

God the Father, Jesus Christ and You

Fred R. Coulter—August 10, 2013

I receive the magazine, *Bible Editions and Versions*. It's quite an eye-opener, indeed. Here's one little ad:

Bibles For Sale: I have over 200 English Bible translations.

There are far more Bibles out there than we even know. The statistic from the American and British Bible Societies are probably lacking.

I also have several other books, commentaries, word studies and much more.

There are several other ads in here. Quite interesting, when I sent them the *Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, got a very good review on it. They review the Bibles, and so forth. Now, let's talk about the big and the small of it. This is from the editor, Michael Kuykendall:

Bibles, of course, come in all shapes and sizes. On a recent web browse, I came across a claim of the world's smallest Bible, *The Crystal Bible*... [registered trademark] ...a small glass crystal, on which the entire Bible has been reproduced in a microscopic size using the latest nano-technology and sub-micron writing spot.

So far, three versions have been produced: the *King James Version*, *St. Jerome's Bible*, *The Septuagint*. Spanish and Brazilian Bibles appear to the next up for production.

I was intrigued enough to want to know how much one would cost. It's never a good sign for a frugal Bible-collector to spend more than a few clicks of the mouse to find how much vendors want for their Bibles.

After several clicks, I found a page requesting me to fill out personal information. I gave up at that point. I suppose if I had endured longer and spent the time to fill out forms, I would eventually discover how much one of these Bibles cost.

All the secrecy told me, however, that I would not be able afford one of these Bibles anyway. So, dear reader, we are left to ponder the cost. If you want a nano-Bible, then give this link a try: Crystal-Bible.com/

Then it shows a picture of it here. Maybe some of you can see the picture. I don't know how they use it. I think you probably also have to buy a reader so it will pop it up on a screen. I assume that's what they would do.

There's a New Testament coming out that is written in Hawaiian pigeon language. I don't know what that is. It shows this: all human beings want to be God. Very interesting! They all want to be God, and the fact is that's what God wants them to be; however, they all want to do it their own way.

Let's read something interesting, because this verifies God's creation in it. This explains the reason why there are so many religions of man, because of this, Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He... [God] ...has made everything beautiful in its time; He has also set eternity in their heart..." Even the natives of what you might consider the lowest rung of civilization have their own religion.

Granted there's a mixture of Truth/error and Satanism/demonism in it, but who also wanted to become God? *Satan!* He wanted to become God and rebelled when he found out that he couldn't.

God set this eternity in their hearts: "...so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end" (v 11). *God has to reveal it!* That's the thing that's so important.

Ecc. 3 also tells us there's 'a time to be born and there's a time to die.' Many of the saints are going to find that they are going to rest in their place of safety, which will be the grave.

Yesterday Joe Chikar, who has been with us since 1979, passed after having several operations, one on his gall bladder and some stints in his heart. We're sorry that he has passed, but he lived his life well. Be sure and pray for his wife Betty. Let's see how God looks at these things.

- it's not a matter of being cold hearted
- it's not a matter of not having emotions or love or anything like that
- it's a matter of God's plan and God's will

He has willed it that we will not live forever in the flesh. We have to be spirit beings. However, He made us in His image so that we can inherit eternal life.

He's given the basic thought of it by creating our minds in such a way that we have eternity in our hearts, that is *knowing that there is something greater than ourselves!*

However, once God calls us and we answer the call and we live a life that God has prescribed for us in the New Testament and according to His Word, and we have lived our lives where then we have followed the righteousness of God, we have lived a life where Jesus Christ is our Savior, we have grown in grace and knowledge.

Here's what God says concerning the righteous, Isaiah 57:1: "The righteous perish, and no one lays *it* to heart... [we do] ...and merciful men *are* taken away; none considering that the righteous are taken away from the evil to come." There's a lot of that evil that is going to be coming our way.

Verse 2: "He shall enter into peace; they shall rest in their beds, each one who walked in his uprightness." That is showing the resurrection.

You stop and think about it, it's really quite a marvelous thing that God is doing—isn't it? Here, he's training all of those to enter into His Kingdom. The world knows very few of them. The world doesn't recognize them. The world has persecuted, martyred and passed them by and called them heretics. But nevertheless, they belong to God. They live their lives; they die. All true Christians, who are going to enter into the Kingdom of God, to this point are the few that are alive, but most have died. What God is doing, God is building His army, but putting them in the grave first.

I don't know how many of you have seen this special on one of the Chinese emperors who had his vast army and he had the artisans make replicas of all of his soldiers to lead him into heaven. I think they had over 3,000 of them and they were all buried with him. When they finally dug it up, they were astonished at the workmanship that they had with that.

God is doing something better. He is going to resurrect all of us from the dead and we're going to meet Christ in the air on the Sea of Glass. We are going to be God's army. Remember what Jesus said: 'If My kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight.' So Joe has joined the sleeping army.

