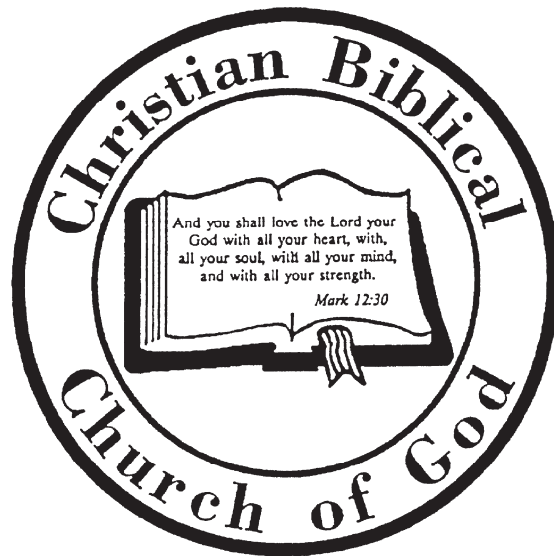


Spring Feast 2018



Transcript Book

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Our Part in the Covenant Sacrifice

(Sabbath Before Passover)

*How we die to sin through repentance and baptism uniting with the death of Christ
set before the foundation of the world*

Fred R. Coulter—March 24, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! Quite an amazing year that we have gone through; so many different things have happened! Here we are again at the Passover time.

This Passover marks my 57th Passover. Where the time went I don't know, but it's gone! Whatever it is for you, your first one, your 5th, 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th or 50th, the Passover is the most important thing, and the very fulcrum of God's plan. *Without the Passover, there is no plan!*

Let's keep in mind the importance of this, and the importance that it is a covenant ceremony to renew the New Covenant for those who are Christ's. Paul wrote that 'Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us' (1-Cor. 5). That means that we, who are the called and chosen, have this Passover for us. It's not for the world.

The Christianity of this world has nothing to do with the true Passover, and know nothing about the true righteousness of God. Even some brethren during this past year have:

- gone astray
- followed other doctrines
- believed things that aren't true
- get carried away with *spiritual insanity*

We hope they will repent! But when we understand the true significance of the New Covenant Passover, ***then we have every reason to love God and be faithful and endure to the end!***

We find in Rev. 13 that John wrote, 'The Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world!' Jesus said, 'I'm the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega, I'm the One Who was dead, yet alive evermore in to the ages of eternity' (Rev. 1). That's out into the plan of God way beyond what we can comprehend. It is true, we still 'look through a glass darkly,' even with the knowledge that we have.

Really, when you understand it, our knowledge—though we may have more than past times—is very infinitesimal compared to what God is going to teach us when we enter the Kingdom of God. But we're not going to get there without the Passover.

The first mention of the need of a Savior is back in Gen. 3. Let's review this and see what

happened. All human being have gone their way, all human beings have been cutoff from God, ***and only God can solve the problem!***

But I think the most important thing that we understand concerning the world today is that ***man cannot live his life without the true knowledge of God!*** He can, but look at the mess! Look at the trouble! They do not understand one of the most important factors, which is Satan the devil. Some may have a grasp of it, but unless you really believe the Bible and believe the Truth you will never understand the fullness of God's plan. It just works out that way, and it's that simple!

As we have seen, and we need to understand this even more, we have independent free moral agency, ***and God gave us that!***

- He will not violate it!
- He will not annul it!
- He will not cancel it!
- He will not remove it!

God doesn't want robots! He wants those:

- who *love* Him
- who *believe* Him
- who *serve* Him
- who *follow* His laws and commandments in Truth

by choice! This was the test in Gen. 3: What would Adam and Eve choose to do? *Because if you give free moral agency there has to be a test to find out what you're going to do!*

Human being today can make robots and artificial intelligence, but there is no choice involved, no emotions involved, no love at all. It's cold and hard; 'just digital facts, Mam!' So, let's see how Adam and Eve set the way for the need of a Savior of all mankind.

Genesis 3:1: "Now, the serpent was more cunning than any creature of the field, which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Is it true that God has said, "You shall not eat of any tree of the garden"?"

Satan comes with a proposition and she knew better than that. He wanted to engage her so that she would fall for his lie. Satan always comes with a benefit. Oh yes, without a doubt, ***a benefit!***
But:

- he doesn't tell you that it is wrong
- he doesn't tell you that it's going to end in death

because his benefit will 'lead to life through the false doctrine of the immortality of the soul!' Satan always accuses God! Satan always accuses the brethren! Here he is accusing God:

Verse 2: "And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may freely eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, **God has indeed said, "You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."**'" And the serpent said to the woman, 'In dying, you shall not surely die!'" (vs 2-3). So, he admitted that death is going to take place, but he has a 'better way.'

Verse 5: "'For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God, deciding good and evil.'" Don't we have that today? *You decide for yourself! Independent free moral agency (IFMA)!*

Verse 6: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasing to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

Most renditions show that she 'took a bite,' but here it says that she *ate of it*: "took of its fruit..." It doesn't say she plucked *a fruit*, but "...took of its fruit..." How much she had, we don't know, but she ate, and "...gave to her husband..." who ate also.

Verse 7: "And the eyes of both of them were opened..."—to evil!

Before that time they were kind of in a neutral position. God created them, gave them a language, taught them and set before them everything that there is. He told them about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but they were not inherently evil. ***They became that way when they disobeyed God!***

What happens when people disobey God? *They bring a penalty on themselves* that they don't even realize at the time that they do it. If they're told, like Adam and Eve: 'Well this will be okay, try it you'll like it, it's really, really good, and you will really be wise.'

You know what happened. God came around, they were hiding themselves; God knew where they were. One atheist said, 'How can God be God if He didn't know where Adam was?' *Of course God knew where Adam was, and He knew what happened!* But God wanted to hear it from their own

mouths. So, when they finally came out of the bushes and showed themselves to God, He said, 'Have you eaten of the tree that I told you not to eat of?'

Immediately, v 12: "The man said, 'The woman... [Yes, Lord, it's Your fault! It's the woman] ...whom You gave to be with me...' And the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said... [it's not my fault] ...'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.' And the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this you *are* cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go upon your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life'" (vs 12-14).

Then, because of God's judgment to Adam and Eve for the sin that they committed, the whole environment was changed. Their relationship with God was changed. When they were living in the Garden of Eden, He was there, He appeared to them as flesh and bone. Of course, they could say, 'Well, we're not too much different than God. Maybe the serpent is right; maybe we can know a lot of things that God isn't going to tell us.'

So, here comes the judgment with the sentencing, v 15: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed..." *That is ultimately Christ!*

So, right at the beginning, when the first sins of human beings occurred... The first sins were of Satan the devil and the angels that followed him that became demons. They didn't repent! Adam and Eve didn't repent! Where does it say, 'O Lord, forgive me, I'm sorry.' Nowhere to be found. So, there's that enmity.

"...He will bruise your head... [annul everything that you do] ...and you shall bruise His heel" (v 15).

So, when we come to the time of the Passover and crucifixion, this was a tremendous thing going on right there in Jerusalem between God, the angels of God, Satan and the demons and the authorities and people with Christ, God manifested in the flesh dying on the cross for the sins of mankind that began with Adam and Eve.

Verse 16: "To the woman He said, 'I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception—in sorrow shall you bring forth children...'"

Not just the birth process, but the whole process of the emotional attachment that mothers have in a special way for their children. How many older women today have sorrow because of their children as adults.

“...Your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you” (v 16).

That’s the way that God set it up. There are a lot of women out there in the world following Satan the devil that don’t like that. Do we go with the world? **or** Do we go with God? How was the man to rule? *In love!*

Verse 17: “And to Adam He said, ‘Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife...’”—instead of Me! Remember the three words: **obey My voice!** Isn’t that the problem of all people down through the history of the world? *Without a doubt!*

“...and have eaten of the tree—of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it!’...” (v17). Think about that! So important that when they ate of that, they put themselves also under the authority of Satan.

How do you suppose Satan said to Jesus during the temptation, that ‘if You bow down and worship me, I’ll give you all these nations and the glory of them *for it has been given to me*. And I give it to whomsoever I will!’ How did Satan get it? *Because whenever people reject God, go against God and break His commandments, there’s an entrance for Satan!* We know that in the end-time he’s got the whole world deceived.

So, here’s how it all started, and here’s why we need a Savior and Redeemer. It cannot be just another man, an ordinary human being, because even justice wouldn’t be served with that. God is interested in the whole human race, everyone who comes into the world.

- that’s why God has His plan
 - that’s why there’s a second resurrection
- also
- that’s why there will be a lake of fire

These things are never going to be repeated again in the Kingdom of God. So, God told them:

“...the ground *is* cursed for your sake. In sorrow shall you eat of it all the days of your life. It shall also bring forth thorns and thistles to you, and *thus* you shall eat the herbs of the field; in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (vs 17-19).

So, here’s the first prophecy of a Savior, and a prophecy that He would be crucified.

Let’s fast forward all the way to John 3:16, the verse that the world *knows* by rote, but doesn’t understand in the heart and spiritually. Oh yes, they all like to quote this. But this tells us a lot about God.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world...”—everything that has been created, but in particularly all those things were created for mankind.

I don’t care what Prime Minister Trudeau in Canada say about ‘people-kind.’ That’s an affront to God! The word is *mankind*. Where did *woman* come from? *From man!* And the three letters at the end of ‘woman’ is *man*. You can re-define it and change it.

“...that He gave His only begotten Son...” (v 16). We’re going to see some of the things that He had to do to become a man. Remember, all of this relates back to the original creation, which was ‘Let Us—God the Father and Jesus Christ—make man in Our image after Our likeness, male and female, and let them have dominion over the whole earth.’ *That’s the gift that God gave to all mankind!*

“...His only begotten Son...” We’ll talk about this a little bit more as we go through this message.

“...so that everyone who believes in Him...” (v 16)—continuously believing, not just professing, not just accepting, but **believing unto action beginning with repentance!** When you understand what God did, **this was the greatest most manifest act of love, justice, righteousness and goodness, to rescue all mankind who will repent!**

“...**may** not perish...” (v 16). This is in the Greek subjunctive, which is there are conditions applied to *may* that are very akin to *if*. That ties in with IFMA and free moral agency. You *may!* What are the conditions? *We know that the New Testament says to repent and be baptized, love God and keep His commandments!*

There’s a difference between dying and perishing. Perishing means *there’s no longer anything about you that exists!* That perishing is a complete consumption in the Lake of Fire.

Those who die sleep in Christ, and everybody else who dies sleep waiting for the second resurrection. The vast majority of them do not have a clue that that is going to happen. That’s why we have the plan of God. That’s why it starts with the Passover.

“...but may have everlasting life” (v 16). The world not understanding that thinks: ‘we believe that we’re saved.’ They don’t even realize that repenting of sins and having them forgiven is only the *first* step.

Now let’s see what Jesus said about this. The book of John is full of a lot of things for us. God

spoke to the people through Jesus Christ; He was God manifested in the flesh. He had to divest Himself of all of His glory and Divinity and become a pinprick of life to be begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary.

Follow this carefully: All life has male and female. The seed from the father must impregnate the egg of the mother. That impregnation is called *begettal*. ***The only Begotten Son of God the Father, none other!*** This becomes vitally important for God to do, because He cannot save mankind unless He Himself bears within Him the same judgment that He gave to Adam and Eve, yet, live in the flesh without sinning!

Like believing the Truth, they want to accept what ***they want*** and add to it what ***they desire***. That's the whole story of mankind simply explained for their actions.

Since God made them, they have a spiritual component within called *the spirit of man*, so they get 'religious' and they have 'religions' and they have all of the things that *they invent* to try and make themselves right with God. They can never get right with God without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Look at the 'religions' and what they've done to the Passover.

Why do you think we have a 500 page book on the Passover? ***Because of the sins and corruption of all men and women wanting to do their own way!*** That's why!

Jesus made it very clear, and keep this in mind concerning the coming Passover, which is the New Covenant renewal.

John 6:53: "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.'" In other to do that:

- it has to be the way that God has provided
- it has to be as Jesus commanded
- it has to be at the time and the day that God gave with the things we are told in the Bible to use:
 - ✓ unleavened bread
 - ✓ wine
 - ✓ foot-washing

All of those combined, and it starts out, as we know, with foot-washing.

"...you do not have life in yourselves" (v 53). In other words, they do not have the Holy Spirit. You cannot keep and retain the Holy Spirit of God unless:

- you love God

- obey Him
- keep His Sabbaths
- keep His Holy Days

All of those are His commandments—are they not? *Yes, indeed!* Then live by ***every word*** of God!

This is speaking to them spiritually, and they didn't understand Him because they were carnal and they didn't believe.

Verse 54: "The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day." That tells a lot right there.

- the whole life of Christ
- the crucifixion of Christ
- His death
- His burial
- His resurrection
- His ascension to heaven
- the calling of the firstfruits, which are us
- the developing of His Church
- the carrying out of prophecy to the end-time

All of that's contained right there "...the last day"!

Verse 55: "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."

Now, here's the reason why, and I want you to grasp this very important v 57.

- this is why we have the Passover
- this is why God made it special
- this is why only those who have the Spirit of God and have entered into a covenant relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ should partake of the Passover

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." Remember what Jesus said when tempted by Satan the devil? When Satan said:

- Look at how much weight You have lost
- You're in sad condition, aren't You?
- You're weak, aren't You?
- You haven't eaten anything for 40 days and 40 nights!
- If You're the Son of God, You see these stones right here?
- Why don't You command them to become bread, fresh baked, very aromatic bread?
- You can just smell the goodness of the bread coming right out of the rocks!
- That will be a benefit for You!

- What did Jesus say since He was a man—God in the flesh? *He was speaking to Himself!*
- Did not Jesus have to apply all the commandments of God to Himself? *Yes, indeed!*
- If He didn't, would He not sin? *Yes, indeed!*

So, when He said, 'man,' quoting the Scripture, He said, 'it's written.' Understand that God has it written down for a great and marvelous purpose that we can understand His way:

- *if* we have the Holy Spirit of God
- *if* we believe God
- *if* we keep His commandments
- *if* we hunger and thirst for Truth

God isn't going to give it any other way! He made that the standard!

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."

How did He live? *Perfectly!* And through Him, we can be perfected! We can't live perfectly, because we're still human beings. This is why we have the Passover, and why we renew the New Covenant every year.

Let's see what else Jesus said. It's quite a thing! The whole Gospel of John is a marvelous book, and tells us so many more things. In John 10 He talks about the only way you're going to get eternal life is *through Him, He's the door!* In:

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, **I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life...**"

- You can't do it without Jesus Christ—*period!*
- You can't do it without the Father—*period!*
- *You need Both!*

God does a very interesting thing, you'll see this pattern throughout the Bible: ***He let's the detractors come first!*** Just like the thing with Elijah and the priests of Baal and the high places. Remember the sacrifice in 1-Kings 18; that was quite a day!

Look at all the prayers that all of these pagan priests did to try and prove that *their* Baal really lived, but they couldn't even wake him up. Even by pounding drums and jumping on the altar, cutting themselves and bleeding everywhere on the ground. So, when they got all done, Elijah said to set up the altar, put the wood and sacrifice on it, pour water on it three times and let the water run down. Remember, this is after three and a half years of drought, so water was pretty precious.

So, they put it on there and he gave a 21-second prayer: 'Lord God, show who is the true God in Israel!' BAM! *Fire came down from heaven and devoured everything! All the water and everything!* Israel had to admit that ***God was God, and not Baal!***

But even Elijah, as strong as he was, had his weakness. He got afraid because Jezebel said, 'You killed all those priests and I'm going to some and get you.' He ran down to Mt. Horeb and hid in a cave, so God had to send a still voice saying, 'There there, Elijah, quit having a pity-party in a cave. I have 7,000 who have not bowed their knee to Baal. Now get up and go and do what I tell you to do.'

So, likewise here, John 10:8: "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers..."

Verse 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..." (vs 11-12).

That is exactly what's happened over and over again during our day in the Church. Those who are supposed to be ministers are not studying and praying and repenting to keep established with God and understand the Truth. So, Satan comes along just like the Garden of Eden and says, 'Hey, here's some new doctrine. Think of what you could do with this new doctrine.' How many times has that happened? And it's happening right while you're listening to this.

Verse 14: "I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine." How do you know? *Because you love and obey by choice! IFMA: independent free moral agency!*

Verse 15: "Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.**" Understand that Jesus did this because He loves all mankind. The Father loves the world! There are other sheep that have to come. There will be *one flock and one Shepherd!*

Verse 17: "On account of this, the Father loves Me: because **I lay down My life,** that I may receive it back again. **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**" (vs 17-18).

That tells the whole story of the Passover!

(go to the next track)

Now let's look at some of the things that

Jesus had to do, what He had to go through and how it was prophesied. He gave all of these prophecies of what was going to happen to Him.

Remember that *He was slain from the foundation of the world*, which means that He knew at the laying of the foundation of the world that this would have to happen. The plan of God is so great, so good and magnificent, that God had to come, manifested in the flesh—Jesus Christ—the only Begotten of the Father, to redeem mankind from their sins from Satan the devil and from themselves.

Philippians 2:6—concerning Jesus Christ: “Who, although He existed in *the* form of God...” ***He existed! He was God!***

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the* Word was God.”

Verse 3: “All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him.”

