

God's Personal Revelation Through Jesus Christ

Fred R. Coulter—May 5, 2012

Now I'm going to pick up exactly where Mike Heiss left off. (Referring to *God and His Titles #1* by Michael Heiss). This also helps you understand the magnitude of your calling. He's going to explain to you a little bit more about the First and the Last as he goes along and why that is an important signature for the New Testament.

I'm going to use this new term; instead of orthodox Christianity I'm going to say *the establishment Christianity* of the world. That's a little broader; that'll include everything. They believe in 'churching' people. The first thing someone does when they find out about the Truth, they either watch ChurchatHome.org or CBCG.org. By the way, Church at Home is really growing in the number of hits and participants. We're going to continue to expand that.

What we're going to do is pick up right where Mike left off so that we understand what God is doing. He doesn't want us 'churched.' He doesn't want us 'churched' in a building, because 'by one Spirit we're all baptized into one body,' regardless of where we are. When we come together as a group, it is the assembly of the saints of God—each one of us are saints because we have the Holy Spirit—to come before God together and it is to be with the grace and peace of God. That's what God wants it to be. Also in the end-time we have so many things available for us that it actually magnifies God's calling for us.

In one of the recent sermons I gave I ended, especially the first one: *After Baptism—What Do I Do Now?* This afternoon I'm going to give number two on that. We are going to see that the true Church of God is being the Body of Christ, not a corporate entity, because there are people around the world that we don't even know of and God is dealing with them. It is really the height of arrogance and pride to say that 'this corporate church is the only Church of God.' *It's not! God will never be limited by an edict of any man*, because that would limit God and God is not limited.

Here is what God has done for us, Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to babes.... [That's what we are. We are the children of God yet to be born at the resurrection.] ...Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do this*'" (vs 25-26).

Just put in your notes there, Rom. 1. What happens to people when they reject God? You can read it, that's quite an indictment! God is doing something very pleasing to Himself and in calling us it's a very special calling. Every single one that God calls is a special individual calling for each one of us. When we get that understood in our minds and then we take what Michael has given, and what Michael portrayed here in it was how much the New Testament is elevated above His revelation in the Old Testament to those He's calling. That's why in the Old Testament there were those very few that God dealt with who are going to be in the first resurrection. But now His plan is that He wants *many* children and that's why we're here. But here's what He's done.

Verse 27: "All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son... [that means in a personal intimate way] ...and the one to whom **the Son personally chooses** to reveal *Him*."

Think about that! This is why, what Michael is bringing is going to obliterate the so-called doctrine of sacred names. Also, it's going to add to what God is doing with all of those that He is calling and why receiving the Holy Spirit is a tremendous and wonderful of gift of grace by God. God is the One Who has initiated your calling. God is the One, with the way He operates—you've heard the sermon that I gave on *The Holy Spirit of God, the Seven Spirits of God*—Who is in full communication with the earth and people and especially His people who have His Spirit all the time.

Let's see some special things that have been revealed. We know that Jesus told the disciples that 'He's going to send the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Truth. The Holy Spirit is going to reveal to you things that you are not now able to bear.' The very first part of the Gospel of John was one of the major things that Christ revealed with His Spirit that they had to grow in grace in knowledge. They had to grow in understanding. Then there came a time when God revealed it to all the apostles and the prophets.

The prophets are not those who tell the future. The prophets are those who speak. In a sense today Mike in speaking was a prophet. In my speaking, I am a prophet, because I speak. God has revealed these things.

We will start here and end here, Ephesians 3:1: "For this cause I, Paul, *am* the prisoner of Christ

Jesus for you Gentiles.” Let’s just stop here and think how God works. When is it that you have learned some of the most profound things concerning God and His Word and the understanding of it? *When you’ve been in a trial—right? Yes!*

Here’s Paul, a prisoner. Let’s see what he says, what God revealed to him. He said, v 2: “If indeed you have heard of the ministry of the grace of God that was given to me for you.... [we’re going to see *we stand under grace*] ...How He made known to me by revelation the mystery...” (vs 2-3). This is fulfilling John 16:12_[transcriber’s correction] where He said, ‘You’re not able yet to bear this.’

Paul began his ministry there in Antioch after he was trained by Christ and went back to Tarsus and then Barnabas got him and brought him to Antioch. That was in about 42_{A.D.} So, we have 20 years later he’s in prison. In prison was when the time God revealed it to him. But notice what he said

“...(even as I wrote briefly before, So that when you read *this*, you will be able to comprehend my understanding in the mystery of Christ)” (vs 3-4). The mystery of Christ is the secret of Christ. And by God’s Spirit He is revealing to you and to all that He has called His secret. The world doesn’t know it. The world calls it blasphemy that we will become spirit beings and be the spirit sons and daughters of God. And we will have the name, as Mike will point out as he goes along, *Elohim*.

