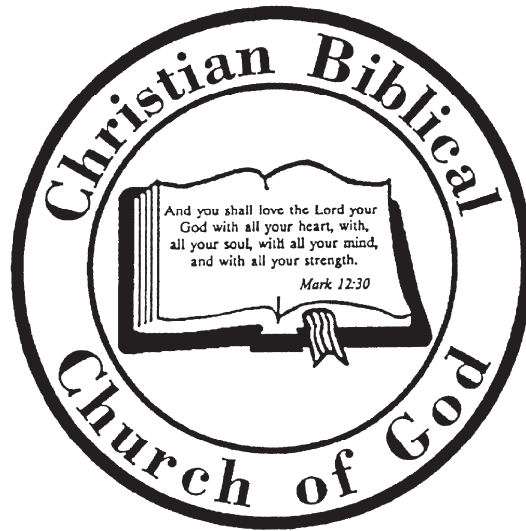


Mystery of Lawlessness

(Also part of Study Package 8)



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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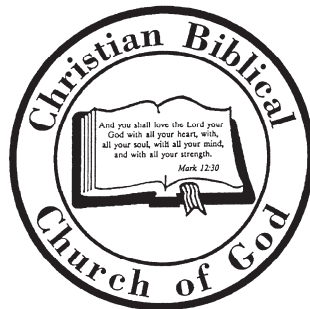


HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Mystery of Lawlessness

(Also included in Study Package Eight)

Series of 4 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

- ☐ Mystery of Lawlessness I
- ☐ Mystery of Lawlessness II
- ☐ Mystery of Lawlessness III
- ☐ Mystery of Lawlessness IV

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Mystery of Lawlessness

Foreword

This study package deals with the Mystery of Lawlessness as found in the Bible. It is composed of four transcripts of sermons that were given by Mr. Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for 50 years as of February 2017.

Mr. Coulter has, during his many Bible Studies and sermons during this time, addressed human nature, Satan the devil, and how the hatred of the laws of God is the core of the Mystery of Lawlessness. In reading this material you, the reader, will become informed and able to recognize the Mystery of Lawlessness at work in the lives of men.

The first sermon transcript of this series, Mystery of Lawlessness I – Which Laws Lord?, you will be taught things such as (1) Lot had allowed himself to slide into a Laodicean condition. Christians today have to reject sin and not allow themselves to come to the point of accepting living in sin. (2) God's laws are for the good of mankind/ (3) If one does not keep God's commandments you are hating God. (4) Out in the world people are not God's servants but rather the servants of sin – serving Satan the devil. (5) People who are lawless are people who do not want God in their lives, much less God's laws. Their favorite thing to do with God's laws is to get rid of them and replace them with their own laws.

The second sermon transcript of this series, Mystery of Lawlessness II – How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #1, makes the following points. (1) People who want Christianity to be destroyed try to bring Christians to the point of accepting the lie that there are many different ways to come to God and not just one way – namely coming to God through Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches clearly that the only way to come to God the Father is through obeying and worshiping Jesus Christ. (2) Satan always tries to transplant or graft in evil branches in a tree (church) that is true to God. These evil branches (people) promote salvation comes from people having a heart that is good, that what is in their heart is what counts. (3) God says that faith without works is dead.

The third sermon transcript of this series, Mystery of Lawlessness III – How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #2, teaches the following main points. (1) You will find that even if a Church preaches from the Bible, because of the carnal mind being against God, there can still exist the Mystery of Lawlessness in that Church. Lawless people view the Bible in the way that they want to and then preach what they want. (2) The Mystery of Lawlessness always accuses God even while it claims God. (3) After God has issued His judgement and preparations to carry out His sentence are complete, you have lost your opportunity to repent. (3) The main tenet of the Mystery of Lawlessness is that it always promotes, regardless of the religion that it is found in, that there are several different ways to come to truth.

The fourth sermon transcript of this series, Mystery of Lawlessness IV – How iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #3, covers more aspects of the Mystery of Lawlessness. (1) The

Mystery of Lawlessness always has some of the laws of God, but it replaces some of the laws of God with laws written by men. (2) Men have tried replacing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of the coming Kingdom of God with a gospel of “give and get”. (3) Protestantism is a gospel that is pleasing to mankind. (4) The Word of God is corrupted through giving false interpretations.

Special thanks goes to Bonnie Orswell, Nancy Spaller, and Laila Patterson for transcribing the sermons.

Mystery of Lawlessness I Which Laws, Lord?

Fred R. Coulter

I found an interesting little clipping. Just to show you how much that men do not know, how absolutely insane that the theory of evolution is, and how absolutely incompetent are the astronomers to really figure out anything concerning the universe,

Andy Fraknoi is from the San Francisco Astronomy Observatory Society. He's on KGO radio quite a bit. He comes in and talks about the universe and talks about stars and things like that. I happened to think of him when I read this because in some of the things that he presents, he is just so absolutely arrogant that it's incredible. Nevertheless, he gives good information most of the time.

from: *Hubble Finds Great Clouds of Hydrogen*

The Hubble telescope out there in space.

The Hubble space telescope has surprised astronomers by discovering that the cosmos...

That is the universe. Cosmos is a Greek word also one that is used by the communists. So, you can tell that this is a liberal writer writing it.

...is strewn with vast, intergalactic hydrogen clouds.

Why does that sound very shocking? Here's the reason:

According to widely accepted theories of how the universe has evolved since the Big Bang, such clouds should have disappeared. There shouldn't be that much hydrogen loose in space and there is no known mechanism that would keep it clustered in such clouds.

The mechanism is called *magnetism* and the power of God.

"It is by far the most significant result of Hubble, which it has produced so far," said Edward Whutler, NASA Chief Hubble Science Manager.

A great discovery like this has one little teeny article, two little teeny paragraphs.

Talking about using the law unlawfully, here's a little ditty that someone sent me.

Just to Tickle Your Funny Bone

A doctor and a lawyer bumped into each other's cars causing a slight fender-bender.

Each got out and saw the damage was very slight. The lawyer asked the doctor if he was okay. 'Yes,' he replied, 'but I'm a little shook up.' Whereupon the lawyer produced a whiskey flask and offered the doctor a drink to calm his nerves. The doctor took a long drink and handed the flask back noticing that the lawyer didn't take a drink. He said to the lawyer, 'Aren't you going to have one?' The lawyer replied, 'Not before the police get here.'

Moral of the story: *Beware of lawyers!* That ties right in with what I'm going to talk about today. **Which Laws, Lord? Which laws should we keep?**

Everyone was shocked when Magic Johnson admitted that he had the HIV-AIDS virus. Everybody was talking about it. On the news you couldn't get by without some big, long story of how great he was, this and that and all that sort of thing, and what a shame it happened to such a 'marvelous person.' I saw a little clip on ESPN where he was on the Arsenio Hall Show. He smiled, he was there and he was saying, 'Arsenio, I'm not a homosexual.' He smiled and all this sort of thing. Now, he's going to dedicate his life to being a spokesman for the AIDS virus. What he's going to do is he's going to go around and tell all these good little children—he's been saying all along how to succeed and do well, and follow my example and overcome, grow, change, change and all this sort of thing—the best thing to do is have 'safe sex.' So, he's going to be a chief spokesman for the one-millimeter condom.

I heard this on the Rush Limbaugh Show. A woman doctor called in and she said, 'What a shame it is that people never even think about that if someone you dearly loved came to you and said, 'I dearly love you and oh, by the way, let's have sex; oh by the way I have AIDS; oh, by the way I'm going to use a condom.' *That's something to really think about!*, Instead of saying, 'I'm a whoremonger'—which is what the Bible would call him—Magic Johnson is going around saying, 'Have safe sex or you might get AIDS.'

Then there was another basketball player who was autographing his book about the same time over in San Francisco: Wilt 'The Stilt' Chamberlain, 7-foot, 2-3/8-inches! He brashly, boldly and proudly admitted that during his basketball career he had sex with over 20,000 women. Let me repeat that, **20,000 women!** He said, 'Well, you know, I did that before there was AIDS.' You see, whoremongering is

whoremongering, regardless of what it is and that's what they both are.

Does that mean that because you have a good personality like Magic, and you can smile and think positive thoughts about the coming disaster of his death, one way or the other... ***This shows how the whole world is so absolutely turned up side down!*** What he ought to do is go around and teach: 'The only way that sex should be is within marriage to one husband, one wife and that you have abstinence by choice until you're married, and when you're married, you're faithful.' But no, he's going to go around to all these schools, all of these places and say, 'Y'all just have safe sex.'

It doesn't matter how good of a personality that a person has, it's what they really are that counts. What he really is, is not what he's portrayed, helping out people and doing this and that. There was a comment given in the newspaper that Magic Johnson was so great on the basketball court that he could have the whole world thinking that he was going to pass the ball, shoot the ball, or whatever it may be, and do just the opposite and no one knew it until it was too late. I thought to myself: That's exactly what he's done to the whole public with his private life. He's portrayed that he's something else over here, all the while he's a whoremonger.' The one I feel sorry for this the girlfriend that he shacked up with for years, who he just married this past summer. I don't feel very sorry for Magic Johnson.

The ones who have AIDS that I feel sorry for, are those people who get it by blood transfusion, or those people who get from a dentist or a doctor. I feel sorry for the doctors who have to work on those people, that they get it going the other way. As a matter of fact, there is one sure cure to get rid of AIDS out of the society once and for all. Quarantine all those that have it and teach everyone to follow the laws of God concerning sex. Over a period of time, AIDS would be gone and no longer a threat.

That's why they had the Victorian Age. Remember one of the things in the 1950s and 60s, 'You people are old-fashioned prudes. You're living in the Victorian Age: touch not, handle not, look not.' No one asked, 'Why did the Victorian Age come?' *It came because there was a ravaging syphilis epidemic that was just devastating the whole population!* It was responsible for nearly 25% of the deaths of the population in Europe, including England. They finally got the point:

- no sex before marriage
- sex only during marriage
- no extramarital affairs
- no brothels
- women cover up from the neck to the ankle to the wrists

- look not
 - touch not
 - handle not
 - no one do anything unless you are chaperoned
- Are we getting close to that again? *Yes, indeed!*
 - Where does all this attitude come from?
 - How is it that a society gets itself in that position?
 - *Because they have said long ago that all the laws of God are done away!*

That is what God said as Creator, has no meaning in our lives because we want to do what we want to do, and we want to have our sexual revolution and all this sort of thing. So, God says, 'If that's what you want, you got it.'

We can just do a little review. Remember what happened to Adam and Eve? *They ate of the tree that they shouldn't have and they didn't believe what God said!* The whole world became so wicked that by the time we come to the days of Noah, it says that 'the thoughts of man were only evil continually,' therefore, God brought the Flood upon the whole world to destroy every living thing, because morality affects the whole creation.

Then we come to the time of the first Laodicean. You know who the first Laodicean really was? *The first Laodicean was Lot!* He lived in Sodom. Just like a Laodicean today, he couldn't make up his mind. He was frustrated because of all the things that were going on. Just like a lot of people today, they see Magic Johnson on TV and they say that's terrible, but no conviction of their own.

Lot didn't believe God. Finally the angels came in and he was so involved in the system. He's called righteous, but he was still blind because he couldn't see. His morals were highly questionable because when the angels came and the homosexuals wanted to go ahead and seduce the angels—because they were good-looking men, as far as they could tell—Lot even volunteered his own daughters. Think about that! That's quite a thing! To volunteer your own daughters who are supposedly virgins.

So, the angels intervened, stopped that stupidity and made everyone blind to end that crisis. The next day, after sending the message out to his sons, 'Come on. You have to get out of here. God is going to destroy it.' *Ah, no, no, no. You're like an insane man. It isn't going to happen.* The next morning, the angels said, 'Hurry up and get out of here, Lot, you and your wife and your two daughters. Hurry and go and *don't look back!*' You know the rest of the story. *'Mrs. Laodicean' looked*

back! God meant what He said and Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt, which Josephus, writing in his day said, 'The pillar of salt is still there until this day.' Mrs. Lot was the first Laodicean because: **Which law, Lord, should I follow?**

Everyone wants the goodness and blessings of God. Everyone does, *but they don't want to do what God says!* It's kind of like taking your life and going down the wrong way on a one way street. You may make it to the other end, but you're going in the wrong way. Chances are you're going to have a wreck along the way. Have you ever tried driving the wrong way on a one-way street, especially if you're going 60 mph that way and they're coming at you 60 mph the other way? Then you wonder why you're hurt. In Deut. 5 we have where God gave the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:1: "And Moses called all Israel and said to them, 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day **so that you may learn them and keep and do them.**'" We'll see later that *there is a purpose and a function for law and that God gave these things for people's good!*

It's just like people say with this AIDS thing that Magic Johnson supposedly has made a huge awareness of it—maybe he has, maybe he hasn't. What do they always do? *They call for the government to do something!* The government is not responsible for the private morality decisions of the individual. In a sense the government is because the government is not teaching the people what are the proper moral things based upon the Bible. Therefore, in that sense, they are responsible.

- Is the government responsible because Wilt 'The Stilt' Chamberlain went out and committed adultery with 20,000 women?
- What on earth did the government have to do with that? *Nothing, it was his sole, individual choice!*
- What about Magic Johnson?
- Did the government make him do it?
- Could the government stop him from doing it? *No!*

Now they're going to test for AIDS all the basketball players, which tells you that maybe there's a little secret going on among all the basketball players that may be something that they don't want anyone to know, such as a secret homosexual ring among them. Very possible, because people do not want to do what God says. We find that right here.

Verse 2: "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, all of us here, alive today. **The LORD talked with**

you face-to-face in the mountain out of the midst of the fire" (vs 2-4).

- Do you think that God meant business when He came down on Mt. Sinai?
- Do you think that God was serious about what He was doing when He brought them out of the land of Egypt?
- Do you think that God was serious when He brought them through the wilderness all that way?
- Do you think that God was serious when He was going to give them the 'promised land'?
- Do you think that God was serious when He sent the spies in there to spy out the land?

Imagine how God felt, let alone Moses, Joshua and Caleb when they came back and said, 'Well, they're tall people.' God says, 'All right, because I'm serious, you aren't going in.' They wandered another 38-years in the desert, all dying away, because they didn't think that God was serious. At the end of that 40-years, Moses is saying, 'Look everybody. We're all here and we're alive. I want you to know what God did. He **"...talked with you face-to-face in the mountain out of the midst of fire."**

Verse 5: "(I stood between the LORD and you at that time to show you the Word of the LORD, for you were afraid because of the fire, and did not go up into the mountain) saying, 'I *am* the LORD your God Who brought you out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage. **You shall have no other gods before Me**'" (vs 5-7).

Do you think God is serious with that? *Yes, He is!* That's why Magic Johnson 'the idol' has fallen, because he is not God: all flesh is corruptible, all human beings are corruptible and are going to die.

- Why worship a human being that has the 'law of sin and death' within them?
- Why follow a human being whose standard is secretly a whoremonger?

Makes you wonder about all that. One of the things that the Mafioso does, one of the things that criminals do is to give to charities, all because they don't believe this first statement, **"...You shall have no other gods before Me"—period!** Then it says:

Verse 8: "You shall not make a graven image for yourself of any likeness *of anything* that is in the heavens above, or on the earth beneath, or in the waters beneath the earth. You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, ***am a jealous God***..." (vs 8-9).

If God *is God*, why should He tolerate the worship of anything else as god, which is not God?

But everyone wants to have their little idol, their little statue, their little whatever, or basketball player or football player.

God has something that He always does: "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generation* of those who hate Me" (v 9).

The long and short of it is this: ***If you don't keep the commandments of God, you hate Him.*** People think that because God says, 'You shall not do this,' that God hates them. When all the time God is saying, ***'Don't do that because it's not in your best interest or good, to do that.*** You want to come to Me,' God says, 'and have the blessings from Me? Here's what to do.'

Verse 10: "But showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *the one* guiltless who takes His name in vain. Keep the Sabbath Day to sanctify it as the LORD your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your livestock, nor your stranger within your gates, so that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you. And remember... [one of the reasons that we keep the Sabbath is] ...that you were a slave in the land of Egypt..." (vs 10-15).

In other words, we keep the Sabbath as a constant reminder that ***out in the world we are the servant of sin; out in the world, we are the servant of Satan!***

"...and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm. Therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath Day. Honor your father and your mother as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you in the land which the LORD your God gives you" (vs 15-16).

Yet, we have turned all of this over to schools, to daycare centers and to social services. I saw a heart-breaking account of a man who was accused of molesting and raping his own eight-year-old daughter. It wasn't true all the way along, but this stupid little bureaucrat down at the Family Social Services and the policeman were convinced that he did, when he said that he didn't. They perpetrated this thing by saying that there was semen on the little girl's undergarments, which was viciously torn and everything like that. The father

said that when he first saw her at the hospital, that it just made him completely and absolutely sick. The truth was, there was semen on her undergarments. After two years:

- having taken away the daughter
- having put her in a foster home
- having her twelve days from an adoption, never to be seen again by the parents

They finally got the DNA test to prove that it wasn't him. They've lost their home! He's lost his job! He's lost his savings! He's lost his standing! And the government says, 'We are sorry.' Furthermore, one year into it, after much counseling with a psychologist, the daughter finally admitted that it was the father who did it. All that was, was ***brainwashing*** by some ne'er-do-well, altruistic, Satan-inspired, psychologist, to brainwash and convince the little girl to do what ***they wanted*** her to do, so they could have a conviction.

There are all too many cases of that. I cried when I saw that. I did! I was upset! Then we get this story, 'Y'all have safe sex everyone. Magic is still here.' That's the time I'd like to have enough TVs to have a six-gun to shoot it every once in a while.

Why does God want children to honor their father and mother? *That it may go well with you!*

Verse 17: "You shall not murder." Yet, the land is filled with it. Why? *Because the religionists say, 'Love the Lord. Don't keep any of God's laws. You don't have to do that bondage!'*

Verse 18: "And you shall not commit adultery." If they persist in this attitude, as we've said before, and we've been just about right on the line, there is going to come a super-AIDS and it's going to 'lay them low' quickly.

Verse 19: "And you shall not steal. And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (vs 19-20).

We had a new neighbor move in and bought the house next door. Wonderful, wonderful, nice neighbors; we sent them a little planter over there, welcome to the neighborhood and all this. Two days later the police were out there carting the husband off, fingerprinted him and mugged him. They moved into the new house and put all the money down there, and then she informed him that she was going to leave him and take the house. Ha-ha-ha! What did he do? ***He beat her up!*** He probably shouldn't have beat her up, but he did. She had him arrested, carted off, and the only thing in the paper was spousal abuse.

One of the neighbors said, 'Have you heard? Have you heard?' ***Heard what?*** We didn't know anything about it except what they told us:

- Guess what she has now? *She's got another guy living in there and living with them already! it's insane!*
- You think the world is far removed? *Well, this evil world is right next to you!*
- You think you can move some place and get away with it? *No!*
- Do you think some place that 25 years ago was a wonderful place to live? *Don't go there now! It isn't that way now!*

Verse 21: “And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor shall you covet your neighbor’s house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his donkey, or any *thing* that is your neighbor’s.’ The LORD spoke these words...And He added no more....” (vs 21-22)—at that time.

Now all the people said, ‘Oh, we can’t stand this. We’re going to die!’ They said, ‘Moses you go speak to us. We’ll listen to you.’ Did they listen to Moses? *No!* They didn’t listen to Moses.

Verse 29: “Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, **so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!**” That’s God’s desire. God said that He doesn’t even desire the ‘death of the wicked.’

Now, let’s find out, what is the purpose of the Law? Romans 3:19: “Now then, we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law...”

- Who is subject to the Law?
- Are we all subject to the Law? *Yes, we are!*

Any law that God has, we’re subject to it; it doesn’t matter what it is. If you don’t believe it, stand out in front of a train and see if you can stop it.

- Who is subject to the law?

“...so that every mouth may be stopped... [no talking back to God; Paul is right] ...and **all the** world... [everybody in it] ...may become guilty before God. **Therefore, by works of law there shall no flesh be justified before Him...**” (vs 19-20).

Remember this: ***Nothing can substitute for sacrifice of Jesus Christ! It’s the sacrifice of Christ that justifies you!*** Deeds of law are not the sacrifice of Christ. Therefore, they cannot justify you though you are required to do the Law. ***The Law is not Christ!*** The quickest, easiest, simplest, way to remember. ***Nothing can substitute for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!***

- the Law was not designed to forgive sin

- the Law was not designed to put you in right standing with God through the forgiveness of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

“...**for through the Law is the knowledge of sin**” (v 20). That’s what the Law does. It tells you what sin is. It’s what the Law is for.

Romans 4:15: “For the Law works out wrath...”—when you transgress it! A good example: Don’t put your hand on a hot stove, you’ll burn your hand:

- When does that Law work wrath?
 - When you keep it?
- or*
- When you break it?
 - *When you break it, it works wrath!*
 - When does the Law against adultery work wrath? *When adultery is committed!*

Ask Magic!

“...**because where no Law is, there is no transgression**” (v 15). If God had not given *these laws*, if God had not given *His* commandments, God Himself would not judge. **Which laws, Lord?**

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say?... [because we have forgiveness and justification through Jesus Christ] ...Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** We who died to sin... [by baptism] ...how shall we live any longer therein?” (vs 1-2).

Verse 15: “What then? Shall we sin... [What is sin? *Sin is the transgression of the Law!*] ...because we are not under law, but under grace? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** Don’t you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey, **whether it is of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**” (vs 15-16)—very clear cut. That is absolutely true; you can apply this to anything.

Was Wilt ‘The Stilt’ Chamberlain *a slave* to his whoremongering? *Yes, by his own admission!* I’m not pointing out something that he has not publicly proclaimed to the whole world, written about, willingly autographed his book and said, ‘Fine, nice to meet you, have a nice day.’ One thing I can hope is that some day he’ll repent.

- Was he *a slave* to it? *Yes!*
 - Is a person *a slave* to drugs? *Yes!*
 - Do people become *slaves* to murder? *Yes!*
- that’s why there are serial killings*
- Whatever it is, do people *become slaves* to idols? *Yes!*

A Catholic can’t even go by the front of the Church without genuflecting.

