how much error will you accept?** You can work it the other way. That’s why it’s so important.

Why do I bring this up? *Because, when we get to the General Epistles, Peter and John and Jude bring out about false teachers and James refers to it!* That’s why it’s important.

(go to the next track)

Why did God have the original New Testament written in Greek? The original is called ‘autograph.’ A copy is called an ‘apographe.’ The ‘autograph’ is directly inspired, God breathed. The ‘apographe’ or copy carries the same weight of inspiration when it agrees completely with the *autograph*. The Greek text for the New Testament—by the way for Homer’s *Odyssey and Iliad* and they have all of that for classical Greek, they have very few manuscripts.

For the New Testament there are *thousands* of manuscripts. They all agree within a very narrow margin. The worst ones come out of Alexandria, Egypt. What does God say about Egypt? Then there’s the western text, which is even worst. There’s no such thing as the Caesarean text.

I have, and I paid \$10,000, for an original—and it’s nearly 500-years-old now—the *Stephens Text* of 1550. It’s been recovered, but the inside is that old. If you want to see what the Greek looks like on it, it’s right here on the box. The Greek was in a script Greek. Today it’s more block. Guess what I discovered when I got it? All of the so-called alternate readings for the New Testament text? *They already knew them in 1550!* A lot of these scholars just go over and over them, because that’s their living.

There is one, it’s not an interlinear, yet, New Testament Greek text put together by Pierpont and Robinson, honest scholars, looking right to it the way it should be. They’re going to put out an interlinear.

When we were doing the New Testament, we were in contact with both of them before Pierpont died and with Robinson checking out our translation and checking out the Greek. The translation in the *Faithful Version Bible* is—you can’t say perfect—as far as a translation from the Greek, it’s high up into the 98+% exact accurate. You have to give it a little room.

Sidebar: Let me tell you concerning the Holy Spirit from Daniel B. Wallace. Who is Daniel B. Wallace? He is the leading Greek expert at the Dallas Theological Seminary. He has written several books. I’ve got a huge thick book on Greek syntax that is excellent. You go through and he shows how the different words and everything come together. He is an honest scholar. His work is what we would call impeccable.

He was on the *English Standard Version* (ESV) that was done within the last fifteen years. I don’t have the exact date. He was on the translating committee. He tried to get them to have the Holy Spirit neuter, because he said the Holy Spirit has no personality. There is not personality, that is only a theological argument. You can read part of that in Appendix K concerning the Holy Spirit in the *Faithful Version*. I picked up out of his explanation that he was really ticked off at the theologians who would not neuter properly the Holy Spirit, but kept it in the masculine tense.

That’s why you have to have it where it is the Truth that controls it. Not a board, not a denomination, not a set of beliefs before you go in, but **the Truth!** That’s how we did the *Faithful Version*.

I want to cover something that relates to Matt. 24. When they first started out, they had no resistance. Who was the first false prophet they encountered? *Simon Magus!* When this was written they were having trouble in the Church. Have we experienced trouble in the Church? *Every one of us unless you are new!* If you’re new, you’ve been spared.

What was the first thing that was attacked? *Passover, in 1978, at the ministerial conference!* Who brought in the heresy? *Robert Kuhn, a PhD Jew*, who was with the Church, pretending to be a member and faithful, but he would go to temple every Friday night, so that told you about the faithfulness. He and another scholar, Lester Grabbe, wrote a 40-page paper. I still have a copy of that, so

if you don't have that and you want it, I'll send it to you. In reading that you will see how the scholars reason and twist things *to get their own* conclusion. Very deceptive! It all hinged upon: What does it mean 'ben ha arbayim,' between the two evenings. Kuhn said that back then they calculated time like we did today and just after midnight was the next day, which was flatly absolute wrong and a lie!

Do you have the *Schocken Bible*? {*The Schocken Bible, Vol. 1: The Five Books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy* by Everett Fox}

Right when I was writing *The Christian Passover* book, in about 1993-94, the first edition, I made a trip to Tennessee and met some brethren there, Bob Hunnicutt and his wife Elaine. He had business to attend to, so Elaine took me to the bookstore. That's when they had big bookstores, not like today where you have everything digital.

Went in there and I went right to the Bible section and guess what I found? The *Schocken Bible*, just recently printed. Guess where I opened it to? *Every place where it was evening, 'ben ha arbayim,' and evening, 'ba erev.'* 'Ba erev' is sunset and 'ben ha arbayim' comes after 'ba erev'. He had sunset everywhere it is 'ba erev.' He explained 'ben ha arbayim' as twilight would be a good translation of it or between the setting times. He said it was between sunset and dark. If you really search for the Truth you will find it.

Let's just review a little bit. 1-John 2 is classic. Anyone says they love the Lord and don't keep His commandments, John calls him **a liar and the Truth is not in him**. Those are pretty strong words. Why would John write that? *Because later on we're going to see there were false prophets coming around!* Just like Jesus said there would be in Matt. 24.

1-John 2:5: "On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word..." Notice how it expands from His commandments to "...His Word..." That becomes very important to understand. That expands the definition way out.

"...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected..." (v 5). Do you want the love of God perfected in you? *Yes, you do!* That comes with the:

- Spirit of God
- Word of God
- commandments of God

"...By this *means* we know that we are in Him" (v 5). When you take a positive statement like that, turn it around and look at the reverse of it, which is: If we are not doing this, we are not in Him.

Here's a powerful one, v 6: "Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself..." If you say, 'I believe in the Lord; I believe in Jesus Christ,' you have an *obligation* from God immediately.

- not just to do your own thing
- not just to think your own thoughts
- not to follow traditions of men
- What do traditions of men do?
- What did Jesus say about traditions of men?

Let's think about the Jews. {note book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*—and all the sermons that go with it} If you don't have that, and you don't have time to read it, then listen to the sermons. It's amazing!

Here was a controversy over traditions; Mark 7:5: "For this reason, the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, *saying*, 'Why don't Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders... [we're the ones in charge and we're the ones to enforce it] ...but eat bread with unwashed hands?'"

I talked to a woman who said when she went to visit a Messianic Jewish thing, she had to wash her hands before she could go in there. Still today!

Verse 6: "And He answered *and* said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you hypocrites... [nice, sweet lovely Jesus with nice, sweet sounding words] ...as it is written, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men.".... [that goes back to 1-John 2] ...**For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men, such as** the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.' Then He said to them, 'Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe **your own** tradition'" (vs 6-9). That's as plain as it can be.

1-John 2:4: "The one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him."

Verse 3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments"—and we know we're in Him.

Verse 5: "On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked" (vs 5-6).

- Did Jesus break any commandments of God? *No!*
- Did Jesus keep the traditions of the Jews? *No!*

When He was invited into dinner by one of the Pharisees, He went right in and sat down. They were all saying, 'He didn't wash His hands before sitting down.' What did Jesus say? ***'You hypocrites, you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but within you're full of dead men's bones. Clean the inside first.'*** How do you do that? *By repentance and receiving God's Spirit!*

Don't worry about the other people out there if they have 10% of the Truth, or 15% of the Truth, or 50% of the Truth. God has given us the whole Truth and this is what we are to go by.

So He says here, v 7: "Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you had from *the* beginning; the old commandment is the message that you have heard from *the* beginning. Again, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining" (vs 7-8).

The darkness is the way of the world, the way of Satan, traditions of men, all of that. Who is the author of darkness? *Satan the devil!* This whole world is in darkness.

There's one oratory by the bass in the *Messiah* by Handel. It starts, 'Behold, darkness has covered the earth.' Very powerful! That's the way it is today. The world is in darkness and they think they are in the light. What did Jesus say about darkness? ***'The eye is light of the body. If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!'***

If you wake up at night and everything is dark, is it easy to stumble around? *Yes, indeed!* You don't know where you're going.

- we need the Light of God
- we need the Truth of God, which is light

Verse 9: "Anyone who claims *that* he is in the light, but hates his brother, is in the darkness until now." That's very important to understand. Does God call us with all of our bumps and bruises and faults and everything like that? *Yes, indeed!*

When we've had divisions within the Church, those who did not love the Truth *hated those who loved the Truth and kicked them out.* Those who stood for the Truth are still standing for the Truth, at least the ones I know.

This is important in our relationship with one another, v 10: "The one who loves his brother is dwelling in the light, and there is no cause of offense in him. But the one who hates his brother is in darkness, and is walking in darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (vs 10-11).

This is quite a lesson for us. If you have difficulties and problems, what are we to do with difficulties and problems?

- pray to God
- repent
- ask for a solution
- ask to overcome
- help to see what we need to do

We all need to do this every day. Do people overcome right away? *No!* Sometimes it takes a long time to overcome things. This is why God brought us together, to use a modern term of diversity so that *we can learn to love one another.* That means in the things just in living we can have different tastes and different likes, and things like that. Anything that is not against God's way is perfectly fine.

Let's see what happens. What he's getting to is a problem that was causing internal division within the Church. We've all experienced that.

Verse 12: "I am writing to you, little children, because *your* sins have been forgiven you through His name." Always remember that.

Do you want your sins forgiven? *Yes!* Well then, if you're having difficulty with someone, why don't you pray that God will forgive them their sins, then lead them to repentance. Isn't that loving your brother or sister? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 13: "I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known Him Who *is* from *the* beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked *one*... [there are times when Satan is more active than at other times] ...I am writing to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I wrote to you, fathers, because you have known Him Who *is* from *the* beginning. I wrote to you, young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God is dwelling in you, and you have overcome the wicked *one*" (vs 13-14).

Then John gives a warning. After saying, 'Now you have done all of this, be careful.' I'll just use another phrase: *because tomorrow is another day.* Think of it in this world today. How much more do we have the influences of the world coming right in through the 'boob-tube.'

I want you to do this. Survey all the soap opera things and contests they have on television. Analyze it! Think of it this way: The world has stated that if it's fun, it's good. Isn't that what they say with children? If they have fun, they'll learn. No, they won't, they will be distracted.

