Spring Holy Days 2007 Sermon #2

First Day of Unleavened Bread

Fred R. Coulter – April 3, 2007

And greetings brethren! Welcome to the Feast of Unleavened Bread-2007. So time marches on and here we are again with the spring feast and everything that that means. I hope you had a wonderful Night to Be Much Observed last night and a wonderful Passover the night before. And every year, when we come to these, we need to understand the meaning of it. We need to learn of the things that God wants us to learn, and to understand His plan and to be perfected even more as we go on in our Christian walk and doing the things that we need to do.

Now, let's come to Leviticus 23, and here, as you know, in this place in the Bible, God has put every one of the Holy Days—the Sabbath and the Passover and everything all combined right in this one chapter. And this has been done as one of the ways that God has hid the meaning of it from those who are in the world—because they don't like the commandments of God. They don't like the laws of God. They don't like the Sabbath and Passover and Holy Days of God. And in rejecting them, they reject the knowledge of God, the knowledge of His plan.

But here, we understand them. What it is, it gives us knowledge and understanding *because* we love God and keep His commandments. Just like it was said of Abraham: That the promise was passed on to Isaac *because* Abraham "obeyed My voice, kept My charge, My statutes, My commandments and My laws." And Abraham is "the father of the faithful."

And as we know, the Holy Days, given here in Leviticus 23 are just the foundation and the letter of the law. However, it goes beyond that, it goes beyond that. Because then now we have the whole Bible and God gives us the understanding and builds upon that the superstructure of the understanding of the Holy Days and so forth.

So today, let's just begin right here in verse four: "These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.... [And of course, God built the Holy Days right into the very creation of heaven and earth.] ... In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even... [that is between the two evenings] ... *is* the Lord's Passover.... [We've already had that; and then we had the Night Much to Be Observed last night, which then commemorates coming out of, out of, beginning coming out of Egypt—which beings the fifteenth day of the first month. Verse 6:] ... And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days **ye must eat unleavened bread**" (Lev. 23:4-6, *KJV*).

Now, the command for that is very simple: We just eat unleavened bread the way that God has said. Now, that's our physical thing to do: to put leaven out of our homes

and to eat unleavened bread. Now, again, that's just in, that's just a beginning, that's just a foundational thing. But what this shows us is very simple: That sin, which we have to overcome, which we'll talk about today, is so easy. It is so commonplace. It is there all the time. It's almost like the air that's around us. And that's why, with the Feast of Unleavened Bread—and we concentrate on getting out the leaven, when leaven is a type of sin during this Feast—that it shows we have to get sin out of our lives. But we cannot do that without the *help* and *power* and *Spirit* of God.

Just like the children of Israel could not be released from the bondage of their Egyptian slavery unless God led them out of it, neither can we be relieved of our slavery to sin because we're all slaves to sin. And our human nature and our carnal nature and everything that there is about human beings.

So, he says, "You must eat unleavened bread seven days. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: [that's today] ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*" (vs. 6-8).

So we'll focus in on this first Holy Day. We know that God says we're to bring an offering before Him (Deut. 16) "according to the blessing which the Lord has given us." Now, it's not just to look at the blessing of the physical things alone, but look at the spiritual blessings; look at the understanding that God has given you; look at how God has dealt with your life. And just count it this way: *how God has called you and dealt with you and is giving to you eternal life.* And that's what's the important thing about it, you see.

And also with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we follow on from the Passover, don't we? And Jesus said the Passover, in eating His flesh and drinking His blood was to show that even as He lived by the Father, so those who eat His flesh and drink His blood *shall live by Him.* And so, keep that in mind.

And also keep in mind what the Apostle Paul said: "He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly." And if you want to reap bountifully, you sow bountifully. That is, physically and spiritually in attitude toward God in everything that you do.

So, at this time we will take a pause and we will take up the offering.

# (Break for Offering)

Now let's see what it means to be "leavened." Let's come back to Genesis, the sixth chapter. Let's understand the evil that human nature can get itself involved in. And let's understand the age in which we live. And realize that, as Jesus said, that "as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man." So there's some parallels here for us.

And we're going to take a look at human nature because human nature and the world and Satan the devil, all combined together, has had a powerful impact upon our lives.

And God wants us to change. That's what the whole Feast of Unleavened Bread is about. God wants us converted. God wants us to be spiritually-minded. But, in order to understand that, we have to realize the, the depths of human nature and to which it will go—because we're living in an age now where we are just inundated with sin in everything that there is.

Now, Genesis 6:5, *KJV*: "And God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth... [And it's multiplied over and over again today—far beyond what we ever thought of, because of everything that we have technologically. Because everything that, that we have at our disposal and how Satan uses those. And how he controls various things in the world to lead people into sin. To bring them into sin. To derogate them. To bring them down. And that's what he did here.] ... and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil **continually**."

And that's what human nature is. Even the good thoughts that people have from time-to- time is sin because it rejects God. Yeah, there are a lot of do-gooders out there trying to do good, but they know nothing of God. Or they reject God. And that is still sinful. So, God proposes to take the sinful nature and change it and convert it.

And that's a tremendous spiritual project. And that's why it takes time. That's why it's a lifetime we go through. That's why every year we keep the Passover, the Night to Be Much Observed, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and then all of the rest of the Holy Days, right on down through—to keep us mindful of the goal of what God has called us to. To keep us mindful of the plan that God has for us, so that we can go forward. So that we can change. That we can have our hearts and minds literally changed and converted.

