

How God Teaches Us to Be in His Kingdom

Fred R. Coulter—August 17, 2013

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. We look in the world today and it's all in a mess. We'll cover how God is going to straighten that out with the Holy Days that are up and coming.

God is doing something that this world has absolutely no clue as to what He is doing, except those who have His Holy Spirit. And that is: He is preparing the rulers for when Christ returns to take over this world, the entire world.

In order for that to happen, we must be taught of God. We must be educated with His Word. You look at the education in the world today, and what they are doing, they are graduating educated fools who know nothing and they are charging them a great deal to do it.

The Apostle Peter told us that we are to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. How are we to do that? *It all ends up on how God teaches us*, because even though there are teachers that God uses to teach, it's not the teacher who is doing the teaching, it is God Who is doing the teaching and we are learning of God.

John 6:45 will tie in and be an extension of what we did with the mind of Christ {note sermon series: *How to Develop the Mind of Christ*.} There can be many, many applications of this, John 6:45: "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.'...."

- The whole world is not being taught by God now.
- Adam and Eve rejected the teachings of God.
- The people before the Flood rejected the teachings of God.
- After the Flood, God dealt with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Israel

and God gave them a full explanation of His teachings, but they didn't keep them. What is this all referring to? *It's referring to those who would be raised up at the last day (v 44). God is teaching us!*

"...Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father and has learned... [we have to hear, we have to learn, we have to be taught] ...comes to Me. No one has seen the Father except He Who is from God; He has seen the Father" (vs 45-46).

Let's take this just one step further. Let's put several Scriptures together, because this is how God wants us to learn. We know from Isa. 28 that it's 'line upon line; precept upon precept; here a little, there a little.' Also, we know that many of the verses

have 1-2-3-4 or more applications, not only to whom it applies to, but also in time.

Let's come here to Psalm 32. From there we will ask: **How does God teach?** If He is up in heaven, and we're on this earth, how does He teach us?

Psalm 32:8: "*You said*, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you, My eye shall be upon you.'" Let's analyze this just a little bit. Instruct and teach in the way that you will go, *the way of God*. I will counsel you. Of course, *God counsels us directly* from His Word.

What we can say is this, concerning the Bible, is that we have all the teachings of God for mankind in one book today and that is the Bible. So we have combined with our textbook here—the Bible:

- how to live
- what we need to learn
- how God teaches us
- how we need to react to Him

We're not to be carnal, v 9: "Be not like the horse, or like the mule... [unless I can use a two-by-four on you] ...which have no understanding—which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.' The wicked has many sorrows, but His steadfast love surrounds him who trusts in the LORD" (vs 9-10).

There's a comparison in the world. This comparison and divide becomes even more and more as times goes on. Down through time there have been cycles of these things. Now in the last days we don't know how everything is going to go. Everyone thought, 'Hooray, the Arab Spring.' Unfortunately, it's filled with tornados and destruction. That's why God said, 'No one knows the day or the hour.'

Verse 10: "The wicked has many sorrows, but His steadfast love surrounds him who trusts in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart" (vs 10-11). **God is going to teach us!**

Let's come now to 1-Corinthians 2—we need to put this in the record, because this is important for us to understand. **God is the One Who teaches us with His Spirit!** Let's see what He wants to teach us.

Many churches, especially the Christian churches in the world, they teach a lot of emotional things. They teach some things that are right, but

they never teach you about the things of God. The reason being is that all the things of God are framed on the Sabbath and the Holy Days. Everything that He does is based on that.

1-Corinthians 2:7: “Rather, we speak *the* wisdom of God in a mystery... [It’s a mystery to the world. It’s a mystery to the intellects, the elite.] ...*even* the hidden *wisdom* that God foreordained before the ages unto our glory.” We are learning things that the world can never learn.

That’s why when you look at the news and you see all that’s going on and you say, ‘How come they don’t know?’ They’ve been blinded. God is not teaching them. Some of them may have certain principles of God. Some of them may be trying to do the things that are honest and good. But as far as what God is teaching His people, they don’t have a clue.

If you told some of these—even those who are trying to do good—that all the problems in the world are sourced in rejecting God and any solution that you come up with that leaves out God is doomed to catastrophe. There’s a difference between failure and catastrophe. Failure can be repaired; catastrophe is beyond repair.

Verse 8: “Which not one of the rulers of this world has known (for if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory)” But why didn’t they know? *Because they are blinded!*

Always keep this in mind: there are degrees of spiritual blindness, depending upon how people follow and obey how much of the Word of God. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no way that they can come to anything better than something that is a little higher quality than ‘do-it-yourself, help-you-get-better, discipline-your-life’ programs that human beings have come up with. Be a little better.