Think about how great this is. I want you think about how marvelous the plan of God is. As we go through these things that Jesus went through, I want you to ask yourself, and I will of myself: What have I really done to deserve this? *None of us do! It's through the grace of God and through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!*

Philippians 2:6: “Who, although He existed in *the* form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself...” (vs 6-7).

He had to divest Himself of His glory. Remember what God told Moses when Moses asked Him, ‘Show me Your glory.’ God said, ‘No man can look upon My face and live.’ So, He had to give up His glory! How much of being God did He retain? *We don't know! But enough to be God manifested in the flesh*, the only Begotten of the Father in this particular manner. We are begotten of the Father in a different way. We're already born, already adults. The only Begotten—the One Who became Jesus, Immanuel: God with us—the Firstborn of the virgin Mary had to *divest Himself of His glory* to become a human being.

“...emptied Himself, *and* was made in the likeness of men, *and* took the form of a **servant**... [Greek: ‘doulos’ or slave] ...and being found in the manner of man... [everything about how a human being functions he had, did and went through] ...He humbled Himself...” (vs 7-8).

How much have we *really* humbled ourselves? *Very little!* But He greatly! “...*and* became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the*

cross” (v 8).

Let's see what it was like. Christ prophesied of His own death. He knew exactly what was going to happen. We see elements of The Most High in here, as well. We have covered that doctrinal problem.

There are quite a few chapters in Isaiah that talk about God, the suffering of Jesus Christ, especially:

Isaiah 53:1: “Who has believed our report?... [Who would have believed that God would do this?] ...And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant... [the childhood of Christ] ...and as a root out of a dry ground; He has no form nor comeliness that we should look upon Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him” (vs 1-2). Isn't that interesting?

Notice that every rotten thing that every human being has to go through, ***He went through***, though He was God manifested in the flesh.

Verse 3: “*He is* despised and rejected of men...” Read the Gospels, very few actually believed, especially of those in authority in government.

“...a Man of sorrows... [heavily burdened down] ...and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not” (v 3). We'll cover some of those things concerning what happened at the cross.

They got up there and shook their fists and said, ‘Well, if You're the Son of God, get down from there and save Yourself, then we'll believe that you are God.’

He was “...stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (v 4). All prophesied to happen. As Creator of all mankind, only He and His death and shed blood would be sufficient payment to pay for all the sins of mankind.

Verse 5: “But He ***was wounded*** for our transgressions; ***He was crushed*** for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace...” In order to have peace with God, He had to be chastened, beaten and scourge!

Isaiah 52:14: “Many were astonished at Him—for *His body was* so disfigured—even His form beyond that of the sons of men.” We know nothing about scourging—do we? Brutal! Terrible! Oppressive!

Isaiah 53:5: “...*He was* crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace *was* upon

Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all**" (vs 5-6). Think about that!

Verse 7: "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet, He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away..." (vs 7-8).

Oh yes all the lies, all the super self-righteous 'religious' leaders. A lot of people want to know who killed Christ. Well, if you read the book: *The Day Jesus the Christ Died*, you will find this:

- the religious leaders represented all the religions in the world
- Pontus Pilate represented all the governments in the world
- the people who cried out 'Crucify Him!' represented all the people of the world

Symbolically crying out 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!'

"...and with His generation who did consider that He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken" (v 8).

Everything that happened on that Passover Day when Christ died were all prophesied, all carried out, even to the parting of His vesture and casting lots.

Verse 9: "And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; although He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet, **the LORD willed to crush Him** and He has put Him to grief: You shall **make His life an offering for sin...**" (vs 9-10). Out of that comes the good news.

Let's see what it was like coming before those soldiers; Isaiah 50:6: "I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting, for the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore, I have not been disgraced. On account of this I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed" (vs 6-7).

Think of that! "...willed to crush Him..." to make an offering for sin.

Isaiah 53:10: "...He shall prolong His days... [He's resurrected afterward] ...and that **the purpose of the LORD** might prosper in His hand"—the whole plan of God!

Brethren, I want us to understand what a fantastic and magnificent thing that it is that **God has called us to be His very sons and daughters, and to be in the Kingdom of God, and live forever!** Let that sink in. But He had to do this to make it possible.

Verse 11: "He shall see of the travail of His soul.... [yes, He looked down and saw His ribs exposed] ...He shall be fully satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will divide to Him *a portion* with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because **He has poured out His soul to death...**" (vs 11-12).

The soul that sins shall die, and He took upon Him the sins of the world. And He poured out of His soul every drop of blood.

"...and He was counted among the transgressors; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors" (v 12).

Isn't that something! Think of what Jesus has done! This is absolutely marvelous, loving and fantastic beyond our comprehension. We can grasp it a little bit, but we need God's Spirit to let it sink deeply into our consciousness, and into our mind and heart.

Like Jesus told the apostles when He was going up to be crucified, He was telling them about it and said, **'Let this sink deep into your ears.'** So, let these things sink deep into our heart and mind.

Now we're going to look at the three parts of the Passover Ceremony, the renewing of the New Covenant through the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, in the *King James* they got it wrong. One among many things that they have gotten wrong.

John 13:1: "Now, before the Feast of the Passover, knowing that His time had come to depart from this world to the Father, Jesus, having loved His own who were in the world, loved them to the end. And after supper began... [as it was beginning] ... (the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, that he should betray Him)" (vs 1-2).

There is always a betrayer from Satan, who likes to stealthily come in and confuse and change doctrine. That's why we always need to be alert. This also tells us that Satan can put it into the heart of people.

Verse 3: "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God." Then He

washed the disciples feet.

Here is the lesson, and it's quite a thing. How many churches in the world have foot-washing? *Some do!* But do they do it on the Passover. Most Protestant have it on the first Sunday of every quarter. How did they get that out of the Bible? *They didn't!* Whatever *they do* is meaningless! It's *their own* righteousness. It's *their own* tradition! But here foot-washing has great and tremendous meaning for us.

Verse 12: "Therefore, when He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, *and* had sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you speak rightly, because I am'" (vs 12-13).

Now, listen to these verses, because this is what Jesus commanded us to do because He did it. Here's the purpose and the lesson. With everything concerning the Passover, there's:

- a purpose
- a meaning
- a lesson
- an application

Foot-washing is to help us have the right attitude, humbly accepting what Jesus did.

Verse 13: "You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you speak rightly, because I am Therefore, if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also are **duty-bound** to wash one another's feet" (vs 13-14).

It's not optional! If someone doesn't like it, *go! You have not part with us!* The way that the pope does it is absolutely blasphemous indeed!

Verse 15: "For I have given you an example, *to show* that you also should do **exactly as I have done** to you." That's why we have the foot-washing.

Verse 16—here is the lesson: "Truly, truly I tell you, a servant... ['doulos': slave] ...is not greater than his lord, nor a messenger greater than he who sent him."

What happens with all of these ministers of worldly Christianity? They have all of these things that they do, and these are *their own* ideas and they're supposedly representing Jesus Christ. How can they when they supposedly are the messengers, but they bring the wrong confused message?

You could say that they're well-intentioned. That may be true, but well-intentioned by whose inspiration? God's? **or** Satan's? *Yes, Satan wants them to do those things!* Desecrate what is a

covenant renewal into a different practice. Let them think that they are doing something that God wants, **but it's contrary to the will of God!**

Just exactly the message that Satan brought in the Garden of Eden: 'God knows that in the day that you eat thereof, you shall be wise and you will be like God, to decide good and evil.' **That's what people do with their own carnal minds and methods!**

That's the first thing. Now let's see that eating Jesus' flesh and drinking His blood is *symbolic* of the bread and wine. Someone is going to say that it doesn't say wine, it says 'fruit of the vine.' Well, are grapes harvested right after the winter? *No!* What happens if you juice out the grapes. It ferments into wine because there is yeast right on the skins of the grapes. It's wine; Greek: 'oinos.'

Sidebar: If you have been an alcoholic and you no longer are an alcoholic, or if you have made a vow to God not to drink any alcohol, then *and only then* would grape juice be allowed.

Matthew 26:26: "And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*; *then He* broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'" Eating the flesh of Jesus, as we saw in John 6, is symbolically fulfilled by eating the Passover bread.

Now let's see what He did after that; v 27: "And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'All of you drink of it; for this is My blood, the *blood* of the New Covenant, which is poured out **for many** for *the* remission of sins.'" (vs 27-28). 'Many' means *all of those who come to repentance*, and during the Millennium that will be everyone there.

Remember that whenever a covenant is made, blood must be shed by both parties. The other way is that you devote your whole being instead of a little blood. That's what baptism is all about. It's greater than producing a little blood.

When the Indians made a covenant, they sliced their thumb or hand and put their hand or thumb together and the blood mingled and that was covenant. We're going to see that that New Covenant is greater. The death of Christ is the whole focal part of it. That's God's part of the covenant and we will see that ***we have a part with the covenant***, too.

Mark 14:21: "'The Son of man indeed goes, just as it has been written of Him... [everything was

laid out and written] ...but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.'.... [talking about Judas Iscariot] ...And as they were eating, Jesus took bread; *and* after blessing *it*, He broke *it* and gave *it* to them, and said, 'Take, eat; **this is My body**'" (vs 21-22). ***Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man***—symbolically eaten by this bread—***you have no life in you!***

Verse 23: "And He took the cup; *and* after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them; and they all drank of it. And He said to them, 'This is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for **many**'" (vs 23-24).

So, you have ***foot-washing***, the ***unleavened bread*** that we eat and the ***wine*** that we drink; those are emblems of the New Covenant. How do these things fit in with us? Because Jesus took upon Him 'the law of sin and death' and never sinned, His sacrifice and shed blood covers the sins of ***all who repent***.

We have a sermon series and in-depth studies the book of Romans. Romans has some very difficult things to understand, and in the King James Version and other versions is so bad that it's difficult to understand the critical, important parts you need to do.

Romans 3:20: "Therefore, by ***works of law*** there shall no flesh be justified before Him..." That means any work of any law. Whatever you may do, it cannot bring justification.

- Why?
- Is anything greater than the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood?
- Any animal sacrifice?
- Any great work that a person could do?

Nothing! Nothing!

The "...works of law..." here were the ***traditions of the Jews*** and the ***animal sacrifices at the temple***. Or ***whatever works of law that any religion has can never reconcile you to God! Only the shed blood of Jesus Christ applied to the life of the repentant sinner!***

"...for through *the Law is the knowledge of sin*.... [there is a place for Law and we have to obey it] ...But now *the righteousness of God that is separate from law*... [any law that has been designed to bring justification; that's what the sacrifices were for] ...has been revealed... [life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and His shed blood] being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets" (vs 20-21).

Didn't we read in the Prophets the prophecy of the coming Passover sacrifice of Christ? ***Yes!***

Verse 22: "Even *the righteousness of God that is through the faith of Jesus Christ*..."

- you must believe in Christ
- you must believe in His sacrifice
- you must look to Him

That is greater than any law of justification!

"...toward all and upon all those who believe... [belief and repentance go hand-in-hand] ...for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *but* are being justified freely by ***His grace***..." (vs 22-24):

- His mercy
- His kindness
- His love
- His grace

Everything about God!

"...through the redemption that *is* in Christ Jesus" (v 24). Nothing else can redeem anyone from anything ***except the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His shed blood, and His resurrection to administer it! Nothing!***

Verse 25: "Whom God has openly manifested *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, in respect to the remission of sins that are ***past***."

Not going to get a blanket coverage ahead of time! When you sin, in an instant of time it's already past. All sins that are past are forgiven. Just think of what kind of behavior you would have if you were given *carte blanche* for all sins in the future for all time! That there wouldn't be anything you could do that would take that away! ***That is the deception of the statement that:***

'The love of God is unconditional and it doesn't matter what you do. If you just believe in Jesus you are saved and there's nothing you can do to get rid of it.'

How do they justify rejecting the Lake of Fire? ***That tells us that, yes, there are some things you can do that will not receive God's love! You will receive His judgment in death!***

Verse 26: "Through the forbearance of God; *yes*, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time, that He might be just, and the One Who justifies the one who *is* of *the faith of Jesus*."

Our faith is to grow to become ***the faith of Christ within us!*** The faith of Christ is applied to us ***because He willingly gave His life and laid it down***

in faith on the promise that He could lay it down and receive it back! Christ had total absolute faith in God the Father!

Because God graciously does this, there are no plaques, no cups of victory, no medals, none of these things. That's what the Jews had: phylacteries. Every time they did a good deed they put a little medal on there. The more good deeds they had, the more medals they had on their phylacteries. They would boast, 'Oh look at the one, the mighty righteous rabbi.'

Verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting? It is excluded. Through what law? *The law* of works? By no means! Rather, *it is* through a law of faith."

- *your* belief
 - *your* repentance
 - taking *your* IFMA—independent free moral agency
 - *you choose* to repent
 - God's Spirit *convicts* you to that repentance
 - God *applies* the blood and sacrifice of Christ to you
- *That's what the Passover is all about!*
- *That is the law of faith for the forgiveness of sins!*

And entering into the New Covenant, because the New Covenant goes on way beyond just the forgiveness of sins that are past.

Verse 28: "Consequently, we reckon that a man is justified by faith, separate from works of law. *Is He* the God of the Jews only?...." (vs 28-29).

They boast that they're the 'chosen people'; yet, they don't even know where to build the temple in Jerusalem.

"...*Is He* not also *the God of the Gentiles*? YES! *He is* also God of *the Gentiles* since *it is* indeed one God Who will justify *the* circumcision by faith, and *the* uncircumcision through faith.... [same Greek word with two different meanings, though meaning virtually the same thing] ...Are we, then, abolishing *the Law* through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the Law*" (vs 29-31).

Why? ***Because now you desire to keep it! Rather than live in sin and transgress it!*** Think on that!

Now we will see what *our covenant sacrifice* is when we come to Christ, and what God does; 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 do we die to sin?] ...how shall we live any longer therein?" (vs 1-2).

You die to sin through baptism! Baptism is your covenant sacrifice, my covenant sacrifice; Christ has already done His. Both parties have to have a sacrifice. ***God gave His life:***

- beaten
- scourged
- crucified
- spit upon
- rejected
- mocked

to have that blood be the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind!

We have our sacrifice, which is a symbolic sacrifice, and is greater than shedding blood and greater than any work of law, because it involves your whole being. That sacrifice is baptism! How do you die to sin? ***Baptism is a symbolic death!*** Your covenant death to be united with the death of Christ!

Verse 3: "Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through ***the baptism*** into ***the death***... [conjoined to the death of Christ] ...so that just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life" (vs 3-4)—***because the rest of our life is walking in God's way!***

Jesus proved what He did and righteousness unto His death. We have been living in sin and those sins are buried in the watery grave of baptism. Now then, in order to receive eternal life, ***we must be faithful in love and Truth unto repentance and service to God the rest of our lives*** to inherit eternal life at the return of Jesus Christ.

Verse 4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him through ***the baptism*** into ***the death*** so that just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life." What is that "...newness of life"? ***With the Spirit of God:***

- keeping the commandments of God
- loving God with all of heart, mind and being
- loving Jesus Christ

This is what the Passover is all about, to renew that covenant! Yes, we all fall short—don't we? That's why we have the Passover every year, to renew it! Notice the promise:

Verse 5: “For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, **so also shall we be in the likeness of His resurrection.**” *We are looking forward to that through eternal life!*

The rest of it blends into the Feast of Unleavened Bread. How do we live once we are baptized and have been conjoined to the death of Jesus Christ in the watery grave, *which is our pledge of our future death if we are not faithful?*

See you at the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Take the time between now and then to:

- pray
- examine yourself
- look at your life
- cry out to God
- take time in extra prayer and study

*So that you, when you come to the Passover, will have full conscious understanding and meaning of what this Passover is all about, when Jesus said, **‘He who eats My flesh shall live by Me.’***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 3:1-7, 12-19
- 2) John 3:16
- 3) John 6:53-57
- 4) John 14:6
- 5) John 10:8, 11-12, 14-15, 17-18
- 6) Philippians 2:6
- 7) John 1:1, 3
- 8) Philippians 2:6-8
- 9) Isaiah 53:1-5
- 10) Isaiah 52:14
- 11) Isaiah 53:5-10
- 12) Isaiah 50:6-7
- 13) Isaiah 53:10-12
- 14) John 13:1-3, 12-16
- 15) Matthew 26:26-28
- 16) Mark 14:21-24
- 17) Romans 3:20-31
- 18) Romans 6:1-5

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1 Corinthians 5
- Revelation 13; 1
- 1 Kings 18

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

- *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon Series: *Paul’s Epistle to the Romans*

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The Whole Purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread

(First Day of Unleavened Bread)

Being renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him Who created him

Fred R. Coulter—March 31, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! So, here we are, and let me just make one little correction concerning Passover: *It's my 57th Passover and 53rd as an elder!*

This is quite a Feast that teaches us a lot, and we learn a lot. The greatest lesson that we learn is *the only way we can live our lives properly is with the Word of God and the Spirit of God!*

Look at the world out there, what's happening out there. So, let's look into the Word of God and see what we need to do.

When God gave the commandments in the book of Exodus, I want you to see something very interesting. In Exo. 23 God talks about the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and this becomes important from the point of view as to where this fits in some of the other things that He has. How important are the Feasts?

Exodus 23:13: "And be watchful in all that I have said to you. And make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth.... [which is that 'you shall have no other gods before Me'] ...You **shall** keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year" (vs 13-14).