Now, verse 12—no, verse 11: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was **filled** with violence." And that's what we have today, and it comes right in, right into our own homes, doesn't it? Through television, through radio and this world is absolutely captured by Satan the devil who's deceiving it constantly, every day, continually. Reinforcing that deception. And God calls us out of it.

Yet, the world is affected our minds, hasn't it? *Yes, it has!* The world has affected how we think, hasn't it? *Yes!* And so, how do we overcome that?

Now, verse 12: "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them... [That's exactly what we have today. And then He said:] ...and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Now, let's look at some other things concerning human nature. Because, you see, we have to fight and overcome it, but God gives us the power to do so. But in order to understand what we are fighting, we need to understand about our own human nature and how, how it really, really is.

Let's come here to the book of Jeremiah, Jeremiah 10. And here's what we have to admit before God in everything that we understand and do. That's why we have to have daily prayer. That's why we need to overcome the way that God wants us to overcome.

Now here's the *first point of conversion*. And that you continually understand what God is doing—right here. Verse 23, Jeremiah 10—quite a scripture, isn't it? *Yes*, *indeed!* 

Jeremiah 10:23, *KJV*: "O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps." That is, properly.

Man of himself does not know how to live, what to do. Oh, there are few basic, rudiment things that people can do, that's true. But that's all out there in the world. But to understand about God, to come to God, there's no way it can be done unless you come to God His way, on His terms and through Jesus Christ.

So, Jeremiah said, "O LORD, correct me... [Now, he was talking about himself. Here's a very prophet of God who says, 'I don't know the way to go, Lord. Correct me.'] ... but with judgment... [we can also add in there, 'mercy.'] ... not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing" (v 24).

Now, let's come her to Jeremiah 17, and let's come here to verse one. Let's see what happens when people give themselves to evil. And people give themselves over to it many, many different ways. And how it comes *so ingrained* that it's almost impossible to change.

Jeremiah 17:1, *KJV*: "The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron, *and* with the point of a diamond: *it is* graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars..."

Amazing, isn't it? You come down here to verse 5, it says: "Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed** *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

So, God has called us out of this, hasn't He? Now, if you don't change, here's what's going to happen to those in the world—God guarantees it!

"For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited" (v 6).

But, then it says, verse 7: "<u>Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD</u>, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters... [You see, there's the contrast. And what God wants to see during the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the contrast between His people and the world. See, here's the contrast.] ... and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit" (vs 7-8).

And that's what we are to do—day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month, year-by-year—yield fruit, grow, overcome, change, become converted more and more. And we're going to see how God is going to do that, and the way that He does it.

Now, verse 9: "The heart is deceitful <u>above all things</u>, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

So that's where we begin, isn't it? This is describing and wholly, leavened individual given over to sin.

- And that's where we were out in the world, right?
- Where were you?
- I want you to think about where were you?
- What were you doing?
- How was your life?

And today, the world is affected by drugs, by sex, by lying and cheating and stealing and violence and murder and death.

- Where were you in the world?
- And what were you doing?
- And how much of that is still in your mind?
- And how much of that have you carried into your Christian walk?
- And how much of that is still an inner sin that is there pulling you down? Regardless of what the sin or obsession may be.

Now there are millions hooked on gambling,

hooked on drugs, addicted to sex, addicted to porn, addicted to lying.

- What was your life?
- Were you addicted to any of these things?

- Do you still go back to them?
- Or are you overcoming them?

And if you're overcoming them, what is the way to overcome? We'll cover that today.

Now, verse 10: "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways [work], and according to the fruit of his doings."

Now, the thing we need to understand with the Feast of Unleavened Bread is this: <u>God knows!</u> Now, you can fool some people. You can even fool yourself. **But you can never fool God because God knows!** He made you. He created you. He called you.

And we also have to admit something else. We've all been Laodiceans from day one! And in counseling with people in their sins and their marriage problems and their difficulties that they have in their lives, there are too many scars left in your minds and hearts that you have carried into your walk with God. And now's the time you're going to have to work in getting rid of them. God is there to help you. And we'll cover that and we'll see how that, that is done.

Now, let's see something else concerning human kind. You know, I remember talking to a person one time that was even kind of, kind of proud of his sin. And I mentioned to that person, "Well, you know, it seems like your just totally obsessed with it. And you really haven't repented of it—because you don't abhor it. Why do sit there and talk to me with a smirk on your face in describing all the past history of your life and the lewdness that you have been in."

So you see, it's very important that we understand this. We can't let these things of the past become something in the present. And when we do and we don't repent of them, and we kind of hold on and, and cling to them, and say, "Well, you know, it's not really like the full-fledged sin used to be, so I'll kind of snuggle up to it." Whatever it may be. Whether it be drugs, whether it be gambling. Whether it be fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lying, whatever it may be.

All of those things are the vanity of the human flesh. And that has be why there's repentance—and we're going to talk about repentance and being cleansed because that's the spiritual unleavening that comes from Christ. And that's why we keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As the Apostle Paul said—1 Corinthians 5:7, *paraphrased*: "Therefore let us keep the Feast **because** our Passover was sacrificed **for us**."

See, because God wants us to get rid of the evil in our lives—that's why we keep the Feast.

Now, let's come here to, let's come here to Psalm 39, Psalm 39:4, *KJV*—This is what God wants us to come to: "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is; that* I may know how frail I *am.*" Now, God does that by giving us

trials and difficulties. And that's why when they come along, we need to yield to God. We need to yield to *His way* and take in of *His Spirit*, and take in of *His righteousness*.