After having it go for so long, then you have an educational system that is based upon emotion, not fact, but on how they feel. If it feels good, whether it is truly good according to God or not, doesn't make any difference.

Do a survey. Look at all these games that they have: *Family Feud*, and all of that. It's all hype and emotion. Everything is exciting. Look at the ad from Publisher's Clearing House—receive \$7,000 a week for life! You've all seen that ad. It's all emotion and they bring that big check in. The people jump up and down! They don't tell you that it's going to be one in about a million? I don't know what the odds are. I know people who have sent off for the Publishers House to get all those magazine and attempting to win something. They filled one bedroom up with magazines and didn't get a thing.

Then watch the sports. It's all on emotion. Look at religion, it's all on emotion. You come to church, they play the music, you sing the songs. You get your 'Twitter verse' for today and you feel good. That's the way that the world is.

That's why John gives this warning, v 15: "Do not love the world..."

Who is deceiving the whole world? *Satan is deceiving the whole world!*

Who is one of the greatest deceiving agents in the world today? *Disneyland!*

Why? *Because the kids get all these demonic and satanic lies while they are young. Fairy tales, witches, demons!*

'Oh, they're cartoonish, makes you laugh.' What was it? *Puff the Magic Dragon!* Did good things; rescued people; helped children, gave them rides. What a wonderful thing. *No! Totally satanic!*

So John says, v 15: "Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because everything that *is* in the world... [take this verse, analyze the advertisements] ...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life... [almost every single ad is based upon that today; they had none of it back then; think how much more that applies to us today] ...is not from the Father, but is from the world" (vs 15-16).

Look at the things that they sell you. Have you ever seen an ad that they're not smiling, not happy, that it is a great increase to the one who has it—except if you have a Samsung 7, which may blow up in your face, or you may have a car that has a defective part in it—everything is based upon emotion.

You would think the world is the happiest place ever. Yet, you go into some places like Chicago and how many deaths have they had? If Obama really cared—some people get all mad if you talk against Obama—same way with Colin Kaepernick and his thing with the flag. He makes about \$110-million in three years. Why is he not down in the inner cities spending some of that money to help the people he's saying he's standing up for? Why isn't Obama in the middle of Chicago saying, 'Everybody out here stop it!'

You know why gun laws will not stop murders in Chicago? You want to know the real reason why? *They get guns made in the Philippines, brought into Mexico and come across the border!* So there is no way you can ever trace those guns. They also bring new barrels, so if they kill someone they can change the barrel on the gun. Now how are you going to stop that?

You have to start with helping them to understand *obeying and loving God*. That's where you have to start! You have to tell the young men, 'You're not going to be successful by killing, lying, and stealing and committing adultery and selling drugs.' You're going to have to tell the young women, 'Just because the government gives you welfare, doesn't mean that you pop kids out like a popcorn machine.'

It all, *generation after generation*, expands and you come to this great lawless situation that we have today that is insoluble. Even if you got all the pastors in Chicago working with these people, unless you told them what the laws and commandments of God are, you're never going to make a dent in it.

Sidebar: If you don't understand about the second resurrection, then you will never understand why God does not intervene, because it's not time for God to intervene. He's given that responsibility to the people, beginning with the individual.

- Does everyone who commits murder know it's wrong?
- Does everyone who commits adultery know it's wrong?

*Maybe not everyone, but a good number of them!*

- Does everyone who steals know they are stealing?



One program to watch is *Forensic Files*. You can't get away with anything anymore. Then the other one to watch is *I Almost Got Away With It*. Escape from jail, 'I almost got away from it.' But the fact is, you didn't.

I would not know how to approach the problem marching into the central Chicago and say, 'Everybody stop it!' I'd probably get shot. They're not going to stop it. They may bring it down a little. They may bring it down from 5,000 deaths to 2,000 deaths. Well, that's an improvement. But they haven't solved the problem.

But this answers the question why Christ, when He returns, is going to be the massive slaughter of human beings in the history of the world? *They're all fighting against Him!* Since they're deceived at this time, they'll have their chance in the second resurrection, just like the people in the Flood. But within the Church, you see, here's how we have to be on guard. We have to ***guard ourselves, guard our minds, guard our attitudes!***

Verse 17: "And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does... [practice] ...the will of God abides forever." What is the will of God?

- love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- love your neighbor as yourself
- love the brethren as Christ has loved you
- love your enemies

The best prayer for your enemies is 'keep them far away from me.' The next prayer is 'may they be converted.'

Verse 18: "Little children, it is *the* last time..."—it was in a sense. The apostolic age was soon to come to a close. That would end that timeframe, but the last time carries out clear to our day today.

"...and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming..." (v 18). What do we read in Rev. 13, 2-Thes 2? *The antichrist!* The whole world's worshipping Satan right now. Doesn't it say that they worship Satan; they worship *the beast*?

"...even now many antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time" (v 18). Anyone who is against the teachings of Jesus is an antichrist. Not *the* antichrist, that's the man of sin, the son of perdition.

Verse 19: "They went out from among us, but they were not of us because if they were of us, they would have remained with us..." A little later on we find that we had to separate ourselves, and

that's been down through history, because the antichrists come in and take over. What are you going to do if you love the Truth?

- you have to stand alone
- you have to trust God

What if there is absolutely no means that you have to continue working or living or whatever? ***You still have to stand for the Truth!*** If you do, God will honor the faith and He'll provide for you one way or the other.

Here's what is important, v 20: "But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One, and you have knowledge of all things *pertaining to salvation*." He doesn't mean all things in the world, so that has to be pertaining to salvation. That's why it's in the italics, because that's to clarify it.

Verse 21: "I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth." However, if you don't have all the Truth and you have part of the Truth, a lie can be generated from that. It's important to understand.

Verse 22: "Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either" (vs 22-23). So that takes care of the Jews. They don't have God.

How can they come in and tell us what to do? That's what the Messianic Jews try to do. You have to have both—the Father and the Son. What does it say in John 14? Jesus said, 'If you love Me, you will keep My words and the Father and I, We will come to you and make Our dwelling with you.' Very important, you must have both.

Verse 24: "Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you; if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you *will* be dwelling in the Son and in the Father"—***both***. Nothing about the Holy Spirit as a person, but the Holy Spirit is the power of God.

Verse 25: "And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life." Stop and think about that! ***To live forever!*** You look at a little child, infant just born, what does it know? *Nothing!* About the only thing it can do is nurse. That's about it, and learn how to do it by sucking its thumb in the womb before its born. That's why thumb-sucking is so hard to stop.

Everyone of us were like that when we were born. Look at us now. You hear me say in so many sermons recently, ***from a speck of dust that you could not even know you existed or no one could***

***know you existed unless they looked through a powerful microscope*** to see you. Look what God has created out of that! Half from your mother and half from your father so, you are the result of their being one flesh.

You've heard me mention this before and it's still on my mind. I can't get over it. Each one of us have 46 genes and chromosomes. However, when the inheritance is passed to you, you get 23 from father and 23 from mother. So, every human being has 46 chromosomes. How does God do that? When every other cell of your being has 46 chromosomes and genes?

Not only does God do that with human beings, look at all the animals, everything that there is. ***The stamp of God as Creator is on everything!***

I'm looking out of the window here and there's a tree out there. You can tell what kind of tree it is by the leaves. If you picked every leaf and compared each one with the other, each leaf would be a little bit different, though it is of the same kind. That's an amazing thing!

Same way with a grain of sand; that's why in the book, *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* I've got the magnified grains of sand, because you don't realize how much glory and beauty there is in just plain sand. *And we're counted like sand on the seashore!* I bring that up, from this point of view:

- What is it going to be like at the resurrection when you are no longer flesh and blood?
- When you are a spirit being, having been born again from the dead?

Sidebar: If anyone says, 'I'm a *born again* Christian,' say, 'Fine, walk through the door without opening it.' Jesus said, 'Everyone who is born again is like the wind.' Remember how Jesus appeared to the disciples. They were all in the room for fear of the Jews. BOOM! Jesus was right in the middle of them. How did He get there? He walked through the wall or walked through the door as a spirit being, manifested Himself as flesh and bone.

That's how He had to appear to Adam and Eve, because no man can be in the glory of God and see Him. That's another whole story in itself. That's why Adam and Eve thought they could do so good on their own, because, after all, 'We look just like Him.' *There's so much in the Bible it's absolutely incredible!*

***The promise is eternal life! That's going to be an amazing thing!***

Verse 26: "These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray. But you yourselves have dwelling in you the anointing that you received from Him; and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you... [with their false doctrines] ...for the same anointing instructs you in all *spiritual* things..." (vs 26-27). ***God will lead you into the Truth if you rely on God and follow His Word!*** This is why we have the Word of God today.

"...and is true, and is not a lie; and *if you do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him. And now, little children, dwell in Him, so that when He is manifested... [at His return] ...we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that everyone who practices righteousness has been begotten by Him" (vs 27-29).

Peter says that we are begotten again with the Holy Spirit. We were begotten once to be human beings, but we have the begetting from God the Father to become spirit beings. That's an amazing thing!

All of this comes from the Word of God. Just one last thing, since we have the entire Word of God today, since we have it in so many ways of conveying it that never existed before, if you would have told the apostles while they were writing these things on papyrus and lambskin... By the way, you know how many lambskins it took to do the Bible? *Fifty, writing on both sides!*

Now we have it here, we have it digitally, amazing. ***I want you to understand that 'to whom much is given, much is required.'*** We need to respond to God likewise that way.

