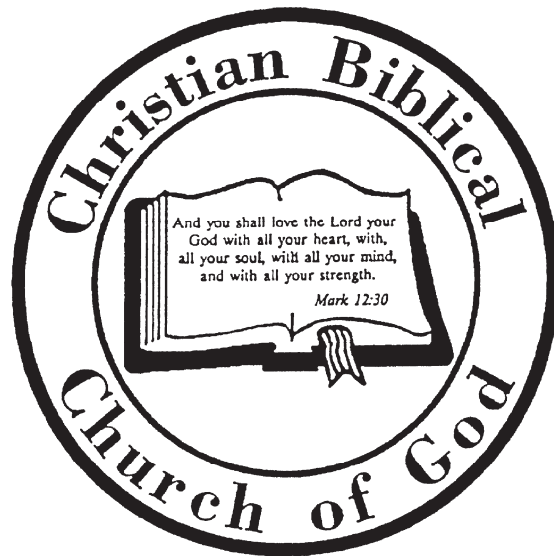


Spring Feast 2017



Transcript Book

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Sabbath Before Passover The Bread of Life

How are you going to eat Jesus' flesh and drink His blood?

Fred R. Coulter—April 8, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Sabbath before the Passover 2017. This Sabbath we're going to have a special study in understanding more about *eating and drinking Christ*, which is the very center of the Passover service.

- What does it mean?
- How do we understand it?

Tomorrow night we're going to have the Passover. And the Passover is the most important thing to keep us in good standing with God, the most important thing for us to understand about God.

What we want to do is to try and understand the deeper things in John 6. But first let's come to 1-Cor. 2. In the world, and also in many churches, as well as Churches of God, but especially churches in the world, they have such a shallow understanding of the Word of God, that they really don't comprehend it. They do understand the things concerning daily living.

But they do not have contact with God the Father through the Holy Spirit, because *the Holy Spirit is only given to those who obey Him*. So, in the critical things that people do not obey Him in, concerning the Sabbath and the Passover and the Holy Days, they don't have the Holy Spirit *within* them. The Holy Spirit *within us* has two elements:

1. *from the Father* for the begetting to be His son or daughter at the resurrection
2. *from Jesus Christ* to develop the mind of Christ

This is why we're here. This is why we do what we do. This is how we learn to love God, love each other and grow in grace and knowledge. God wants us to learn as much as we can from His Word, especially since we have the complete Word of God. In 1-Cor. 2 we find something very interesting concerning the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and how we are to understand things.

We know from the rules of Bible study, that it's 'a little here, a little there, precept upon precept and line upon line.' And we have to 'rightly divide' and put together the Word of God. Then we have to live the Word of God and understand the Word of God, as we go Sabbath after Sabbath after Sabbath, and day after day after day, and then with the Passover and Holy Days and with the plan of God and everything that way. So, we have an opportunity

to learn so much more, and to understand the Word of God so much more, for a deeper and more profound personal relationship with God.

Because as John wrote in the 1-John 1, *our fellowship is with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ!* In 1-Cor. 2 we find this about understanding the things of God. Here the Bible is shown to be different from any other book. You can't pick it up and read it and start understanding it. People may be able to understand some parts of the Bible, but to understand the deep things of God, to understand the real meaning of the Bible is something beyond their ability, because they have not come to the point of doing what Jesus says in John 6.

1-Corinthians 2:9: "But according as it is written, 'The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"

Now let's bring some other Scriptures to bear on this. What does it mean to love God? *For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome!*

We can't say that we know God unless we keep His commandments. If we keep His commandments, then the love of God is being perfected in us, and we are to walk in the same way that Jesus walked. So, this is why we need to apply these many Scriptures as we go through these things.

Verse 10: "But God has revealed *them* to us *by His Spirit*, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God."

Some of the deep things of God are contained in the teachings of Jesus in symbolic language, which also has true real meaning. That's hard for people to understand. We don't learn the things taught by human wisdom, human ways, *but God reveals them through His Spirit!*

Verse 11: "...the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God."

Let's just have little brief overview of the book of John. During the three-and-a-half-year ministry of Jesus Christ there were four Passovers. Now, that's an interesting number; four and Jesus Christ and the Passover are very important to understand. You go back to Gen. 1 and we find that on the *fourth day* God set the sun and the moon for the appointed times. This actually makes the

appointed times more important than the weekly Sabbath, because that came on day seven.

So, isn't it interesting that the world of Christianity doesn't understand the Bible, because they don't keep the appointed times? We've already covered that leading up to the Passover. Now then, Jesus began His ministry on the *fourth day* of the week, a Day of Atonement and a Jubilee year, as well. He ended His ministry on the *fourth day* of the week, through the crucifixion and His death. He was raised from the dead after three days and three nights, and then on the *fourth day* He ascended to heaven, and was accepted by God the Father as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Then He had another forty days at the end of His ministry, just like He had to start it.

Another #4 that comes with Jesus is this: We have the four Gospels, and the four Gospels, as well as a book of Acts, is *the fourth division* of the Bible. In other words, it's in the middle of the Bible. That's why it reaches back into the Old Testament, and reaches forward into New Jerusalem, and the new heavens and new earth. Quite an interesting thing! Remember, Jesus said, 'I'm the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega.'

Sidebar: What do we find in Gen. 2 & 3? *The Tree of Life!* What do we find in Rev. 22? *The Tree of Life!* Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, everyone was cut off from eating of the Tree of Life. When God's plan is finished, it says, 'Blessed are those who keep His commandments, that they may have the right to eat of the Tree of Life.' We have a foretaste of that, that we find very interesting indeed.

So, the Passover here in John 6 is the third Passover. The first one is John 2, the second one is Luke 6, the third one is John 6. And the last one, all of them have that. After feeding the 5,000:

John 6:4: "Now, the Passover a Feast of the Jews, was near." Why did John write a Feast of the Jews? *To let people know that it is figured by the Calculated Hebrew Calendar*, which must come from the Jewish community. Because the descendents of the priests and Levites within the Jewish community, have preserved the Calculated Hebrew Calendar for us, just like they preserved the Old Testament. Now, much like the Christians in the New Testament, how many of them really keep it? *Very few!*

Likewise with the Jews of the Old Testament, they have the Old Testament, they preserve it and keep the Truth of it, **but they've overloaded it with all of their traditions**, and so they don't understand it, and they reject the New Testament. Interesting how that works. So then,

Jesus feeds the 5,000. Has a few fish and a couple loaves of bread, He feeds them, they gather up twelve baskets full.

Verse 14: "Now, when the men saw the miracle that Jesus had done, they said,, 'Of a truth, this is **the** Prophet... [that's an interesting statement] ...Who was to come into the world.'" Why is that an interesting statement? *Because Moses prophesied of that Prophet!* And **that Prophet** was Christ! Peter says so in Acts 3.

Sidebar: There is supposedly is a minister of a Church of God who says he is 'that Prophet.' Well unless he totally repents, he's going to be in deep trouble with God. **No one ever takes the office of Jesus Christ to themselves!**

After the disciples left, Jesus went up into a mountain to pray, and then at night He walked across the sea and came to the disciples just before they landed at Capernaum. The people, back where they were on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, didn't see Jesus go with the disciples. So, they were looking for Jesus, but they couldn't find Him. Then they figured out that Jesus had gone over to Capernaum. So, they came over to Capernaum, and we find this exchange that they had with Jesus.

Verse 25: "...'Rabbi, when did You come here?'" He didn't tell them, 'Well, I walked on the water.' Jesus knew that they wanted to make Him king. That's why He got away from them. Jesus knew that they wanted to be fed that way, so they wouldn't have to work, and still have plenty left over by the way.

Verse 26: "Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly I say to you, you do not seek Me because you saw *the* miracles, but because you ate the bread and were satisfied.'"

Totally carnal thinking! Now then, Jesus gave them an answer that really gets into the depths of why we take the Passover the way that we do. But they didn't understand it. Jesus told them.

Verse 27: "'Do not labor *for* the food that perishes, but *for* the food that endures unto eternal life, which the Son of man shall give to you; for Him has God the Father sealed.' Therefore, they said to Him..." (vs 27-28).

All human beings are religious by nature in creation. You find that in Ecc. 3 where it says that 'God put eternity in the hearts of men.' That means that God gave every human being an innate realization that there's something greater beyond human life. They don't know what it is. But God put it there. They answered Him and they said, because they wanted to do well, and they wanted to find out how they could get this free food, just by blessing.

Verse 28: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, in order that we ourselves may do the works of God?’”

- we’re going to focus in on *works*
- we’re going to focus in on *believe*
- we’re going to focus in on *Spirit*

All of these things come together in John 6. They are extremely important for us to know and understand, so when we take the Passover tomorrow night we will have a greater and deeper understanding of the Passover.

Verse 29: “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the **work of God**... [Do you want to do a work for God?] ...that you **believe in Him** Whom He has sent.’” That is *believe in Jesus Christ!*

Now, all the way through here, *the one who believes*, is a present tense participle, which means *constantly believing*. It’s not just an acknowledgment, it’s not just an opinion of thought in the mind, but it is *believing*, and that belief is *obeying* as well. Jesus is talking about the essence of the New Covenant, and the New Covenant is *the covenant of eternal life*. He explains here that *only through Him* are we going to have eternal life. Only through doing the *works of God, God’s way*, and *believing continuously* in Jesus Christ, are we going to attain to eternal life.

We need to add on to believing, *repentance*—because Jesus said repent, believe the Gospel—*obedience and baptism*. We’ll talk about baptism a little bit later, because it is a covenant relationship with God that everyone who comes to Christ *must* have. *You must have baptism by full immersion in water!*

“...‘This is the work of God: **that you believe in Him** Whom He has sent’” (v 29).

Rev. 2-3—What does it say were going to be judged by? Our faith? *or* Our works? *Our works!* Why? *Because our faith must produce works!* And *those are the works of God!*

Verse 30: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What sign will You perform, that we may see *it* and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, as it is written: “He gave them bread to eat *that came down* from heaven.” Then Jesus said to them...” (vs 30-32). He didn’t answer the question the way they would think that He would logically answer.

“...Then Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true Bread from heaven’” [He’s speaking of Himself] ...For the Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven

and gives life to the world” (vs 32-33).

‘The wages of sin is death,’ *if* there is no way to have your sins forgiven. How can it be forgiven by anything less than the Creator God? That’s why Jesus came down from heaven! That’s why He was God! We’re going to see some very interesting things here concerning the bread.

Verse 34: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘Lord, give this bread to us always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I AM the Bread of Life; the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time. But *as* I said to you, you also have seen Me, yet, you do not believe’” (vs 34-36).

Now let’s see some things concerning bread, or food, or what to do. Let’s see that bread has a lot to do with doing the will of God. Now stop and think about it: What motivates you to do the will of God? *The Spirit of God!* Let’s see what Jesus said in John 4. When the disciples went to get something to eat, Jesus talked to the woman at the well.

Let’s understand what we need to be doing. This involves our whole being, because the truth is that if you don’t have water, and if you don’t have food—and Jesus said, He’d give living water (John 4)—you’re going to die. Isn’t that true?

John 4:23: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth...” What is the Truth?

- the Word of God
- the commandments of God
- the precepts of God
- the laws of God

Who is the Truth? *Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life!’* In other words, the only way that you are going to receive eternal life is through Jesus Christ. Because *He is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life!*

“...the true worshipers...” (v 23). That shows there *false* worshipers. Who are the false worshipers? *Those who worship God in vain, because of their traditions*

“...shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner” (v 23).

That’s why there are the *seven* Spirits of God that are talked about in the book of Revelation. These are the Spirits that go throughout the whole world seeking those who are seeking God. It says. ‘The Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner.’ Isn’t that interesting? Jesus said, ‘The Father Himself loves you.’ So, you pray directly to Him in My [Christ’s] name.

Verse 24: “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him **must**... [it is obligatory] ...worship in Spirit and in Truth.” You have to have the Spirit of God; that’s what it’s talking about. That ties in with John 6.

After the disciples came back, found Jesus talking to the woman, they said, v 33: “...‘Did anyone bring Him *something* to eat?’”

They brought Him food and said, “...‘Rabbi, eat.’ And He said to them, ‘**I have meat to eat that you are not aware of.**’ Then the disciples said to one another, ‘Did anyone bring Him *something* to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My meat... [or My food, My bread] ...is to do the will of Him... [the Father] ...Who sent Me, and to finish **His work**’” (vs 31-34). So, to do the will of God ties right in:

- with believing
- with eating
- with drinking
- with doing the will of God

John 5 ties right in with this as it leads into John 6. Jesus is talking to the scribes and Pharisees, He said:

John 5:39: “You search the Scriptures...” What did they search most of the time? *Their own traditions, not the Scriptures!* So, He told them:

“...for in them you think that you have eternal life; and they are the ones that testify of Me” (v 39).

Is that not true, concerning the Christians and the Jews today? *Yes!* They forget the simplest thing that God requires of us, so we can start understanding God. **Obey my voice!** You take those three words, you go through the whole Bible and you will see who obeys and who doesn’t; who is blessed and whose is cursed, etc. Did Adam and Eve obey the voice of God? *No!* You could do the rest of the study from there.

Verse 40: “But you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.” Very important!

- How do we come to Christ?
- How do we come to God?
- *God’s way!*

That’s the whole lesson of Cain and Abel. Cain came to God *his way*, and God said, ‘Sin lies at the door.’

Verse 41: “I do not receive glory from men; but I have known you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves” (vs 41-42).

Very profound and important! As we come to this Passover, we need to set as the continuous

goal to be ***loving God with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, with all our being! Love our neighbor as ourselves, the brethren as Christ loved us, and even our enemy!***

- Was that not the mind of Christ?
- Was that not what He said while He was hanging on the cross?
- *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!*

Verse 43: “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; *but* if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How are you able to believe...” (vs 43-44).

There are blocks, mental blocks to *belief*. You can see that in people who have a cause, or an atheist, another religion, a Muslim or whatever. They have *a cause*, and:

- because of those causes
- because of those beliefs
- because of those mindsets

they are unable to come to Christ! The mindset that the scribes and Pharisees had, was all of their traditions.

Verse 44: “How are you able to believe, you who receive glory from one another, and do not seek the glory that *comes* from the only God?”

That’s why we’re here, brethren. That’s why we keep the Passover. *Because of the promise of the glory, that Jesus prayed for all of us on that last Passover night, just before He was crucified!* We’re going to read that tomorrow. I want you to think about it ahead of time

Verse 45: “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is *one* who accuses you... [present tense, meaning the Law of Moses is still in effect] ...*even* Moses, in whom you have hope. But if you believed Moses, you would have believed Me; for he wrote about Me. And if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My words?” (vs 45-47).

Very profound, very interesting! Think of that with ourselves. That’s why when we have the Passover, we have it every year, because we need to maintain that New Covenant relationship with Jesus Christ and God the Father. It cannot be maintained unless you take the Passover ***on the day, and at the time, and in the manner***, that we find in the Bible.

We’ve already covered that. You will see that tomorrow night when you partake of the Passover. You cannot believe in Jesus Christ, and be continuously believing ***if*** you have another agenda in your mind. I wonder what the infiltrators into the Churches of God have in their minds? Just a

thought!

John 6:37: “All whom the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out.”

God the Father is also directly involved in calling us to Christ, and then is going to be dwelling in us, with the power of His Spirit. So, God the Father is involved in our lives, just exactly as Jesus said when He was here, ***‘I can do nothing of Myself, but as I see the Father do it, that’s what I do. As I hear Him, that’s what I teach. As He has commanded Me, that’s what I do.’*** So likewise with us.

Verse 38: “For I did not come down from heaven...” Where was Jesus before He was born? *In heaven!* That’s what the whole Gospel of John is about.

“...to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. [look at the will of God, all of it right here very close] ...but the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me: that of all whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day. **And this is the will of Him Who sent Me...** [the will of God the Father] ...that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (vs 38-40).

Why are we here? *Because of the will of God the Father!* You think on that as you come toward the Passover tomorrow night. That is very profound and deep. The Sovereign Ruler of the universe Himself, with His only begotten Son Jesus Christ is involved directly in each one of our lives so that we can attain eternal life and enter into the Kingdom of God.

Now then, stop and think: What else counts? ***Nothing!*** That’s why, God tells us, that when we count the cost for baptism, that there is to be nothing—not Father, mother, brother, sister, and yes, our own lives—that we place before God the Father and Jesus Christ.

“...raise him up at **the last day**” (v 40). Now let’s solve the problem here. Because there are some people that find it hard to understand. Now then, we can look at it two ways.

1. The Calculated Hebrew Calendar is figured on the first day of the seventh month, which is the Feast of Trumpets.

So, by going through the Hebrew calendar, let’s count them: Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, Last Great Day. That’s four; four comes up again. Then we come to the First Day of Unleavened Bread, Last Day of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost is the last day. Passover makes it #8. So, *when you*

count from Trumpets, the last day is Pentecost! That’s why Pentecost is the day of the first resurrection!

2. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead toward the end of the weekly Sabbath. On the first day of the week, which is the premier Wave Sheaf Offering Day, Jesus ascended to the Father as the sacrifice for the sin of the whole world goes back to Adam and Eve!

Christ was the Firstborn from the dead, the First of the firstfruits harvest., the *Special Wave Sheaf* that was waved right at the temple of God.

How do you count to Pentecost? *Beginning on that first day of the week, you count seven weeks, full complete weeks, each one ending in a Sabbath.* You count to the next day after the seventh Sabbath, which is Pentecost. Pentecost is the last day of the fifty-day count. So, don’t confuse this with The Last Great Day.

Verse 40: “And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life...”

We’re not going to have that privilege until we were resurrected. But we have the blessing of being able to believe. We also have the blessing of being able to have, not a vision, but an understanding of the teachings of Christ.

“...and believes in Him, **may** have eternal life... [*may* is in the subjunctive, which means there are conditions] ...and I will raise him up at the last day.’ Then the Jews were complaining against Him, because He said, **‘I AM the Bread that came down from heaven’**” (vs 39-41). They didn’t understand it. How can anyone say that.