As Paul told Agrippa, when he was preaching to Agrippa and he said, 'Paul, you almost persuade me to be Christian.' Paul said, 'I would to God that you would be persuaded. Why should it be thought an incredible thing that God should raise the dead?'

In this age, we have a bit more understanding, because we have all of the knowledge, because very few of us have the understanding. We have the knowledge of many of the fantastic technological things that men have been able to do, which come very close to replicating what God does. We're not yet at the end, and we all wonder: when will the end be?

When we were younger, my wife and I, as I've mentioned before, we looked at each other and we're so happy that we wouldn't get old, because we misunderstood the prophecies and things the Church was giving at that time. Now she has a little different perspective, and so do I.

However, she is very perceptive in many things and one of them I think is this: every time she sees a report on the veterans of WWII, you know the war to save the world for democracy? That didn't quite work out as good as they thought it would. When we see that, she says, 'I believe that God is going to hold back the worst of the correction against us until that generation—which is known as the greatest generation—dies out.'

Through it all, that's why the resurrection of the dead is going to come. What a thing that is going to be! This world is going to be aghast! Same way with the return of Jesus Christ and ***our personal relationship with God, and what God has personally done and what Christ has personally done.***

Remember that all of the gates going into New Jerusalem have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, one over every one of the gates. When we read this in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 45:17: "***But*** Israel shall be saved by the LORD *with* an everlasting salvation..." That includes the Church. Remember, if we are Christ's, then we are 'Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.'

"...You shall not be ashamed nor disgraced *even* into the ages of eternity" (v 17). That sounds like a lot of the things that are in the book of Revelation—right?

Verse 18: "For thus says the LORD the Creator of the heavens, He Himself is God... [We're going to look at several places where it talks about *He Himself* or *I Myself*, or *I swear by Myself*.] ...Who formed the earth and made it; He has established it. He created it not in vain, *but* formed it to be inhabited. 'I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other.'" When you add to that the new heavens and the new earth, then you've got a whole lot more going—don't you?

Heb. 6 covers parts of Gen. 22. When you go through and study the book of Hebrews—we've got a whole long, detailed sermon series, going in-depth into it. Yet, even that one is not complete because the sermon *The Covenant Sacrifice Between God and Christ* should be added to it, because someone asked: What was the sacrifice that the One of *Elohim* Who became Jesus Christ gave, since all covenants require a sacrifice? *It was that He gave up His glory*

as God to become a human being! That's quite a sacrifice.

Are any of us willing to say, 'Okay,' just put you in this re-creation machine, are you willing to give up everything that you are to become a speck of life, to become an entirely different person? You get in this machine and you disappear and then that little speck of life is sent off to be impregnated. That's what Christ did! That was His sacrifice!

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, who was called his only son. There was Ishmael and Ishmael's been a problem from the day of conception to this very day. But he is not counted in the promise, only Isaac. Abraham was willing to take his only son, who was born to him when he was 100-years-old. This puts Isaac at this particular place about 15-years-old. Then we saw after Abraham was willing to offer his son as a burnt sacrifice that God intervened and stopped it.

Hebrews 6:13: "For God, after promising Abraham, **swore by Himself...**" I want you to understand how involved God personally is.

- to the world He's way off someplace
- to the world, He's in darkness somewhere

That's because they have been blinded. Just think what it's going to be when they're resurrected in the second resurrection. I imagine most of them are going to say, 'Hooray! I'm in heaven.' We're going to say, 'Not yet.'

"...swore by Himself, since He could swear by none greater, saying, 'Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you'" (vs 13-14).

Isn't that interesting that this is in the New Testament, and yet, some of those who claim to use the Bible and that they are true Christians, say that all the Old Testament has been fulfilled and you don't need to worry about that at all and as long as you have Jesus, you're just fine.

Verse 15: "Now, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For indeed, men swear by the greater, and confirmation by an oath *puts* an end to all disputes between them. In this way God, desiring more abundantly to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeable nature of His own purpose, confirmed *it* by an oath. So that by two immutable things, which it was impossible for God to lie..." (vs 15-18). God cannot lie! What is the first thing that Satan the devil does to people, starting with Adam and Eve? 'God didn't tell you everything; God lied.

"...we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement... [We're going to focus on this encouragement today.] ...to lay hold on the

hope *that has been* set before us; which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both secure and steadfast, and which enters into the *sanctuary* within the veil; Where Jesus has entered for us *as* a forerunner, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedec" (vs 18-20).

Think of this. God the Father and Christ are on your side as long *as you are on Their side*. They are for you in everything that you do. Let's come to John 16. I want to focus on a verse.

I got an email from a man the other day saying, 'In the congregation that I have been in—which was Sunday-keeping—we only pray to Jesus. Who should I pray to?' I suggested to him our *Keys to Answered Prayer* series. What did Jesus tell us? We'll see that in a minute.

In John 16 the content runs on and on, and the poor Apostle Paul, he would fail Basic English class, because some of his chapters are long, run-on sentences, but that's the way that the Greeks think.