- ***God will bless us***
- ***God will watch over us***
- ***God will take care of us***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 24:11
- 2) Romans 3:1-2
- 3) Matthew 24:12-14
- 4) Mark 13:10
- 5) Acts 6:2-4
- 6) Matthew 28:18-20
- 7) John 14:14-17
- 8) John 15:26
- 9) 1-John 2:5-6
- 10) Mark 7:5-9
- 11) 1-John 2:4, 3, 5-29

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 18
- Isaiah 58; 56
- Matthew 5
- Zechariah 12
- Revelation 13
- 2-Thessalonians 2

Also referenced:

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*:

- Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God
- Appendix K: Exegesis for the Translation of the Phrase "the Holy Spirit"

Books:

- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Interlinear Greek-English New Testament* by George Ricker Berry
- *Schocken Bible* by Everett Fox
- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon: *Jesus' Stenographers*

Sermon Series: *Judaism vs Scripturalism*

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## Christ and Our Calling VI

### TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience & Love

Survey of 1-John 3 beginning with the goal and ending up with how we get there  
Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

{note that the intro is about the current election in the U.S. and is left out of transcription for the sermon series}

We have some unfinished business to do, so let's get to that. TROL: **truth, repentance, obedience and love**. So far we've come up to 1-John 3, so let's look at some things and analyze some things and see how the unity of Scripture throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament always is in motion.

Did God give warning about false prophets and the religions of the people around the children of Israel not to do it? *Yes, He did!* What was one of the first things that Jesus said? 'Take heed that no one deceive you.' What follows through all the New Testament is:

- truth: description of error
- truth: don't be deceived
- truth: this is what you are to do
- truth: this is what you're not to do

All fits in a whole overall pattern.

Just a little review as we lead into chapter three. 1-John 2:26: "These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray." That's why it is always, as Isaiah says: ***'To the Law and the Prophets, if they speak not according to this Word, it's because there is no Truth in them.'*** In the New Testament we have the same thing.

Verse 27: "But you yourselves have dwelling in you... [the Holy Spirit] ...the anointing that you received from Him; and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you..." They didn't have all the safeguards we have today. When we have services today, everybody has a Bible. We all read it together. There they didn't, so it was easier to deceive.

Like Paul said to the Corinthians (2-Cor. 11) that 'if someone comes preaching another Jesus or brings another spirit, you tolerate it as something good.' They can't do it today like they did back then, because especially in the congregations of God, we all have a Bible and say, 'Hey, wait a minute.'

"...for the same anointing instructs you in all *spiritual* things, and is true, and is not a lie; and if you *do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him. And now, little children, dwell in

Him, so that when He is manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that **everyone who practices righteousness has been begotten by Him**" (vs 27-29).

That's an important phrase right there, especially *practices*. That carries down into 1-John 3. That comes from the Greek 'poieo.' Notice what he does, and this is what the New Testament always does; it talks about

- current things
- growing and overcoming
- avoiding false teachings
- keeping your mind on the ultimate goal

1-John 3:1: "Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is.... [that's quite a thing] ...And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure" (vs 1-3).

Let's look at some other Scriptures that back this up to show us what we need to do. This will also show us that the teachings of the Apostle Paul are the same as the teachings of the other apostles.

2-Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness?"

Stop and think about this. When the Church began to go to the Protestants to find out how they ran their churches, what happened? *They became unequally yoked with their teachings!* Everything started to come apart.

That's why we are to guard the Truth. In guarding the Truth, that goes clear back to the very beginning. What did God tell Adam? *You are to dress it and keep it!* That also means *to guard it*. What happened? *He did not guard it, so the author of false teachings came in and VOILA!*

Verse 15: "And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of the

living God, exactly as God said: 'I will dwell in them...'” (vs 15-16). That’s by the power of the Holy Spirit, which is a living power sent from God.

Remember what Jesus said about the words that He spoke to the disciples. He said, *‘The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life.’*

That’s why there is no book in the world like the Bible, because you get an education from the spiritual power that comes through these words to you if you’re willing to obey. That’s the real key.

Verse 17: “‘Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,’ says *the* Lord...” That’s why the Church is scattered today. Two reasons:

1. because of apostasy
2. to protect the Truth

So, it’s incumbent upon all the Churches of God—every minister, every member—ask yourself:

- Do you guard the Truth?
- Do you keep the Truth?

That’s because whatever God gives us is perfect and we can’t improve upon it.

Notice the promise here: “...and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you” (v 17). Isn’t that the most important thing in our life, to be received by God? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 18: “‘And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says *the* Lord Almighty.”

2-Corinthians 7:1: “Now then, beloved, since we have these promises, we should purge ourselves from every defilement of *the* flesh and *the* spirit, perfecting Holiness in *the* fear of God.”

Not only does this show the unity of the Scripture, but it shows the same inspiration from the same God, because it teaches the same thing.

Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect... [Does that not agree with 2-Cor. 7:1? *Yes!*] ...even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect.” ***That’s the ultimate goal!***

What I want us to do as we’re studying through here is to see that it connects in the same way everywhere—Old Testament/New Testament.

Psa. 146 is quite a Psalm. It really is pretty much a prophecy of the New Testament. So let’s read it and see what it says.

Psalm 146:1: “O praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.... [everything goes to God] ... While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing

praises unto my God while I have any being.... [endure to the end] ...Do not put your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no salvation” (vs 1-3). Don’t follow the teachings and traditions of men.

Verse 4: “His breath goes forth; he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help...” (vs 4-5).

Hebrews 11:5: “...for He has said, ‘In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.’”

Psalm 146:5: “...whose hope... [of eternal life] ...is in the LORD his God, Who made the heavens and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps Truth forever” (vs 5-6).

The whole first chapter of John: ‘In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God; the Word was God. Nothing came into being without Him.’

Verse 7: “Who carries out justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD lets the prisoners loose... [you can talk about that with spiritual] ...the LORD opens the eyes of the blind... [spiritually and physically] ... the LORD raises up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD preserves the strangers; He sustains the fatherless and widow, but the way of the wicked He turns upside down” (vs 7-9).

May He do that to all of the enemies that have been trying to take down the United States and the children of Israel.

Sidebar: I think it’s significant, as I mentioned in my letter, that Britain and America have separated themselves from the New World Order. However that’s going to come about, it’s going to have to take another path, which tells us there’s much more time. Talk about turning the wicked upside down, tie that in with the book of Revelation, the wars and all the earthquakes. You see how great a book the Bible is. There’s no other book written by men anywhere that compares.

Verse 10: “The LORD shall reign forever, even your God, O Zion, to all generations. O praise the LORD!”

Let’s come back to dwelling in Him. ***We are to dwell in Him!*** We also have it in:

John 14:20: “In that day... [the day that He ascended to the Father] ...you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you. The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me...” (vs 20-21).

This ties in with what Jesus said to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. That ties in with Deut. 6. The unity is absolutely amazing!

“...and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father...” (v 21).

I want you to think on that. Every one of us are going to have times that come along that we get down, we get depressed, we have things not going right, we have problems to overcome. Never forget God the Father loves you. Then add to that everything that Jesus did to become a human being, be born of the virgin Mary, so that He could become the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. He created mankind and He gave ‘the law of sin and death’ to Adam and Eve to be passed on to all of us.

So, *no other sacrifice, no other person, no other ritual*, can replace that, because that’s from God.

“...and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.”... [He has spiritually] ... Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’” (vs 21-22).

How did He first do that? When they were all gathered together the day He ascended into heaven, they were gathered together for fear of the Jews. What did Jesus do? *Walked through the wall or the door!* ‘Hello, I’m here.’ *Is that really You?* ‘Yes, give Me some honeycomb and fish.’

Honey with fish is good; I’ve tried it. If Jesus can eat it, you can eat it. It’s very good, especially on a little herring. You open a can, drain off the juice, or you drink it, whichever you prefer. Then you put a little honey on it. It tastes great. That’s what He did when He manifested Himself to them. Eight days later He manifested Himself again. What was the first thing He said? ‘Thomas, come here, My friend. See My hands? Stick your hand in My side.’ Thomas repented real quick like.

How does He do it to us today? Jesus doesn’t come down and say, ‘Jonathan, stop what You’re doing; I’m going to call you.’ Or any other person, you put your name there.

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘**If**... [qualifier. Remember IFMA: independent free moral agency] ...anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...”

This becomes very interesting. When it says word, singular, that means *His whole message*. He will keep—we’re going to talk about *practice* in a little bit, but when you keep the laws of God you are practicing them, because you repeat them and live by them.

“...and My Father will love him... [Here’s one of the greatest verses in the entire Bible:] ...and **We**... [God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...will come to him and Make Our abode with him” (v 23). That ties in with what we read in 2-Cor. that ***we are a temple of God, because we have the Spirit of God.*** The Spirit of God has two parts to it:

1. from the Father for begettal
2. from the Son so we can develop the mind of Christ

Both! That’s fantastic. That’s awesome! That’s more than we can grasp. You might want to go over these Scriptures every once in a while and just let it sink in and just ask God to help you understand more of it. Notice the opposite; we’re going to see this when we get back to 1-John 3.

- Truth and righteousness/sin and rebellion
- Truth and righteousness/sin and rebellion

That’s the way 1-John 3 is laid out. We have the same thing here.

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words...” There you go! His words, whatever you may hear and His Word, which is all of His message.

“...and the Word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s Who sent Me.”

John 15:1: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that does not bear fruit*...” (vs 1-2). We need active, living faith day-by-day. Couple that with the hope. ***Faith is what we believe and faith is how it operates in our minds to motivate us to do what is right!***

“...but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit” (v 2). How does that work? *Every trial we have, you may not get the answer immediately as to why you’re going through it!*

Have you ever had a trial, you’ve overcome it, you thought about it and then you forgot about it. Then somewhere down the road, here you’re going along one day, whatever you’re doing, all of a sudden it dawns on you that God answered that prayer. Amazing thing!

Verse 3: “You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you. Dwell in Me... [with the Spirit of God] ...and I in you... [that ties in with 1-John 3 and with the other Scriptures, as well] ...As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can you bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me” (vs 3-4).

There ought to be a whole lot more ministers who read that. Does the branch tell the vine what to do? *No! The vine tells the branch what to do!*

Verse 5: “I am the vine, *and you are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me **you can do nothing.**”

Let’s analyze that. Can people do things and they’re thinking God is doing it for them? *But He’s really not, because it’s contrary to the will of God!* What happens? *It doesn’t last! It collapses!* Same thing here.