I know there’s one really good Protestant minister. He does a lot of good preaching, but when it comes right down to the Sabbath, it’s like a high-hurdle express. Even though he gives good advice, how to handle your emotions, what do you do when you are in distress, and things like that, he never, never tells them about the Sabbath and the Holy Days because he has rejected those. So, it’s hidden.

Verse 9: “But according as it is written, ‘*The* eye has not seen, nor *the* ear heard, neither have entered into *the* heart of man, *the* things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” That tells us an awful lot when you look at this verse.

You can’t come to this knowledge any other way, except God makes it possible. Has not entered into the heart of men the things, which God has prepared for those that love Him. Only those that

love Him and obey Him, and as we will see have the Holy Spirit, understand what God is doing.

Come to Luke 24 and we will see an application of this, what we’re talking about here, that Jesus Himself did. That’s why it was necessary for Him to show Himself to His disciples for forty days and forty nights after His resurrection. After He is eating, Jesus appeared in their presence, He ate fish and honey.

Luke 24:44: “And He said to them, ‘These *are* the words that I spoke to you when I was yet with you, that all *the* things which were written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and *in the* Prophets and *in the* Psalms must be fulfilled.’”

This tells us something very important. How long was Jesus with the disciples teaching them? *Over three years!* But He even said to those on the way to Emmaus, just a little before this, ‘Oh, hard-hearted, why don’t you believe?’ *Because this had not happened!* Something must happen to our minds in relationship to the Word of God and only God can do it. Jesus did this personally.

Verse 45: “Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” God must do that and we will see how He does it. Then He explains about everything concerning Himself.

God does this, just like Jesus did with the disciples there, *by revelation!* In the world we’re taught by mothers and fathers, by teachers, by self, by experience, by circumstances. We can gain many things by that. But to understand the Word of God takes something else. For God to teach us, we need to know:

- how He teaches us
- the power that He gives to us
- that it all involves His Word

The more that we study the Word of God, the more that we understand that it is layered in meaning and can have many applications from one verse.

1-Corinthians 2:10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit... [we’re going to focus on the Spirit here as we go along] ...for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God. For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which is in him?... [He’s speaking to the Greeks who wisdom, understanding, all of those things were important] ...In the same way also, the things of God no one understands **except by the Spirit of God**” (vs 10-11). Remember what Jesus told the disciples on the last Passover night. He said that when ‘the Holy Spirit comes, it **will teach you all things.**’

Verse 12: “Now, we have not received the spirit of the world...” What is the *spirit of the*

world? and Where does that come from? *That comes from Satan the devil who is 'the prince of the power of the air; that spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience.'* That's the *spirit of the world*. The spirit of the world *rejects* the Word of God and the Sabbath and the Holy Days.

Protestants will tell you as long as you have Jesus, you're just fine. What about the things in the Old Testament? *'You don't have to worry about the things in the Old Testament, that's all been fulfilled.'* There's a blindness; only God can remove the blindness by opening our minds, as Jesus did.

The reason that we can understand is because, v 12: "...but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God. Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by the Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man... [one without the Spirit of God] ...does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot... [That's an interesting word in the Greek: 'ou dunatai.' It means he does not have the power to understand them.] ...he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned" (vs 13-14).

Let's look at some other things concerning *how God teaches us*. It's quite interesting how many of these things are in the Psalms, too. We're going to visit quite a few Psalms in this sermon. What are some of the deep things of God?

1. prophecy
2. the love of God
3. the hope of God
4. the *secret way that God teaches* His people

The list could go on and on. This becomes very, very important for anyone who is a teacher or minister, because he is bound by God.

2-Timothy 2:15: "...*study* to show yourself approved unto God..." It means diligently do that. Every minister, every teacher, must constantly apply himself to the Word of God and using the Spirit of God to teach the people of God. Jesus said, 'Feed My sheep.' If you continually just give them pabulum, they're never going to learn.

Psalm 92:4: "For You, LORD, have made me glad with Your work; I will exult in the works of Your hands." That's interesting, because when we see what God has made and created, and it's evidence in everything that there is, down to the smallest thing possible. And yet, we have those evolutionists who reject God.