We need to ask God to help get these things out of our lives. That's the whole point of conversion. Because you see, these things destroy your life. They destroy your relationship with other people. They destroy your relationship as husbands and wives. And, I'm just telling you, if you've been divorced and remarried, you have a whole heap, lot of stuff to overcome. *That's just a fact!* And a lot of it is up here, that you need removed and erased and changed and converted.

Verse 5—David began to understand. He said: "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is <u>altogether vanity</u>." That's why God doesn't want us to drag it in to our way of life with Him. That's why the Apostle John wrote: "Love not the world. Nor the things in the world." You see, and Laodiceans love it, cause they're "rich and increased in goods." And that's blinded their eyes to see the reality of human nature and their behavior, and how much they have drug into their walk with Christ.

And Christ is there, knocking on the door wanting to come in, wanting the conversion, wanting to help you change.

Now notice, verse 6: "Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain..." And that's what happens.

Look at all the lives of all the people out there in the world. What are they doing? Where are they going? What is happening? Watch television, look at all the news, look at all the crime. And when you're watching television, you need to be, you know, mindful of what you're watching, because more and more of it's becoming pornography—pornographic.

Even just on the evening news. And Satan has got his tenacles right out there reaching into the hearts and minds and lives and the very being of human beings—to deceive them, to lead them astray.

Now notice, verse 8: "Deliver me from **all** my transgressions... [and yes, let's have them erased from our minds] ... make me not the reproach of the foolish.

Now let's continue on. Let's see how God does this. Let's see something that Jesus said on the Passover night. Let's come to John 15—let's see what Jesus said to His disciples. Now here in John 15, let's pick it up in verse one. Now the great thing that we need to always understand and keep in mind, which is this: God the Father and Jesus Christ are for us. They are with us. They love us. They care for us. And that's why the correction comes. And that's why during the Feast of Unleavened Bread we put out the leaven. But that tells us we are to *put out the sin* from our lives.

Now verse 1: [Jesus said]: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:1-2, FV).

But "He cleanses"—interesting, isn't it. Cleanses—and that comes from the Greek kathairo, which is "to purge." So "He cleanses" each one that bears fruit. And so, the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are the Feasts to remind us that God alone can cleanse us from sins—"...in order that it may bear more fruit." So here we have an ongoing, ongoing process that God the Father is doing through Christ.

Now then, notice what Jesus said in verse 3: "You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you." Isn't that interesting? We are clean "through the word that He has spoken to us."

Let's see how that works. Now we know that also in relationship to footwashing. If you wash the feet, renew the covenant, you are clean. Then you're also clean through the operation of the words that He has spoken. So, let's see how this, let's see how this comes together.

Let's come back here to Ephesians, the fifth chapter. Ephesians 5—and let's see how—no, let's go to Romans 3, let's go there first then we'll go to Ephesians 5. Here's how God does it: It's through Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23, FV—It begins with Christ—verse 23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God... [and here's the thing that's important:] ... But are being justified **freely** by His grace... [God forgives us our sins when we repent. And we're going to see there are levels of repentance that takes place.] ...through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus... [That's why Christ came. Now this is talking abut the Passover.] ... Whom God has openly manifested to be a propitiation through faith in His blood... [so, whenever you say, "Lord forgive me" the blood of Jesus Christ has covered that. And 'the propitiation' means that it is a continuing source of—how shall we say—forgiveness through the grace and mercy of God] ... in order to demonstrate His righteousness... [and that means you have been justified, put in right standing with God.] ... in respect to the remission of sins that are past, 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" (vs 23-25).

Now, we're going to see something here very interesting. Why! Then Paul goes ahead and makes it clear that it's not of ourselves, but it's through Christ, through the faith in Christ. And that's what's so important.

- You have to continually have this faith in Christ.
- Faith in the sacrifice.
- Faith in the blood.
- Faith in the operation of God

Now, let's continue on, verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting?... [Because there's nothing you can do, it's all on God's part, right? Oh, we have our part, but our part surely is not the most powerful of it, is it? *No!* It's God's part.] ... It is excluded. Through what law? *The law* of works? By no means! Rather, *it is* through a law of faith."

- Now, what is this law of faith?
- How does that operate?
- How is that possible?
- What does God do for us in the law of faith?

Now, let's come over here to Romans eight and let's see something else. That's connected with this. Romans, the eighth chapter—Romans eight, and let's pick it up here in verse two. Now, I want you to think about this:

"Because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus... [now, think about that] ... **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**... [so this means the operation of the Spirit of God, which is the Spirit of life in us, *is how He cleanses us*. Now, notice what it says:] ... has delivered me [or that is, 'justified me'] from the **law of sin and death**" (Romans 8:2, FV).

Now, God has justified us. God has made it possible. Now, let's see how this comes about, because there has to be repentance. That's why, as we went through the series on the *Keys to Answered Prayer*, that in the model prayer is: "forgive us our sins," and there is repentance. We've covered part of that, but now let's go into some other things concerning repentance, to see how God then responds and how the application of the sacrifice of Christ is applied to us.

Now, let's come to 2 Corinthians the seventh chapter and let's talk about repentance here. There is a *Godly repentance* and there is a *sorrow of the world*.

Now, verse 10, it says: "For sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of... [You're not going to go back on it. Now, we'll talk about that a little bit later.] ...but **the sorrow of the world works out death**" (2 Cor. 7:10, FV).

So let's look at the "sorrow of the world." Let's see how the world does. I think a good example is: just watch what's going on in Washington, D.C. or any government in the world—you see. Look at any religion in the world and see what they do. Oh, they've got their works, that they do this, and do that and do the other thing. But that's not the "sorrow of God."