- What does the word *shall* mean?
- Does it mean it's optional?
- Does that mean if you want to?

or

- Is this a command that "...you **shall** keep a Feast unto Me three times in the year"?

Let's analyze the 'Christianity' of the world. They don't keep the Sabbath and they don't keep the Feasts of God. So, they've taken the name of God the Father and Jesus Christ *and placed them on the altar of the pagan holidays of Satan the devil!* A direct violation of what is here.

Verse 15: "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And no one shall appear before Me empty." *Then He talks about the other Feasts.*

Exo. 34—after they had their Sunday-worship with the golden calf, and remember what happened because of that. You talk about unbridled rebellion right in the face of God at Mt. Sinai and the

weak excuse for the golden calf. He said, 'They brought me all this gold and I threw it into the fire and out leapt this calf! This is quite a command here because God is telling them not to ever do what they did with the golden calf again.

Exodus 34:17: "You shall make no molten gods for yourselves.... [very similar to Exo. 23] ...You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread...." (vs 17-18).

Right in the middle of giving the commandments of God! How important are the Feasts of God? *Tremendously important!* "You shall keep..."

"...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; 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. You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest" (vs 18-21).

Then it talks about the Feast of Firstfruits and the Feast of Tabernacles. How important are they? *Well, they're all based on the Ten Commandments!* We will see in just a minute that it is *the Sabbath Day that sanctifies all of them!* But it's very interesting that we find here the dedication and redemption of the firstborn.

Note sermons on Deut. 16; that is not sanctifying a 15th Passover as we know:

- *Passover Offering & Deuteronomy 16*
- *Deuteronomy 16 (Bible Study)*
- *Deuteronomy 16 Exposed*

We always go to Lev. 23 during the time when we have the Feast days. And here we are on the 15th day of the 1st month on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and we're going through these things again. We do it over and over again. *Why? Because practice makes perfect!*

In sports, if you have a team that really practices and disciplines itself, and does what is right—everything like that—they are generally winners. But if they are a team that hasn't practiced

and they're out of shape, they're losers. There's a parallel and an analogy for us today.

- We keep the Sabbath every week; what's that for? *Practice!*
- We study every day and pray every day; what's that for? *Practice!*
- What does this practice do for us? *It perfects us, and prepares us for the first resurrection!*

We are to learn, re-learn, study and re-study, and by repetition... That's why the Sabbath is every seven days and the annual Feast days come once a year. And just to clear up a little matter, ***none of these Feasts are the Feasts of the Jews!*** The two feasts of the Jews are Hanukkah and the 15th Passover.

Granted, John refers to the Feasts as the feasts of the Jews in the book of John, but not in the context that they belong to the Jews, but in the context that most of the Jews at that time were properly keeping the Sabbath and the Feasts of God on the right days. Their behavior was not that righteous, but that's what they were doing.

Leviticus 23:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying." Everything that Moses taught the children of Israel, and all the laws and commandments of God—are *from God!* The Lord God is the One Who:

- gave the commandments and the laws
- dealt with Adam and Eve
- dealt with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- dealt with the children of Israel

He's the One Who became Jesus Christ! Here's what He said:

Verse 2: "Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, '***Concerning the appointed Feasts of the LORD...***'"

- Is the Sabbath an appointed time of God? *Yes, every seven days!*
- Are the annual Sabbaths appointed times of God? *Yes!*
- Is the Passover an appointed time of God? *Yes!*
- Is the Night to be Much Observed unto the Lord to be an appointed time of the Lord? *Of course!*

"...which you shall proclaim *to be* Holy convocations, even **these are My appointed Feasts**" (v 2).

If you make an appointment with someone and you don't keep it, you've missed out. Likewise

with God, if you don't keep His appointed Feasts—the first one is the Sabbath—you lose out on:

- spiritual fellowship with God
- spiritual understanding of His Word
- the knowledge of what He's doing in His plan
- how you can overcome human nature

which this first day of Unleavened Bread pictures!

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...** [not the Jews, not theirs or ours, but God's. We keep it because God said to 'remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy] ...in all your dwellings. These *are* **the appointed Feasts of the LORD**, Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons. In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the two evenings, is **the LORD'S** Passover... [we've already kept that and the Night to be Much Observed] ...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" (vs 3-6).

Notice that these are *to the Lord, from the Lord* because all of these are two-way streets. We come and do what God says and He blesses us with His Spirit and Word. We love, worship and thank God. It comes from God, and it goes back to God. God is doing His work in us through that method.

Verse 7: "On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation.... [we're here] ...You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days...." (vs 7-8).

That's when the temple stood and they had the altar and they had the sacrifices every day. But the individual who would come would not necessarily offer and offering every day. The most important offering that they would offer on the day part of the Passover Day is the redemption of the firstborn.

Then on the Holy Day we present ourselves before God and we bring an offering. Today we don't offer animal sacrifices. So, if you work and have a job and are paid, that is your increase. It's a little different than planting a crop and then you sell the crop and you tithe on what you sold. Or you bring the firstfruits of the crop to the priest. But nevertheless, it constitutes wealth.

So, God has the laws of tithes and offering. Of course, He expects us to bring the best to Him. Remember Mal. 1, where God condemned the priests because they offered the lame and the blind

as an offering to God. Some people do and offer very little, or don't even plan for it, or don't realize that God expects from each one of us the best, the first.

- Are we not the Church of the Firstborn?
- Is not Jesus Christ the Firstborn from the dead?
- Have we not through His sacrifice been redeemed?
- *Yes, indeed!*

All of these things fit into how we give an offering. It says in Deut. 16 that everyone who give an offering *as he is able*. God doesn't want to take from you; He wants to bless you. You give the first and the best to God, because He's given the first and the best to you through Jesus Christ. He has called you to be in the first resurrection.

You put it all together and this is the basis as to how and why we are to take up offerings. Then we use this to make the Gospel available to other people in the world, to serve the brethren and feed the flock. All of this is put to use as God intends.

(pause for the offering)

Let's see what the Apostle Paul wrote. It's right there in the New Testament and we will read the very words that he wrote, and he wrote it to those in Corinth. They had a lot of sins, troubles and problems. {note sermon series on 1st Corinthians and 2nd Corinthians (in progress).

Every problem that has faced the Church are contained right here if 1st & 2nd Corinthians and other places in the New Testament, as well. Then we have the Old Testament as an example for us of what *not* to do.

They had to put out a man in Corinth who was committing incest with his step-mother.

1-Corinthians 5:4: "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, together with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such a one to Satan for *the* destruction of the flesh..." (vs 4-5).

How important is it to not be living in sin? Look at what is going to happen. Look at the world living in sin. Is it leading to the destruction of the flesh? *Of course!*

"...that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (v 5)—hopefully that he would repent. Now, the ministry, along with the agreement of the brethren, have the authority to put people out of the Church for sins and transgression, in the hopes that they repent.

There are some people going around saying that the ministry doesn't have any authority. Well, read 2-Cor. 13, where Paul said, 'I'm going to come and those who haven't repented, I will not spare.' As long as we're all

- loving God
- keeping His commandments
- doing what is right
- believing in our Lord Jesus Christ

Then no authority needs to be exerted! Except the authority to teach, to up-build and to edify the Body of Christ.

Verse 6: "Your glorying *is* not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"

Isn't that the way it is, one sin leads to another sin, which leads to another sin, and it grows and grows in its rotten magnitude! This is *why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread*, because we still have 'the law of sin and death' within us, and we have to work against that, and that is working against us. But God wants us to overcome it through:

- His Spirit
- His Word
- His Truth

This helps us to be perfected by God!

Verse 7: "Therefore, **purge out the old leaven**, so that you may become a new lump, *even* as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us."

Verse 6: "...a little leaven leavens the whole lump," and that's exactly how Satan starts: a little bit over here, a little bit over there, and with benefit!

Verse 7: "Therefore, **purge out the old leaven...**" How do you purge it out? *You get the leaven out of your houses*, and aren't you surprised that you have so much leaven in your house, and some that you didn't even know you had? Isn't that the way it is with sin? *Yes!*

That's *why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to purge it out!* To get rid of the sin in our lives, "...so that you may become a new lump..." (v 7)—a new person created in Christ:

- converted
- changed
- ready for the resurrection

"...*even* as you are unleavened..." (v 7). This phrase is used because what good does it good to unleaven your homes, *but you don't unleaven your*

life! That is our responsibility with the power of God's Spirit through Jesus Christ. God works with us, but He expects our full and diligent work and cooperation in doing so.

They unleavened their homes, just like the command is in the Old Testament. Now, here's the reason for all of this. Just like Lev. 23 starts out with the Passover. First you have the Sabbath and then it starts out with the Holy Days beginning with the Passover. That was the day that Jesus Christ was crucified, it's not a *Holy Day*, because of all the work that had to be done on that day.

“...For **Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us**” (v 7). How does God apply this sacrifice? *To each one of us individually as we repent!* So, once we have repented and had our sins forgiven, and this is where the Protestants get off base. They say that the whole goal is to have your sins forgiven so that you belong to Christ and now you're immortal soul can go to heaven. **No way!**

Verse 8: “For this reason, let us keep the Feast...”

- How do we keep the Feast?
 - Just by putting out the physical leaven?
- or**
- Are we also to unleaven our lives?
 - Is this not the time to repent and change?
 - Is this not the time to resolve to follow God even greater?

“...not with old leaven... [you can't come in the way that you were] ...nor with *the* leaven of malice and wickedness, but with *the* unleavened *bread* of sincerity and Truth” (v 8). Truth:

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

Jesus said, ‘I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.’ You can't get life *unless you go in the Way and keep the Truth; the Way, the Truth and the Life!* That's why we're here, because:

- we have things that we need to change
- we have sins we need to overcome
- we have a mind that needs to be converted and perfected
- What is the goal of perfection?
- That we all have nice-nice Sabbath services?

That we all *become perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect*, and that is a *spiritual work!*

That's why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to understand ***our lives are a***

spiritual work, and that we need God the Father and Jesus Christ. We need the Spirit of God within us, which is of the Father and Christ dwelling in us as a down payment of eternal life.

Just think how haughty we would be, and how lifted up in pride we would be, if we could be perfect in the flesh.

There's a whole book in the Bible devoted to that, and it bears the name of the man who thought that he was as righteous, or more righteous, than God. His name is Job. Remember what happened to him when he found out that he was not greater than God.

Likewise with us: *every day is a day of overcoming!* The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a time when we focus in on what we need to overcome and look at the sins that have beset us.

Heb. 12 is the whole theme, the whole picture of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For us to get our mind off ourselves, off the world, off the things going on there,

- *to come to God* in prayer and study
- *to come together* during the Feast of Unleavened Bread
- *to examine ourselves*, repent and get rid of sin

Living in the world today we have the phenomena that never occurred in past ages, that is sin comes right into your home through television, digital devices, printed word and pictures. We have other witnesses than what Paul lists in Heb. 11.

- we have the witnesses of the apostles
- we have the witnesses of Polycarp and Politiques
- we have those Christians who were beheaded for their witness of Christ down through the ages

Here we are in the lap of luxury, every convenience, every lovely little thing that we would want. That can be very deceptive, because we can slack off.

Recently we have seen that there are some ministers who have given themselves over to false doctrines. This happens over and over again. Why does that happen? *Because they're not practicing!* Here is what we need to practice every single day, but especially during the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight...”—all the things that pull you down:

- bad attitude

- other people coming against you
- losing your temper
- bitterness
- anger
- hatred

all the works of the flesh (Gal. 5).

The spirit of man within us and our attitude is *warring* against the Spirit of God in our mind. If we do what the Feast of Unleavened Bread tells us, we can have the victory over it.

“...and the sin that **so easily entraps us**; and let us run the race set before us with endurance” (v 1).

So, we have a way to walk in: *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!* We have to run that race, and in order to run it we have to keep in shape, *spiritual shape, spiritual strength*—Christ in us! Here’s how we do that:

Verse 2: “**Having our minds fixed on Jesus...**”

Psa. 57 is quite a powerful Psalm for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Here’s part of how our prayer needs to be. The grace of God is available to us all the time, and Jesus is the propitiation of our sins. This is why the daily prayer is *forgive us our sins!* As we saw, the sin “...**so easily entraps us...**”!

Psalm 57:1: “Be gracious unto me, O God, be gracious unto me; for my soul trusts in You; yea, in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge until these great troubles pass by.”

Isn’t that true the way it is in the world? Now, here’s how you overcome and have your mind fixed on Christ:

Verse 2: “I will cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.” This is David crying out to the God Most High, though He was revealed, David had enough knowledge of Him so that he could cry out to Him.

The One Who became Jesus Christ was the One Who gave David that understanding. But the Most High was not revealed fully until the New Testament.

{note sermon series: *God the Father was not the God of the Old Testament*}

Verse 3: “He shall send from heaven and save me; He rebukes him who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His Truth.” The theme of Unleavened Bread and Passover:

- mercy and Truth
- love and forgiveness
- strength and overcoming

Verse 5: “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth. They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they have fallen themselves. Selah” (vs 5-6).

Here is where Paul had his inspiration for Heb. 12:

v 7: “**My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed...**” This is the choice we make. So, regardless of what is going on, regardless of how it comes about, we are to:

- change
- grow
- overcome
- yield to God in every way

“...I will sing and give praise. Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I myself will awake the dawn” (vs 7-8).

He gets up and sings to God, praise to God, zeal toward God. No telephones, no television, no e-mails, no texting. Just think that if you could set those things aside how much time you would have to pray to God.

Verse 9: “I will praise You, O LORD, among the people; I will sing of You among the nations, for Your steadfast mercy is great *even* unto the heavens and Your Truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; let Your glory be above all the earth” (vs 9-11). That’s how we are to have our mind fixed on God the Father and Jesus Christ.

- They will be with us
- They will help us
- They will guide us

Hebrews 12:2—Jesus is “...the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith...” It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish. The way that you finish is how you do in between. Do you have your heart and mind fixed on God? Rather than on the things of this world? *Because all the things of the world are likened unto leaven!*

“...Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross...” (v 2). That’s what we need to do. We’re going to have troubles and difficulties in this life. We all do, I do, and there’s no way around it because that’s the way this world is. How do we overcome that?

- we have a greater goal

- we have a greater calling
- we have God
- we have Jesus Christ
- we have Their Word
- we see beyond the trouble

“...*although* He despised *the* shame...” (v 2)—endured the cross! Think about what that took. You can read that in the Gospels, everything that He went through. He endured! Was it something He loved? *Of course not!*

But He knew the goal was greater beyond. The giving, the serving, the sacrificing and the love that He showed by taking upon Himself the sins of the whole world, starting with those who are the firstfruits. The world does not have that opened to them, yet; but they will.

“...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...” (vs 2-3).

Think about what He went through! Remember what we read on the Sabbath Day—*Sabbath Before Passover*—that the plan of God was that ‘**He willed to crush Him.**’ He was crushed when He was beaten and scourged. Think of what He went through to save us!

The next time you have a little pity party for yourself, and you’re all drowning in your little tears because you have a little trouble, think on Christ! Think what He did for you, and for all whom He has called! Because as the Creator of all mankind, His sacrifice covers every human being in the world. But today it’s only for those who are the firstfruits. The world will have its chance beginning when Christ returns, but to until. So, meditate deeply on that.

“...so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds” (v 3—and give up. Some have done that.

Verse 4: “You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin.” Then He talks about the correction that God will give. Fine, that’s good, we’ll all have that. It will come in different ways:

- through the Spirit of God
- through the Word of God
- from someone else
- from a sermon that you will hear

Whatever it is, do not despise the correction of the Lord. If you do, you’ll end up just like Esau, walking away from your birthright, and then you’ll come to the point that you’ll see that you shouldn’t

have done it. But there may not be any return.

That’s why, do today what you need to do. Let’s see what we need to do, and how we may apply the lessons of the Feast of Unleavened Bread in our lives. Let’s see the overarching framework of what we need to do:

- to put the leaven out and the unleaven in
- to get rid of sin
- to have our mind fixed on Christ and on His Word

Here’s the overarching instruction; Romans 12:1: “I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies **a living sacrifice...**”—dedicated to God. Not spilling out your blood or anything like that, but:

- in prayer
- in love
- in Truth
- in service

walking in the way of God you are “...a living sacrifice, Holy *and* well-pleasing to God, which is **your spiritual service**” (v 1). Doing things motivated by the Spirit of God. You love God, you love your neighbors, and all of this is tied right up with it.

Verse 2: “**Do not conform yourselves to this world...**” With everything that is going on in the world today, with all the things that invade our lives—even into the innermost part of our homes and the innermost part of our mind on occasion—**do not be conformed to the world!**

“...but be transformed...” (v 2)—with our mind by the Spirit of God united with our spirit *renews and transforms our mind, our thoughts, our way of thinking, how we view things, etc.*

“...by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove...” (v 2).

- God wants us to believe, but prove
- God wants us to accept, but understand
- God wants us to know, and be without doubt

All of these things are part of *proving*.

