

The Covenant of Peace

Fred R. Coulter—January 10, 2015

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

Have you had enough of Paris and France on your television? Of course, you can't quite equate that to 9/11; however, always remember this: When something is happening over here, something else is happening over there. Remember Satan's way of doing things: *top down, bottom up, inside out!* That's what he is doing everywhere to deceive the world. The only politician that has it nearly correct is Mike Huckabee, because he says all of these things are *because of sins*.

Looking at the way the world is, I think I understand a little bit more why God changed the languages and scattered the people (Gen. 11). Look at it today when we're nearly all one language and the people are getting together. Look at what they are doing. They went to build a tower (Gen. 11:4).

Genesis 11:5: "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men had built." This tells us God always knows what's always going on in the world. He knows it from the point of view of what He sees, the angels see, what Satan the devil is doing, what the demons are doing, and all of those things combined. When we look at the world, this is what is getting all of these things moving and changing and so forth.

Verse 6: "And the LORD said, 'Behold, the people *are* one... [What are we trying to do now? *Come back and rebuild the Babylonian system!*] ...and they all have one language. And this *is only the beginning of* what they will do—now nothing which they have imagined to do will be restrained from them."

Also their violence became more and more evil, so God said, "'Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they cannot understand one another's speech.' So, the LORD scattered them abroad from that place upon the face of all the earth. And they quit building the city. Therefore, the name of it is called Babel, because the LORD confused the language of all the earth there. And from there the LORD scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth" (vs 7-9).

One interesting note on the languages: In the Churches of God from time to time we have trouble with sacred-namers, that all you can do is use the Old Testament sacred names. They reject everything in the New Testament referring to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

When you look at this, who changed the languages? *God did!* So then, *God* made all the languages.

I'm sure there will be some people who will say, 'God kept Hebrew on the side of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and so forth.' That's possible, we don't know. The long and short of it is, when the disciples were told to go into all the world and preach to all nations, and then the Bible was subsequently translated in different languages, the languages for God is what should be used for those people, not the sacred names.

Sidebar: No one knows the true pronunciation of YHVH, especially if you are a follower of a sacred-namer from Texas, I don't think his accent makes it correct.

In our day it's been prophesied that they will say, 'Peace, peace,' *and there is no peace* and that's what we have, *no peace!* I don't know how deadlines that they have set on the Palestinians and the Jews to have peace talks, but *there is no way* that there will ever be peace between them. *There is no way* that there will ever be peace on earth the way men are running things.

You start looking around and ask yourself: How are you going to solve all of these problems? You listen to the panels on the news and the military experts say, 'You got to kill every terrorist.' For every terrorist you kill you create two more. All the terrorists say, 'The way we're going to have peace, we're going to kill all Christians, whatever brand.' That will never work. The truth is *men do not know the way to go*. 'And ***'the way of peace they know not'*** (Rom. 3) The whole history of mankind is war and fighting.

Sidebar: When Adam and Eve sinned that also changed the nature of animals and the nature of the environment. I've been watching NatGeo Wild (National Geographic) and the animals are fighting, killing, warring, eating each other. I almost expected one of them to bow and worship to Mecca.

Let's understand peace among us. You start with two people, not related, not married, there comes a time that they have an argument. Look at the families today. They are so torn apart that they have single fathers, single mothers, and you have kids that know nothing. What's it going to be when they get virtual reality? *That is going to be something to behold!*

This is very similar to the introduction of every one of the epistles of Paul, Ephesians 1:1:

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and to *the* faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (vs 1-2).

The first place peace needs to be made is with each individual repenting to God. That’s why we will never have peace on earth until Christ returns.

How bad did Jesus say it was going to get? *That if He didn’t return and limit the time where the disasters at the end all converge together, there would be no flesh saved alive*—no human life, no animal life, etc. ***Peace only comes from God!***

Let’s see what it says about Jesus Christ. All the atheists want to get rid of God. Who is going to fill the vacuum? *Satan the devil*:

- under secularism
- humanism
- transhumanism
- virtual reality

Peace only comes from God, and here’s the secret about God: *You have to come to God His way!* We can’t do it *our* way. That’s why there’s so many different religions and groups it even quarrels among some of the Churches of God.