Verse 17: “But thanks *be* to God, that you were *the* servants of sin, but you have obeyed from *the* heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you; and having been **delivered from sin...**” (vs 17-18).

‘Being made free from sin’ (*KJV*), is not a good translation. In a sense it is, because if all of your past sins have been blotted out, which they are. But you are *free from that debt* that you owe God because of the sin. In that sense it is true, but you’re not free from sin, in as much as that you will never sin again from that moment forward.

“...you became *the* servants of righteousness. I speak from a human point of view because of the **weakness...** [infirmity (*KJV*)] ...of your flesh...” (vs 18-19).

That doesn’t mean that they were sick with an infirmity. That means *weakness*, “...because of the weakness of your flesh...” Why do all of us still sin today? *Because of the ‘law of sin and death’ and the weakness of the flesh!*

“...for just as you *once* yielded your members in bondage to uncleanness, and to lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now yield your members in bondage to righteousness unto sanctification. For when you were *the* servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. Therefore, what fruit did you have then in the *things* of which you are now ashamed? **For the end result of those things is death**” (vs 19-21).

Yet, the ‘do-gooder,’ altruistic Satan-worshipping, communist-led and inspired bureaucratic people, who want to make ‘safe sex’ available in high school and to teach our children from kindergarten up, all about sex so that they can have already made perverts for the homosexual community by the time they get out of school. They want to give condoms to all of our children. ***We’re talking about lives! We’re talking about bringing God’s wrath!*** That is the doctrine of Balaam.

What was it that Balaam taught Balak, the son of Zippor^[transcriber’s correction], to bring against the children of Israel? ***Bring them into sexual activity and God must curse them!*** Balaam said, ‘I can’t curse them because God won’t allow me to, but you do that and God must curse them because of Islam. You talk about something diabolical, that’s exactly what’s happening in the school and societies today, all because some preacher got up and started the doctrine within the churches, ‘Oh well, you don’t have to do this Law. Just love the Lord.’

Verse 22: “But now *that* you have been delivered from sin and have become servants of God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and **the end result is eternal life.**”

Now you have something to look forward to. What does Magic have to look forward to? ***Death!*** It is a death sentence. Since people all through the 60s and 70s did not get the message from God that it was wrong, therefore, AIDS has come. People are either going to learn that it is wrong and stop, or they’re going to die; no two ways about it. It’s the same thing that’s going to happen concerning the laws of God and everlasting life. The same thing!

Verse 23: **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

I do hope and I wish it may be possible—who knows, anything is possible—for Magic Johnson to ever repent. *It’s possible!* I would frankly hope that he would. There’s always the parable of the prodigal son. Regardless of what you have done, ***if you come to your senses and repent to God, there can be forgiveness!*** I wish that that would happen to him before he dies. Would that not be a good thing?

(go to the next track)

Matthew 7:19: “Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire. Therefore, **you shall assuredly know them by their fruits**” (vs 19-20).

Since Magic Johnson is of the world, the world will hear it’s own. They won’t hear what God has to say, but they’ll hear their own. He has a teammate called James Worthy. He’s supposed to be some big basketball star, too. Last year he was arrested on two counts of soliciting for prostitution in Houston, Texas, while the team was on the road. It was announced on the radio and everybody knew it because it was on all on the radio, television and nightly news. Here’s the game; it starts out and Jim Worthy is not there to start the game. At half-time he comes in and is able to start and the whole auditorium of 12,000 people stood up and applauded him. You talk about hearing their own, there couldn’t be a better example of it.

It’s the same way with this Kennedy ‘thing.’ He stands there and runs in Clarence Thomas and then he turns around and tells his lawyers, ‘You do the same thing to this woman down here that’s accusing my nephew of rape.’ This world is so crazy.

Verse 21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing **the will...**” Not just the commandments, ***the will***. It says in John 14 that *‘if you love Me, you’re going to be keeping My words and these words that you are hearing are not Mine but the Father’s Who sent Me.’* So, it’s *will* and *words*, not just which commandment, Lord? ***It’s everything God has said!***

Does anyone want to stand up before God and tell Him, 'Look, God. I don't want this and I don't want that and if You want me, You can do it my way, Lord.' **NO!** God says, 'If you want Me, you're going to do it *My* way, not your way.'

Verse 22: "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?' And then I will confess to them, '**I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness**'" (vs 22-23). This is the same word that is translated 'transgressions' (1-John 3:4 *KJV*). In the Greek it is 'anomia,' *against law*: "...**you who work lawlessness**"

A person who is lawless, is a person who doesn't want God's laws. What is their favorite thing that they like to do with God's laws when the get rid of them? *Put in their own laws!*

Mark 7:9: "Full well do you reject the commandment of God, **so that you may observe your own tradition.**" The tradition is anything that you devise to replace the Law of God. It's that simple. All of that is sin. One of these days, someone like Magic is going to stand up and say: 'O Lord. Look what I did.' *God's going to say I never knew you.* 'We did it in Your name. It was a good thing.' *I didn't send you. Depart from Me you that work lawlessness.*

Let's see some things concerning keeping the commandments which is very profound; very basic. That's why these seven General Epistles should come right after the book of Acts *before* you start reading the Epistles of Paul, and you know you have to keep the commandments of God. Unless you know that before you start reading the Epistles of Paul, you'll end up like all of these Protestants who don't believe you have to keep anything. They say, '**Which laws, Lord?** Just love the Lord.'

1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: **if we keep His commandments.**" It's something that you know that you are *doing* and *practicing*.

Verse 4: "The one who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him." It doesn't matter how pleasing the personality; it doesn't matter how big the smile.

They had this stupid program on. I just saw a little bit of it. Ed and I would enjoy watching television together; we're remote freaks. If we don't like the commercial, we kill it. If we don't like the program we switch to another one. I was doing that the other night. That's why I have my own TV. I'm

relegated to my own corner with my own TV so I can switch channels or whatever I want to do.

I was flicking through there and they had this program on. I think it was that they were trying to get everyone to get on HBO, Showtime or whatever. They had this girl who had witchcraft powers. She would put her fingers together and make a guy change or disappear. Ha-ha-ha, it's all humor. The way you introduce sin is make it funny.

- Who is the one who has been setting up the whole world for the New Age Religion?
- Who is the one who has been setting up this society for all of the animal rights stupidity?
- Who is the one who has been setting up the society for all of the eco-freak stupidity?

—which is a big lie that we are causing the ozone hole! It's because of the activity on the sun, the solar storms and all that and the increased magnetism coming to the earth.

- Who is it that's been doing all of that?
- *None other than one of your most favorite, most wonderful, most beloved movie produces in all the world: Walt Disney, with all of his cartoons and all of his movies!*

He puts out some pretty good ones from time to time, so you have to censor it. How many of the movies are like Puff the Magic Dragon? Who is the dragon? *Satan!* The dragon is nice, helpful and friendly. How do you think they get all of these things into the kids' minds. How do you think they brainwash them? *From little kids up, with all these cartoons!* Animals are not animals, they're people. Now you can't even ride a horse; that's cruelty to animals. You can't even wear a fur coat. Go freeze in Siberia, but let the animal live.

I have to tell one more on us. I had to move the refrigerator and clean behind the refrigerator. Have you ever done that? After 15 years it was dirty, dirty, dirty. I was down there scribbling around on my hands and knees and guess what I found? *A mummified mouse!* If you don't take care of things, your sins are going to find you out. There was a mummified mouse. I picked it up and I showed it to Delores and I said, 'Look what I found.' I thought that was really funny. She didn't appreciate it too much, but she laughed anyway. The point is, many peoples lives are like that. Nothing is done for so long and then finally they move off the spot and it's like moving the refrigerator.

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).

Which commandments did Jesus reject? *None!* Almost an accurate statement. He rejected none of the commandments of God, *but He rejected every commandment of man that was contrary to the commandments of God!* What did Jesus say about the Law if you asked the question, ‘Which law?’

It’s just the way that it always is with human beings, when you’re told not to think something, guess what happens? *That’s what they think!* The reason they do that is because in dealing with human beings when you’re told *not* to think something, you generally have to think of it because you’re being told *not* to think of it, because that’s what they want to do to you. ‘Oh. I’m not here to harm you or hurt you.’ But when God says something, that’s a different case. When He says don’t think something, don’t do that.

Jesus said, Matthew 5:17: “**Do not think...**” Which means, *don’t even let it come into your mind;* which means, if you don’t think about it, you’re not going to practice it.

Verse 17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.**” In fulfilling, there were certain things that were changed—not done away, *changed*—and superseded by a greater requirement from what was originally given. That is *fulfilling*. The word *fulfill* means *to fill to the full*.

If you have something, say a quart of milk, half-full or half-empty depending on whether you’re positive or negative—but that’s neither here or there with God—and you’re told to fill it up, you fill to the full. That’s what Jesus did with the laws of God.

That’s the whole lesson of Matt. 5-7. What did He say about adultery? *You’ve heard it said in past time by the ancients, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ I say to you, don’t look upon a woman to lust after her in your heart, to commit adultery in your mind with her, because you’ve already committed adultery!* Is that not **greater** than the command, ‘Don’t go to bed with this woman?’ *Yes, that’s much greater! Absolutely!*

He adds to it, v 18: “For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away... [Are heaven and earth still here? *Yes, they’re still here!*] ...one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled.” There are two ways of looking at that, as you know:

1. till everything that God has planned to do be fulfilled
 - Is everything done that God has planned to be done?

- Is it fulfilled? *No!*

2. until everyone is fulfilling the Law

Here’s what He thinks about doing away with laws. We won’t get into those complicated Scriptures that tend to make people believe that they can do away with the laws. They can’t do away with any of the laws of God anymore than they can stand up and shake their fist at the law of gravity and say it doesn’t work. That’s stupidity.

Verse 19: “Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so...” It’s the false prophets that have caused the problems. A false prophet doesn’t have to be a religious person. It can be just anyone who will teach anyone to do anything, which is contrary to the laws and commandments of God.

“...**whoever** shall break one of these least commandments, **and...**” the understood thought for the subject of the connective here is *whoever shall teach men so...* It doesn’t matter who they are.

“...shall be called **least...**” (v 19). That means less than nothing. At least if you’re a zero, you’re something. A zero is something, but if you’re less than nothing, you don’t exist. He’s saying that you won’t be there. That’s what He’s saying.

“...in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall practice and teach *them...* [even the least of them] ...this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven” (vs 19-20). The way your righteousness exceeds that is that:

- you have the Spirit of God within you
- you have Christ to justify you
- you have the grace of God to cover your weaknesses and sins
- your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees

Why? *Because you love God! That’s why!* You’re keeping God’s commandments and the scribes and Pharisees did not keep the commandments of God. They kept *their* traditions: ‘*Full well you keep your traditions that you may reject the commands of God.*’ Therefore, this is hard for someone to understand, especially if they think that the Pharisees and things were great law-keepers.

We will see what Jesus even said of the scribes and Pharisees and the religious leaders. What a shame:

- they had the Law
- they had the temple
- they had the commandments

- they had the covenant
- they had everything that God had given them

In spite of all of that:

- What did they want to do?
 - ✓ make their own laws
 - ✓ make their own traditions
 - ✓ reject God
 - ✓ do their own way

Remember this: ***Christianity did not come out of Judaism!*** Christianity has come out of the Old Testament, the Laws, Prophets and Writings of God, *not Judaism*. It came out of Judaism only in the sense that, to keep the commandments of God and following the Prophets and Writings of God, you must essentially divorce yourself from Judaism, which is the religion of the Jews. Here's why:

John 7:17: "If anyone desires to do His will... [we talked about the will of God (Matt. 7:21)] ...he shall know of the doctrine, whether it is from God, or *whether* I speak from My own self. The one who speaks of himself is seeking his own glory..." (vs 17-18).

I cannot help but just in my mind visually seeing Magic Johnson and Arsenio Hall. Even Arsenio Hall was a little embarrassed. For him to be embarrassed is really going a long way. I don't watch Arsenio Hall. I can't stand it. I think it is the most vain, frivolous, stupid show that has ever been. If people want to watch it, that's up to them. There's no law against stupidity, I guess.

"...but He Who seeks the glory of Him Who sent Him... [Christ is seeking the glory of God the Father, Who sent Him] ...is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. **Did not Moses give you the Law, and not one of you is practicing the Law?....**" (vs 18-19). *Profound verse! Profound verse!*

Christianity came out of the Old Testament. Christianity ***did not come out of or originate in Judaism!*** All those who became Christians, though they were Jews and following Judaism, had to divorce themselves from that. That's the agonizing period from the crucifixion of Christ until the destruction of the temple.

Let's see an example where the very question was asked: **Which commandments, Lord?** A lot of people want to have the blessings of God but not do what God says.

Matthew 19:13: "Then little children were brought to Him, so that He might lay *His* hands on them and pray *for them*; but the disciples rebuked *those who brought* them.... [don't bother Him with these little kids] ...But Jesus said, 'Let the little

children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'" (vs 13-14).

- they're believing
- they're willing
- they're wanting
- they're anxious
- they want to do what is pleasing
- the 'law of sin and death' is not been stirred up in them

You can't quite say that today. Back then it was not stirred up in them where they're little walking hellions at two and a half.

Verse 15: "And after laying *His* hands on them, He departed from there. Now at that time, one came to Him... [notice the difference between the children and now here comes the opposite]: ...*and* said, 'Good Master, what good *thing* shall I do, that I may have eternal life?'" (vs 15-16).

Everyone wants eternal life. No one wants to die, not even the Mafioso. That's the whole quirk with the thing with the Mafioso, why they have their Catholic burials. Somehow, even though they've done what they've done, if they bury them and do with the Church and pay the pope his dues, they'll make it in, because no one wants to die and die forever.

Verse 17: "And He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good?....'" As a human beings, though Jesus was God before He became human, He could not say He was God or that He was good, while He was human. As long as He had the 'law of sin and death' in Him, He was not good, though by human standards, He was totally, absolutely perfect. By God's standards He was totally, absolutely perfect, but '*the flesh profits nothing*.' That's why He said:

"... 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good except one—God. But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.' Then he said to Him, '**Which?**'...." (vs 17-18). That's the whole question we're asking today, ***which?***

"...And Jesus said, 'You shall not commit murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The young man said to Him, 'I have kept all these things from my youth. What do I yet lack?' Jesus said to him..." (vs 18-21)—you have to go above and beyond. That's what's required.

"... 'If you desire to be perfect, go *and* sell your property, and give to *the* poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come *and* follow Me'" (v 21).

1-Cor. 13 told us that if you give all that you have to the poor and don't love God and follow Christ, it really doesn't matter, *it's nothing*.

Verse 22: "But after hearing this word, the young man went away grieving, because he had many possessions." That's the way it is with people:

- Lord, I will do it if it makes me happy
- Lord, I will do it if it's convenient
- Lord, I will do it if I agree with it
- Lord, I will do it if it doesn't cramp my lifestyle
- Lord, I'll tell you what I will and won't do

We've listed all the commandments and someone is surely going to say, 'Well, He didn't mention the Sabbath. He didn't mention the Sabbath, did He?'

Mark 2—we'll get all the Ten Commandments. Of course, if you have the Sabbath and if you believe in the Sabbath then you have to believe in all the Holy Days. You can't have one without the other. You can't buy one shoe and say you have a pair. You have to have them both.

Mark 2:27: "And He said to them..." The scribes and Pharisees accusing Him of things that they thought were wrong, but weren't.

"...**The Sabbath was made for man...**" (v 27). That's why it was made. On account of man, because of man, because man needs the Sabbath.

"...**and not man for the Sabbath**" (v 27). Therefore, man cannot tell God what he will and will not do on the Sabbath.

Verse 28: "Therefore, the Son of man is Lord... [Jesus Christ] ...even of the Sabbath." There is the Lord's Day. That is **His** day.

Let's cover two things that are very important that we need to cover, which is the thing concerning circumcision. This created great problems in the New Testament Church. I'm sure you're well aware of that. The Pharisees said, 'You cannot be saved—*'ou dunatai*,' which means *impossible* to be saved—unless you're circumcised.' They're stuck with a problem.

Gen. 17—Abraham walked with God from 75-years-old until his 99th year. Inclusive counting, that's 25 years, which is longer than a lot of people have been in the Church. I've been in the Church longer than that, but that's nothing to brag about. During those 25 years Abraham:

- obeyed God
- kept His commandments
- followed Him
- had faith
- believed in Him

He was *not* circumcised. So, at 99-years-old, he was circumcised, all of his household, and at that time Ishmael was 13. When Isaac was born, he was circumcised on the 8th day, according to the command of God.

Exo. 12:43-44—no one was to eat the Passover unless they were circumcised. Did God do away with circumcision? **or** Was circumcision a temporary something until a higher and greater requirement came into place with circumcision? The first thing with circumcision, you exclude half the population, because they are female. Circumcision was only temporary and it was forecasted to be done away.

Do you know where the forecast of it was to be, not done away but superseded by a greater circumcision, which applies to all—male and female? *The circumcision of the heart (Deut. 10)*! Everything that God replaced with the New Testament was prophesied in the Old Testament to take place.

What was the first thing that God told David when David wanted to build Him a temple? *I'll build a house for you!* What did God say referring to the temple? 'Where is the house that you—as a human being—will build for Me? For the heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool and everything that you would build a house for Me with, all these things My hand has made' (Isa. 66:1-2). Who was the Chief of the corner of the temple that was rejected by the builders? *Jesus Christ!*

What was one of the first things that Peter told those religious leaders? *The Stone that the builders have rejected, the same has become the Chief corner (Acts 4)*—which was Christ. Showing, that in Christ the temple was going to be destroyed. We have that in the Old Testament concerning the temple. No great surprise that it was going to be gone.

The same way with circumcision, Deut. 10 tells us this is New Testament doctrine. It's interesting that the word 'deuteronomy' means *the second giving of the Law*.

- 'duo' is *two*
- 'nomos,' is *law*

The second giving of the Law!

Deuteronomy 10:12: "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but **to fear the LORD your God...**" Can we not find that in the New Testament, 'Let us fear because our God is a consuming fire'? *Yes!*

“...to walk in all His ways...” (v 12). we’re to walk even as He walked’ (1-John 2:6_[transcriber’s correction]).

“...and to love Him...” (v 12). ‘Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, mind, soul and being,’ Old Testament/New Testament.

“...and to serve the LORD your God... [How?]: ...with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, you above all people, as *it is* today. **Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stiff-necked**” (vs 12-16)

There is a command and a prophecy of the true circumcision of conversion. I imagine how many arguments that the Apostle Paul had in the synagogue over Abraham. You’re not going to deny that he ‘walked with God’ 25 years being uncircumcised (Rom. 4). Here is the reason:

Verse 17: “For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, the mighty and awesome God Who does not respect persons nor take a bribe.”

What are you going to bribe God with? ‘*I’ll be a good boy, Lord.*’ You’re not going to bribe God with that. ‘*I’ll give you all that I have, Lord.*’ He owns the universe. What are you going to give Him that He hasn’t already given you? ‘*I am an important person. I am a sports idol. You must regard me because I am the greatest,*’ whoever the name of the athlete may be.

Verse 18: “He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and **loves the stranger**...” Is this not a prophecy of bringing Gentiles into the Church? *Yes, it is!* Among other prophecies in Isaiah.

“...in giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him, and you shall hold fast to Him, and swear by His name. He *is* your praise, and He *is* your God, Who has done for you these great and awesome things, which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with seventy persons. And now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of the heavens for multitude” (vs 18-22).

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

commandments always.” That is may be well with you.

Colossians 2:2: “That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto *the* knowledge of the mystery of God, and of *the* Father, and of Christ; in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge... [none of this New Age nonsense] ...Now this I say so that **no one may deceive you by persuasive speech**” (vs 2-4).

That’s exactly what Magic Johnson is doing. You should have seen the poor, pathetic, stupid little teenagers marching right along like dutiful little soldiers. They sent the news media out to the high school. ‘What do you think about Magic Johnson having AIDS?’ *Well, I think it’s a shame that he has AIDS, but when I have sex, I’m going to have safe sex.* What a bunch of stupidity; young stupid little teenage kids out there just following along with what they’re told, you’re going to risk your whole life on one millimeter of plastic? *Nonsense!*

Verse 5: “For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him; being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ” (vs 5-8). That’s what all of this whole stupidity is that’s going to follow in the wake of Magic Johnson.

Verse 9: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of all principality and power” (vs 9-10). You can’t go any higher than that. What else do you need?

- you don’t need a spirit, a fallen angel
- you don’t need an idol
 - ✓ a movie star
 - ✓ a basketball star
 - ✓ a rock star

You need Christ!

Verse 11: “**In Whom you...** [male and female] **...have also been circumcised with the circumcision not made by hands...**” Whenever anything has been superseded in the New Testament, it’s not *doing away*, it’s *making it spiritual and more binding*, the thing of circumcision, or the thing of worshipping in the temple.

Isn’t it much greater to pray directly to God the Father in heaven above, than to go all the way

over to Jerusalem and stand there at the Wailing Wall, rock like an idiot while you pray, stuff a little prayer on a piece of paper in between the rocks on the Wailing Wall? *or* To bow to Mecca five times a day? **Isn't it much greater to pray directly to the Father in heaven above?** *Yes!* That's what the circumcision of the heart does.

“...in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ having been buried with Him in baptism, by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead. For you, who were *once* dead in *your* sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has *now* made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses” (vs 11-13). That's what the circumcision of Christ does.

Romans 2:25: “For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the* law... [Paul is talking to the Jews] on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the* Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.... [that's the whole point] ...Therefore, if the uncircumcised... [in the flesh] ...is keeping the requirements of the law... [which you're not keeping, though you're circumcised] ...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision?” (vs 25-26). *Yes, because it's of the heart!*

Verse 27: “And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the Law, judge you, who, with *the* letter and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of *the* Law?” I know why those Jews hated Paul. I mean, for you to say that a Gentile, who is uncircumcised, is going to judge you, *a Jew*, whew! That's rock-throwing time at the Wailing Wall.

Verse 28: “For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, neither *is* that circumcision, which *is* external in *the* flesh; rather, he *is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly, and circumcision *is* of *the* heart, **in the spirit and not in the letter**; whose praise *is* not from men but from God” (vs 28-29).