“...in order that you may prove what *is* well-pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God” (v 2). Think about that! The will of God is perfect and the will of God for you is perfect, and the will of God is for you to overcome sin and build the character that comes from God:

- based upon His love
- based upon His laws and commandments

- based upon everything that is in the Bible

Isn't that the first thing that Jesus said when He was tempted by Satan the devil? The devil said for Jesus to 'make these stones into bread.' Jesus said, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'

That is how you prove what is well-pleasing, good and the perfect will of God! There you have it right there. Now let's see how we put this together. There are quite a few things in Eph. 4 for us to learn. Let's understand it and put it together. Here's the whole reason for the ministry. Not for authority—there is authority to take care of the rebels and authority to preach the Truth—but to serve the brethren so that we all together can be perfected. Isn't that what it's all about? Isn't that why you practice? *Yes!*

What is the epitome in baseball? *The practice of one man—the pitcher—to pitch a perfect game!* No hits, no runs, no errors! Twenty-seven men up, and twenty-seven men out! A perfect game! The only ones to ever do that are the pitchers who have practiced, *practiced and practiced* and have overcome their faults and mistakes and mechanics, all of those things. That's what it is for us.

Ephesians 4:11: "And He gave some as apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints... [not to exalt the ministers, but]: ...for the work of the ministry, for the edifying... [the up-building] ...of the Body of Christ; until we all come into the unity of the faith 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 11-13).

That's *why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread!* We have to realize that what we have in the flesh, there is something greater, greater beyond to become as Christ, the fullness of Christ. Now with the Word of God and everything that we have, we have the greatest opportunity ever to do that.

(go to the next track)

Verse 14: "So that we no longer be children..."

- be adults in the faith
- understand the Truth
- know the doctrines

especially today, because there are those who come along with clever sounding arguments, and to the carnal mind they sound so blessedly true, ***but they're lies!***

"...tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness... [inspired by Satan the devil] ...with a view to the systematizing of the error" (v 14).

Whatever error it is, they systematize it, they organize it. Look at everything that is in the world with what is called Christianity. It's all a systematized error. But here is what we do: Verse 15: "But holding the Truth in love..."

- loving God
- loving our neighbor
- loving the brethren
- loving our enemies and wish that they would repent, and that they would stay far away from us

"...may in all things... [every aspect of your life] ...grow up into Him Who is the Head, *even Christ*" (v 15). Grow up to have the mind of Christ. This takes:

- a lifetime
- study
- prayer
- dedication
- action
- everything we do in living

Notice that Jesus is there to lead, to guide, to direct. Yes, we are to put sin out of our lives. Yes, we are to put these things out, but we will see that we have to put in the character of God. That's what God wants.

Verse 16: "From Whom all the body, fitly framed and compacted together by *that which* every joint supplies, according to *its* inner working in the measure of each individual part... [the Spirit of God working within us to help us] ...is making the increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." That's what it is to be through Christ.

This chapter (Eph. 4) is explicitly important in understanding concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread. You get rid of:

- sin
- bad behavior
- bad company
- bad influences

Whatever is there, whatever your problem and difficulty is, take it directly to Christ:

- having your mind fixed
- looking to God
- repenting of your sins

He's forgiving and blotting out, and renewing and restoring, and *that's what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about!* Be renewed in the spirit of your mind! We will see how active we have to be in doing that.

Verse 17: "So then, I declare and testify this in *the* Lord that you are no longer to walk even as the rest of *the* Gentiles are walking..." *Don't be like the world, look like the world, dress like the world, speak like the world, none of that!*

"...*the* Gentiles are walking in *the* vanity of their minds" (v 17). Perfect description of this society written almost 1900 years ago. Amazing! What happens when that takes place?

Verse 18: "Having *their* understanding darkened..." Who is the one who is the power of darkness? Let's see the whole commission of what Paul was given. This world thinks it's in light. 'If the light is in you be darkness,' as Jesus said, 'how great is that darkness?'

Paul was explaining about Jesus Christ; Acts 26:14—Jesus said to him: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?..." If you persecute the brethren, you're persecuting Christ.

Verse 15: "And I [Saul/Paul] said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. Now arise, and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose...'" (vs 15-16). God has a purpose for every one of us in our lives, as well.

"...to appoint you *as* a minister and a witness both of what you have seen and what I shall reveal to you. I am personally selecting you from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you" (vs 16-17).

Here is the commission; remember, *God gives the commission!* What did He tell the disciples: *Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all nations, making disciples! I am with you unto the end of the age!* Here is how He expressed it to Paul personally what Paul was to do:

Verse 17: "I am personally selecting you from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you to open their eyes... [spiritually] ...that *they* may turn from darkness to light, and *from the authority of Satan to God...*" (vs 17-18).

If their minds are darkened, it's darkened by Satan the devil. How does he darken the mind?

- by false knowledge
- by false religion
- by his spirit as the 'prince of the power in the air' who works within all the children

of disobedience

"...so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance... [in the Kingdom of God as sons and daughters of God as spirit beings] ...among those who have been sanctified through faith in Me" (v 18). That's was Paul's commission. Quite a thing!

- Is he carrying it out? *Yes, he is!*
- Who wrote Ephesians? *Paul did!*
- What is he writing?

Don't be like the Gentiles; Ephesians 4:17: "...walking in *the* vanity of their minds, having *their* understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God..." (vs 17-18)—though in the deception of what they worshipping, they think they are worshipping God. What did Paul write in 2-Cor.?

- there's a false christ
- there's a false savior
- there's a false gospel

Brethren, if you don't understand, that's exactly what the Protestants are preaching.

"...being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. They have cast off all feelings, *and* have given themselves up to licentiousness..." (vs 18-19). That's the way the world is. Doesn't this describe every single Friday night of the week for the world? Look how many lives that destroys!

"...to work every uncleanness with insatiable desire. But you have not so learned Christ; if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the Truth* in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct..." (vs 19-22). Here is why we put leaven out of our homes, because it shows where to put sin out of our lives.

"...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (vs 22-23). Having your mind:

- changed
- converted
- made spiritual
- perfected

That's what God wants with us. He wants our full cooperation and he has His Spirit to give to give it to us. He has His Word to teach us, *but we must do the walking! We must do the working!* Then God will do the inspiring and God will grant His Spirit, and even reveal things to us that we haven't understood, that are deep sins within the depths, the bowels, of our mind! *God will get rid of those, as well!*

Verse 22: "...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts." Isn't that true? So deceitful is human nature. What does Jeremiah say? Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and **desperately wicked**..."

But even things that appear really, really good can be desperately wicked if it takes you away from Christ, because it is so deceptive that you cannot tell right from wrong, good from evil. That's why you need:

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

We have to put those things in our lives and live by them.

Ephesians 4:23: "And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you **put on**..." (vs 23-24). You put off and you put on, never leave a vacuum, because a vacuum is always filled. If you put out, then you put in.

"...the new man, which according to God is [being] created..." (v 24)—because God is working with us.

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are His workmanship, **being created** in Christ Jesus unto the good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them." The workmanship of God!

God is the Potter and we're the clay (Rom. 11). The clay doesn't argue with the potter. If he does, the potter smashes it down and starts again. Have you ever had that happen in your life and BOOM!; you've got to pick yourself up and start again.

Ephesians 4:24: "...which according to God is **created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth**. Therefore, let each one put away lies..." (vs 24-25). Human nature is still there and lies do happen.

"...and speak the truth with his neighbor because we are members of one another" (v 25). It's not wrong to be angry. Christ was angry at those who were angry at Him because He was healing on the Sabbath.

Verse 26: "When you become angry, **do not sin**.... [Do not let it lead to sin. The best therapy of all, spiritual therapy]: ...Do not let the sun go down on your anger."

Why? *Because when you sleep on it, you build and build!* How do you think bitterness builds up? *Because you sin when you're angry and you*

don't forget! You don't put it out of your mind! That's all a part of putting sin out of your life. If you don't, the next verse tells you why;

Verse 27: "Neither give place to the devil." If you don't then you give place to the devil. Paul is saying here:

1. anger, don't sin
2. don't let the sun go down on your wrath
3. don't give place to the devil

And the devil is going to come along and say, 'Yeah, you are right! Yes, you are right!'

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."

Now, here another good one, think on this, try this on; v 29: "Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth... [that's a challenge, especially in this world today] ...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**..." (vs 29-30).

Why? *Because if you have the Spirit of God in you, which you do, and you are living in sin, which you may be, then you're vexing or frustrating the Spirit of God!*

The Spirit of God wants to lead you in the way you need to go through Christ, but you're not paying attention to that and you're going the way you want to go, so therefore, you're vexing or frustrating the Holy Spirit of God in what it's supposed to do in you with the combination of everything that God has provided.

"...by which you have been sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice" (vs 30-31).

What's Paul saying? *These are problems that people who are Christians have that they need to work on!* When we come to the Feast of Unleavened Bread we concentrate on the fact that leaven is a type of sin during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and it's so easily brought into everything. That's why we have it. What you do:

- you repent
- you pray
- you ask for God's Spirit to help you

Then you do v 32: "And be kind and tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven

you.”

Quite a thing—isn’t it? What did Jesus say about forgiving? *Forgive so that you may be forgiven! If you don’t forgive, you won’t be forgiven!* Remember that? *That’s in the Gospel! The words of Christ!*

Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God...” Isn’t it true that all people imitate something? How did you learn to speak? *You were taught to speak!* How did that happen? *Because you imitated or repeated the words that were spoken to you!*

- that’s why we study the Word of God
- this is why we pray to God
- this is why we examine ourselves every day
- this is why we are to have our heart fixed

“...as beloved children” (v 1). Loved of God! How great a thing can that be? How marvelous is that? Think about it! That’s what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about.

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.”

Then Paul lists all things to avoid, v 3: “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming...” (vs 3-4). You know no fornicator is going to be in the Kingdom of God.

Now, this is very important today, v 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**” (vs 6-7).

Then Paul tells us that we are to remember that we have been in the world, we have been in darkness, we have been blinded by our own behavior, choices and practices.

Verse 8: “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...**” (vs 8-11).

Now let’s see how we put this together in a practical manner. Col. 3 is quite a chapter and we go through this every Feast of Unleavened Bread. Why? *Because the Word of God needs to be gone over again and again!*

How many times has it happened to you that you’re going along and all of a sudden BING! it hits you; you finally understand something about God, the Word of God, or your behavior, whatever. It dawns on you what you need to do. That’s the Spirit of God working within you.

Colossians 3:1: “Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above... [have your mind fixed on Christ] ...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). Always be focused on these two things:

1. you shall become perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect
2. seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness

Everything that we’re covering here today falls under those two promises. God is doing these things with us, to us and for us. He’s holding out to us an inheritance of eternal life that is going to be so magnificent that human words today cannot express the feeling, the meaning, the understanding or even the accurate description of what it’s going to be like.

Paul says that we’re ‘looking through a glass darkly.’ True, absolutely!

Verse 3: “For you have died... [we’ve covered this already, when you’re buried in the watery grave of baptism, you died] ...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).

What’s that going to be like as a spirit being? Think of that! That’s going to be incredible! Absolutely dumfounding! Amazing!

Verse 5: “Therefore... [here’s what we need to do]: ...put to death your members, which *are* on earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

How about that! That’s the ‘washing, the cleansing of the mind. Everything that Paul says here are tools or actions and part of the ‘washing of the water by the Word’; working in our mind to bring us to that perfection.

Verse 6: “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. But now, you should also put off all *these* things: wrath, indignation, malice, blasphemy, *and* foul language from your mouth” (vs 6-8). Human nature is still there and still after us.

Note sermons:

- *Special Service #1 Overview of Romans 1-6*
- *Special Service #2 Romans 7 & 8—Meaning of “Law”*

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...” (vs 9-10). There it is, *put out, put on, put off, put in!*

“...who *is* being **renewed** in knowledge according to *the* image of Him Who created him” (v 10). There is no discrimination with God for those who are Christians working with God and His Spirit to attain to this inheritance.

Verse 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. **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; even as Christ forgave you, so also you *should forgive*” (vs 11-13).

All of those are the things of **putting out** the spiritual leaven from our lives.

Verse 14: “And **above all these things put on love**... [note: 1-Cor. 13, the love chapter] ...which is *the* bond of perfection.”

Are we not to be perfected in Christ? Is that not the whole purpose of those who are teaching—ministers, elders—and studying and praying? *All of that for the perfecting of the saints!* So, it’s to build in love, build in understanding.

The reason you have troubles and problems to overcome is so you can really appreciate the love of God, how great it is and how marvelous it is. Then two things that leads to that perfection:

Verse 15: “And ¹**let the peace of God rule in your hearts**... [through the Spirit of God; it doesn’t say to let the ministers rule over you] ...to which you were called into one body, and be thankful. ²**Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom**, 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 15-17).

Let’s see how this is done, and how we live, think and all of these things together. Speaking of Christ Who gave Himself for the Church:

Ephesians 5:26: “So that He might sanctify it... [make the Church Holy] ...having cleansed it

with **the washing of the water by the Word.**” Think about this for a minute. Think about how this is done.

- “...washing of the water...”—the water is the Holy Spirit in our mind, changing our mind, revealing the sins to us so that we can repent of it
- “...by *the* Word”—this is why prayer and study, *prayer and study, prayer and study!*

“...with the washing of the water by the Word.”

- You know the Word of God
- you understand the Word of God
- you live by the Word of God
- you think by the Word of God

We will see how we are to do this. This can’t be done with the carnal mind, because this is a spiritual operation. It’s not a physical operation to ‘pull yourself up by your bootstraps’; to look at yourself in the mirror as some ‘help yourself, make yourself better’ as people do, and talk to yourself in the mirror and tell yourself how good you are, how right you are and that you yourself are worth what you are because you are who you are!

All of that is separate from God! Paul writes and explains it. What I just did there is explaining *trying to be better in the flesh through the flesh*, carnal. You can’t be better through the flesh, in the flesh, though you may have some change of behavior, you haven’t been renewed in the mind!

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the* flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh.**” What is the war? *Overcoming the world, Satan and the self!* *The three ‘Ses’*: **Satan, society and self!**

Verse 4: “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds.” What does that mean? What is the strongest hold that every human being has? *IFMA—Independent free moral agency!* Once a person makes up his/her mind and will not repent, it is a stronghold.

God wants that stronghold converted to a stronghold:

- of faith
- of love
- Of Truth
- of self-control
- of kindness
- of goodness
- of meekness

All fruits of the Holy Spirit! Here’s how it works:

Verse 5: “Casting down *vain* imaginations...” In other words, when a thought comes into your mind that is not right, you immediately right there and then quietly in your mind—wherever you are—ask God to expel it! You use the Spirit of God to get rid of it! ***God will!*** That’s how your mind is renewed!

“...and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...” (v 5). Everything contrary to the Word of God, every way that human beings are without the Spirit of God; this is the battle we have.

“...and bringing into captivity... [control] ...every thought... [our spiritual warfare in our mind] ...into the obedience of Christ” (vs 5)—Who never sinned!

He said that He always did the will of His Father, Who sent Him! “...**bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ.**”

Verse 6: “And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled.” ***That’s the whole purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!***

Put out the sin, put in the righteousness. God gives you the strength and gives you the Spirit. You must do the work:

- spiritually understanding
- having your thoughts, your heart and mind fixed on Christ
- realizing that it is a battle
- understanding that it is a struggle
- realizing that God has given us the sufficient tools to overcome

and

- He is there to help us
- He is there to guide us
- His Word is there to comfort us

All of this together is the reason we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Have a great and wonderful Feast, and all during this week, extra prayer, extra study, extra understanding on how you can grow and change and overcome.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 23:13-15
- 2) Exodus 34:17-21
- 3) Leviticus 23:1-8
- 4) 1 Corinthians 5:4-7, 6-8
- 5) Hebrews 12:1-2

- 6) Psalm 57:1-3, 5-11
- 7) Hebrews 12:2-4
- 8) Romans 12:1-2
- 9) Ephesians 4:11-18
- 10) Acts 26:14-18
- 11) Ephesians 4:17-23, 22
- 12) Jeremiah 17:9
- 13) Ephesians 4:23-24
- 14) Ephesians 2:10
- 15) Ephesians 4:24-32
- 16) Ephesians 5:1-4, 6-11
- 17) Colossians 3:1-17
- 18) Ephesians 5:26
- 19) 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Malachi 1
- Deuteronomy 16
- 2 Corinthians 13
- Hebrews 11
- Galatians 5
- Romans 11
- 1 Corinthians 13

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *Passover Offering & Deuteronomy 16*
- *Deuteronomy 16 (Bible Study)*
- *Deuteronomy 16 Exposed*
- *Sabbath Before Passover—2018*
- *Special Service #1 Overview of Romans 1-6*
- *Special Service #2 Romans 7 & 8—Meaning of “Law”*

Sermon Series:

- *Epistle of First Corinthians*
- *Epistle of Second Corinthians (in progress)*
- *God the Father was Not the God of the Old Testament*

FRC: bo
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How Satan Works!

(Last Day of Unleavened Bread)

The devil's ways are just like a magnet drawing particles of steel to it

Fred R. Coulter—April 6, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Time just keeps going on, and prophecies keep being fulfilled.

Yet, out of all of the confusion in the world, it is the Sabbath, Holy Days and Feasts of God, which bring us:

- The Truth
- the Truth of what God is doing
- the Truth of His Word
- the understanding of the Truth

These are the days that God has commanded!

We know, have read and have followed what Paul wrote: *Because Christ was our Passover sacrificed for us! Therefore, let us keep the Feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth!*

Here we are on the Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and it's a fantastic thing that God has done to give these days all in one chapter: Lev. 23. this way only those who hunger and thirst after the Truth, know the Truth, and want to obey the Truth will understand that we need to keep them. So, let's reiterate beginning here:

Leviticus 23:4: "These *are* the appointed Feasts of the LORD..." They belong to Him; they don't belong to the Jews, though many people say that these are the 'feasts of the Jews.' Well, they don't even keep them right. Why? *Because they rejected Jesus Christ!*

The very first one that we see here, "...Holy convocations, which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons" (v 4) So, these go clear back to Gen. 1.