Verse 42: “And they were saying, ‘Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? Why then does He say, “I came down from heaven”?’”

They didn’t understand it. We’re able to understand it, because these things are *spiritually understood*. Those who love God, can have the deep things of God revealed to them through God’s Spirit and through God’s Word, which we will see are Spirit and Life.

(go to the next track)

Now let’s continue on in preparation for the Passover tomorrow night. John 6:42—they were wondering: “...Why then does He say, “I came down from heaven”?’”

Verse 43: “For this reason, Jesus answered them and said, ‘Do not be complaining among one another. **No one...**’” (vs 43-44).

Here is a profound verse. This limits who is a true Christian to only those who respond to the call of the Father. God the Father is been dealing with them, and God leads us to repentance and baptism and doing the will of God.

Verse 44: “**No one** can come to Me unless the Father...”

In this chapter *the Father* is mentioned 10 times. In John 5 He’s mentioned 15 times. I haven’t done a count through all the book of John. But *John truly is revealing the Father, and that’s what Jesus said that He came to do!* In John writing these things, we see how Jesus was revealing the Father. Let’s see what Jesus said. Think about this:

- in relationship to ‘the world’
- in relationship to all of the ‘wise’ theologians
- in relationship to all the religions that are supposedly ‘Christian’

They’re not! That’s why Jesus said, “**No one** can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him...” (v 44).

Matthew 11:25: “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent...’”

How does God hide things from them? *The key is, no one understands anything, unless they obey the voice of God.* Very simple!

“...and have revealed them to babes” (v 25). That’s what we are to the world. Were dumb, were uneducated, we don’t account for anything.

Verse 26: “Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight to do this.”

Have you ever thought about how much joy that God the Father has that you are going to be His son or daughter at the resurrection? How much satisfaction that God has, and pleasure and love for you, because you seek Him and do His will? *Think of that compared to the rest of the world!* Amazing!

Verse 27: “All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father... [that is truly on a personal face-to-face basis] ...neither does anyone know the Father except the Son...” That’s interesting, because it says:

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with... [face-to-face] ...God and the Word was God.” So, that verifies it right here.

Christ is also involved in giving us understanding. That’s an amazing thing! One of the deepest and most profound things in the Bible is our

personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ:

- through prayer
- through study
- through love
- through obedience
- through understanding the Word of God

Matthew 11:27: “...and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, **and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal Him.**”

That’s what he’s doing right here in John 6. As we read these verses and understand them as we go along just remember that when you come to the verse like this—

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

—you have to apply a whole lot of other Scriptures, to understand the deep meaning contained in that one verse. That’s why I talked about repentance and baptism. That’s why we talk about prayer and study, all of those things are involved.

- How do you learn what you learn?
- Because you’re smart?
- *No!*

Here’s how we learn, v 45: “It is written in the prophets, ‘**And they shall all be taught by God.**’ Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me.”

You answer the Father’s call! Everyone who has heard from the Father!

- What was that one day where your life changed completely?
- Can you remember that day?
- The day that God began to deal in your life through some event?
 - ✓ through some sorrow?
 - ✓ through some death?
 - ✓ through some tragedy?
 - ✓ through troubles, problems, trials and difficulties?

You cried out to God, ***‘God, help me!’***

I remember that day myself, in my life. I’m sure you remembered in your life. God sends one of the seven spirits, and God answers that prayer and you heard from the Father, and He draws you to Christ. That’s amazing, isn’t it? Think of that!

“...has learned, comes to Me. No one has seen the Father except He Who is from God; He has

seen the Father. Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me has eternal life” (vs 45-47).

Now, you can’t take this one sentence and say, ‘Oh, I believe I have eternal life,’ because you have to add everything else to it of what it means:

- to believe
- to hear
- to answer
- to repent
- to be baptized
- to receive the Holy Spirit
- to walk in the Truth
- to overcome
- to change

All of those are involved in this present tense participle, “...**the one who believes...**” (v 47).

You could also translated this way, *the one who is believing constantly*, because that’s what it means with the present tense participle.

“...in Me has eternal life” (v 47). You’ve got to put other Scriptures together.

Verse 51: “I AM the living Bread...” Quite a statement!

Let’s see Psalm 34 concerning God, *the Bread of Life!* How are you going to eat Jesus’ flesh and drink His blood? *We’ll get to it; that’s the whole purpose of this sermon!*

- How is that possible?
- What do we do?
- How is it done?

Psalm 34:4: “I sought the LORD... [that’s how the Father begins to deal with us; He is seeking those who are seeking Him] ...I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

Not some of them, *all* of them. Now, you don’t have all your fears all at once, so this will be a repeated thing throughout your lifetime. But nevertheless, let’s look at when you first began to seek God, and He answered, and in this case it’s the Father.

Verse 5: “They looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard, and saved him out of all His troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. O **taste and see** that the LORD is good...” (vs 5-8).

How do you *taste and eat*? That is a spiritual activity:

- through the Spirit of God

- studying the Word of God
- understanding the Word of God
- praying to God
- living by every Word of God
- continuously believing in God

All of those things flesh out and fill in the depths of the understanding of John 6. How does God do it? *He’s got angels!*

Verse 7: “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.” All right, reverse that. *You do not have angelic protection **IF** you don’t fear God and you don’t love God!*

Verse 8: “O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. O fear the LORD, **all you saints**... [think about that, we are called *saints*] ...for there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him” (vs 8-9).

John 6:48: “I AM the Bread of Life.” The bread or food that Jesus wanted to eat was *doing the will of God!* So then, eating the Bread of Life—Jesus Christ—is symbolic of:

- constantly having the Word of God given to you
- written in your heart and mind
- walking in the Truth
- doing the will of God

You would never know that unless you studied the rest of the Bible, and this is what the Passover is all about.

Verse 49: “Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone **may** eat of it and not die” (vs 49-50). *May* is subjunctive in the Greek meaning *there are conditions*. Of course, you find those and in Scriptures:

- love God
 - keep His commandments
 - keep His Sabbath
 - keep His Holy Days
- do so led by the Spirit of God*
- *His way*
 - *His Truth*
 - *His goodness*
- that he’ll impart to us*

Verse 51: “I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world”—because *only shed blood will pay for sin*, and only *the shed blood of Jesus Christ*, can cover our sins.

No animal sacrifice, no other thing! It's for the life of the world, because God has a plan to save the world, as we understand through the Passover, Holy Days and Sabbath. *Tremendous thing!* So, look at it this way, as I've said in the past and I'll say it again in the future, as I say now:

Look at *God's way* as a sphere. Isn't it interesting that the earth is a sphere. (Don't bother those who believe in the flat earth.) In the sphere you can send an almost infinite number of lines through the sphere at any given angle and they all intersect at one point again at the center.

Think of it this way, v 51: "I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven...that I will give is even My flesh...for the life of the world. He shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." *Fantastic!*

Verse 52: "Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, 'How is He able to give us His flesh to eat?'"

The Catholics have never figured this out. They have what is called transubstantiation with the sacrifice of the Mass. And they sacrifice Jesus every time they have a Mass. And very few have figured out why they have the round disk when Jesus broke the bread. But the sacrifice of the Mass has *nothing* to do with the true Jesus; that has to do with the fake Jesus, the false Jesus. Today we hear a lot about fake news; well, it's not just today, it's been the fake teachings from false prophets and fake teachers for centuries. The only way is through Christ!

"...and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.' Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, 'How is He able to [do this?]" (vs 51-52).

Now let's answer the question for the sacrifice of the Mass. There's no such thing as transubstantiation. Why? *Because when Jesus was resurrected He no longer had any flesh! He no longer had any blood. He shed all of His blood. As a Spirit being He doesn't need either one. Yet, if He manifests Himself to human beings like He did to His disciples, He appears as if He has flesh and bone, but not blood.*

Transubstantiation says that when the priest gives the command Christ sends His flesh to be in the wafer, and His blood to be in the wine. So, though it taste like bread, it's really truly flesh; but it's not. *Eating His flesh and drinking His blood has much more to do with how we live and our personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ!* So, here's how Jesus answered the

question:

Verse 53: "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.'"

That means also, correctly, the Passover, because Jesus broke the bread and said, '**Take eat, this is My flesh which is given for you. This do and the remembrance of Me.**' And likewise the cup He said, '*This cup of wine is My blood of the New Covenant.*' No covenant is binding unless there is a showing of sacrifice and blood.

"...you do not have life in yourselves.... [that's why they're not going to be in the first resurrection] ...The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day... [the first resurrection Pentecost] ...for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him" (vs 53-56).

That's by the power of the Spirit of God. Here is the whole reason and the whole lesson and the depth of the teaching as to why we have the Christian Passover for the New Covenant. What does that signify in addition to knowing God the Father, in addition to having our sins forgiven, in addition to understanding that only through Christ do we have eternal life?

Verse 57: "As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me."

There is the teaching of it. That's why Jesus said when he was tempted of Satan the devil, '**Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**' God says:'

- obey My voice
- love Me
- love Jesus
- love one another
- serve one another
- help one another

All of that is included in this big sphere of our Christian life, which is growing and developing into eternal life. That's how we receive eternal life.

Verse 58: "This is the Bread, which came down from heaven; not as your fathers ate manna, and died. The one who eats this Bread shall live forever." *That's a promise! A direct statement and command by Jesus Christ!*

Let's see something about the Passover. It's interesting that John 10 parallels with Heb. 10. Jesus said that 'He was *the door*, He was the *good Shepherd*.'

John 10:11: “I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. But the one who is a hireling, and who is not *the* shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep, and flees. And the wolf seizes the sheep and scatters them. Now, the hireling flees because he is a hireling and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine...” (vs 11-14). Think of that!

- God the Father knows you!
- Jesus Christ knows you!

“...and am known of those who *are* Mine. Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (vs 14-15). ***He voluntarily***, as Creator of all mankind, ***laid down His life!***

Verse 16: “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and* one Shepherd. On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again” (vs 16-17).

It’s said that it is ‘written in the Scroll concerning Me’ (Heb. 10)—that is Christ. So everything we know now is that ‘the Scripture of Truth is in heaven’ (Dan. 10:21). What we have here was predetermined in heaven. How it comes out is up to our choices, and how we choose and how we live.

Verse 18: “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

Jesus said that we must ‘eat His flesh and drink His blood.’ Let’s look at why this is the New Covenant ceremony, which renews the New Covenant between each believer and God the Father and Jesus Christ every year at the Passover.

There’s a reason why it’s written this way. And it has great and tremendous meaning. As you think about Jesus Christ, Who is the Creator of all mankind, coming down and laying down His life, giving Himself to be beaten and scourged, to be battered and cut open through the scourging that He took, and then crucified—shedding His blood—He didn’t this ***willingly***. Think about it! That’s God’s covenant sacrifice as surety that His Word is true, and what He has said will take place.

He calls us and leads us to repentance and baptism. What is our sacrifice that we bring to this covenant relationship? The covenant is not binding, until both parties have shown a sacrifice. The sacrifice of Jesus was His physical life. Our sacrifice

is also our physical life. However, our death in baptism is very unique.

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?” (vs 1-3). Now let’s understand about what happens spiritually at baptism and death.

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into **the death...**”—Christ’s death! You share in that in two ways:

1. because of your sins He had to die for you, as well as everyone else
2. you die in the watery grave

How binding is that?

“...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” (v 4). That ties right in with:

John 6:57: “...the one who eats Me shall live by Me...” That’s the *newness of life*.

Romans 6:5: “For if we have been **conjoined together** in the likeness of His death...” That means died together in the watery grave of baptism, we have been ***joined to the very death of Christ, as the Creator God, Who gave His life for the salvation of the world!*** Your symbolic death, in the watery grave now is conjoined to the death of Christ. That’s why we keep the Passover. Very interesting, indeed!

Let’s take this one step further. The reason it has to be full immersion in water is very simple. If you’re not raised out of the water, you die. But since you now I have to walk in newness of life, you must be raised out of that grave. You’re not yet born again; that does not take place until the resurrection. But you are now to *walk in newness of life*. That’s what it says.

“...conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also **shall we be** in the likeness of His resurrection.” *Shall be*, future, *at the resurrection*.

Verse 6: “Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified...” That’s what conjoining is. Now we have to crucify the flesh (Gal. 5-6).

Galatians 5:24: “But those who *are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh...” Jesus says if you want to follow Him, you have to deny everything. You are giving up everything. You can still use the things and so forth, but that’s not your life. Your life is in Christ. Take up your cross and follow Him. Taking up the cross is co-crucified, and follow Him.

Romans 6:6: “Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed...”

And that’s the whole reason for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, after the Passover. Because once we have the Passover, and have the Holy Spirit of God, once we have been baptized and are walking in the way of God, we have work to do to get the sin out of our lives, on our part, and God removes it on His part, through constant forgiveness, help and understanding.

“...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin. Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (vs 6-8). This section of Scripture absolutely proves that no one has been born again through any baptism experience:

- we’re to walk in newness of life
- we’re to grow
- we’re to overcome
- we’re to bring every thought into captivity

All of these things are part of what it means to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as we will see beginning the next day after the Passover. I hope this helps you understand more deeply the meaning of *the body and the blood of Christ*, and what it means for us.

John 6:57: “As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me. This is the Bread, which came down from heaven; not as your fathers ate manna, and died. The one who eats this Bread shall live forever” (vs 57-58).

All of the false religions out there, they are all dead, there is no eternal life. Christ is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life!*

Verse 59: “These things He said in *the* synagogue as He was teaching in Capernaum. Therefore, after hearing *these words*, many of His disciples said, ‘This is a hard saying. Who is able to hear *it?*’” (vs 59-60).

Yes, it was a hard saying. What did Jesus say. Who were those who were the seed that didn’t produce anything? *Because they didn’t obey the voice of God!*

Verse 61: “But Jesus, knowing that His disciples were complaining about this, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? What if you shall see the Son of man ascending up where He was before?’” (vs 61-62). What does that tell us? *He came from heaven!*

Verse 63: “It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, *they* are Spirit and *they* are Life.” That’s why we are to keep the words of God. *Obey God! Spirit and Life!*

Verse 64: “‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ 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’” (vs 64-65).

That’s the whole meaning of *‘to eat this bread, and drink this cup!’*

When you come to the Passover tomorrow night, remember the deep and the profound meaning of the whole Passover ceremony: *The renewal of the New Covenant with Jesus Christ and God the Father, and the promise of eternal life!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-Corinthians 2:9-11
- 2) John 6:4, 14, 25-36
- 3) John 4:23-24, 33, 31-34
- 4) John 5:39-47
- 5) John 6:37-44
- 6) Matthew 11:25-27
- 7) John 1:1
- 8) Matthew 11:27
- 9) John 6:44-47, 51
- 10) Psalm 34:4-8, 7-9
- 11) John 6:48-58
- 12) John 10:11-18
- 13) Romans 6:1-4
- 14) John 6:57
- 15) Romans 6:5-6
- 16) Galatians 5:24
- 17) Romans 6:6-8
- 18) John 6:57-65

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 1
- Genesis 1-3
- Revelation 22
- John 2
- Luke 6
- Acts 3
- Ecclesiastes 3
- Revelation 2; 3
- Hebrews 10
- Daniel 10:21

FRC: po/bo

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First Day of Unleavened Bread Overcoming the Sin Within

Keep your eyes on the goal: *the Kingdom of God*
Fred R. Coulter—April 11, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread 2017, and time marches on!

We are closer to the Kingdom of God than ever before, but we also see that it's going to be quite a while longer than we have anticipated in the past. But nevertheless, we are closer. So, on this day, the first day the Feast of Unleavened Bread, I hope you had a great Night To Be Much Observed to the Lord, as that is a command of God (Exo. 13). Quite a wonderful thing, Exo. 12 and 13!

As you know, everything that Moses taught the children of Israel, came from God. So, in one sense, it is not right to say the Law of Moses, because it really is the Law of God given by the mouth of—as it is literal in the Hebrew—Moses. But it's okay to call it the Law of Moses as long as you're referring to the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch. But remember it's also called Torah, and that's what the Jews call *their traditions*, and lump it all together.

What we need to do is stay with the pure Word of God, the way it's defined. Of course, God is always had the few honest scholars down through time in history, who have been faithful with the Word of God and have preserve the Word of God. That's what the Levitical community has done within the Jewish community. They preserve the Word of God, as well as Calculated Hebrew Calendar.

As you're turning to Lev. 23—some of you may already have your Bibles opened there—because that's the place to start for every single one of the Holy Days. What we have here is the one singular only place in the Bible where all the Holy Days are listed with the dates according to the Calculated Hebrew Calendar.

Leviticus 23:1: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, “**Concerning the appointed Feasts** of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* Holy convocations, even these are **My appointed Feasts**”’” (vs 1-2).

Well now that's interesting. They don't belong to the Jews, they don't belong to anyone else, **they belong to God!** Think on that for a minute! **My Feasts!** That means **God owns them!** He created them, created the time, has given us the meaning and understanding of it. Now notice something very

particular and important in v 3. Where is it that *the appointed times* start out? *The Sabbath!*

Verse 3: “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of rest, a Holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It *is* a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.”

This is why Sunday-keeping and rejecting the Sabbath is the same thing as ignoring the ownership of God that they're **His** days. The Sabbath being first also sanctifies all of the rest of the Holy Days, which are also Sabbaths. The weekly Sabbath in Hebrew is ‘ha Shabbat,’ and the Holy Days—Sabbaths—are ‘Shabbat’ without the definite article. Very interesting, indeed! Keep that in mind when we come to the count of Pentecost a little later.

Verse 4: “These *are* the appointed Feasts of the LORD, Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons.” Now is the time, the season, of Unleavened Bread. We've gone through all of the particulars with this but:

Verse 5: “In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the two evenings... [Remember *between the two evenings* or *between the setting times* can never come before sunset. *It comes immediately after!*] ...is the LORD'S Passover” (v 5).

In the New Testament that has to do with Jesus Christ. Not only is He Owner of it, but His sacrifice is the complete expression of it.

Verse 6: “And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. **You must eat unleavened bread seven days.** On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation. You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days. In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*” (vs 6-8).