Let's come here to Luke 11, Luke 11—and let's understand the "sorrow of the world" that doesn't do any good. And, and let's ask ourselves the question as we're going to Luke 11—no, that was a mis-quote, let's go on from there.

Let's come to Matthew 23, and let's see the wrong kind of repentance. And let's see the "sorrow of the world," which Jesus likens to cleansing the outside. Now, let's see what He says here:

Verse 24: "Blind guides, who filter out a gnat, but swallow a came!! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish..." (Matt. 23:24-25, FV). You look good outside—and isn't that what people do? Yes!

- Look at Hollywood.
- Look at this world.
- Look at the rock stars, the rap stars.
- Look at all of the personas of the world.
- They make the outside clean, but when you really investigate their lives, what are they?
  - Ø They are miserable.
  - Ø They are empty.
  - Ø They are vain.
  - Ø They are filled with sin.
  - Ø They are driven by lust.
  - Ø They are driven by every evil thing under the sun.

How about a criminal who portrays himself as upright, and yet, at night he's a pedophile, and stalks little children. And everyone's so surprised. "Why, he was an upstanding man."

Or how about the murderer who escapes and re-establishes a new life and becomes a model citizen, on the job and attends church every Sunday—yes, just like the scribes and Pharisees.

"... you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but within you are full of extortion and excess" (v 25).

That's the "sorrow of this world". That's the repentance of this world.

Then He says here, continuing, verse 26: "Blind Pharisees! First <u>cleanse the</u> inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside may also become clean."

Now, how do you cleanse the *inside*, first? That's where God wants it to be. And God is there to help you. But you must have your part in it. And part of the thing of God's Holy Spirit, of having you go through trials, is for you to see and examine your own heart and your own mind. And that's what we are to do before the Passover, isn't it? We are to *examine* ourselves. And this is what it means.

Now, let's see what kind of repentance is required. And it's a repentance, that we might say, comes in degree. And as we will see—let's come to Psalm 19, let's come to

Psalm 19—and let's see part of what laws and commandments of God are to do for us. And we'll talk about this a little bit later and how that is to help clean us up and give us right thinking.

Now let's pick it up here in verse seven. Here's part of it. Here's how you start cleaning the inside so that your mind and your heart and your thoughts—instead of being continually evil all the time, you see. You can't go out there and live in the world, think like the world, act like the world, be like the world, talk like the world, live like the world. Sundown Friday come, whoop, it's the Sabbath—and now you're righteous on the Sabbath.

# Are you really?

Let's pick it up here in Psalm 19:7, *KJV*: "The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul... [We're going to see that's part of the cleansing that comes from God. There is a cleansing that comes with repentance. And the laws of God is what tells us what sin is. That's why we have to have them written in our hearts and our minds. Which is part of the cleansing as we will see.] ... the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.... [Now, that you have that in perspective, then he says:] ... The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever..." (vs 7-9).

- Do you fear to sin?
- Or do you just let it come to you?
- What is it?
- What is it that we do?
- How are our lives?

It's why we need to love God, and fear God, and not transgress. Because we have to come from the point of continually evil all the time. And every thought and every imagination of the heart, to where we come to the point of loving God and serving God and having God's Spirit, you see. And to strengthen us and to help us overcome. And it is a battle.

Now, let's go on here: "... the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold..." (v 10).

Is that how you approach overcoming, like you're looking for gold?

I just bet if someone told you there was a million dollars worth of gold under the floor of your house and all you had to do is get a jackhammer and dig out in this spot, get rid of the slab, dig down there twenty feet, and you'd find it. I bet you'd have a jackhammer in no time. I'd bet you'd pull the carpet up and start hammering down there and digging down there because that's what you want.

Is that how much you want God's way? Think of it, you see. This is all a part. Do we really want to be cleansed? Or do we want to be cleansed a little bit here, and "oh, well, this sin is not so bad, so I'll keep it."

All right, let's go on. Verse 11: "Moreover by them is thy servant warned..." That's why we need to study, so that we get the warnings from the Word of God. That we get the hope and the inspiration from the Word of God.

Now, notice: "... and in keeping of them there is great reward" (v 11).

Now, the Protestants, they don't know anything. They really don't know anything! And the little that they know is now being taken away from them, true to the words of Jesus. They say, you don't have to keep them. So what are they automatically doing by saying that. They're depriving people of "great rewards," aren't they? Great blessings, aren't they? Yes!

Verse 12—here's where you need to begin: "Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*."

- Now, what are your "secret faults"?
- What are your secret sins?
- Have you confessed those to God?
- Have you gone before God the Father and asked forgiveness for it and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ applied to you?

"Cleanse me from my secret faults." That's what we're going to talk about today.

"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me..." (v 13).

See, that's what it says there in Romans, the sixth chapter. "Sin shall not rule over you"—if you are Christ's. But if you drag in the sin again, and if you haven't been cleansed from within, and if you haven't had these things forgiven because you haven't repented, then you are in deep trouble!

And you're always going to find that it's going to be most difficult to make progress and overcome because you're clinging to those sins. You haven't repented of those sins. You haven't asked God to *cleanse* you from your sins. Rather, you hold onto them. Rather, you snuggle up to them. Rather you think, "Well, these are not quite so bad.

Well, you need to take another look.

Let's come here to Psalm 51. Let's continue on now, let's come, let's come to Psalm 51. Now, let's understand something about Psalm 51. This is when David repented

of his affair with Bathsheba, and killing her husband, Uriah the Hittite. What were the circumstances involved? You know the account.