John 16:23: "And in that day... ['That's the day, you have to realize, that I was resurrected'] ... you shall ask Me nothing..." We need to include Jesus in our prayers, from the point of view that He's our Savior, from the point of view that His sacrifice forgives us our sins, from the point of view that He came and lived His life to make everything possible, that is true.

"...Truly, truly I tell you, whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until this day, you have asked nothing in My name..." (vs 23-24). That's why when we pray, pray to the Father and close the prayer, what do we say? *In Jesus' name* or *in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen*. And with 'Amen' you're saying *so be it as I have just prayed*. I'm going through this so that we can understand how we have a personal relationship with God. It's not just us who are involved. It is God Himself Who is involved. That's what's important.

Verse 25: "These things I have spoken to you in allegories; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in allegories, but I will plainly disclose to you *the things* of the Father. In that day, you shall ask in My name; and I do not tell you that I will beseech the Father for you" (vs 25-26).

A little sidebar here: The Catholics say you pray to Mary so she can intercede to the Father, or intercede to Jesus Who will intercede to the Father. I don't know how they do that, but here is a Bible, which they claim that's the guide they use, but it's not. It says *the Father will handle it*.

Here's why, v 27: "For the Father Himself..." Very interesting translation—isn't it? You could also translate it: the Father Himself

personally loves you. The very first sermon in the *Love Series* is Remember, When All Else Fails, God Loves You. Especially when we have so many difficult things that we have to face all the time.

Verse 27: “For **the Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father” (vs 27-28).

Let’s see how Jesus from the very beginning of His ministry told us how the Father would intervene on our behalf. Matthew 5:48—here is one verse, that right in the middle of everything that He is talking about, stands out, but it is isolated alone with needing the rest of the New Testament to interpret it.

Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect.” *That’s the goal of God!* That’s why, as I covered last time, we receive the begetting of the Spirit from the Father. In John 14 it says that if we love Jesus, ‘the Father will love us and if you keep My words, We will come and make Our abode with you.’ That’s very personal—isn’t it?

If God is going to send His Spirit to be in your heart and mind and the Spirit of Christ in you—Paul wrote that if we don’t have the Spirit of Christ in us, we are none of His—that narrows the field of choice that God has made down to a smaller number than most people would imagine. So that’s the goal in it. How can you be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect *unless you have the Spirit of the Father and unless the Father Himself loves you?*

We’re going to go through Matt. 6 and look at everything how it’s connected to the Father. We will see that everything we do is *connected between us and the Father*, and, of course, that’s through Christ.

Matthew 6:1: “Beware *that* you do not bestow your alms in the sight of men in order to be seen by them... [Today, Jesus would say, if He were here, ‘Do not go on television to declare your contribution to such a charity’ or whatever.] ...otherwise you have no reward with **your Father Who is in heaven.**”

Father Who is in heaven is perfect
 Father Who is in heaven

showing a direct connection between our actions and our lives and the Father.

Then He says, v 3: “But *when* you give your alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. So that your alms may be in secret;

and your Father Who sees in secret...” (vs 3-4). Very interesting here. Go back and look up all the Psalms where God sees, God gazes, God looks upon. God and Christ are involved in this earth—aren’t they? As we’ve covered before, there are the seven eyes of God that are going throughout the whole earth, seeking those who are seeking Him.

“...**shall Himself**... [He’s going to give the order] ...reward you openly.... [concerning the hypocrites]: ...And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, in order *that* they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward” (vs 4-5). They were seen by men.

Verse 6: “But you, when you pray, enter into a private room...” The *King James* says ‘closet.’ When I first started praying, I took it literally and I had a small closet and pairs of shoes and laundry that needed to be washed. It was small and when I closed the door, it was dark. After about four or five times of that and I couldn’t stand the smell, I decided just being in the room would be enough. I guess if you just literally go into a small closet and shut the door and it’s dark, I guess the first thing you need to buy before you pray is a miner’s helmet so you can see what you’re doing.

“...enter into a private room; and after shutting the door, pray to your Father Who *is* in secret; and **your Father** Who sees in secret shall reward you openly” (v 6). God’s blessing will come and you don’t even know some of the blessings that come until long, long afterwards.

Verse 7: “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*; for they think that by multiplying their words they shall be heard. Now then, do not be like them; for your Father...” (vs 7-8). I want to emphasize, *the Father Himself* is involved in our lives. This is why prayer is so important, because you have direct connection with God’s Spirit to the Sovereign Ruler of the universe.

“...knows what things you have need of before you ask Him.... [But He wants you to ask, so that shows your trust in God.] ...Therefore, you are to pray after this manner...(vs 8-9). Wonder what the Catholics do when they have, ‘Hail Mary, mother of God, blessed be the fruit of your womb, Jesus’?

It says, “...‘**Our Father** Who *is* in heaven...” (v 9). That is how we are to start. Even though Jesus did not say, ‘The Father Himself will hear you and answer you and you pray directly to Him,’ He said it at the beginning of His ministry.