Verse 5: "O LORD, how great are Your works; Your thoughts are very deep." God wants us

to understand the deep things of God. That's why it's also called the mystery of God, because how is God going to do with us as human beings to change us from being carnal minded, desperately wicked and deceitful into that which is loving and true and kind and righteous? That's a great mystery—*isn't it? Yes, indeed!*

I suggest anyone who has never really read through Psalms 119—every verse—to think about it, to analyze it, to break it down and put it together.

Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes... [That's the *eyes of your mind*. That's what Jesus did with the disciples] ...so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law." Meaning there are a lot of deep things of God contained in the Law of God, the prophets of God and the Psalms and the Gospels—all the way through the New Testament—General Epistles, Epistles of Paul, the book of Revelation.

If there's one book that is deep and hard to understand, that is the book of Revelation. But nevertheless, He wants us to know; He wants us to understand.

Let's just apply this, 'line upon line, precept upon precept,' understanding the deep things of God. Read Psalm 95; you can discern out of it that it is a Sabbath Psalm. But when you read the Sabbath commandment, it says, 'Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy, for in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth and all things that are in it,' etc. When we look at Psalm 95 from that point of view, first of all he is stating the creation of God and that He is God.

Psalm 95:1: "O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.... [that's for everybody who can't sing] ...Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise to Him with psalms, for the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods" (vs 1-3). First commandment: 'You shall have no other gods before Me.'

Verse 4: "In His hand are the depths of the earth; the peaks of the mountains are also His." Some time back I was watching a special on the earth and it was showing about the ocean. Then it was showing about the mountains and it was going across the top of the peaks of the Rocky Mountains and I thought: how did that get that way? You can tell it was once flat. God did it!

Verse 5: "The sea is His, and He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down..." (vs 5-6). When do we come and worship God as a group? *On the Sabbath!* How do we worship God? *By loving Him and by learning from Him!* That's how the real worship of

God is. Then we apply it in our lives, so *everything we do is reflecting of God's way!*

“...let us kneel before the LORD our Maker, for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture... [What did Christ tell Peter? ‘*Feed My sheep!*’ Ezek. 34 talks about the false teachers and the terrible pasture that they give those that they are serving.] ...and the sheep of His hand. Today... [now it enters into the Sabbath] ...if you would but hearken to His voice: ‘Harden not your heart as in the rebellion, as in the day of temptation in the wilderness When your fathers tempted Me, tried Me, even though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with that generation and said, “It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they have not known My ways”—to whom I swore in My wrath that they should not enter into My rest”’ (vs 6-11).

This tells us a lot of things—right? In keeping the Sabbath the way that God wants, with a willing heart and attitude God can teach you. And He wants you to know.

Look what he’s dealing with, Psalm 94:8: “Understand you brutish ones among the people... [When they said, ‘Who knows? God doesn’t know.’] ...and you fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who chastens the nations, shall He not correct? **He who teaches man knowledge**, shall not He know?... [He made us to learn] ...The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity” (vs 8-11). Think about this. God is taking the vanity, converting it, adding to it His Spirit and giving the mind of Christ. That’s a great mystery—isn’t it?

Just like a lot of people cannot understand why God doesn’t intervene to stop things. They read, like in Matt. 13, that He has blinded them so that they would not be converted. Why did God do that? *Because He doesn’t want to lose any!*

Just like it says to the Laodiceans, ‘I would you were hot or cold.’ He’d rather have them cold and unconverted, live their lives and not commit the unpardonable sin, so that in the second resurrection—and you talk about a fantastic thing that’s going to be—they may be converted. So you see how the Word of God just is tremendous when it’s all put together.

Verse 12: “Blessed is the man whom You chasten... [we see that in Heb. 11] ...O LORD to teach him out of Your law That You may give him rest from the days of trouble until the pit is dug for the wicked” (vs 12-13).

Let’s continue to build this up and see more things concerning learning and so forth. Jesus came

to teach. The first thing He did after He recovered from the temptation with Satan the devil was go out and preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. What was He doing? He was beginning to *teach* the people.

Matthew 4:23: “And Jesus went throughout all Galilee... [after He chose His disciples] ...**teaching in their synagogues**, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every bodily ailment among the people.” The people thought that was fantastic, but they didn’t understand. Everything that Jesus did was to demonstrate

- the power of God
- the love of God
- the forgiveness of God
- **and to teach**

Matthew 5:1: “But seeing the multitudes, He went up into the mountain; and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him, And He opened His mouth **and taught** them, saying” (vs 1-2). We’ve already covered these in the short series we did on the mind of Christ. All of the ‘beatitudes’ are necessary for you to really learn concerning the deep things of God. *He taught them!* Jesus is *continually teaching* all the time.

Let’s see how God teaches.