Let’s see what it says here about Jesus, Hebrews 7:1: “For this Melchisedec, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God... [the Most High is a reference to the Father from an Old Testament quote] ...Who met Abraham *as he was* returning from *his* slaughter of the kings, and blessed him. And to Whom Abraham gave a tenth part of all; on the one hand, being interpreted King of Righteousness...” (vs 1-2). This tells us any setup with *human behavior without the laws and commandments* of God—because all of His commandments are righteousness—*will not work!*

Just think of this for a minute: People want to try and solve the problem of blacks being killed by cops. How about people being killed by other nationalities, not just the blacks being killed by cops? They come up and they say, ‘No more deaths of blacks; every black life is worthwhile.’ What must be done in order to change that in every society, everywhere in the world? We’ve got it—*the Ten Commandments*—on the wall.

Huckabee began campaigning saying that the reason that we are in the trouble we are in is because of our sins. Bill O’Reilly asked him, ‘How far do you think that will go?’ You can’t talk to atheists that way. You can’t talk to secularists that way and you can’t convince people that they ought to keep the laws of God, if they are Protestant, because it’s all been done away. So, look at the mess the world is in.

The Church of God is to be the island or the islands of peace for each one of us. “...King of Righteousness; and on the other hand, King of Salem, which is King of Peace” (v 2). That’s why there will be no peace until Christ returns. However, we are in a ***covenant of peace*** with God.

Let’s look at a prophecy in Isaiah that’s very hard for many of the Jews to understand, having rejected the New Testament; *a prophecy about the coming of Jesus Christ!* We’ll look at this and realize that He is going to be King over all the earth. That’s what it says when Jesus returns in Zech. 14.

Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a Child is born...” This is why we are made in the image of God, so God could come in the flesh so that He would be the payment for all the sins of all the world.

“...unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulders...” (v 6). Look at all the governments of the world. Look at the turmoil and terrible things that they are in. That’s why when Christ comes, He needs all of us to help Him bring peace.

Notice all of these are attributes of God: “...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God...” How can a baby be called The Mighty God? *Because it has to grow up!* In the case of Christ: live, die, be resurrected and return as King, as Mighty God!

“...The Everlasting Father...” (v 6). That’s not referring to God the Father. That’s referring to *Christ* Who—during the Millennium with the assistance of the resurrected saints bringing many into the Family of God—will be an Everlasting Father, because He lives forever.

There will be the Everlasting ‘Grandfather, the Father that we now worship. Then there will be the Everlasting Father, that is all of those who come into the Kingdom of God through the government of God during the Millennium and the reign of Christ and the saints.

“...The Prince of Peace... [once it has started it will keep going and increasing] ...Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with righteousness from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (vs 6-7).

If you don’t have the New Testament, how can you possibly understand what these verses are saying? The best you can do is look for a coming physical Messiah. Guess what the Jews are looking for? *A coming physical Messiah!*

If you want to know how it’s going to be when Christ returns, get the book that we have

produced, *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah*. Read about Jesus' return. It's going to be awesome indeed.

Since Jesus became *the sacrifice* for the sins of the world, why could only His sacrifice satisfy that? *Because He was the One Who created Adam and Eve!* All of us come from Adam and Eve. As in Adam, we all die. As Creator He has created all of humanity through procreation. Since He brought the curse upon them for their sins, only He can remove it.

For example, here you are going along in your life and all of a sudden you realize you do have some evil thoughts. You're really not a good person. 'Lord, what must I do to get right with you? I know, I'll go to church.' That won't change you. That may help you adjust your behavior a bit, but what's in the heart is what needs to be changed.

This is why Jesus came, lived a perfect life, carried 'the law of sin and death' with Him, and all of Isa. 53 is a description of what Jesus had to go through in the crucifixion in order to become that perfect sacrifice. When we repent and accept that sacrifice, notice what it does here:

Isaiah 53:3: "*He is* despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief..." No one can say, 'Lord, I had more grief than You; I had more trouble than You.' Read some of the Psalms about everything that He went through. Read *A Harmony of the Gospels* and see what His life was like.