It's not a matter of doing away with the Law, because God hasn't done away with any laws. It's not a matter of which laws do you keep and which you don't keep. It's a matter of ***the application of all of God's laws in the spirit*** that is important!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 5:1-22, 29
- 2) Romans 3:19-20
- 3) Romans 4:15
- 4) Romans 6:1-2, 15-23
- 5) Matthew 7:19-23
- 6) Mark 7:9
- 7) 1-John 2:3-6
- 8) Matthew 5:17-20
- 9) John 7:17-19
- 10) Matthew 19:13-22
- 11) Mark 2:27-28
- 12) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 13) Deuteronomy 11:1
- 14) Colossians 2:2-13
- 15) Romans 2:25-29

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 14
- 1-John 3:4
- Matthew 6
- 1-Corinthians 13
- Genesis 17
- Exodus 12:43-44
- Isaiah 66:1-2
- Acts 4

Also referenced: Book: *Josephus*

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Mystery of Lawlessness II

How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #1

Fred R. Coulter

The mystery of lawlessness is also called *the mystery of iniquity* (2-Thess. 2). The mystery of lawlessness started in the Garden of Eden. I want to focus in on how it has affected the Church. Then we will see how all of these churches that have professed Christianity are really lawless. They don't think they are and they don't look like they are because they do profess some law-keeping.

For example: If you'd go up to a Sunday-keeper and you would say, 'What church do you belong to?' 'I'm a fundamentalist. I go to church every Sunday and every Wednesday Bible study.' If you would say to that person, 'Don't you know that you're really not an fundamentalist if you don't keep the seventh-day Sabbath?' *Aw, no, no, no. That's not so, because God wouldn't hold me to that.* 'God says we are to keep the seventh-day Sabbath, and what about your Christmas, Easter and New Years, those are all pagan, you know.' They'd get down right mad. If it was a clerk behind the counter, they might assume you were ready to rob them or something, and try and get rid of you.

You might tell them, 'Yes, God is going to hold you as accountable for Sabbath-breaking and Sunday-keeping as He is for murder, adultery and everything like that. Of course, I don't recommend that you do that, but if you did that I would really be surprised if you had someone say, 'Wow! Boy! Tell me about the Sabbath. I've really wanted to know about that.' They think that they are sincere, good, upstanding, law-abiding citizens and Christians.

I want you to hearken back a few years ago during the 'stinking thinking.' What they want to do is to get everyone in on 'group think.' All your news programs are all panels. No one is there to bring out the truth; everyone has an opinion on everything.

It's the same way with what is called religion. Everyone has an opinion on religion. 'Religion' is no longer the Word of God; 'religion' never was, but for those people who thought that religion based on the Bible and was the Word of God, most of them no longer believe it.

On the Larry King show they were talking about, 'What do you think about this Orthodox Jew being nominated for the vice presidency with Al Gore?' One of the commentators said, 'Most of the people in America believe in Jesus Christ as personal Savior.' Then he was talking to Imus, a radio commentator, and he said, 'I believe in Jesus Christ as personal Savior, but all these other religions, they have a way to God, too. We cannot

put them down and we cannot exclude them. We have to be all-inclusive on this.'

That's precisely what they want in destroying Christianity whenever it is that you come to that point. That is the ultimate goal of the *mystery of lawlessness*, to get you to reject God. They don't tell you that, but that's the ultimate goal. That's why in the many things that we have covered, remember the principle: *a little leaven leavens the whole lump*. I've seen this happen over and over again. You start out with a little leaven, a little sin, your own doctrine which is not conforming to the Bible and guess what, two or three years down the road, you can have:

- any kind of heresy
- any kind of belief
- any kind of non-belief

We've seen it over and over again. I want you to understand how precious it is that you have been called and how precious the Word of God is and why we need to really be about doing God's business and doing the things that we need to do in a very zealous and a profound way. When you look upon the earth, there're just not that many.

Most of the things that we will cover will be basic and fundamental. I have right here in my 'hot little hand' five books of which I'm going to read parts of; all *mysteries of iniquity*. *It's amazing!*

I was on the plane when I went to Seattle and I was reading the book by Alan Knight, *Primitive Christianity in Crisis*. An excellent book!

A woman came in and there was the middle seat and she had the ticket for the middle seat. She sat down and she was reading a book: *How To Know God: The Soul's Journey into the Mystery of Mysteries* by Deepak Chopra. I thought, 'My, that's a good title.' I said, 'How do you like the book?' *She said, 'I just started reading it.'* I said, 'He's a Hindu. You'll never really know about God from him.' It's true! Sometimes you need to shock people a little bit; it didn't hurt. She didn't know me, didn't sue me, beat me up, pull a gun on me or call for the stewardess to have me arrested or anything like that.

When I got home, I wanted to find out where I could get the book so I had Jim Hyles get on the Internet and he got me both of these books:

- *How To Know God: The Soul's Journey into the Mystery of Mysteries* by Deepak Chopra
- *Genesis of Justice* by Alan M. Dershowitz

Remember the lawyer who was on Larry King Live and really supported getting O.J. Simpson off the hook and all that sort of thing?

When I read you parts of this, you'll understand what they've written in all of these books. The other books are:

- *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus* by the Dalai Lama
- *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by Pope John Paul II

We're going to read some excerpts from all of these and you'll understand *the mystery of iniquity* as you have never understood before. *This is something!*

This book, *How to Know God* by Deepak Chopra, is a best seller and has sold over 3-million copies. *Think of it!* You compare the Truth of the Passover and we've sent out a few thousand copies. How many people want the Truth? *None of them!*

Matt. 7 lays the foundation and the framework for all of this. This sets the tone and gives the definitions on how you know what is right and how you know what is wrong. When the apostles had all of the interferences—we will see coming down from the New Testament where it came from and what it was doing—they could go right back to the book of Matthew and know.

Matthew 7:13: "Enter in through the narrow gate..." That means difficult, and *it is difficult*. That's why professing Christianity today:

- is smooth
- it's easy
- it's broad
- how to be successful
- love your neighbor

All this sort of good stuff!

"...for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction..." (v 13). The thing that is important to understand is that *destruction doesn't happen immediately*.

1. because God is merciful, kind and long-suffering, hoping that they will repent
2. because there is success in sin for a season and people will think that they're doing right

Whatever other reasons you can add on to those. Judgment does not come instantly, and judgment does not come in a way that people think.

I call your attention to the book of Esther. Remember Mordecai sitting at the gate and Haman the Agagite, the equivalent of the pope in Persia? *He set out to kill Mordecai and all the Jews!* What

happened? *Right at the end, it turned out that Haman^[transcriber's correction] was hung on the gallows!* It took a while. It took some suffering and it took some belief in God, because Mordecai was sitting there and everybody despised him, *but God worked it out.*

"...and many are those who enter through it" (v 13). If you go with the majority of people, that's where you're headed. It's that simple.

Verse 14: "For narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that leads to life, and **few are those who find it.**" I think we're beginning to find out how few *the few* really are. *It's just a few!*

Verse 15: "But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves."

Deepak Chopra doesn't believe that he's a 'ravening wolf.' Wait until I tell you who God is in his book. Chopra is a Hindu and he believes in reincarnation; he believes in these things. He even quotes from the Old Testament and the New Testament, and even quotes Jesus. I tell you, these things are slick as can be.

Verse 16: "You shall know them by their fruits...." Unless you know how to tell the fruits, you cannot tell, because:

- they appear righteous
- they appear good
- they appear sincere

If you've ever seen Deepak Chopra, and know this for sure that anybody who is on Larry King Live is not really going to give you the truth, they're going to give you *a position*. If you see him on Larry King Live, or if you see him on some of his own television shows, he looks honest, sincere, dedicated and mentally he's quite a man, but you have to know the fruits.

"...They do not gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles, do they? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit" (vs 16-18). Satan's job is to come along and try and transplant or graft in evil branches. That's his job.

Verse 19: "Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire.... [the lake of fire, eventually] ...Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits" (vs 19-20). Then He continues and He says this, which is the key to whole understanding of all of these things:

Verse 21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven." That means *practicing the will of the Father* in heaven.

We will see exactly, the basis of how a lot of these people use the Word of God, misapply it and do not do the will of the Father in heaven. They can use the name of Jesus and they can call themselves Christian, but you can't look at what they say, you have to look at the results of it.

Verse 22: “**Many** will say to Me in that day... [the day of judgment] ...‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?....’” Preached in Your name? Prophesied in Your name? I could show you Catholic prophecies where they have their prophets, especially Nostradamus, and all this is supposed to be done in the name of God. Ellen G. White is supposed to be done in the name of God. Whoever else you want there, just plug in the name.

“...And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name?....” (v 22). We’ve seen all of these, too: Oral Roberts, Benny Hinn. I think of ‘The sky is falling, the sky is falling’ Then this Ishie, whatever his name is, he also said that as long as you believe in something, that’s fine. *It’s amazing!* That way you could say, ‘I fervently believe in Satan.’ How’s that? Well, he’s the ‘god of this world’—isn’t he? Do you believe in God? *Yes!* See?

We’re in living the day when all of this stuff is totally upside down. Are you doing the ‘will of your Father Who is in heaven? Some people will say, ‘Do you really need the Word of God to know it, to know God.’ The answer is, *yes!* ‘And he who says, ‘I know Him,’ and keeps not His commandments, is a liar’; all false prophets are.

Let me read you something here from a recent meeting that Billy Graham was supposed to have gone to. Many people have not believed it, but he has been an ecumenist from day one. Whenever any minister, Protestant preaching in the name of Christ, comes along and says that all you have to do is believe and ‘open your heart, Christ comes in and you are saved,’ that is totally contrary to the Bible! You first must **repent**, and after that:

- be baptized
- have hands laid on you for the receiving the Holy Spirit
- keep the commandments of God

Now notice what Billy Graham says:

“I used to think that pagans in far-off countries were lost and were going to hell if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. ***I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God...***”
(McCall’s Magazine, January 1978)

It’s not just a matter of believing that God exists. That’s not the question, and this is a very clever way

of answering the question because *it sounds so good* that there are *ways* of knowing God’s existence.

James 2:19: “Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. Even the demons believe and tremble *in fear*.” Does the knowledge of God bring any salvation to the demons? *Of course not!* Knowledge of God should be basic to everyone in the world, whether they are called or not, by the very creation of God, we’ll see that in a little bit.

Verse 20: “But are you willing to understand, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” That’s the whole basis of lawlessness. You have faith, your heart is good, and what’s in the heart counts.

Like that tile man who was putting up the tile over where I take my water therapy. Everyone was talking about God and Sunday-keeping. I said, ‘Really, the seventh-day is the Sabbath.’ He says, ‘God knows my heart. I know the seventh day is the Sabbath, but I go to church on Sunday and God knows my heart.’ I said to myself: He sure does. He knows your heart. So, there are no works.

Verse 21: “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar?” We’ll talk about that a little later and what Alan Dershowitz thinks of that.

Verse 22: “Do you not see that faith was working together with his works, and by works *his* faith was perfected? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Now, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him for righteousness’; and he was called a friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (vs 22-24).

Verse 18: “But someone is going to say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ *My answer is:* You prove your faith to me through your works, and I will prove my faith to you through my works.” ***If you believe, you will automatically have works that follow!*** Those works are the works of obedience.

Here we have Billy Graham’s new doctrine: ‘You are saved ***in*** your sins not ***from*** your sins.’ That’s all part of the ‘mystery of iniquity.’

From: *The Legacy of Billy Graham* by Michael G. Long:

“...I believe there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God--through nature for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying, yes to God.”

Billy Graham has previously announced that he also believes that men can be saved apart from the name of Christ. All you good Baptists out there in Bible Beltland, what do you think about Billy Graham

now? That the wolf's clothing is showing under the sheep's cover. This is Scripture inspired of God.

One of the forms of lawlessness was Judaism. There were all kinds of Judaism, from Orthodox Judaism to 'orthodox paganism' called Judaism, where they still required circumcision. This whole thing that people have been led to believe that the Jews all believe alike is like saying:

- all the Lutherans believe alike
- all the Catholics believe alike
- all the Baptists believe alike

Nonsense, they don't! They don't believe the Bible.

Acts 4:5: "Now, it came to pass in the morning... [after they were arrested for healing this man] ...*that* their rulers and elders and scribes were assembled together in Jerusalem, and Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander..." (vs 5-6).

Remember, all of those were the ones who condemned Jesus. All of them were there when Jesus was hauled before them and committed to be crucified.

"...and as many as were of *the* high priest's lineage. And after placing them in the midst, they inquired, 'By what power or in what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with *the* Holy Spirit... [from God Himself] ...said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are examined this day as to a good work *done to the* infirm man, by what *power* he has been cured, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, Whom you crucified, *but* Whom God has raised from *the* dead, by Him this *man* stands before you whole. This is the Stone that was set at naught by you, the builders, which has become the Head of *the* corner. And **there is no salvation in any other, for neither is there another name under heaven, which has been given among men, by which we must be saved**'" (vs 6-12).

The word *must* in the Greek, comes from the Greek word 'dei,' *it's obligatory*. No other name, can't be any other name. *This is something!*

God is going to have an opportunity to say this to Billy Graham. He's the most widely known so-called Christian evangelist in this century. He followed Billy Sunday, who was before him.

Matthew 7:22: "...Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?' And then I will confess to them, '**I never knew you....**'" (vs 22-23).

What does it mean to know God? (1-John 2). This becomes very important, because we are going to be fighting this kind of 'mush-mush/fuzz-fuzz' religion and people's belief in God the rest of this age. It's all going into the one-world religion and that's how it's going into it. There is no one that's going to stand for the Truth. If you go into the one-world religion:

- you cannot believe in the Truth
- you cannot believe in God
- you cannot stand for anything

I've been preaching this for a long time and it seems as though that it even affects the Church of God. A lot of times the people in the Church of God, when they find out that many of the ministers were not faithful, they turn around and show their unfaithfulness by having all kinds of silly and just unreal doctrines. Just getting carried away with all kinds of stupidity.

- Who really believes God?
- Who really loves God?
- Who really knows God?

You look at the example of Gideon: God said, 'Get an army.' Gideon said okay and he got 30,000. God said, 'No, I don't want 30,000, only those who lap water like a dog.' That's the silliest requirement you ever heard of for selecting an army. How many did he end up with? *Three hundred!* He ended up with 300, which is 1% of 30,000. That isn't any comparison. There's not even 1% in the world. Of course, there a lot of people out there that we don't know of.

I'm sure that the age that we are living in that one of the things that is going to help a lot of people is what we're doing on our website. I know some people right now, who every Sabbath get on the website and listen to a sermon. How many people there will be doing that wherever...? Then when the one-world government comes down to enforce *the mark of the beast*, there are going to be millions that are going to be resisting. Lo and behold, you're going to find out that a lot of them were keeping the Sabbath at home.

God is doing a lot more than we know. We should not ever get presumptuous to say, 'Well it's just us.' Like one man said one time, 'I thought it would just be me and the ministers to go to a place of safety. Now, I don't even know about them.' We just came to the conclusion that if only 1% of the world's population of 5.5-billion, there would be 55-million believers. We know that it's not going to be that. Who knows?

Back to the topic at hand. Never forget these verses. These are profound!

1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard*... [by this means] ...we know that we know Him...”

- it's not enough to say I know Him
- it's not enough to have an acquaintance with Him
- it's not enough to say His name

You have to **know** that you know Him and here is the standard:

“...**if** we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments... [present tense participle] ...is a liar, and the Truth is not in him” (vs 3-4). The day can come that we can say to Sunday-keepers, ‘You’re a liar and you don’t have the Truth.’ That’s just the way it is.

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). We’ll see that this a qualifying statement because they were bothered by many antichrists.

Where Christ says, ‘I never knew you’ that tells you:

1. they didn’t have the Spirit of God, because God knows everyone who has the Spirit of God
2. they didn’t keep His commandments
3. they never had a relationship with Him

This stuff really gets to be something.

Matthew 7:23: “...‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.’” Iniquity (*KJV*) is lawlessness. That’s what the Greek word means. The Greek word is ‘*anomia*,’ which means *against law or lawlessness*, but why is it a mystery?

One of the ways they have skillfully done this is say, ‘All you need to do is love God.’ They say, ‘Okay, I love God.’ ***You don’t love Him if you don’t keep His commandments***, it’s that simple. It’s like saying in marriage, ‘I will be faithful and obey and I will not be sleeping around with every other partner.’ Then all you do the day after you’re married is go around and sleep with other men, other women and all this sort of thing. You come back and say, ‘I’ve been faithful.’ *Nonsense!* It is absolutely amazing! This stuff is amazing what has happened:

- what is happening in *the Church*
- what is happening in *the world*

John wrote, and here’s how you know, ‘They are of the world, therefore, they speak of the

world.’ In this thing Billy Graham is speaking of the world.

1-John 2:15: “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—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world.... [Who is the god of this world? *Satan, the devil!*] ...And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (vs 15-17). God gave His commandments as the expression of His will.

Verse 18: “Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now **many** antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time.” If there were many then, think of what we have now.

Remember how it started out. You go back and go through the book of Acts. The first encounter with a false religionist was Simon Magus. The next encounter was Eliamus the sorcerer. The next encounters after that with the Apostle Paul were all kinds of false ministers:

- claiming that they were Jews
- claiming that they were Israelites
- claiming that they were sent from God

They weren’t! All the way through 1st & 2nd-Corinthians, he shows that they’re false apostles and that ‘Satan appears as an angel of light and his ministers appear as ministers of righteousness.’ It comes down to *many!*

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.”

1-John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit...” Let me just put here, every idea that comes along. Spirits like to give ideas, to come along and put it in the mind.

- Did Satan put it in the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus? *Yes!*
- Does Satan have fiery darts of missiles of ideas? *Yes!*
- Is he ‘prince of the power of the air?’ *Yes!*

“...but test the spirits, whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (v 1). This tells us who’s behind the false prophets: false spirits, demons.

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.” I call your attention to chapter 26 in the book, *The*

Christian Passover. Christ came in the same exact flesh that we have. How many really truly, truly believe that? *Very few!*

{Note book & sermon series: *The Seven General Epistles*. That's James, 1st & 2nd-Peter, 1st, 2nd & 3rd-John, and Jude which goes through each one of these verse-by-verse} God is serious in what He's doing. We're not to play church, we're not to be 'churchanity.' We're not to hold up fellowshiping as a social idol that we come together just to socialize. We come together on the Sabbath so that we can:

- learn of God
- know of God
- study His Word
- learn how to live
- be exhorted in the way that God wants us to live

That's why we have Sabbath services. That's why we have fellowship groups.

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..." How many say that?

- the Muslims do
- the Hindus do
- many so-called Christians today do

They say, 'Jesus was a good man like Buddha, Mohammed and other prophets.' *They are antichrist!*

"...which you heard *was* to come, and even now it is already in the world. You are of God..." (vs 3-4). That's quite a statement. You have to know:

- Are you really of God?
- Do you know that you are of God?
- Do you understand that you are of God?
- Do you know:
 - ✓ that you have been called?
 - ✓ that you have been chosen?
 - ✓ that you have been selected for the greatest thing that is ever going to happen to this world?
 - ✓ that you have been chosen to rule when Christ returns?
 - ✓ that you have been chosen to take it away from the synagogue of Satan, the devil and the people of this world?

That's why He's going to make them come and worship before our feet. I tell you, God has called us. It's something!

"...little children, and have overcome them... [stay overcoming them, don't let them

overcome you] ...because greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world" (v 4).

Here's the one that I referred to before, v 5: "**They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them.**" What do they use? *The name of Christ with their 'mystery of lawlessness!'*

Verse 6: "**We are of God...**"

Verse 4: "**You** are of God..." referring to the brethren.

Verse 6: "**We** are of God,' referring to the apostles and whatever ministers were there with John.

"...the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us..." (v 6). You can try that at any time with any Sunday-keeper, you'll find out.

"...By this *means* we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception" (v 6). Who is behind that? *Satan is 'deceiving the whole world'* (Rev. 12:9). He's got the whole synagogue of Satan, which Dr. John Coleman calls in *The Conspirators' Hierarchy: The Committee of 300*, I call it the synagogue of Satan, you need to get the book.

Let me tell you something, we cannot sit back and sit idle and just not know what's going on and not study the things that are happening today. *You cannot! You've got to know! You've got to understand!* If not for yourself, one day you're going to have to tell somebody else.

I talked to a man up in Anchorage, Alaska. I baptized him five years ago. He's been attending one of the other Churches of God up there just for fellowship. He says that they don't know anything. In five years he knows more than some who have been in the Church thirty years. That's why I do what I do, read what I read and preach what I preach. It's not for me. It's for the brethren. It's not to make me look good. If I look good, so what? What does that prove? *It proves nothing, nothing but vanity!* Here's the whole thing:

"...By this *means* we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception" (v 6). We are to **know** the spirit of error/deception.

Remember the movie *Patton*? Remember his first encounter with Rommel? He's out there, he had his helmet on, his binoculars out there and he was watching Rommel's tank column come up. He said, 'You S.O.B. I read your book!' Then he fired the guns on Rommel.

We're going to have to do the same thing. We're going to have to **know**. We're going to have to read their books. We're going to have to

understand where they come from, where they're going and what they're saying. You can't go just on what Protestantism was 10, 15, or 30 years ago, but ***you can rely on the Word of God because it's eternal!*** Jesus said, 'These Words are spirit and these Words are life' and 'There's no other name under heaven by which you can be saved.'

I tell you, that really got me 'hot under the collar,' that thing with Billy Graham. Imagine the millions that he's going to deceive with that: millions and *millions* and ***millions!*** *Ghastly!*

I'll read out of some of these books that I have here, and I think you are going to be amazed. I've already covered concerning the 'man of sin, the son of perdition, so we won't go through that.

2-Thessolians 2:7: "**For the mystery of lawlessness is already working;** only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of the midst."

Right now at this present time, I believe that the restraint has been lifted. It means not be taken away *until he comes out of the midst of the system*; That what it means. It think the restraint has been taken away. That's why all of this is going on.

Verse 8: "And then 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)."