- Luke 1:35—it is the power of the Highest, **the Holy Spirit**
- Matthew 1:20—Mary was with child with **the Holy Spirit**
- Romans 15:13—there it is called **the power of the Holy Spirit**
- Acts 1:8—that power only comes from **God the Father**

Let’s put it together with how the Holy Spirit works. We are led of the Holy Spirit. When we go to God and we ask God to teach us, **He’s going to teach us in many different ways**, with many different things, concerning many different situations. It is a lifelong thing, however we live after we’re converted, until we are put in the grave to await the resurrection.

John 14:26: “‘But *when* the Comforter *comes*, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things... [because it comes from God] ...and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you.’”

How is God going to do this? God is in heaven; we’re on the earth. The world is blinded by Satan the devil; deceived by Satan the devil. How is God going to carry on His work on the earth with those that He has called and converted? We’ve

received many of these things already in the Word of God.

John 16:12: “I have yet many things to tell you, but you are not able to bear them now. However, when that one has come, *even the Spirit of the Truth, it will lead you into all Truth...*” (vs 12-13).

There’s never been a time when we’ve had the opportunity to do it, except in the days in which we are living now. Hasn’t been done in the past and this is why God gets so upset with Laodiceans. The whole Word of God is here. The Spirit of God is available. But what happens? They yield themselves to their own inclinations of human nature and they become lukewarm. So, He corrects them and says, ‘Be zealous.’

“...lead you into all Truth, because it shall not speak from itself...” (v 13). Stop and think for a minute. If the Holy Spirit were a person, then he would “...speak from itself...”

“...but whatever it shall hear, it shall speak. And it shall disclose to you the things to come. That one shall glorify Me because **it shall disclose to you the things that it receives from Me**” (vs 13-14).

How does that work? I think we can understand it today. Jesus said, ‘The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are life.’ God’s Spirit can come and be with us while we are learning, while God is calling us. After we’re baptized and received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands it’s a begettal in our minds. Then God really teaches us through

- prayer
- study
- living
- experience
- changing
- overcoming

And especially our battles against human nature and Satan the devil.

Let’s see what else it will do when there’s a time of trouble and difficulty. Matthew 10:16—He’s instructing His disciples. Of course, these things are going to carry down clear to our day.

Matthew 10:16: “Behold, I am sending you forth as sheep in *the* midst of wolves.... [that’s what it’s going to become like] ...Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.... [we can learn a lot of things from that.] ...But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues” (vs 16-17). This happened directly with the disciples—didn’t it? *Yes, indeed!* They were even brought to the Sanhedrin no less than twice and with Stephen three times. Then

with Paul three times as well. So, *they knew*. What did they do to Paul when they found him in the temple? You know the account. They seized him and the Roman centurion and the Roman soldiers had to rescue him.

Verse 18: “And you shall also be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a witness to them and to the Gentiles. Now when they deliver you up, do not be anxious *about* how or what you should speak...” (vs 18-19). Because you’re to be in training right now before it happens, so you will know.

Notice what God is going to do: “...for in that hour it shall be given to you what you shall speak. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father **that speaks in you**” (vs 19-20). That’s the power of God’s Spirit. That’s what He uses *to teach us*.

Psalm 25 is a fantastic Psalm, because it’s all about *God teaching*. It tells us so much about how we are taught and how God will deal with us. Remember everything that we covered with the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 25:1: “To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.” That ties in with what commandment? What is the greatest commandment? *To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and being—right?* So, as we go through, we’re going to analyze this and see how all of the Word of God applies so greatly in this.

Verse 2: “O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me.” In order for God to be on our side, we have to be on His side. Remember what Moses said after the incident with the golden calf? He said, ‘All of those on the Lord’s side, get over here.’ And all of those who were not on the Lord’s side, the earth opened up and that took care of them.

Verse 3: “Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed... [this is before God; as far as the world is concerned, it really doesn’t matter] ...let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.”

(go to the next track)

Let’s combine all of this together:

- God has to open our minds
- we receive the Holy Spirit
- we are led by the Holy Spirit, which is the power of God
- we are being trained by God in His way
- He has to teach us

—because we’re all to be ***taught by God!***

This shows the attitude that we need to have, v 4: “Show me Your ways... [We learn that from the

Word of God; we learn that through experience.] ...O LORD; **teach me** Your paths.” Notice, these are plural. The *way of God* is one way, but within that one way are many things.