"...and we hid as it were our faces from Him..." (v 3). No, we didn't want anything to do with Him. We looked at Him on the cross; we couldn't handle that.

"...He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our infirmities, and carried our sorrows..." (vs 3-4). That's why He was a Man of sorrows. Whatever sorrows you have, and all of us have sorrows and grief, all of us have difficulties.

"...yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (v 4). That's exactly what the Jews did. They said, 'He deserves it.'

Verse 5: "But He was wounded for our transgressions; *He was* crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace... [that is *the peace* we receive from God] ...*was* upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed."

Talking about when we come back to God and the things that will help us, Isaiah 54:10: "'For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall the covenant of **My peace** be removed,' says the LORD Who has mercy on you." This means in spite

of how terrible it gets in the world, and mountains are going to be moved and valleys are going to be raised; God's mercy and peace will be constant with you.

Verse 11: "O afflicted one, storm-tossed *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones among colorful gems..." For every problem and difficulty we go through and succeed in remaining faithful, God is going to add to our reward.

"...and lay your foundations with sapphires. And I will make your high towers of ruby, and your gates of carbuncles, and all your borders of pleasant stones. And all your children *shall be* taught of the LORD, and great *shall be* the peace of your children" (vs 11-13). That goes on into the Millennium and on into the new heavens and earth, as well.

Here's the only way the things can be changed, v 14: "In righteousness you shall be established... [that righteousness comes from God and His Spirit] ...you shall be far from oppression..." Just think of it when we're spirit beings. We have to think greater and beyond the trials that we have day to day.

"...for you shall not fear; and *far from* terror... [Look at it today; everybody's wondering when the next attack will come.] ...for it shall not come near you" (v 14). Those are really quite some Scriptures when we understand it.

Let's look at the state of the human mind, and we'll see how similar this is. This tells us the way that we think and even the things that we think are good. Sometimes they are not so good; sometimes they end up being downright bad.

Let's see the difference in the world, the way the world is and the way we are to be with God's Spirit. This is why we have Sabbath services every week. This is why we send out every week the sermons that we do here. We're not a large group here but we serve well over 3,500 people and we probably have, I would say, 350 small in-house groups that meet together, anywhere from 4-10 people. We are serving them. They are little islands of love and truth that have to be for them on the Sabbath.

Just think how it would be if you had no knowledge of the Sabbath, you didn't keep the Sabbath, you didn't know God, and you are out here trying to get along. All of us were out there and it failed! *Yes, indeed!*

Here is how God looks at it. Here's why Christ died, and how we get the peace of God, as we saw through righteousness:

Romans 8:4: “In order that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled **in us**, who are not walking according to *the flesh*... [people who do not have the Spirit of God; just walking according to their carnal human nature] ...but according to *the Spirit*. For those who walk according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh...” (vs 4-5). What happens? *It never works out!*

How many times have they said, ‘Let’s get rid of corruption in Washington’? Until those who went there to get rid of corruption found out how good the corruption was for them that they couldn’t dare vote against it because they’d get voted out of office!

“...but those who walk according to *the Spirit* mind the things of the Spirit” (v 5). We look at things with the Spirit of God. Are you judging and condemning others? *No, you are looking at their fruits!* The reason they do the things that they do, you have to leave that up to God and let Him deal with it when He is ready to deal with them. We need not judge each other that way.

But notice what else is here, v 6: “For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* **life and peace**”—because you have the begettal of eternal life.

- you’re learning how to live properly
- you’re building the character of God
- you’re growing in grace and knowledge
- you’re not at war against God

The whole world is at war against God! Yet, He’s going to send Christ to save it, because if He didn’t everybody would die.

Verse 7: “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God; neither indeed can it *be*.” Remember what we covered concerning *the circumcision of the heart*. That makes us spiritually yielded to God, with His Spirit, so we’re not hostile against the laws of God.

Here’s the thing that puts us in a different category. Not because we’re better; not because we of ourselves are special.