“...you can do nothing.” That’s why we always have to understand in God every human being ‘lives and moves and has their being,’ whether physically or whether physically and spiritually. We have both, physical and spiritual.

Verse 6: “If anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned. If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you...” (vs 6-7).

This is why you’ve heard how many times, what are the two most important things that you do every day? **Prayer and study!** Because you’re going to continue to learn more things. I learn even now. The Word of God is so great, no man is going to fully understand all the Word of God in a lifetime. The understanding has to come from God.

Verse 7: “If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you, you shall ask whatever you desire...”—if it is the will of God, because we pray, ‘Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ We can’t ask for things that are illegal and ask God to answer that prayer. He might send the police. Who knows?

Verse 8: “In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me...” (vs 8-9). Stop and think for a minute: Can there be any greater love in the universe than that? *No!*

“...I also have loved you...” (v 9). We’re going to see that in 1-John 3 it talks about the love of God and loving each other. That’s very important to understand.

“...live in My love” (v 9). How do you do that?

1-John 5:3: “For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments...”

- you keep His commandments
- His Spirit is dwelling you
- you’re living in His love

Verse 10: “‘If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love... [He explains it right there] ...just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and live in His love. These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that one lay down his life for his friends. **You are My friends, if you do whatever I command you.**” (vs 10-14).

Those are pretty powerful words. Very encouraging, too, especially when we’re facing all the difficulties we are today.

We’ll do a real quick survey of 1-John 3 here. This is also a pattern you see in other places in the Bible.

- vs 1-3—pertains to God and Christ
- v 4—a warning  
*That will lead to Satan the devil*
- vs 5-6—about God
- v 7—don’t allow anyone to deceive you
- v 8—the one who practices sin is of the devil
- vs 9-11—back to God
- v 12—talks about Cain
- v 13—back to God
- vs 14-15—that’s on the side of Satan and sin
- vs 16-24—all about God  
*the pattern all the way through:*
  - things of God
  - things of the world
  - things of Satan

Let’s come back to 1-John 3:4, which becomes a very key important verse. The reason is when they were writing the original, paper was very expensive and it was made out of papyrus. Lambskins cost a fortune. I forget the exact number of lambskins that it took for Jerome to translate and write the Bible and Eusebius was with him. It was hundreds of lambskins. So what does it cost for one of these? Our paperback Bibles are available for a very small donation. Those who can’t afford it we give it to them, the whole Bible. If it were on lambskins it would come in a big crate, many volumes. Think what a blessing the printing press is.

So they wrote in what they call ‘ellipsis,’ a main verb that applies to the rest of the context is not added in as you go down until you reach a certain point.

1-John 3:4: “Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness...” There after that comes the ‘ellipsis.’

Verse 6: “Everyone who dwells in Him does not *practice* sin...” That’s in italics because the ‘ellipsis’ carries down and you have to add it in. The *King James Version* says, ‘Anyone who dwells in him cannot sin.’ If you read all of 1-John, what do we find in the first chapter? ‘If we sin and we repent and confess our sins, He’ll forgive them.’ If you’ve already been begotten and if you cannot sin, then the first chapter would not have to be written. That’s why it’s put in there with the italics. The ‘ellipsis’ carries down.

“...anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him, nor has known Him. Little children, do not allow anyone to deceive you; the one who practices... [now he puts in the verb, ‘poieo’] ...the one who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. The one who practices sin is of the devil...” (vs 6-8). See the contrast here again, *practicing*.

The word *practice* is used there to carry through. Whenever there’s an ‘ellipsis’ you fill it in:

Verse 9: “Everyone who has been begotten by God does not practice sin...” What does this tell us? *That you can sin, but you don’t practice sin!* That is, you don’t *live in 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” (v 9). That is the proper translation of it.

I actually had a man send me an email and say, ‘I’ve been born again. I can’t sin.’ I tried to explain it. It took about three e-mails and he said, ‘I’ve been born again and I can’t sin.’ I just said, ‘You’re just going to have to learn.’

Let’s go back and analyze this; v 4: “Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness.” The *King James Version* says that sin is the transgression of the law. What does it mean *lawless*? Does that mean you’re hateful and angry? *Possibly!*

Five things that lawless refers to:

1. transgresses the law
2. rejects the law

Isn’t that what Protestants do when they say the Law has been done away?

3. modifies the law

Like the Catholics do with the Ten Commandments. In their Bible they leave the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment where it is. But in their catechism they remove about the Sabbath and taking God’s name in vain is the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment. The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment is ‘Honor your father and mother.’

The way they get ten, they come down, ‘You shall not covet,’ and they split that in two in the catechism. If you don’t believe me, go get your *Douay Version* of the Bible, open it up to Exo. 20 and go get your Catholic catechism—and I’ve got one here that I use; like Patton I read the enemy’s books—and you will see: modify the law.

4. false interpretation

Like we just covered here. You don’t fill in the ‘ellipsis,’ so you say, ‘I’m righteous; I can’t sin. I’ve been born again. Aren’t I nice and lovely.’

5. replace with tradition

Isn’t that what Jesus spoke against the Pharisees of that in Mark 7, ‘Full well you reject the Law of God by *keeping your traditions*.’

For years when I saw the Catholics do one of their ceremonies, they carry out this big book. I always thought that it was the Bible. It has metal on the outside. It’s big and thick and they have one of the deacons all dressed up in white. He brings it out and the pope kisses it. Then he carries it on out and puts it somewhere for the ceremony. That book does not contain the Bible. I found from a Catholic that it contains *the traditions* of the Catholic Church. Blew me away!

1. transgression of the law
2. rejection of the law
3. modification of the law
4. false interpretation
5. replacement with tradition

They use a lot of words of God. They even quote some Scripture. But if you speak Truth and are not truthful with it and apply it to a sinful way, *you’re lying*. Let’s put it this way: if you tell part of the Truth, are you telling all of the Truth? *No!* Can you mislead with part of the Truth? *Yes!* So that’s a misuse of the Truth.

2-Thessalonians 2:7: “For the mystery of lawlessness...” These 5 things describe *the mystery of lawlessness*. It is a secret.

I’ve started a series on [churchathome.org](http://churchathome.org), *Do You Really Believe?* Why can’t people see the difference between Truth and righteousness?

- 1) the carnal mind is not subject to the Law of God

So, if you read it with a carnal attitude, you’re not going to understand it.

- 2) if you read it and see something that you should obey and don’t obey it, you have blinders put on it!



The blinders Paul calls ‘the veil that is over their eyes at the reading of the Law of Moses’ (2-Cor. 3). How do people get rid of that? Right here, what we’re talking about:

- Truth
- repentance
- obedience
- love

Paul explains it a little different way. He calls it *the circumcision of the heart and that’s what takes away the blindness!* The mystery of lawlessness, you can’t understand it. You think, ‘Oh, they have the Bible. Oh yes, he read the Bible. I followed along and it was really good. He gave a sermon on how to trust God; how to overcome grudges.’

You could go to improvement classes and get that as well. Then comes along the false doctrine and it said—this is Charles Stanley; he’s one of the better preachers—‘But if you believed you’re automatically put into the sinless category.’ He preaches nothing concerning the Sabbath and Holy Days. What he’s doing is *the mystery of lawlessness*. Isn’t that an amazing thing that people can read it and not understand it? People think that you’re following the Bible, but you’re not following the Bible. A part of the mystery of lawlessness and any one of these five things could happen.

Now it talks about the lawless one, v 8: “And then... [when Christ returns] ...the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming” (Rev. 19).

Verse 9: “*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan...” What did we read back here in 1-John 4:8? *Is of the devil!*

“...with all power and signs and lying wonders” (v 9). This ties right in with Deut. 13, which says that ‘if a false prophet lies in your midst and does a sign or wonder, and the sign or wonder comes to pass of which he said he would do and tells you to go after other gods—that is to leave the *true* God—that’s a *false prophet*.’ Signs and wonders don’t prove anything.

Verse 10: “And with all deceivableness of unrighteous in those who are perishing because... [notice what happens]: ...they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved.” They weren’t willing to believe God or repent or accept the Truth. They kept their own ways in spite of it all.

If you want to see really an astounding version of this, watch one of these prison shows where they show the serial killers who are absolutely

evil. They have no regret, no remorse. They even tell the prison officials that if let out they will kill again. That’s amazing!

Notice what happens when you get to the point of hardening your heart with sin and deceitfulness from Satan the devil. What does God do?

Verse 11: “And for this cause God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the* lie, so that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness” (vs 11-12).

That’s the division we’re going to see in the world more and more and more.

(go to the next track)

1-John 3:6 “Everyone who dwells in Him does not *practice* sin...” How does that work? If you do sin, then God’s Spirit within you will activate your conscience. It will ‘prick your heart,’ as the Bible says.

“...anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him...” (v 6). Why would he say that? It’s the same way with Paul (2-Cor.11) about the false apostles, and so forth.

- Are they Hebrews? *Yes!*
- Are they Israelites? *Yes!*

How many people saw Jesus, followed along with His ministry, saw the healings, thought it was a wonderful thing to do, and *claim* to be one of His disciples because they were there, and *then go out become their own ministers?* Wonder how many? *Had to be a lot, but they were practicing sin!*

1. they were lying
2. they were bringing false doctrines

We can see in v 8 that they’re inspired of Satan the devil. Satan—when you read Rev. 2 and 3—is always trying to come against the Churches of God, one way or another, especially Pergamos and Thyatira.

Verse 7: “Little children, do not allow anyone to deceive you...” How do you keep people from deceiving you?

The Jews in the synagogues had some scrolls. They could go out and go to the synagogue and they could check what was being preached with the Scriptures. The apostles, before they started writing their own epistles, preached Christ from the Old Testament, all the prophecies.

Just like Paul told Timothy that ‘you’ve known the Holy Writings, which are able to make

you wise unto salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ.' They would go out and they would preach Christ with the prophecies. Then they would verify that those things took place.