Verse 5: “Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, **as it has been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.**”

Now let’s see what God had to do to reveal it. Let’s see what John wrote, which is a result of that revelation that was

- given to Paul
- given to Peter
- given to all the apostles

It says the prophets and that means *all of those who were serving* in the churches.

John 1:1 and it follows in exact parallelism in the Greek as it does in the Hebrew. That’s why when you read the first verse: “In *the* beginning... [‘the’ is in italics and in the Greek there is no definite article—‘ein arche’/‘ein ho logos’] ...was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

This is what the apostles could not handle right at the beginning, that He was actually God manifested in the flesh. He had to reveal that to them after the length of time that it was up until about 61_{A.D.} Here’s what they understood. This also

answers the question back in Gen. 1, the *Us*, not as directly as Matt. 17.

Verse 2: “He was in *the* beginning with God.” Verse 1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Those who look at the Greek make a big thing out of the fact that there is no definite article for God in the phrase, ‘the Word was God.’ It’s actually emphasized this way: **God is ‘ho theos.’** When there is no definite article in many cases you can put an ‘a’ in front of it. The Jehovah Witnesses do that with ‘a God,’ but that’s not what it means. The Greek there is ‘theos,’ no definite article. ‘Ein ho logos,’ meaning *the Word was God*. Without the definite article it means **every characteristic of God that was revealed as the Father.**

It’s interesting how the Gospel of John and Genesis begins at the same place. We’re going to see there are other tie-ins. You’ve heard me talk about the unity of Scripture—Old Testament and New Testament. The more we study the Bible the more we see the unity of Scripture and the more that the Word of God proves itself over and over and over again.

Verse 2: “He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being **through Him...**” (vs 2-3). That’s why He had to reveal the Father so that they would all understand there was more than one Being who was God. Because if there was only one Being and He came to the earth and manifested Himself in the flesh: Who’s controlling the universe? Who is upholding all things?

“...and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him.... [so much for evolution] ...In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness... [that’s the present state of the world] ...but the darkness does not comprehend it” (vs 3-5). Then he says to prepare the way. This, again, is unity of Old Testament and New Testament.

What does it say in Malachi? ‘*Behold, I send My messenger before My face, even the Lord who shall suddenly come to His temple.*’ Of course, that was fulfilled.

Verse 6: “There was a man sent by God, whose name was John.” You can read all about how he came about. You also see something very important to understand and never forget this. In order to establish the New Testament and the New Covenant God could not go outside the authority that He had established.

- Did He set up the temple system? *Yes!*
- Did He set up the priesthood? *Yes!*

God's Personal Revelation through Jesus Christ

This was not done in South America. This was done in Jerusalem. The father of John was a priest. That's important to understand because John was the priest preparing the way for the Messiah. You know all about his life.

Verse 7: "He came for a witness that he might testify concerning the light, so that through him all might believe. He was not the light, but *came* that he might testify concerning the light. The true light was that which enlightens everyone who comes into the world" (vs 7-9).

Think about that! Think what that statement is saying here! *Every human being that is born into the world is the result of what God has created to cause that to be!* All human life and, of course, in the Old Testament God says 'all the beasts of the forest are Mine.' So, God gave a lower level of procreation to all the animals, and He's the One Who causes them to produce.

Whenever you see some of these specials like the *Blue Planet* or the *Frozen Planet* or the one with the birds. I love the ones of the birds. When they migrate and go up to the Arctic there are millions and millions of birds. Some of them nest in cliffs; some of them nest just on the ground. And here God is the One Who is causing all of this to be. This is noting that all human beings are a special creation of God.

That's why on Church at Home we did 12 parts on *Why Were You Born? From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God*. It's also very interesting, Elihu said that 'the Spirit of God has formed me.' A little later he says, 'The hand of God has made me.' Think about that for a minute because that goes clear back to Adam and Eve—correct? God formed Adam of the dust of the earth, formed everything about him. Breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he received the spirit of man at that time—'ruach.' Then He took a rib and He created Eve and He formed her.

God looks at His first creation—Adam and Eve—that every child born by procreation from that point forward is by the Spirit of God and the hand of God. This helps us understand more about God and His love.

Verse 10: "He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, but the world did not know Him.... [still does not know Him] ...He came to His own... [it was prophesied that He would] ...and His own did not receive Him; But as many as received Him, to them He gave authority to become *the children of God, even to those who believe in His name*" (vs 10-12).

Now then, he's combining back into the things that they already understood, v 13: "Who

were not begotten by bloodlines, nor by *the will of the flesh*, nor by *the will of man*, but by *the will of God*."