- way of *love*
- way of *hope*
- way of *truth*

All combined together—ways. “...**teach me** Your paths” Notice, he’s beseeching God. This is really a tremendous Psalm. This is what spurred me for the sermon today. These are the kind of prayers that we need. When you are studying the Bible, ask God to help you understand as you are studying. We need to understand it. *God wants us to understand it!*

We’re living in an age where we can have more understanding than ever before. But always remember this: *even as much as we can learn, that’s nothing compared to what it’s going to be when we are spirit beings!* All of that is preparation. It’s just like a babe in the womb. The only thing a babe in the womb learns how to do is nurse, by sucking its thumb. Everything else goes from there.

Just like with us. This is the kind of attitude that we need to have with God, v 5: “**Lead me in Your Truth...**” That’s by the power of the Holy Spirit. Truth is what?

- the Word of God
- the laws of God
- the commandments of God
- the statutes of God
- everything about God
 - ✓ God’s mind
 - ✓ Christ’s mind

All of that is there. “Lead me in Your Truth **and teach me...**” (v 5). This is what it needs to be in teaching the brethren. This has to be the attitude of anyone who is going to be teaching the brethren. What are we going to be teaching, if it’s not the Word of God? What are we going to be teaching, if we just teach our own ideas? Will that make them spiritual? *No!*

“...for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long” (v 5). Put in your notes there Acts 17 where Paul says that ‘*in God we live and move and have our being.*’ Everything that God has created in the vastness of the universe, down to the earth, is all for His plan.

Verse 6: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies... [Boy! Do we need God’s tender mercies.] ...and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old.... [when you repent, God says He’ll forget]: ...Do not remember the sins of my youth...” (vs 6-7). Do we all not make all kinds of those growing up and do we still not make all kinds of those even when we’re older?

“...nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness’ sake, O LORD” (v 7)—for Your plan, for Your purpose.

- this is a prayer
- this is a psalm
- this is a beseeching to God

Verse 8: “Good and upright is the LORD: therefore, He will teach sinners in the way.” The way of God, which then are paths and ways, multi-layered.

Verse 10: “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.” But for those who do not, you may end up without any mercy.

Verse 11: “For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.... [notice how many times it says through this Psalm: teach.] ...What man is he who fears the LORD? He [God] shall **teach him in the way that He [God] shall choose**” (vs 11-12). We have that chosen for us through Christ and through His Word—don’t we?

Verse 13: “His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth.” Interesting— isn’t it? That applies going back to *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob*; it applies coming down to Christ. What are we going to do? *We’re going to inherit the earth and rule the world!*

Now for the elite who think that everything outside the city limits of the great cities of the east coast of America are nothing but hicks, intellectual ‘stupidoes’ and know nothing. Won’t they be surprised? I just hope when they are resurrected from the dead, that one of those who came out of Texas is going to be there when they are raised out of the grave and they come up out of the grave and he uses his Texas accent, and he says, ‘Howdy, ya’al.’ That would be good.

Verse 13: “His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret... [mystery] ...of the LORD...” (vs 13-14). I write about this in the letter that is coming, because we can take two sections of Gen. 1 and 2 and everything else that God does is based upon that.

Verse 14: “The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him... [add to that: *love Him*] ...and He will show them His covenant.”—and what the New Covenant is all about.

Matthew 13 shows us why we are able to know, and the world does not know and cannot know. Just like we read, it is only revealed by the Spirit of God. That’s the only way we understand it and God has to give it and we have to seek for it. We

have to cry out to God to give us this understanding and wisdom and knowledge and help.

Matthew 13:10: “And His disciples came to Him and asked, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’ And He answered *and* said to them, ‘Because **it has been given...**’” (vs 10-11). It has to come from God and it comes from God

- by revelation
- by His Spirit
- by His Word
- by Christ in us

“...it has been given to you to know the mysteries... [secrets] ...of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given” (v 11). That offends a lot of people, but how many people were offended in Christ at His Word?

Verse 13: “For this *reason* I speak to them in parables, because seeing, they see not; and hearing, they hear not; neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, ‘In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive; for the heart of this people has grown fat...’” (vs 13-15). That means with physical, carnal indulgences and way of living. Pretty soon they are all going to be lean.

Think about this for a minute. I was thinking about that the other day when I was watching a special on how they handle the garbage problem in New York City. Remember, you’ve got all these tall buildings, apartments, and garbage men are so important they make about \$100,000 a year.

There is an incredible amount of garbage. This all goes out to a dump, which is also a processing center, which also has a freight lines and rail lines. They have so much garbage they have no place to put it. What they do, they break it down and the things they can reclaim, they reclaim and salvage. They put all the rest in trucks and then rail cars and ship it to different places in America. They pay them to take their garbage.