“...‘Our Father Who *is* in heaven, hallowed... [Holy] ...be Your name; Your kingdom

come... [we're always to be focused on the Kingdom] ...Your will be done on earth... [that means personally in our lives and in the world in general] ...as *it is* in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors” (vs 9-12). We are to ask forgiveness everyday.

I think this. Let me just interject here: The longer that you are converted and the more that you use the Holy Spirit of God and the more that the Spirit of God is exercising in your mind *by the washing of the water by the Word*, the more that you really see the evil within. That's what Paul was talking about with the law of sin and death in Rom. 7. You probably note this: When you do something that is right and good, a little later something's going to happen where evil is going to cross your mind. That's *the sin within*. It is God's Spirit that is exposing it so it can be washed away.

Everything you have ever done is recorded in your brain somewhere. That's why conversion can only come with the Spirit of God. That's why just being 'good' people, with laws and rules and commandments and regulations, those do not convert the heart. Let me give you an example. In the books of Deuteronomy and Exodus, God tells that you are to have the laws of God and you are to write them on your hand and write them on your forehead, write them in your mind. What is the difference between that and the New Testament? *I will show you the difference!* There is a vast difference!

Hebrews 10:14: “For by one offering He has obtained eternal perfection *for* those who are sanctified.... [you have the Holy Spirit; set aside] ...And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, ‘This is the covenant that **I** will establish with them after those days,’ says *the Lord*. **I** will give My laws into their hearts and **I** will inscribe them in their minds” (vs 14-16). Who does the writing? *God does!*

That's why *the washing of the water by the Word is spiritual*. That's why without the Spirit of God, and you have the commandments of God and you memorize the commandments of God, and you live by the commandments of God in the letter, your mind is not as evil as it would be if you didn't do that.

However, what we're talking about in Heb. 10 is conversion and *God* is doing the writing. He says, “...**I** will inscribe...”—right? *Yes!* Vast difference! That's because of the personal relationship with God the Father Himself and with Jesus Christ, and why that is so extremely different than any of the Christian religions of this world. They can come close.

I think on the Church at Home Randy Vild did really, really good, where I asked: What if you're a 95% Christian? *There are two cliffs!* So, he put up two cliffs. I asked: What if you're so good that you make it 95% of the way and you end up at the bottom of the ravine? *It has to be with God's Spirit and it has to be the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ in you!* This is why all the way through He is talking about *the Father and His interaction* in our lives in what we do.

Matthew 6:13: “And lead us not into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one....” That's quite profound, because God is only One Who can rescue people from Satan the devil.

Then what we do when we close a prayer: “...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (v 13). We take that outline prayer and we conform our prayers to that outline. We don't just repeat the prayer over and over again.

Then to show what God wants us to do, v 14: “For if you forgive men their trespasses... [conditional] ...your heavenly Father will also forgive you.... [Everyone wants that—right? *Yes!*] ...But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (vs 14-15).

Then a little later, how many times did He say we are to forgive? *Seventy times seven!* The Father is involved—right? Both ways: forgiving and not forgiving

Verse 16: “And when you fast, do not be as the hypocrites, dejected in countenance; for they disfigure their faces in order that they may appear to men to fast. Truly I say to you, they have their reward. But *when* you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, So that you may not appear to men to fast, but to your Father Who *is* in secret... [no one can see the Father] ...and your Father Who sees in secret shall reward you openly” (vs 16-18). So, right there in the beginning He's teaching a lot concerning the Father.

Verse 28: “And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not labor, nor do they spin; But I say to you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these” (vs 28-29). Jesus knew because He was the Lord God of the Old Testament and He saw Solomon in his glory.

Verse 30: “Now, if God so arrays the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall* He not much rather clothe you, O *you* of little faith?” Think about this: You don't need to have the latest fashions. This must have bugged all the women in the Exodus. They couldn't get a single thing *new*. But a miracle took place: none of their

clothes got old, nor did they wear out. The sandals that they had did not wear out either. God took care of them—didn't He? The next time you open up your 13-foot closet and you look in there with all the clothes that are there, and say to yourself, 'I don't have a thing to wear,' whether you're a man or whether you're a woman...

Verse 31: "Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink' or 'With what shall we be clothed?' For the nations seek after all these things. And your heavenly father knows that you have need of all these things" (vs 31-32). Doesn't mean we're not to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We are! We are to be wise as the ant and we're to prepare for the times ahead as well. God knows that.

But here is the focus, v 33: "But *as for* you, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness... [which ties in with Matt. 5:48] ...and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*" (vs 33-34).

You've got enough to handle going against the evil that comes along on a daily basis.

(go to the next track)

Let's see what Jesus Himself has done. First of all, let's come to John 15 and let's see what Jesus says here; very important. Here we will see that *Christ has personally*, that is Himself, *chosen us*. So it's a joint decision between the Father and Christ.

John 15:16: "You yourselves did not choose Me..." Even the choosing must be inspired by God through His grace and repentance so that you desire God's way. It means that our efforts alone, our works alone, will never bring us to Christ. There has to be the Holy Spirit involved.