Showing that this 'mystery of iniquity' or lawlessness—'anomia'—*the mystery of lawlessness*. If he's going to be destroyed when Christ returns, it shows that this is going to last clear on down to the time of Christ. As a matter of fact, grow right alongside. What did it say in the parable of the tares? *Let them grow to the end of the age!* They grow right alongside.

Verse 9: "*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved" (vs 9-10).

To answer that question you must know the Word of God, because the Word of God is Truth and that's what will save you through Christ. Any other way will not do—*period*—regardless of what a person thinks.

I'll tell you one thing, part of the 'mystery of lawlessness' is that people give their opinion on what God ought to do and they end up telling God what to do and then reach back and gather some of His commandments so that it looks good. That's really the whole heart and core of it.

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). Unrighteousness is *sin!*

(go to the next track)

I'm going to read certain sections from the book *Primitive Christianity in Crisis*.

From: *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight

Keep in mind that there is no such thing as pure antinomianism....

Which is *lawlessness*, because that word is hard to pronounce. It's a transliteration of the Greek word 'anomia.'

...Nearly all forms of the mystery of lawlessness...

Which there is the Christian form, Protestant form, Catholic form, and Orthodox form, ***all other religions are a form of lawlessness!***

...teach morality of one kind or another...

which they call ethic or conduct, and so forth

...which they substitute for Biblical law.

One of the keys to understanding... [lawlessness] ...is the word itself. 'Antinomian' means 'against law.' The New Testament is not clear on all points of Biblical law and lawful Christians can disagree on many things and make mistakes about what is proper and what is not. The point at which one crosses over from lawful to lawless Christianity, therefore, is the point at which lawless (Nicolaitan) doctrines are introduced.

Here are some of the things that are signs of a lawless Christianity or any lawless religion:

1. Profession of belief is all that is required....

Like I mentioned before, 'God knows my heart and what is in my heart. I'm a good person.' You're self-righteous, and you're going on your self-righteousness.

...Disobedience is wrong, but has no effect on salvation.

So, you can sin and it doesn't have any effect on it. Like one woman was talking to another woman who was a Baptist. She said, 'Once saved, always saved.' The woman who was in the Church said, 'That means even if you sin?' *Well, but of course.* 'What if you're right in the middle of the act of committing adultery, will you still be raptured?' She said, 'Yes!'

2. Eternal security. Salvation cannot be reversed even by intentional sin.

Therefore, there's no Lake of Fire. Therefore, there's no weeping and gnashing of teeth. See how much of the Bible you have to take out or don't read.

3. Progressive revelation has outdated many aspects of New Testament Scripture....

We have a greater revelation: 'Christ appeared to me.' That's what the Gnostics back in the early Church did, they said, 'Christ appeared and after His resurrection gave us new teachings.

...Pick and choose what you believe is Christ's true will from current teachers and personal inspiration.

Then you have to be careful which Bible you have, too. Most modern Bibles are already picked and chosen for you. If you get one of those, you don't have to pick and choose, it's already done. Also, the advocates of the *NIV* are advocating against the *King James* as much as I'm advocating against the *NIV*. I'm one voice but they are thousands of them out there.

4. There is no written law under the New Testament. Only the Holy Spirit speaking to us through our soul or a church leader can tell us what to do and not do.

That's part of lawlessness.

5. The literal application of the law ended with the Old Testament. Only the 'magnification' survives. Just apply the 'principle' of goodness found in the law and be a 'good' person by common sensible standards of contemporary society, and you will be saved.

Did I not read almost those identical words from Billy Graham earlier? *Yes!*

It is the question of the *principle* of obedience, of obedience to Biblical law....

that's what it is

...Those who believe in the principle of obedience to God and Biblical law are lawful, even though undoubtedly they will make mistakes in judging the application of Biblical law. On the other hand, those who include antinomian doctrine...

believe in the lawless doctrines

...about rejection of law in their belief system are lawless.

The issue becomes even more confused because those who teach against the principle of obedience to law under the

New Testament at the same time teaching obedience to many substitute rules....

That is the key. They reject the Sabbath but keep Sunday. They reject the Holy Days but keep the holidays.

...This includes many rules from Biblical law they selectively adopt while exercising their antinomian right to reject or modify those they dislike....

So, if you don't like the Law, reject it. That's lawlessness! Then he has some others in there. That's just part of it. I recommend you get this book and read the whole thing.

Let's start out with Jewish lawlessness. Here's a book by Alan M. Dershowitz, *The Genesis of Justice*, which is part of the course that he teaches at Harvard for his law school. Many of you know Alan Dershowitz if you watched the O.J. Simpson trial. He was on Larry King Live many times and he's been on there many times since. He is a 'dyed-in-the-wool' Jew.

Let's understand something concerning Jews: They do not all believe alike. The thing that we were told concerning Jews is that 'they're just like us but all we need is Christ' is about as silly as saying, 'Keep warm by entering into this freezer.' It's a contradiction in fact. There are many Jews who are as pagan and more pagan than pagans. As I read from the *Code of Jewish Law* Gansfried & Goldin, in *Refuting Sunday-Keeping #5*, their lawlessness is doing exactly what Alan Knight wrote about here. That is, they surround it with their own laws and claim that they're based on the Bible.

Here is his interpretation of Genesis 3:1-24. This is talking about Adam and Eve and their sin of eating of the tree.

from: *Genesis of Justice* by Alan M. Dershowitz:

Although Adam and Eve's eventual punishment was considerably more lenient than instant death God had threatened, it was also imposed upon their descendants....

Let me just also mention here, that part of the philosophy of the operation of rabbis and Jews, is that *they* have the right to improve on God. Their words and their writings are more meaningful than the Scriptures. *That is lawlessness in the form of law-keeping!*

...Hence the Christian concept of "original sin," which brought death into the world, increased "man's inclination to evil" and required the eventual redemption of a

Savior. The nature of God's punishments raised profound questions—for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike—about His concept of justice. He punishes Eve by inflicting pain of childbirth on *all* women and making *all* women submissive to men. He punishes Adam by requiring *all* men to toil for their bread. Finally, God also banishes Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden in order to assure that His wayward creations do not also eat of the Tree of Life and "live forever." All for disobeying His command to refrain from eating the forbidden fruit of a tempting tree!

If we evaluate God by human standards, His first action as Lawgiver seems unfair. The essence of fairness is any system of threats and promises as adequate warning. Punishment should be threatened in unambiguous terms, so that people to whom the threat is directed will understand, a punishment once threatened should be imposed, unless there are mitigating circumstances; and no additional punishments, not specifically threatened, should be tacked on. Moreover, the punishment should be limited to the specific person or persons who violated the law, not to innocent descendants. Jewish law, as it eventually developed recognize that "to punish one person for the transgression of another" is "inconsistent with the very idea of law." Finally, punishment should be proportional to the harm caused.

God, of course, constantly violates these rules throughout the Bible—...

A key thing to understand about lawlessness is that *they accuse God* of wrong; *they accuse God* of sin. When they do it's perfectly all right for *them* to do whatever they want to do, even if it violates any commandments, because God is wrong. That's what they do with Sunday-keeping. They say, 'God gave the Sabbath to punish the Jews. Therefore, I'm all right in keeping Sunday.'

—He kills without warning, punishes innocent children for the sins of their parents, and imposes disproportionate punishments—so, we should not be surprised that He begins His career as a Lawgiver in a capricious manner....

That's something! Here's his own interpretation:

My own favorite interpretation of God's failure to carry out His first threat is that God Himself was still learning about

justice and injustice. The text of Genesis supports the view of an imperfect, learning God. When He creates, He stands back in wonderment and, like a human artist looking at an canvas, observes that His creations are "good," thus implying it might have turned out otherwise. An omniscient and omnipotent God would have no need to look back at what He knows will always be perfect. Later He repents of the creation of man, in effect conceding that this particular creation was not so good. As we will see in subsequent narratives, this is a God capable of not only "repenting," but also of being persuaded by human beings and learning from His own Divine mistakes. Perhaps He realized that He was wrong to threaten immediate death as a consequence for the desire to obtain knowledge. God should have realized that His test of Adam and Eve was really a "catch 22." Had the humans remained obedient, they would have been barely distinguishable from the beasts—hardly a fitting status for those created in God's image....

This is almost like reading the words of the devil— isn't it? Who does Jesus say the god of the Jews is? (John 8).

By disobeying God's unfair prohibition, however, they became the original sinners whose punishment would be transmitted from generation to generation. God's first command is an example of a law without reason—*chok*. God never sought to explain to Adam why he had to refrain from eating of the fruit of knowledge....

Notice how he changes it here:

On the contrary, His command defies reason, since it is entirely natural for humans to seek knowledge, especially when it is so pleasant to taste and easy to secure. It is not surprising, therefore, that God's first command is disobeyed. Perhaps God learns an important lesson from His initial failure as Lawgiver: Humans are more likely to obey reasoned rules consistent with their nature than arbitrary dictates that fly in the face of everything human beings are about....

Not so!

Perhaps God's initial command necessarily had to be a *chok*, since human beings lacked the knowledge presumed by reasoned orders.

No! He gave them a language created already in their minds and they could choose, and so forth. If I make comments on all of this, I'll never get through it.

Once Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of knowledge...

It's the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

...they became subject to rule by human reason. Similarly, when young children who lack reason, a parent's earliest commands must necessarily be *chukim*...

the plural of 'chok'

...which gradually evolve into *mishpatim*...

which is teaching

...as children develop their ability to understand rather than simply obey. Parents are sometime slow to recognize that reasoned orders, when age appropriate, tend to be more effective than authoritarian commands. Instead, some become too comfortable with the power to issue unreasonable dictates....

If God, Himself, realized He was wrong to threaten the harsh punishment in immediate death, then perhaps He became more understanding of the sin of Adam and Eve. I offer a contemporary midrash on this issue. A friend of mine who was a federal judge, had sentenced a woman to prison on a Monday. He was bound by the sentencing guidelines that mandated imprisonment, despite the fact that she was a first time offender whose boyfriend had enticed her to transport his drugs. On Sunday the judge was home caring for his toddler. The judge inadvertently forgot to lock his front door and the child wandered out into the street, where a truck barely missed running him over. The judge realized he had made a terrible mistake and that he had been given a second chance. The next day he refused to sentence the woman to prison, saying that she too had made a mistake and was entitled to a second chance. Perhaps I ought not to analogize a federal judge to God, although lawyers have long joked that when God has delusions of grandeur, He sometimes acts as if He were a federal judge.

It shows you the attitude that they have.

God, like parents and judges, find it less difficult to threaten than to carry out His threats, especially one that would destroy

what He had created. Moreover, in the case of Adam and Eve, there was a mitigating circumstance. The serpent did, after all, beguile Eve, who in turn enticed Adam. We see here the first excuse in the Bible. There are many more to come.

This book is filled with this.

Finally, maybe God realized that He was acting out of self-interest in denying to those He had created in His own image the most important aspect of that Divine image, namely, the continuing quest for greater knowledge. A midrash states that the serpent told Eve that God Himself "ate of this tree," and "hates to have a rival in His craft."

The God Who threatened Adam is Himself an ever-learning God, not a statically, omniscient Being Who knows everything that there is to know from the very beginning....

Finally:

The novelist Philip Roth, wrote that "without transgression there is no knowledge"—suggesting that all true knowledge requires rule breaking....

Lawlessness!

...Perhaps God was simply warning human beings of the double-edge nature of knowledge and its potential—if misused—to destroy humankind. Maybe God decided to wait and see what Adam and Eve—and their descendants—*did* with that knowledge: whether they used it for good or for evil. Only then could God decide whether or not Adam and Eve did the right thing or—if they did the wrong thing—how serious their crime was and whether His initial punishments were sufficient....

So too with the tower builders and their descendants: If they used their collective intelligence without foresight, wisdom and moral constraint, they may well succeed in the producing apocalypse, thus merging our earthly world with God's heavenly domain.

For whatever reason God decided not to punish Adam and Even with instant death, He had expressly threatened, He conveyed a confusing message to future sinners. One of the insights Adam and Eve gained from eating of the tree is that God does not always carry out His threats—that sin (and crime) is not always followed by the threatened punishment....

I imagine Adam and Eve talked about that year 500, 'Well, we're still living.'

...Such knowledge can be quite dangerous. The serpent told them God was bluffing, they called God's bluff, and God backed down—at least to the degree that he did not kill them immediately. No wonder God did not want them to gain this knowledge. He would henceforth have a hard time enforcing His commandments. In fact, God's mixed message about the wages of sin may well have contributed to the Bible's first murder.

So, God was to blame for what Cain did to Abel^[transcriber's correction]. Let's read this one here concerning Abraham and Isaac when he took Isaac out to offer him for the sacrifice.

No Biblical narrative is more dramatic, more poignant, more confusing than God's command to Abraham that he sacrifice his son, Isaac. What kind of God would ask such a thing of a father? What kind of father would accede to such a request even from God? Why did Abraham, the man who argued so effectively with God over the fate of strangers...

That is concerning Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah.

...suddenly become silent in the face of so great an injustice toward his own beloved son? Why did God praise Abraham for his willingness to engage in an act of ritual murder and what are we to learn from the patriarch who follows without question immoral, superior orders to murder an innocent child?

There is, of course, the possibility that Abraham went along with God's command for entirely self-serving reasons....

Here's some of the reasons:

He believed that if he disobeyed God's direct order, God would kill him as he killed Lot's wife. By killing his own son, Abraham would be saving himself. Remember, that this is the same Abraham who twice sacrificed Sarah's virtue to save his own neck.

And got a lot of money for it, too, by the way.

Remember, too, that God *invited* Abraham to argue with Him over the condemned of Sodom, but He *commanded* Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Failure to comply with a direct command from God carries a Divine punishment. To suggest a slightly less selfish motive, perhaps Abraham decided that if he refused God's command, both he and Isaac would be killed by God, but if he complied,

God might spare at least one of them. We do not know, of course, what was going through Abraham's mind when he lifted the knife to slay his son, but in the light of his prior history—especially with Sarah—a self-serving motive cannot be entirely excluded....

The book of Hebrews said that Abraham counted God worthy that He would raise Isaac from the dead. *That's why!* Of course, Dershowitz doesn't read the New Testament.

There you go, Jewish lawlessness! Correct God! 'We are better than God.' All lawlessness has that attitude: *'We will do better than God.'*

Let's get the one from *How to Know God* by Deepak Chopra. Very interesting! A Hindu perspective! This book is based upon seven stages, which I will enumerate here in a minute. He details them all in his book. You're going to be surprised Who God is. He's got this in chapter two, 'Mystery of Mysteries.' What is the title of this sermon? *Mystery of Lawlessness!*

Please know this, all mystery religions and all lawless religions believe in the immortality of the soul. Boy! Do the Hindus believe in that with reincarnation and everything. I don't have time to go into it anyway.

From: *How to Know God* by Deepak Chopra:

The mystery of God wouldn't exist if the world wasn't also a mystery. Some scientists believe that we are closer than ever to a "The Theory of Everything," or TOE, as a physicist dub it. TOE will explain the beginning of the universe and the end of time, the first and last breath of cosmic existence. From quarks and quasars, all will be revealed, as the old melodramas used to promise. Is there a place for God in this "everything," or does the Creator get booted out of His own creation? His fate may be important, but when it is wrapped up with ours, it becomes all important.

The Seven Stages of God, from an Anonymous Christian Heretic: Third Century. He quotes out of the New Testament.

He quotes out of the Old Testament. Here is this heretical quote:

"If you don't make yourself equal to God, you can't perceive God"—Anonymous Christian Heretic, Third Century

Notice how all of these go back to Adam and Eve. What did the serpent tell Eve? *If you eat this you will become as gods!* Meaning as he and the demons. He tells lots of nice stories in there. This is all based

upon feeling, not on fact. If you want to know writing for feelings and emotions, this book does it. Very little intellect involved and hardly any Truth whosoever. The very little bit of Truth that may be in there in the way of a quote from the Bible, is only buried by what he teaches.

...This belief did not succeed as dogma (the heresy here is, of course, that human and Divine are not equal in Christianity), but at other levels, it is undeniable.

The god of any religion is only a fragment of God....

Therefore, all religions, you have to have part of them.

...This has to be true, because a being who is bound who is unbounded has no image, no role to play, no location either inside or outside the cosmos, whereas religions offers many images—father, mother, lawyer, judge, ruler of the universe. There are seven versions of God, which can be associated with organized faiths. Each one is a fragment, but so complete as to create a unique world:

In other words, he's saying that God is the 'glob in the sky.' Remember when we heard of that? I did a sermon, *Is Your God a Glob?* He's everywhere; God is everywhere and in everything.

Here are the stages that you find yourself. You are God! So, the whole book is designed for you to self-examine yourself and come to the point that you literally give up yourself to where you can listen to the silence of God and you have found God and behold, it is you.

Stage one: God the Protector
Stage two: God the Almighty
Stage three: God of Peace
Stage four: God the Redeemer
Stage five: God the Creator
Stage six: God of Miracles
Stage seven: God of Pure Being—"I Am"

What you end up doing is going into this meditative stage to where you can enter into what he calls the sacred place of the Holy of Holies, where there is nothing. It's quite amazing!

To find God in an empty room is to find the ultimate God in an empty room, is the experience that miracle workers sacrifice all their powers for. In place of the highest ecstasy one get emptiness. The God of stage seven is so intangible that He can be defined by no qualities. Nothing remains to hold on to. In the ancient Indian tradition,

they define this aspect of spirit only by a negation. In stage seven God is unborn, undying, unchanging, unmoving, unmanifest, immaterial, invisible, intangible, infinite.

Therefore, when you come to this point in your life, you are God. All of this Eastern meditation and things that they have is pervading our schools. They're teaching witchcraft right now in the grades. The book, *Harry Potter* is nothing but witchcraft, nothing but satanism all the way through. I've got a couple of reports on that, but I don't have time to read those. Here's from the good Dalai Lama. He's a 'doolie.' There was a comment made that Satan has many faces and many voices. I'll try and cover come of this. A lot of this Buddhist philosophy came into the Church of God. ***It's amazing! Truly amazing!*** They had this Ecumenical Seminar where they had the Dalai Lama.

From: *The Good Heart* by the Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama was given in advance eight passages from the Christian Scriptures—including the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5), the parable of the mustard seed and the Kingdom of God (Mark 4), the Transfiguration (Luke 9), and the Resurrection (John 20). He was invited to comment on these texts in any way he saw fit. And he was told that his audience was Christian (Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant) ...

They are not Christian. They are Gnostic-professing Christians.

...mostly English-speaking though from all continents, and that virtually all of them practiced silent meditation daily in their own lives..

Here was their routine:

...Early each morning before breakfast, before anything else on the packed schedule of the conference, he entered the darkened hall with his monks and, with the assembled Christians, he sat perfectly still and meditated for half an hour. In the silence, broken only by a rustle or a cough, anxiety fell away and a bond of trust and openness for what was to come took its place....

Whenever you get into meditation via the Oriental Eastern religions, ***you empty your mind and you're opening yourself for demon possession!***

Since we're right here with meditation, we are to meditate on God's Law day and night. When

you meditate according to the Bible, you meditate on God:

- His creation
- His greatness
- His goodness
- His power
- His love
- His mercy
- His forgiveness

As a matter of fact, all the Psalms are proper meditations and conversations with God.

Psalm 1:1: “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law does he meditate day and night” (vs 1-2).

All of these ‘religions’ are designed to take away your personal being by having you come to ‘nothingness,’ so that you won’t stand for anything, because if you fall for nothing, you stand for nothing. That’s what it’s all about. That’s how they’re able to get all this ecumenical movement in the world and all the religions together. You wait and see this is going to be—I’ve warned for years and years—so grand and glorious you won’t believe it.

Verse 3: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water... [you’ll be drinking in of the Spirit of God that way] ...that brings forth its fruit in its season, and its leaf shall not wither... [regardless of the heat and pressure] ...and all that he does shall prosper. The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.... [I’ve just read some of that to you] ...Therefore, the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish” (vs 3-6).

If you want a true, converted, attitude toward the:

- law
- statutes
- judgments
- commandments
- testimonies
- precepts of God

All of Psa. 119 tells you that!

Psalm 119:1: “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD.” So, we are to meditate in it day and night and we are to walk in it.

Verse 2: “Blessed are they who keep His testimonies...” By the way, if people say if you keep the laws, then you have to be a Jew. *Nonsense!* The Jews don’t keep the Law. I just read it to you. They keep their own version of the law.

“...and who seek Him with the whole heart” (v 2). That’s how you do it. When you meditate:

- your mind is busy
- your mind is active
- you are thinking
- you are studying the Word of God
- you are drinking in of the Word of God
- those Words are important
- those Words are powerful

That’s what you need to think on!

You can read the rest of Psa. 119. We’ll pick it up with the Dalai Lama next time, because I have to go through that and I have to go through what the pope says. The pope has some very interesting things and it’s all lawlessness. Remember, lawlessness is:

1. you find fault with God so you can continue in your sin
2. you accuse God
3. you improve on God by giving your own laws, rules, commandments and ideas
4. you sit in the seat of God

You’re doing just like Deepak Chopra has said, ‘I am God.’ He says, ‘You want to know God? Look in the mirror. There He is looking back at you.’

This is something! I didn’t know that this would lead to this when I was sitting on the plane and reading the book, *Primitive Christianity In Crisis* and this woman sat down next to me reading this book *How to Know God*. This is amazing! We’ve got to have things that fit today. We can’t be preaching outdated theories of 10, 15, 30, 40, or 50 years ago. We can’t do it.

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing....” When he’s talking about the Spirit, this is the Spirit of God, of course. There is a spirit in man, which man develops his own self-righteous spirituality. That spirit of man, apart from the Spirit of God, accomplishes nothing: “...the flesh profits nothing....”

“...The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life” (v 63). That’s why you meditate on God’s way. That’s why you think on His Word. That’s why He wants it written in your heart and in your mind, instead of coming to silence and emptiness. That is foolishness, satanic and just unbelievably insane. God gave you a mind to think.

Why should you exercise it to nothingness? You're going against God.