Think about that! Let’s think on something else, too, and then we’ll do a little addition. There are more rats in the sewers of New York than there are people. When God’s judgment comes upon New York and the other big cities like it, BANG! The electricity is off, none of the elevators work. The garbage is going to stack up. What are they going to do when the terrorists stop off all of the gasoline coming in and diesel and blow up the storage tanks that all of those garbage trucks use to fuel up? And the garbage is piled in the streets and those up on the top floors of these apartment houses, what do they do with their garbage? They drop it down big garbage chutes and then it’s collected.

What’s going to happen when they can’t collect it? What’s going to happen when that garbage chute is full? What’s going to happen when the rats in the sewers can no longer get any food down there? They are all going to come out. They are going to begin attacking the garbage, and guess what? What are the people going to do? They are going to be millions upon millions of people back there—12-million in New York City—that are going to be confronted with rats, no food, no one to help, no electricity, and they are going to die like you can’t imagine.

The plague will come and it will be horrible. Yet, when they check everything out—and if you haven’t seen the special on the History Channel, watch for it—there are people who specialize in things concerning New York City. You know what they have discovered? *That through all the symbolism that is there, they have found that New York City has been dedicated to Satan the devil!* That’s public knowledge. If you’ve never seen that special, you watch it.

Remember God says He stores up for the wicked, the day of the wicked, so it’s going to come! They don’t understand! Why don’t they understand? *They reject the way of God! They reject the Word of God!* God has made it plain to them. They don’t understand and all these things are going to come upon them in a way that they will never realize.

How many have seen the special concerning the bubonic plague during the Middle Ages? It just swept through everything. It all came from rats. So these things are going to come.

The Appointed Times

Now let’s look at something here that seems to be just an account that God is giving. This is day four of the re-creation of the earth. Genesis 1:14: “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide between the day and the night, and **let them be for signs, and for appointed seasons, and for days and years.**’”

Appointed seasons, what are those? *Those are the Holy Days!* Does not all time circulate around the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars? What did God do? *His plan is built into the very creation of the heavens and the earth!* But it seems very innocuous here—doesn’t it? Just night and day. We take it for granted.

- If it’s hot, we complain!
- If it’s cold, we complain!
- If it’s dry, we complain!
- If it’s wet, we complain!

Isn’t that true? That’s all we think about it.

You take the verses I just covered—appointed seasons—then you go through the Old Testament and you see where some of them are kept. Then you go through the New Testament and you get the spiritual understanding of it.

- What day of the week was Jesus crucified on? *Day four!*
- What does it say about the Lamb of God?
- When was He destined to be slain? *From the foundation of the world!*
- What are we looking at here? *Day four!*

God set the appointed times and the appointed time of Jesus' crucifixion was already locked in—right? *Yes!* But it doesn't say anything about that here—does it?

Genesis 2:2: “And by *the beginning* of the seventh day God finished His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work, which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made” (vs 2-3).

Then men come along and say, ‘Well, we can change that.’ Can anybody change the will of God? If you repent, you might persuade Him to hold off on your punishment like what happened to King Ahab. Elijah was sent there, and he told Ahab, ‘You're going to die and Jezebel is going to die and dogs are going to eat her and lick up her blood.’

What did he do? *He repented!* God acknowledged that repentance. The only way you're going to change the will of God is to repent so that the punishment doesn't come upon you immediately.

Are you going to change the universe? Are you going to change the heavens and the earth? *No!* But men think, ‘We can come along and make it better. We'll do it on Sunday.’ BANG! What did we read in Matt. 13? *They are blinded!* Some of them are so nice and kind and good that people can't understand how that men like that are really rebellious. Because they just say, ‘That's the old law; we follow the new law.’

On these two things we just covered—the appointed times and the Sabbath—the whole Bible is structured on that. The whole plan of God is structured on that. But you can't learn that just by reading Gen. 1 and 2.

Psalm 25:14: “The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.” When you partake of that covenant, God will open your mind and give you understanding of His Word.

Verse 15: “My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.”

We don't know how many times God has rescued us during our lives.

Verse 16: “Turn unto me... [he's crying out to God] ...and be gracious unto me, for I am desolate and afflicted.” That's when a lot of people begin calling out to God. There you have it.