We also find in Deut. 16 that we're to bring offerings on the Holy Days in addition to the temple offerings of burnt offerings and sacrifices for all the Holy Days, every day morning and evening sacrifice, etc. Deut.16 makes it very clear. Now also remember that this is *a special offering* to God for all that He has done for us.

Deuteronomy 16:16: “Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast

of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty.”

The sacrifices given every day are listed in Num. 28-29; those are the official offerings. The other offerings that were brought were, especially on the day portion of the Passover Day are the offerings for the redemption of the firstborn males. They belong to God! And the redemption of the firstborn of any animal. Now the female was to be set aside for the keeping of the Feast. Because the male belongs to God, there’s no way you can partake of eating that or have any part of it. It is God’s, ‘*It is mine*’ says the Lord! The female then was put into, how should we say, the festival funds. He says you shall give an offering.

“...they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you” (vs 16-17).

So, you need to calculate and figure out how much God has blessed you. Let’s also understand something else: Living today in the entitlement society that we have, a lot of people just expect everything to be given to them. They owe nothing to anyone, and everyone owes everything to them. That comes with a New Testament phrase: ‘rich and increased with goods have need of nothing.’ God gave a warning:

Deuteronomy 8:10: “When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land, which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today, lest *when* you have eaten and are full and have built goodly houses and lived in *them*”(vs 10-12).

Like we have today. Look at any of our suburbs, look at the houses all lined up. Oh that’s quite a thing to see all of those.

Verse 13: “And *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then you become **haughty of heart...**” (vs 13-14)—meaning you put ‘me, myself, and I’ *first*, rather than God. And remember what happened to Solomon who was the richest and the wisest of all. It came upon him because he forgot that God gave everything that he [Solomon] had, and that as human beings we live and move and have our being in God.

(pause for offering)

Now let’s turn to one of the most famously known verses in the entire Bible, John 3:16. Let’s

understand that this is important, because this is an overall statement from God of His purpose for mankind. But it doesn’t tell us how or when or under what circumstances. It’s just a general statement by God stating His purpose, a mission purpose. Or for those who have done speeches, specific purpose statement. Then it’s the rest of the Word of God which fills it all in.

The first thing that comes with that is the Sabbath and the Holy Days, because they are the framework for everything that God is doing. If you just have the mission statement, that’s much like as kids growing up we were told by her parents, ‘Be good.’ Well, what does *be good* mean? In the mind of mom and dad it meant one thing. In our minds as kids it was *don’t get caught!* No definition.; same way here. Though it’s the most quoted, it is the most misunderstood verse in the Bible.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world...” Yes, everyone likes to have God’s love, absolutely true! But then that doesn’t define:

- what love is
- how God gives it
- what He has done to prove it

He gives one statement here showing the main thing that He did.

“...that He gave His only begotten Son...” (v 16). That’s another statement that is specific but then takes a lot of other detail to fill it in.

- Who was He?
- How did He come?
- Where did He come from?
- Why would He give Him?
- Why wouldn’t it be something else?

“...so that everyone who **believes...**” (v 16)—a present tense participle, meaning *believing*. Sometimes in the language we can have a greater understanding of it.

“...who **believes** in Him...” (v 16). What does it mean *to believe*? Is it an opinion? Is it a profession? What does it mean? Well, that’s why we have the New Testament.

“...**may not perish...**” (v 16). What do you think *perish* means? And also it is *may not*, meaning there are *conditions*. But where are the conditions? *In the rest of the Bible!* One of them is ‘**IF** you love Me, keep the commandments, namely Mine’ that’s what Jesus said. That’s one of the main conditions.

“...but **may have everlasting life**” (v 16)—note Rev. 22. What is the qualifier to eat of the Tree of Life so you may have eternal life? *Blessed are those who keep His commandments that they may*

have the right eat of the Tree of Life! So, there's a whole lot more to this than meets the eye. Likewise with all of God's ways and the Word of God.

Now let's look at something important we've already seen. When the children of Israel were in Egypt, the last thing they did was to keep the Passover. Everything else up to that point, God brought all the plagues all the difficulties all the things upon the Egyptians so that they would be freed and let go. God had to do that.

Pharaoh is a type of Satan the devil. That's why Christ had to die; so that He could overcome Satan the devil and that's why it was the first trial that He had as we find in, being tempted forty days and forty nights (Matt. 4; Luke 4). He had to conquer Satan the devil. Now then only God can conquer him. We of ourselves cannot conquer him. We don't even know how to deal with him.

We can recognize some things as being inherently evil. But we cannot recognize the things that Satan brings along in lust and desire, which are sins that look good to us. The whole basis of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is that *there's a way that seems right to a man or woman and the ways thereof are the ways of death!* And that we have deceitful minds, desperately wicked hearts, and only God can change that.

However, we have our part. Just like the children of Israel when it came time to leave, they had to walk; they had to do their part. Likewise with us, we can repent and we can have our sins forgiven. As we know, eventually the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is going to cover all mankind (John 2). And that's why we keep the Holy Days, because this tells us *how* and *approximately when* God is going to carry out various aspects of His plan.

In the New Testament we find that it compares with the book of Exodus. Exodus means *the way out*. So, they *went out* from Egypt, that is the Exodus. For us we find in John 14 a statement we've heard how many times? But let's read it again because it's important. God has:

- called us
- given us His Spirit
- brought us into covenant with Him through the sacrifice of Christ

as we see with the Passover.

Just like God had to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and bring them to Himself, so God has to lead us out of this life, this way of living in the world, to live God's way through loving Him and keeping His commandments.

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the

Way...'” The Greek is ‘he hodos’ and that's very similar to ‘exodos’. He is “...the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me” (v 6).

Now that's quite a thing for us to understand. This is why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The only way we can have our sins forgiven is through Jesus Christ. That is unleavening us as persons. So, our part so that we recognize how easy it is to sin. God tells us to get all the leaven out of our homes—and of course, that's to be done before the Passover Day because the Passover Day is a separate day of unleavened bread—and then we have seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The reason God uses leaven, is because leaven is virtually everywhere, even in the air. This helps us to understand how easy it is to sin.

Let's break it down into three things, three ‘Ss’:

- **Sin**—the transgression of the Laws of God
- **Self**—that's our own way of doing things
- **Satan**

We don't know how slick Satan is until we understand the Word of God. Because living out there in a society we all went along with everything that was there. *Yes, indeed!* However we didn't know this—Eph. 2—because:

- we have life
- we're walking around
- we're doing the things
- we're living in the world
- we're doing as the world

We didn't know that we were the *walking dead*. Jesus brought that out when He told the man who wanted to follow Him, and said, ‘Well, I'll follow You, but I've got to bury my father.’ And Jesus said, ‘Let the dead bury their dead. So, without the Spirit of God we're the walking dead, not yet having died but having within us *the law of sin and death* and destined to die. So Paul writes:

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world...” (vs 1-2)—according to the society around us. Look at the society today, and look at how much more evil and satanic it is becoming, on a vast scale.

“...according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience” (v 2).

We didn't know that. We didn't know that there was a Satan the devil. Oh we heard of Satan, but not like the Bible shows us, not like the New Testament defines it.

Verse 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the world*.”

We didn’t know that until we started getting in trouble, and then calling out to God to help us and save us., and He had mercy and kindness to do so and to bring us out of it. Then we enter into a covenant with God. That covenant is a covenant that is joined to the death of Christ. Rom. 6 tells us that we are conjoined in baptism to the death of Christ, and His death was a sacrifice for the sins of the world, all the world as John writes in 1-John 2. But everyone’s got to:

- be called of God
- answer the call
- come to repentance
- be baptized

Then we are conjoined to the death of Christ!

That’s where the Protestants make their mistake. They think that the finishing of baptism—whatever work there is within us—God has already finished. But that isn’t true. The finished work is:

- a process of growing, overcoming and perfection
- a process of conversion from carnal to spiritual
- a process from disobedient to obedient
- a process from hating God to loving God

That’s what it means to be *dead in our sins and trespasses*.

“...by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the world*” (v 3).

Now that we received the Spirit of God, how are we to live? This is what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about. 1-Cor. 5 tells us why we keep the Feast. Christ has rescued us from Satan the devil, He has rescued us from our sins and transgressions through the grace of God. After we are baptized and receive the Holy Sprit of God, our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ is direct. That’s what it means to be *under grace*. We’ve explained that to be *under law* is the whole world. To be under grace are those who are Christ’s, and have been called according to His purpose.

We are to change and grow and develop, and we are to bring forth fruit. We are to complete what we are doing, through the help, strength and power of God. Now in past times it says, we lived in our lust:

- lust of the mind

- lust of the flesh
 - lust of the eyes
- and as John writes in 1-John 2*
- the pride of life

That’s the way the world is out there! So, here’s how we become unleavened using:

- the Spirit of God
- the power of God
- the commandments of God

as defined and amplified by the New Testament and the teachings of Christ, so that we can overcome. That’s why we have putting away leaven.

They had their problem there with sin in the Church in Corinth. We won’t get into that right now.

1-Corinthians 5:6^[transcriber’s correction]: “Your glorying *is* not good. Don’t you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

I want you to think about that for a minute. Leaven works its way, just like Satan works *his* way. Satan doesn’t come along and say, ‘Look at these terrible evil things that I want you to get involved in.’ *No!* He says, ‘Look, isn’t this fun? Isn’t this nice?’ He works by incrementalism, a little bit, *a little bit, a little bit more*. Some here, some there, put it all together and BAMO! you’re a full-fledged sinner! We have to recognize that!

Since we’re human beings with human nature—even though we’re converted and even though we have God’s Holy Spirit—we will see that sin is still a thing that we have to overcome. That’s why Paul says, “Your glorying *is* not good...” You allow this thing in the congregation and what is going to happen?

Verse 7: “Therefore, purge out the old leaven...” Get rid of the things that are wrong! Get rid of the sin that is bothering you! Put out all those things, which are temptations for you! As I covered before the Feast, we have to control our thoughts. {Note sermon: *How to Control Your Thoughts*} We’ll get into that a little bit more as we get into the sermon here. Purge it out! You have to get rid of it, ‘casting down the imaginations.’

“...so that you may become a new lump... [a new creature in Christ which is a process] **...even as you are unleavened...**” (v 7). Here’s quite a statement here. “...*even* as you are unleavened...” means they unleavened their homes; sure enough they got it out.

However, they didn’t equate that to ***unleavening their lives, and getting rid of the sin*** that was in the middle of the congregation, a man having sexual relations with his stepmother. Think

how that would affect the whole society, the whole Church. Look at what sin has done to America. Look what has happened in the last 50 years, *incrementally, step-by-step-by-step*. Now here's why we have to do it, **purge it out!**

So that you must become a new lump, a new person, a new inward person in your mind and in your spirit. ***Your spirit united with the Spirit of God the Father and Jesus Christ***, so that you can develop the mind of Christ:

- think like He thinks
- understand the Word of God
- live by the Word of God,

This is how we are to live. This is why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

"...For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us" (v 7). We saw how absolutely horrendous was His scourging, beating, mocking, and everything that was brought against Jesus Christ. We've got that all documented and laid out in *A Harmony of the Gospels: The Life of Jesus Christ*. Now if you don't have that you write for it. And likewise with *The Christian Passover* book.

The Passover is the single key point that is the most important for us, because Christ **our Passover** was sacrificed for us. Not only was He our Passover, He died on the Passover Day, according to the Scriptures. He was raised from the dead so that He could become our High Priest our Mediator, so that He could help direct our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 8: "For this reason, let us keep the Feast..." Now were keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread here.

- How are you keeping it?
- What are you doing?
- How are you thinking about it?
- What is it that you have resolved to change and do?
- What leaven do you still see in your life that you need to get rid of?
- How are you going to get rid of it?
Through repentance and yielding to God!

"...let us keep the Feast, not with old leaven... [you can't come in like you were in the past] ...nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness..." (v 8). Listen you need to understand:

- you've got to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- you've got to love your neighbor as yourself
- you have to love the brethren as Jesus loved us

- you have to love your enemies

The best way to love your enemies is to pray that God will keep them far from you! or Bring them to conversion so they will no longer be enemies! or You don't get in their way and cause problems. But you can still pray for them. After all God gives them air and food and water and clothing and all of those things as well. But here is how we are to keep the Feast.

"...but **with the unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth**" (v 8). Just like I brought out in the sermon on the Sabbath before Passover, eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood symbolically through the Passover and through the Feast of Unleavened Bread, means that we live by Jesus Christ just as Christ lived by the Father. That's the whole heart and core of it. How do we do this?

Let's see that once were baptized we received the begetting of the Holy Spirit of God, but we're still human. God did not reach down and take out from us *the law of sin and death* (Rom. 7). Just like the children of Israel had to walk all the way to Mount Sinai, our Christian walk is similar in the same way, that just as they had problems and difficulties, so do we have problems and difficulties. Just like they had sins they had to be confronted with, so do we. Here's how we are to think, after we've been conjoined to the death of Christ:

Romans 6:11: "In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin..." Don't let sin motivate you:

- let the Word of God motivates you
- let the Spirit of God lead you and guide you

because sin is so deceitful!

"...but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof" (vs 11-12). There is the key verse on overcoming. **Don't let it rule!** Now rule also means, *don't let it 'lord it' over you*, which means don't let your mind become obsessed with sin, because that breeds more and more sin. And it pushes away the Spirit of God, and opens the door for Satan again. **Don't let it rule!**

So, this shows us we have to work to overcome sin. Just like the children of Israel had to walk to get to Mount Sinai. We have a walk that we need to walk, which is with Christ, "...by obeying it in the lust thereof."

Let's see how sin develops, and let's understand that sometimes sin comes along so easy that we don't even know it, we don't even recognize it. All of a sudden it happens. We wonder: How did that happen? *Well, because we still have the law of*

sin and death within us! We have to overcome it. That's why it's necessary to have the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Leaven is so common, sin is everywhere.

Here is why we have difficulties, here is why we have trials. It is so that we can be more anchored in Christ, and steadfast in the Spirit of God, and love of God.

James 1:2: "Consider *it* all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials." That's hard to do. But nevertheless, when you get through it and look back on it, you can look at that and say, 'Yeah, that turned out to be a good thing,' because of this, that and the other thing.

Verse 3: "Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." Endurance is what we need. Let's see how that works with the grace of God.

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith..." That is belief in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of your sins. As we have seen, that is the only way to have your sins forgiven. No other way.

"...we have peace with God..." (v 1). Were not fighting against him. We don't have enmity against Him with the carnal mind.

"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace... [access directly to God the Father] ...into this grace in which we stand, and we ourselves boast in *the* hope of the glory of God" (vs 1-2). Not in self, **but in God's plan!** Not in our way, **but in God's way!**

Verse 3: "And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations... [just like James 1 said] ...realizing that temptations brings forth endurance, and endurance *brings forth* character, and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us" (vs 3-5). That's what the process of this trying of our faith is to do:

- we go to God
- we repent
- we received the Spirit of God
- we pray
- we asked for help
- we ask God to intervene
 - ✓ He intervenes
 - ✓ He answers our prayers
- we continually go to God

That is endurance! That is sticking with it!

James 1:4: "But let endurance have *its* perfect work..." In other words letter endurance bring about a completion of the trial.

"...so that you may be perfect..." (v 4)—that is to become perfect. Now we'll talk about this on the Sabbath before the last day of the Feast: Perfection is what God is looking for.

"...and complete, not lacking in anything. However, if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to everyone freely and does not reproach *the one who asks*; and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all because the one who doubts is like a wave of *the sea* that is driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*" (vs 4-6).

Or you can have a smaller example of that. Try carrying a glass full of water or liquid while you are walking. Unless you have learned how to walk really perfectly, you're going to spill it. Once it starts sloshing around, it gets uncontrollable. That's what happens when you have trials and sins and you ask God to help you, but you don't believe. It becomes worse! That means you've really got to ask God in faith. Now, all of this, is to develop character, and character is what we need to enter into the Kingdom of God, and character is what we need to overcome.

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

If you lack in faith you ask God to help you with faith. Remember the man who brought his child to the apostles and they could cast out the demon. Jesus came and He said, how long has this been? And he said, 'Since a child, and Your disciples couldn't cast them out. The deaf and dumb spirit possesses and he foams at the mouth and throws them in the water and throws him in the fire.' Jesus cast the demon out, and told His disciples after they said, Why couldn't we do it?' He said, 'Because this kind comes out by nothing but by prayer and fasting.'

Those are the difficult problems. If you have a difficult problem that's how to approach it. Lay it before God, and take some time for fasting and prayer. Ask in faith. But what did the man tell Jesus when Jesus said, 'If you believe all things are possible'? The man said, 'I believe, but help my unbelief.' That's what we need to do. That's how to get stronger in the faith. *Through prayer, through study, through asking God to help us!*

Verse 12: "Blessed *is the* man who endures trials, because after he has been **proved...**" God wants to know how you are going to be as a Spirit

being. In the Kingdom of God there will be no sin. That's already happened with Satan the devil and the demons. *Never again!* God wants to know! God wants to prove us!

"...he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (v 12).

Notice how everything comes back to loving God. As Jesus said, 'A complete love of God with all your heart, mind, soul and being.' That is not 'a religion.' *That is a way of life with Christ and God the Father!* Notice that when a temptation comes along, temptation can be like leaven in the air, you can't even see it. You know just like you leave some food out on the counter or the table or something, and in a couple days it's got mold. Where did that mold come from? Well there are mold spores everywhere. Mold is a leaven, and mold rots. That's how people can get rotten, they're full of leaven, full of sin.

Verse 13: "Do not let anyone who is tempted say, 'I am being tempted by God'... [No!] ...because God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one *with evil.*"

Now then, what has God already done? *He has given us independent free moral agency, and we must choose—IFMA. We must choose!* He set before us life and death, good and evil, righteousness and sin! We have to choose, which way we're going to go. So, when sin comes along and we make the choice of sinning:

- whether by pressure
- whether by accident
- whether by deliberation
- whether by planning
- whatever it may be
- however it may come

It's a choice! We have to choose to repent, and that's how we get rid of the sin. Here's what happens. If a temptation comes along, or an evil thought comes along, that is not sin, yet. The thought is sinful, but you yourself have not sinned. So, you get rid of it; you cast it out. Here's how it works"

Verse 14: "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and is enticed by his own lust... [choice] ...And after lust has conceived..." (vs 14-15). It looks pretty good. Yeah, well maybe it, 'umm...well yeah I'm going to do that.' Then as soon as you do, BAM! you know it's sin. A choice!