Verse 64: “‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’.... [I think we’ve found an awful lot in the Church of God that believe *not*] ...For Jesus knew from *the* beginning who were the ones that did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, ‘For this reason, I have said to you, no one can come to Me unless it has been given to him from My Father.’ From that *time*, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him” (vs 64-66). Because the Words of Christ were too hard, too sharp, too difficult. Their public opinion was, ‘We don’t want any of that.’

Verse 67: “Therefore, Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Are you also desiring to go away?’” There it was down to the twelve. Almost the same predicament that we find the Church in today.

Verse 68: “Then Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed and have known that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you twelve, and one of you is a devil?’ Now He spoke of Judas Iscariot...” (vs 68-71).

The Mystery of Lawlessness is a mystery!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 7:13-22
- 2) James 2:19-24, 18
- 3) Acts 4:5-12
- 4) Matthew 7:22-23
- 5) 1-John 2:3-6
- 6) Matthew 7:23
- 7) 1-John 2:15-19
- 8) 1-John 4:1-6, 4. 6
- 9) 2-Thessalonians 2:7-12
- 10) Psalm 1:1-6
- 11) Psalm 119:1-2
- 12) John 6:63-71

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 12:9
- John 8

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight
- *How to Know God: The Soul’s Journey Into the Mystery of Mysteries* by Deepak Chopra
- *Genesis of Justice* by Alan M. Dershowitz

- *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus* by Dalai Lama (<http://www.wisdompubs.org/sites/default/files/preview/Good-Heart-Preview.pdf>)
- *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by Pope John Paul II
- *The Legacy of Billy Graham* by Michael G. Long
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Seven General Epistles* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Conspirators’ Hierarchy: The Committee of 300* by Dr. John Coleman
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Gansfried & Goldin
- *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling

Sermon Series:

- *James*
- *1st & 2nd-Peter*
- *1st, 2nd & 3rd-John*
- *Jude*
- *Refuting Sunday-keeping #5*

Sermon: *Is Your God a Glob?*

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Mystery of Lawlessness III How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #2

Fred R. Coulter

Let's find some things here in the book *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight. He does a really good job of defining lawlessness. Lawlessness is hard to really define in some ways because what lawlessness does, it takes a lot of the commandments of God and attaches it to their ideas. The best example of the principle of where it looks like you're doing the right thing and maybe even something that God commanded.

Here is just a principle that I want to draw on. We have the same thing today, the same kind of attitude. The carnal mind is enmity against the Law of God and God, meaning what God says.

In Deut. 1 we have a rehearsing of when God commanded them to go into the land. After the spies came back and brought the sample of the food and said it was a good land and so forth. Remember that only two of the twelve spies—Caleb and Joshua—said that it was a good land and that God would fight for them.

Moses is telling the children of Israel, Deuteronomy 1:26: "Yet, you would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God." That's what the carnal mind always does. The *mystery of lawlessness* is a combination of rebellion against God and using the commandments of God. That sounds kind of strange—doesn't it?

We had a good example of that when I did *Refuting Sunday-Keeping* #5, where I read out of the *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin. The way that the Jews do it—in addition to Alan Dershowitz that we read last time—is that they put this *Code of Jewish Law* and encircle the Ten Commandments with so many things that you have to do so that you won't break the commandments. That is the opposite of what God wants. God wants you to love Him and desire to keep His commandments. You don't need all of these extra things to keep you from *not* breaking them. It's a totally negative approach.

That's what happens when people view it their way and don't trust God. That's what people do with the Bible. That's why we have so much false doctrine, because they view the Bible in the way *they* want to do it and then preach what *they* want to preach. The reason we have so much confusion today, especially coming out of Protestantism, is because Protestantism is really contrary to the Bible and the New Testament, while they claim to be in harmony with it. Based upon this same principle:

- they hate the Sabbath
 - they hate the Holy Days
- they take*
- Sunday
 - Christmas
 - Easter
 - New Years

Then they say, 'By the way, God, we like the rest of Your commandments. We'll keep them.' Once you reject the commandments of God, it doesn't matter what you pretend to do, otherwise you're in rebellion.

Verse 27: "And you murmured in your tents and said... [human nature; enmity against God] ...'Because the LORD hates us...'" That's the whole reason for the Gnostic lawlessness that we covered already when we went through the sermon series: *Seven Church Harvest*.

What you need to understand is this. What I'm doing in all of these things is building on the past knowledge and recent past knowledge that we have covered. What you will be getting here and the other sermon series that I have done, especially the three that fit together:

1. *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*
2. *Epistle to the Galatians: Circumcision Wars*
3. *Mystery of Lawlessness*

Those three go together—is that you will be getting an education that cannot be found in any church or any seminary. You could not find it even at Ambassador College—*period*—because they were taken down by the *mystery of iniquity/lawlessness*.

"...because the LORD hates us..." (v 27). That's what people accuse God of. Remember this: The *mystery of lawlessness* always accuses God while it claims God. We'll see that in action right here.

"...He has brought us forth out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. Where *shall* we go? Our brethren have broken our hearts, saying, 'We have seen there a people greater and taller than we *are*. The cities are great and walled up to heaven, also the sons of the giants *are there*.' Then I said to you, 'Do not dread them nor be afraid of them'" (vs 27-29).

Remember, these were the people who went through the Red Sea and saw what it did to them.

These were the people who saw all the plagues in Egypt.

Another thing that is true, which it shows, a miracle never convinced anybody, because a miracle is soon forgotten. How many miracles with the plagues did God bring in Egypt while the children of Israel were there and the greatest miracle of killing the firstborn and sparing them?

Verse 30: “‘The LORD your God Who goes before you shall fight for you, according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes... [Moses is saying, ‘You saw it!’] ...and in the wilderness where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came into this place.’ Yet, in this thing you did not believe the LORD your God, Who went in the way before you to search you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night, to show you by what way you should go, and in a cloud by day. And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was angry and swore, saying, ‘Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land which I swore to give to your fathers, Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him I will give the land that he has trodden upon, and to his sons... [that obviously includes Joshua because he led them in] ...**because he has fully followed the LORD**’” (vs 30-36).

There is the key. Regardless of what your life is: your trials, your circumstances or the things that you are going through. It applies in any situation, **wholly follow the Lord!** He will bless you. He will take care of you. If you can’t see the blessing, if you can’t see the care, then trust God that it will be there when you’re ready. That always works. I have seen that time and again. Do not be like the children of Israel and complain against God, because you will put yourself into a spirit of lawlessness and you will cause God to get angry at you. There’s one thing none of us need. We don’t need the wrath of God.

Verse 37: “Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, ‘You also shall not go in there.’” What happened with Moses was that all the children of Israel were saying, ‘Give us water to drink. Give us water to drink.’ God said, ‘Moses, go speak to the rock.’ Moses was so mad at the children of Israel that he took his staff and he beat it. He hit it. The water came forth, but then God says, ‘You’re not going into the *promised land*.’

Now, I want you to think for just a minute. Obedience is based upon belief and faith. So, when God says something, does He mean it? You might think, ‘Boy! That’s a terrible thing for God to do for Moses. After all, he was just angry and got carried

away with his own emotion.’ Stop and think a minute:

- Who of all men on earth talked to God face-to-face? *Moses!*
- Was he, then, more responsible than anybody else? *Yes, he was!*

So when God said, ‘Speak to the rock,’ regardless of Moses’ anger, he should have *spoken* to the rock. He may have shouted, but don’t beat it. So, he didn’t go in.

Verse 38: “Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Make him strong, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. And your little ones, who you said would be a prey... [victim] ...and your children who in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in there. And I will give it to them, and they shall possess it” (vs 38-39). Lots of times God does this, too: ***takes the judgment that you give against Him and judges you!***

They said that ‘You brought our children out here in the wilderness to kill them.’ So, God said, ‘All right, your judgment is back upon your head. You will die and your children will live because you accused Me and that’s certainly is not the case.’

They decided to take things in their own hands, v 40: “‘But you turn and take your journey *back* into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.’ And you answered and said to me, ‘We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight according to all that the LORD our God commanded us’....” (vs 40-41).

After God has issued His judgment and His sentence is ready to be carried out, you have lost your opportunity for repentance. In a way, for those adults there, this was the unpardonable sin for their life, *not spiritually speaking forever*, but it was the unpardonable sin for them. They did not repent. They could not repent. Then they decided they’re going to obey God, but it’s too late.

Remember the parable of Lazarus and the rich man? The rich man said, ‘Send someone to my brothers and they will listen to them.’ *Too late!* So, in some of these things there comes a point when it’s too late. Here it was too late.

They said: “‘...we will go up and fight according to all that the LORD our God commanded us’....” (v 41). They were trying to wipe away the other command where He said, ‘Now you’re not going to go.’ In both instances, they rejected the command of God.

“...And when each one of you had buckled on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into

the hill. But the LORD said to me, ‘Say to them, “Do not go up, nor fight, for I *am* not among you, you will be beaten by your enemies.”’ So, I spoke to you. And you would not hear...” (vs 41-43).

That’s very important. How many times did Jesus say in the New Testament, **‘He that has an ear let him hear.’?** How many times did He say it to the Churches? to every one of them?

“...but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. And the Amorites who lived in that mountain came out against you and chased you, even as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, to Hormah. And you returned and wept before the LORD. But the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear to you. So, you stayed in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you remained *there*” (vs 41-46).

I think the time has already come with Protestantism. I remember when I did the series on *The Holy Sabbath* and how that there were so many admissions:

- by Catholics
- by Protestants, including:
 - ✓ Baptists
 - ✓ Lutherans
 - ✓ Congregationalists
 - ✓ Anglicans

They all admitted that the seventh-day Sabbath was binding if you’re going to follow the New Testament.

The Catholics were the more honest, if you can say Catholics are more honest. They said, ‘Sunday is the day that *we* proclaim and why don’t you Protestants come back and join us again because you keep it because of the authority of the pope and no other reason.’ I believe, that at that point, Protestantism had a chance and that was their last chance. In this last 100 years that we have been going through, more or less 100 years, they have had many witnesses, but they have refused, *they have refused, they have refused!*

What’s happening to them? *They’re all being taken down and ‘dumbed down’ and brought into the Catholic fold again!* Coming from their ‘mystery of lawlessness’ into a *greater* ‘mystery of lawlessness’. It’s quite a thing! This is the spirit that is behind lawlessness: you claim the commandments of God, ***but you reject the commandments of God,*** and you cannot have it both ways.

from: *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight {amazon.com}

The issue here is not disagreement about which individual rules are valid under the

New Testament. It is the question of the ***principle*** of obedience to Biblical law.

Because once you reject the Sabbath, then you have *your* commandment for Sunday.

Those who believe in the principle of obedience to God and Biblical law are lawful, even though undoubtedly they will make mistakes in judging the application of Biblical law.

In other words, we’re all weak and we’re going to sin and make mistakes while we’re trying to obey God and keep His commandments.

On the other hand, those who include antinomian... [lawless] ...doctrines about rejection of law in their beliefs are lawless. The issue becomes even more confused because those who teach against the principle of obedience to law under the New Testament at the same time teach obedience to many substitute rules.

What are the substitute rules the Catholics have?

- praying to Mary
- using the rosary
- don’t eat meat on Friday; they’ve since rescinded that
- the wafer

The whole thing is a complete substitute.

This includes many rules from Biblical law they selectively adopt while exercising their antinomian... [lawless] ...right to reject or modify those they dislike.

What have the Catholics done with the Ten Commandments? *They have taken out the second one entirely!* Is that deliberate or not? At the same time in their Bible they retain it, but in their catechisms they delete it. Do they know that they’re committing idolatry? *No question about it!* And many other things. You can add that to any religion, covering the things that we did with the Jews and with the Hindus.

Combining antinomianism... [lawlessness] ...with selective obedience to Biblical law, supposedly guided by the Holy Spirit, is a pattern going all the way back to Gnostic heyday of the early centuries of the Christian era.

Then he quotes James 2. Here is why James brought this out, which is a valid point that we need to follow closely and that we need to understand. That’s why we have to live in grace. We live in that grace and have opportunity for repentance when we

sin and make mistakes, but our overall thrust is to obey God and to love God.

James 2:8: “If you are truly keeping *the* Royal Law... [from God Who is the King, that’s why it is the Royal Law] ...according to the Scripture... [taken right out of the Scripture] ...‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’...”

Which is also in the Old Testament, by the way. So, when that is quoted, they’re quoting from the Old Testament when it’s used in the New Testament. Didn’t Jesus say that that is the second commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”?

“...you are doing well. But if you have respect of persons, you are practicing sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors... [within the Church community] ...For *if* anyone keeps the whole law, but sins in one *aspect*, he becomes guilty of all” (vs 8-10)—because there is no difference in the laws. If you break one, it’s the same as if you’ve broken all of them. Then James gives an example:

Verse 11: “For He Who said, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘You shall not commit murder.’....” You can take any example that you want. He said, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day,’ *also* ‘Learn not the way of the heathen.’ What are the ways of the heathen? *Sunday worship, Christmas, Easter and all of that!*

You can plug in any law that you want, there. He that said, ‘You shall not make any idols nor bow down to them nor serve them.’ If you make a representation of something and you have pictures, statues or idols you have broken that commandment.

“...Now, if you do not commit adultery... [which is commendable] ...but you commit murder, you have become a transgressor of *the* Law. In this manner speak and in this manner behave: as those who are about to be judged by *the* law of freedom” (vs 11-12). Because the laws of God, as we saw in *Refuting Sunday-Keeping #4*, are not bondage.

Likewise, those Christians who proclaim their right to selectively disobey any gods on grounds of lawless religious theory are as lawless and guilty as any participant in the ‘mystery of lawlessness.’

He uses the word ‘antinomian,’ but I just change it to the word *lawless*. It’s easier for me to read and also to understand.

People can do that on an individual basis. It’s like a woman I talked to. She said, ‘God surely isn’t going to hold me accountable for the Sabbath—is He?’ I said, ‘Just like adultery and murder.’ She didn’t believe that. You can do it on an organizational basis. You can also hide behind the

organization and say, ‘The man said...’ What does God say? *‘Beware lest anyone spoil you through vain philosophy after the traditions of men after the rudiments of the world!’* So, if ‘any man says,’ you’re still held responsible.

This is something that we really need to grasp and understand. As we do so and we go through this, think about all the churches, think about all of our Church experience that we have gone through and you can analyze and you can see why things happened the way that they did.

I talked to a man up in Alaska. If you think you’re alone, *he is*. Nobody there at all. He asked me would it be all right to go to another Church of God just for the fellowship. I said, ‘Yes!’ I baptized him five years ago. I told him, ‘If you can come down to San Francisco, I’ll meet you and I’ll baptize you.’ He came down and I baptized him. He’s been studying, getting all the sermons, everything that we have, all the sermon series that we have and all of this. He’s really been studying, which is good.

He went to this group where almost all of them have been in the Church 30 years. He came away absolutely flabbergasted. He called me and said, ‘Fred, you’re right; they don’t have a clue.’ They don’t, and the reason that they don’t is because they checked their brains in at the door the first time they came and never picked them up again. They have been brainwashed by this world for that very thing and by the church that they were in by that very thing. It’s going to be fulfilled in their lives that ‘they which have not, even what they have will be taken from them.’ You wait and see, that will happen.

This is not an argument about legalism. Those who believe in and pursue obedience—lawful Christians—are under grace....

A very good statement; that is true. You *are not* under grace if you *are not* a lawful Christian. Why? *Because you establish law by grace!* I covered that in *Refuting Sunday-Keeping #6*.

...God does not condemn those who are under grace. Lawful Christians must try in good faith, but they don’t have to successfully sort out the law in every detail. They can make mistakes. Lawful Christians also fail to live up to God’s standards out of human weakness. Intentional lawlessness is another matter....

That’s what we’re talking about with the ‘mystery of lawlessness.’

Jude and Peter clearly demonstrate that Jesus excludes intentionally religiously lawless Christians from his grace.

He does; if this was applicable back then, just think about it today.

Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled to write to you, exhorting *you* to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints. For certain men have stealthily crept in, those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment. *They are* ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness...” (vs 3-4).

Licentiousness or lasciviousness, is *license*, giving permission to sin. This is what you would call official permission to sin by church leaders—licentiousness/lasciviousness. When you do that, you deny God.

“...and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (v 4).

The underlying problem, as in so many aspects of Christianity, is belief and intent. Do you believe you can pick and choose those parts of Holy Scripture that appeal to you and reject or modify any part you don't like?....

Protestants say, ‘Yea!’ God says, ‘Nay!’

...Do you believe being under grace means law is abolished?

God says, ‘No! We establish it.’

Here, we're not talking about making mistakes. We're talking about conscience belief that law as a principle has been abolished and replaced by our own judgment, or the dictates of a religious leader, or the mystical inspiration attributed to the Holy Spirit.

So, when you talk to people about Sabbath-keeping *vs* Sunday-keeping... I talked to a man who is a Sunday-keeper. He says, ‘I know Sabbath is the right day, but most people go to church on Sunday and God knows my heart.’ There you have it. Yeah, God knows his heart. He rejects God's laws. **Willful disobedience!**

As we saw in the great example of Nicholas and his followers, such beliefs invariably lead to disobedience.

This is what we have. Just the past week, I was listening to a tape by a minister from Santa Cruz. All he did was talk about stories and emotions. He started out saying that legalism is what kills Christian joy. *True statement!* That legalism is all of the manmade rules, which they have added. *True!* Then he turns around and he rejects all the commandments of God. A perfect example of the

‘*mystery of lawlessness*’ at work. Now, under this section:

Inner-spirituality vs Obedience

The issue of antinomianism extends well beyond simple disobedience. We can better understand the workings of antinomianism by understanding its obsession with inner-spirituality. Where Christian antinomianism goes astray—another point where it crosses over the line—is in its claim that inner spirituality is fundamentally incompatible with obedience to Biblical law.

It's like this man said, ‘God knows my heart. I've just justified myself. It's all right for me to break the Sabbath and keep Sunday.’

Christian antinomianism frequently argues that obedience must be entirely voluntary, ‘from the heart.’

Then they take a principle that is true and twist it.

Indeed, that is an important Biblical doctrine. Scripture says God's law are to be written on our hearts (Jer. 31:33).

We have that also in Heb. 8 & 10

Paul says the law is spiritual.

True!

However, while the Bible clearly promotes lawful obedience that is spiritual and from the heart, Christian antinomianism argues the opposite. It insists that the codified laws and inner-spirituality are incompatible. It claims that regarding obedience in any way as obligatory, distracts from the inner-spirituality....

That is the argument! Never broaching one point that you have to repent, be baptized and receive God's Spirit. That's why the Protestant call to salvation is just accept Jesus in your heart and say, ‘Lord, I know You died to pay for my sins,’ and You are saved. **That is a lie! That is lawlessness!** Jesus says, ‘Repent!’ Peter says, ‘...and be baptized.’

Specifically, it argues that rejecting the law as an obligation, i.e. treating the law as optional, viewing the law is a good thing perhaps but having no effect on salvation, is a necessary step without which one can nevertheless achieve inner-spirituality.

Very well said. Very well put. That's exactly what happens. You listen to any of these Protestants. Here in our area of California we don't have any religious channels. Most areas they have the Trinity Broadcasting System. They have a code of conduct that everyone has to conform to. You must believe in the trinity and you must not speak evil of any of the

others. We have you censured and we have you squeezed in a vice so we can continue 'our loving lawlessness.' Lawlessness generally follows these principles/stages:

In the **first stage** generally one still affirms that obedience to Biblical law is a good thing, just that there is no obligation....

They say, 'If you want to, that's fine, but God doesn't demand it.' Why did He give the commandment if He doesn't demand it? He says, 'Remember.' *So, you forget!*

...Even in this early stage a lack of obligation is viewed as a necessary factor in achieving spirituality. One cannot generally worship God from the heart when there is a sense of obligation.

That's something!

Nevertheless, they say...

Now, if you have no sense of obligation, there's no sense of repentance—right? Think on that.

...“I'll still obey Biblical law out of love because it hurts my Savior's feelings if I don't.”

If you don't, your Savior is going to cast you into the Lake of Fire because He's not going to save you **in** your sins. He wants to save you **from** your sins.

Some primitive Christian groups today are beginning to teach... [various] ...versions of this idea. Stage one antinomianism... [lawlessness] ...can be very difficult to distinguish from true Biblical teachings that obedience must be from the heart. Perhaps the best indication that one has crossed over into stage one antinomianism... [the bridge into stage one of lawlessness] ...is the presence of the argument that even those who willfully disobey are saved, or that the very principle of law ended with the Old Testament

either one

In the subsequent **second stage**, one reasons: “Well, if deep inner devotion and love of God are the critical factor, then the exact manner in which I express it cannot be important.” This is only a logical extension of the underlying idea of antinomianism... [lawlessness]. The only important thing is inner-spirituality itself....

how you feel inside

Now, what is the whole movement of self-development, self-esteem? What is it based upon?

That you feel good about yourself regardless of what you do! That is an outgrowth of the religious environment that they've had in America with Protestantism and Catholicism the way that it is. It's a natural extension. Only that is completely secular. They might add in the name of God, as Zig Ziglar does once in a while. They can be very inspiring about how you can improve yourself. Can you improve yourself to a certain degree using carnal means? *Yes!* Does that make you spiritual? *No!*

...“If I have love in my heart, who gives me the right to say how I should express it externally?....

It's like one man who was a deacon in the Southern Baptist Church, and he read the command, 'relieve the widows.' So, he went around and committed adultery with all the widows in the church and read the Scripture that it was his duty to relieve the widows. He was loving God and doing the right thing. ***That's how twisted these things can be!***

...I can make up my own rules if I want...

interpret the Bible any way that I want

...and of course, I feel the Holy Spirit will lead me to do something pleasing to our Savior. I can express myself through Sunday observance if I so choose. Still, it's not wrong if you want to express your spirituality by observing Biblical law. You are free to go either way....

Did that not happen in Worldwide?

- you can keep Sabbath if you want to
- you can keep clean and unclean if you want to, but you don't have to
- if you want to keep Sunday you can
- come to the Feast of Unleavened Bread and we'll have a table with leavened bread and a table with unleavened bread
- we'll have a section with unclean foods and a section with clean foods
- you can have your choice

You see the step? *That's what happened to Worldwide, which was taken down the lawless path!*

...but to say I'm obligated or even that I *should* express my spirituality in a specific way is a return to legalism.”