Verse 17: “The troubles of my heart are enlarged...” We have that today—don't we? There are so many people that have so many problems and troubles they don't know what to do and they don't understand that those are all spiritual problems, because they reject the Truth and the Word of God. They are following the wrong principles, which are not from God. They won't repent to God, yet, they have all of these problems. How can the psychologists and psychiatrists help them very much, because they are the ones who don't believe in God and they are the ones who ought to believe in God. They are the ones who need to tell them they need to follow God.

“...O bring me out of my distresses. Look upon my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins” (vs 17-18). How many people think all their troubles is because of their sins?

Verse 19: “Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.” That's a prophecy of what happened to Christ.

Verse 20: “O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles” (vs 20-22). Two applications right there:

1. the ten tribes of Israel, plus those of Judah
2. the Church

There are different applications down through time:

- historical—we can look back at, that God delivered them
- future—when God brings them out of captivity
- future—when it comes to the second resurrection

So, you see how much the Word of God is layered with meaning. All of these we can incorporate in:

- our study
- our prayers
- our attitude
- our willingness to serve God

Psalm 27:11: “**Teach me Your way**, O LORD, and lead me in a level path because of my enemies. Deliver me not over to the will of my enemies, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and he that breathes out violence” (vs 11-12).

Verse 14: “**Wait for the LORD**; be of good courage, and He shall make your heart strong; yea, wait, I say, *wait* on the LORD.” All these things do what, when God is teaching us? *They establish a relationship with God!*

These are by no means all the verses where it is ‘teach me, show me, help me,’ and all of that sort of thing. Psalm 86:10: “For You are great and do wonderful things; You alone are God. **Teach me Your way, O LORD**; I will walk in Your Truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore” (vs 10-12). Quite something—isn’t it?

I know in my old *King James Oxford Bible*, I thought I would something clever. I would use about a half a dozen different colors—yellow, red, orange, blue—and I would mark out for the commandments, laws, testimonies, precepts, and everything. I had so much red in there that when I got all done doing that it all bled together and I couldn’t use it. I believe this is a *prophecy of Jesus’ attitude toward*:

- the laws of God
- commandments of God
- the precepts of God
- the testimonies of God

Psalm 119:10: “With all my heart I have sought You; O let me not wander from Your commandments. Your Word I have laid up in my heart, so that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, **O LORD; teach me Your statutes**” (vs 10-12). *God teaches with His Spirit!*

Verse 26: “I have declared my ways, and You answer me; **teach me Your statutes**. Make me to understand the way of Your precepts, and so shall I speak of Your wonderful works” (vs 26-27).

Notice what it does then when God teaches us, what it’s going to do, v 28: “My soul melts away for sorrow; **strengthen me** according to Your Word. Remove from me the way of lying... [go the way of God, *the Way of Truth*] ...and grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen **the way of Truth**; I have laid Your judgments before me” (vs 28-30).

What we’re seeing here, everything that we learn is based upon our choices and our yieldedness to God, being led by the Spirit of God so we can grow in grace and knowledge. What’s going to be the fullness of that? *When the resurrection comes, we’ll find out!* What will that be? *That will be just like—because it’s called born again—we’ve been born!* How much do we really know? *Here’s God and all the saints and Christ and all the angels and here we are!* God’s going to have to do like He did with Adam and Eve when He created them. He

created them with a language in them. Think of it! Down through time and history, everybody different language. If we’re all resurrected, which we will be, and be on the Sea of Glass, how are we going to communicate with each other if we have 10,000 tongues? *No!* He’s going to give us the language that He wants us to speak in.

Those who are real adoring of the Hebrew language, they will see it will be Hebrew. I don’t think so. What did Paul say when he was in vision? Up to the third heaven and he heard things *that were unutterable!* He couldn’t utter them. Why? What language does God speak? *His language!* What is that? *Let’s make it to the resurrection and we’ll find out!* That’s quite something there.

Verse 33: “**Teach me, O LORD**, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.” Notice the determination. Once we learn, we’re to keep it.

Verse 34: “**Give me understanding...**” That comes from God. How do we understand the Scriptures? Through God’s Spirit, through study, through applying ourselves. Through doing just exactly like it says in everything we’ve covered: *teach me, O Lord!*

“...that I may keep Your law and observe it with all my heart. **Make me to walk in the path of Your commandments**, for I delight in them” (vs 34-35). Isn’t that something? Why do people say that the hateful law God did away with? Makes you wonder.