"...but I have **personally chosen you**..." I want you to understand how important that is. In the Greek, it's a special verb. It's a middle-voice verb and it is that Jesus is the subject and the object comes back to Him. "...I have personally chosen you..." for Myself.

Then He says, "...and ordained you... [as apostles] ...that you should go *forth* and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; so that whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He may give you" (v 16).

Let's see how this revolves around the sacrifice of Christ. We are going to see what it tells us about what Jesus did Himself, that He took upon Himself all our sins, the sins of all mankind were put

upon Him, that we could be made the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 1:1: "God, Who spoke to the fathers at different times in the past and in many ways by the prophets, has spoken to us in these last days by *His Son*, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the ages" (vs 1-2). It could read *worlds* or *ages*, because the Greek there is 'cosmos.'

Verse 3: "Who, being *the* brightness of *His* glory... [see sermon *The Covenant Sacrifice Between God and Christ*; this is what He gave up] ...and *the* exact image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power when He had by Himself... [He had to do it. That's why He took on human nature, like He did.] ...purged our sins, sat down at *the* right hand of the Majesty on high." That's quite a thing to understand.

He offered Himself once for all. There could be no greater sacrifice than what He gave. I hope you're all used to the *Holy Bible in Its Original Order* now. When we first started, following Jerome's way of lining the Bible up, because they were Jews he put them last before the book of Revelation. He put Romans first to exalt Rome. The original order, the apostles were called *Jewish* apostles, but they were apostles of Jesus Christ; they came first, then the Epistles of Paul.

1-Peter 2:21: "For to this you were called... [to do good as led by the Holy Spirit] ...because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps Who committed no sin; neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when he was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but committed *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously; Who Himself... [*Jesus Christ Himself* and these express the personal relationship of God and the personal work of God of God the Father and Jesus Christ in our lives.] ...bore our sins within His own body on the tree..." (vs 23-24).

It's called the tree here because the cross was actually a tree in the ground, trimmed down, so then they could put a cross beam above it. The cross beam was what Jesus was carrying when He left and then they had Simon the Cyrenean carry it for him.

"...so that we, being dead to sins, may live unto righteousness; by Whose stripes you were healed" (v 24). Let's talk just a little bit about healing here. There is physical healing through the stripes of Christ, because He bore all our sins and all our iniquities, and all of our diseases when you go through and read all of Isa. 53.

- we are healed *physically*
- we are healed *mentally*

because with the Spirit of God our minds are repaired and cleansed the way they should be

- we are healed *emotionally*

because we have a lot of baggage with past emotions and things.

- we are healed *spiritually*

All of those come through the sacrifice of Christ, because through all of those things there were sins that occurred that we did. When He died for our sins, He died for everything, for all humanity, for all time. But it's not going to be imputed until God's plan is carried out and the majority of people.

As I was finishing off reading the New Testament and reading Rev. 20, where it talks about after the 1,000 years end, 'I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God'—the great white throne. It will be so many, it says there was no place found for them. It's going to be quite crowded. God is going to have to get the earth up and really running at the end of the Millennium to be able to take care of that.

You think about how much has to be done, what has to happen right away, physically speaking. They've got to be clothed, fed, have water, all of those things. Then they all have to be taught what God is doing. We have to let them know, 'You have already lived one life and God never called you. Maybe some of you thought God had forgotten you, but He hasn't and here you are.' So that's something; that's how we are healed.

Let's come along and see some other things concerning this; concerning *Jesus Himself*; this touches on it right here: 1-Timothy 2:4: "Who... [God our Savior] ...desires all men to be saved... [but He's left the choice to us] ...and to come to *the* knowledge of *the* Truth." In order for this verse to be fulfilled, you have got to have the second resurrection. Otherwise, this is a lie. The Word of God is Truth and in it there is no lie.

Verse 5: "For there *is* one God, and one Mediator between God and men—*the* man Christ Jesus, **Who gave Himself...**" (vs 5-6). He chose to do it. You think about the most difficult task that you've had to face in your life and the most difficult choice that you have had to make. Compare that to what Christ has done. No comparison—is there? It's like a little speck of dust compared to the universe, and that's about true.

"...as a ransom for all..." (v 6). Then that, of course, is all who repent. You have to yield to God for repentance, because He grants repentance.

"...the testimony of which is to be preached in its appointed times.... [There are different appointed times—are there not? *Yes, indeed!*] ...For this purpose I was ordained a preacher and an apostle..." (vs 6-7).

Let's come here to see how Jesus builds the Church. God is continually working His plan out, making these things possible for us. Let's see how God is doing it. Eph. 2:10 shows us how *we are His workmanship*. That's something—isn't it? We won't realize that until the resurrection and we'll see the finished product.

Ephesians 2:11: "Therefore, remember that you were once Gentiles in *the* flesh, who are called uncircumcision by those who are called circumcision in *the* flesh made by hands; *and* that you were without Christ at that time... [that's the way most of the world is; they are without Christ] ...alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (vs 11-12).