Why are you here? Does this not help us understand what we need to do as brethren and as teachers? *You are here because of God!* Because you

- heard the Word of God
- God's Spirit was drawing you
- God's Spirit was leading you

All of us could look back and we can see there was a point in time that we could say BANG! we responded to God and God responded to us. No one else in the world knew it. It was probably a very personal thing and a very personal, private moment. Something changed in your mind. What was that that changed? *God's Spirit was leading you*. That's what was changed.

Here is the greatest justice. Let's look at God.

- Is God love? *Yes!*
- Is God faithful? *Yes!*
- Is God true? *Yes!*
- Is God judge? *Yes!*
- How does God judge? *With perfect justice!*

In order to judge the world perfectly He had to go back to Adam and Eve. What did He sentence them to because of their sin? *Exiled from the Garden of Eden!* Their nature changed; the nature of the earth changed, nature of the animals changed. We ended up with the inherited *law of sin and death*—correct? *Yes!* God chose the most just way to rectify that.

This is what we need to understand, v 14: "And the Word became flesh..." You have tie in everything concerning the birth of Christ and the virgin Mary. You have to understand other verses, and so forth. He divested Himself of His glory. I want you to understand the humility of God and the humility of the Father. Jesus literally gave up everything to save His creation.

The judgment that He put upon mankind and which has caused so much sorrow, war, murder, hatred, the works of the flesh, all condemned and judged by God down through history. He took that very nature upon Himself and became a human being. That's what it means here: "And the Word became flesh..." (v 14). What kind of flesh?

Let's come to Romans 8 so that we understand. Was Jesus subject to death? *Yes, He died!* He had of 'the law of sin and death' He had death—didn't He? Otherwise He wouldn't have been able to die. Let's see what else happened. This makes His life and what He did for us even greater when we understand the magnitude of what He did and what He had to overcome. Remember what

Jesus said there to the Laodiceans? He says, 'Overcome and you will sit down in My throne as I overcame and am sat down in My Father's throne.'

What did Jesus have to overcome? He was without sin so we know He didn't sin. How was He able to overcome? What was it besides being raised from the dead by the glory of the Father? That overcame death. But what was it that He personally had to do in the judgment and the justice to save mankind?

If He did it any other way, people could go up to God and say, 'God, You didn't know what it was like to be a human being. You don't know all the trouble, sorrow, death, wretchedness, and misery that was going on down here. You never experienced that. You were up in heaven, sitting on Your throne and You just sent your curses and blessings. What do You know about what it is to be a human being?'

Well, how did He make us? *In His image and His likeness!* One of the purposes was so that He could come in the flesh as a human being. But what kind of flesh did He have? Was it extraordinary flesh that He could not sin? Why then did He cry out to Him Who was able to save Him from death with tears and strong crying?'

We'll see it right here, Romans 8:3: "For what *was* impossible for the Law to do..." This doesn't do away with the Law. Let's understand something:

- The Law is cause and effect.
- The Law is blessing and cursing.
- The Law cannot make you do anything.

Don't all of those who steal know it's wrong to steal? Did it keep them from stealing? *No! The law is not going to make you do anything!* Conscience and choice may cause the person to choose not to steal even if the opportunity showed itself. But that's a choice and God sets before us the choices of life and death, blessing and cursing.

It's impossible for the law to make us righteous. We need God's Spirit for that. "...in that it was weak through the flesh... [read the book of Judges. How many times did they leave God? Weak through the flesh.] ...God, having sent His own Son in *the likeness of sinful flesh...*" (v 3)—*likeness* comes from the Greek 'homoiomate'—in the *exact sameness as all human flesh*.

This becomes very important to understand because Romans 7:21 tells us: "Consequently, I find this law *in my members*, that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me." That's just the sum total of how human beings operate—right? If you don't believe that works on a vast macro level, look

at what's happening in the world and in America today. Everybody intends to do 'good.'

We have a President who thinks that he has all the good answers for everyone and that if they would only listen to him everything would be perfect. But every time he implements it, it comes out wrong. Why? *Because of the law of sin and death!* 'There's a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.'

Expressed in sinful flesh: "...that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me, For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man... [Yes, you agree with the law. It's good and right and true.] ...but I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members" (vs 21-23). Meaning, it's a very part of his being.

In order for Jesus to bring pure justice to this world, it had to be God manifested in the flesh in the likeness of sinful flesh.

Romans 8:3: "...and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh..." What does that mean? The Greek is this: *in the likeness*—'homoiomate'—of sin, of flesh. Very powerful! That means that in order to be perfectly just, in order for His sacrifice to cover the sins of all mankind—as we understand with the plan that He has—He took upon Himself the very curse that He brought upon human beings with *the law of sin and death*. He took within His members, within His fleshly being, *the law of sin and death* and yet never sinned.

"...in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin... [For the specific purpose of making the making the payment and atonement for sin.] ...condemned sin in the flesh" (v 3). Whose flesh? *Christ's flesh!* Isn't that something?