"...after lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death. Do not deceive yourselves, my beloved brethren. Every good act of giving and every perfect

gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation, nor shadow of turning. According to His own will..." (vs 15-18).

Brings us right back to God! That's why Jesus is the propitiation of our sins. He begat us by the Word of Truth that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all His created beings. And, of course, that goes forward to the resurrection.

(go to the next track)

So what they said of David and Bathsheba: Look at what happened,

- they both got tempted
- they both got carried away
- temptation came along
- lust conceived
- sin followed

David had the rest of his household against him, just like Nathan the prophet told him he would have, because of their sin. So, Nathan the prophet said, you're the man! David thought that since he was king he could get away with having Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband, killed in battle.

Now that's quite a deliberate sin when you stop and think of it. But nevertheless, it shows that with David and Bathsheba, that when you really repent God will grant forgiveness, and sometimes with a little thorn in the flesh. So here's a model prayer:

Psalm 51:1: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions."

And that's what Nathan told David. Your sin is been forgiven. But nevertheless, part of the penalty of it was the baby died. God caused the death of the baby. That baby would've just had a horrible life growing up with knowing how he came into the world. What kind of respect with the people give him as king? *Zip! None! Nada!* So, that child will be in the second resurrection.

Verse 2: "**Wash** me thoroughly from my iniquity..."

Washing becomes a very important activity of the Holy Spirit, coupled with the Word of God in relationship to our mind. We'll see that in a bit.

Verse 2: "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin, for I acknowledge my transgressions... [plural] ...and **my sin is ever before me**" (vs 2-3). I don't think that he forgot that the rest of his life. God removed the sin from him, but I'm sure that he remembered how awful that that was.

Sidebar: Study the lives of the kings of Judah. And when they got old, and David was getting older here—he wasn't really old, but he was getting older—they sinned. So, for all of those of us who are in that senior category, we need to be doubly careful that we don't get led away with sin. Remember that even though other people are involved, sin is against God, and *sin killed Christ*, the sins of the whole world, because He was Creator of all mankind. There you see the justice of God, as well.

Verse 4: “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight, that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me” (vs 4-5).

He admitted that within his being was *the law of sin and death*, as described by the Apostle Paul in Rom. 7. That's why human beings sin. That's what we have to overcome. That's why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread every year. Every year we are reminded and we are brought to the point of recognizing that *sin and death is within*, and the only salvation out of it is through Jesus Christ.

Verse 6: “Behold, You desire Truth **in the inward parts...**”—couple that with *wash me*; “...Truth in the inward parts...” That's the Word of God, written and inscribed in our hearts and minds (Heb. 10:16). Truth, Truth, that's what God wants.

“...and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom” (v 6). Giving the capacity of your mind to make the right choices with the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 7: “Purge me with hyssop... [cleanse my heart cleanse my mind cleanse my action plans my thoughts] ...and I shall be clean; wash me... [so he says that the second time] ...and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness that the bones, which You have broken, may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities” (vs 7-9).

Verse 10—here is what God wants. Now were going to read some things about human nature. And being a new creation. That is a process. Now notice what he says here.

Verse 10: “**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me**” (vs 10-11). This is how we need to repent.

Now let's see what Paul said concerning sin.

We've already covered, some time before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, about Rom. 7 and how *the law of sin and death* works with in us. {Note sermon: *Meaning of “Law” in Romans 7-8.*}

In Heb. 12 we find something also very interesting, too. Just like David sinned, and it came along, he probably wasn't praying like he should. Probably wasn't studying like he should. He got all lifted up in his vanity. And he thought that as king he could get away with it. But he couldn't, because *no one can get away with sin!* Now here becomes the solution. How do we do it in the New Testament?

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps us...”

Don't let anything get in the way between you and God, between you and overcoming. Don't let sin come in and conceive; cast it out before it takes place. But nevertheless, sins so easily entraps us, especially in this age. Living back in say the Middle Ages, no television, no phone, no magazines at supermarkets with all of those sinful pictures on it.

You might say that those sins are not your sins but they are sins which encroach upon you, the encroachment of sinful images and language and things like this. That affects your mind. Ask God to help clean it out of your mind. Now, if there's something on television that you need to not watch, don't watch it, don't get involved in it. That's the only thing you can do.

They didn't have that problem way back then, not like we have today. They had their own set of problems, but here we're confronted with it all the time. You can even be in the best frame of mind, you can even be driving down the road and it's a nice day, a lovely day, and you've got some good music on your radio or your listening to a sermon or something on your CD, and all of a sudden here's a big billboard with a nearly naked woman right up there right in plain sight.

You can't help but see it gives you driving a car and the billboards put there so every driver's going to see it. That's an inadvertent exposure to sin. Now, just like some music, even if it's inadvertent, you still have to get rid of it out of your mind. We'll look at that in just a bit. But here is how it entraps us.

- Don't let it weigh you down!
- Go repent!
- Don't let problems hang around!
- Solve them!

- Work at the them!

“...and let us run the race set before us with endurance... [just like we brought up before, *endurance and overcoming*] ...**having our minds fixed on Jesus**... [that’s important] ...**the Beginner**... [because He died for our sins] ...**and Finisher**... [because He was raised from the dead] ...**of our faith**; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the cross, although* He despised the shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself... [the beating He took, and the scourging He took, and the insults that He endured] ...**so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds**. You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin” (vs 2-4).

Paul brings out that God is going to correct us. Let’s see something else in how this is going to work, and what the Apostle Paul wrote on how we need to make those choices, *independent free moral agency*, to control and get rid of these things. Not let them come in and seduce us, and bring us to the point of sinning. Not get entrapped in our own lust and desires, but come to God and let Him help us. Here is how to do it.

Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God as beloved children.” How do we do that? *Through study, through prayer, through fellowshiping with the brethren, wanting God’s laws and His Word and His commandments written in our heart and in our mind!*

Verse 2: “And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.”

Here is what we are to do, we are to avoid these things, and when you look at it prophetically, this is really a good description of a lot of television.:

Verse 3: “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints... [don’t get involved in it] ...nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming; but instead, thanksgiving. For this you know, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous *person*, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God” (vs 3-5).

That’s why, like we covered in Rom. 6, we have to not let it rule in our lives; we have do not let it lead us into captivity.

Verse 6: “Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words; for because of these things the

wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not be joint partakers with them. For you were once darkness; but now *you are* light in *the* Lord. Walk as children of light, (because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and Truth); proving what is well pleasing to the Lord; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*” (vs 6-11).

Rom. 6 is what we are to do. This is how we overcome sin. This is how we get the leaven of sin out of our lives every single day. And we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it teaches us that sin is everywhere, even in the air. Here’s what we are to do; tie this in with Psa. 51.

Romans 6:13: “Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead...” That implies an awful lot of zeal and dedication, as if you are alive and have been dead. Because you were, you were dead in the sins and trespasses.

“...and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law, but under grace” (vs 13-14). You’re not under law as the rest of the world, but under grace; a direct connection with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Verse 15: “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? MAY IT NEVER BE!”

These are the choices that are set before us, and we have to make the choices that are right before God:

- with the Spirit of God
- with the Truth of God
- with the Word of God
- with prayer and study

all combined together!

Verse 16: “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?”

Whom do you obey? *That’s what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about!* That’s why we put in the unleavened bread, which is a type of eating Christ. That means:

- His Word
- His Truth
- His life
- His example

All of those things are for us so that we can

overcome.

Sidebar: Remember, every one of the churches in Rev. 2 and 3, were told to overcome. Isn't that true? And did they not have sins that affected them? *Yes, they did!* Did they not have weaknesses that came along and drug them down? *Yes, they did!*

But to the one who overcomes; here is how we overcome, v 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"—which is the Word of God in the New Testament and we have it all for us today.

Verse 18: "And having been delivered from sin..." Yes, we have, brethren:

- through Christ
- through His sacrifice
- through the forgiveness and love of God

We have been delivered from sin, and we have the power within us with the Holy Spirit to make the right choices so that we are not captivated by sin.

"...you became *the* servants of righteousness. I speak from a human point of view because of the weakness of your 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" (vs 18-19).

Then he said, when you were servants of sin what was it? What was the result of it? *Well, the result is death!*

Ephesians 5:13: "But all of these things being exposed by the light are openly revealed." We don't get involved in the things of the world. We say no, we push it aside; we overcome it. If we have a difficulty we pray and ask God to:

- cleanse our mind
- cleanse our heart
- clean our action
- cleanse our thoughts

It all comes from God!

Verse 14: "Therefore, He says, 'You who are sleeping—wake up, and arise from the dead! And Christ shall shine upon you.' So then, take heed that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as those who are wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (vs 14-16).

This is how we overcome. This is how we put in the righteousness of God and use the power of God's Spirit to put away sin from us, and to overcome.

Verse 17: "For this reason, do not be foolish, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is.*"

Remember what I said about *wash* (Psa. 51)? Well, let us put it together here:

Verse 25 "...Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify it, having **cleansed it with the washing of the water by the Word**" (vs 25-26).

Now the water is the Holy Spirit to wash and cleanse our mind from the sin. The Word is the Truth of God, because in our mind the Truth of God then comes in and pushes out and overrides the thoughts of sin.

- that's why it's important to study
- that's why it's important to pray
- that's why it's important to think about what we're doing
- that's why it's important how were doing it
- that's why we need to avoid inadvertent sins
- that's why we need to avoid being tempted into sin
- that's why we need to avoid sin
- that's why we need to avoid sin
- that's why we need to repent

"...with the washing of the water by **the Word**" (v 26)—not only the message of God, but it is also a name of Christ. By the Word He, with His Spirit, is working in us.

Verse 27: "That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame." Now, that's quite a thing!

Let's again see how Paul shows: How do we overcome? How do we do it? That's why being a Christian takes work. Spiritual work with:

- the Word of God
- the Spirit of God
- the Truth of God
- the washing of the water by the Word

Now think of it also this way, too: Every day we have bodily processes to get rid of the waste material. Even if we eat good food and all that sort of thing. Think of it this way: *Every day we've got to get rid of the **spiritual** waste, that so easily encumbers us!* How do we do this?

2-Corinthians 10:2: "But I am beseeching *you* so that, when I am present, I may not have to be bold with the confidence with which I intend to show boldness toward some, who think that we are walking according to *the* flesh. For although we walk in *the* flesh, **we do not war according to *the***

flesh.... [we war against sin according to the Spirit, according to the Word of God] ..For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal... [they're not human] ...but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds" (vs 2-4).

What is the strongest hold that you have? *The thoughts in your mind that you won't give up!* There are some of those thoughts in there that are evil, that you need to get rid of. Replace them with the true thoughts:

- the love of God
- the faith of God
- the hope of God
- the Truth of God

Let those be the strongholds!

Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the overthrowing of strongholds, casting down *vain* imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ" (vs 4-5). *That is the goal*, right there!

- that's how we get rid of the leaven of the sinful thoughts
- that's how we overcome sin when we sin that so easily besets us
- that's how we come to God and ask for the strength

so that

- we can overcome
- we can change
- we can grow
- we can develop the mind of Christ

Now then, what is one of the best ways of doing it?

"...and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ; and having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled" (vs 5-6).

Let's take a look and see again: How do we do this.? One of the best ways to do it is to ***keep your mind on the goal***, always. Just like Christ; He despised the shame of the crucifixion, and all that was with that, because ***He had His mind on the goal***:

- the Kingdom of God
- the children of God
- God the Father
- the Family of God

All of those things are important for us to realize and understand!

So, you have to realize that simple verse,

Matthew 6:33: "But *as for* you, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..." That's what we need to do. That's how it needs to be expressed in our heart and in our mind. That's how we can cast these things down.

We've seen in the past, in Romans and in Galatians, that Paul talks about our relationship with God the Father, as the sonship of God. We know in 2-Cor. 6, that that includes the sons and the daughters of God.

1-John 3—Let's put this up as *the goal* to be centered right in the center of your mind. If things start getting difficult, there are problems and stuff that come along, sins you need to overcome:

- think of the goal
- think of where we are going
- think of what we need to do
- think how great it's going to be what God is going to do with us in His purpose

1-John 3:1: "Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us..." Isn't that going to be something, when we see God the Father? when we see Jesus Christ? *They love us with the love that is built right into the whole creation!*

"...that we should be called **the children of God!** For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are the children of God...**" (vs 1-2).

Not yet born into the Kingdom, but ***we are the children of God*** because we have the begettal from God the Father and we have the Spirit from Jesus Christ to develop the mind of Christ, and that's how we grow and change and overcome.

"...and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is" (v 2). That's what to keep in your mind.

Verse 3—a promise: "And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure." That's an amazing thing to understand! That is truly amazing!

Let's see what it says what we need to do. Here is how we are to change and overcome. This is part of avoiding sin, avoiding being trapped into it, and having a positive ongoing working faithful relationship with God with hope and everything else.

2-Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers...." If you go along and do and practice the things of unbelievers, your yoked to them in thought.

"...For what do righteousness and

lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness?" (v 14). That's why we have to be single-minded single-purposed everything pointing toward the Kingdom of God.

Verse 15: "And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial?... [these are the worthless lawless ones; none whatsoever] ...Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said..." (vs 15-16). Think of this right now: ***Your relationship with God with His Spirit in you!***

"...‘I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people’" (v 16). That's an amazing thing! That's why we're to purge out the sin. That's why we are to bring in the unleavened bread:

- type of Christ
- type of His way
- the Word of God
- the Truth of God
- the power of God

Verse 17: "Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate," says *the* Lord... [that's how we are to stay clean] ...‘and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; and I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says *the* Lord Almighty" (vs 17-18).

If we do that, then this is what we need to do, 2-Corinthians 7:1: "Now then, beloved, since we have these promises... [Aren't these great promises?] ...we should purge ourselves... [our work] ...from every defilement of *the* flesh and *the* spirit, perfecting Holiness in *the* fear of God."

We're going to talk a lot about what is *being perfected*. Let's see the promise that is given in 2-Peter 1 and how we need to actively be implementing these things in our lives. This is why unleavened bread symbolizes internalizing the sinless righteousness of Christ, and the Truth of God without any peripheral deceptions with it.

Sometimes in reading these epistles, we don't read the first couple of verses in every epistle. But the first couple of verses in every epistle sets the tone as to why it was written.

2-Peter 1:1: "Simon Peter a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ... [that's quite a tremendous opening] ...Grace and peace be **multiplied** to you..." (vs 1-2).

- growing in grace
- growing in knowledge
- growing in Truth

Let it be multiplied. How much more so in this day and age when we have the whole Bible, have all the Word of God. Fantastic indeed!

"...in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His Divine power..." (vs 2-3).

Now notice that this is part of keeping our mind on the goal. We'll talk on Sabbath about perfection and the steps to perfection. But let's keep *the goal* in mind here.

Verse 3: "According as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness... [that is eternal life and to being in the God Family] ...Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by *His own* glory and virtue."

- here is the promise
- here is the goal
- this is what we are aiming for in our Christian walk

Verse 4: "Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises..." There can't be anything greater, there can't be anything more beautiful, there can't be anything more wonderful, than what God has for us.

"...that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature..." (v 4). That's what God wants ***through the eating of Christ and drinking His blood***, and putting His Word into our heart and mind, and mixed with the Spirit of God in our mind. "...become partakers of the Divine nature..." being fully a spirit being with no sin. No sin, no *law of sin and death* anymore. Amazing, isn't it?

"...having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust" (v 4).

That's the goal, brethren! With that, we'll pick it up on Sabbath, on what do you mean perfection? Have a good Feast of Unleavened Bread. Be sure and include extra study during the week, and ***draw close to God in everything that you do!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:1-8
- 2) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 3) Deuteronomy 8:10-14
- 4) John 3:16
- 5) John 14:6
- 6) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 7) 1-Corinthians 5:6-8

- 8) Romans 6:11-12
- 9) James 1:2-3
- 10) Romans 5:1-5
- 11) James 1:4-8, 12-18
- 12) Psalm 51:1-11
- 13) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 14) Ephesians 5:1-11
- 15) Romans 6:13-19
- 16) Ephesians 5:13-17, 25-27
- 17) 2-Corinthians 10:2-6
- 18) Matthew 6:33
- 19) 1-John 3:1-3
- 20) 2-Corinthians 6:14-18
- 21) 2-Corinthians 7:1
- 22) 2-Peter 1:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 12; 13
- Numbers 28; 29
- Revelation 22
- Matthew 4
- Luke 4
- John 2
- 1 John 2
- Romans 7
- Hebrews 10:16
- Revelation 2; 3

Also referenced:

Books:

- *A Harmony of the Gospels: The Life of Jesus Christ* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermons:

- *How to Control Your Thoughts*
- *Sabbath before Passover—The Bread of Life*
- *Meaning of “Law” in Romans 7-8*

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Sabbath During Unleavened Bread—2017 Become Perfect

How the work of God within us brings about perfection
Fred R. Coulter—April 15, 2017

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Why do we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *and* What does it picture? We will see from the Scriptures that it pictures a great and marvelous part of the plan of God. *Keep your eye on the goal!* God always keeps His eye on the goal, because He has a plan that He is fulfilling. Here is the ultimate description of it (Matt. 5:48):

- What is the plan of God?
- What is the purpose of God?
- What is the end result of God and what He's doing?
- What is His end result for us?
- How are we to be?

This ties in with why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread. There's a purpose for it. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread human nature is pictured as vanity. Human nature is depicted as sinful, and the leaven is a type of sin. However:

- we're made in the image of God
- we have characteristics like God
- we've been given free moral agency
- we've been given free consciousness of self

and all of those things come from God. Let's look and see what Jesus said in one sentence what is the ultimate plan of God.