The next time you watch the news and you see some of these flashes come by—Jonathan made me a two minute or three minute video, it was one of these with a lot of flashing stills depicting the history of man. It has evolution in it. Starts out with the universe and ends up in destruction, which was very interesting indeed. You look at all of those things—***without God and without hope!*** That's the way the world is. Those of us who are the saints of Christ, *we represent the hope of the world under Christ!*

Verse 13: "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition" (vs 13-14). The Protestants think that's doing away with the laws of God, but that's not true.

Here's the correct translation, v 15: "Having annulled in His flesh the enmity... [the hatred, the strife] ...the law of commandments contained in the decrees of men..." So, if you have the book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?*, you read the back appendices where we have a lot of the *Code of Jewish Law* there. You will see the hostility of those laws toward other people and even toward the Jews themselves in what they did. That's what He has annulled. This is the problem of law in the New Testament. It's not a Protestant/Catholic argument; it is a Judaism vs God and Christ argument.

"...so that in Himself... [Jesus Himself] ...might create both into one new man... the Church] ...making peace; and *that* He might reconcile both to God... [Because as he wrote in Romans, we have proved all are under sin, Jews and Gentiles.] ...in one body through the cross, having slain the enmity by it. Now, when He came, He preached the gospel—peace to you who *were* far off and to those who *were* near. For through Him we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father"

(vs 15-18). That is how God is working it. Think of that—direct access.

That’s why in Matt. 6 He says when you pray, you say, ‘Our Father.’ You don’t need to go, ‘saint this, saint that, and Mary,’ and finally Jesus and hopefully this will get to the Father. Directly to the Father, *our Father* and He is in us with His Spirit and Christ is *in us* with His Spirit.

Verse 19: “So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but *you are* fellow citizens with the saints, and *are* of the household of God. You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone” (vs 19-20).

God is doing a work and the work starts within each one of us. Christ Himself, God Himself, the Father, and Savior working together and to perform something that the world does not know is going on and are going to be absolutely flabbergasted when Christ returns and the resurrection takes place. So flabbergasted they are going to fight. You read the book, *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah*, because we go through a lot of the prophecies showing what it’s going to be like. It’s going to be something.

Verse 21: “In Whom all the building, being conjointly fitted together, is increasing into a Holy temple in *the* Lord; in Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in *the* Spirit” (vs 21-22). That’s quite a thing—isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!* Jesus Christ Himself is doing it.

Now let’s see what this is to lead us to do. We have a personal relationship. We have the Spirit of God, which consists of the begetting from the Father and the Spirit of Christ

Let’s come to 1-John 1, and let’s see how John writes this. Let’s see how important this is for us and why then study and prayer become the paramount thing that we do. That helps us live our lives the way that God wants us to live them. Notice how the Apostle John wrote this. In writing this, he is revealing the greatest thing that God could do and what He expects us to do. The whole Epistle of 1-John is really a fantastic book.

We’ve got *The Seven General Epistles* book; if you don’t have that, you can write for it. I don’t know if we have them all digitized, but we’re getting close to it if we don’t. When I originally did them, there were 79 sermons going through the General Epistles from James, 1st, 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John, and Jude. I want you to understand where we are connected and how far back that connection goes.

1-John 1:1: “That which was from *the* beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes, that which we

observed for ourselves...” The word *observed* here means to *intently gaze*. Modern English would have *gawk with interest*, you’re just transfixed on it. They observed everything He did.

“...and our own hands handled, concerning the Word of Life; (And the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us)” (vs 1-2).

Many times I wonder, what was it like for the apostles and the different ones that Jesus revealed Himself to after His resurrection for the 40 days and 40 nights? I wonder what that was like, but I imagine that when they first saw Jesus when He appeared in the room where they were all shut in because of fears of the Jews, that there were goose bumps running up and down their spine. I imagine that they were startled, ‘How did He get here? Just appeared, walked through the wall.’

Here is the whole reason for all of it, v 3: “That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—is with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ.”

The rest of the 1-John 1 tells us of our relationship with God and tells us of how we put together the Lord’s Prayer, and how we live and how we walk.

Verse 4: “These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full.” We might add, in spite of the physical circumstances you find yourself in, because the greater hope of the resurrection from the dead is there and we have nothing to fear. Whatever God works out, He’s going to work out.

Verse 5: “And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is light... [Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the world.] ...and there is no darkness at all in Him.”

This is a very revealing statement, because unless you are familiar with the Gnostic religion, they believed in God and then many demigods going down the line, and the One Who created the world was on the lowest level, and that there were varying degrees of light. This is what he was fighting. Of course, the Gnostics would view Jesus on the lowest rung, with a lot of darkness involved. So this is why he is bringing it out.

Verse 6: “If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him...” Many do this. All of those who are Protestants out there, listen up, because this is what you claim. Likewise, Catholics, but Catholics, you’re in worse condition.