Here's Paul, he was having trouble; Acts 17:8: "And they caused *great* agitation among the people and the city magistrates, who heard these things. But after taking security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. Then the brethren immediately sent away by night to Berea both Paul and Silas, who, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now, these were more noble than those in Thessalonica... [Thessalonica was causing the trouble] ...*for* they received the Word with all readiness of mind..." (vs 8-11).

Remember what Jesus said about receiving the Word. It applies here. Another main lesson in going through this is the whole Bible comes together and you need to look for these things when you're reading and studying.

"...and examined the Scriptures daily..." (v 11). Someone went down to the synagogue every day, rabbi let them use a copy of the scroll that's there, to examine if it was true. 'Is this what the prophecy said?'

"...to see if these things were so" (v 11). That's what we do today, because 'if they don't speak according to this word, it's because there's no light in them.

Verse 12: "As a result, a great number of them **believed**, including not a few of the honorable Greek women and men." Where you have it *believed*, that means they also had to have been baptized as well. It goes along with it because you have to believe, you have to repent and believe, and then be baptized.

That's how we check it. Today we can do it more than ever before. Down through history God has guided His Word, copies of the originals, and with the New Testament there are over 5,000 different manuscripts, documents, and parts of the New Testament, so we can verify what the original was.

The writings of Homer, guess how many books there are of *Odyssey*, *Iliad*, and all of that? *Two!* Yet, people put more faith in those two than they do the 5,000.

When I was translating the New Testament and Gary Stazak was working with me on the commentary, we were in contact with a Dr. Robinson and a Dr. Pierpont. They were experts in Greek. They have compiled—and have now published—and we were in contact with them every time we needed to be, especially Gary who was in

contact with them at least once a week, verifying the translation we were doing.

They finally have published it—the Byzantine Text form of the original Greek New Testament—*The New Testament in the Original Greek*—one of the most accurate Greek texts available.

A little caveat: How many have an Interlinear? You see the notes at the bottom giving a little bit different writing or a little bit different spelling? I have an actual 1550 Stephens Text in Greek. Ninety percent of the variant readings that we have today in Interlinears were known in 1550. But the scholars have to keep themselves employed, so they go over and check and recheck and recheck.

However, down through all of history, God has watched over His Word. He has preserved His Word, Hebrew through the Jewish community, with the Levites and descendants of Aaron among them. The Greek text—and that was 'librified' in Constantinople. When the Turks were on their way conquering Constantinople, all of the Greek scholars took their New Testaments, fled west. That was in 1453. Then they set up schools in Italy. Later these schools spread and so forth, and that's how we have the Greek New Testament today.

We are able to check the Scriptures much more accurately than at any time in the history of the world, and we have the most number of inaccurate translations, as well. This is why we have what we have here. That was a very interesting thing in going with Robinson and Pierpont.

1-John 3:8: "The one who practices sin is of the devil because the devil has been sinning from *the* beginning..." Jesus said that 'he's a liar and the father of lies and has lied from the beginning' (John 8:44).

"...For this purpose the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil" (v 8). When does He do that? It starts out the parable. Remember the parable of the rich man and his house. Thief came in and broke in, and he didn't understand what was going on. The thief was Christ into the world of Satan. He began destroying the works of the devil by preaching the Truth.

There are actual works of the devil, which are not going to be destroyed until His second coming. That's going to be a great destruction: all the idols, all the temples, all the cathedrals. He's going to bind Satan the devil, which will be another step in it. Then he's released after the Millennium for a short time and deceives the nations that rebelled against God. Then they are cast into the

Lake of Fire, and that Lake of Fire is going to destroy the whole surface of the earth.

Like Peter says in 2-Peter 3, the heaven around the earth and everything is going to melt. Every work of Satan will be destroyed at that point. So, it's a long process. Then they're going to be consigned to someplace in the universe that is the *blackest darkness forever*.

What about the wars in heaven? There was a war in heaven when Satan and the angels rebelled. They were cast to the earth and the earth was covered with a flood; that's a first flood. That destroyed all the works of the devil at that time. But when Adam and Eve let Satan in, he was able to rebuilt what he had to a certain degree. When Christ came, Satan was even more limited, but he was not totally restricted.

When Christ returns, He's going to have an angel take Satan and put him in prison. So the question is: When the Lake of Fire consumes the whole earth after the Millennium, after the 100-year period, preparation for the new earth, what about the new heaven? Does it burn up or change the whole universe?

I would have to say the only way we're going to find out is be there and see it happen. We don't know. God created the earth, recreated it after the first flood (Gen. 1), created everything that there is. Then created Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden of Eden. He put Adam in there first. He was told to dress and keep it, but keep it also means to *guard it*.

We don't know the period of time after Adam and Eve, that God was with them, instructed them; we don't know how long it was. Certainly it wasn't a day after. Certainly it wasn't the week after. Certainly God had to instruct them and tell them and so forth. When Eve said, 'We're not to eat it or touch it,' she said God said that. Some people say, 'Eve added shall not touch it.' *No!* God probably did tell them not to touch it. That shows there's a space of time. We don't know what that space of time is.

- Was it a year?
- Was it two years?
- *we don't know*

But when God appeared to Adam and Eve, He didn't appear in His glory, because no flesh can be in the glory of God and live. He appeared as a man, much like He did to the disciples after His resurrection. When God let the serpent in:

1. Adam was not guarding it
2. Eve was very familiar with everything, but curious

That's why Satan approached Eve. But Adam could have told her, 'Eve, put down that fruit,' but he didn't. Was Adam sitting there saying, 'Look at that; nothing happened to her. I'm going to see what happens.' She had the fruit, took a bite, and said, 'Adam, this is good. Here have some.' He was right there with her.

When they did that, they rejected God as determining good from evil and right from wrong. They were going to do it themselves. So Satan had an entrance. Then he began rebuilding his empire again through Cain. Look what happened. God had to destroy, after 1500 and some odd years the whole civilization. They had lived so long and were so smart, but given over to evil it was the worst thing that could happen. So that's why God then began limiting human life. Every generation it would go down in the number of years they could live, down to 120. By the time you get to David, it was 70 years and he was old and well-stricken with age. I guess all the running and physical exertion of the battles and everything made him old very fast.

You have on earth the creation of God; He made everything.

- you have the works of the devil
- you have the works of God
- you have the works of men

You carry all that forward to the second return of Christ and that's why the earth is going to be left in such an upheaval because everything has to be made right.

Sidebar on the Millennium: If you grow up where you always keep the commandments of God, what is going to be the question when people find out they have to repent? Human nature is not going to be quite as evil because God says He's going to give them a heart of flesh.

Won't be quite like Adam and Eve because they'll still have 'the law of sin and death.' If children grow up and do things that are right, what's the first question they're going to ask? *Why do I have to repent? I've done all these things!* I'll just let that sidebar be here and you think on it.

If you think that everything is going to be really easy in the Millennium, it will be easier, but what is harder, bringing a person who has sinned and is upset about it and who has really done wrong and is greatly repentant vs those who have grown up in a system where everything is right, everything is of God, and they haven't overtly sinned? How do we handle that? *That's going to be a challenge!* The world full of Jobs? *I don't know!*

1-John 3:9: “Everyone who has been begotten by God does not practice sin because His seed of *begettal*... [in the Greek the word for *seed* is ‘sperma’] ...is dwelling within him... [we read that in John 14] ...and he is not able to *practice* sin because he has been begotten by God.”

Even people who leave God for an extended period of time, God hasn’t given up on them, but there are many people that we deal with—and I get letters quite often, and I meet brethren who said, ‘When things blew up in the Church, I just gave up but I haven’t given up on God, but I really didn’t do anything and now I have to get right.’ They still had enough of the Spirit of God to come back.

So, even over that extended period of time, they had their conscience guilty because they knew when they weren’t keeping the Sabbath that it wasn’t right. They knew various things that they were doing wasn’t right.

Verse 10: “By this *standard* are manifest the children of God and the children of the devil...” The children of God with the Spirit of God, because that’s goes right back to vs 1-2, we are the children of God, and we’re going to become like God, so therefore, there is the difference in the world.

Everyone who does not have the Spirit of God is not of God. Everyone that is not of God *in degree* is of the devil. Some are totally devoted to him. Some try and live some of the commandments of God, but are in the world and don’t keep the Sabbath and Holy Days, and keep the holidays. These may be looked upon as well respected and good, sincere people in the world and even may profess a certain virtue of Christ. But that doesn’t mean they’re converted. ***Conversion is a calling!*** A calling is a distinct event in your life and distinct repentance. That’s why it is:

- **Truth**, which convicts you of your sins
- **Repentance**, because you know you need to change
- **Obedience**, because you’re now obeying God
- **Love** you grow in, you develop in

That takes time to really grow and develop the love of God. That’s the difference between the two.

Verse 11: “For this is the message that you heard from *the* beginning: that we should love one another.”

We’re going to see that loving one another within the Church, after all the upsets and turmoil that have taken place in so many Churches, becomes a real challenge. Especially if you have been hurt because of lies, because of sin, because of other

things that were done *by the leaders of the Churches*. It’s hard!

Even today there are some, when people get together, there’s a lot of love. Other places when people get together there’s still tension because they haven’t been healed of the problems they experienced when the Church blew up. God scattered it for His purpose and reason.

- correction because of sin and corruption
- separate the sheep from the goats
- separate the tares from the wheat

There are those who believe God and would even stand on their own by themselves and love and obey God. Those who were the pretenders, they just went back into the world.

Every year they have a reunion of graduates at Ambassador College and I’ve never gone because the same political click that was in the Church still is the same political click in the reunion. They now have it set up for those, when they have the buffet, if you want ham you can have ham. If you want shrimp, you can have shrimp. And all of that sort of thing. Here it is, they’re all getting back together and I wonder what’s going to happen one day. God is going to do something individually in their lives and collectively.