In the final and **third stage**, one comes to realize the true spiritual drag of Biblical law.

I am free! Then it generally centers around, 'We have love for Jesus.'

Because of all the baggage of the Old Testament and it's teachings about obligation and punishment, Biblical law by

nature risks drawing you back into the idea that you are saved by obedience.

So you get rid of it!

It draws you away from the intense emotions of inner spirituality, voluntary worship and grace. That means that the Sabbath is spiritually dangerous and should be avoided while Sunday is not. It is impossible to redeem Biblical law contaminated by the Old Testament.

Those are the *stages* of the **mystery of lawlessness!**?

In the book by Russell K. Tardo—he's supposedly a doctor but of what I don't know—*Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction*, which when I am done with it, I will show you that it is Sunday fiction and Sabbath facts.

From: *Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction*
by Russell K. Tardo:

Sabbath-Keeping Endangers the Soul
(Sunday Facts.pdf)

Sabbath keepers endanger their very souls by attempting to return to the law and bondage.

Did we not just read that's the third stage of *Christian lawlessness*? Yes!

In Paul's day, the church in Galatia had fallen under the influence of false teachers. Formerly Paul had ministered there with great success, and large numbers of people, mostly Gentiles, were converted to Christ....

He's twisting it all up. He does not even know what the problem is in Galatia. Notice what he says here.

...soon there arose an epidemic of circumcision and "holy day" keeping among them (Gal. 4:8-11)....

He does not even know the problem of circumcision back there, which you will understand in the sermons I've done on the *Circumcision Wars* (*Epistle to the Galatians*). He does not understand that those days he's talking about back there, are not the Biblical Holy Days, but they are the world's and pagan's holidays, which are based around witchcraft that they were doing. That's what he says here.

While the Old Covenant was one of bondage, law, and death, the New Covenant was one of liberty, righteousness, and life....

...Therefore, the Christian is to stand fast is his Christ-given liberty from all works-law bondage (cf. Gal. 3:10-12). Christ did not die for us to remain in the entanglement of the yoke of the law in any aspect.

The law was not a yoke! Sin was the problem. *The code of Jewish law was the yoke of bondage!* This is amazing stuff! This is living today.

Most of those Churches that profess to be Christian are in fact part of *the mystery of lawlessness*, and today too many people are so spiritually incapable of rendering a proper judgment, that they don't know it. *They do not know it!*

This is something! This whole thing about what we're going through. All of this, you can say everything that I'm covering now and doing right now, in a sense, is kind of a prelude and a build-up for the sermon series on the book of Hebrews.

One thing we're going to learn, brethren, *we are not going to stand still!* We are going to go ahead with the Word of God. You're going to be learning things that will ground you so solid, that you will be able to make proper judgments in these things. You will be able to see the flaws as they come along.

1-Peter 1:12: "To whom it was revealed that, not for themselves, but to us they were ministering these things, which now have been announced to you by those who have preached the Gospel to you by *the* Holy Spirit, sent from heaven—into which things the angels desire to look. For this reason, be prepared in your minds, be self-controlled, *and* be fully hoping in the grace that will be brought to you at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children..." (vs 12-14).

There's that nasty word that they hate. As long as you obey their dictates, you're just fine. As long as you obey the pope, you're a good little child. We'll read about Dr. Billy Graham. I read a little bit last time, but I didn't read the whole thing. That is absolutely shocking.

"...do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, *as you did* in *your* ignorance. But according as He Who has called you *is* Holy, you yourselves also be Holy in all *your* conduct; for it is written, 'You be Holy because I am Holy.' And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man's work without respect of persons, pass the time of your *life's* journey in *the* fear of God" (vs 14-17).

(go to the next track)

Verse 17: "And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man's work..." If your works are not in obedience and love to God, then guess what the judgment's going to be? Most people turn around and judge God!

"...without respect of persons, pass the time of your *life's* journey in *the* fear of God; knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, by silver or gold, from your futile way of living,

inherited by *tradition* from *your* forefathers” (vs 17-18). That is *the mystery of lawlessness*, the pagan version or the Jewish version, it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever.

Let’s take on the Buddhist, another *mystery of lawlessness*, meaning that you can disobey God. In their particular case, they don’t believe in any set god. There are some things in here that I left off last time reading from this.

Since we have that, let me just stop right here and just show you what some of Buddhism is; this is called *The Connection Magazine*. What it really is, it is the witchcraft spiritism magazine. That’s what it is. On the border around it, it says:

- Martial Arts
- Dining and Wine
- Sex and Sensuality
- Women
- Ecology
- Parenting
- Education
- Massage Hemp, which is marijuana by the way
- Health
- Fitness
- Fun
- Art
- Adventure and Awareness

Awareness of what? *Demons!* Whenever you have this awareness thing, they’re aware of demons.

- Yoga
- Pets
- Business
- Astrology
- Travel
- Computing

I’m just going to read a couple of things in here. There are ads in here for everything. On the front it says, ‘Compassion for our earth, our world, our animals.’ That’s the keynote of the Dalai Lama: *compassion and tolerance*.

ad from *The Connection Magazine*

Are you magic? Nontraditional therapy that goes to the heart of the matter and heals us at our deepest levels.

Justification of your problems without repentance; that’s what it is.

Are you magic? Intuitive counseling, rebirthing...
whatever that means

...hypnotherapy...
demonism

...healing the body and mind...

demonism

...healing fears and phobias, increasing self-esteem, marriage and relationship, free phone consultation.

But we charge you reasonable rates after that.

Mind, body, spirit

Meditation

Chanting, meditation

This is all witchcraft! This world is getting caught up in it.

I’ve been listening to some tapes from a man who came out of astrology and witchcraft. He was born into a family of practicing witches. It’s amazing the stories that he tells. Please understand that the whole world has been programmed to receive it. The children have! The adults have! Ninety percent of the things that you watch on television are based around satanism and witchcraft, beginning with Walt Disney.

If you don’t believe me, just sit down and watch it. Watch the advertisements for the movies. Read the advertisements in the paper concerning the movies. It’s all death, blood, gore, demonism and satanism, to program you, to get you to accept the coming of *the beast*. Who is going to be the result of *the mystery of lawlessness*.

So, we’re right back where we started out, the very first Scripture that I read. Harry Potter’s book, *yes! Absolute evil! Abomination!* Yet, it’s a best seller. ‘Oh well, at least we’re getting children to read.’ Give them a Bible ‘dodo’ and maybe they’ll learn something, instead of having them learn how to cut up, boil and eat human flesh. All of that is the result of *the mystery of lawlessness*. Please understand that.

Heart, Spirit and Groove

Tibetan monks bring us compassion. Compassion is a much need virtue in today’s turbulent world. Tibetan monks from the Sed Gelug Dratsang Tantric College...

I like that name Tantric. They’re going to ‘trick’ you into it.

...will construct a mandala of compassion. This beautiful event, the San Mandala of Compassion, the Tibetan sacred art form, is presented by the Museum of Art and History...

That makes it all right. In the name of art and history, we can teach rank paganism.

...and The Healing Buddha Center of Santa Cruz. With the opening ceremony August 15, 2000 at 12:00 p.m. The public is

invited to watch the monks work and view the creation of the mandala during opening museum hours.

They intricately lay out these dyed grains of sand and they meticulously place them to make what is called a mandala, which is a demon artwork. Then what they do when it's over is they take it apart and this is supposed to bring compassion to the whole world.

I tell you what, we need to understand what has happened to this whole nation and the whole world. They're all wrapped up in witchcraft and demonism, beginning with the President right on down.

Revelation 17:5: "And across her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

I just read to you a Tibetan pagan abomination in making the mandala. That is an abomination. Any practice of Buddhism, witchcraft or any of those things or any practice of lawlessness, is an abomination to God.

Revelation 18:3: "Because all nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the power of her luxury." *Why? Because it's all wrapped up in demonism and Satan is deceiving this whole world!*

Now, let me get to this book called *The Good Heart*. It's describing how so-called Christians got together and they had the Dalai Lama give a contemporary teaching out of Matt. 5-7. Here's what they said:

from *The Good Heart* by Dalai Lama:
(wisdompubs.org/sites/default/files/preview/Good-Heart-Preview.pdf)

Preface: ...the Dalai Lama may be called "simple"; but in every other sense, he is a subtle, quick, complex, and extraordinarily intelligent and learned man. He brings three qualities to a spiritual discourse—traits so rare in some contemporary Christian circles as to have elicited gasps of relieved gratitude from the audience. These qualities are gentleness, clarity, and laughter.

Paul said the ministers of Satan appear as ministers of righteousness.

If there is something Benedictine about him, there is a Franciscan side as well, and a touch of the Jesuit.

Why? Because it is the same spirit they're devoted to—Satan the devil!

From the outset, he gently and quietly reassured his listeners that the last thing he had come to do was "sow seeds of doubt" among Christians about their own faith. Again and again, he counseled people to deepen their understanding and appreciation of their own traditions, pointing out that human sensibilities and cultures are too varied to justify a single "way" to the truth.

Isn't that *the mystery of lawlessness*? *There is no one way to the Truth, which contradicts the Bible!* I am sure that not one of those simple-minded, deceived, so-called Christians sitting there in the lotus position listening to him expound on the New Testament, ever raised one voice of objection to what he said, that there's 'no one single way to the Truth.' The very book that he's going to comment on, the Words of Christ in Matt. 5-7, contain these Words of Christ, first person singular:

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, '**I am the Way...** [not *a* way but *the* Way] ...**and the Truth, and the Life...**'" One of the things that you can point out with *the mystery of lawlessness*, regardless of the religion, is that they say that there is no single way to the Truth.

He gently, but firmly and repeatedly, resisted suggestions that Buddhism and Christianity are different languages for the same essential beliefs.

But he turns around and shows how similar they are from *his* perspective.

This is where this adds credence to what I suggested some time ago. I do believe it will happen. I believe they will bring out a *new world* Bible, bringing in all the major religions. They're going to take some things out of:

- the Old Testament
- the New Testament
- the Buddha religion
- the Hindu religion
- Judaism
- Catholicism
- Orthodoxy
- Shamans
- Animist

Maybe even some wisdom of the Aborigines, the naked and rejected wanderers that stream all over the continent of Australia.

With regard to ethics and the emphasis on compassion, brotherhood, forgiveness, he acknowledged similarities, but in as much as Buddhism does not recognize a Creator God or a Personal Savior, he cautioned

against people calling themselves Buddhist Christians.

That's what we have today. We even have Buddhist Jews. There's a Buddhist Seder. Can you believe that?

...just as one should not try "to put a yak's head on a sheep's body."

That's what they are doing. Look at the society that they are developing. He's a very part of helping build it.

This stuff is unreal. Brethren, I want you to understand that we are living in the time when these things are being fulfilled before our very eyes. How many people are so sound asleep and spiritually dead that they can't recognize it? Yet, the apostles and all of those down through history wondered, 'What would these things be? How would these things be? Here we're sitting in the time when these men are alive and saying these things. This ought to give us a real sense of urgency what we're doing.'

Notice this beast that they're building here, Revelation 13:2: "And the beast that I saw was like a leopard... [the body of a leopard] ...and his feet like *the feet* of a bear... [Ever seen a leopard with bear's feet?] ...and his mouth like *the* mouth of a lion... [he probably had a lion's head] ...and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority."

So, the Dalai Lama says, 'One should not try to put a yak's head on a sheep's body.' Nor should you try and put a lion's head on a leopard, give him the feet of a bear, give him the mouth of a lion and let him speak like a man. This is unreal stuff.

Let me find some more in this book by the Dalai Lama. Here is the catch: *they base everything on feelings*. No one understands that demons base things on cause and induce feelings: depressions, joy, all those things. Now, listen to this.

For many Christians, attending ecumenical conferences, like going to church, is "no picnic." But, of course, feasting and celebration are as much a part of the symbolism and reality of Christianity as they are of all religions. Hearing the Dalai Lama comment on the Gospels was definitely a feast. What impressed and surprised everyone was how much the "outsider" touched them.

So, the demons were right there working.

The exile, the person with no authority over Christians except that which was given by the Spirit, was able to show

people of every faith the riches of their own banquet.

Isn't that an amazing statement? So what they did they asked him to come and comment on the Christian Gospels.

Introduction:

The Dalai Lama has also spoken about this factor of presence in the description of his meetings with Thomas Merton. It was this same chemistry of presence...

When there is a 'chemistry of presence,' it's two demons greeting each other with a purpose to work together.

...that ensured the meaningful dialogue.

Presence is one of the most important lessons *The Good Heart* has to teach us—Buddhists, Christians, and the followers of all faiths—if we are to learn a better way to respond to the contemporary challenge to dialogue....

Words cannot achieve a successful dialogue if presence is not there. And without this insight, words can go wildly wrong.

In his opening remarks, the Dalai Lama spoke about the importance of all the different forms of dialogue being practiced today between religions....

Since this book was printed, the Dalai Lama has been buddy-buddy with 'El Popo' John Paul II. Remember that picture, sitting in the meeting holding a candle? A candle is a symbol of worship of the fire-god, the sun-god. This is like demon spirits that link minds. It gives the presence.

...He affirmed the importance of scholarly dialogue. But he also said that he felt the most important and—to use a characteristic term for a Buddhist—the most effective dialogue was not intellectual exchange...

In other words, you don't use your mind.

...but a conversation between sincere practitioners from the position of their own faiths, a conversation that arises from a sharing of their respective practices.

This idea is common to Christian and Buddhist thinkers....

Not to Christ! Here was the reason for this meeting.

John Main's...

Who is the one who started it and who met the Dalai Lama and they had this instant presence.

...insistence that it was necessary for Christians to recover the contemplative dimension of their faith was based on the assertion that we must “verify the truths of our faith in our own experience.” What is new about this idea in the context of *The Good Heart* is that the concept is applied to dialogue between different faiths, and not just to the deepening of the discovery of one’s own traditional religious beliefs.

This is very challenging and, to many sincere practitioners, also disturbing. It suggests that there exists a universal, underlying level of common truth that can be accessed through different faiths....

The mystery of lawlessness!

...When people of different faiths are in experiential dialogue with one another, the truth can be experienced through their willing suspension of exclusivity toward one another.

Meaning that you let down your guard and you don’t keep to your faith! You reject the Word of God and you let in whatever you want!

If this is true, then does it follow that each particular faith is no more (no less?) than a particular door into the great audience chamber of Truth?....

Amazing! This is amazing stuff!

...If, as the Dalai Lama believes, the proof and authentication of all religion is the realization of a good heart...

What does God say about the heart? *‘It is desperately wicked, who can know it!’*

...a human being’s innate qualities of compassion and tolerance, the same standard can be applied to dialogue, which has today become an important work and activity of all religions.

In the past, religious action could be viewed more narrowly in terms of the celebration or exploration of one’s own beliefs or rituals. Today an additional element has entered human religious activity, as we enter with empathy and reverence into the beliefs and rituals of other faiths without adopting them as our own....

In other words, all the daughters get together, sit around and dialogue. Remember Mystery Babylon the Great the Mother of Harlots? *So, all the harlots are around, and they’re agreeing!* All of the little harlots are gathered around now, and they’re

discussing their experiences. They’re finding that they’ve had the same experience in *the mystery of lawlessness* as everybody else. Isn’t that wonderful and grand?

The fruit and authentication of this new activity, largely unknown to earlier generations of humanity or even regarded by them as disloyal and blasphemous, is the same as that of all religions: compassion and tolerance. Dialogue should make us not only feel better about others but also make us more conscious of ourselves and more true to our own essential goodness....

A ‘feel good’ religion.

Let me just finish the Dalai Lama with this. Please understand. I’m just reading certain sections out of this book. This book has nearly 200 pages in it. I’m just pointing out how you can detect *the mystery of lawlessness*. This will be the proof of the pudding.

One of my fundamental convictions is that basic human nature is more disposed toward compassion and affection. Basic human nature is gentle, not aggressive or violent. (wisdompubs.org/book/good-heart/selections)

Let’s read what Jesus says about basic human nature. If that is so, how come in your Buddhist countries you have such:

- hatred
- war
- ravage
- pestilence
- poverty
- darkness
- blindness
- stupidity

Go home and bring compassion and tolerance to them. Open their eyes to see the Truth of God, then you will do a good job. Don’t bring us your nonsense under the guise of a ‘good heart.’

Let’s go back to Gen. 6 and let’s see how God assesses it. Let’s see what happens when you have a society come all together under the occult, which is happening today. Occultism is *witchcraftism*. That is pervading the whole world in various forms. People can’t recognize it because they’re not familiar with it and they haven’t studied the Word of God to know that God says; that everyone who does these things are an abomination to Him, *‘and it shall not be found so among you.’*

Gen. 6—here’s how God looks at it. Remember:

- as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man
- how violent and hateful this world is
- all the murders, all the abortions
- all of the accidents
- the things that happen to people

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.”

Mankind may have moments of kindness and tolerance. He may be able to show some love and compassion, but his basic nature is not that way. If it's that way, then I ask the Dalai Lama, ‘Why do you have to spend your whole life in meditation trying to keep and discipline yourself in that way, if it is part of human nature?’

Genesis 8:21: “And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will not again curse the ground for man’s sake—although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will not again smite every living thing as I have done.’” That’s basic human nature. We could go on and on with it.

Human goodness, human carnality and making yourself better works for a while. Can you make yourself pleasant by putting away anger? *Yes, you can!* Does that remove anger from your heart? *No, it does not!* Can you become more tolerant by not picking at people? *Yes, you can!* You can also get deluded unto accepted things that are not right. Here’s what Jeremiah said and he was the only righteous man around.

Jeremiah 10:23: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; *it is* not in man who walks to direct his steps.... [speaking of himself] ...O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing” (vs 23-24).

Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

All basic Scriptures! Brethren, the way that you discover *the mystery of lawlessness* is to discover and to know these basic Scriptures and never forget them.

Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way which seems right to a man...” That means upright and just.

To these people here at this seminar having the Dalai Lama over there, going through the meditative experiences and hearing him talk about

Matthew 5-7—‘Love your neighbor as yourself’—reminds me of the Buddha expression, ‘Blah, blah, blah, blah.’ They were enthralled! The demons stirred them up! They thought this was a *wonderful* experience and here’s a man who doesn’t even believe in God. *Amazing!* It seemed right. It seemed good. It was so wonderful that they wrote a book on it. Isn’t that amazing?

“...but the end thereof *is* the way of death.” (vs 12). That’s repeated in Prov. 16:25: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.”

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes...” Because:

- he’s going to justify it
- he’s going to make it right
- he’s going to find a way around it

“...but the LORD weighs the spirits” (v 2).

We’ve done an awful lot on Catholicism in the past and I’ve got the pope’s book here. I saved him for last because he’s ‘the man.’ He is *the false prophet*, and he is the one who is going to lead all of them together. This is called *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by ‘his holiness’ so-called, Pope John Paul II. By the way, the Dalai Lama is called ‘his holiness,’ too. So, you have the spirits of the East and the spirits of the West getting together.

By the way, in listening to this tape I’m listening to about witchcraft, the only difference between the altar of the Catholic Church and the altar of witchcraft is that the altar in the Catholic Church no longer has the dagger there. It’s identical! He says what they practice is witchcraft! *No question about it!*

Why this book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*? The long and the short of it is, get to know the pope and don’t be afraid of him, which is an ecumenical propaganda statement. That’s the whole sum of it. Notice how slick this is.

[transcriber’s note: words in italic are from a moderator or questioner to the pope]

from *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by Pope John Paul II

(excerptsofinri.com/printable/crossing_the_threshold_ofhope-popejp2.pdf)

Your Holiness, my first question will go right to the point. Therefore, please understand if it is longer than those that follow. In front of me is a man dressed in the white of ancient custom, with a cross over his chest. This man who is called the Pope (from "father," in Greek) is a mystery in and of himself, a sign of contradiction. He is even considered a challenge or a

"scandal" to logic or good sense by many of our contemporaries.

I want you to see how clever this is done to knock down resistance.

Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the Vicar of Jesus Christ (and is accepted as such by believers). The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who "takes the place" of the Second Person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity.

Notice how they hold him in such a powerful office.

Each Pope regards his role with a sense of duty and humility, of course, but also with an equal sense of confidence. Catholics believe this and therefore they call him "Holy Father" or "Your Holiness."

Nevertheless, according to many others, this is an absurd and unbelievable claim...

Now he's knocking down all resistance of the Protestants and other religions to look to the pope as the religious leader.

The Pope, for them, is not God's representative. He is, instead, the surviving witness of ancient myths and legends that today the "adult" does not accept.

Give him a few miracles and how many will accept him? *They will run! They will go gaga!* Here's the pope's answer.

My explanation begins by clarifying words and concepts. Your question is infused with both a lively faith and a certain anxiety. I state right from the outset: "Be not afraid!" This is the same exhortation that resounded at the beginning of my ministry in the See of Saint Peter.

Christ addressed this invitation many times to those He met. The angel said to Mary: "Be not afraid!" (cf. Lk 1:30). The same was said to Joseph: "Be not afraid!" (cf. Mt 1:20). Christ said the same to the apostles, to Peter, in various circumstances, and especially after His Resurrection. He kept telling them: "Be not afraid!"....

I want you to notice how he's twisting Scripture. He's stating 'truisms,' which are part of *the mystery of lawlessness*. You state things that are true and then you misapply them.

He sensed, in fact, that they were afraid. They were not sure if who they saw was the same Christ they had known. They were afraid when He was arrested; they

were even more afraid after his Resurrection.

The words Christ uttered are repeated by the Church. *And with the Church, they are repeated by the Pope.* I have done so since the first homily I gave in St. Peter's Square: "Be not afraid!" These are not words said into a void. They are profoundly rooted in the Gospel. They are simply the words of Christ Himself.

Isn't that wonderful? The pope quotes Christ and of *the mystery of lawlessness*, outside of Protestantism. I'm going to save Protestantism for the next time because that will require the whole sermon. There is a lot we can cover there. Catholicism is next to the most important one and everyone is running to the Catholic Church.

Returning to your question, I would like to recall the words of Christ together with my first words in St. Peter's Square: "Be not afraid." Have no fear when people call me the "Vicar of Christ,"...