- Yes, we are special to God having His Holy Spirit.
- Yes, we are special to God to be His future children.

Verse 8: “But those who are in *the flesh* cannot please God. However, you are not in *the flesh*, but in *the Spirit*, if *the Spirit* of God is indeed dwelling within you. But if anyone does not have *the Spirit* of Christ, he does not belong to Him” (vs 8-9). There is the dividing line, and *it’s going to be a few, not many, very few*.

God is the One Who leads us to repentance! You look back and look at your life and when you became interested in God was when you were in trouble and when your life was a mess. When you were at the end of your rope and there was no place to go and nothing else you could do. Everyone comes to that point; I did, you did, everyone else does.

Something happened in your life, which is described in Rom.2. Somehow you called out to God. Somehow you recognized that you needed God, so God responds. He’s in communication with the whole earth. He has His seven spirits that are going around the earth, knowing what’s going on. Where it says ‘the eyes of the Lord are upon men,’ that’s the seven spirits. Then He has the 24 elders.

I don’t know if it’s divided down exactly that way, but how many hours are there in a day? *24!* If you look at the globe you will see there are 24 longitudes for the time. God looks down here and He does something. *He responds!* How does He respond? *Someway, somehow you are going to find something about God that is going to catch your attention* or you will hear a radio program or a television program or read a book that will grab your attention. *That’s God’s Spirit beginning to call you!*

Notice what it does, Romans 2:4: “Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the graciousness of **God leads you to repentance?**”

Why was it, you’re going along with your life over here, and all of a sudden you find yourself, either out walking around, crying to God to help you, or you’re on your knees someplace crying because your life is all messed up and turned upside down, *God is dealing with you*. Those are the ones that God will deal with.

When He does that, then He does things for us that we cannot do. He forgives us when we repent. That’s something! Eph. 2:1-9 shows that God had mercy on us, calling us out of the world. Paul is talking to the Gentiles now, as we covered about the circumcision of the heart. Circumcision of the flesh is not required.

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, 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). That’s the way that the world is.

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...**" (vs 13-14). It's good to have peace with your neighbors. ***Unless you have peace with God you can't be at peace with anybody!*** You might for a short time. You might have a truce, but how many peace-pacts of the world down through history have been violated? *Every single one!*

We are no longer at war with God or at enmity with God. Remember the word enmity, you change the spelling just a little bit and you have enemy.

Verse 14: "For He is our peace, Who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition." This is kind of a technical explanation that Christ broke down that wall of partition that the Jews built up, which were *their traditions that they built around the Law*.

Verse 15: "Having annulled in His flesh the enmity, the law of commandments contained in *the decrees of men*, so that in Himself... [*God's way*, not man's way; by *His laws*, not man's laws] ...He might create both into one new man, making peace; and *that* He might reconcile both to God 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" (vs 15-17).

Here's what this peace does and this is something that He gives only to those who have been begotten by God with His Spirit:

Verse 18: "For through Him [Christ]... [our High Priest and our sacrifice] ...we both have *direct* access by one Spirit to the Father."

This is why we can have peace in troubled times because of God's Spirit and access to God. This is why with Sabbath services we come together. For the time that we are here and on the Sabbath Day because we're not out in the world, we can gather our thoughts. We can come to God. We can begin to think like Him. That's how we get ***peace of mind***.

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..." (vs 19-20). This tells us something very important that spiritual character and being Christian means work—spiritual work with the Word of God, with the Spirit of God. Living in this world it is work.

Sidebar: How many have seen Charles Krauthammer on the news (Fox News)? He was asked the question being interviewed, 'Which is easier. Punditry—giving your opinion—or writing?' He said, 'Writing; writing is work.' I can sympathize

with him because when I write I do the same thing he does. He says he writes and re-writes five times.

The other night when I was going over a chapter I am writing in the book, *Why You Were Born?*, that's exactly what I was doing. I wrote and re-wrote and re-wrote. The fifth time through I was ready to send it to Phil, the editor, for him to edit and get rid of my mistakes.