Verse 12: “Not as Cain... [this goes clear back to Genesis] ...who was of the wicked *one*... [Satan the devil] ...and murdered his own brother...” How did that start? Resentment, jealousy, anger, because Abel was getting the blessings and Cain was not. God told Cain, ‘You’d be accepted if you do well; if not, sin lies at the door. You have to rule over it.’

Even in the letter of the Law, people can be obedient to the letter of the Law. How did this happen? We have a Feast every year in the spring. What is the one saying that you hear quite often during the Feast of Unleavened Bread? ‘***A little leaven leavens the whole lump!***’ That’s what happened to Cain, so he murdered his brother.

“...And what was the reason that he murdered him? Because his own works were wicked, but his brother’s works were righteous. My brethren, do not be amazed if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death into life because we love the brethren....” (vs 12-14).

That’s quite a statement. The question is: Why did God allow Cain to kill Abel? *He doesn’t tell us!* He could have stopped him, but He didn’t do it. I don’t know; I’ll have to think on that.

Will those in the 100-year period, given a second physical life, be required to repent of the sins

that they did in their first life? They will remember that because when they're resurrected, they're going to be brought back with what they had at that point that they died. The question is: Will they repent?

You read Ezek. 37 and it says, 'We are undone; we have no hope.' That shows something having to do with repentance. Then we read like those who come back out of captivity, they will loathe themselves in their own sight. So, very likely.

Then the question is, what about those like Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and all of those. Maybe they will be like those narcissists, one of which we see running around the world today, who will never, ever admit that they were wrong. It's a choice! *Repentance is a choice!* God says repent or die.

Since they did not have a chance for salvation in their first life, they can't tell God, 'You never gave me a choice.' God is saying, 'You have a choice now. What will you do?'

- God is totally fair
- God is totally just
- God is no respecter of persons

Are they capable of repenting? *I don't know!* Will they repent? *I don't know!*

We'll just have to wait and see. That's going to be quite a time indeed. The question is: The wages of sin is death and you die. When they're resurrected do they have a clean slate? When you die, the body goes to the grave and rots or goes to the incinerator and is burned, just a fast way to get to ashes. But when they're resurrected, what is it that God is going to use to resurrect them? *The spirit of man that He gave at conception!* On that spirit of man is everything they did in their whole life.

Now, even though they died for their sins the first death, they will be remembering everything that they did. That will be the only memory that they have written and inscribed upon the spirit of man. Then they will have an opportunity to repent. It would have to be something like that. Heb. 9 says 'it's given to men once to die and after that the judgment.'

The judgment is going to be that you are brought back to life, and you remember your life, because everything that you are is recorded on that spirit of man. Their death does not equal forgiveness. Their death equals payment for their sins that they hadn't repented of, because the wages of sin is death. Now that they're brought back to a second physical life for the first chance for salvation, they have to start from where they left off. They would have to repent. How else can you do it? I don't know how else it could be done.

We can't solve all the plan of God in one Sabbath service, but it's interesting how is God going to do that? The best way to know and find out is to be there. We can only know so much. Like Paul said, 'We look through a glass darkly.' If we're looking through a dark glass, we may not see things exactly as they are going to be.

God counts it if you repent and are baptized. What is baptism? *Baptism is your symbolic death joined to the death of Christ!* Also, that if you do not fulfill the terms of the New Covenant, you have pledged your future second death. When you receive the Holy Spirit of God, you now have the living Spirit of God in you so you have passed from death to life. You are on the road to eternal life. That does not eliminate your first death, because in Adam we all die.

Because we love the brethren, "...The one who does not love *his* brother is dwelling death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life dwelling within him" (vs 14-15).

So there it is. If you have the Spirit of God, you have eternal life dwelling within you. A begettall, as we saw at the first part. This is why it's important and especially with the ministers who promote hatred of other Churches of God, because they don't want to lose members to a different Church of God. *There's a lot of that!*

Verse 16: "By this *very act* we have known the love of God... [act of Christ dying] ...because He laid down His life for us..." He says, 'No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down and I have authority from the Father to receive it back.'

"...and we ourselves are to lay down *our* lives for the brethren... [then he gives the example] ...But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his feelings of compassion from him, how can the love of God be dwelling in him? My little children, we should not love in word, nor with *our* tongues; rather, *we should love* in deed and in Truth" (vs 16-18).

- toward the brethren
- toward God

Another word for *deed* is *works*; it comes from the Greek 'ergon.' If you read Rev. 2 and 3, we find that we are judged by our works. Our works have to be motivated by faith and love. It's all one big package.

Verse 19: "And in this *way* we know that we are of the Truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him, that if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things. Beloved, if our

hearts do not condemn us, *then* we have confidence toward God” (vs 19-21).

The condemnation that you feel inside through your conscience when you sin is God working in you so you can’t practice sin, giving you an opportunity to repent. That’s a great thing!

When you know that you have repented, and you know that you’ve been doing the things that are right, are depressed? *No! Emotionally you feel good!* God wants it to be that way. Our hearts are not condemning us. But if we sin or have sinful thoughts, then our hearts condemn us so we will repent. This is the whole operation he is talking about here.

Verse 22: “And whatever we may ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and practice those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

This is amazing! We start out the beginning of the chapter with the goal, children of God as spirit beings. We end up with how we get there.

Verse 23: “And this is His commandment: that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and that we love one another, exactly as He gave commandment to us.... [we read that in John 15] ...And the one who keeps His commandments is dwelling in Him... [John 15] ... and He in him; and by this we know that He is dwelling in us: by the Spirit which He has given to us.”

There’s the whole third chapter of John. We covered a lot of territory beside that.

We have an addendum on why did God let Cain kill Abel. IFMA: independent free moral agency. He did not stop Eve from sinning or Adam from sinning. Since Abel was righteous, he’ll be in the first resurrection so he hasn’t lost anything. He’ll be in the first resurrection. Don’t know what’s going to happen to Cain.

Let’s just look at it this way. I wonder when Cain is resurrected to a second life of flesh if he will repent. He surely didn’t the first time. We ended up with more questions with this sermon than we did answers.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-John 2:26-29
- 2) 1-John 3:1-3
- 3) 2-Corinthians 6:14-18
- 4) 2-Corinthians 7:1
- 5) Matthew 5:48
- 6) Psalm 146:1-5
- 7) Hebrews 11:5

- 8) Psalm 146:5-10
- 9) John 14:20-24
- 10) John 15:1-9
- 11) 1-John 5:3
- 12) John 15:10-14
- 13) 1-John 3:4, 6-9, 4
- 14) 2-Thessalonians 2:7-12
- 15) 1-John 3:6-7
- 16) Acts 17:8-12
- 17) 1-John 3:8-24

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2-Corinthians 11
- Deuteronomy 6
- Exodus 20
- Mark 7
- 2-Corinthians 3
- Revelation 19
- Deuteronomy 13
- 2-Corinthians 11
- Revelation 2; 3
- John 8:44
- 2-Peter 3
- Genesis 1
- Ezekiel 37
- Hebrews 9

#### Also referenced:

- Book: *The New Testament in the Original Greek* by Maurice A. Robinson and William G. Pierpont
- Sermon Series: *Do You Really Believe?* (churchathome.org)

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## Christ and Our Calling VII

### TROL: Truth, Repentance, Obedience & Love

Testing the spirits: the Spirit of the Truth vs the spirit of deception  
Fred R. Coulter

{transcriber's note: news and updates left out of transcript for this series, about 15 minutes in}

Today I'm going to do TROL #7: Truth, repentance, obedience and love. I'm going to show you how the Bible is put together. We will see the exact same pattern.

God does this, this is the way God always operates. How did God start out with Israel when they came to Mount Sinai. He said, 'Moses, you tell the children of Israel *if they obey My voice*, they will be a special people to Me and will be a nation of priests.' That sounds like a good idea. Everybody said yes. There was more to come.

He said to have them all ready the third day because 'I'm going to talk to them personally from the top of Mount Sinai.' So, He added more.

Whenever you say yes to God, we get more responsibility. He gave the Ten Commandments, and that scared them so much they said, 'Moses, don't have God speak to us any more, lest we die. You speak to God and we'll listen.' Uh-huh. But they didn't do it. Now they could blame a man.

God gave the Ten Commandments, because they said, 'Yes, we will do it.' Then God said, 'Moses, come on up here; I have some other things to give you. I have lesser laws.' Read the commandment:

- *You shall not commit adultery.* Are there other details to that? 'Yes, I'm going to give them to you.'
- *Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.* 'Yes, I'm going to give you some Holy Days, too.'
- *You shall not bear false witness.* 'I'm going to tell you that you have to have honest weights and scale, honest witnesses.'

Everything that God does starts out simply. Just like when Jesus came. He said, 'Repent and believe the Gospel.' That's simple. What is the Gospel? *The whole Bible!*

Romans 1:18: "Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness..." Just because it doesn't come instantly doesn't mean it's not coming.

"...and unrighteousness of men who suppress the **Truth** in unrighteousness" (v 18). We have *Truth* in TROL.

Romans 2:4: "Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the graciousness of God leads you to **repentance**?"

Verse 13: "Because the hearers of the law *are* not just before God, but **the doers** of the Law shall be justified"—**obedience!**

Rom. 2-4 are more detailed. Are the details important? *Yes, that's why they're there!*

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith..." Let's just say one word about justification, very important to understand. Only through repentance and the blood of Jesus Christ can you be reconciled and justified to God. Nothing else justifies you—*period!* **The doers shall be justified!**

Notice this, how God does even in the world. Romans 2:14: "For when *the* Gentiles, which do not have *the* Law..." God didn't give it to them. He gave it to Israel. Israel was to bring it to the world and God said He would bless them in doing it. And they didn't do it, but partially

"...practice by nature the things contained in the Law, these who do not have *the* Law are a law unto themselves; who show the work of the Law written in their own hearts, their consciences bearing witness, and their reasonings also as they accuse or defend one another; in a day **when God shall judge the secrets of men**..." (vs 14-16).