Verse 5: "In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the two evenings, is the LORD'S Passover." Sabbath and Passover sanctify all the rest of the Holy Days.

Then we have the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We've already had that, and we've had the whole week. And this is one of those times that there is ***no Sabbath during*** the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because the first Holy Day came on a weekly Sabbath. So, there was one during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the first day.

I hope you've taken special effort to study and pray, and draw close to God, examining yourself and see how you are living, etc.

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." As we've seen, God tells us we are to eat it, and today is the last day of it, *because leaven is everywhere, even in the air!*

Verse 7: On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation...." We've already had that.

Verse 8: "But you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days.... [all the ones listed in Num. 28] ...In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein.*"

This day becomes important because there's a great meaning to it. But before we get to that, we do take up an offering. Deut. 16 says that 'everyone is to give as he is able, ***according to the blessing of the Lord your God!*** All blessings are not necessarily monetary.

- understanding the Word of God is a blessing
- having our prayers answered is a blessing

But we need to respond to God in giving offerings and the tithes that He has commanded us to give. Those are His, and He requires from us not the little pittance that's leftover, but He requires from us ***the first and the best***, with the exception of tithing animals.

Of the animals, He requires the firstborn male dedicated to Him. The firstborn female dedicated to the Feast fund. ***Those belong to God!*** Then after that, every tenth one—regardless of its condition—is a tithe.

Well, it's awfully hard to put sheep and cattle in envelopes and put them in the mailbox! So, today tithes and offerings are figured on our labor, what we do, and the increase we receive because of that.

Paul wrote that it's also like sowing seed. If you sow a few scattered seeds, you're going to get very little. But if you sow good seed in good soil, nurture it and tend to it, you're going to have a fantastic crop. So, ***as you sow, you shall reap!*** This is what God has told us.

We use all the funds and things as you have seen in the report that we send out in January. We use it all to serve the brethren, to take care of the

things that are necessary to preach the Gospel, and to print the books, booklets, etc., **so that everyone can be fed the Truth of God!**

All of us who give tithes and offerings are participating in that! That is a fantastic thing to consider.

(pause for the offering)

The Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread has great meaning for us, because—as you have learned and those who will be baptized will learn—baptism *is just the start*.

Just like the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt, *that was the start*. Egypt is likened to the world of Satan the devil (Rev. 11)—Sodom and Egypt! Pharaoh is a type of Satan the devil. All of his armies and men were a type of the demons that are with Satan the devil.

When God calls us, all of those do not go away from the point of view that they're running the world. So, as we've seen during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we have ***Satan to fight, society to fight and our own personal sins!***

The Feast of Unleavened Bread helps us to focus in on:

- the true nature of human nature
- the true nature of Satan the devil
- the true nature of God
 - ✓ His love
 - ✓ His mercy
 - ✓ His power
 - ✓ His grace

We're going to see that when the children of Israel left Rameses then something else happened. The sacrifice of the firstborn of the animals was to redeem the firstborn of man and beast of Israel is a special token. We are the Church of the Firstborn! God has called us out of the world. Notice how this is to be for us:

Exodus 13:16: "And it shall be for a token upon your hand, and for frontlets between your eyes, for **the LORD brought us out from Egypt** by strength of *His* hand."

How did God call you out of this world? Stop and think about that!

Verse 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... [that was the easiest route top the 'promised land'] ...for God said, 'Lest the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.'"

We have a spiritual warfare to fight! We have to fight it with the strength of the hand of the Lord through Jesus Christ.

Verse 18: "But God led the people toward the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him... [v 20]: 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 18-22). *And that was for 40 years!* God does this with us, too:

- Do we have tests and trials that come along? *Yes, we do!*
- Do we need God to intervene for us? *Yes, we do!*
- Do we need God to fight battles for us? *Yes, we do!*

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... [across from] ...Baal Zephon. You shall camp before *it* by the sea'" (vs 1-2)—a long narrow strip of land!

The children of Israel were not organized in one mass group; rather, it was a long column along the Red Sea. That was to facilitate crossing the Red Sea. This also tells us that ***we're going to be faced with problems that only God can solve for us:***

- through His Spirit
- through His power
- through His intervention

Now, He has other business to take care of with Pharaoh, v 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."

We have a new booklet out: *How Credible is the Bible*. It's very interesting, the written historical records from the Egyptians about what happened to them when all the plagues of God came upon them. So, it's real! It happened! It is true!

Then they got all ready and said, 'What have we done? We let the Israelites go! We have no one to serve us, no one to wait on us!'

Verse 7: “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. 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... [across from] ...Baal Zephon” (vs 7-9).

Notice the reaction of the children of Israel. This is a lesson for us as Paul wrote in 1-Cor. 10, these are lessons for us that we don't do like the children of Israel did.

Verse 10: “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. And they said to Moses, ‘Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness because *there were* no graves in Egypt?...’” (vs 10-11). ‘We could have died in Egypt, but out here...’

“...Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt?” (v 11). How quickly people forget what it was like as a slave before God brought them out.

Likewise with us! How quickly people forget that Satan is a type of Pharaoh and the world is enslaved to him because of sin. So, when God calls people out of the world, all of a sudden they begin to see that ‘Hey, everything is upside down and backward.’ To try and get it straightened out it takes some knowledge, understanding and faith in God; *looking to God to help solve the problem!*

Verse 12: “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...” **NO!**

Isn't it interesting how people change their mind and change their stories. Here is a perfect example of human nature: *you always blame someone else!* Here they're blaming Moses; blaming God!

Verse 13: “And Moses said to the people, ‘**Fear not!**...’” Isn't that what Jesus said? ‘*Be of good courage, I have overcome the world!*’ **Even though you have tribulation in the world, in Christ we have peace!**

“...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 our case, we

take it to the Lord in prayer. We ask for:

- His blessing
- His guidance
- Him to intervene and change the circumstances wherever necessary

We need to change in our lives, as well! That's what the Feast of Unleavened Bread is all about:

- to *get sin out* of our life
- to *put in* the way of God
- to *overcome* the trials and temptations
- to *realize* that Satan is always there

Verse 15: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to Me? Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward.’” How can they go forward when the sea is right there?

Verse 16: “And you—lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it...” The weapons of God are very simple! **But His strength is all powerful!**

“...And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea” (v 15). This was no small, little pitter-patter through a little mud puddle! This was in a place where it was deep!

All of these atheists and Disney, who does some of these movies, always downgrade the power of God. He flooded the whole world! So, to part the Red Sea is merely a little task for God.

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).

God moved, v 20: “...between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. It was a cloud of darkness *to one*, but gave light by night *to the other*, so that the *two* did not come near one another all night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. And the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided” (vs 20-21).

Out in that column, along that narrow strip of the Red Sea, the dividing of the Red Sea was as wide as the length of the column of the children of Israel were. When they crossed, it was a very quick movement. They didn't go in single file. They went in mass!

Verse 22: “And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground. And

the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued [them]...” (vs 22-23).

Notice that God intervenes in a way that we don't expect. But He does and He deceives the enemy into thinking that they can get away with it.

“...and went in after them to the middle of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch it came to pass that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and the army of the Egyptians was **thrown into confusion**. And He loosened their chariot wheels...” (vs 23-25). Their wheels **came off** of all their chariots. God has a marvelous way of doing things!

“...and made them go heavily, so that the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.’ And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, **so that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians**, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.’” (vs 25-26).

- Can you imagine the sound of that?
- Can you imagine all of the Israelites on the other side of the Red Sea, looking at the armies as they came into the sea to come after them?
- Can you imagine looking at the wall of water way up here and way down there, and here they came?
- Can you imagine the sound of that rushing water coming in at full speed against all of them?

God crushed and destroyed all of the chariots, killed all of the Egyptians.

Verse 28: “...There did not remain so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land through the middle of the sea....” (vs 28-29).

Exo. 15—they had great victory celebration with dance, music, thanksgiving and praising to God.

Sometimes that's the way it goes in our lives, but the moral of the story for us today is that *Satan is still around*, and Satan doesn't like it that God has called us out his world and his society. So, we're going to see how, just like the Pharaoh and all of his armies—Satan the devil and all of his demons—want to cause:

- confusion
- upset
- false doctrine

- sin

in the lives of those whom God has called!

Let's see something that's important, and we'll look at how Satan does some of these things. This world is Satan's world, without a doubt! Out of it, **many are called but few are chosen!** Why? *Look at the world around us! It is so convenient!* But the day is coming when it is all going to collapse.

We find in Rev. 2 something very interesting concerning Satan and what he has done:

Revelation 2:8: “And to the angel of the Church of *the Smyrneans* write: These things says the First and the Last, Who was dead but is alive. ‘I know your works and tribulation and poverty... [they gave up everything to serve God] ...(but you are rich)...’ (vs 8-9)—*spiritually!*

The thing is, when we come to the end of the age that we are living in now, it is no surprise that we have the Laodiceans who are ‘rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing.’ Here they were poor, in poverty, **but they were rich spiritually**, because they were trusting in God.

“...and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan” (v 9). What does that mean? *A Jew is not one outwardly, but inwardly. The circumcision is of the heart, not of the flesh!*

- Do we have a lot of false Christianity today?
- What are they really with all their lies and deceptions? *A synagogue of Satan!*

Then we find a later with the Church of Philadelphia. The great leaders of the world all together form this synagogue of Satan.

Verse 10: “...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

Then we have, v 12: “And to the angel of the Church in Pergamos...” Where did they live? *Right in Pergamos where there was the throne of Satan the devil!* What did that cause them to do?

- to have false doctrine of hierarchy
- to have the deeds of the Nicolaitans “...to eat things sacrificed to idols...” (v 14)

which is the beginning of what is today in the Catholic Church: the Eucharist!

You just have to know and understand that everything in Catholicism and the majority of things in Protestantism **are not of God, but of Satan!**

Verse 18: “And to the angel of the Church in

Thyatira...” He says that if you don’t get into the depths of Satan then ‘I will give you a crown of life and you can rule over the nations.’

Revelation 3:7 “And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia...” God says that He’s going to make the synagogue of Satan come and worship Him before *our* feet.

This gives an overarching vision of how Satan is working. Today we see it through all the digital things, television, movies, printed word, billboards everywhere, music. It is something!

Now let’s see how Satan works on an individual basis. Let’s see what Satan can do *if* you don’t love and preserve the Truth and understanding that God has given you. This is why we have the Sabbath Day every seven days:

- so we can be taught
- so we can learn
- so we can grow
- so we can overcome
- so we can come out of Satan’s world
 - ✓ whether in our homes—that’s why we have Church at Home (churchathome.org)
 - ✓ whether in a fellowship group

Because the Sabbath Day is that day that connects us with God. So, God say about the world today and why He spoke in parables:

Matthew 13:14: “And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, ‘**In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and in seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive;** for the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of hearing, and **their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and should hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them**’” (vs 14-15).

- We are the firstfruits!
- We are the Church of the Firstborn!

Exactly in the same way that God spared the firstborn of the children of Israel in Egypt through all the plagues. God has called us out of this world to spare us and then we, in turn with Christ, *are going to save the world!*

The world does not know, because of the three key words: *obey My voice!* Then the six words: *live by every word of God!*

Then He explains it, v 19: “When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom and does not understand *it*, the wicked one comes and snatches

away that which was sown in his heart....”

Satan can take it out of you *if you let him and it just sort of melt into nothing!* We have seen that happen with people, so that’s one of the activities of Satan *to try and take it out of you!*

How can he do that? *False doctrine!* We’ve gone through a lot of false doctrines since the Feast of Tabernacles. It’s out there, and it’s more than we even understand. *That’s how he does it!* That’s why we have to be *strong in the Lord through prayer and study!* Now let’s see how Satan works in the world. Though he comes as a ‘roaring lion,’ how does he appeal to people?

2-Timothy 2:23: “But foolish and ignorant speculations reject, knowing that they engender arguments.” Isn’t that what we have in a lot of the Churches of God? Arguments about:

- Who is God?
- Who is the Father?
- Which day is the Sabbath?
- Which day is the Passover Day?
- Which day is the Day of Pentecost?
- Which calendar do we follow?
- What should we do?
- How much of the Old Testament is really applicable to us?

Etc., etc, etc.!

Verse 25: “In meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them repentance unto acknowledging of *the Truth.*” That’s why, brethren, the Days of Unleavened Bread tell us we need the Truth, *the Truth, the Truth!*

Not leavened with a little bit of things from Satan the devil, not puffed up because of the way of the world. Not lifted up because of the vanity of human nature. Not self-deceiving with our own human nature, but continually looking to God and Jesus Christ and the Word of God *in Truth, acknowledging the Truth!*

Here’s why, v 26: “And *that* they may wake up *and escape* from the devil’s snare... [a trap] ...who have been taken captive by him to *do* his will.”

Isn’t that the way it is in the world? Haven’t we seen that with people who have even attended in the Churches of God? *Yes, indeed!* Here’s what it leads to; here is how Satan gives the temptation. All personal sin begins right here:

2-Timothy 3:1: “Know this also, that in *the* last days perilous times shall come; for men will be

lovers of self...” (vs 1-2). *Self-love is one of the key motivating factors of Satan the devil!*

That’s why God has given us the first and greatest commandment, which is ***you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and being!***

Satan’s way is that ***you shall love yourself*** with all your heart, mind, soul and being! And ***you become your own idol!*** Then notice what happens with all of that. All of these things come: the fruit of Satan the devil, the leaven from Satan to destroy people:

“...lovers of money, braggarts, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, savage, despisers of those who are good, betrayers, reckless, egotistical, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; having an outward appearance of Godliness, but denying the power of *true* Godliness....” (vs 2-5)—***of God and its power!***

Paul says, “...But *as for you, turn away from all these*” (v 5)—***because all of those are traps!***

(go to the next track)

How does Satan interfere with us? Well, we know from the Gospels that Satan was always around from time-to-time. Let’s look at a very good example here in Mark 8 and see how Satan works. He gives a good idea, a benefit, a cause, a work. Just analyze it when you’re watching the television and watching the news, etc.

Many times he acts against us right after we have done something that is really right with God, as we find in Mark 8:27, so we can get both aspects of how it is. Satan has the whole world deceived, we know that. The whole world is worshipping Satan the devil in various ways in different religions and occupation and things. So, he’s interested in those who have the Spirit of God. The one man he was really interested in was Peter. Let’s see how he was going to do this.

Mark 8:27: “Then Jesus and His disciples went into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And along the way He was questioning His disciples, saying to them, ‘Who do men say that I am?’ And they answered, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah. And some *say*, one of the prophets.’ And He said to them, ‘But you, Who do you say that I am?’ And Peter answered and said to Him, ‘You are the Christ’” (vs 27-29). Matthew’s account says, ‘Son of the living God.’

Verse 30: “Then He strictly charged them

that they should tell no one about Him. And He began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of man to suffer many things, and to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, but after three days to rise *from the dead*. And He spoke these words openly. Then Peter took *Him* aside and began to rebuke Him” (vs 30-32).

Peter had just answered who Jesus was. In Matthew’s account, Jesus said, ‘My Father has revealed this to you.’ Now then, he hears what’s going to happen to Jesus, so Peter took Jesus aside and he’s going to protect Him. Peter is going to do a good work for Him. He is going to help not let that happen: *a benefit, a good work that Satan always brings!* That’s why we always have to ask:

- What is the will of God?
- What do the Scriptures tell us to do?

Verse 33: “But He [Jesus] turned and looked at His disciples, *and then* rebuked Peter...” He didn’t say like psychologists would do today: ‘Well now, Peter, that’s a very good thought; you’re really well-intended in what you are doing and you are to be commended, because you wanted to protect the Savior Jesus Christ.’ What could have been a better cause?

- What did Jesus say?
- Where did those thoughts come from?

“...‘Get behind Me, Satan, because your thoughts are not of the things of God, but of the things of men.’” Satan put that there, right in the middle of where the disciples were!

Satan always likes to get to the top! ***Satan was the one who wanted to replace the Most High God*** (Isa. 14). Never forget that! That’s why He told Christ, ‘I’ll give You all the kingdoms of the world, and all the glory of them, for they have been delivered to me and I give it to whomsoever I will. All You have to do is just worship me, and I’ll give it to You! You know that’s what Your destiny is, so why not get it now!’ Remember that? The temptation of Jesus?

Let’s see how Satan does this with people. Today he has many, many things that can do this:

- television
- entertainment
- music

Much of the music today is designed to blast through every cell of your being and hook you right into Satan’s way. Then what follows with so many young people? *Marijuana!* ‘Oh, marijuana is a good thing.’ Then what happens? *Hard drugs!* And then *complete*

enslavement!

That's why we have been called out of the world and saved from our sins. We are not yet saved from the point of view of being spirit sons and daughters of God through the power of the resurrection.

Ephesians 2:1: "Now, you were... [in the world] ...dead in trespasses and sins." What did Jesus tell the man who said, 'I'll follow You wherever You go, but first let me go bury my father'? Jesus didn't say that was a nice thought, 'you really ought to go bury your father.'

- What did Jesus say? *Let the dead bury their dead!*
- Why? *Because everyone in the world is dead **spiritually** from their sins and trespasses!*
- How did they get that way?