Verse 64: “O LORD, the earth is full of Your mercy; **teach me Your statutes**. You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. **Teach me good judgment and knowledge...**” (vs 64-66). Don’t we need that today? What did Peter say? *Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

Verse 124: “Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and **teach me Your statutes**. I am Your servant; give me understanding that I may know Your testimonies.... [understanding the Word of God] ...It is time for the LORD to work, for they have made void Your law” (vs 124-126). If that is not true today! Here you can take this one verse right here and you can see there are many applications of it down through time.

Verse 127: “Therefore, I love Your commandments above gold—yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all Your precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way” (vs 127-128). That gives us a lot we can really sink our teeth into—right? There are so many verses here all the way through.

Verse 108: “Accept, I beseech You, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and **teach me Your ordinances.**” God is the One Who is going to be teaching.

Psalms 143:10: “**Teach me to do Your will...**” That covers everything. What do we ask God in our daily prayers? *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!*

“...for You are my God; may Your good Spirit... [God’s Spirit leads us in everything] ...**lead me on level ground of uprightness**” (v 10). That’s something!

Let’s look at just a couple of other things, because we do have to admit that some of the Protestants keep some of the commandments of God, as Paul acknowledged there in Rom. 2. I want to bring out something that is important.

Let’s look at this. Proverbs 3:1: “My son... [What are we to God? *We’re His sons and daughters!*] ...**do not forget my law**, but let your heart keep my commandments; for they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace, to you. Do not let mercy and Truth forsake you; **bind them around our neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart**” (vs 1-3). What is Truth? *The Word of God!*

Many people can do things by discipline, by setting their mind to do different things. Many of the Protestants can do a lot of things that are right, but what is missing? *The fullness of the New Covenant*, because when God teaches us with His Spirit, it’s not like disciplining our self with the mental thoughts that we have. Because it says Jesus said, ‘By taking thought, who can add one cubit to his height?’ *He can’t!* But when God is dealing with us; let’s compare Prov. 3 about you doing the writing on the tablet of your heart to Heb. 10. We have something greater.

- if God is teaching us, which He is
- if we are doing the will of God, which we are
- if we’re yielding to God and changing and growing and overcoming and repenting, which we have to do every day

—we don’t get rid of the law of sin and death immediately. God wants us to understand only His Spirit can clean it up. *Only His Spirit and His way can root out and erase those evil things in our minds!* Here’s what He does. Notice the difference:

Hebrews 10:15: “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.... [here is what God is doing with everything that He wants us to have] ...‘I will give My laws into their hearts...’” (vs 15-

16). Is it not a higher power and a greater standard and a greater effort that God is writing these things in us, than we trying to put it in there ourselves. We have the effort we need to do, but the Spirit of God within our minds and what we are doing is what writes them in our hearts and in our minds. That ties in with the sermon series: *How to Develop the Mind of Christ.*

“...and I will inscribe them in their minds; And their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again” (vs 16-17). This is what God is doing. It is called *the work of God in us!* It’s all based upon:

1. Gen. 1, the appointed times
2. Gen. 2, the Sabbath

—and *God’s Spirit teaching us His way!* So as we apply ourselves and study the Word of God in this way, with this attitude that we covered today, what’s going to happen? As you read and study the Word of God, you’re going to learn more and more and more.

There will come days when you are studying and all of a sudden it’s like BING! a light goes on and you make a connection with another part of the Word of God. And it all comes together.

This is how God in this evil world is teaching those who are going to be in His Kingdom!

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 6:45-46
- 2) Psalm 32:8-11
- 3) 1-Corinthians 2:7-9
- 4) Luke 24:44-45
- 5) 1-Corinthians 2:10-14
- 6) 2-Timothy 2:15
- 7) Psalm 92:4-5
- 8) Psalm 119:18
- 9) Psalm 95:1-11
- 10) Psalm 94:8-13
- 11) Matthew 4:23
- 12) Matthew 5:1-2
- 13) John 14:26
- 14) John 16:12-14
- 15) Matthew 10:16-20
- 16) Psalm 25:1-8, 10-14
- 17) Matthew 13:10-11, 13-15
- 18) Genesis 1:14
- 19) Genesis 2:2-3
- 20) Psalm 25:14-22
- 21) Psalm 27:11-12, 14
- 22) Psalm 86:10-12
- 23) Psalm 119:10-12, 26-30, 33-35, 64-66, 124-128, 108
- 24) Psalm 143:10
- 25) Proverbs 3:1-3
- 26) Hebrews 10:15-17

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 6:44
- Isaiah 28
- Ezekiel 34
- Hebrews 11
- Luke 1:35
- Matthew 1:20
- Romans 15:13
- Acts 1:8; 17
- Romans 2

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

How to Develop the Mind of Christ

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