They ought to because that's a blasphemous title.

...when they say to me "Holy Father," or "Your Holiness," or use titles similar to these, which seem even inimical to the Gospel. Christ himself declared: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah" (Mt 23:9-10). These expressions, nevertheless, have evolved out of a long tradition, becoming part of common usage. One must not be afraid of these words either.

In other words, he's saying, 'Do not be afraid to disobey God to follow me.' Think on it! Most people read those things and it sails over their head. They don't know how to read critically or analyze critically or understand things critically.

Every time Christ exhorts us to have no fear, He has both God and man in mind. He means: *Do not be afraid of God*, who, according to philosophers, is the transcendent Absolute....

So now, he's bringing in philosophies. What did Paul say? ***'Let no man deceive you with philosophy and vain deceit.'***

...Do not be afraid of God, but invoke Him with me: "Our Father" (Mt 6:9). *Do not be afraid to say "Father"!* Desire to be perfect just as He is, because He is perfect. "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48).

Christ is the *sacrament of the invisible God*-a sacrament that indicates presence....

Did we read presence over here in this book on *The Good Heart* with the Buddha? Yes!

...God is with us. God, infinitely perfect, is not only with man, but He Himself became a man in Jesus Christ. *Do not be afraid of God who became a man!*....

You quote Scripture like that and with the little slight of hand to misapply it, most people never even get it. 'Spin control.' You bet!

Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit, *Christ could have confidence in Peter*, He could *lean on him*...

Come on! Spare me!

...on him and on all the other apostles-even on Paul, who still persecuted Christians and hated the name Jesus.

Against this background, a historical background, expressions such as "Supreme Pontiff," "Your Holiness," and "Holy Father" are of little importance....

They are of vast importance.

...What is important originates in the Death and Resurrection of Christ.

He makes the statement:

What is important is that which comes from the power of the Holy Spirit.

and they don't mean that the way that we do.

For example, Peter, together with the other apostles, and (after his conversion) Paul became *authentic witnesses of Christ, faithful unto the shedding of their blood.*

You rightly assert that *the Pope is a mystery*. You rightly assert that he is a *sign that will be contradicted*, that he is a *challenge*.

Then the pope takes that to himself because the old man Simon said of Christ Himself that He would be a sign that would be contradicted. So, therefore, as the vicar of Christ, sitting there in place of Christ, he takes it that way. I'm coming to where all this is going to lead.

The Mother of God

The renewal of Marian theology and devotion-in continuity with Catholic tradition-is another distinctive characteristic of the teaching and pastoral

activity of John Paul II. Totus Tuus ("I am completely yours, O Mary")...

That's what those Latin words mean.

...is the motto you chose for your papacy. Furthermore, for some time now there have been rumors and reports of mysterious apparitions and messages of the Virgin Mary; as in earlier centuries, crowds of people are setting out on pilgrimage. Your Holiness, what can you tell us about this?

Totus Tuus. This phrase is not only an expression of piety, or simply an expression of devotion. It is more. During the Second World War, while I was employed as a factory worker, I came to be attracted to Marian devotion. At first, it had seemed to me that I should distance myself a bit from the Marian devotion of my childhood, in order to focus more on Christ. Thanks to Saint Louis of Montfort, I came to understand that true *devotion to the Mother of God is actually Christocentric, indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity*...

Which is part of the 'mystery of lawlessness.'

...and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption. And so, I rediscovered Marian piety, this time with a deeper understanding. This mature form of devotion to the Mother of God has stayed with me over the years, bearing fruit in the encyclicals *Redemptoris Mater* and *Mulieris Dignitatem*.

In regard to Marian devotion, each of us must understand that such devotion not only addresses a need of the heart, a sentimental inclination, but that it also corresponds to the objective truth about the Mother of God. Mary is the new Eve, placed by God in close relation to Christ, the new Adam, beginning with the Annunciation, through the night of His birth in Bethlehem, through the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, through the Cross at Calvary, and up to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Mother of Christ the Redeemer is the Mother of the Church.

That's where the Catholic 'mystery of iniquity' leads to! There are books and books on Catholic stuff; you can read those. All are those are basically true.

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Deuteronomy 1:26-46
- 2) James 2:8-12
- 3) Jude 3-4
- 4) 1-Peter 1:12-18
- 5) Revelation 17:5
- 6) Revelation 18:3
- 7) John 14:6
- 8) Revelation 13:2
- 9) Genesis 6:5
- 10) Genesis 8:21
- 11) Jeremiah 10:23-24
- 12) Jeremiah 17:9
- 13) Proverbs 14:12
- 14) Proverbs 16:25, 2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Jeremiah 31:33
- Hebrews 8; 10
- Matthew 5-7; 5:48

Also referenced:

Books:

- *Primitive Christianity in Crisis* by Alan Knight
- *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried & Goldin
- *Sunday Facts and Sabbath Fiction* by Russell Tardo
- *The Good Heart: A Buddhist Respective on the Teachings of Jesus* by Dalai Lama
- *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* by His Holiness Pope John Paul II
(excerptsofinri.com/printable/crossing_the_threshold_ofhope-popejprii.pdf)

Sermon Series:

- *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*
- *Seven Church Harvest*
- *Epistle to the Galatians: Circumcision Wars*
- *The Holy Sabbath*
- *Hebrews*

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Mystery of Lawlessness IV How Iniquity Can Affect the Church of God #3

Fred R. Coulter

In this sermon we will essentially cover Protestantism. Many of the things concerning Catholicism we've already covered and know how pagan they are.

Let's begin this by going to Gal. 1, because here is what happens with the *mystery of lawlessness*. They do have some of the laws of God, which they keep and profess, but then they reject mainly the Sabbath, Holy Days and idolatry. Then they *add in their other own* writing.

The Catholics, in particular, have what are called the 'church fathers.' The church fathers are the ones who were the Gnostics at the end of the first century and the beginning of the second century, where they were changing the doctrines over to what eventually became the Catholic Church.

In Protestantism we see there was beginning with it a move away from Catholicism because it got so absolutely corrupt. Even though you're involved right in the middle of *the mystery of iniquity* of Catholicism, you could see how absolutely wrong that it was.

All of this began back here in Gal. 1, because Satan is in a war against the Church. One of the ways he attacks it, when he cannot come against people to kill them openly, is by stealth to attack doctrine and to pervert the Gospel.

Galatians 1:6: "I am astonished..." Paul wrote this in 52-53^{AD}. So, it started early on. This is why in the end-time that true doctrine from the Scriptures is so important. Jesus said that when He would come to the earth, 'would He find the faith, meaning the true faith that He originally delivered and gave to His apostles?

So, Paul was "...astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ" (vs 6-7).

What Paul is really saying here is that there is only one true Gospel of Jesus Christ, which He brought and that the apostles taught. ***There is no other Gospel!*** When people pervert it, they even use Scripture. That's the thing that is so confounding which many people do not understand or realize.

Verse 8: "But if ***we***..." Paul is including the brethren here,

Verse 2: "And ***all the brethren who are with me***..." *We* also includes the apostles because

later on he takes on Peter who was beginning to pervert the Gospel by going back to Judaism; which was a hard thing to do if you're an apostle to the circumcised. It's easy to get wrapped up in that.

Verse 8: "...or even an angel from heaven..." This covers something very important because what has been told to many people is that after Christ rose from the dead the angels gave the message, which then formed the basis of Gnosticism. So, they claimed that angels were revealing these things; meaning that demons were. "...or even an angel from heaven..." even an angel from God. ***If*** Gabriel came, who was an angel who he said 'stands in the presence of God,' if he came and brought another gospel:

"...should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!" (v 8). Here, Paul is bring anathema to angels and men as well.

Verse 9: "As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!" Here he's bringing anathema to angels and men, as well.

We saw this happen even within the Church of God even by the so-called apostle of God who changed the Gospel. Many people didn't even recognize it or understand it.

- How did he change the Gospel?
- What is the Gospel?
- *The Gospel is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of the coming Kingdom of God!*

It was subtly changed from the Gospel of Christ to the gospel of 'give and get.' That is perverting the Gospel. Did it bring a curse upon the Church? *Yes, it did!* It has almost been wiped from the face of the earth, from what we've understood from the past.

He also said that once he gave this message to the leaders, then the leaders were responsible to preaching it to the masses of their people. Nowhere in the Scriptures do you find that that was authorized to do. That is one of the major perversions of the Gospel that took place. There were others that took place, which we won't get into.

It brings a curse. The reason this was done was so that this apostle, as he was called, would be able to have entrance into the kings and leaders of the world. So, he modified the Gospel as he was counseled by his 'right-hand councilman,' so that he

could get in and preach to them. What happened was that they ended up *pleasing men*.

Do you think that the Apostle Paul would go in and sit down and have a jolly nice dinner—with many toasts and friendship talk—with the king of Thailand, knowing that he was the head of the Buddhist religion in Thailand, and that every year his official duty was to change the clothes of the official state idol? Do you think the Apostle Paul would come in there and talk to him about the gospel of ‘give and get’? or Do you think the Apostle Paul would call him to repentance and to stop his idolatry?

Verse 10: “Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Because the Truth hurts! The Truth cuts and people don’t like the Truth!

Rather than repenting when they hear the Truth, they want to defend their own actions. If you try and please people, rather than please God... Paul, ended up all alone when he was finished. He said, ‘All of those in Asia have left me.’ Everyone wanted to end up with *a gospel that pleased men*. That’s exactly what has happened to Protestantism. I think we will see how powerful that is.

2-Corinthians 2:17: “For we are not like the many...” When Paul uses the word ‘many,’ that means that there were a lot of people going around there. We have the same thing today. We have literally hundreds of thousands that corrupt the Word of God. They can get on the Internet and say anything they want to and affect many people all around the world just anytime anyone wants to click onto the website.

“...who for *their own* profit are corrupting the Word of God...” (v 17). How do they corrupt the Word of God? *By giving false interpretations!* The main way they do it is by saying that God didn’t mean what He said. He says, concerning themselves:

“...but we speak with sincerity, as from God, *and* before God, *and* in Christ” (v 17).

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 a continuing thing of putting down human nature, but in handling the Word of God it means that they are handling it properly.

“...not walking in *cunning* craftiness...” (v 2). That is having a secret agenda.

There was a Seventh-Day Adventist minister in Holland who took his congregation and went to a Catholic Church on Sunday and the Seventh-Day

Adventist minister got up there and gave the Roman Catholic Mass right in the Catholic Church. That could not be done unless he was a Jesuit; absolutely could not be done. He received a mild reprimand and then a promotion, which is you move him to another area.

“...nor handling the Word of God deceitfully...” (v 2). That’s exactly what happens in all of these cases. We’re going to see some of that. That’s why this is called *the mystery of iniquity*, in 2-Thess. 2. The Greek behind it is ‘anomia’ which means *lawlessness*.

“...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; in whom **the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe**, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them” (vs 2-4).

Then Paul talks about false apostles in 2-Cor. 11, who come as ‘ministers of light’ and ‘ministers of righteousness,’ but they are workers of Satan the devil.

Jude is really a powerful little book, showing what was really taking place. If this exhortation was given to them at that time, just think how much more this applies to us.

Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled...”—which means *obligated* before God and Christ.

“...to write to you, **exhorting you to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all time has been delivered to the saints**” (v 3). Today, that is even much more powerful for us.

I just read a report that said that the American people today are:

- so complacent
- so set in the things that they are doing
- so mesmerized by prosperity and peace

—that they don’t understand what is happening. They don’t want to hear anything bad and negative. They don’t want to be told the truth. He put in there that nearly all of the conservative preaching ministries that are out there, have fallen off by 75% in income. Can you imagine that? *People don’t want to hear it!*

With us today, it is so easy to let little things—problems, difficulties, cares of this life—to crowd in so that we don’t apply ourselves to the vocation of maintaining our relationship with God. Today, v 3 applies to us more profoundly than back then.

Verse 4: “For certain men have **stealthily crept in...**” We didn’t know it; they came in. We’ve had different ones down through the years even try it with us. I think 1995 at the Feast of Tabernacles was a great assault against us. It was really a tremendous battle going on. They want to come in because they hate Sabbath-keepers. They hate the Truth of God. They want to establish their own ecumenical thing.

“...those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment...” (v 4). The KJV says, ‘who were *before* ordained to this condemnation.’ It means who were *written of before*, of old or “...who long ago have been written about...” in Isa., Jer., Ezek, and the other Prophets.

“...*They are* ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ (v 4). We’re going to see how they changed this into lasciviousness.

I’m going to read you a quote of Martin Luther. I remember the first time that I ever heard something akin to this was from a woman who talked to a Baptist woman who said that ‘once saved, always saved.’ In other words, this is what is called in Protestantism ‘eternal security.’ Once you are saved, you can never be lost. That is completely against Scripture. Paul says that those who have *sinned willfully*, are looking forward to the ‘fiery indignation,’ which we know is the second death in the Lake of Fire.

This woman told her, ‘Oh, I don’t have to even worry about any of the laws of God; I’m saved, and nothing can take me away from the Lord.’ So she said, ‘Okay. Let me ask you a question. If you were in the middle of an act of committing adultery and it was time for the rapture—in other words, using their own theories—would you be taken away in the rapture?’ She said, ‘Yes, I would, absolutely.’

Where did this thinking come from? *I’ll tell you; it came from Martin Luther!* Martin Luther’s real attempt was to reform the Catholic Church, but He couldn’t reform the Catholic Church so what he did was he carried over into it. He never got to the point of really even understanding about the Sabbath and Holy Days. I think that there was one point in his life where he came close. Here’s what he wrote concerning what is called ‘eternal security’:

Quote from Martin Luther (letter No. 99, Aug. 1, 1521, The Wittenberg Project, The Wartburg Segment)
<http://beggarsallreformation.blogspot.com/2005/12/luther-be-sinner-and-let-your-sins-be.html>

“Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin,

death, and the world. We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides... No sin can separate us from Him, even if we were to kill or commit adultery thousands of times each day.”

That is lasciviousness, because ‘by grace we are saved, through faith,’ but we are not saved *in* our sins, we are saved *from* our sins. This kind of thing is being saved *in your sins*. We’re going to see that Tyndale is a little different and he was martyred. We’ll see why.

Let’s come to Rom. 5 to show that sin brings wrath and sin brings death: ***The wages of sin is death!*** That’s what Luther’s talking about right here, sinning a thousand times a day. Can you imagine if you killed a thousand people each day that you think you would be saved? I don’t think anyone has the energy to commit adultery a thousand times a day, but I suppose in battle you could kill a thousand people every day. That means that when we understand it, if that be true, the SS Gestapo are the sons of God, because they killed how many Jews during the Holocaust? That means that the troops of Stalin—who believed in Orthodoxy and killed many people—are the sons of God *because ‘once saved, always saved.’* That cannot be!

Romans 5:6: “For even when we were without strength, at the appointed time Christ died for *the* ungodly.... [not so they can continue in their ungodliness] ...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 to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (vs 6-8)—to bring us out of sin. Christ said several times in the Gospels, ‘Go and sin no more.’

Verse 9: “Much more, therefore, having been justified now by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 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” (vs 9-10). That is only if you:

- understand about baptism
- receive the proper baptism
- the Holy Spirit
- walk in grace and knowledge
- continue keeping the commandments of God

That’s how you’re going to be saved. We covered that many times.

Let’s see what Tyndale had to say. I believe if he had not been martyred—I’ll have to say that

this is my opinion—just reading what he wrote here in what is called *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*, where he says that ‘*the way you understand the Holy Scriptures is the plain sense of what it means.*’ You don’t give allegories to it, you don’t add to it, you don’t take away from it, you understand exactly what it says. He says here, concerning Christ:

From: *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*
by William Tyndale:

(<http://www.newmatthewbible.org/pathway.html>)

Things to keep in mind and memory

These things are important to know:

First, the law, and that it is natural righteousness and equity

Or as we would say today, equitable. Far contrary to what Luther was preaching.

That we have but one God to put our hope and trust in, and we are to love him with all the heart, all the soul, and all our might and power....

We are not to move heart nor hand but at his commandment...

Don’t add to or take away from, that’s what he’s saying.

...because he first created us from nothing, and heaven and earth for our sakes. And afterwards, when we had marred ourselves through sin, he forgave us and created us again in the blood of his beloved Son.

Let’s go to Eph. 2 and see exactly what he’s talking about, showing that he understood this. He wrote this, I believe, two years before his martyrdom. I forget the exact year of his martyrdom: 1532 or 1534. Remember, he published the first New Testament in 1525. So, that’s just a period of nine years.

What he did is he translated this to send it to England and he caused the Reformation to take place in England because of what he wrote. It started off on a different footing than the Reformation in Germany. You can see how that Luther ended up. Sooner or later, all Protestantism came to that. Had William Tyndale lived longer, I believe he would have fully embraced the Sabbath and Holy Days. You’ll see when I read some of the other things about how to understand the Scriptures. What happened was, they twisted and turned it.

Romans 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not **of your own selves...**”—meaning, it doesn’t come from within you. You don’t love God so that you have a warm feeling in your heart so that you can

make up your own laws and rules, and so forth. You can’t do that. You love God so you can keep His commandments. “...not of your own selves...”—so *anything you have comes from God!*

“...it is the gift of God... [this is what he is talking about here with the gifts of God] ...not of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, being in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works...” (vs 8-10).

Tyndale talks about that we are ‘created us again in the blood of His beloved Son.’ He understood that that God was creating in us His Holy, righteous and perfect character.

“...that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10).

That we are to hold the name of our one God in fear and reverence, and that we are not to dishonor his name in swearing by it about light trifles or vanities, or call it to record for the confirming of wickedness or falsehood or anything that is to the dishonor of God—which is the breaking of his laws...

Showing that he believed that you shouldn’t sin after you’ve been saved.

...or doing what tends to hurt our neighbor.

Isn’t it very interesting that you hear a lot about Luther when you get into Protestantism, but you hear very little about William Tyndale. This is why; what I’m reading to you right now:

And inasmuch as he is our Lord and God and we are his double possession, by creation and redemption, and therefore we ought not (as I said) to move heart or hand without his commandment, it is right to have needful holy days to come together....

I believe he was on the verge of accepting them. First he translated the New Testament, which he didn’t understand the Holy Days at that time, I’m convinced, but then he translated the Old Testament and he got half of it translated before he was martyred. I think that if he would have finished the whole thing, we would have seen this thought concerning ‘needful Holy Days,’ to come to fruition concerning the Sabbath and true Holy Days of God.

...These times are to learn his will—both the law which he will have us ruled by, and also the promises of mercy upon which he will have us place our trust; and to give thanks together to God for his mercy; and to commit our infirmities ...

Infirmities means weakness of human nature.

...to him through our Savior Jesus; and to reconcile ourselves to him and to each other, if anything has come between brother and brother that requires it. And only for such purposes, and such as visiting the sick and needy and redressing peace and unity, were the holy days ordained, and to this extent they are to be kept holy from all manner of work that may be conveniently let go for the time, until these be done and no further; but then lawfully to work.

That is, after that.

And even so, he who trusts in anything except God and his Son Jesus Christ keeps no commandment at all in the sight of God. For he that has trust in any creature, whether in heaven or in earth, except God and his Son Jesus, can see no reason to love God with all his heart &c., nor to abstain from dishonoring his name, nor to keep the holy day for the love of his doctrine, nor to obey lovingly the rulers of this world; nor any reason to love his neighbor as himself or abstain from hurting him if and when he may get some profit by him while keeping himself safe. And likewise, I may obey no worldly power against the law to love my neighbor as myself, if to do anything at any man's commandment would be to the hurt of my neighbor who has not deserved it, even if he is a Turk [of a Muslim tribe, generally fierce and marauding].

Turk in the 1500s means the Turks they pushed back from invading Europe.

And to know how contrary this law is to our nature, and understand that it is condemnation not to have this law written in our hearts even though we never commit the forbidden deeds...

The Protestants claim that they are preaching the New Covenant. What I want to point out is that had they followed Tyndale instead of Luther, I think that the whole history would be entirely different. What Tyndale is saying here is that we are to have these **laws written in our hearts and in our minds**, which is the New Covenant.

Hebrews 10:16: “‘This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,’ says *the* Lord: ‘I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds’”—which is the total opposite of what Luther said.

If you had God's laws written in your heart and in your mind, you could never do as Luther said,

‘No sin can separate us from Him, even if we were to kill or commit adultery a thousand times each day.’ There are a lot of people who like to read that and like to say, ‘Oh, yes. That's good. We like that.’

Revelation 21:8: “But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators...” Which is adultery a thousand times a day. Would you not say that's whoremongering? *Yes!*

“...and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone; which is *the* second death” (v 8). **No salvation!**

And to know how contrary this law is to our nature...

That's why God had to command it.

...and understand that it is condemnation not to have this law written in our hearts even though we never commit the forbidden deeds; and how there is no other way to be saved from this condemnation than through repentance toward the law and faith in Christ's blood, which are the very inward baptism of our souls....

That is being converted.

...Of these, the washing and the dipping of our bodies in the water are the outward sign.

The outward plunging of the body under water signifies that we repent inwardly, and that we profess to fight against sin and lusts and to kill them every day more and more with the help of God...

These are the writings, I believe, of a converted man. It could not be anything other.

...and with our diligence in following the doctrine of Christ and the leading of his Spirit. It also signifies that we believe ourselves to be washed from the natural condemnation in which we are born...

The ‘law of sin and death.’

...and from all the wrath of the law and from all the infirmities and weaknesses that yet remain in us after we have consented to the law...

Just like Paul, ‘I consent to the law that it is good, it is holy, it is true, its righteous.’ What does it do? *It points out that I, personally, am a sinner!*

...and yielded ourselves to be students thereof....

Yield ourselves to understand the law and the Word

of God.

...And we believe ourselves to be washed from all the imperfectness of all our deeds done with cold love, and from all actual sins which chance upon us while we try to do differently and fight against them, hoping to sin no more.

Quite different from Luther.

Thus repentance and faith begin at our baptism and when we first profess the laws of God. They continue unto our life's end, and grow as we grow in the Spirit: for the more perfect we are, the greater is our repentance and the stronger our faith....