Likewise it is easy to mouth things and profess things, but it is hard to be faithful living in an evil world. You have to repeat and repeat and grow, modify, edit, throw out the bad, bring in the good all the time. Through that Christ is working with us.

Verse 20: "You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone in Whom all the building... [all Christians everywhere all time] ...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 20-22).

That's how the things come in overcoming, changing and growing. It's very interesting the way the book of Romans is laid out. Let's just do a quick review:

- Rom. 2—repentance and circumcision of the heart
- Rom. 3—knowing that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; only through Christ can you be put in right standing with God
- Rom. 4—you can't do it by your works; it is the gift and grace of God

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith... [because you believe God] ...we have ***peace with God***..." We're no longer fighting Him. We're no longer doubting Him. We may not know everything and we have to learn, but we're not fighting Him. We have *peace with God* and *He gives us peace*. The most important thing we can have is peace of mind. Having that, some people will think, because you're not all involved in the problem, you don't care. No, that's not a true evaluation of it. You're going to handle it differently.

"...have ***peace with God*** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace..." (vs 1-2). Fantastic grace of God. There are only two classes of people in the world.

1. those who are under law—everybody in the world

The laws that we have explained work automatically and they are judged accordingly by the laws of God that work automatically.

2. those who are under grace

The only ones who are under grace, and those are the few, are the ones who have repented, have been baptized, have received the Spirit of God and being under grace gives you the blessing of being able to

- have your sins forgiven
- receive the Holy Spirit of God to grow in grace and knowledge
- have direct access to God the Father

All those under law out here do not. So, that's why at times when you're talking to people they are at one level in their thinking, and you're at another level and it doesn't match.

That's why Bill O'Reilly had Mike Huckabee on his news program and asked him directly: 'In this world that is filled with different beliefs and atheism and secularism, how do you think your message will go over that we are having our problems because of sin?' Huckabee couldn't answer it directly because the truth *is the only way to solve the problems in the world is that everyone repents, everyone starts keeping the laws of God!*

- You want to solve the murder problems in neighborhoods, be they black, be they Latino, be they white? *Stop killing!*

Novel thought!

- You want to know how to solve the problems of unwanted children? *Quite committing adultery and fornication!*

'Why, you're simple-minded.'

- You want to have honesty in business and in personal lives? *Quite cheating and lying!*
- You want to quit having problems that you don't have enough and this other person has more so you can take it? *Don't covet!*
- You want to know what you should do in worshiping God? *Have only the True God!*
- How's that going to go over in the world, even in one community in America?
 - ✓ *don't use God's name in vain*
 - ✓ *don't build any idols*

Just think of the depression that would cause in Rome. And all the stores that sell all their Christmas goodies and their idols and statues of Mary and Jesus. How about all of the Buddhists and Hindus? If that won't work, how about those who go carve idols in rocks out in the wilderness? Can't do that; don't make them.

And everybody keep the Sabbath! If you do, you'll be taught how to love your neighbor and love God and love yourself, and be able to get along.

Then Sunday morning let's have a work party. Those communities that are all run down, dirty and disheveled because of drugs and fornication and murder and robbing and stealing? *Clean them up!*

That's what Mike Huckabee would have to say if he's going to run on the basis that we have our problems because of our sins. He's right on that, but he will never get elected, nor go very far, because there are too many people who would never, never do that and wouldn't believe him.

So then, here are all of us, all of God's people wherever they are. There are a lot of God's people we don't know anything about. We're the ones who have *the covenant of peace* with God and grow and change and overcome. Then God is going to let us rule the world.

(go to the next track)

We'll be going through a good number of Psalms that talk about *the peace of God*. If you want an interesting study, look up everywhere it says peace. Look up all the Scriptures. I assume one of these days we will all have digital Bibles. How many have used afaithfulversion.org online, yet?