What's the old saying? 'You can fool all of the people part of time; and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time.' **But you can never fool God at any time!**

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we ourselves boast in *the* hope of the glory of God. And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations, realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance" (vs 1-3).

So, when you have trials and difficulties, remember that. When you're going through a dark tunnel, you wonder why so many things aren't working right. That's when you turn to God and you will come out the other side.

There will be a time when through the worst trials you've been through, and after you've grown and overcome in grace and knowledge for a while, then it will dawn on you, just like turning a light bulb—that's why. Because 'all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.' That helps us build endurance.

Verse 4: "And endurance *brings forth* character, and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God... [Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love] ...has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us. For even when we were without strength, at the appointed time Christ died for *the* ungodly. For rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, although perhaps someone might have the courage even to die for a good man. But **God commends His own love...**" (vs 6-8).

We love God; He loves us back. God even loves the world. He gave His only Begotten Son so that everyone who believes in Him may have an opportunity for eternal life, may not die.

As Michael Heiss explained at the Feast of Tabernacles—sermon series: *The Appointed Times*—when God states something, it will be. Many times He doesn't tell us *when*. Many times He doesn't tell us *how*.

I'll use Michael's example: He says in Isaiah, 'I have saved Jacob,' past tense. Really? 'I want all men to be saved.' Really? That's why the world can't understand the Bible, *because they don't know a single thing about the second resurrection!*

To God, since we have the 'law of sin and death' in us, what does Paul say? 'We who were dead in sins and trespasses...' We're the walking dead. If you have the Spirit of God *you have life!* You're walking in the light and you have light.

Verse 8: "But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

### ***Truth, Repentance, Obedience and Love!***

(go to the next track)

1-John 4 is how far we've come with TROL. Also we have a book, *The Seven General Epistles*. We went through all seven epistles, verse-by-verse, word-by-word. It's in a book and there are 70 studies.

Like I said, God starts out with a little sentence, but you don't know all that comes afterwards.

1-John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits..."

We're going to see something interesting here. Also, today beware of Messianic Jews and even Jonathan Cahn. He's got the name of a priest. He claims he's a Christian; *he's not!* He has the Jews meet in their meeting hall on Friday night and the Christians come in on Sunday.

If he were a true prophet of God—now he may be a half prophet of God in some things—but if he were a whole true prophet of God, he would tell the Gentiles to stop their Sunday-keeping. But he would lose too much money. You test them all.

"...whether they are from God..." (v 1)—or not. If they are not from God, who are they from? *Satan the devil!* Satan doesn't come as a fiery dragon when he first shows up. He doesn't come and breathe fire out. How did Paul say he comes? *As an angel of light!* 'I have something very good for you.' So, ***you test the spirits!***

"...because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (v 1). What does this tell you? *That those who preach contrary to the Word of God and are false prophets*, get their inspiration, not from God, not from the Word of God! Remember that Satan can quote Scripture pretty accurately, partially. That means there is a demonic spirit.

There are many kinds of spirits. There are murdering spirits, sexual spirits, religious spirits that are so nice, so good, so kind and do such good works. There are many of them. It has to be as it says, 'To the Law and the Testimony. If they don't speak according to this word, it's because there is no light in them' (Isa. 8).

One other thing on Messianic Jews: they keep a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover. Jonathan Cahn keeps a 15<sup>th</sup> Passover.

The long and short is that you must have the Holy Spirit of God, and you must keep the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month. If you don't have *The Christian Passover* book, you need to write for it. It's a big thick book—500 pages.

There was an evangelist from WCG that said, 'Why does such a simple subject need 500 pages?' *Because there are so many false prophets out there* with so many different ideas concerning it that it's crazy, to say nothing of these calendars. How many have heard of the lunar/Sabbath calendar? That is the most hideous evil thing in the world. They say that you look for the new moon. When you see it—and they never see it on the new moon day, they always see it on the second day—that's day one.



You count seven days and that's Sabbath. What if you see the new moon on a Wednesday? 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, *Tuesday is Sabbath!* 'We're from God.' You know there are people who believe it.

I'll have to tell one on myself. I get a lot of books. I read a lot of books. Like Patton said, 'You have to read your enemies' book so you know what he's doing.' I got the most astonishing book the other day and it is, *The Greatest Lie on Earth*. What do you suppose he thinks it is? *The earth does not rotate!* Freedom of speech.

People get hung up on things *that are contrary to the Word of God* and believe that they are part of the Word of God.

Verse 2: "By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the* flesh is from God." The Catholics believe in a form of Docetism.

Verse 3: "And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not from God. And this is the *spirit* of antichrist, which you heard *was* to come, and even now it is already in the world."

Those in the first century, until there was a lot of persecution, things were really going nice. Everything was going fine, similar to what we went through 35-40 years ago. Everything was going nice. We got a big college over here. We've got all these booklets. We have all these ministers. We have all these buildings. And 'everything is wonderful and fine.' But they didn't recognize the false prophets that came in. It got so corrupt that they forgot the Word of God. Whenever you get so corrupt, a little correction comes along; ***big time correction***.

What happened? Some of you who are newer, you haven't experienced that, you'll experience later on. Hopefully not here, because we want to stay as faithful as we can.

Remember that with God the Father and Jesus Christ in you, you have direct access to Them all the time. The begetting of the Holy Spirit dwells *within* you. Like anything else, you have to grow in grace and knowledge. That's a full-time job.

The Sabbath is so special that He has set it aside so that everyone who comes before Him to worship, to study, to pray, to exalt Him, to read His Word, ***He's present! He's dwelling in those who have the Spirit of God!*** Can there be anything greater, better than that?

How much ministerial authority is needed if everyone is taught to be in good standing with God? Just enough to keep order and to keep the wolves out. That's about it.

When they were leasing the cars and they got all these Plymouths and they had Plymouth Fury III, one evangelist was saying, 'This is of God, because the cars we have are Plymouth Fury III. He thought he was the one to bring God's fury to the Church. That has nothing to do with God. God wants you to grow:

- in grace
- in knowledge
- in understanding
- in His Spirit
- in His Truth
- in His righteousness
- to love one another

Remember one of the first things that Jesus said. 'If you love those who love you, you haven't done anything greater than the tax collectors.' We're all different, all different backgrounds, races and personalities, all created in the image of God. God loves every one of us. Christ and the Father—for those who are baptized—are in us, and those who are not, God's Spirit is with you, so you can understand. This is a tremendous thing.

Verse 4: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them because greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world."

We need to have the greatest confidence, the greatest strength, the greatest understanding. We don't need to be afraid of anything. We need to be wise, so we don't do stupid things. I've done enough of those and you've done enough of those. But we don't have to be afraid.

Always remember that at ***the name of Jesus Christ all demons must go!*** Don't have to be afraid. God has given us the greatest promises, the greatest blessings, the greatest of everything that lies ahead of us. So, keep that in mind.

Verse 5: "They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us. **By this means we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception**" (vs 5-6).

What did Jesus say of His words that He spoke to the apostles? *'The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you they are Spirit and they life.'* That's why when you read and study the Bible, you pray to God, and you have the Spirit of God in you, you read and you get great understanding from reading the Word of God. Think of what the Bible is and what it does. It's the greatest book in the world:

- it tells you who God is
- it tells you what we are

- it tells us where we're going
- it helps us in time of trouble
- it helps us in time of joy
- it gives us the right direction
- it helps us to be able to stay out of sin
- it helps us to keep away from Satan the devil
- it gives us understanding of God's plan

How many people know what God is doing in the world? If Jesse Watters, of Watters' World on Bill O'Reilly, went out... How many watch Watters World? The universe is God's. He put a microphone up and said, 'Why are you here and why were you born?' That would be interesting.

We are to know *the spirit of deception*, as well as the Spirit of Truth. I'm also sending out with this message, another one I did ten years ago, *How to Heal a Broken Heart*. Because when you were disillusioned because you put your trust in men instead of God, it ruined your life.

Why did Jesus come? *He said He came to heal the brokenhearted*. I listened to the sermon as I was thinking of doing it again, and I said, no, this has more in it than I could do right now.

In spite of all the circumstances, in spite of all the difficulties that you go through, in spite of whoever is against you—and sometimes you get so down that you think there is no way out. I've been there; you've been there. ***But God is always there!***

Remember that ***God loves you***—directly, personally—and has placed His Spirit of begettal within the spirit of your mind and has given you the Spirit of Christ to develop the mind of Christ ***so that you can have eternal life and be in the first resurrection and be the firstfruits of God forever and ever and ever!*** Never forget that! Doesn't matter what the difficulty may be. God isn't going to forget us.

If He knows how many hairs are on our head, or how few there are, if He knows a sparrow falls and we're worth more than a few sparrows—I hope I'm worth at least three sparrows, whatever—***He loves you!*** Think what Jesus did.

Michael Heiss gave a good series at the Feast of Tabernacles: *The Appointed Times*. It's important to understand God loves you so much and the Father loves you so much that They had a covenant and agreement. I don't know when it was written in the Scroll of Truth in heaven.

What does it say in Heb. 10? 'In the scroll of a book it is written of Me.' God the Father and Jesus Christ had a covenant agreement, probably before the foundation of the world so that Christ created all

human beings. *Only His sacrifice* in the flesh can possibly pay for the sins of all the world, because He's Creator of every human being and ***They love us!***

That's not to brag or get lifted up in vanity or anything like that. But that's to understand the magnitude of what God has called us to and why we need to love each other in spite of all of our difficulties and faults.

You think you have faults, I have faults, everybody has faults. That's why Christ provided for us that when we pray every day, we ask God to forgive us for our sins. That's why, even after being baptized, your mind is not perfect. Well, it never was. Part of the process of overcoming is erasing and replacing. Erasing the evil that is lodged in there. If you don't think it is in there, I'll just try you right here:

'Coke is the real thing.' That's there. How many other things are there? A lot of them. How much advertising do you watch? You have to have your mind cleansed every day. Some of this is pretty rotten stuff.