David was on the roof and down below was Uriah the Hittite's house. And on the roof down below, where he could see, was Bathsheba. And here, what happened. He said, "Well, that looks good." A little bit of pornography, right? "Well, this is interesting. I'm king. I can do what I want. Boy, she's a good looking woman.

Now, Sadoff [transcribers note: unsure of spelling of this name], the servant said, the servant went over there and said, "The king would like you to have dinner with him." And Bathsheba, you know, she didn't have to bathe on the top of the roof. Now could it be that she knew that the king was going to see her. She must have wanted something, otherwise why would she go and have dinner with the king? I wonder if they saw each other in the eyes. Looked at each other in the eyes. And both of them thought, "Wow! This is quite a deal." A lot of people have that today, don't they? *Yes.* A little lying, a little stealing, a little gambling, a little drugs, a little pornography, whatever it may be, "God will understand."

You know, David probably figured, "well, God will understand." It must have been at a time when he wasn't praying and studying the way he ought to. And then Nathan had to come and tell him that, "David, you're the man. You did this!" Then, you know the penalty that came upon David's house even after he repented. He had strife and trouble in his household *the rest of his life*, *because he despised the commandment of God.* 

And he was close to committing the unpardonable sin because *he knew better*. Because, you see, in his house he had a special place, with a special little tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant was. And in that section of the house, he had the Levites—Asaph and Nathan and the other Levites there who tended to the, to the ark. And he would go sing and pray before God. And God even promised him that his son would build a temple. And God even promised him that He would build a dynasty for him, rather than he building a house for God. And he would never ever lack for a man to sit on his throne.

So, that's why it says, "he despised the commandment of God." And God said to him, "You know, I've given you the kingdom of Judah and Israel and all the wealth and glory of it and the wives of Saul and so forth, "I've put into your hand. And furthermore, if that wouldn't have been enough, thus and such would I also have done. Why did you do this?"

Now, what I want you to do is think about in your life, and I'll think about in my life, you see: what is it that I have that I need to change? What is it that you have that you need to change? *The secret inward sins that you alone know—and GOD KNOWS!* That has to be cleansed from the inside.

Now, let's pick it up here in verse 1, Psalm 51, KJV—so David finally came to himself and repented and said: "... Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy

lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies **blot out my transgressions**." Which God does.

Psalm 103 says, "our sins are removed from us as far as the east is from the west." And God told David, "Yes, your sin has been put away."

But notice what he said. David knew there was something else that need to be done. And he knew that something was radically wrong with his way of thinking that he would have all of this come about, he would plan it, he would plot it, he would do it, he would connive for the murder of Uriah the Hittite that he would steal his wife, commit adultery with her—and somehow think he was okay.

No! Something went wrong in here, and that's what needed to be changed. So he says: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity..." (Psa. 51:2, *KJV*).

There needs to be *cleansing*. Whatever your sin are *there needs to be a cleansing*. "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and **cleanse me from my sin**" (v 2).

But here's what you have to do. God is not going to do it without your active participation in repentance to Him. It isn't going to happen any other way. So you have to go to God. You have to acknowledge it. Just like he did here: "For **I acknowledge** my transgressions: and **my sin** *is* **ever before me**" (v 3).

Because, you see, when you really don't repent and you're not clean inside, your sin is always there, coming before you—BANG! Coming back BANG! Coming back again and again! God wants that changed. He shows how it can be changed. We'll see part of it here.

And here's something you also need to understand and remember—verse four. Every sin against the commandments, though someone else is involved is against God, because **He** gave the law. **He** defined what sin is. So David acknowledges that. He says: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest" (v 4).

Because God is always right. Never forget that. God is always right!

Now, verse 5—He began to see the depths of his evil human nature. And this is what we need to do. Whatever the sin, whatever the trouble, whatever the problem, whatever the trial, begin to see the depth of it. And a lot of sin comes along and looks good and sounds good and feels good and it's so right in the eyes of a human being. But remember this, "there is a way that seems right unto a man, and the ends thereof are the ways of death!"

So David began to understand the depths of his human nature. And how that the sin comes from within, just like Jesus said: "From within comes sin, adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blaspheme, murders, pride—all of that comes

from within. And it's inherent in us. And God has called us to overcome it, though it's inherent within us, so that we learn the lesson that sin does not pay. We learn the lesson that as eternal beings we must not and will not sin. And we must learn that lesson now while we're in the flesh.

And we must have that cleansed from us now! While we have time and opportunity.

Notice what he said: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (v 5). Now it wasn't in an adulterous relation. Sin is a very part of our being, *from conception*. That's what he was admitting. And we'll see that's the "law of sin and death," if we have time to get to it here.

Now, here's what God wants. This is why we need this deep repentance. This is repenting with all your mind, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your being before God. And you see yourself the way God sees you.

- So that you can be *cleansed!*
- So that you can be *changed!*
- So that you can be *converted!*

Now, here's the requirement, verse 6: "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts..." You get rid of human nature with truth. You overcome it with truth. And the truth is the Word of God. And the first place that truth begins is acknowledging what you are: your sins, your nature and your secret faults. That you're honest and truthful with God with that.

"and in the hidden *part*..." (v 6). That part that know one knows but you and God. That part where all lust and all envy, and jealousy, and greed, and murder, and hate and everything contrary to the Word of God is hidden in the mind. And that needs to be cleansed.

"... and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (v 6).