Matthew 5:48: "Therefore, **you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect.**"

That's quite a statement when you think about it. ***To become perfect!*** Look where we've come from with human nature: evil, deceptive, desperately wicked. No man has the way on how he needs to live in himself.

- without the Word of God
- without the Spirit of God
- without the knowledge of the plan of God

we would all be helpless! Just look at the way that the world is:

- full of sin
- full of leaven
- full of self
- full of vanity

Psalm 39:5: "...Surely every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah."

God is going to take this creation of His—which became vain through the sin of Adam and Eve—and He is going to call certain ones and He is going to perfect them. Today we're going to see how is God going to do that? All right first of all we come to the fact that the Father is perfect.

God defines for us how we are going to accomplish in our part of what God wants us to do, and what is His part with us. That's why it's a spiritual thing.

Psalm 19:7: "The Law of the LORD is perfect..." The Law of God is also a tool from God, to help us. We are to use the Law of God. It's perfect and if we follow it then we will be developing perfection in degree as God leads us to fulfill the statement of Matt. 5:48 to become perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Verse 7: "The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.... [all of these things we need] ...The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes" (vs 7-8). All of this gives us insight and understanding on how to become perfect.

Verse 9: "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether, more to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (vs 9-10). That's exalting the Laws of God where they ought to be. More Protestants ought to read that.

Verse 11 is where the Laws of God help us. We know that we're to have the Laws of God 'written in our hearts and inscribed in our mind' (Heb. 10:16). That is to replace the human nature and to build the love of God. Also, the Laws of God are always acting just like the law of gravity. So, if we keep the Laws of God, if we know the Laws of God, and live by the Laws of God, then:

Verse 11: "Moreover by them... [the Law of God's judgments, statutes, precepts, etc.] ...Your servant is warned..." You are warned internally because it's part of you not to do this or not to do that or what to do that is good.

"...in keeping them there is great reward" (v 11). What is that reward going to be? *There's going to be eternal life plus a reward* (Rev. 2 and 3).

Here's another thing that is very important.

Verse 12: "Who can understand his errors?...?" Just like Jeremiah said, '*Oh Lord correct me but not in Your anger for the way of man is not in him to direct his steps.*' Just look at the world: all good intentions, all the good religions, everybody; there's still vanity. Can they bring peace? Can they bring love? Certainly they can't bring the perfection of God. So, personally, it helps us to understand our errors.

"...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults" (v 12). Those things we have in our heart and mind that only we know; the only other One Who knows them is God, and He can cleanse us from them. How's that for getting rid of leaven? Getting rid of sin? *Yes indeed, very good!*

Verse 13: "And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me..." Very interesting statement! What did we read last time in Rom. 6? *Do not let sin rule in your mortal bodies!* With the Laws of God and Spirit of God we can overcome the pulls of human nature and overcome the sin within so we do not let them rule over us.

"...then I shall be **blameless**... [perfect] ...and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (vs 13-14). That's really something! That's the first step. The laws and commandments of God are perfect.

Psalms 18:30: "As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD is tried...." It always stands up—doesn't it? No one can go against the Word of God, the Laws of God, the statutes of God, etc., and get away with it. Can't be done! *It's a perfect law!*

"...He is a shield to all those who take refuge in Him, for who is God besides the LORD? Or, who is a Rock except our God? The God who girds me with strength and makes my way perfect" (vs 30-32). That is most interesting, indeed.

- God is the One Who is going to perfect us
- He is the One Who is going to make our way perfect

That's the whole plan and that's the whole purpose of God. How is He going to do this? *We've seen with the Spirit of the Father and Christ within us!*

Let's see what it says about what God is doing. Very interesting. We look at it and we will see and understand some very important things.

Deuteronomy 32:1: "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my

mouth." That's quite a thing! God deals on a vast scale.

Verse 2: "My teachings shall drop as the rain; my speech shall drop down as the dew, as the small rain on the tender plant, and as the showers on the grass"—an agricultural thing. We're going to see that what God is doing with us is much like an agricultural planting.

Verse 3: "Because I will proclaim the name of the LORD, and ascribe greatness to our God. *He is the Rock; His work is perfect* for all His ways are just, a God of faithfulness, and without iniquity; just and upright is He" (vs 3-4). *That's how God is!*

Now let's come to the New Testament and see what God does with us. We will see that all the way through this it is the **work of God within us that brings about the perfection!** Eph. 2 tells us how it is as we start living in sin, being deceived by Satan the devil, even in spite of the fact that we have sinned—in some cases terrible sins, but not the unpardonable sin—God forgives them as we saw last time. That's why David prayed the way he did in Psa. 51.

Ephesians 2:4: "But God..."—

- Who calls us
- Who deals in our lives
- Who opened our mind to the Truth

—through Jesus Christ!

"...Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us." *God loves us!* When you get to the point of discouragement and despair, remember this: **When all else fails, remember: God loves you!** Always keep that in mind.

Verse 5: "Even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. (*For you have been saved by grace.*)"

- there's nothing *you can do* to earn it
- there's nothing *you can do* to undo your past

Only God can forgive. Only God has the power to relieve the stripes and lashes of sin that's in our lives, and that's through His grace.

Verse 6: "And He has raised *us* up together..." This is a prophetic perfect. This is something where we will be, but knowing where we are going and to have the perfection that comes from the Father, then this saying—though it appears in the present tense perfect completed—is in progress and has not yet happened.

"...and has caused *us* to sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus." We're not in the heavenly places, yet. But having the Holy Spirit

within us is something that most humanity does not have. Yes, they have the spirit of man *but not the Spirit of God*. Notice how he frames this:

Verse 7: “So that in the ages that *are* coming... [in the Kingdom of God] ...He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

- What is that going to be?
- What is it going to be like to be a Spirit being?
 - ✓ with no sin
 - ✓ with no human nature

but to be perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect!

Since He’s perfect and we’re His children, *we are also to be perfect!* But how do we get from here to there? *That’s the whole story of the New Testament!*

Verse 8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not of your own selves; *it is the gift of God.*”

There is no work you can do to earn it; *only repentance and yielding to God*. Learning to love Him and serve Him and to do His will, then God blesses us with His grace, and blesses us with the work of perfection that He’s doing in us.

Verse 9: “Not of works, so that no one may boast... [your own works] ...For we are His workmanship **being created**...” (vs 9-10)—because this is also in the verb. So, the workmanship of perfection in us is **being actively**—every day, every week, every month, every year—**created**.

“...in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10). So, we are *His* workmanship.

What did it say of the work of God? *It’s perfect!* So, with the workmanship of God He uses the tools of:

- His Spirit
- His Word
- His love
- His grace
- His mercy
- His forgiveness
- His kindness

to help us grow in grace and knowledge!

Let’s understand something just like it is with the Holy Days (Lev. 23). As I’ve said in the past, they are just like a seed. You look at a seed you don’t know what it is. A tiny little seed can become a giant tree like we saw with the Sequoia seed. A giant seed like one from an avocado tree, and that’s a huge one. It just produces, not a great tree, but

good tree. Then we have the seed from grain. As you look at a seed there’s no way you can tell what it’s going to produce.

Let’s look at it this way: Jesus tells about the sower of the seed and how He sowed it. Jesus was the One Who’s sowing it.

Matthew 13:3: “...‘Behold, the sower went out to sow. And as he was sowing, some *of the seed* fell by the way; and the birds came and devoured them. And some fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up because the soil was not deep enough; but after *the* sun rose, they were scorched; and because they did not have roots, they dried up. And some *of the seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. And some fell upon the good ground, and yielded fruit—some a hundredfold, and some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold. **The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.**” (vs 3-9).

What are we to hear? *We are to hear the Word of God! We are to hear what Jesus is telling us!* We will see that that is we need to become the good ground. When the seed falls in the good ground how does it sprout up? *Well, the root goes down and it begins to grow!* You can tell it’s not completed. So, always remember that as you’re growing in grace and knowledge *toward perfection*, you are not yet perfect.

Just like when they harvest grain they don’t harvest when is half grown because there’s no grain there. They wait until it becomes fully mature or ripe. Let’s see how Jesus explained this. He showed how the world can’t receive it because they won’t hear, they won’t listen, because their hearts are busy with their own things.

Verse 16: “But blessed *are* your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.” Then He explains what it is. Some people receive the Word but it has no affect on them at all, doesn’t understand it. Then Satan comes along and takes it out of their heart. There are some who hear and it immediately they’re joyful and that’s the ones that are in the rocks, and they fall away because of persecution. The one who is sown among the thorns he hears the Word of God, but the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word and it becomes unfruitful.

God wants us to become fruitful! He wants us to have the flowing of His Spirit in us so that we grow. Just like the seed for the grain—barley, wheat or rye—it needs the water so it can grow. It also needs the nourishment from the soil. From that comes the nutrients we need contained with in the full head of grain. The grain is another generation of seeds.

For us, God wants us to be fully mature so that when the harvest comes at the resurrection we will be perfect. Now let's look and see that in addition to love and faith we also have to have works. Those works are *the works of God!* Now think on this:

- **IF** you keep the commandments of God
- **IF** you do the works of God
- **IF** you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- **IF** you love your neighbor as yourself
- **IF** you love the brethren as Christ has loved us
- **IF** you even love your enemies

that is your part using God's Spirit!

Because God's Spirit is the energy or the fuel, if you would want to say it that way, or compared to a plant, the nutrients with the water—because as we saw with the washing of the water by the Word—that develops in us the character we need to become perfect through love and faith.

James 2:15: “Now then, if there be a brother or sister who is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; be warmed and be filled,’ and does not give to them the things necessary for the body, what good is it?” (vs 15-16). What good was that saying: *go in peace be warm and filled?*

Verse 17: “In the same way also, faith...” — ***the substance, the spiritual substance, from God's Spirit that gives us the strength and power to believe and to understand!*** That if we love God and obey Him, ***we are being perfected!*** Maybe you've never looked at it that way. But that is true! We're going to see, even by the trials we go through, something astonishing concerning Jesus Christ and perfection.

“...faith, if it does not have works, is dead, by itself. But someone is going to say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ *My answer is...* [listen carefully to this because this is exactly the way that it is in the Greek] ...You prove your faith to me through your works, and I will prove my faith to you through my works” (vs 17-18).

- What kind of faith do you have?
- The kind of faith that acts upon the belief in Truth and obedience to God?

OR

- The faith that comes from God, which then generates the good works?

So the truth is, *how anyone believes* in his or her heart, *those are the works they will do.* If you don't have belief in God you're going to have the

works that reflect the lack of belief in God, automatically, even though you don't believe in God. You believe in self, you believe in whatever it is you believe in, ***but you don't believe in God,*** and your works are the works of someone who doesn't believe in God. If you believe in God the Father and Jesus Christ, your works are going to be reflected by the working of Their Spirit within us: ***love, obedience and service!***

Verse 20: “But are you willing to understand, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”—and produces nothing, if you have a seed that's defective or a seed that doesn't have the germ in it. The germ is that which makes the seed work and produce, much like the Holy Spirit. If you don't have the faith of God, *that faith without works is dead.*

Now let's take it another step further. What if you say, ‘I believe in God, but I don't have to keep the commandments because I'm a good person. I know what's right and wrong, so therefore, that's how I live.’ ***It is the Law of God that defines for us how we use our faith and belief!***

Notice the example in v 21 about Abraham. There's a comparison between Gen.15 and Gen. 22. In Gen.15, Abraham believed and ‘it was counted to him for righteousness’ *because he believed.* There was nothing he was to do except slaughter the animals for the sacrifice. But that was not a part of the covenant. That was preparing the covenant for God to walk between the parts of the animals and verify the covenant and seal it on His part. There were no works for Him to do.

However, when you come to Gen. 22, which is the other half of the covenant—because it takes two people to make a covenant binding and the sacrifice of two people, or the showing of his sacrifice through, say, an animal—God told Abraham, ‘Take your son your only son, your beloved son Isaac, and go offer him for a burnt offering on one of the mountains of Moriah that I will show you.’ What did Abraham do? ***He did what God said!*** He did all the work preparing the wood getting the animals walking clear over to the mountains of Moriah. He had Isaac with him and he took the coals in the pan put the wood on Isaac's back and they walked up to the place where they were going to sacrifice him as a burnt offering.

Those were ***the works of Abraham in faith*** because God said so. So profound was that faith, that after Abraham had put Isaac on the altar and had tied him up ready to take the knife and slit his throat, an angel of the Lord called out from heaven and said, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ And Abraham said, ‘Here I am.’ And the Lord said, ‘Do not lay a hand on the lad, ***for now I know that you fear Me.***’ ***Abraham***

had to have faith to believe God and do what God said! It says in Heb. 11 that the reason Abraham did this was because he ‘knew that God would raise him [Isaac] from the dead.’ So, Abraham had the faith.

James 2:21: “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac, his own son, upon the altar? Do you not see that faith was working together with his works...” (vs 21-22).

Faith and works go together! In order to become perfect you must have both working together. Just like you must have the soil and the seed and the water for the plant to grow. So likewise:

- we need the faith
- we need the obedience
- we need the Spirit of God
- we need the works

Those are the works of God, which He is working in us! Those become part of ***the workmanship of God for His perfect work*** in us. That’s something! That’s the way that God works!

Let’s look at the things concerning our calling. Let’s see that we are part of such a wonderful and magnificent plan of God that goes back before the foundation of the world. The Father is the One Who is dealing with us and Christ is dealing with us, as well (John 6 & 8). Again as we go through some of these things some of these things will be present tense perfect, that is already completed which then is a prophetic perfect. Meaning since God has said so it is as good as done, because God will always be there, and if we are faithful and yield to God *it will come to pass!* But just like the grain that’s growing:

- we have to grow
- we have to develop
- we have to come to the point of full maturity of the grain

That is the perfection within us in this life, and ***the final thing of perfection comes at the resurrection.*** So, the harvesting of the grain is just like the resurrection. This is absolutely fantastic:

Ephesians 1:1: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and to *the* faithful in Christ Jesus.” The brethren at Ephesus were faithful. So, the faithful in Christ Jesus is to all the saints everywhere down through time, from the time that he wrote this until the return of Jesus Christ. Now that’s a magnificent thing to think about!

Verse 2: “Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ”—to you directly, to you personally, to each one of us in a

very special way.

Sidebar: You have your own individual DNA, and it’s stamped on every cell of your body, that you *are you!* It’s also verification that God made you separate and individual from anybody else, even if you have a so-called identical twin; there is just a fraction of difference between the two.

With the Spirit of God, I wonder what the *spiritual* DNA is that God is putting into our heart and mind. Think about that! He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly things with Christ. We know that is through Christ. So, look at what He’s going to do here when we are perfected.

Verse 4: “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be Holy and **blameless** before Him in love.” Another word for blameless is *perfect* before Him in love.

Let’s see how 1-John 2 ties in. Remember: ***We are not yet perfect***, but we are ***being perfected*** as we live, grow, change, overcome, repent and yield to God.

1-John 2:5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word...”

Verse 3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.”

Verse 5: “...*if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is ***being perfected***...”

- we are His workmanship
- we are the result of the sonship of God
- we are the children of God

Think of that! “...By this *means* we know that we are in Him” (v 5).

Tie v 6 in with Matt. 5:48 where we began, and add to it the Holy Spirit, the workmanship of God, we’re dwelling in God and He’s dwelling in us—the Father and the Son *both*.

Verse 6: “Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked.” That’s something! So, when it says “...we are the objects...” (Eph. 1:6)...

Ephesians 1:5: “...according to the good pleasure of His own will.” Now, think of this:

- God is perfect
- God is love
- we are His children
- we are the heart and core and the center of the work of God, what He’s doing on the earth wherever the true Christians are

- ✓ He's preparing now to send Jesus Christ back to this earth to bring the Kingdom of God
- ✓ He's preparing now for the resurrection of the saints

Think of how much preparation needs to be done to take over the whole world and rule the whole world.

I was thinking about that when they were preparing for Donald Trump to take over being President. How many things had to be done? Look at how many things have to be done by God, finished and completed in our flesh so that when the resurrection takes place we'll be changed from flesh to Spirit and then He's got to tell us what were going to do. That's amazing to think of it!

"...in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will, **to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us objects of His grace in the Beloved Son**" (vs 4-6).

Now listen, brethren, I want you to understand this very clearly: Though we have problems and difficulties we have to go through, all of those will work out for the good in the long run as we know. But think of what it's going to be **to be perfect!** And how that now we need to do the things that God wants us to do *to develop that perfection within us!*

- God is working with us
- God is working in us
 - we are working with God
 - we have our work
 - we have the things we need to do

So that that perfection will come. And it will because were the workmanship of God the Father through Jesus Christ.

(go to the next track)

Let's see that God has chosen to work through human beings. To work through those men that He has selected throughout the Bible. Now remember that when God created Adam and Eve He formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living being. From one of Adam's ribs He made Eve. So, we are the handiwork of God. Just like it says, '**we are His workmanship**' (Eph. 2).

Whatever we are as human beings that's by the hand of God through the process of procreation and the genes and chromosomes to create billions and billions of human beings, each one separate and unique to the glory of God.

Since man with Adam and Eve chose Satan the devil instead of God—because God has given free moral agency to every man and woman, every human being—we have been under the aegis of Satan the devil as human beings unless God calls us and removes us out of that *spiritually* by giving us understanding through His Word.

Now think on this: We are reading here the writings of the Apostle Paul, one man specially chosen of God. We also read from the Prophets and from Moses and everything else. So, in a sense with these writings we all enter into that spiritual realm of the work of God.

Ephesians 4:11: "And He gave some as apostles... [the apostles are still ministering to us today through their word] ...and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers."

Now notice the purpose; v 12: "**For the perfecting of the saints...**" The saints are the ones who are live people, not dead canonized by a so-called pope. But living human beings, and they're called saints because they have the Holy Spirit, and saint means Holy. The saints called by God, selected by God.

Stop and really grasp this if you can: How important are you to God? *So important that Christ died for you, and God the Father has given you His Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ!* Isn't that something? *That's worth more than the whole world itself!* Think of that. Keep that in mind when you have a trial or something.