Just to understand that *the process of eliminating evil in your mind is bringing it to your remembrance again even though you are converted so you can repent of it!* Sometimes there are things that are in there so deep that it takes a long time of repentance and study and overcoming, but that's all part of the process of growing and overcoming. This is why we're to love one another. We need each other. We need the support of each other.

Verse 7: "Beloved, we should love one another because love is from God; and everyone who loves has been begotten by God, and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God because God is love" (vs 7-8). Tremendous things here!

Verse 9: "In this way the love of God was manifested toward us... [and toward the whole world] ...that God sent His only begotten Son into the world..." That was quite a thing. I did a sermon recently called, *How Did God Do That?* To give up His glory, to divest Himself of His power, to become a pinpoint of life in the womb of the virgin Mary, and receive in Him through Mary his mother the 'law of sin and death.'

Some people might say Christ had to be perfect. He was. He never sinned. But why did He have to have the 'law of sin and death' in Him? Rom. 8.

Since God created us, the one Who became Jesus Christ, and the 'law of sin and death' entered into Adam and Eve as the judgment from God

because they decided that they would make their own choices without God. They ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. I've got a letter coming out in the next mailing that shows what celebrates that event: Christmas! The Christmas tree is a celebration of the eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and that Satan is the god of this world.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... [though you're fighting and overcoming sin as discussed here in Rom. 7] ...who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit."

- you're loving God
- you're praying
- you're studying
- you do things that you should do

Verse 2: "Because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death."

It doesn't mean He's removed the 'law of sin and death,' He's given you the power of the Holy Spirit so you can overcome the 'law of sin,' and overcome the 'law of death' at the resurrection. *It's a process!*

That's why Paul wrote in Rom. 7 one of the most complicated chapters in the Bible, because he uses the word *law* in about a dozen different ways in that one single chapter. The Protestants with the blinders over their eyes when they read this, they think God's done away with the Law.

Verse 3: "For what *was* impossible for the Law to do..." The Law can only state what should be done. It can't make you do anything.

Try this the next time you run a stop sign and you get a ticket. The officer comes, you roll down the window, and he said, 'Didn't you see the stop sign?' *Officer, you know that stop sign should have made me stop! No law can make you do anything!* You must choose to do what you do.

"...in that it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness... [the exact sameness, 'homoiomati'] ...of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (v 3).

How could He condemn sin in the flesh if He didn't have the 'law of sin and death' in Him? We know He had the 'law of death' in Him because He died. So if all of our sins are nailed to the cross, which they are, and if all sin comes because human beings have the 'law of sin and death,' which we do, and God put it in there as the judgment against Adam and Eve and it's passed to all children genetically, you can't escape it, it's part of you.

How could He be the perfect sacrifice for sin, as the Creator of all mankind, if He didn't take that upon Himself and never once sin? Never yielded to it, though He was tempted in every way like us. That's another one.

How could He be tempted like we are tempted if He didn't have the 'law of sin and death' in Him? How could He be tempted like we are tempted if He wasn't really all human? But having the Spirit of God from conception.

So, there's no condemnation for us. That's why we do sin more than we would like to admit. So, we have the deliverance, which is the Spirit of God and the Word of God, and repentance to remove the transgressions on a continuous basis. John writes that Jesus' sacrifice is the propitiation, the *continual atoning* for our sins. That's amazing.

Because of that, because God has loved us, we need to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and being and love each other.

1-John 4:8: "The one who does not love does not know God because God is love. In this *way* the love of God was manifested toward us: that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this *act* is the love... [that's the way it is in the Greek—*the* love] ...not that we loved God... [so we say, 'Oh, God, look at how smart I am, I found You'] ...rather, that He loved us and sent His Son *to be the* propitiation for our sins. Beloved, **if** God so loved us, **we also are duty-bound**..." (v 8-11).

It's not if you want to, you *must!* Duty-bound: that's what the Greek means. Same word used for foot-washing. 'If I've done it to you, you are duty-bound...'

How much is there for us to learn? *Lots.* I think about it all the time. I am still learning. Read, study, go over it again. Then things start coming together.

It's just like a building. You put up the frame. You can't say, 'I've finished the house.' So you put up the insulation on the outside. You can't say, 'I've finished the house.' Where's the electricity? You have to have that in there, have to have the doors, windows, roof, chimney, stairways, carpets, paint, and all of that sort of thing.

Then after you have lived there awhile, then you see all the mistakes you did. Then you go back and redo it. I love that one commercial where they are looking to remodel. The guy comes in with this big sledgehammer, smashes in the wall. That's what God does to us, too, smash in the wall. You have to do it differently.

The reason I'm sending out this sermon, *How to Heal a Broken Heart*, is because we have all suffered heart-rending deep wounds because of the things that have transpired in the Church. So did the first century brethren. What do you think they went through when how many were still believing that John was going to be alive until Jesus came. Then when John died, the apostasy took off like a bunch of horses in a chariot race. We've got to have the strength so none of that happens. *Love each other!*

Verse 12: "No one has seen God at any time. Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us..." Think about that for a minute. He talks in 1-John 3 about hating. God has brought us together with some people that we would be very disagreeable with. I am one of them. The only way you really learn love is that you learn to have forbearance and understanding of the individual. That's why we pray for each other.

Not say, 'O God, I can't stand that person over there. Why don't you change him for me?' God's answer is, 'Why don't you get up off your knees and find out about that person and maybe love that person a little bit and learn to love him even more. Maybe you'll have a different attitude.'

***The spirit-killer is resentment, hatred and bitterness!*** You can read about that in the book of Proverbs.

"...**if** we love one another, God dwells in us, and His own love is perfected in us" (v 12). When did God love the sinners? *When they were still sinners*, not necessarily unto salvation unless He calls them.

The way God loves everybody in the world today is that He gives them air, food, water and the things necessary for life. They are able to procreate and bring children into the world after their own likeness, after their own kind, according to God's genetics that He has. There is no respecter of persons with God for that.

He provides everything for food. Think about this. If you want a logistical problem, think about how you would provide food for 7.25-billion people in the world every single day. God does it automatically. Takes care of the air, takes care of the water, takes care of all the birds, fish and everything else. All for mankind, even though sinning and warring, killing, fighting and all of that. God has called us out of that. So, this is important. That's why we need God dwelling in us.

"...and His own love is perfected in us" (v 12). ***Perfection is a process!*** If you're building something and you want it perfect, you keep working at it until it's perfect. Nine times out of ten

after you get it and you think it's perfect, you see something that needs to be changed. All of us who have gray hair—dyed or not, makes no difference—we all know that we do not think today like we did when we were younger. Isn't that true?

Most everyone growing up when they are 30 look back and see that their parents were a whole lot smarter than they thought they were when they were 16. Isn't that true?

Likewise with us, love is perfected. What if you have a hard time overcoming to love a certain person? Keep praying about it, keep working on it and don't give up. God doesn't give up on us because we sin, which we do.

As we read in the first part of the epistle of John. He says, 'If anyone sins, we have Jesus Christ the Righteous as the propitiation for our sins and if we confess our sins, He is righteous to forgive us.' (1-John 1). Maybe the person you don't care doesn't care for you. Now you have a real good combination here.

***It's perfected!*** Because you don't have it, it must come from God and it is spiritual and you must stay close to God and increase in the Spirit.

Verse 13: "By this *standard* we know that we are dwelling in Him, and He *is dwelling* in us: because of His own Spirit, *which* He has given to us." That is quite a statement.

What happens if you're reading the Scripture and you don't understand it? You get on your knees, open your Bible, study on it, pray and ask God, 'Help me to understand.' The understanding may not come all at once, but He will help you understand. ***God's Spirit will lead us!***

Rom. 8 is very important for us to understand. Ever heard of the book *Extreme Ownership*, by Navy seals Jocko Willink & Leif Babin? Whatever you do, *you own*. You don't do like the Democrats: he did it, she did it, they did it!

What did Adam and Eve do in the Garden of Eden? 'Lord, you let this serpent in here.' Then God asked Adam, 'Why did you eat?' Adam said, 'It's Your fault, God, you gave me this wife.'

Extreme ownership is you own everything you do. If you do something not right, you admit it. There may be circumstances, but you own it. They advise corporations this way: they go teach corporations and say, 'The only way a corporation is going to succeed is ***if*** everybody who is working has the overall goal in mind of what the corporation's goal is. You all work together for that.' So likewise, now here we are.

Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God... [not necessarily in the male gender] ...Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear... [that’s what it was in the world] ...but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship... [you belong to God] ...whereby we call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now, if *we* are children, *we* are also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...” (vs 14-17). Think of that!

He’s going to give us part ownership in the Kingdom of God, which then will include the whole universe. There’s nowhere that you can go that you can get anything that even comes close to this kind of promise that is given.

“...if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (v 17).

Wonder what it’s going to be like when we’re born again and the angel’s taking us up in the air and putting us on the Sea of Glass. All of us are there. We’re all going to have one language, because we’ll communicate with everyone.

God will say, ‘All right now, you’re a spirit being. Here is your first lesson in showing your glory. Everyone do this.’ Then on the Sea of Glass here’s all this glory, the sons of God in the first resurrection, all the glory. Down on earth they’re going to look up and say, ‘What is that?’

Look at it this way: ***What we will become compared to what we are is like we are today still no bigger than a speck of dust!*** Think of the promise.

**“...are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us” (v 18).**

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 1:18
- 2) Romans 2:4, 13
- 3) Romans 5:1
- 4) Romans 2:14-16
- 5) Romans 5:1-8
- 6) 1-John 4:1-9
- 7) Romans 8:1-3
- 8) 1-John 4:8-13
- 9) Romans 8:14-18

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 8
- Hebrews 10
- Romans 7

- 1-John 3; 1

#### Also referenced:

##### Sermon:

- *How to Heal a Broken Heart*
- *How Did God Do That?*

##### Sermon Series: *The Appointed Times* (Michael Heiss)

##### Books:

- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Greatest Lie on Earth* by Edward Hendrie
- *Extreme Ownership* by Jocko Willink & Leif Babin

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