Now, notice verse 7, because this is what has to happen. We've got to go before God and do the same as David did here. He said: "**Purge me...** [Now we're going to see that's part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.] ... **Purge me** with hyssop... [and just like a great scouring pad] ... and I shall be clean... [because He wants us to be clean. Jesus said, 'You are clean through the words which I have spoken.' So, He wants us clean] ... wash me... [We're going to see how the washing takes place.] ... and I shall be whiter than snow" (v 7).

- Then there's recovery.
- Then there is change.
- Then there is relief.

• There is the release of the burden of the guilt, which God gives when you do that.

Verse 8: "Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out <u>all mine iniquities</u>" (vs 8-9). And now the spiritual work can begin.

So you see, I am sure that there are many who attend the Church of God who have never really come to this level of repentance. *And they're only kidding themselves and playing church.* Now, you need to think on that.

Verse 10—here's the real work: "Create in me a clean heart, O God..."

And after all he did, he really needed to have a clean heart created in him. That's what God wants to do with every one of us. Create a clean heart in you, in me and in all of God's people, you see. That's why we have the Passover and Unleavened Bread.

"... and renew a **right spirit** within me" (v 10).

- Right attitude '
- Right heart
- Right mind
- Right thinking

And let these things be scrubbed from your brain, as it were.

Now, some people might mock and say, "that's brainwashing." Well, all these wicked brains out there, they need to be washed.

And he says: "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me" (v 11).

So, he was on the verge of committing the unpardonable sin if he had not repented. And that's the kind of repentance that we need.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit" (v 12). Just like it says back there, "Get the beam out of your eye."

Then he says here—verse 14: "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, [that is from murder] thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness."

Now, let's come down here to—no, let's continue on, verse 15 "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.... [In other words, let' God direct your thoughts and your speech.] ... For thou desirest not sacrifice; [any kind of sacrifice] else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering" (vs 15-16).

Here's the sacrifice that God wants. This is the key to the cleansing of your heart and your mind and erasing these hidden, deep, secret sins that you know that you have. That I know that I have. And every human being does.

Verse 17: "The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." No, He will honor that.

Now, let's come to Psalm 119—let's see how else we are to cleanse our ways. Psalm 119, let's pick it up here in verse nine.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?... [young woman, young man, old woman, old man] ... by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word" (Psa. 119:9, *KJV*).

You can't do it yourself. You need to be cleansed from within. By the Spirit of God and the World of God.

Now notice verse 10: "With my whole heart have I sought thee..."

And that's another aspect of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That we are wholehearted. We're not divided with leaven and sin away from God. We're wholehearted toward God, and you see, with this kind of repentance then, there can come the true love of God. The true understanding of His mercy and goodness and grace and kindness and forgiveness all together.

Now let's come to the New Testament. Let's come to 2 Corinthians, the sixth chapter—2 Corinthians 6, because—and this is a very, very important section for us to understand, and to realize what we are doing and how God deals with us, and what He expects from us, and what we are to do and how we are to do it.

2 Corinthians 6—all right, here we are, one more page. Now, here in 2 Corinthians, the sixth chapter, let's pick it up here, let's pick it up here in verse eleven. Very interesting as he, as he brings this out, and notice what he is saying. And I want you think about it in relationship to your life. I'll think about it in relationship to my life.

"O you Corinthians! Our mouths have been opened to you, and our hearts have been enlarged *Toward you*. You are not suppressed by us, but you are restricted in your own hearts..." (2 Cor. 6:11-12, FV).

Isn't that something! And that was their attitude toward tithing that he's talking about here. Isn't that something! That also applies with sin, right? If we carry sins in hearts and minds we are restricted in our hearts. We don't want to be wholehearted toward God in the things that we do. We are afraid because we still have these sins. And, instead of repenting, you think, "Well, I can work it out." Listen, the only way you're going to work out sin is if you **go to God.** You're never going to work your way out of

sin yourself. If you think you can, then you're actually denying the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To work your way out you have to come to God in repentance *first!* 

Now notice, verse 14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common?.... [And haven't we seen that happen with the Church of God that went out to the Protestants and said, "Oh, how do you worship Jesus?" Not understanding that they had a false Jesus—their lawlessness was the 'spirit of antichrist.'] ... And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness?"

Now you need to have these things just like Paul was talking about here. A clear definition. And of the hidden, secret sins in our minds, we need to have a clear definition to get rid of them To have them cleansed and purged!

"And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement is *there between* a temple of God .... [and we are the temple of God, right? *Yes!*] ... and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said: 'I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people' (vs 15-16).

- But, why should He have to fight us?
- Why should He have to be on the outside, knocking, to try and get in?

"'Therefore, [verse 17] come out from the midst of them and be separate,' [that's repentance] says *the* Lord, 'and touch not *the* unclean, and **I will receive you**; And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says *the* Lord Almighty" (vs 17-18).

Now, chapter seven and verse one: He tells us how to do it.

"Now then, beloved, since we have these promises, **we should purge ourselves...** [So, we have our part to do. God has His part to do.] ... from every defilement **of** *the* **flesh and** *the* **spirit**, perfecting holiness in *the* fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1, *FV*).

Now, let's come to 1 Corinthians five, see how this ties in with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, *of purging and cleansing*. Now, let's pick it up here in verse six: Know you not, it says:

"Your glorying is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? (1 Cor. 5:6, FV).

- That's why the secret, hidden sins within must be cleansed.
- That's why our hearts must be cleansed
- Our minds must be cleansed.