“...but are walking in the darkness...” (v 6). What is darkness? Who is the prince of darkness? *Satan the devil!*

If you’re walking after teachings of Satan the devil “...we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth” (v 6). That one verse in itself, ‘knocks into a cocked hat’ everything concerning Protestant claims and Catholic claims—right there.

Verse 7: “However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another...” Of course, then fellowship with God. So now it’s a three-way fellowship: God the Father, Jesus Christ, with us, and then fellowship with the brethren between us. But that fellowship with the brethren comes because of the fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. This is how we are able to love one another.

“...and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin.... [A continuous thing; a continuous forgiveness] ...If we say that we do not have sin...” (vs 7-8). That also the Protestants say, ‘If you’re converted, you cannot sin.’ Here it is, if we say that we do not have sin, that goes even further. The claim is that we as human beings do not have sin within us, we are good people of and by ourselves.

“...we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our own sins...” (vs 8-9). You can’t confess for someone else. Job thought he could offer offerings and pray for his sons. It didn’t work out, did it? *No!*

“...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v 9). Note: Eph. 5:25, because *it’s the cleansing of the washing of the water by the Word!* To cleanse us from all unrighteousness; that He might sanctify the Church with the washing of the water by the Word, make it Holy.

Verse 10: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

1-John 2 also shows what we need to do. It says that if we sin we can have forgiveness through Christ. 1-John 2:3: “And by this *standard*...” I don’t know how many times I’ve read these verses during the course of preaching how many ever years I’ve been preaching, but I’ve read it many, many times and I learn from it every time. ***The hardest thing to overcome in human nature is the deceitfulness of the human mind*** that looks at things that it sees a good result. But to get that result, you have to sin. That’s the nature of human nature.

This is why it brings us to the point of what God the Father Himself has done and what Jesus Christ has done, then how do we respond back to God? *Loving God!*

This tells us how, right here, v 3: “By this standard we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.... [conditional] ...The one who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him” (vs 3-4). That takes care of an awful lot of religions—doesn’t it? That takes care of an awful lot of people who think they are converted, but are not. They may be for Jesus. They may be nice and sincere people.

I’m sure certain areas of the country, like Oklahoma and Texas, are filled with a lot of those people who are nice and who think they are doing good. But they don’t realize, they are the 95-percenters, and they can’t get over to the other side, because that 5%—actually it’s the other way around. They are 5% across and reject the 95%. *If we keep His commandments!* There we go! And if they don’t, *the Truth is not in them.*

Here is the key, here is what God is doing, v 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected.... [That’s what God is doing and that goes right back to what? Matt. 5:48.] ...By this *means* we know that we are in Him. Anyone who claims to dwell in Him...” (vs 5-6).

Notice what we are set to do and this is the greatest way of overcoming carnal nature. “...is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked.” That’s the goal, *perfected in Christ.*

What I’m going to do, I am going to read several Scriptures here, which all point to the working of God with us and the hope that He provides with us. These are called the *may statements*. *May* is subjunctive. *May* means IF you’re doing something, it will happen. May I go to the store? *Yes*, if you come back by such a time and you get this and that and the other thing, you may go to the store. Let’s understand this: ***remember the things that are contained in the Law are the seeds!***

Here is the blessing that Aaron was to give, Numbers 6:22: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to Aaron and to his sons saying, “In this way you shall bless the children of Israel, saying to them, “^{#[1]}**May** the LORD bless you and keep you.... [even the Catholics use this after a mass] ...^{#[2]} **May** the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.... [all of those are from God the Father and Jesus Christ Themselves] ...^{#[3]} **May** the LORD lift up His face to you and give you peace.”’ And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel. And I will bless them”’ (vs 22-27). That’s conditional when you read Deut. 28, the blessings and cursings—***IF***.

Psalm 20:1: “[#4] **May** the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob set you on high.” We are always going to have troubles. Those situations build character. That’s why we have them.

Stop and think about this. If you can’t solve problems and difficulties today, how on earth are you going to be trained to handle solving the problems and difficulties to re-arrange the world after its near total destruction when Christ returns?

Verse 2: “[#5] **May** He send you help from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion.” Direct connection to God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven above.

Verse 3: “[#6] **May** He remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah.” What are our offerings? *Our prayers, our living God’s way!*

Verse 4: “[#7] **May** He grant you according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans.” Wherever there’s a *may* there’s an *if*. They are in accord with the will of God.

Verse 5: “We will shout for joy in your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up banners. [#8] **May** the LORD fulfill all your prayers.” That one I really like.

Psalm 61:6: “[#9] **May** You... [God] ...add to the days of the king’s life... [Of course, we’re offered eternal life—right? *Yes!*] ...[#10] **may** his years be as many generations. [#11] **May** he abide before God forever; prepare mercy and truth to preserve him” (vs 6-7).

These are actually petitions to God for eternal life in His Kingdom, when you put it all together—aren’t they? If you get discouraged and you get down, you go back through these fifteen ‘**may** the Lord’ verses.