When we talk about the height of God's plan, when we talk about the small things of God's plan, when we talk about God is love and God is grace and God is merciful and God is all of these things, look at what God personally did.

What we see is how great God is. This is how He has redeemed us, John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the glory as of the only begotten with the Father...*" Only one was begotten the way that Jesus was. No other human being.

We receive the begetting of God's Spirit. That's a different kind of begetting. But the end result through being faithful to the end and the resurrection is that we will be born again into the Kingdom of God.

“...as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father), full of grace and Truth” (v 14). Had to be! That's how He overcame *the law of sin and death* that He took upon Himself in the members of the flesh that He had. When He was offered as that sacrifice, when He was beaten, when He was scourged, when He was crucified—being the Creator of all human beings and being the sacrifice for the savior and salvation of all human beings—what He went through represented the sacrifice of the Creator of mankind in complete and perfect justice so that He could provide the sacrifice to the Father, so that the Father and Christ could deal directly with us. Isn't that something? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 15: “John testified concerning Him, and proclaimed, saying, ‘This was He of Whom I said, “He Who comes after me has precedence over me because He was before me.”’.... [He existed before me] ...And of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace” (vs 15-16). I still have not found the time to give the sermon, *Grace Upon Grace*, but I'll give it. Grace upon grace actually is this. I'll give you a little summary of it: God's entire dealing with us in every aspect is through

- His grace
- His love
- His Spirit

When you understand that and you understand what God is doing, I want you to look in the rearview mirror of your life and look at how awful it was when the brethren of God became *the corporate church of men*. That's why when you hear that God loves you—God through Christ has paid for your sins—you know what He has done. All of that is by grace.

This gives just a little add on for what Mike brought. There are some other things that we can do. Let me just say this: read through the whole Gospel of John. What you're going to find, the Gospel of John reveals the Father more than any other gospel and tied together with the Epistles of 1st, 2nd, 3rd-John and then tie that together with the epistles of Paul, let's just take a look at the end result.

Let's come to Ephesians 3 once again; here's the end result of what God wants. Here is what God is doing. Even though this is one of my most favorite and I think most inspired portions of the Bible, this always becomes much more inspiring every time you go through it.

Think about this. I want you to put your name with this. I want you to understand that Jesus has done this for each one of us *personally and individually*. Here is what He wants the end result to be.

Paul wrote, Ephesians 3:14 “For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named... [at the resurrection you're going to get a new name] ...That He may grant you...” (vs 14-16). This is what we want, brethren. This is what we need. We're going to be facing some difficult times down the road so we need to keep this right in the forefront of our minds.

Verse 16: “That He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; and that being rooted and grounded in love, you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints...” (vs 16-18). God wants you to *know!* The truth is this: when we assemble together, when we have teaching, when we study the Bible, we are in the School of Eternal Life. Once you grasp that concept then that changes your whole view of church.

School of Eternal Life! You have God's Spirit. I have God's Spirit. We're reading the words of God, which are Spirit and life. And these have an effect upon us because God blesses us and we learn and the inspiration that we get is because God is here with us in addition to being in us and we all learn together. Isn't that something?

“...with all the saints... [Here's what He wants you to know:] ...what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height...” (v 18). He wants you to understand as much about God and His plan:

- what He's doing
- how He's done it
- all about Him
- Old Testament/New Testament

“...And to know the love of Christ... [Think about what He did in love by laying down His life for us.] ...which surpasses *human* knowledge... [this is what the end result of your calling will be]: ...so that... [put your name there] ...**you may be filled with all the fullness of God**” (vs 18-19).

I tell you something, the more we read that and understand that, the greater God is and how fantastic His plan is. We can use a modern expression: *it is so awesome it literally blows your mind!* Now He's able to do it.

Verse 20: “Now to Him Who is able... [has the *power*—‘*dunamis*’] ...to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us. To Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 20-21).

This is what John revealed in the first chapter of the Gospel of John and how it came to the fullness of understanding to all the apostles. This is what Christ has done for us.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 11:25-27
- 2) Ephesians 3:1-5
- 3) John 1:1-14
- 4) Romans 8:3
- 5) Romans 7:21-23
- 6) Romans 8:3
- 7) John 1:14-16
- 8) Ephesians 3:14-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 1
- John 16:12
- Genesis 1
- Matthew 17
- Malachi
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd-John

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *God and His Titles* by Michael Heiss
- *After Baptism—What Do I Do Now #1*
- *The Holy Spirit of God, the Seven Spirits of God*

Sermon Series: *Why Were You Born? From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God* (ChurchatHome.org)

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 5-11-12

Formatted: bo—5/13/12

Corrected: 5/21/12

Copyright 2012—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.