That's why those who know the Truth of God, the longer you have God's Spirit, the more that you're going to be in a constant attitude of repentance because you understand what human nature really is and there are the pulls of the flesh that you're dealing with.

This is very interesting what William Tyndale wrote. This is for our edification today. I know in reading many of the things that he wrote I get very inspired. You can tell that it's the Spirit of God motivating him to do it. That's one of the reasons why he was martyred. You've seen the video *The Indestructible Book*. I've seen that perhaps 30 or 40 times. Maybe more. It inspires me every time I see it.

And thus, as the Spirit and doctrine on God's part and repentance and faith on our part, beget us anew in Christ....

Are we begotten anew? *Yes!* That's what Peter said. Tyndale does use 'born again' in other places, but I think toward the end of his life he's got it more closely defined than when he first started.

1-Peter 1:2: "*Who have been chosen according to the predetermined knowledge of God the Father, by sanctification through the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*" (vs 2-3). William Tyndale knew that.

...they also make us grow ever more perfect and save us unto the end; and never leave us until all sin be put off and we are clean purified and full formed and fashioned after the similitude and likeness of the perfection of our Savior Jesus, whose gift all is.

And finally, to know that whatsoever good thing is in us, it is the gift of grace and therefore not a result of our deserving the same...

In other words, God was not obligated to give it to us.

...although many things are given by God which otherwise would not be, through our diligence in working his laws and chastising our bodies, praying for them and believing his promises; still, our working does not mean we deserve these gifts any more than the diligence of a merchant in seeking a good ship brings the goods safely to land, although such diligence does now and then assist. But when we believe in God and then do all we can in our strength, and do not test him, then he is true to his promise to help us. And he will perform alone when our strength is past.

In other words, this is totally the opposite of what Luther wrote.

Conclusion

To know these things, I say, is to have all the scripture unlocked and opened before you...

In other words, he's saying that this is the only way you're going to understand the Scriptures because this is taken from *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*.

...so that if you will go in and read, you cannot but understand. And to be ignorant in these things is to have all the scripture locked up...

If you reject it it's going to be locked up and you won't understand it.

...so that the more you read it, the blinder you are and the more contrariety you find in it...

That is if you approach it from a carnal point of view.

...and the more tangled you become in it, to be unable to find the way through it. For if you have a gloss in one place, in another place it will not serve. And therefore because we are never taught the profession of our baptism we remain always unlearned—as much the spiritual leaders for all their great clergy and high learning (so-called) as the lay people.

In other words, all the clergy of the Catholic Church.

And now, because the lay and unlearned people are taught these first principles of our profession, they read the scripture and understand and delight in it. And our great pillars of the holy church, who have nailed a veil of false glosses on Moses' face...

In other words, covering up the laws of God.

...to corrupt the true understanding of his law, cannot come in. And therefore they bark and say the scripture makes heretics. And it is not possible for them to understand the scripture in English because they do not understand it in Latin. And from pure malice, because they cannot have their way, they slay their brethren for their faith in our Savior—and thereby show forth their bloody wolfish tyranny and what they are within, and whose disciples they are.

Herewith, reader, be committed unto the grace of our Savior Jesus, to whom, and to God our Father through him, be praise forever and forever. Amen

That's how he finished *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture*, giving people the understanding that follows along right with this Psalm.

Let's go to Psalms 111:7: "The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever; they are done in truth and uprightness. He sent redemption unto His people; He has commanded His covenant forever; Holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever" (vs 7-10). That's just what William Tyndale said.

Tyndale was giving the correct understanding and he died for the Word of God and the testimony that he held. It's just a very sorrowful thing that the world did not follow through, especially the English people, did not follow through with what he wrote. A lot of the clergy that came into the Anglican Church were just warmed over Catholics. There was a raging war between the time of the martyrdom of William Tyndale in 1534 and before King James said we need to up-grade the Bible and the *King James Version* was put out. Remember this: Ninety percent of the *King James Version* of the Bible is the translation of William Tyndale.

I want you to see a comparison of some of the doctrines of Protestantism in the Churches of God. These are not all the doctrines. It doesn't cover the 'rapture,' which the rapture is an insidious counterfeit of God taking some of His people to a

place of safety. That's why the Protestants go along with the same attitude as Luther, that we're comfortable in our sins and the grace of God will help us and when the rapture comes we'll all be raptured away and we'll be taken away from the Tribulation and we won't have to face it. That isn't even listed here.

This is done by Steve Goff whose home I stayed in when I was in New Zealand, Christian Biblical Church of God. I'm not going to go through and read the whole thing. He has 14 points in the differences between Protestantism and the Truth of the Bible or the True doctrines of the Churches of God.

Not all Churches of God believe in keeping the Holy Days. The Church of God Seventh-Day doesn't and so forth. That's why you still have to keep searching. These are the things that are the signs of the Church of God and the differences between the Truth of the Scripture and the lawlessness of Protestantism.

from: *Fourteen Points in the Differences Between Protestantism and the Truth of the Bible* by Steve Goff:

1. Sabbath:

Church of God: That's the Seventh day of the week. The Day Christ, the Creator, made by resting and the day which He said, 'He is the Lord.' The New Testament Church kept the Sabbath for around three centuries until Emperor Constantine enforced the observance of Sunday.

This will be a quick good summary of all the sermons that I've done concerning *Refuting Sunday-Keeping* and *The Holy Sabbath*.

Protestantism is Sunday: That's the day of the sun and is celebrated by pagans in honor of the sun god. Of course, that's what Constantine worshipped and the cross by which he said he was to fight was not a Christian symbol, but a pagan symbol.

(go to the next track)

2. Holy Days of God:

Church of God: Leviticus 23 and the New Testament Church kept these days until the false church substituted pagan days and forced out the true Christians.

We have seen how cleverly that was done.

Back then it said that when Sunday first began they kept Sabbath and Sunday.

Protestantism: Is that not what they did here just this last few years in going from Sabbath to Sunday? *Yes!* Then Gradually,

they said, ‘Okay, we’re going to keep Sunday and everyone who wants to keep Sabbath is out.’ Then what they do is they re-write the history so that it appear that Sunday was *always* the day. Protestantism: keeps all the pagan holidays.

3. The Law is established:

Church of God: God keeps the Laws of God. Christ said He did not come to do away with His Father’s Law, but to make it more binding and honorable.

I have a long section of that, that’s in *A Harmony of the Gospels*.

Rom. 3 is a very powerful Scripture for you to use when you connect it with Heb. 10:16, that through the grace of God you establish the Law.

Romans 3:31: “Are we, then, abolishing *the* law through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the* Law.” If anyone comes and tells you that by grace the Law is done away, remember Rom. 3:31, you ‘establish the Law.’ Why? ‘It’s written in your heart and your mind’ (Heb. 10:16). That’s how you establish the Law; it is not done away. ‘What is sin?’ *The transgression of the law!* One of the first things we learn.

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound?... [Luther says yes; Paul says...]: ...MAY IT NEVER BE! We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein?” (vs 1-2). I submit to you that if you:

- murder or commit adultery a 1000 times a day
- steal a 1000 times a day
- lie a 1000 times a day
- dishonor your mother and father a 1000 times a day
- bow down to idols a 1000 times a day

You are living in sin! There can be no way around it.

Verse 2: “We who died to sin... [through the covenant baptism] ...live any longer therein. Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?... [exactly what Tyndale was teaching] ...Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death; so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life....” (vs 2-4)—not the old sins.

Verse 5: “For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be *in the likeness* of His resurrection. Knowing this,

that our old man was co-crucified with *Him*... [that’s the operation of baptism] ...in order that the body of sin... [which is the law of ‘sin and death’ within us.] ...might be destroyed...” (vs 5-6). Showing that it’s a process, even as Tyndale understood.

“...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin*... [dead to sin through baptism] ...has been justified from sin” (vs 6-7). That’s quite the opposite of the Protestant doctrine. We’ll have more about this concerning the Law.

Protestantism: The Law is abolished. The Law is abolished and they actually believe it came to an end. They actually believe that Christ, in John 5, abolished the Sabbath. Protestants say the law has been abolished thereby making a liar of Him Whom they profess to believe. They say the New Testament teaches that Christ was the end of the Law, when the true meaning in the Greek is that Christ was the goal of the Law. In any case, you cannot negate Christ’s own statement that He did not come to do away with the Law.

4. The Mortal Soul:

Church of God: That’s what the Church teaches and believes. “The soul that sins, it shall die,” and only Christ has immortality.

When He was raised from the dead and we’re waiting for the resurrection.

It’s still a mystery to me how these Catholic and Protestant ministers can preach a funeral sermon and say that they’re up in heaven looking down on us now but they wait the resurrection. That’s a contradiction in terms. If they’re already in heaven there’s no need for a resurrection. If there’s no need for a resurrection, then Christ didn’t have to be raised.

1-Corinthians 15:16: “For if *the* dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. But if Christ has not been raised, your faith *is* vain; you are still in your sins” (vs 16-17).

That’s exactly what it is with Protestantism. They think that they are saved from their sins, but if they believe in the immortality of the soul—though they may believe in the resurrection of Christ—they’re still in their sin.

Verse 18: “And those who have fallen asleep in Christ have then perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable. But now Christ has been raised from *the* dead; He has become the Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by

Man also *came the* resurrection of *the* dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order..." (vs 18-23).

We talk about that on the Last Great Day: the first resurrection, the second resurrection, the resurrection of the wicked.

Showing the resurrection from the dead, v 42: "So also *is the resurrection of the dead*.... [there it is] ...It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.... [there's no immortality of the soul] ...It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (vs 42-44). It doesn't say soul—does it?

Verse 45: "Accordingly, it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul...'." Not that he had one, but he *was* one—"the soul that sins shall die." Did Adam die? *Yes!*

"...the last Adam *became* an ever-living Spirit" (v 45). When did that take place? *At the resurrection when Christ was raised from the dead!*

Verse 46: "However, the spiritual *was* not first, but the natural—then the spiritual. The first man *is* of the earth—made of dust. The second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *one*, so also *are all* those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *One*" (vs 46-49). We have to be changed. There's only one time that will take place.

Verse 50: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed, In an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (vs 50-52).

If you already have an immortal soul within you, then you don't need any of this. You already have immortality, but that contradicts:

Verse 53: "For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal must put on immortality." Clearly saying that *no one* has an immortal soul.

Verse 54: "Now when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"

As Steve Goff wrote, that comes from Satan when he told Eve, 'You shall not surely die.'

5. Church of God is the Family of God

Church of God: The Bible teaches that God and Christ are a family composed of Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is the power by which They operate and those who have been begotten, and have the Spirit of God, will at the resurrection, join the family of God.

Protestantism follows right along with Catholicism and belief in a trinity.

They believe either in one being or three beings or three beings in one, exactly the same as the Catholics.

6. God is a personal being

Church of God: We can say, made in the image of God as God said, meaning form and shape and the Bible shows that God has eyes and hands and arms and legs and feet, a body, hair, fingers, etc.

Remember when the booklet *God Is* came out? What was it explaining? *It was saying that God is transcended everywhere, which is a pagan philosophy and that God is in everything!* That's the whole root belief of Hinduism; that every living thing has part of God in it. Therefore, it is God. Therefore, you can't kill it.

I recently watched a program on the Discovery Channel. I'd seen part of it in the past. It was showing about rats in the world. There are more rats than human beings. They got down and showed what it's like in the sewers. My, what's going on down there is amazing! The cockroaches and rats and the cockroaches are eaten by the rats.

Then it went to India and showed how that there is this temple to this female goddess and she has been reincarnated in rats. So, there is a temple that has rats everywhere in it. Everyone—to do their good works so they could eventually get to whatever reward they're going to get—brings food to the rats. There are priests who are so kind and good that they break up the food for the rats so they can eat it. All of that is based on the immortality of the soul, you don't believe God is a *personal* Being. I have a sermon on that, *Is Your God a Glob?*

7. The Passover:

We've got a whole book written on that.

Protestantism have communion or the Lord's Supper.

Which is just a take-off of the Eucharist. Whatever their Church doctrine says, they can take it quarterly, weekly or whatever. The Catholics say, 'Phooey on

that. Come and have it every day.'

8. Afterlife—heaven:

Church of God: Heaven is coming to the earth. The Kingdom of God is coming here. You can read Rev. 21. Where is New Jerusalem coming to? *Coming to the earth!* The saints are going to *reign and priests on the earth!*

Protestantism: *Afterlife, heaven:* Protestants teach that at death, the saved go straight to heaven, and yet, John says, 'No man has ascended into heaven,' and Peter said, 'David has not ascended into heaven.'

We just covered the things in 1-Cor. 15.

9. Afterlife—Hell:

Church of God: The afterlife, hell. Scriptures say, 'The soul that sins, it shall die.' 'The wages of sin is death,' not eternal life in hellfire, 'but the gift of God is eternal life.'

Protestantism: The afterlife. There is hell. The Protestants twist the Scriptures to support the doctrine inherited from Catholicism that the unsaved don't die but have eternal life in hellfire.

Even the worst sinner of Protestantism has never been consigned to hell. Has anyone ever heard a sermon preached by Protestant ministers saying that this person now is in hell and I can hear his flesh popping and cracking? *No!* They say, 'Oh, he's in heaven.' At least the Catholics try to make a little sense out of it. They say, 'Babies that die don't go to hell and burn, they go to purgatory.' There's a special compartment in purgatory for babies, but you have to have a certain number M that you pay for in order to get them out of purgatory—the baby section.

10. Salvation:

Church of God: The people who keep the Holy Days of God know there are two harvests. The first small harvest. The Firstfruits in the present age and later great harvest at the end of the Millennium.

Protestantism believes that this is the only day of salvation and those who are not saved in this life, even if they never heard of Christ, are doomed to eternal hellfire.

They're beginning to change that a little bit so that other religions can be included in the ecumenical movement. Even Billy Graham has said that 'others have a different pathway to heaven, even those who

do not have Christ, because they believe in the existence of God.' That is how they get to heaven because they believe in the existence of God.

Let's see what James has to say about those who believe in God. God expects everyone to believe in Him.

James 2:19: "Do you believe that God is one? You do well to *believe this*. Even the demons believe—and tremble *in fear*."

It's not believing that God exists which saves. It is ***believing God*** that saves. That's entirely different. Do you understand the difference? You can believe in God, but not believe anything He says. But ***if you believe God you will 'obey His voice,'*** which is the whole sum of the Bible. If you want to give a summary of the Bible, it is, '***Obey My voice.***' Three words!

- believing in one God ***is not the way***
- their way in believing in God ***is not the way***

We understand through the second resurrection that all those who are unsaved will have an opportunity for salvation, which the Protestants are just vehemently and adamantly opposed to. They say, 'You're giving them a second chance for salvation.' *No, you're not. It's a second life, but a first chance. That's what the second resurrection is all about!* Any *Feast of Tabernacles, Day Seven and Last Great Day* sermon will give you the story of the second resurrection.

11. Sign of the Messiah: Three days and three nights

Matt. 12—here is what Jesus told them when they wanted a sign. This shows you what kind of generation we're into now.

- Don't they like magic?
- Don't they like things that take place?
- How many television shows do they have where they allegedly make buildings, elephants and mountains disappear and everyone is awed?
- Isn't that marvelous?

They want to see a sign!

Matthew 12:38: "Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, 'Master, we desire to see a sign from You.' And He answered *and* said to them, 'A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights in like manner... [exactly in the same way] ... the

Son of man shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights” (vs 38-40).

When you go back to the book of Jonah, the three days and three nights is not a so-called idiomatic expression. They use that as an excuse to claim that any part of any three days is three days and three nights. As a matter of fact, one of the nights that they count is the period of darkness when Jesus was on the cross from noon until three when He died, but that’s the first night. You have a great problem with that. He was on the cross and still alive even though it was dark and He wasn’t in the ‘heart of the earth.’ So, how can you count that as one of the periods of night?

What they do, the very sign of His Messiahship that He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, they change, and that is fully documented in *A Harmony of the Gospels*. It’s very strong that there’s no other way, no other day, no other time that Christ could have been crucified and raised from the dead.

They pick many different things. There are some who believe in a Friday crucifixion. Some who believe in a Thursday crucifixion, but most of them believe in a Friday crucifixion and go along with the Catholics.

12. Clean and Unclean:

It has to do with clean and unclean meats. There’s a whole argument there. Let’s look at the one that Paul gave. Remember, we’ve covered on the series *Epistle to the Galatians: Circumcision Wars*, that Peter was told to call no man common or unclean. It had nothing to do with clean or unclean meats whatsoever. Let’s see what Paul clearly wrote concerning clean and unclean:

1-Timothy 4:1: “Now, the Spirit tells us explicitly that in the latter times some shall apostatize from the faith and shall follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

One of the things of the doctrines of demons is that doctrine is not important. Isn’t that amazing. They say that doctrine is not important, yet they are espousing a doctrine by say doctrine is not important. Paul says that it’s *doctrine unto salvation*.

Verse 2: “Speaking lies in hypocrisy, their consciences having been cauterized with a hot iron; forbidding to marry; and commanding to abstain from meats...” (vs 2-3).

The Catholics forbid marriage and the Gnostics forbid marriage, if you weren’t married and preached abstinence the rest of your life.

“...which God created to be received with thanksgiving by the faithful, even by those who know the Truth” (v 3).

There are several key words right here in this verse. They are to ‘abstain from meats “...which **God created to be received** with thanksgiving by the faithful, even by those who know the Truth.” What is the Truth? *Jesus said, ‘Your Word is Truth!’*

Verse 4: “For every creature of God *designated for human consumption is good...*” This means: Not anything that He has created, but every creature that God created to be received with thanksgiving. That’s what that means.

“...and nothing to be refused, if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer” (vs 4-5)—which means that *this upholds the teachings that we are to follow the law of ‘clean and unclean meats’ today.*

God never sanctified the hog, nor snake, nor unclean fish. I think one of the worse things people can eat is raw oysters. In certain seasons, they have a bacteria that if you eat them you’re flesh will be consumed right off the bones.

I tell you how they could clean up all of the harbors. Quit harvesting the crabs, the shrimp, the lobsters, the oysters and the clams. Let them do their work and you will have pristine water. That’s what they were created to do. This proves, by the Word of God, that you’re not to eat unclean foods.

13. The Holy Spirit:

Church of God: Holy Spirit is the power of God not a person.

We’ve got all kinds of literature on that:

- *Is God a Trinity?*
- *Defining the Oneness of God*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Pentateuch*
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Psalms*

Protestantism: Holy Spirit is a person.

I also have the sermon series concerning *The Holy Spirit*. We go through it verse-by-verse and word-by-word and into the Greek to show that it was completely mistranslated by the translators.

14. The Gospel:

Church of God: Jesus came into Galilee preaching the Gospel. What is the Gospel? It is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, which is coming to this earth

Protestantism teaches about the person of Christ.

It’s quite a lengthy dissertation that he’s written after all the Scriptures that are there. I’ll let you go through and finish studying the rest of it. This is why Paul said that *the mystery of iniquity does already work*.

Let's show that this is one of the things that we would be fighting right down to the end: 2-Thessalonians 2:7: "For the mystery of lawlessness is already working... [now we see it in it's full bloom] ...only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* ... [holding back until the antichrist, the final one, comes] ...until it arises out of *the* midst. And then the lawless one will be revealed..." (vs 7-8). It's going to be the antichrist and the pope, both of them, as we see in Rev.: *the beast and the false prophet*.

"...(whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming); *even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders... [ahead of us] ...and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing **because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved**" (vs 8-10). *Protestantism does not love the Truth of God:*

- Protestantism uses the New Testament
- Protestantism perverts the grace of God
- perverts the understanding concerning all of the doctrines—the 14 that we just covered here
- Protestantism rejects the commands of God

Yet, says that they have the grace, that they have the true understanding for salvation. They have no more understanding for salvation than the pagans in India, the Far East, Africa or South America. The only difference is, they use the name of Christ, whereas the other's don't. That's the only difference.

You have the Biblical principle, 'A little leaven leavens the whole lump.' ***Now the whole lump has been leavened!*** It started out with Luther. Tyndale was bringing it on the right course to show what it should be. Protestantism never got away from Sunday and the holidays of this world.

Though they preached about the person of Christ, they never understood salvation. Though they did have some understanding concerning the grace of God and forgiveness of sin, they never understood obedience to the commandments of God. Though they claim that the New Testament is based on love and this love is so that you can define your own laws, they never understood that the love of God required obedience to the commandments of God.

Therefore, Protestantism is a lying deception, which is going to fall to the ecumenical one world movement and religion. It's going to be exposed for what it is, "...**because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved.**"

Verse 11: "And for this cause, God will send upon them a powerful deception..." That's what we see happening right now in the world of religion today.

"...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 where all of these lawless doctrines are going to lead to!*

We've seen that all the religions of the world are part of the 'mystery of iniquity' and part of mother Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations in the earth!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Galatians 1:6-8, 2, 8-10
- 2) 2-Corinthians 2:17
- 3) 2-Corinthians 4:1-4
- 4) Jude 3-4
- 5) Romans 5:6-10
- 6) Ephesians 2:8-10
- 7) Hebrews 10:16
- 8) Revelation 21:8
- 9) 1-Peter 1:2-3
- 10) Psalms 111:7-10
- 11) Romans 3:31
- 12) Romans 6:1-7
- 13) 1-Corinthians 15:16-23, 42-54
- 14) James 2:19
- 15) Matthew 12:38-40
- 16) 1-Timothy 4:1-5
- 17) 2-Thessalonians 2:7-12

Scripture referenced, not quoted: 2 Corinthians 11

Also referenced:

Books:

- *A Pathway into the Holy Scripture* by William Tyndale
- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermons:

- *Is Your God a Glob?*
- *Feast of Tabernacles Day 7*
- *Last Great Day*

Sermon Series:

- *Refuting Sunday-Keeping*
- *The Holy Sabbath*
- *Epistle to the Galatians: Circumcision Wars*

Studies:

- *Is God a Trinity?* by George Johnson & Fred R. Coulter
- *Defining the Oneness of God* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Two Jehovahs of the Pentateuch* by Carl Franklin
- *The Two Jehovahs of the Psalms* by Carl Franklin

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