Psalm 115:15: “[#12] **May** you be blessed of the LORD... [The greatest blessing we can have is God’s Spirit and knowledge of His Word and access to God the Father and Jesus Christ.] ...Who made the heavens and the earth. The heavens, even the heavens are the LORD’S...” (vs 15-16). He gave the earth to men.

Psalm 122:6: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...” The Jews pray that and they always tell each other, ‘Next year in Jerusalem.’ Before that’s fulfilled by Christ, there is going to be a lot, a lot of trouble in Jerusalem. This is actually reflecting to when Christ returns, then the New Jerusalem.

“...[#13] **May** those who love you prosper. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces” (vs 6-7).

I like all these *may statements*. What I need to do is get them, put them all together, and have them on one sheet.

Psalm 143:9: “Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies... [That’s what we need—don’t we? *Yes, indeed!*] ...I flee to You to hide me. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; [#14] **may** Your good Spirit lead me on level ground of uprightness” (vs 9-10). May God’s Spirit lead you! What does Paul say, Rom. 8:14? ‘*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.*’

Psalm 67—we’re going to read the whole Psalm. It’s a nice short Psalm, but here is the fifteenth. If you have fifteen:

- 5 is the number of grace
- 3 is the number of completion
- 5 x 3 = 15

Psalm 67:1: “[#15] **May** God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Selah... [think on this] ...So that Your way may be known on earth...” (vs 1-2). This is the whole purpose of why we’re called here, brethren, because this is talking about carrying out all of God’s plan beginning with the Millennium and then all through what God is going to do.

“...Your salvation among all nations. Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You shall judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. Selah” (vs 3-4). Of course, that is a Feast of Tabernacles Psalm.

Verse 5: “Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You.” Think of that. When that happens during the Millennium, all people.

Verse 6: “The earth shall yield its increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him” (vs 6-7). That is tremendous, brethren.

We’re going to finish with Psalm 91, because we need all of this hope and encouragement, which we need to focus on and live by. But we can be guaranteed we’re going to need it, because there are a lot of difficult times coming.

I wanted to be sure and cover these things before I start covering some of the prophecies and some of the difficulties in the world. As you know, if you’re watching the news, they are getting pretty heavy.

Unless you have the strength of God’s Spirit and His Word in you, and the hope that God has given us, when you see all of these difficulties, you may tend to become discouraged and be kind of self-defeated because of them. But don’t do that.

Here's why, Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High... [we have direct connection to that] ...shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.... [hidden protection] ...I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I will trust.' Surely He will deliver you from the fowler's trap and from the destroying pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day. Nor for the plague that walks in darkness, nor for a destruction laying waste at noonday" (vs 1-6).

Verse 7: "A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand; it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes you shall behold and see the recompense of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, Who is my refuge... [this is David speaking to other people] ...even the Most High... [that's a reference to the Father] ...your habitation, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling" (vs 9-10). We modify this with what Jesus said, 'Don't worry about those who are able to kill the body, but have no power over the life.' We don't have to worry.

Verse 11: "For He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the asp..." (vs 11-13). That means overcoming all evil, because Satan the devil is a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may devour and he is that ancient serpent.

"...the young lion and the jackal you shall trample underfoot. 'Because he has set his love upon Me... [That is you have set your love upon God and the Father Himself loves you.] ...therefore, I will deliver him... [What is the final deliverance? *Resurrection from the dead!*] ...I will set him on high because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble... [Wherever your troubles are, God is with you. Don't forget that. Pray to Him.] ...I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life... [Is not eternal life a long life? *Yes, into the ages of eternity!*] ...I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation'" (vs 13-16).

I wanted to cover these things today to show how we need to respond to God the Father and Jesus Christ, because they are personally involved in our lives—in a direct and profound way—with the Spirit of God; the Spirit of the Father; the Spirit of Christ—**so we can face the difficulties that we need to face!**

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ecclesiastes 3:11
- 2) Isaiah 57:1-2
- 3) Isaiah 45:17-18
- 4) Hebrews 6:13-20
- 5) John 16:23-28
- 6) Matthew 5:48
- 7) Matthew 6:1-12
- 8) Hebrews 10:14-16
- 9) Matthew 6:13-18, 28-34
- 10) John 15:16
- 11) Hebrews 1:1-3
- 12) 1-Peter 2:21-24
- 13) 1-Timothy 2:4-7
- 14) Ephesians 2:11-22
- 15) 1-John 1:1-10
- 16) 1-John 2:3-6
- 17) Numbers 6:22-27
- 18) Psalm 20:1-5
- 19) Psalm 61:6-7
- 20) Psalm 115:15-16
- 21) Psalm 122:6-7
- 22) Psalm 143:9-10
- 23) Psalm 67:1-7
- 24) Psalm 91:1-16

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- Genesis 22
- Romans 7
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- Revelation 20
- Ephesians 2:10; 5:25
- Deuteronomy 28
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