We must have a renewing of our minds by the Spirit of God and cleansing and the washing of the water of the Word. *That is what cleanses and purges!* 

"Therefore, purge out the old leaven... [that is, the sin—not only unleaven your homes and everything like that] ... so that you may become a new lump, *even* as you are unleavened" (v 7).

Because, you see, putting leaven out of your homes and then not putting sin out of your lives is futile. You haven't learned anything. And sooner or later you'll come to the place—like some of the Churches of God have done in their sin—and say, "Well, you don't have to eat unleavened bread during the days of Unleavened Bread... (which is an oxymoron and total absolute stupidity when you think of it.) ... so we have on the table for those who want leavened bread. We have cake and we have rolls and we have all these good things. And for you who want unleavened bread, it's over here." Now, that is uniting with unbelievers.

Now, let's go on: "... so that you may become a new lump, *even* as you are unleavened **For Christ our Passover** <u>was sacrificed for us.</u> For this reason, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with *the* leaven of malice and wickedness, but with *the* unleavened *bread* of **sincerity** and **truth**" (vs 7-8).

We're to purge it out as Paul said.

Let's see how we do it. We've already covered repentance. Now, let's come to 1 John, the first chapter.

- Because you see, in spite of our sins, because God is good and merciful and gracious and righteous and loves us.
- And because the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is there.
- And because He wants us to repent and be cleansed within

Then He's offered the way to Christ, through repentance.

Let's pick it up here in 1 John 1—very important section here, every important section. Let's pick it up here in verse six—1 John 1:6, FV: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him... [and that's what we're doing if we're coming to Church, yet living in sin—whatever the sin may be.] ... but we are walking in the darkness..." [which, you are 'walking in darkness' if you're living in sin].

And if you're letting these secret sins obsess you, possess you! motivate you! use you!

you're walking in darkness!.

"... we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth. However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, <u>cleanses us from all sin</u>" (v 6-7).

Now, that's a promise. And part of your repentance and part of your prayer in going before God to be cleansed inside, to get rid and purge out the leaven that is within, you see, you claim this promise that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin... [in other words, just because it's hidden and no one knows it, and you proclaim: 'Well, I don't have sin.'] ... we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. I few confess our own sins..." We confess them to the Father, confess them to Jesus Christ.

And as we saw in the "Keys to Answered Prayer": *every single day*. And God will help you to understand the depths of human nature. Just like David had to come to see. And there is a progressively deeper repentance that you experience as you recognize and understand sin in your life more—and repent of it. And then you come to repenting of, of your vanity and your, the very motivation of your being as a carnal human being. And then you realize the great love of God.

"... if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (vs 9-10).

Now, chapter two and verse one: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so **that you may not sin.** [Because, you see, sin can be eliminated, in a progressive way. If you follow what we have covered here.] ... And *yet*, if anyone does sin, [because we have the law of sin and death in us and we do the things that we don't want to do, even though we want to do good—but we still have to repent of that, don't we.] ... we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous. And He is *the* propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2, *FV*).

So in God's time, in God's plan, He's going to open the way of salvation for them.

Now, let's see how this is done. Let's come to Ephesians, the fifth chapter—which I said earlier, so here we are finally getting to it—Ephesians, the fifth chapter. Okay, let's pick it up here, Ephesians, the fifth chapter. Now, let's pick it up here in verse 25, because it's talking about a husband and a wife relationship. But it is talking about the mystery between Christ and the Church. So here's the parallel:

"'Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; [and we read about that, didn't we, on the Sabbath before Passover.] ... So that He might sanctify it, having cleansed *it* with the washing of the water by *the* Word' (Eph. 5:25, *FV*).

So, it's a progress.

It is something that you do.

It is a process.

It is a cleansing.

It is repentance

And forgiveness

And cleansing

It is repentance

And forgiveness

And purging

And then you come to have the mind of Christ! "... with the washing of the water by the Word." Now that means combining with the Holy Spirit which is like water that comes as rivers of living water for those who are converted, you see. And then the Word of God combined. Because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. And the Holy Spirit will bring you the understanding of the Word of God, and this cleanses. And this does what God wants us to do to get these things out of our lives.

Now, let's go one step further. Let's come to Hebrews the ninth chapter, and let's see that God wants these erased. That there is no more remebrance of it in your mind by having the Holy Spirit cleanse you and replace it with the Word of God.

The thoughts of God
The attitude of God
The love of God
The hope of God
The faith of God

To replace all of that carnality that is within.

Now, let's come here to Hebrews the tenth chapter, let's see what it says here. This is the covenant that we are in. This is the covenant that we renewed on Passover night.

Verse 16: "This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,' says the Lord: 'I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds..." (Heb. 10:16, FV).

Now, compare that with Jeremiah 17:1, that sin has been inscribed with the point of an iron—with a diamond at the end of it. Now, in order to have that kind of heart converted, you need this. Now, notice what will happen. Here is the cleansing that takes place.

"... 'And their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again" (v 17).

So, if God removes them, let them also erase it from your mind. Because removing them before Him through forgiveness and confession of sin is the first step. Now, it has to be removed from your mind, so that you can forget it. Ask God forgiveness of it.

Think in your life, how many of you are still affected because of child abuse, or sexual abuse or because people were hateful and mean to you. And it's, it's affected you.

Repent of it

Let God cleanse it

Don't continue to pollute every day with the sins of the past, and the memories of the past

Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump and that it is purged out through Jesus Christ and the love of God.