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 is now working within the children of disobedience... [breaking the commandments of God; changing the Truth of God into a lie] ...among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh..." (vs 2-3). *Satan appeals to the flesh:*

- be good
- be great
- be strong
- be beautiful
- be wonderful
- be young forever

But age keeps coming, and we all know that! When we're young we don't think about it, but now when you get older, you understand it!

"...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience; among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh..." (vs 2-3)—the carnal mind:

- every way of a man is just in his own eyes
- there's a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death
- oh Lord, correct me in Your judgment, because man does not know how to direct his steps
- the carnal mind is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things

Whoa! Satan's ways are just like a magnet drawing particles of steel to it!

"...and by the mind..." (v 3). Just like with Peter. Oh, that's wonderful idea.' Lord, we're going to save You.'

What happened when Peter said something on the Passover night? *He said, 'Lord, I'll never deny You!'* Jesus said, 'I tell you, this night in this very day that you will deny Me three times. Furthermore, Satan has desired to have you, but I've prayed for you that your faith fail not.'

"...and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world*" (v 3).

See how marvelous it is what God has done to call us into His Church, to be a part of what He is doing, to be the future sons and daughters of God the Father. Think of that! ***The Most High! To rule the world under Jesus Christ! That is awesome!*** But we have to get through this evil world today. Look at this; this is all a part of the problems of the world, and some of the problems that we face:

James 4:1: "*What is the cause of quarrels and fighting among you? Is it not mainly from your own lusts that are warring within your members?*"

Yes, the carnal mind wars against the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God wars against the carnal mind, within our own mind, and that's the whole situation of Rom. 7. Instead of going to God and repenting, look what happens; you get carried away with it.

Verse 2: "You lust, and have not; you kill, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel, but still you do not have, because you do not ask. *Then* you ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with evil motives, that you may consume *it* on your own lusts" (vs 2-3).

That is the carnal mind under the influence of Satan the devil.

- Isn't that the world today?
- Isn't that what's on television?
- Isn't that what in all entertainment?
- *Yes, indeed!*

We sometimes get caught up in it ourselves!

Verse 4: "*You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?....*"

The whole purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is that we don't have ***one foot in the world and one foot in the Church and try and please both!*** You can't have two masters! That's what Jesus said. You have to please God the Father and Jesus Christ.

“...Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, ‘The spirit that dwells in us lusts with envy’? But He gives greater grace.... [to overcome and change] ...This is the reason it says, ‘**God sets Himself against the proud...**’ (vs 4-6).

What did we read in 2-Tim. 3? *The first cause of sin is that men shall be lovers of themselves!*

“...but He gives grace to *the* humble.’ Therefore, submit yourselves to God....” (vs 6-7).

This is what we are to do. The way that we overcome Satan the devil is that we submit ourselves to God. What does that mean?

- His laws
- His commandments
- His Sabbath
- His Holy Days
- prayer
- study
- yieldedness
- repentance
- overcoming

All of those are what we are to continuously do, and emphasize during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

“...**Resist the devil, and he will flee from you**” (v 7). But he also may come back, so we have to be more diligent!

Verse 8: “**Draw near to God**, and He will draw near to you...” That’s why with the Laodiceans it’s so self-deceiving. Everything is so convenient and it’s easy to forget prayer and study, it’s easy to get involved in activities and things and to crowd out the need that we really, really have, which should be first, and that is drawing close to God. Notice what happens if you don’t do it:

“...**Cleanse your hands**, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, **you double-minded!**” (v 8). To be double-minded is just exactly what we are talking about here.

- you love the world, **but** you want to have all the benefits of the Church
- you want all the benefits that Satan gives, **and then** you want eternal life

But you have to be 100% for God! It’s not a 50/50 proposition; it’s 100/0%!

Verse 9: “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 9-10)—we’ll see that in due time.

Now let’s see how we resist Satan the devil. There are some very important things we learn from 1-Pet. 5, and this is how we overcome Satan. We can’t stand up against Satan on our own strength and our own ability, and say how good we are. *No way!* Remember the so-called apostles who said one day—and I was sitting right in the auditorium and heard him—that ‘I have been faithful to God for so long that Satan has no more interest in me.’ BANG! The whole church disintegrated from that time forward.

1-Peter 5:5: “In the same manner, *you* younger men be subject to *the* older men; and all of *you* be subject to one another, being clothed with humility because **God sets Himself against the proud...** [lover of self] ...but He gives grace to *the* humble.”

How do we remain humble? ***In God we live and move and have our being, and we have nothing of ourselves!*** Never forget that! Repeat that to yourself many, many times down through time. ***In Him we live and move and have our being, and everything comes from God!***

Verse 6: “Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time.... [How do you do that?]: ...casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you” (vs 6-7).

Now then, we have a responsibility, v 8: “**Be sober! Be vigilant!**....” In what?

- prayer and study, *prayer and study*, **prayer and study**
- understanding the Word of God
- don’t let things into your mind
- don’t go lusting after things in the world

“...For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, **seeking anyone** he may devour” (v 8).

Remember where we started in Rev. 2 & 3? *Satan is always there to come after the Church!* Did Satan want the Apostle Peter? *Yes! Oh, did he want the Apostle Peter!* He had to settle for Simon Magus!

Verse 9: “Whom resist, steadfast... [meaning unmovable, solid] ...in the faith...” —which comes from God. What are the fruits of the Spirit? *Love, peace, faith, joy, longsuffering, self-control, etc.!*

“...**in the faith**...”:

- believing the Word of God

- believing Jesus Christ
- believing God the Father
- being faithful to what you know is right

To resist in the faith: How do you conduct your life when no one can see you except God? *Think on that!*

“...knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are* in the world. Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while...” (vs 9-10).

There will be trials and tests where we will suffer. Yes!

“...Himself perfect you...” (v 10). Yes, that’s what God is doing: *perfecting you so that you can be in the first resurrection!* So that I can be in the first resurrection! So that all of the saints down through time going all the way back to Abel will be in the first resurrection! ***Perfect us spiritually!***

“...establish, strengthen, *and settle you*” (v 10). That is a processes over a period of time. It’s repeated again and again.

Verse 11: “To Him *be* the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

That’s how we overcome ‘the prince of the power of the air.’ Very important for us to realize and to grasp, and to go through and understand all of these things.

1-Kings 13 is very instructive for all elders, and for everyone else, too, as well. We know that after Solomon died Rehoboam became king in Jerusalem. The ten tribes split away. Jeroboam took over the ten tribes and he was given the opportunity to obey God and receive a dynasty equal to that of David.

But Jeroboam chose not to. He chose, after talking with the ‘wise men’ of his day what he should. They decided to make two golden calves: one in Dan in the north, and Bethel in the south. Bethel means *house of God*. And to institute another feast in the eighth month instead of the seventh month like we have with the Feast of Tabernacles. He set up priests that were not Levites.

So, God sent a prophet; let’s see what he did: 1-Kings 13:1: “And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the Word of the Lord, to Bethel. And Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.” Not only was he the head of the state, he was also a priest!

Verse 2: And he... [the prophet] ...cried against the altar by the Word of the Lord and said, ‘O, altar, altar, thus says the LORD. “Behold, a son

shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and upon you he shall offer the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and men’s bones shall be burned upon you.”” That happened and you can read that.

Verse 3: “And he gave a sign the same day, saying, ‘This *is* the sign which the LORD has spoken. “Behold, the altar shall be torn apart, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.”’ Then it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God who had cried against the altar in Bethel, he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, ‘Lay hold on him!’ And his hand, which he put forth against him withered up so that he could not pull it in again to himself. The altar also was split asunder and the ashes poured out from the altar according to the sign which the man of God had given by the Word of the Lord. And the king answered and said to the man of God, ‘Seek now the face of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me again.’” (vs 3-6).

Isn’t it always something, that those who are evil want God to do something for them? So, God does it, and:

- Are they grateful? *No!*
- Does it change their hearts? *No!*

“...And the man of God prayed to the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him again and became as at the beginning. And the king said to the man of God, ‘Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.’ And the man of God said to the king, ‘If you will give me half your house, I will not go in with you, nor will I eat bread nor drink water in this place, **for so was it commanded me by the Word of the Lord**, saying, “Eat no bread nor drink water, nor return again by the same way that you came”’” (vs 6-9).

Notice! This is a warning! We can set our mind, ***but in a moment of weakness we may give into something that is not true!***

Verse 10: “Then he... [the prophet] ...went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. And a certain old prophet was living in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. The words, which he had spoken to the king they also told to their father. And their father said to them, ‘Where *is* this *man*? What way did he go?’ For his sons had seen what way the man of God had gone, who came from Judah. And he said to his sons, ‘Saddle me the donkey.’ And they saddled the donkey for him, and he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. And he said to him, ‘*Are* you the man of God who

came from Judah?’ And he... [the prophet] ...said, ‘I am’” (vs 10-17).

Verse 15: “And he said to him, ‘Come home with me and eat bread.’ And he... [the prophet] ...said, ‘I may not return with you nor go in with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place, for a word was *given* to me by the Word of the Lord, “You shall eat no bread nor drink water there, nor return again by the way that you came.” And he said to him, ‘**I am a prophet also...**’” (vs 15-18).

Remember the Church when they followed the Protestants; same thing here. ***You don’t go to the counterfeit prophets or the counterfeit Christianity to learn the Truth of the Bible!*** They don’t understand it! So, what happened? *I’ll let you finish reading it!*

He gave in, went into the false prophet’s house, sat down and ate, got up to go and leave and a lion came and killed him; his penalty for breaking the Word of God!

When you have a specific instruction from God, for all elders remember this: you do not countervail the Word of God, *lest you set yourself up in place of God!* That’s why it says that the way you overcome Satan the devil is to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, not your own devices.

Verse 21: “And he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Because you have not obeyed the mouth of the LORD and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, but came back and have eaten bread and have drunk water in the place which He said to you, ‘You shall not eat bread nor drink water,’ your corpse shall not be *buried* in the tomb of your fathers.” Now, it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. Then he left, and a lion met him by the way and killed him....” (vs 21-24). But didn’t kill the donkey.

A lesson! Very important! Don’t get mixed up in the false doctrines of this world, in the teachings of the Christianity of this world. They can make it sound very alluring. They can make it sound very authentic. But there’s always the twist at the end of it.

It’s like this: if you have fellowship with the Christianity of this world, *doctrinally speaking*, and believe in what they say, ***then you are eating and drinking what you should not do spiritually speaking!***

Let’s see how we are to fight and resist against Satan the devil. He can come at us personally! He can come after a group! He can come after a whole church, which we saw that he did, and convince them to go Protestant! Can you grasp that? I want you to think about it. How did all of that happen? *A little leaven leavens the whole lump!* It comes about incrementally, because of:

- pride
- lack of prayer
- lack of study
- self-serving

Eph. 6—here’s what we need to do. We’re living in a world that is more satanic than ever before. Just to give you an example:

What they want to do with the people that die is now there’s a plan to liquefy their bodies, dry it out and make fertilizer of them and put it on the ground for fertilizing of the crops. Look at ancient Central America: human sacrifice and devil-worshippers; the worst the world has ever seen!

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord...” How do you stay strong in the Lord?

- prayer and study
- living God’s way
- having your mind *fixed* on the Lord
- having your mind *fixed* on the Truth
- having your mind *fixed* on the way of God

“...and in the might of His strength” (v 1). He has to fight these battles for us. We cannot do it!

Verse 11: “Put on the whole armor of God... [that’s how you do it through prayer and study] ...so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

He’s got so many schemes and is so clever;; so good and so beneficial; ***just exactly what the mark of the beast is going to be!***

Verse 12: “Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities... [high demons] ..and against powers... [of this world and of Satan the devil] ...against **the world rulers of the darkness of this age**... [the synagogue of Satan] ...against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*.”

- everywhere in the world
- every government
- every religion
- every church of false Christianity

And he likes to make inroads within the Churches

of God!

- that's why the Feast of Unleavened Bread is important
- that's why we have to keep it the whole seven days
- that's why it is a time when we focus in on:
 - ✓ What is human nature like?
 - ✓ How much do I have to overcome?
 - ✓ What do I fall short on?
 - ✓ How do I get sin out of my life?

That's why we have prayer and fasting, and repentance and study of the Word of God in it.

Verse 13: "Therefore, **take up the whole armor of God**... [Paul says it twice, and he says to stand three times] ...**so that you may be able to resist in the evil day**..." Any day that Satan comes after you is an evil day.

"...and having worked out all things, **to stand**. Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about **with Truth**..." (vs 13—14). Make the Word of God a very part of you.

If you've never seen *Forged in Fire* on the History Channel, you watch it. They make these swords and instruments of death. They have these simulated human bodies and they stab them, slash them and beat them with swords, and run it all the way through. That will tell you what war was like back then. It was evil! That's why the casualties were probably 50-70% death! There are some accounts where 20,000 died, 30,000 died, 90,000 died!

"...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness" (v 14):

- commandment-keeping
- loving God
- serving God

Verse 15: "And having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of Peace." Carrying out the work of preaching the Gospel through the things that we all do collectively, individually in whatever you can do. Also, the Gospel is about our overcoming, changing, growing and developing the mind of God.

Verse 16: "Besides all *these*... [this tells us a lot we've got to do] ...take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Recognize it for what it is and get rid of the thought, get rid to that and put it away, overlook it, don't let it into your mind.

Verse 17: "And put on the helmet of

salvation..." What does Satan want to get? *Right into your mind! Guard the door of your mind diligently, for out if it are the issues of life* (Prov. 4)! That's true for what it is that we are doing today.

"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (v 17).

Now then, why do you think that so many people fall for false doctrine? *Because they are not studying the Word of God!* That's why Paul said to **'prove all things, hold fast to that which is good!'**

Verse 18: "Praying at all times with all prayer and supplication in *the* Spirit, and in this very thing being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." That's something for us to consider. One thing for sure:

- ***IF*** you're lukewarm, are you diligent?
- ***IF*** you're passive, can you stand against the wiles of the devil?
- Can you resist his schemes?
- *No, you can't!*

All of those become our own little Red Sea that we need God to intervene and fight against the enemy so that we can ***stand for the Truth! To do what is right, and live our lives through the power of God's Holy Spirit with the unleavened bread of sincerity and Truth!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:4
- 2) Exodus 13:16-22
- 3) Exodus 14:1-4, 7-18, 20-26, 28-29
- 4) Revelation 2:8-10, 12, 14, 18
- 5) Revelation 3:7
- 6) Matthew 13:14-15, 19
- 7) 2 Timothy 2:23, 25-26
- 8) 2 timothy 3:1-5
- 9) Mark 8:27-33
- 10) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 11) James 4:1-10
- 12) 1 Peter 5:5-11
- 13) 1 Kings 13:1-18, 21-24
- 14) Ephesians 6:10-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 1
- Numbers 28
- Deuteronomy 16
- Revelation 11
- 1 Corinthians 10
- Exodus 15

- Isaiah 14
- Romans 7
- Proverbs 4

Also referenced: Booklet:

How Credible is the Bible by Duncan MacLeod

FRC: bo
Transcribed: 3/4/18

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A Generational Shift

(Sabbath *After* Unleavened Bread)

We must leave for those who come in our footsteps everything they need to know the Truth

Fred R. Coulter—April 7, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! This is the Sabbath *after* the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! We have back-to-back Sabbaths, which happens on occasion.

Now we're ready to go forward, and remember the counting for Pentecost began at the beginning of this week, so, we're already one week into counting toward Pentecost.

What's going to happen? We have heard, as it was in the past so it will be in the future. Jesus even verified that by saying, 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.'

Human nature never changes. It goes in cycles of *not so bad to absolutely horrible* and to *acceptable at a certain level*, even following God to a certain degree *down to abject barbarianism!*

Yet, from the time of Christ until now, the Church has survived all of it. Yet, the world knows very little about the Churches of God.

We have a very interesting prophecy in Rev. 12, and we also have a video put out by the SDAs (Seventh Day Adventists) called *Israel of the Alps!* This chapter goes back further in time than any other chapter in the Bible with the exception of the different places where it says *before the earth was created*. But this goes back before then, before the rebellion of Satan and a third of the angels.

God's plan is pictured by this woman. Catholics like to say it's Mary, but it's not. Israel likes to say that it's Israel, and it may be a type. But this is all of God's plan.

Revelation 12:1:1: "Then there appeared a great wonder in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and *having* the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

Then it jumps forward to a prophecy of when Christ would be born. Then it drops back to the rebellion of Satan. This tells us that Satan rebelled, just like we have covered many times, when he found out that the creation of man was going to put him in a subordinate position. Therefore, he rebelled.

Isa. 14 says that he wanted to go in above the clouds and become like the Most High. So, we'll see here how all of that worked out, and then something very special.

Verse 2: "And being with child, she cried in travail, and was in pain to deliver." Mary became a type of the Church. However, the woman is not Mary. The woman is all of God's plan.

Verse 3: "And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns on his heads." Seven and ten are the numbers that reveal Satan, the counterfeit.

Verse 4: "And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to deliver, so that he might devour her child when she gave birth."

We find that in Matt. 2. It was Herod that was used of Satan to kill all of the boys in and around Bethlehem to try and kill Christ.