Psalm 29:11: "The LORD will give strength to His people..." This is what we need:

- strength spiritually
 - strength mentally
 - strength physically
- and add to that
- endurance

Jesus said, *'The one who endures to the end, that one will be saved.'*

"...the LORD will bless His people **with peace**" (v 11). That's what we need:

- peace of mind individually
- peace between all of us individually and collectively

Think of it this way: Some people treat others this way, 'I'm friendly to your face, but in the back of my mind I'll never forgive you for this, but I'll be nice to you.' That may work on a pretense or a show or a temporary truce in getting along. However, we're talking about *spiritual peace*.

What if Christ said, 'Okay, I'm going to forgive all your sins, but I'm going to keep this one in the back of My mind.' Then here comes along time for resurrection, and lo and behold, when you are resurrected you find you're not in the first resurrection. You ask Christ, 'I thought I was going to be in the first resurrection.' *Well, I had this in the back of My mind and I changed it.* You need to think of it that way. The stakes are a whole lot higher than just public relations and smooth words to get along.

In other words, politically correct. It's like if we're nice to the Muslims they won't hurt us and they come in with a gun right between our eyes.

Here's what we want, Psalm 85:7: "Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation." That's what we want. Jesus makes it really clear: if you want mercy for yourself, you better have mercy on your brethren. 'I know they'll do it again.' Jesus said how many times? *Seven times seventy!*

Verse 8: "I will hear what God the LORD will speak; for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints..." Even carnal Israel could have a higher degree of peace if they would do things at least in the letter of the Law. The saints are those who have the Spirit of God.

"...but... [a condition] ...let them not turn again to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (vs 8-10). That's very poetic—isn't it?

Verse 11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps" (vs 11-13). That's what we need to do, *walk in the steps of Christ*. Think of it this way:

- we *stand* in His grace
- we *walk* in His faith
- we *believe* in His hope
- we *live* in His love

That's a summary of how we are to conduct our lives. If we do that, that will keep us out of a good amount of trouble. If you slip up, don't worry about it.

Psalm 86:9: "All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You... [during the Millennium and the Great White Throne period] ...O LORD, and shall glorify Your name, For You are great and do wonderful things; You alone are God" (vs 9-10). God is able to lead every person on earth if they would come to Him and desire it.

Verse 11: "Teach me Your way, O LORD... [that's what we need to learn] ...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, for great is Your mercy toward me... [we need it every day] ...and You have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave" (vs 11-13). *That's how God is going to give us peace!*

Whenever you have a 'pity party' and you're real down and you think about it, here's a good Psalm to read, especially in this day and age:

Psalm 37:1: "Do not fret... [get frustrated] ...yourself because of evildoers, and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity."

'Look at all the money they get, but I don't have anything. Look at all the things that they have, but I don't have anything. Oh, poor, woe is me. Boo-hoo!'

Remember this, v 2: "For they shall soon be cut down like the grass..." What happened to Elvis? What's happened to some of these movie stars? What's happened to some of those people who were grand and glorious in this world? *Soon* "...**cut down like the grass.**"

"...and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and cherish faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD..." (vs 2-4). Remember, if you have nothing in this world, and you have God—or let's put it the other way, *God has you*—you have everything in the universe though you don't have it now, but you will possess those things at the resurrection.

"...and He shall give you the desires of your heart" (v 4). Of course, our greatest desire should be for eternal life. This is why this is a good chapter to encourage yourself.

Ephesians 3:20: "Now to Him... [God the Father and Jesus Christ] ...Who is able to do exceeding abundantly... [I don't know how you can get a superlative greater than that] ...above all that we **ask** or **think**..." *Ask* is what we pray about. *Think* is what we desire. Of course, we're to be filled with all the fullness of God, so that's greater than anything physical.

"...according to the power that is working in us" (v 20). God is able to do it. Have you ever thought of something, sometimes just even a casual thought, completely leaves your mind. Then somewhere down the road it happens and you forgot all about it. God didn't. This is why we need to, in these things, encourage ourselves with the Word of God and see where we're going.

Verse 21: "To Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen."

Psalm 37:4: "...He shall give you the desires of your heart.... [*if* they are right] ...Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass" (vs 4-5).

If you are on God's side, sooner or later it's going to work out. In order to get to the sooner or

later you might have to go through the worst and more terrible. You begin wondering when is this sooner or later going to come?