Now, let's continue on here—verse 18: "Now where remission of these *is*, *it is* no longer *necessary to offer* sacrifices for sin. Therefore, brethren, having confidence to enter into the *true* holiest by the blood of Jesus..." (vs 18-19).

You have the help of the soverign of the universe to help you with His Spirit, with His Word, to cleanse you. Just like David had said, "Wash me, purge me, cleanse my heart. Use hyssop. You want true in the inward parts. And in the secret parts you will make me to know wisdom. Keep me from my secret sins."

Amazing, isn't it?

"By a new and living way, which He consecrated for us through the veil (that is, His flesh)..." (v 20).

Now, let's come back here to Hebrews 9—Hebrews 9. Another thing we need to understand—Hebrews 9. Let's come here to verse 13—nope, let's come back here to verse 11.

Hebrews 9:11, FV—and follow this through: "But Christ Himself has become High Priest of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not make by human hands (that is, not of this present physical creation). Not by the blood of goats and calves, but by the means of His own blood, He entered once for all into the holiest, having by Himself secured everlasting redemption for us. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are defiled, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh" (vs 11-13).

Now, he's making a comparison here between the temple service and now the spiritual temple service with Christ as our High Priest and Mediator and God the Father.

Verse 14: "To a far greater degree, the blood of Christ, Who through *the* eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, shall purify your conscience from dead works to serve *the* living God."

So you must have your conscience purged and cleaned. You must have it taken from you, you see—all that sin taken from you.

Now, *how* do your do that? What is your part?

Let's come back here to 2 Corinthians 10, because you have something that you need to do—and here's how you do it, by the power of God's Holy Spirit. And this is what we need to do every day. When that sin comes along to try and resurrect itself back in your mind, you do what we're going to cover here.

Verse 3, 2 Corinthians 10: "For although we walk in *the* flesh, we do not war according to *the* flesh.... [that is, to overcome sin and Satan and all that] ...For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds, Casting down *vain* imaginations, [and that's right where we started, wasn't it? That every imagination of the heart of man was only evil *continually*. So, to have those secret things cleansed we 'cast down vain imaginations.'] ... and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 20:3-5, *FV*).

That's how we overcome these secret sins. That's how we let these things in the past, that still haunt us today, be cleansed. And ask God for perfect forgetfulness. That it is God.

Ask Him to cleanse it.

Take it from you.

If you have a sin that is nagging you, after you, is bogging you, take some prayer, take some time in fasting and ask God to cleanse you:

to purify your mind, to purify your heart, to cleanse your heart, to give you the right thoughts.

And that then, you fill the Word of God into your mind. And ask God to help you love Him with all your heart, and with all your mind, and all your soul and all your being! And God will hear.

God will answer.

God will delight in that.

God will unleaven you from that.

Through Christ that can be taken away forever, and removed forever.

And then you can have peace with God. Then you can have the joy that David talked about. When the true repentance comes, you see.

Now, notice: "And have a readiness... [On the alert! Ready to take care of it when it pops up its ugly head.] ... to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled.

So, that's something brethren. Now, let's come here to Colossians, the first chapter—Colossians, the first chapter. And this is what Jesus has done for us. Colossians, the first chapter. Let's see how it is. Let's pick it up here in verse 12—nope, can never do that—verse 11.

"Being strengthened with all power..." (Col. 1:11, FV). Now, that's what we want. We want God to strengthen us in mind, in heart, in purpose, in love, in faith, all of the things of the fruits of the Holy Spirit—then, which then, unleaven us spiritually, don't they? That's why we are to eat unleavened bread. We are to put it in.

We'll talk about that more on the Sabbath.

"... according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy; Giving thanks to the Father, Who has make us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light; Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness..." (v 11-13).

Ask God to rescue you from that.
Ask God to give you the strength to overcome, to blot it out, to purge it out and replace it with the righteousness of Christ. Replace it with the love of God. Replace it with the grace of God with the mind of Christ, with the Words of God.

And let your mind be cleansed!

Now, let's come over here to, let's come over here to verse 24. "Now, Paul is writing here, he says: "Now, I am rejoicing in my sufferings for you, and I am filling up in my flesh that which is behind of the tribulations of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church. Of which I became a servant, according to the administration of God that was given to me for you in order to complete the Word of God; Even the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints; To whom God did will to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory..." (vs 24-27).

And that's the hope! It's in Christ. It's through Christ.

Now, he says, verse 28: "Whom we preach, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, so that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

And that's what God wants. And so we'll talk about perfection next time—on the Sabbath during Unleavened Bread. But remember this—one last thing in closing:

That because we have eaten the bread of the Passover, and drunk the wine, which symbolized the blood of Jesus Christ, we are to live by Him!

(End Sermon)

Spring Holy Days—2007 Tape #2

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- 1) Leviticus 23:4-8
- 2) Genesis 6:5, 11-12
- 3) Jeremiah 10:23-24
- 4) Jeremiah 17:1-5-10
- 5) Psalm 39:4-6, 8
- 6) John 15;1-3
- 7) Romans 3:23-25, 27
- 8) Romans 8:2
- 9) 2 Corinthians 7:10
- 10) Matthew 23:24-26
- 11) Psalm 19:7-13
- 12) Psalm 51:1-17
- 13) Psalm 119:9-10
- 14) 2 Corinthians 6:11-12, 14
- 15) 1 John 1:6-10
- 16) Ephesians 5:25
- 17) Hebrews 10:16-20
- 18) Hebrews 9:11-13
- 19) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 20) Colossians 1:11-13, 24-28

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- 1 Corinthians 5:7
- Romans 6
- Jeremiah 17:1

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