Verse 5: "And she gave birth to a man Child, Who was to shepherd all the nations... [Jesus Christ] ...with a rod of iron; and her Child was caught up to God and His throne." So, we have here:

- the plan of God
- Satan the devil
- a prophecy of Christ
- the birth of Christ
- His death and resurrection
- the sending of Christ back to the Father in heaven

All of that just in those verses! Then we know that the Church started right after that with the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Now then, we leap forward in time, v 6: "And the woman... [in this case the Church, not Mary] ...escaped into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there *for* a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days."

In the video *Israel of the Alps*, they bring out very clearly, which is more likely correct, that this was the Church that fled in 325_{A.D.} when all of the persecution came against the Church, because of Constantine and the actual establishing of the Roman Catholic Church. They went to the Alps where she was preserved.

Jesus also gave another promise; He said that He would 'establish His Church and He would build it' (Matt. 16), and that 'the gate of hell would

never prevail against it.’

So, here we are all that time later. Very rarely do we hear of anything about those brethren who were in the Alps. But they had the Bible, and they did evangelizing in Europe. You will see on the video that they went out two-by-two as merchants selling cloth and things like this. With every visit they would leave a page of the Gospel of John telling them that this ‘is more valuable than the product that they bought.’

Well, I had something sent to me by John Guthier. Here’s what he wrote, and this is very interesting, because there are more connections with the Church of God, God the Father and Jesus Christ, and the people that He has dealt with down through the centuries.

Why is this important? *Because we’re going to examine some of the things that we’ll be confronted with in the future as we go on closer toward the time of the end!*

Here’s what John Guthier wrote:

The old Waldensian Bible dates from 120_{A.D.}...

That’s when it was first translated from Greek into old Latin!

...way before Jerome’s time...

in fact, over 200 years before

...and was translated from Hebrew and Greek into old Latin (or italic). It was used and circulated among the people and Church of God well before the Reformation and the appearance of many other publications.

We’re going to read from one of those publications in just a minute

The Church of God preserved and persevered in the valleys of northern Italy and had many publications, including the ancient Nobla Lacon, a testimony of ancient origin.

Although some errors—trinity, for example...

We have covered this as the Thyatira Church, and they’re the ones that had the most problems with Satan and the Roman Catholic Church. So, some of them slipped into accepting the trinity, perhaps to avoid the intense persecution that would come upon them.

However, what I’m about to read you displays that testimony of true believers, as Stephen did when he was martyred.

The book *Israel of the Alps* is available at **archive.org** (digital version) or can be purchased at Amazon.com

That’s interesting that they have a whole book on it.

It charts the struggles of God’s people in the light of their faith pursued by the ever present Babylon and antichrist.

We’ll have some things to say in the future as to what’s going to happen, and how the world is, and what it’s going to be like as we go forward.

My ancestors descended from the Church of God and moved from Holland to Dansik in the 1600s then to Russia, invited to Katharine and escaped to Canada in 1920.

They had lost the Truth of the Sabbath, but had always had the Bible in the vernacular and adhered to the primary doctrines of the Church of God, even to this day.

The Church has never died out! That’s what Jesus said: *The gates of the grave shall never prevail against it!* And remains a remnant of incredible spirit and strength.

What I’m going to read to you is very interesting. You will see a theme of this as we go along.

The Noble Lesson was written in the language of the ancient inhabitants of the valleys—the Waldensians—in the year 1100_{A.D.}...

Amazing!

...extracted out of the most authentic manuscript of the true original where it seen in the public library of the famous University of Cambridge. The history of the evangelical churches in the valleys of piedmont by Samuel Moorland, 1658.

It was published in 1982, and this is from page 99. You might ask why I’m doing all this reading? ***So that you will know that God is great; Christ is always there at His right hand!*** He is the Head of the Church, that the Word of God is true in all ages, from the beginning to the end, and that you can depend on it and rely upon it. But we’re going to learn a very important lesson here. It seems as though that in almost every generation of the Church of God sin was so prevalent in the world, and difficulties because of the things going on.

Remember that in 1100s is when the Crusades started. How did many of these crusaders come? *They came through the Alps!* The lower Alps, not the higher Alps where the Church was. They were going to fight in the area of Palestine, and who

was there? *The King of the South!* Who sent them?
*They came from many European countries, which
represented the King of the North!*

Think on that! Do a little extra study go
back and study about the Crusades and the battles
that they had and so forth.

I suppose that you could say that in that
time, right around the 1200s that the end was near,
because some of the things spoken of in the book of
Daniel were taking place. It says that ‘at the time of
the end the King of the South will push at the King
of the North’ and who was coming against Europe?
The Muslims! Who else came with the empire of
Genghis Khan? *The armies from the East!*

If you had the Bible, which the Church of
God did, and the brethren there in the Israel of the
Alps, and you heard of these things, what would you
be thinking?

A Statement of the Need for Belief
([http://www.thereformation.info/Noble%20
Lesson.htm](http://www.thereformation.info/Noble%20Lesson.htm))

O Brethren, give ear to a noble lesson. We
ought always to watch and pray...

Isn't that the same message as you have today?
Watch and pray!

...For we see the world nigh to a
conclusion....

They were looking at these events as if it was going
to be the end of the world in 1100_{A.D.} Over 900 years
ago!

There are already a thousand and one
hundred years fully accomplished...

so this dates this written in 1100_{A.D.}

Since it was written thus, for we are in the
last time.

What do you know about that!

We ought to covet little, for we are at what
remains, viz. at the later end.

We see daily the Signs to be accomplished,
And that in the increase of evil, and
decrease of good.

These are the perils which the scripture
mentioneth,

In the Gospels and St. Paul's Writings:
As also, that no man living can know the
end.

I was absolutely amazed when I got this!

And therefore we ought the more to fear, as
not being certain,

Whether we shall die to day or tomorrow.

But when the day of judgement shall come,

Every one shall receive their full reward.

Those that shall have done either well or
ill.

Reject Purgatory

Now the Scripture saith, and we ought to
believe it,

That all men shall pass two ways.

The good to glory, and the wicked to
torment.

Actually burned up in the Lake of Fire!

But he that shall not believe this departure,

Belief in the Trinity

Let him search the Scripture from the very
beginning,

Since Adam was formed until this present
time,

There he shall find, if he has
understanding,

That few are the saved in comparison of
the rest.

Wherefore every one that will do good
works,

The honour of God the Father ought to be
his first moving principle.

- Isn't that something?
- What is that we preach?
- Love God how? *With all your heart, mind,
soul and being!*
- Don't we admonish people to come out of
the world? *Yes!*
- Don't we preach against the sins of the
world? *Yes!*
- What were they doing? *Exactly the same
thing with the means and tools that they had
900 years ago!*

He ought likewise to implore the aid of His
glorious Son, the dear Son of the Virgin
Mary,

And the Holy Ghost which lightens us in
the true way.

These three (the holy Trinity) as being but
one God, ought to be called upon,

Full of power wisdom and goodness.

This we ought often to beg and pray for,

That He would enable us to encounter our enemies,

And they face death!

And overcome them before our end,
Which are the world, the Devil, and the flesh...

What did we cover during the Days of Unleavened Bread? *Satan, sin and self!* Another way of saying: *the world, the devil and the flesh!* So, this is a truly an astounding thing. And I'm so happy that I got it. I haven't been able to read through the whole lesson, but that was written by some minister of the Church of God in the Alps over 900 years ago! Isn't that something?

I've got another book by G.G. Rupert. He was a Seventh Day Adventist, but became a minister in the Church of God Seventh Day. He as a lot of things exactly correct. This book was published in 1911, so that's 800 years after what we read here. What are we going to read? *The same identical message inspired by God!*

That's why yesterday we had that *we are to go forward*, and we're not to complain and fear and hesitate, even though the world that we are entering now is going to be a change in generation.

- How many generations has it been since Christ?
- How effective has the Word of God been?
More than we can imagine!

I have another book called *The Ingathering of Israel* written by G.G. Rupert, which was 1917.

- What was going on in 1917? *WWI!*
- Where was it being fought? *In Europe and the Middle East!*

King of the North, King of the South! Finally, the British came and took Jerusalem in 1917: General Allenby. There are a lot of things in prophecy that had to happen. But for those people at that time in 1917, it looked like the end was near.

Let me read this, talking about the Yellow Peril, which is referring to the great armies of 200-million from the east, but he also rightly predicted the war between Japan and the United States 1911. It's very interesting, isn't it?

In every generation, all the people of God have had to watch, and when they look at things there are many aspects of what is taking place that tie in to the last days. Let's look at another situation.

Whenever there's a generational change, isn't it true for those who are older, living in that

generation—like many of us—that for us it truly is our last days. But not the last days of God's plan before the return of Christ.

The Yellow Peril, or the Orient Vs: The Occident As Viewed By Modern Statesmen and Ancient Prophets by G.G. Rupert
(amazon.com)

In the conclusion, chapter 31

No doubt, some of the readers of this book will say, 'Well, if the thing is come, we can't help it.' Therefore, we need not bother our minds until it comes.

If God had made no provision for a remedy, then that would be true. But we have Nineveh as an example to teach that the calamity even now is not necessary.

These were all the events leading up to WWI!

The provision holds good to the last moment before the decree, 'Let him that be filthy be filthy still' passes. Up to that point, man can repent and obey God.

- Doesn't God call everyone to repentance all the time?
- How many repent? *Many are called, but few are saved!*
- Why? *Because few repent!*

If Christendom meets the threatened peril, there will be no one to blame but themselves.

And Christendom did not! And it did happen!

That is true of each individual. Each can escape if he will. That's just why the Bible is so particular to give every evidence of the surety of the event.

In other words, prophecy is true and even though you might not completely understand how it's applied or how far it's going to go, or how much time is left, the words of that generation at that time, as applied to the people, are true and do apply.

There's just one motive we have had in the publication of this book, namely to call attention to the facts as recorded...

in the Bible

...hoping some, at least, will take the advice of the Lord as so often given to repent and obey God!

Isn't that something? Remember the three words: *obey My voice!*

...rather than obeying man.

That sounds a lot like the sermons that we have given, and the sermons that you have heard.

We need not repeat the condition now confronting us for the record is being written daily in the public press of the country.

Crime is not extant everywhere. For instance, the thousands of murders each year perpetrated in cold blood. Adultery is the common sin of the day. Divorces are daily increasing. Suicides are a daily occurrence. Fraud is practiced in business transactions in too many instances to specify.

But it exists from the great combines of the cheap fake advertisements in our daily papers.

That was before radio and television.

We look for a moment at the pride of heart manifested in the churches in display...

This is the churches of Sunday-keepers, because he was a Sabbath-keeper and a Holy Day keeper, and understood the first resurrection and the second resurrection. He didn't understand the third resurrection, but many of the writings of G.G. Rupert were studied by none other than Herbert W. Armstrong! He got a lot of his teachings from Rupert and the Church of God Seventh Day.

It was never, *never, never* true that Herbert Armstrong was like the Apostle Paul. Not true! All this information was in the library where he went every day for six months to study. Plus they lived next door to the Remquins and Mrs. Remquin was a member of the Church of God Seventh Day, who made friends with Loma D. Armstrong and convinced her concerning the Sabbath. That's how Herbert Armstrong got all mad and tried to disprove these things, but couldn't!

He was a member and minister in the Church of God Seventh Day for decades, right up to the founding of Ambassador College in 1947. Those, brethren, are the facts. That's why we need to serve Christ, worship God the Father and we need to thank Herbert Armstrong for doing what he did; but we need not get hung up on men because that becomes idolatry and that's one of the great sins of this modern day church at this time. Yes, he did a lot of good work, but rarely, rarely, rarely are the great overall sins published.

...We look for a moment at the pride manifested in the churches in display of

church dress, church edifices, high priced ministry all growing from the unconverted heart.

He had that nailed exactly right! This is not too far removed. When did Cardinal Gibbon write *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants? Eighteen years before this!*

Election frauds are common, political bribery is equally so. Last but not least on the list of crimes is the nation's granting, for the sake of gain, a license to men to deal out the deadly poisons of liquor and all the soul destroying and finite wrecking devices. The daily increase of poverty and multiplied widows and orphans, and a thousand other crimes growing out of the traffic are all the result of license by Christian nations for the sake of gain.

Will not God avenge?

Do not be deceived, what a man sows that shall he also reap!

G.G. Rupert, preacher and evangelist of the Church of God Seventh Day!

Amazing material! That sets the stage for what we are going to cover today. We want to cover that *we are entering a generational shift in our world, and also in the Church!*

Look at the pictures of those who attend the Feast of Tabernacles. They show this big picture, and what do you see? *Well, you see a lot of older folks that have been faithful!*

Let's understand that we need to preach the Gospel *so that God can call more people!* God is the One Who calls. They have to answer, and we have to provide. Just as G.G. Rupert used publication to get his works out, when radio came along Herbert Armstrong used radio, and then television came along and he used television. Now we have the Internet and we have the means of reaching out far beyond what all of us who have been in the Church 30, 40, 50 years knew about when it first began. It's going to increase and multiply even more.

Let's look and see an example in the book of Judges. There always starts a time when a church first starts out, and it's been scattered. The Church has been scattered *to purify it*. Whenever it scatters and starts, there's the evangelical, the zeal to go forward to do what is necessary. With the Church scattered, that's been multiplied hundreds of times. Maybe well over a thousand times.

How much each church is doing, where

they're doing it, what part of the world they are in, God knows and Christ is the Head of the Church. ***We are looking at the things that bring about a generational change!***

Sidebar: Remember that Jesus said, 'As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.' The Flood came and destroyed them all. The ark was big barge; it didn't have round bottom because that would roll over. It had a flat bottom so it wouldn't roll over. Anytime you see a picture of an ark with a round bottom, they don't understand.

They have 385 days in a leap year plus a few days beyond to think about life, obedience, serving God. They had the animals there. The ark finally settled. They all were able to get out. God replenished the earth. He made a special covenant with them. It also shows how things start out, and then quickly degenerates into evil practices.

Judges 2:2—God said that He brought them in the land but they did not obey the voice of God, so He told them: "And you shall make no treaty with those who live in this land. You shall throw down their altars. But **you have not obeyed My voice.** What *is* this that you have done?" Making leagues with the people of the land for slaves for yourselves?

So, God said, v 3: "And I also said, 'I will not drive them out from before you, but they shall be thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'" Then all the people wept! All the people were sorry!

Isn't that true? *People don't like to be told that they're going to have tough times!* Well, we're having tough times—aren't we?

Verse 5: "And they called the name of that place The Place of Weeping...."

Verse 7: "And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua...."

- Is a leader important? *Yes!*
- What happened to this nation when we had a leader whose purpose was to destroy it? *For eight years! And came nigh on to doing it!*

So, the leader is important!

"...and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD that He did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died..." (vs 7-8)—and all the fathers died.

Verse 10: "And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another

generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor even the works which He had done for Israel."

How short is the memory of people? Look at some of the same sins being done in the Churches of God that were done that caused the downfall of it. Always remember that ***what you did yesterday—good or bad—that's over with. What you are doing today is what God is looking at!*** What are your intentions for tomorrow?

Just as both of these writers wrote hundreds of years ago, that if you repent God will honor it. Isn't that true! What does the model prayer tell us that Jesus said?

- Everyday provide for us!
- Forgive us our sins!
- Forgive others!

Isn't that true? *Yes, indeed!*

Here they are and what happened? *You can almost overlay Worldwide Church of God right on this:*

Verse 11: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim." How many that were in the WCG now keep Sunday, Christmas, Easter, and all that sort of thing? Isn't that all Baalim? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 12: "And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, Who brought them out of the land of Egypt..." People today are forsaking God Who called them out of this world! God is still going to deal with them. He will give them an opportunity to repent, and likewise with us.

- Don't you think it's a whole lot better to really understand how you're living today so that those things that you have done, which that are not good, that you need to repent of, *you can repent of?*
- What happens whenever we repent? *We all determine to do better!*
- Isn't that what God wants us to do? *Yes!*

"...And they followed other gods, even the gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, **and provoked the LORD to anger**" (v 12).

Sidebar: they just recently found a known little icon that was during the days of Hezekiah. They found this in one of the archeological digs. So, they know because it was with one of the coins that was dated during the days of Hezekiah. What was this little icon? *The female goddess and little child in her arms—800s B.C.!*

What has changed? *Human nature gets back*

to the same thing over and over again! Some of the mainstream churches now, in following this satanic doctrine of destroying birth gender designation and destroying the knowledge of God so that Satan can setup his one-world religion.

They are not refraining from speaking of God in the masculine gender. That paves the way for the female goddess again. Has anything changed? This is the generation we have to face.

(go to the next track)

We know what happened. The children of Israel that followed in that generation sinned and God:

- punished them
- sent them into captivity
- sent the enemy after them
- punished them

and then they would repent *somewhat!* Then God raised up another judge to rescue them!

Well now, how much that applies in our day we don't know. We don't know if the reform that is attempted by our current President Donald Trump is going to amount to enough repentance so that some of the evil will be held back that would come *because of the result of our sins!*

We don't know! We don't know exactly how it's going to be, but we do know that in this generation human nature has never, *never, never* changed! There will be those who will do well, but that still doesn't take away from the problems of human nature.

Let's see what God warned; there are many things going on. Look at the difficulties that we are having in this nation, and look at the difficulties that are in the world. We hope that people will be able to hear the Word of God. How many will repent and come to baptism, we don't know. God is the One Who is charge of that. We'll look at that a little later and see how God does that.

Here's Jeremiah's message to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, and here's what God said to say to them:

Jeremiah 11:3: "And say to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "**Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant.**" I want you to think about that in relationship to the New Covenant.