Verse 12: "**For the perfecting of the saints...**" That's why Paul told the elders at Ephesus to Feed the flock of God which is among you that Christ has purchased with His own blood.' How important is it that we:

- teach the Word of God?
- live by the Word of God?
- live in the grace of God?
- teach the love of God?
- teach the hope of God?
- teach the faith of God?

That's the whole purpose for the entire ministry down through time all the way to the end!

Verse 12: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ; until we all come into the unity of the faith... [grow into it; grow in grace and knowledge] ...and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man...** [or woman] ...**unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**" (vs 12-13).

Now that rounds out the statement: '**You**

shall become perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.’ How? “Until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto *the* measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ.”

That means we need to grow up in Christ, we need to be mature and no longer tossed to and fro by the doctrine of men.

Verse 14: “So that we no longer be children, tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness...” That’s still going on today, and it’s going to go on right until the return of Christ.

“..with a view to the systematizing of the error” (v 14). That verse has been fulfilled. They have systematized it! But we’re not to do that. Here’s what we are to do; here is how we grow up:

Verse 15: “But holding the Truth in love, may in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, *even* Christ.” *That’s something!* That’s why we are to:

- put out the leaven
- put out the sin
- put out the vanity
- overcome sin
- overcome self
- overcome Satan
- overcome society

That’s a lot of opposition, but it’s all possible through Christ. And remember that *there is only one first resurrection*. We are called the Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12).

- Are we special to God?
- Are you special to God?
- *Yes, you are!*
- Do you need to put the sin out?
- Do you need to put the human nature out? Do you need to let the workmanship of God, the hands of God and His workmanship in you—through His Spirit, His Word and His Truth—form in you the image of Christ?

That’s what Paul said, ‘that Christ be formed in us’ (Gal. 4). And we are to let ‘the mind of Christ be in us’ (Phil. 2:5). Look at the goal where we are going.

- this is why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread
- this is why we study the Word of God
- this is why we continue to endure regardless of what the circumstances are

Verse 16: “From Whom all the body, fitly framed and compacted together by *that which* every

joint supplies, according to *its* inner working... [of the Spirit of God to develop us in His workmanship] ...in *the* measure of each individual part, is making the increase of the body unto *the* edifying of itself in love.”

There we go that’s it! That’s the whole meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Then He says we are not to be like the Gentiles.

Verse 22: “That concerning your former conduct...” That is in the world as you live, or your human nature that you’re still fighting, which all of us are still battling.

“...you put off the old man...” (v 22).

- you put that out
- you put it off
- you get rid of it
- you ask God to change:
 - ✓ your heart
 - ✓ your mind
 - ✓ your character

and develop the thoughts and mind and the way that God wants us to be!

“...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you **be renewed**...” (vs 22-23). That’s why we have Feast of Unleavened Bread every year; *to renew!*

- we renew the New Covenant with Passover
- we renew our understanding of the Word of God with the Feast of Unleavened Bread
- we renew our dedication and zeal:
 - ✓ to put *out* sin
 - ✓ to put *out* vanity
 - ✓ to put *out* the leaven
 - ✓ to put **in** the unleavened bread of Christ, the Word of God

That is so we can live by Jesus Christ (John 6). See how it all ties together. *Amazing! Amazing!*

Verse 23: “And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man, which according to God is **created**...” (vs 23-24).

That means *being* “...created in righteousness and Holiness of Truth.... [that’s what we are to do] ...Therefore, let each one put away lies... [getting rid of that leaven] ...*and* speak the truth with his neighbor because we are members of one another. *When* you become angry...” (vs 24-26).

It’s not a sin to get angry, but don’t let the sun go down on your wrath!

“...do not sin! Do not let the sun go down on your anger; **neither give place to the devil**” (vs

26-27)—because he is still there.

As Paul writes in Eph. 6, we're not warring against flesh and blood of people in the world. We are warring against 'wicked spirits in high places; against principalities and powers.' *We will soon become the focal point of the wrath of the whole world under Satan the devil!* That's why we need to be strengthened through this Feast of Unleavened Bread through God's Spirit. Being created in righteousness and Holiness of Truth.

Verse 28: "Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working at what *is* good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need." All of these things amount to:

- put out this behavior, ***put in the behavior of God***
- put out those thoughts, ***put in the thoughts of the Word of God***
- put out the hatred and all of the things of human nature, ***put in the love of God***
- get rid of the weakness of the flesh, ***put in the strength of faith***

We have our part! Because God has chosen to use human beings, we have our part in developing the character of God the Father and Jesus Christ through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Verse 29: "Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth, but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not vex the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption" (vs 29-30).

Now how do you *vex* the Holy Spirit of God? We already covered the sin of David and Bathsheba. Don't you think that vexed the Holy Spirit of God while David was doing this and all the months and all the time in between? Don't you think that did? *You know it did!*

Col. 3_[transcriber's correction] is something that has to be read during every Feast of Unleavened Bread. Because this details how we put out the leaven and bring in the unleavenedness. Put out the leaven of carnality and sin and bring in the unleavenedness of:

- God's laws
- God's Truth
- God's love
- God's faith
- God's hope

all of those things together.

Colossians 3:1: "Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ... [that is out of the

watery grave of baptism] ...seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at *the* right hand of God. Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on the things that are on the earth" (vs 1-2).

Everything on the earth is going to pass away. This society is going to pass away, everything is going to be changed. There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth in which there is no sin. We need to develop the character and the perfection so that we can be in New Jerusalem.

Verse 3: "For you have died... [in the watery grave of baptism] ...and your life has been hid together with Christ in God. When Christ, *Who is* our life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory" (vs 3-4).

Notice how Paul starts out telling him how to get rid of sin, but he appoints them to the ultimate goal.

Verse 5: "Therefore, put to death your members, which *are* on earth... [here are all the sins of the mind and of the flesh] ...sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, among whom you also once walked, when you were living in these things" (vs 5-7)—we're not to live that way anymore.

Verse 8: "But now, you should also **put off all these things**... [just like you put leaven out of your home, all of the leaven] ...wrath, indignation, malice, blasphemy, *and* foul language from your mouth."

That true? *Yes indeed!* Don't we all of a sudden, because were human, blurt something out? Then you say to yourself: Why did I say that? Well, that's because your human nature took control for a while. He says to put it out. How do you put these things out?

- you repent
- you ask God for the help
- you ask Him for the strength
- you ask Him to help cleanse your mind with the washing of the water by the Word

All of these things are here in the mind; that's where conversion takes place!

Verse 9: "Do not lie to one another, *seeing that* you have put off the old man together with his deeds, and have put on the new man, who *is being renewed*... [perfected, being built, being formed] ...in knowledge according to *the* image of Him Who created him" (vs 9-10)—and created you.

Notice that this applies to all human beings everywhere, v 11: "Where there is neither Greek nor

Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian *nor* Scythian, slave *nor* free; but Christ *is* all things, and in all.”

See how important that is. When God looks down at us with our heart and mind

- He loves us
- He cares for us
- He’s given us His Spirit
- He’s dwelling in us
- Christ is dwelling in us

We are to use that strength and power and the Word of God to overcome! As we overcome with the Spirit of God, He is doing the workmanship with in us to create in us a clean heart, to create in us the love that we need.

Verse 12: “Put on then, as *the* elect of God, **Holy and beloved**, deep inner affections, kindness, humility, meekness *and* long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another...” (vs 12-13).

We’re all human and all make mistakes, we’re in the process of growing and overcoming, and ***we are being perfected*** not having yet achieved it, but ***the process is ongoing!***

“...even as Christ forgave you, so also you *should forgive*. And above all these things ***put on love, which is the bond of perfection***” (vs 13-14).

We’ll talk about that in just a bit. Love is the ultimate; love is the perfection, and we have faith and hope to get there. But we’ve got to do the walking.

Verse 15: “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...” Comes from God. That’s the government of God *within* you. Not some minister to tell you do this, do that, do the other thing. And by the way, ‘don’t you dare do a thing without counseling with me, because I’m the one to make the final judgment of what you do in your life.’ That’s a hierarchy that God hates and despises. He wants *you* to make your own decisions:

- with His Spirit
- with His Word
- with His Truth

He wants *you* to make the choices in your life. He wants me to do the same thing, too, and every other person in the Church.

Verse 15: “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you were called into one body, and be thankful. **Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom...” (vs 15-16).

You’ve heard of the two words *prayer and*

study. PS: pray and study, PS pray and study. That’s where you get wisdom combined with God’s Spirit.

“...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *in* everything—**whatever you do in word or in deed—do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him**” (vs 16-17).

Let’s see about the love of God. The love of God is that inner power that gets rid of the sin, which then is the inner power, which gets rid of the leaven and brings in the unleavenedness of Christ through the power of God’s Spirit. You see how all of it works together as a unified whole.

1-John 4:6: “We are of God...” He’s comparing those who are of God with those who are of the world and Satan the devil.

Verse 5: “They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world... [the world does] ...and the world listens to them.... [that’s why we don’t listen to the world because we listen to God] ...We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us... [because we’re teaching God] ...the one who is not of God does not listen to us. By this *means* we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception” (vs 5-6)—and this deception is growing all the time in the world.

Verse 7: “Beloved, we should love one another because **love is from God**; and everyone who loves has been begotten by God, and knows God.”

That’s interesting! Not born again, not born of God, but *begotten* because the birth does not come until the resurrection. Then you are born again and become a spirit being, the end result of the process of putting in God’s way and putting out man’s way, and ***becoming the workmanship of God to be perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect!***

Verse 9: “In this *way* the love of God was manifested toward us: that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this *act* is **the love**... [Isn’t that where we started? *John 3:16! Amazing!*] ...not that we loved God...” (vs 9-10).

‘Oh, I’m so good I love God. Oh, hallelujah! God knows me because I’m so good. I love God.’ **NO!**

“...**not that we loved God; rather, that He loved us** and sent His Son *to be the* propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, **we also are duty-bound to love one another**” (vs 10-11). Isn’t that what it was with foot-washing? ***We are duty-bound to wash one another’s feet!***

Verse 12: “No one has seen God at any time. Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us, and His own love is perfected in us.... [we are being perfected] ...By this *standard* we know that we are dwelling in Him, and He *is dwelling* in us: because of His own Spirit, *which* He has given to us. And we have seen *for* ourselves and bear witness that the Father sent the Son *as the* Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he in God” (vs 12-15).

But you have to add other Scriptures to it. Just take all the Scriptures in the small Epistle of First John and add to that verse, because it’s not just a simple confession.

Verse 16: “And we have known and have believed the love that God has toward us. God is love, and the one who dwells in love is dwelling in God, and God in him. By this *spiritual indwelling*, **the love of God is perfected within us**, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world” (vs 16-17).

Now you see the result of becoming unleavened. Getting the sin out and putting in the character of God:

- the love
- the hope
- the truth
- the faith
- the obedience

and everything that goes with it.

Verse 18: “There is no fear in the love of God; rather, perfect love casts out fear because fear has tormented. And the one who fears has not been made perfect in the love of God.... [it’s all a process] ...We love Him because He loved us first. If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar. For if he does not love his brother whom he has seen, how is he able to love God Whom he has not seen? And this *is* the commandment *that* we have from Him: that **the one who loves God should also love his brother**” (vs 18-21).

Now let’s see the things that we need to overcome and the things that we need to put in place of it. Just like putting out the leaven and putting in the unleavened.

1-Cor. 13 is also called *the love chapter*. This is a personal gauge, so each one of us can look at our own behavior compared to what perfect love is compared to what the love of God is and what we need to do to overcome to get rid of sin, vanity, lust and greed.

1-Corinthians 13:1—Paul writes: “If I speak

with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.... [you’ve heard those before] ...If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing” (vs 1-2).

See how important love is? *Think of that!* Just think how important you would be if you knew all mysteries and all knowledge. You can’t do that only God can. Which is saying that if you thought this way you would think you were God.

Verse 3: “And if I give away all my goods, and if I deliver up my body that I may be burned, but do not have love, I have gained nothing.... [here is how love responds and reacts]: ...Love is patient... [put your name there with love] ...*and* is kind; love envies not, does not brag about itself, is not puffed up. *Love* does not behave disgracefully, does not seek its own things, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil” (vs 3-5).

That’s a hard one to come by: *Thinks no evil!* That’s what we have to overcome today. And I think especially today with all of the inadvertent things coming in, flooding into our mind through our eyes or through our ears, through the things that we see and hear.

Verse 6: “Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the Truth. *Love* bears all things... [all trials all difficulties] ...believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether *there be* prophecies, they shall cease... [prophecies of men; not one of God’s prophecies will cease or fail] ...whether *there be* languages, they shall cease... [we’re going to learn Godly languages] ...whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away” (vs 6-8).

All the knowledge we have today is going to look like all during all during this life we were really in kindergarten!

Verse 9: “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is Perfect has come... [that’s at the resurrection] ...then that which is in part shall be set aside. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I reasoned as a child; but when I became a man, I set aside the things of a child” (vs 9-11).

Now this is what were doing. This is how we are. We can see so much, we can know so much, we can grow so much, and even more beyond what we may think we can do.

Verse 12: “For now we see through a glass darkly, but then... [at the resurrection] ...*we shall see* face-to-face; now I know in part, but then I shall

know exactly as I have been known. And now, these three remain: faith, hope *and* love; but **the greatest of these is love**” (vs 12-13)—and that’s what God wants us to have.

We will see how this perfection is going to come about, which will be from God the Father.

1-Peter 5:6: “Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time; casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.... [understand that; remember that] ...Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in *the* world” (vs 6-9).

Here’s a promise. You tie this together with what Paul wrote that ***all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.*** All things will work out for good even the trials and difficulties. It says there of Jesus:

Hebrews 5:8^[transcriber’s correction] “...He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected...” (vs 8-9)—became obedient unto death. *Think that!*

Even through the experience of becoming a human being and caring ‘the law of sin and death’ within Him and never sinning. Going through everything that He went through, ***Christ was perfected even more*** though He was the only begotten Son of God, Who was God before He became the only begotten Son of God. *Now think on that!*

- this is the God *Who has called us*
- this is the God *Who is perfecting us*

Now notice this promise right here.

1-Peter 5:10: “Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus... [What is that going to be like? eternal glory?] ...after *you* have suffered a little while...”—because:

- you’re overcoming human nature
- you’re overcoming the world
- you’re overcoming Satan
- you’re overcoming sin
- you’re overcoming the self

“...after *you* have suffered a little while, **Himself**... [**God Himself**, the Father Who loves you. Christ Who is our High Priest.] ...**Himself** perfect you... [make you perfect] ...**establish, strengthen, and settle you.** To Him *be* the glory and the power into

the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 10-11).

You shall become perfect even as your Father, Who is in heaven, is perfect!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:48
- 2) Psalm 39:5
- 3) Psalm 19:7-14
- 4) Psalm 18:30-32
- 5) Deuteronomy 32:1-4
- 6) Ephesians 2:4-10
- 7) Matthew 13:3-9, 16
- 8) James 2:15-22
- 9) Ephesians 1:1-4
- 10) 1 John 2:5, 3, 5-6
- 11) Ephesians 1:5, 4-6
- 12) Ephesians 4:11-16, 22-30
- 13) Colossians 3:1-17
- 14) 1 John 4:6-21
- 15) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- 16) 1 Peter 5:6-9
- 17) Hebrews 5:8-9
- 18) 1 Peter 5:10-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Hebrews 10:16
- Revelation 2; 3
- Romans 6
- Psalm 51
- Leviticus 23
- Genesis 15; 22
- Hebrews 11
- John 6; 8
- Hebrews 12
- Galatians 4
- Philippians 2:5
- John 6
- Ephesians 6
- John 3:16

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Last Day of Unleavened Bread Go Forward!

God gives us the pattern of how He fights for us
Fred R. Coulter—April 17, 2017

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As we say, time marches on, and it seems to get faster and faster as we get older and older. So, we know that this is a Holy Day of God, commanded that we assemble for a Holy convocation.

Even though you may be alone at home, you're not alone, *because God the Father and Jesus Christ are with you* so there are three gathered wherever you are even if you are alone. We know that all of the Holy Days are listed in Lev. 23, and we are told in v 6 concerning the first day the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which we've already kept.

Leviticus 23:6: "And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. You must eat unleavened bread seven days."

Well, when the sun goes down tonight you can eat leavened bread. We've already had the first day Holy convocation and we've already had the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, and now here we are:

Verse 8: "...In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*."

Let's look and see the offerings that were made every day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Num. 28 is quite an interesting chapter as we have covered leading up to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Here we will look at one Scripture that tells us that there never was a planned Passover Sacrifice for the observance of the Passover Day by the people to have the lamb slain at the temple or tabernacle.

Numbers 28:16: "And in the fourteenth day of the first month *is* the Passover of the LORD." The only offerings that they offered on that day were the morning and evening offering. Now let's notice the offerings that were given during the rest of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 17: "And in the fifteenth day of this month *is* the Feast. Seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten. In the first day *shall be* a Holy convocation. You shall do no kind of servile work. But you shall offer an offering made by fire *for* a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year. They shall be to you without blemish. And their grain offering *shall be* of flour mixed with oil: three tenth

parts you shall prepare for a bull, and two tenth parts for a ram. You shall prepare one-tenth part for the one lamb, and for the seven lambs; and one goat, a sin offering to make an atonement for you. You shall prepare these besides the burnt offering at sunrise, which *is* for a continual burnt offering. In this way you shall offer daily, seven days, the bread of the sacrifice made by fire for a sweet savor to the LORD. It shall be offered besides the continual burnt offering and its drink offering. And on the seventh day you shall have a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work" (vs 17-25).

Very interesting! That's what it means when it says that you're to 'offer an offering by fire for seven days' (Lev. 23). This doesn't mean that *everyone* attending the Feast offered a burnt offering every day during the Feast. Unfortunately, some people take it literally, and they say, 'I'm going to give so much for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, but I'm going to give it in seven parts, because it says you'll have offering seven days.' No, that is taken care of in Deut. 16. Let's review that again before we take up the offering, and remember this we are to gauge it according to the way that God has blessed us.