Verse 6: “And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your judgment like the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret yourself because of him who prospers in his way; because of him who carries out wicked schemes” (vs 6-7).

Verse 11: “But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the **abundance of peace.**” What are we going to bring to the world? *The peace of God!*

Verse 26: “All the day long he deals graciously... [that’s the one who is serving God] ...and lends, and his children are blessed. Depart from evil and do good; and live forevermore. For the LORD loves justice and **does not forsake His saints...**” (vs 26-28). He never forsakes the saints. They are His people; they are for the resurrection.

“...they are **preserved forever...** [they receive eternal life] ...but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off” (v 28). How are they going to be cut off? *The Lake of Fire!*

If you’ve listened to the audio of the Revelation series, when you get to the last verse they are cast into the Lake of Fire, WHOOM! I think Randy really did a good job with that whole project, but there are certain ones that just have a certain emphasis. Whoever is not found written in the book of life is cast into the Lake of Fire.

Verse 29: “The righteous shall inherit the earth... [and later the universe] ...and dwell in it forever.” Where is New Jerusalem coming to? *The new earth.*

In what we’re doing now, v 30: “The mouth of the righteous speaks **wisdom...**” Wisdom doesn’t come automatically. Wisdom comes this way:

- you have to first learn *knowledge*
- then with a accumulation of knowledge you begin to have *understanding*
- then when you are able to put it together and make judgments, then you have *wisdom*

but you’ve got to have:

- knowledge
- understanding
- wisdom

And it comes in that way.

“...and his tongue talks of justice.... [here’s why]: The Law of his God is in his heart... (vs 30-31). Can you think of someplace in the book of Hebrews that it tells us about this? *Heb. 8 and 10,*

going to’ write the laws in our hearts and inscribe them on our minds.’ How are we to love God? *With all our heart, mind, soul and being!*

“...none of his steps shall slide.... [into sin] ...The wicked watches the righteous and seeks to kill him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged” (vs 31-33).

Even if the wicked slay us... Which by the way, last year there were 4,223 *professing* Christians killed; the majority of them in Muslim countries.

Verse 34: “Wait on the LORD and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the earth...” What if you don’t have anything today? *That’s a pretty good swap—*isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!* What is God going to say to some of the saints because they overcame? *You have two parables on that:*

1. the parable of the talents
2. the parable of the pounds

The one who increased what God gave him. We are all stewards; everything we have came from God, so we’re all stewards:

- of our body
- our mind
- our property
- our money
- everything that we have

How do we use it?

Of God’s Spirit, if we grow and overcome, then God is going to say to those who overcome, ‘Blessed are you faithful. Because you have been faithful with a little, you will be faithful in much.’

- you be over five cities
- you be over three cities
- you be over this part of the government
- you help with that part of the government
- you help assist with teaching people the Word of God
- you help those who are in trouble and difficulties

Don’t you think God is going to give us some wonderful places to live in, even on the earth? *Think on that!*

Always remember that when times of trouble come—and we’re going to face the worst times in the world—what we are doing when we go through things like this and you read Scriptures like this, this helps arm your mind with strength and understanding so you can be able to handle the difficulties as they come.

Psalm 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless

the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits” (vs 1-2).

- What’s the greatest benefit? *God’s Spirit!*
- What’s the next greatest benefit? *The Word of God!*
- What’s the next greatest benefit?
 - ✓ the *peace of God!*
 - ✓ the *love of God!*
 - ✓ the *Truth of God!*

If we can look at it this way: if we can look at Adam and Eve as a seed, then the whole human family expanded from that. Because they were so evil, God had to prune it by killing it, but He kept Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives and those were the seeds to plant coming down to our time.

Look what it’s grown into: billions of people. We don’t know how many it’s going to end up in the final analysis of the number of human beings that there will be and how it’s going to be with the Kingdom of God. Don’t worry, it’s never going to be crowded in the Kingdom of God because there’s the whole universe. You think that’s enough room? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 3: “Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.... [When He doesn’t, you have an affliction; He will take care of it later.] ...Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies” (vs 3-4). All of this comes from God because you have direct connection with God the Father. Isn’t that something? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 5: “Who satisfies your desires with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Not until the resurrection.