We just finished with the Passover and Unleavened Bread, which is the summation of the New Covenant. Now as it were we're going back into the world in the sense that we're not going to

have the reminder of this that we have during Unleavened Bread. But we have to obey the words of the covenant of Christ!

Verse 4: "Which I commanded your fathers in the day *that* I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, "**Obey My voice** and do according to all that I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God"" That's what we need to have here. This is what we need with the people of God and the Churches of God. That we're all:

- loving God
- serving God
- keeping His commandments
- keeping His Sabbath
- keeping His Holy Days
- being an example to those in the world
- being able to help those who ask questions
- to be able to preach the Gospel and spread it as far as we can

As many Churches of God that can be, so that the Word of God is going out in the greatest way that will have ever gone. Remember what God is doing in getting the Word of God even to the ends of the earth!

Verse 7: "For **I earnestly forewarned your fathers** in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising early and warning persistently, saying, "**Obey My voice.**" Isn't that what Jesus wants us to do, obey His voice and the words that God the Father inspired to be? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 8: "Yet, they did not obey nor bow down their ear, but walked each one in the imagination of his evil heart...." That's what's happening today; the whole world is filled with it everywhere.

- Do you think there was crime back in 1911 that G.G. Rupert saw? *Think about it today~.*
- Do you think there were problems with adultery and divorce back there in G.G. Rupert's day? *Think about all the perversion that's going on today! All the abortion!*

Therefore, *it's imperative that those of us in the Church of God do not compare ourselves with the world,* and think how 'good' we are compared to how they are. But *compare ourselves to the Word of God and to Christ!* So, God had to deal with them.

Jer. 14—It's going to get this bad in the world, so let's not fool ourselves into thinking that

everything is just fine, because we're in the Church of God and we know the Bible, the Word of God, and so forth.

Jeremiah 14:10: "Thus says the LORD to this people; 'Even so they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet; therefore, **the LORD does not accept them. He will now remember their iniquity and visit their sins.**' Then the LORD said to me, '**Do not pray for this people** for good'" (vs 10-11).

How close we are to that point, we don't know. But this is the world that we are in! The Christianity of this world is like daubing with untempered mortar (Ezek. 13) or whitewash!

Verse 14: "And the LORD said to me, 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name; I did not send them, nor have I commanded them, nor did I speak to them. They prophesy to you a false vision and a worthless divination, and a thing of no value, and the deceit of their heart.'"

'Everything is going to be good.' They may preach somewhat against sin, but until they start lambasting Sunday-keeping and holiday-keeping, their words are empty and vain, and will do virtually nothing to bring people to Christ.

We just recently had the death of Billy Graham, called 'America's pastor.' Billy Graham had the first step correct: repentance and forgiveness through the blood of Christ, but never went any further. God says that it's going to get bad for them.

Now let's take a quick look in the book of Proverbs and see what we're dealing with. Let's see that at any time in the whole history of the world, because of the advances of science. And now we have *singularity is near*. Yes indeed, hook your brain up to a computer. Now we have artificial intelligence, and wait and see, ***it will make people dumber than ever before!*** They won't have to read, they won't have to apply their mind, they will just ask their little personal 'Watson' and they'll get an answer right back!

Well, maybe we ought to get a personal 'Watson' with a whole Bible on it and use that to help people to find out what they need to know. That would be a good use of it, but I don't know if there's enough money for us to that, or for anyone to do it.

Let's look at some things in Proverbs that we need to understand in dealing with people here in the world. We need to also, as in every generation down through time, adjust our preaching to the realistic facts of what's in the world to help people. And, let's also be very frank about it; because there is so much perversion and sin in the world, does that

not indicate that there are more demons out there working with people than ever before? We're going to have to deal with that!

Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, are from the LORD." The way that we think, act and speak, everything. All of that is from God!

However, because of independent free moral agency, v 2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits."

God is going to test; He's going to look. There will be those who will cry out to Him. There will be those who will be convicted by the Spirit of God working with them.

Jesus talks about in Rev. 1 & 3 the *seven Spirit of God*. All those who are going to be called, God is the One Who must move them *first!* Everyone must come to see that 'the heart is deceitful above everything'; that their sins are causing them their problems. That's why their lives are ruined, that they have depression and familiar spirits and things like that. But there will be those who repent!

Revelation 5:6—this symbolic of Jesus Christ Who is the Lamb of God and the Head of seven churches: "Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that are sent into all the earth."

So, there can be no preaching of the Gospel. There can be no convicting of sin, *unless we preach!* ***Then*** God will draw them! And it's a terrible world to be drawn out of.

We've covered John 6:44 how many times? This is true and this operates day and night around the world. This is why it's important that we get out as much as we can in:

- preaching the Word of God
- teaching the Word of God
- calling people to repentance
- providing them with the books
- providing them with the literature

and that we, as those in the Church:

- keep the Sabbath
- keep the Holy Days
- love one another
- that we are all behind the effort together

Then this multiplied by all the Churches of God that there are in the world. Think of what that

would be for this generation that we are now shifting into that's going to be all automated. It's going to seem so good and right. Think of what it's going to be when it comes down to the *mark of the beast*. How convenient that is going to be for people. It will look like it's the right thing to do.

So, *we've got a lot of work on our hands!* That's why we need Christ as the head of the Church using the seven Spirit, which are the seven eyes of God to go out and see and find those who are repenting.

If God knows when a sparrow falls, He knows when a person begins to repent. Then this takes place:

John 6:44: "No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him..." How does He draw them? *By sending His Spirit to convict them in heart and mind!* If they continue to repent and want what is right, God will continue to lead them.

God will lead them to the point that they know they need to repent, that they know that they need to be buried in that watery grave and have their sins forgiven. This is going to be one of those generations that is going to be the most difficult for that to take place because of all of the conveniences that we have.

Remember, look at all of us gray heads, we're going to die. God knows that. That's part of His plan! He wants us to be faithful to the end. We must leave for those who come in our footsteps everything they need to continue to do the things they need to reach out to people in this world:

- to feed the flock
- to help them overcome

that's why we need Sabbath services every week. *We need rest from this world as never before! The Father draws them!*

Verse 45: "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.'" *Absolutely true!* We've covered these Scriptures recently, but this is the heart and core of what it is. They're going to be taught of God:

- from the Bible
- from the preaching
- from Church At Home (churchathome.org)
- from truthofgod.org
- from whatever the other Churches of God have

I hope that they all stay faithful to the Truth and the doctrines of God. That would be awesome indeed if they would!

"...Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me" (v 45). Comes to that point of baptism and to the point of changing, overcoming and wanting to do what is right and good.

Let's add that process into Prov. 16 so that people can get their bearings. *Listen!* You think that you've got a lot in your mind that needs to be erased by the Spirit of God because of your behavior before you were baptized, and even in the things that we have to fight and overcome now as we've covered in Rom. 7 a number of times; how that we have *war* against the sin that is *warring* against us. We do that with the Spirit of God, with the Word of God. That's how we go forward! That's why it takes God to convince someone of their sins. That's why they need to hear the Word of God.

Proverbs 16:2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, **but the LORD weighs the spirits.**" How? *With the seven Spirits of God, which are the seven eyes of God sent into the whole world!*

Here's what do? This is what we need to do everyday. This is what we need to teach people coming to the knowledge of the Truth to do. Especially those who have had their mind polluted and destroyed by wrong music, wrong sex, drugs and all kinds of sins.

Verse 3: "Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established." *That's how conversion works!* Because the mind left undirected and unchecked, and *the law of sin and death* within us leads people to do terrible and awful things, as has been in every single generation of this world.

Remember, we just read a couple of examples of it. In the 1100s they said the time is near. In 1911 they said the time is near; the end of the world is here. Here we are in 2018 already four months into it.

Verse 4: "The LORD has made all for His own purpose; yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." We need to choose which side we're on.

Verse 5: "Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; *though joined* hand in hand, he shall not be unpunished. By..." Here is the solution; these are the problems and the workings of the human mind. That's why it says that 'there's a way that seems right to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death.'

Isn't that true? I mean, every time you see something on the news it comes to mind. Everyone thinks they're right. When everyone thinks they're right, and they think everybody else, but them, is

wrong, then you have mass confusion like we have today.

God is the only One Who can reach down with the seven Spirits of God and call those people. God has to do it. We have to do the preaching, we have to provide the way for them, **but God has to start it!**

Now, here is the whole Gospel summarized, v 6: “By mercy and Truth iniquity is purged...” How is that: repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, receiving the Holy Spirit. There is the definition of it.

“...and by the fear of the LORD *men* turn away from evil” (v 6). When you turn away from evil and do:

Verse 3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.” This is **what we need to be teaching the coming generation!** They have so many things coming at them. They think that they have everything. But, yet, they are missing the most important thing:

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

We’re very happy and thankful that we can put the whole Bible so people can download it on their smart phones, and we don’t know how many thousands of people have already done that. Here in the congregations, people have their little smart tablets and smart phones and they no longer bring a Bible. They’ve got it on their phone right there.

How close can you get the Bible to someone if it’s on their personal smart phone or cell phone, or their personal computer or whatever? One caveat and warning for all of those who have that: *Don’t get self-satisfied! Because you are still dependent upon charging the battery!* Isn’t that true? So, in addition to that, you need one of these—the printed Bible—because the only battery that is necessary is the finger to turn the page.

And the electrical system of your body working—which God has given—is recharged with how you live your life and the food that you eat. You don’t need to plug it in somewhere. You can read!

Verse 3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.” Isn’t that great?

Verse 7: “When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” That’s quite a statement!

- we’ve got a lot to fight
- we’ve got a lot to overcome
- we’ve got a lot to resist

What we need to do is teach everyone, not only those who have been in the Church for however long you’ve been in the Church, but this is a constant thing that we need to do.

Proverbs 4:1: “O children...” Let’s take these as words from God the Father because we are to be the sons and daughters of God!

Verse 10: “Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of your life *shall be* many.” Project that forward to eternal life. That’s why we say that every day: prayer and study, prayer and study! Sabbath and Holy days! Remember what we read in John 6 that ‘all have been taught of God.’

Verse 11: “I have taught you in the way of wisdom...”—which comes from God. Are not all of the Words of God *wisdom? For righteousness on the one hand, against sin on the other hand!*

“...I have led you in the right paths” (v 11). Remember what Jesus said? *Enter in at the narrow gate; therefore, straight is the way and narrow is the way that leads to life!* That’s the path! And He said, ‘I’m the Way, the Truth and the Life, and none come to the Father except through Me.’

All of that fits! Look at how this fits into the Gospels. That’s why it’s important for us to understand it. Then when we have the Spirit of God in us:

Verse 12: “When you go, your steps shall not be hampered, and when you run, you shall not stumble. **Keep hold of instruction...**” (vs 12-13). Don’t let the Word of God fade from your mind through lack of study and prayer.

“...do not let go; keep her, for she *is* your life. Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil *men*” (vs 13-14).

That’s what we have today. We’ve got a lot of things we need to do. The most important thing is as we go back into the world, and as this generational shift is coming, that we be able to understand **how we can teach them to function in this world with so many things that are bombarding their mind!** It’s right here in the book of Proverbs.

Verse 15: “Avoid it; do not go in it; turn from it, and pass on!” Don’t get involved in wicked people. There are going to be a good number of people come into the Church who have been on drugs. They’re going to need help in understanding

how to set their minds so that they're not recaptured by that sin. They're going to need help in how to use the Word of God and the Spirit of God so they don't fall back into it again. It's devastating!

Verse 18: "But the path of the just *is* as the shining Light..." Where does that Light come from? *Jesus Christ!* He said, 'I am the Light of the world!' His Word is like a light. He says that 'all that come to the Light, those are the ones who love God.' But the world, the wicked, don't! they walk away from the Light.

"...that shines more and more to the perfect day" (v 18). What is that perfect day? *The day of the resurrection!* We're already one week into the count to Pentecost!

Verse 19—this certainly is true and we need to warn and warn over and over again about this, and be aware of it in our lives: "The way of the wicked *is* as darkness..."

What did Jesus say? *The eye is the light of the body! If the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness?* But if the Light that be in your is the Light from God, that's going to lead you!

"...they know not at what they stumble" (v 19).

- they don't know what's wrong with their lives
- they don't why they're unhappy
- they don't understand why things are a mess
- they don't understand why nothing works out the way that it should

if it does, it doesn't last long enough to amount to anything.

Here is the key; *this is what needs to be taught to the coming generation!* That's why we have the *Proverbs for Youth*. That's why we have the things that we do. But the Proverbs are for all of God's children, young and old.

Verse 20: "My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart" (vs 21-21). Tie into that verse that 'everyone who has heard from the Father comes to Me,' Jesus said. There it is right there, New Testament doctrine.

Listen! I want to tell you something that is very important. You can find New Testament doctrine in the Old Testament, and you can find Old Testament doctrine in the New Testament, because it's all the Word of God!

Verse 20: "My son, attend to my words;

incline your ear to my sayings." Now you can hear the Bible any time you want: afaithfulversion.org

- we've read the Bible
- we've read most of our books and booklets

We want to have every book and booklet to be sent out with a CD with a reading of that book. We want to have it so that people can hear the Word of God. One woman told me that she goes on afaithfulversion.org sets it for play and she walks around the house doing her housework and listens to the Bible while she's doing it. That's really an application of it!

Verse 21: "Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.... [listen what it's saying here, because this is so important]: ...For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh" (vs 21-22). Think about how great that is just with our physical bodies and minds. Amplify this for eternal life, and how great that's going to be.

Verse 23 is one of the most important verses in the entirety of the Bible for all people of all ages, but especially for the end-time generation, because we have so many things bombarding our eyes: through television, smart phones, advertisements. Our ears are bombarded with music, news, sayings, etc.

Verse 23: "Above all guard the door of your mind..."—or your heart, it applies to both.

A thought came to my mind that when Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden, what did God do? *He put cherubim there with swords to guard the Tree of Life!* We have been given the understanding of the Tree of Life through the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Should we not also guard our mind and not get involved in things that we ought not get involved in? Or let things come into our mind that ought not come in, and if they do get in there, to use the power of God's Spirit:

- to cleanse our mind
- to wash our heart
- to give us understanding

Yes, that's where we are in the world today. Notice how we are to do it:

"...with diligence..." (v 23). That means:

- you're alert
- you're attentive
- you're on top of it

all the time! That's what diligent means.

“...for out of it *are* the issues of life” (v 23).
Ours is the issues of *eternal* life!

Now, let’s apply all of this together, because we have that he Feast of Unleavened Bread and even a Sabbath Day after that. So, we have had an extra amount with the extra day.

Rom. 13—this is an interesting section, and you have to be very careful how you read it. A lot of Protestants come here and say, ‘If you have love you don’t have to keep the Law.’ John says that ‘this is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.’

Romans 13:8: “Do not be indebted to anyone for anything, unless *it is* to love one another. For **the one who loves** another has fulfilled *the Law*”—in the act of love. But “...the one who loves...” is present tense, as it is happening, has fulfilled the Law. Notice how Paul defines it:

Verse 9: “Because *it says*, ‘You shall not commit adultery. You shall not commit murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not lust.’...” Protestants look at that and say, ‘Didn’t mention the Sabbath.’ True! *But he does if you read on!* How does he do that?

“...And **if there be any other commandment...**” (v 9).

- no other gods before Me
- no idols
- don’t take the name of the God in vain
- remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy

“...it is summed up in this saying, *even* by this *standard*: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does not do any wrong to *its* neighbor; therefore, **love is the full expression of God’s Law**” (vs 9-10).

Based on that, here’s what Paul is writing and fits in for today.

Verse 11: “Now *consider* this, knowing the time, that *it is* already *the hour that* we should be roused out of sleep...”

This is why the Feast of Unleavened Bread, that we’re not *sleeping spiritually!* We’re not like the five foolish virgins.

“...because our salvation *is* nearer now than when we first believed” (v 11). Think about when Paul was writing this in the 50_{S.A.D.}

Verse 12: “The night is almost over... [this is not only a statement of the times, but a prophecy for the future] ...and the day is drawing near; therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness and

put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently, as in *the* day: not in reveling and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and emulation. **But let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and not make any allowance for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts**” (vs 12-14).

That is a perfect ending for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Sabbath afterward.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 12:1-6
- 2) Judges 2:2-3, 5, 7-8, 10-12
- 3) Jeremiah 11:3-4, 7-8
- 4) Jeremiah 14:10-14
- 5) Proverbs 16:1-2
- 6) Revelation 5:6
- 7) John 6:44-45
- 8) Proverbs 16:2-6, 3, 7
- 9) Proverbs 4:1, 10-15, 18-21, 20-23
- 10) Romans 13:8-14

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 14
- Matthew 2
- Acts 2
- Matthew 16
- Ezekiel 13
- Revelation 1; 3
- Romans 7

Also referenced:

- DVD: *Israel of the Alps* (produced by the Seventh Day Adventists)
✓ digital version:
(<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.188029>)
- Books:
✓ *The Israel of the Alps: A History of the Waldensians* by Alexis Muston
✓ *The Ingathering of Israel* by G.G. Rupert
✓ *The Yellow Peril, or the Orient Vs: The Occident As Viewed By Modern Statesmen and Ancient Prophets* by G.G. Rupert (**amazon.com**)
- Article: *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* (**truthofgod.org**)
- Literature: *Proverbs for Youth* (**truthofGod.org**)

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