Deuteronomy 16:16: "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty, every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you" (vs 16-17).

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, especially on the day portion of the Passover, we have seen that those *Passover offerings were for the redemption of the firstborn*; for their male sons and all the males of animals of livestock belong to God. So, those went to the priest. These were given in addition to the offering that we have here.

Let's again review concerning *the redemption of the firstborn*. All of these things are very important for us to understand. When you talk about the firstborn, remember that the Church is the Church of the Firstborn. Through the Passover and the offerings that were given, *we have the redemption of the firstborn!*

In Exo. 34 we have this concerning the Feast

of Unleavened Bread. Showing again that during the Passover Day, the day portion, they were bringing their *redemption offerings*. Perhaps that's why there were no offerings commanded on that day because you would not know how many offerings that there would be. With the redemption of the firstborn depending on how many people kept the Feast and how many children were born and how many animals were born in the redemption of them, etc.

Exodus 34:18[transcriber's correction]: "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened *Bread*. You shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, in the time of the month Abib, for in the month Abib you came out from Egypt. All that opens the womb is Mine... [every single one is mine] ...all firstlings of male livestock, of oxen or sheep. But the firstling of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before Me empty" (vs 18-20)—and it talks about the Sabbath right after that.

This shows that there was a whole lot more going on in the way of giving offerings and in the way of how people would give their own special personal offerings. Today, since we don't offer animal sacrifices, we do offer sacrifices in the sense of giving offerings.

This is why we are to look at the blessings that God has given us *in thanksgiving to Him*. Look at all that He has poured out upon us in blessings:

- to lead us
- to guide us
- to strengthen us
- to grant us His Holy Spirit

and that we are fulfilling the spiritual aspect of the redeeming of the firstborn for the Kingdom of God!

(pause for offering)

Now, this seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread has special meaning. There are certain Feasts where you have special Scriptures to read so that we learn the lesson of the day. What is it that God wants us to learn on this Holy Day Sabbath convocation that we have on a Monday. Some people look around and say, 'Don't you go to church on Saturday?' And a lot of people say, 'Why don't you go to church on Sunday?' And others will say, 'Why don't you keep Easter?' And it's interesting that the counterfeit of Unleavened Bread is the total opposite of Unleavened Bread is all about leaven:

- idolatry
- Ishtar the goddess of Babylon
- hot-cross buns
- dressing up

- showing off
instead of humility

- vanity
instead of Truth

- lies
- *worshiping something that has no meaning*

Oh, you're told that there is meaning to it, but everything about Easter is a lie just like all the holidays of this world.

We're going to talk about lies: where they come from, what we need to watch out for, and how we need to overcome going on from here. This day has special meaning for us and how, ***after we have been rescued from Satan the devil***, that we need to *be on guard*, especially living in this world.

Exodus 13:17: "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them *by* the way of the land of the Philistines although that *was* near... [close by the Holy Land] ...for God said, 'Lest the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt'" (vs 17-18).

We have a *spiritual warfare*, and we have the weapons of our *spiritual warfare*. Since you were baptized:

- Has your life changed? *Of course! It's supposed to change!*
- But has it even been close to what you thought it might be?

or

- Did it turn out entirely differently? *Yes indeed!*
- Why? *Because God has done it this way so:*
 - ✓ we have faith in God
 - ✓ we trust in Him
 - ✓ we look to Jesus Christ
 - ✓ we believe His Word
 - ✓ we follow Him

Verse 19: "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had strictly sworn the children of Israel, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry my bones away from here with you.' And they moved from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people" (vs 19-22)—*for 40 years!*

What does that tell the people always? *God was with them! God knew what they were doing! God could also know what they were thinking! Here God was going to take them into the 'promise land,'*

the land all set ready to go flowing with milk and honey (Deut. 16). And you know, they didn't have to wander in the desert 40 years *except for their sins!*

- because of their sins
- refusal to believe God
- rebellion against God
- rejecting the message of the twelve spies that were set in the spy out the land

God said, 'Enough! For every day that the spies were in there checking out the land—40 days—a day for a year, and you're going to wander, and the generation that rejected Me all over 20-years-old will die with their bones strewn in the wilderness.'

Sidebar: How come there are no bones of the children of Israel out in the desert? *That was a lot of people; those were lot of bones!* How does God cleanup those things? *He uses animals and the birds!* How did God get rid of all the bones? *Some of the animals took some of the bones, but there's a special vulture that is a bone-eating vulture!* It looks more like an odd-shaped eagle.

This vulture/eagle will come down to get the bones, and if they're too big fly back up they would drop the bones on rocks, and the bones would break up in pieces. They would fly down and they would eat the pieces whole. So, maybe that answers the question as to why were there no bones in the Sinai.

Exodus 14:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal Zephon. You shall camp before *it* by the sea'" (vs 1-2).

That was a narrow strip of land and it was pretty flat by the sea. They would come down in their column it went all the way down there. So, the children of Israel in camping there were camped all along the side of the Red Sea. He did that for a purpose because He knew what Pharaoh was going to do, and *He knew what He was going to do!*

Verse 3: "'For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They *are* trapped in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart that he will follow them. And I will be glorified through Pharaoh and all his army, so that the Egyptians **may know that I am the LORD.**' And they did so" (vs 3-4).

There are two ways you're going to know about God:

1. if He blesses and protects you like He did with the children of Israel
2. you learn from the Egyptians that God will destroy the enemy, confound them, and fight

against them

So, when it says and "...they shall know that I am of the Lord..." think of the country that was left behind. Twenty-percent of the population the firstborn were dead, likewise with the animals. All their slaves had gone; it's like having all the electricity shut off today. What are you going to do? *Well, that's what Pharaoh said!*

Verse 5: "And the king of Egypt was told that the people fled. And the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people. And they said, 'Why have we done this... [we must be total idiots to let everybody go] ...that we have let Israel go from serving us?' And he made his chariot ready and took his people with him. And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he pursued the children of Israel, and the children of Israel went out with a high hand... [rejoicing] ...So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army. And they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes. And, behold, the Egyptians marched after them. And they were very afraid. And the children of **Israel cried out to the LORD**" (vs 5-10)—What are we going to do?

When something happens you always look for a scapegoat; you always look for someone to blame. So did the children of Israel.

Verse 11: "And they said to Moses, 'Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness because *there were* no graves in Egypt?... [Wasn't there enough room for graves in Egypt for us?] ...Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt? Did we not tell you this Word in Egypt, saying, "Let us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians?" for it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness'" (vs 11-12).

Really! Carnal reasoning! When you look back and think about what God is doing, and you look at it from a carnal perspective, you'll see something entirely different that God really intended. They had the pillar of cloud in the daytime and a pillar of fire by night. *God was with them!* God did this for a specific purpose.

Verse 13: "And Moses said to the people, '**Fear not!**....'" That's a lesson for us: **Fear not! Don't be afraid!**

Liken Pharaoh to Satan, and his soldiers to the demons. Just like they were after the children of Israel to bring them back and enslave them again,

Satan the devil wants to do the same thing to those who are in the Churches of God! He's not going to do it with chariots and spears. He has other weapons that He will use and we will examine those. But nevertheless, ***God will fight for us!***

"...**Stand still**..." (v 13). Don't go running off and doing whatever you think you need to do. Now, let's understand something as we go along here. What we have in the New Testament today is this:

- *we stand under grace*
- *we walk in faith*
- *we believe in hope*
- *we live in love*

That will be the spiritual standard for us!

"...**Stand still** and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today, for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall never see them again! **The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall be still**" (vs 13-14). In other words don't complain to God.

I'm going to give you an assignment. Please study through the Psalms and look up every place where it says *help/helped* and *redeem/redeemed*. Look where it says *trouble/distress* and *refuge/rock*, and you will see how through the life of David and those who wrote the Psalms, *God gives us the pattern of how He fights for us!* Now remember that Jesus also said, 'Do not fear those who can kill the body but can't kill the life.' ***You fear God!***

So, the time will come when we will also have to exercise that ***stand still and see the salvation of the Lord***, which will not be seen until the resurrection. And you look at the world the way it is today. Think how easy it's going to be for all the deceived Satan-worshippers to come and kill true Christians. We're just seeing is a little kindergarten practice out here now. So here's what we are to do:

Verse 15: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me? Speak to the children of Israel that they **go forward**.'" All right now what we need to do is this: ***Always go forward!*** The past is the past, and you can't change it. But you can have the future different ***if you go forward with God!***

Verse 16: "And you—lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it...." This was not the sea of reeds and they went splish-splash through some mud puddles. No, they walked through the Red Sea on *dry* ground. Isn't that what it says? ***Yes indeed!*** When the sea parted!

Verse 17: "And behold, I *am* about to harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. And I will get honor for Myself upon Pharaoh, and over all his army, over his chariots and

over his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD when I will be glorified through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen" (vs 17-18).

They won't know; they'll probably look at the water coming in on them and say, 'All this is the hand of God'; then it's over! But all the Egyptians back in Egypt they're going to say I wonder where Pharaoh and the Army is? They went after the children of Israel to bring them back. I wonder what happened to them? ***They are the ones who are going know that the Lord is God***, and that everything that happened to them was the hand of God. You know the rest of the story.

The angel of the Lord came and divided between the camp of the Egyptians on the mountainside and the camp of the Israelites on the seaside. It must of been about ten miles long that column where they had marched, because they couldn't all gather around in a group. When they crossed the Red Sea, God caused the wind to blow all night and dried it out, and early in the morning before sunrise just as it was starting to get light they walked across the Red Sea.

Now, it had to be a flanking movement that way, otherwise it would've taken them hours and hours to get across. When that happened then God lifted the curtain from the Egyptians so they could see and they came over to the Red Sea and saw the dry ground. They looked to the right they looked to the left and Pharaoh said, 'There they are! Charge! Go get them.' There they are. Dashing down on their horses running down with their feet the armies of the horses and chariots all getting down there.

Then God said, 'Moses, lift up your rod!' He lifted it up and the water came crashing back and destroyed the chariots, because God took the wheels off the chariots. God destroyed man and beast and wrecked all the equipment. The children of Israel got real happy. ***'Oh the Lord is for us! The Lord is fighting for us!'***

Now we're going to see that God has given a good deliverance for us. We're going to look at a couple Psalms and I'm going to follow my advice to you and give you some examples of a couple of Psalms. The Psalms are a great study that you need to study over and over again. Something will happen as you're studying the Bible, and you will learn more and more and you'll be able to connect more and more points together as you go.

But also your understanding will increase to the point that you will probably even feel—as you're reading some of these things—that you've never studied them before, when you have. Now that's interesting indeed. Let me tell you about a little protection that you have.

Psalm 91:1: “He who dwells in **the secret place** of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” What is the *secret place* that we have? **God’s Spirit! God’s protection!** The world can’t see that.

Verse 2: “I will say of the LORD, ‘**He is my refuge and my fortress**, my God, in Whom I will trust.’ Surely He will deliver you from the fowler’s trap and from the destroying pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His Truth shall be your shield and buckler” (vs 2-4).

We’re going to see that Paul used some of that figurative speech in overcoming Satan the devil. So, God is on our side.

Verse 14: “Because he has set his love upon Me...” Has God set His love upon you? *Yes!*

- by applying the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins
- by calling you
- by converting you
- by giving you His Holy Spirit

God has given that. So yes, *God is there to cover you! To set His love upon you!*

Verse 14: ‘Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation’ (vs 14-16).

Now the long life we’re going to receive is *eternal life!* That’s *how God is going to fight for us!* So, let’s just make sure that we understand that.

Now let’s come to the New Testament, and let’s see that in preaching the Gospel we have been delivered from Pharaoh and his armies, which is the power of Satan the devil. We will see that God has done a tremendous miracle:

- by calling us out of this world
- by revealing His Truth to us
- by giving us the understanding
 - ✓ of His Word
 - ✓ of His Sabbath
 - ✓ of His Holy Days
 - ✓ of His love
 - ✓ of His goodness

for us!

I mean, brethren, *think of all the blessings that God has given to us.* Not blessings of physical things. Don’t equate every blessing by a physical thing. The fact that you have God’s Holy Spirit,

which is not a physical thing, *it is the power from God, the substance of God’s Spirit, uniting with our minds!* *There can be nothing greater than that in this life!* Do you grasp that?

Here’s what Jesus told Paul when He called him. Paul said, ‘What are you going to do with me, Lord?’ You know how he was knocked down. There he was relating that. And here’s the answer that he got:

Acts 26:17: “**I am personally selecting you** from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you.” Here is what the Gospel and the Spirit of God does for us, which is a greater salvation than being saved from drowning in the Red Sea.

Verse 18: “To open their eyes, that *they* may turn from darkness to light, and *from* the authority of Satan to God...”

We’re going to see the whole world is under the authority of Satan the devil. We’re going to see that that helps name him for what he is. All the people out there—the good, the bad, the ugly, the beautiful, the sweet, the not so sweet—everything out there in the world, apart from those who have the Spirit of God, *are under the authority of Satan the devil!*

“...*from* the authority of Satan to God, so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified through faith in Me” (v 18). That’s something!

So, as I’ve pointed out, what are we to do? **Keep our eyes on the goal!** Let’s see how that was done. God the Father is directly involved in our lives. We are going to be His children. This is quite a thing when you really understand it when you know it. Here’s something that’s important to understand: every time you read Scripture, and maybe you’ve read it many times before, but every time you come back to it, it has a deeper meaning, it has more connections and you have greater understanding.

Colossians 1:9: “For this cause we also, from the day that we heard *of it*, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

Brethren, that’s what all of us as elders do. We pray for you every day, and we know you pray for us. All of us as elders need your prayers, we need your help, we need your encouragement. As well, you need that from us, because we’re all in the forming Family of God.

“...in all wisdom and spiritual

understanding; that you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy” (vs 9-11).

That’s quite a thing! He’s describing what it is that God wants us to be doing in overcoming, changing, growing and living in this world, **preparing for eternal life!** That’s why we are here, **to prepare for eternal life!** Verses 12 & 13 are very powerful, and I want you to connect this with John 6:44-45; make the connection with these verses back to those verses.

Verse 12: “Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the Light.”

Remember, **we’re going to inherit eternal life and New Jerusalem, and share with Christ whatever His inheritance is!** That’s something! Notice what the Father has done for us:

Verse 13: “**Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness and has transferred us unto the kingdom of the Son of His love;** in Whom we have redemption through His own blood, even the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* Firstborn of all creation” (vs 13-15).

That is being born first from the dead. Now then that’s really something that we have here brethren. Think on that! Just like the children of Israel we’re all happy and all excited that they were able to get away from Pharaoh in his armies and walked through the Red Sea on dry land and were saved by God, likewise **we have been rescued! We have been saved!**

(go to the next track)

Now let’s continue on and come to Matt. 5. Let’s see what the Bible tells us about Satan the devil, and what we are to watch out for. This is all a part of spiritually continuing to put *the spiritual leaven* out of our lives. During the Feast of Unleavened Bread we put away the physical leaven, and we see that we need to concentrate on developing the unleavenedness of Christ within us, which is the *unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth* as we saw in 1-Cor. 5.

But when the Feast is over **we are to continue to be on guard** for those things that come against us from living in the world and fighting Satan the devil, and keep us from developing the character of God with all of these things that could interact to interfere.

Matthew 5:36: “Neither shall you swear by

your head, because you do not have the power to make one hair white or black.... [of course, that is true; even if you dye it, it’s still what it is] ...But let your word be *good*, your “Yes” *be* yes *and* your “No” *be* no...” (vs 36-37).

In overcoming the carnal mind, which is deceitful above all things, and part of the deceit is to put on a good pretense and show. Is that not true? So, this is why Jesus has said this; so that we will develop the character of God.

“...for... [because] ...anything that *is* added to these is from the evil one” (v 37). That’s another name for Satan the devil: “...the evil one.” We are going to see that there are many words that describe Satan the devil—the evil one, the conniving one.

The daily prayer, the model on how we are to pray every prayer should be modeled on this outline:

Matthew 6:9: “Therefore, you are to pray after this manner: ‘Our Father, Who *is* in heaven, hallowed be Your name.’”

Sidebar: Nowhere in all the Bible—in Greek or Hebrew, or any other language—is any other name for the Father given other than *the Father*. That’s His sacred name to us, because He is Holy and He is sacred.

Verse 10: “Your kingdom come...” That means the power of God’s kingdom in our life now today, and the return of Jesus Christ bringing the Kingdom of God when He comes.

“...Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven” (v 10)—everywhere on the earth. It’s all going to be done:

- according to the will of God
- according to the prophecies of God
- according to the things that Jesus said

All will be done according to the will of God! The only question is, what side will we be on? I’ll let you answer that question.

Verse 11: “Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation...” (vs 11-13).

We are led into temptation as we have seen when our lusts get involved, and were drawn after the temptation. God never tempts with evil. He always sets before us life and death good and evil. We have to choose. In life everything that we have in life is a matter of choosing.

“...**but rescue us from the evil one....**” (v 13). Rescue us from Satan the devil.

- Who has rescued us from this Satan the devil? *God the Father!*
- How has He done that? *Through His calling and forgiveness of sin through the sacrifice of His only begotten son Jesus Christ!*

“...For Yours [God] is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (v 13).

Let’s see how Satan really works. Let’s see what Eph. 2 tells us. Jesus called him the ‘ruler of this world’ or the ‘prince of this world’ (book of John). But here we find how he works. He makes evil look good, and he makes good look evil. He does it by degrees, incrementally and changes.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world...” (vs 1-2).

What did Satan the devil tell Jesus about all the nations of the world? *‘If you bow down and worship me, I’ll give you all of them, and the glory of them, for it has been given to me. I, Satan the devil, shall give it to whomsoever I will; if you worship me all shall be yours.’*

How many people in the world would want that, look to them like a great blessing. But that’s all physical and that’s all satanic, and that is all evil. That’s why Paul tells us:

Verse 2: “In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit... [that evil one] ...that is now working within the children of disobedience.”

Yes, Satan the devil has his children. They’re not begotten by any spirit that he has, but the ones who are his children are the ones who are led by the demons, and demons possess people. Not all demons appear evil:

- they appear *righteous*
- they appear *religious*

In order to get you to sin against God they will get you to do something which looks like it’s Godly. Look at how many people mask all of their evil by doing ‘good deeds’ of charity. Witness the Catholic Church.

I’m sure that all those good deeds in helping people, help people indeed. However that doesn’t bring them the knowledge of the Truth of God! That doesn’t bring them the knowledge of salvation! But if they can do that and get them to follow the Catholic Church then they’re captives of Satan the devil.

Verse 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the* world.” God in His mercy reached down and called us through His grace.

What does John tell us about God and the world? John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him **may not perish**, but **may have everlasting life**—showing that there are conditions here.

However, God loves the world; we cannot love the world in the same way that God does, because the traps of Satan the devil are out there, and it’s too easily enticing. So, here’s what John says in 1-John 2:15. This is important for us to realize and understand as part of our overcoming:

- the sins of self
- the sins of society
- the sins of Satan the devil

and how he inspires as the ‘prince of the power of the air’ sending enticing messages to try and get people to follow him, and he’s got a lot of them hooked. As a matter of fact, *the whole world!*

1-John 2:15: “Do not love the world... [as the world is] ...nor the things *that are* in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**” Think about that! Who is the god of this world? ***Satan the devil is the god of this world or this age!*** He controls all nations. This is why we are told.

Verse 16: “Because everything that *is* in the world...” You take this verse and you put it on a little card and when you’re watching the television and you watch some of these ads, and you listen carefully especially to the pharmaceutical ads. Take this, this is wonderful and everybody’s happy and smiling. Going well, ‘Oh, this is so great.’ And then you listen to the disclaimers: It may cause suicide it, it may cause you to bleed, in some cases it may cause your death. ‘But this is good stuff you take it.’ If you get sick go see your doctor. *They make a god out of doctors!*

Sidebar: The Truth is, God has given us a body and we’re responsible for taking care of it. He’s put in the body all the means to heal. God will heal in many different ways: miracle if necessary, you changing your diet, changing the things that you eat and drink, that will change the chemistry of your body, which will change the physical being of your body.

“...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**. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (vs 16-17).

Now let’s see some other things about Satan the devil:

- prince of the power of the air
- ruler of this world
- prince of this world
- god of this world

How does he work? Does he come right up to you and say, ‘Hello, I’m Satan, I want to destroy you’? **No**, he says, ‘I have something special for you.’ Let’s see how he works in the society. We will see something that Satan has always done.

Paul tells us to put on ‘all the armor of God.’ We’ll come back to that later.

Ephesians 6:12: “Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood... [but the prince of the power of the air] ...but against principalities... [those are the high-powered leading demons] ...and against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*.”

That’s what you see going on in America right now and in many places around the world. There is a battle between those who want to do good and Satan who wants to destroy everything. We can be very, very thankful here in America that Hillary-Billary is not present, because we would be inundated with every satanic thing that would come along, and it would be verified and upheld by the Supreme Court she would appoint.

So therefore, that’s why we need to pray for kings and governors and so forth, because we have to live in the world. Maybe they might be converted who knows. We don’t know, it’s possible. But we pray so we can live a quiet and peaceful life.

“...against the world rulers of the darkness of this age... [Weren’t we called to come out of the darkness and out from the authority of Satan the devil?] ...against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*” (v 12).

Satan always loves to get to those who are in high places. That’s why Jesus had to have the temptation by Satan the devil. Now let me ask you a question: Jesus Christ as a human being was the highest level of humanity ever. Would you not agree with that? **Yes, indeed!**

Where was Satan on that last Passover night? **Possessed Judas!** And was right there at the Passover during the foot-washing. Likes to get into where the high places are. Wouldn’t you say that that Passover, the last Passover of Jesus, was the

highest class Passover that could have been on earth? **Yes, indeed! And Satan was there to try and destroy it!** Then Jesus dipped him the sop.

Sidebar on dipping the sop: Some people say that couldn’t of been unleavened bread. Well, you’ve never eaten unleavened bread. Have you ever heard of corn chips? And dipping? Corn chips are unleavened. So, he gave them a part of the meat from the dinner and that unleavened bread and said, ‘Go, do what you have to do.’ Where did Satan go? **He went to the high priest, the authorities and betrayed Him!** Where did Satan lead them? **To take Him to the high authority of the Governor of Judea Pontius Pilate!**

In Matt. 16 we have something very important concerning Peter. Who was Peter to be? **He was to be one of the leading apostles!** Peter, John and James. But here in Matt. 16 we find the first part of it that God the Father revealed to Peter who Jesus really was. Peter said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus said, ‘My Father has revealed that to you.’

Matthew 16:21: “From that time Jesus began to explain to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and to suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised the third day.”

Now then, none of the disciples understood what He was talking about. But notice what Peter did, a good intention. Wouldn’t you say that’s a good intention? He wants to protect Jesus. **Yes, indeed!**

Verse 22: “But after taking *Him* aside, Peter personally began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘*God will be favorable to You, Lord. In no way shall this happen to You.*’”

Remember what we read? **Rescue us from the evil one in our daily prayer!** Look what happened to Peter just right after he said, ‘You’re the Christ, the Son of the living God.’

Verse 23: “Then He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, because your thoughts are not *in accord* with the things of God, but the things of men.’.... [a very important lesson] ...And Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his life?... [Isn’t that what is going to happen to *the beast and the false prophet?* **Yes, indeed!**] ...Or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?’” (vs 23-26).

Now then, let's see some more things concerning about Satan the devil. Isn't that interesting the way that that is? Let's come to John 8, and here we'll learn some more about how Satan operates. As I said, Satan likes to be 'religious,' and Satan has those people who like to say they're following Christ.

In John 8 we have a very interesting thing because here were some disciples that said, 'We believe in Jesus.' But it's not a profession that you do, it is also *how you believe*. That's what is important. These are the ones who were following Him, and they asked Him, 'By what authority do You do these?'

John 8:23: "And He said to them... [here's what He said to the Jews] ...'You are from beneath... [you are of the earth, earthy] ...I am from above. You are of this world.'"

That is 'the god of this world' Satan the devil. And remember, Satan likes to work in high places. What's the highest place on earth at that time that Satan could work? *The temple! Where God placed His name!* Keep that in mind. We'll spend a little time here; it's very important for us to understand.

Jesus said: "...I am not of this world. That is why I said to you that you shall die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I AM..." (vs 23-24). They knew what that meant when He said, 'I AM,' because back in Exo. 3 that's what God told Moses to tell the children of Israel who sent him: 'I AM.'

"...for if you do not believe that I AM, you shall die in your sins.' Then they said to Him, 'Who are You?' And Jesus said to them, 'The One that I said to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you...' (vs 24-26).

Verse 30: "As He spoke these things, many believed in Him." But how? Was it just, 'Oh, that's interesting I'm glad to hear him'? *or* Was it that they repented? *No!* Many believed, and it shows it was a *shallow* belief.

Verse 31: "Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him..." Now He's clarifying, so everyone out there who says, 'Oh, I believe in Jesus.' Listen up!

"...If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And **you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free**" (vs 31-32). It must come from God! Not from your inward thoughts and even belief, even sincere. Can you be sincerely deceived? *Yes, indeed!* Let's see what He said here. Let's repeat this.

Verse 32: "And you shall know the

Truth..." What is the Truth?

- Your Word is Truth
- Jesus is the Truth, the Way the life
- Your commandments are true
- Your Law is true
- Your precepts are true
- He is true
- God cannot lie

"...**and the Truth shall set you free**" (v 32).

Just like the children of Israel were in bondage in Egypt. Here, right at the temple of God with those who were Jews, professed to be Jesus Christ. Jesus said, 'You're not free. But **IF** you continue in My Word, that is obey Me, you'll be free.' Now notice what they said. They trusted in themselves and their inheritance. Sound a little familiar like a lot of Jews today? like a lot of Christians today? like a lot of Catholics today? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 33: "They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. What do You mean by saying, "You shall become free"?"

They didn't understand it. You can live in a society that is somewhat free or considerably free but if you are living in sin you're a slave, and you're a slave to Satan the devil. What is the whole purpose of this Feast? *To rescue us from the evil one!* When this Feast is over we're going to be back in the world again. Who runs this world? *Satan the devil is deceiving the world!*

- he's the deceiver
- he's the ancient serpent
- he is the dragon
- he's the god of this world

Verse 33: "They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. What do You mean by saying, "You shall become free"?"

This is why the call for the Kingdom of God is to **repent and be baptized**. After you're baptized and **receive the Holy Spirit**, then you are to grow in grace and knowledge so that you can prepare to be the spiritual sons and daughters of God. That we can have the inheritance of receiving not only eternal life, but rulership over the world, and to live forever.

Notice what Jesus said, because these people were in denial, right there at the temple. Who was guarding the temple against riots? *The Roman soldiers!* Where was Fort Antonia? *Six hundred yards from the temple!* Maybe not that far, closer. They had a causeway on top the colonnades where

the troops could come right out of Fort Antonia and come down and settle squabbles and riots in the temple. Think of that! At the temple area riots and squabbles. *Hello!*

Verse 34: “Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin.... [in 1-John 3 he is called ‘a child of the devil’] ...And the servant does not live in the house forever; *but* the Son lives forever. Therefore, if the Son shall set you free, you shall truly be free. I know that you are Abraham’s seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because **My words do not enter into your minds**” (vs 34-37).

Why? Because they’re clothed with carnality, clothed with Satan the devil—the spirit of the power of the air within them working within them—and yes, they like to be ‘religious.’ ‘If we come to the temple we’re home free, we’re safe because God has put His name there.’ They need read Jer. 7.

He said, v 38: “‘I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.’ They answered and said to Him, ‘Our father is Abraham.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children...’” (vs 38-39). Now notice the difference: Abraham’s seed are not Abraham’s children. Here He’s talking about the *spiritual* seed.

“‘...you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, You are doing the works of your father.’ Then they said to Him... [we know all about you] ...‘We have not been born of fornication. We have one Father, *and that is* God.’ Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me... [rather than try and kill me] ...because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don’t you understand My speech? Because you cannot *bear* to hear My words. **You are of your father the devil...** [and you can put down there *murderer*] ...He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him” (vs 39-44).

If he speaks anything that *appears to be* Truth, it’s because there’s an ulterior motive coming to bring in sin. That’s what Satan does!

We will see that Satan the devil always wants to come and cause problems within the Churches of God. And also, God uses Satan like we found out in the book of Job when we went through the book of Job to carry out his punishment for sin. God shows the same way here with the Churches of God.

Now look what happened to the Church of

Pergamos. They were right there where Satan’s seat or his throne was. What happened to them? Let’s read about Pergamos. What they did. Now this is a personal letter from Jesus Christ to any of those of the Churches of God whether it be Pergamos or Pergamos-like down through time until the return of Jesus Christ because the Word of God applies *spiritually forever*.

Revelation 2:12: “And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos, write: ‘These things says He Who has the sharp two-edged sword.... [the Word of God cuts asunder] ...I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*; but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you...’” (vs 12-14).

Because after he died, what did they do. This is the beginning of setting up of what is called the Sacrifice of the Mass or the Eucharist. It talks about things sacrificed to idols and that’s what it is. This was a time when they were introducing that instead of the Passover. And also the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, the hard-handed ministry against the people of God. Now notice what he says. He says.

Verse 16: “Repent! For if *you* do not *repent*, I will come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.”

What’s happened to the Churches of God? I want you to stop and think. ***It always happens when there is compromise and living in sin!*** Correction always comes! Now we find the Churches of Smyrna the synagogue of Satan that is the ‘religious’ people of the *satanic religions* were casting them into prison and killing them.

We find in Thyatira that Jezebel, the prophetess who called herself Jezebel that tells us from Baal (2-Kings); remember that? Same thing there! God had to correct them! He had to come hard against them!

Now then, here with the Church of Philadelphia. *We live in a time when the synagogue of Satan is trying to get the whole world into a satanic one world government and religion!* We have to hold fast

- against all circumstances
- against all false doctrine
- against everything that comes against the people of God

And the Church of Philadelphia are those who love the brethren and you can’t love the brethren unless you love God first. But then were also handicapped with those who are Laodiceans,

who are just are laid back Christians and think that everything is going to be fine. Well, it's not going to be.

Let's come to the book of James and see what James tells us we need to do. James 4 ties right in with 1-Peter 5.

James 4:6: "But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, 'God sets Himself against *the* proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble.'" Here's what we need to do. We've got more faith more forces of satanic powers and things coming against us than it any other time in history.

Verse 7: "Therefore, **submit yourselves to God**.... [that's what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about] ...**Resist the devil**... [don't go on and try a little bit] ...and **he will flee from you**.... [Peter says to resist him in the faith] ...**Draw near to God**..." (vs 7-8). How do you draw near to God?

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

"...and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!**.... [How? *By repentance!*] ...Be grieved and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into grieving, and *your* joy into mourning. **Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you**" (vs 8-10)—that is in due time.

Now let's see what we need to do in resisting Satan the devil. We have things we need to do. If everything is kind of going nice and right and smooth and it's really good, and you're not praying and you're not studying the way that you should, **then all of a sudden a trial comes upon you!** Don't you think God's trying to tell you something? You can come out of that:

- come back to God
- draw near to God
- repent

This is the purpose of the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God**..." (vs 10-11).

How do you do that? *Through prayer through study!* The Word of God:

- guards our heart
- guards our mind
- guards the door of your mind

Don't let any of these things in! **Resist!** Don't be enticed!

Verse 11: "Put on the whole armor of God **so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**."

Remember, he always comes just like he did to Eve and says, 'Perhaps you need to think God was wrong when He said not to eat of any of the trees of the garden.' Eve said, 'He said we can eat of all the trees except that one over there. God said don't eat it.' So, Satan the serpent, said, 'You know, that's really good tree. If you eat it you'll be like God. Don't you want to be like God? Be strong and mighty like Him? Try it you'll like it!' *And she did!* She said, 'Hey, this is pretty good, and it's going to make us wise like God.'

Adam sat over there and watched her. He could have said, 'Eve, drop that fruit. God said don't touch it don't pick it.' I wonder what the world would be like if he would have done that? *Probably be a really different place indeed!* But he didn't do it, *he ate of it.* Now look at the mess we got ourselves in. **The wiles!** Remember if there's anything to remember about Satan and sin it is this: He comes and presents it as a benefit. Whereas, **God wants us to do it His way, so He gives us blessings!**

Verse 12: "Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities and against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*. Therefore, **take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day**... [every day can be evil] ...and having worked out all things, to stand. **Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth**, and wearing the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith..." (vs 12-16).

- that you believe God
- you believe His Word
- you believe the Truth
- you live the Truth

"...with which **you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one**; and put on the helmet of salvation... [protect your spiritual brain as it were] ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; **praying at all times with all prayer**..." (vs 16-18). That's why what we need to do!

Everything is going to work out for good. Remember that even though you may have to suffer a while God will raise you out of it. Even though you have difficulties for a time you can overcome it **through the power and Spirit of God!** And even if it looks like it's the worst thing in the world to come

along, in the long run it's going to work out. And is going to work out for good, because we have God's promise:

Romans 8:28: "And **we know that all things work together for good to those who love God**... [you love God] ...to those who are called according to *His* purpose... [Have you been called according to His purpose? Yes indeed!] ...because those whom He did foreknow..." (vs 28-29). He foreknows us! He's talking about foreknowing us before the time of the resurrection!

"...He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son, that He might be *the* Firstborn among many brethren. Now, whom He predestinated... [which He has] ...these He also called... [which He has] ...and whom He called, these He also justified... [which He has] ...and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (vs 29-30)—yet to be done at the resurrection! ***We have been glorified to the extent that we have the Spirit of God!***

Verse 31: "What then shall we say to these things? If **God is for us, who can be against us?**.... [nothing; no one] ...He Who did not spare even His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him?.... [Heb. 1; Jesus inherited all things, that means the vastness of the universe] ...Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? *God is the One* Who justifies. Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us" (vs 31-34).

Remember that through all these trials and difficulties like we read back there in Psa. 91, ***'I will be with you in the time of trouble.'***

"...making intercession for us. What shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" (vs 34-35).

We're going to face all of those things. We're going to have to look at them square as they come, and realize that even if they come, because this country is eventually going to go down, that we need not be worried or afraid but we stand for what we believe, because ***God is for us and we are His children!***

"...*Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Accordingly, it is written, 'For Your sake we are killed all the day long...'" (vs 35-36).

And that day is coming! Have there been martyrs for Jesus who've lost their heads? Yes, a lot of them in the *fake Christianity* of the Middle

East. They're martyrs for Christ. They're not the martyrs of the saints. Only those who are saints will be those who are martyred saints. The others are the martyrs for Jesus. They did it because they believed in Jesus though even though wrongly. They'll be in the second resurrection without a doubt.

Look at it this way. This is how we are to look at these things, v 37: "But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded..." (vs 37-38).

This is the persuasion we need to have as we go forward after the last day of Unleavened Bread.

"...that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (vs 38-39).

God is the One Who is going to lead us to this victory! He will fight for us! Jesus is returning to bring the kingdom and resurrect us from the dead and all of those who are still alive at that time will be transformed, and ***then we will with Jesus Christ bring the Kingdom of God to this earth!*** This is the meaning of the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:6, 8
- 2) Numbers 28:16-25
- 3) Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- 4) Exodus 34:18-20
- 5) Exodus 13:17-22
- 6) Exodus 14:1-18
- 7) Psalm 91:1-4, 14-16
- 8) Acts 26:17-18
- 9) Colossians 1:9-15
- 10) Matthew 5:36-37
- 11) Matthew 6:9-13
- 12) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 13) John 3:16
- 14) 1 John 2:15-17
- 15) Ephesians 6:12
- 16) Matthew 16:21-26
- 17) John 8:23-26, 30-44
- 18) Revelation 2:12-14, 16
- 19) James 4:6-10
- 20) Ephesians 6:10-18
- 21) Romans 8:28-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 6:44-45
- 1 Corinthians 5
- Exodus 3

- Jeremiah 7
- 1 Peter 5
- Hebrews 1

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