Verse 8: “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy.” All of that leads to peace and the covenant of peace that He has made with us.

Verse 9: “He will not always chasten... [you’re not always going to have correction] ...nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, for as the heavens are high above the earth...” (vs 9-11). This is hard for us to comprehend because God can forget, wipe it out in an instant. We have a harder time because our memories need to be cleansed.

“...so is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes, For the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and its place shall know it no more” (vs 11-16).

Here’s the thing to rely on, v 17: “But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting... [enduring forever and forever] ...upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness is unto children’s children, To those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember His precepts to do them” (vs 17-18).

Let’s see how all of this works together. Jesus brought some things that were unknown before and that is with the Holy Spirit within us. The disciples didn’t comprehend some of these things until after they saw the resurrected Christ. I tell you one thing, these are so important that we need to go over them, and over and over them.

John 14:15: “If you love Me...” Everything gets down to recognizing the love of God. That’s difficult. We all have a hard time keeping the love of God. We all have our difficulties.

“...keep the commandments—namely, My commandments” (v 15). Then He says a very astounding thing. This did not happen in the same way as it did for those who are going to be in the first resurrection from the Old Testament. They had the Spirit of Christ with them so they will be in the first resurrection. But now God is doing something special with those whom He is calling. Never been done before because Christ had to reveal the Father. He was only known as the Most High and the Ancient of Days.

Here’s where Christ is revealing the Father more directly, v 16: “And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be within you” (vs 16-17).

Upon conversion there is this speck of spiritual substance from God, the Holy Spirit, entering into your mind to beget your mind so that you are now a begotten son or daughter of God.

Verse 18: “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world shall see Me no longer; but you shall see Me. Because I live, you shall live also. In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you. The one who has My commandments and is keeping them... [to practice them as *a way of life*] ...that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself

to him” (vs 18-21). This is how we receive the peace of God.

Verse 22: “Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’ ... [How are you going to do that?] ... Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...’” (vs 22-23).

He did not answer the question, ‘Yes, you will see Me after the resurrection and you will understand it.’ He knew that was coming. He didn’t answer the question directly. He answered the question for those who afterwards would be called, could understand.

“...‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word... [the whole message of Jesus Christ] ...and My Father will love him, and **We**... [the Father and the Son] ...will come to him and make **Our** abode with him’” (vs 23-24). Christ and God the Father with the earnest of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. That’s why we have the direct connection to God. **“...make Our abode with him.”**

That’s something! That’s why it’s so, so important that we:

- come together on the Sabbath
- study the Word of God
- develop the Holy Spirit of God within us
- use the talents that God gives us

because God the Father and Jesus Christ are dwelling *in* us. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit of God.

Sometimes when that thought comes into your head, you better do this or you better do that, you better do it. God may be telling you something. You know that if it says something contrary to the will of God that’s a temptation of Satan the devil, that’s not from God, so you put that out of your mind. Notice on the other hand, as we talked about there are two classes of people. *Those under law* who are judged by the law in their lives and that includes the incorrigible wicked and even those who are good, law-abiding sincere people in the world that don’t know about God

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s Who sent Me. I have spoken these things to you while I am yet present with you. But *when* the Comforter *comes*, *even the Holy Spirit*, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things...” (vs 24-25). That’s why with prayer and Bible study you develop the spiritual character and mind of Christ.

Verse 27: “Peace I leave with you...” Stop and think right now. None of the troubles that were

on your mind before services are there now. You have *peace of God*. Keep that as much as you can. But just like anything else, you have to renew it every day.

Verse 27: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give *it* to you.... [*peace in the world* has ever worked out] ...Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it fear. You have heard Me say to you that I am going away, and *that* I will come to you *again*. If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I said, ‘I am going to the Father’ because My Father is greater than I” (vs 27-28). You can read all the rest in there about:

- loving God
- keeping His commandments
- staying in the vine
- growing and overcoming
- praying directly to God the Father

We’re all going to have to face this, just like they did. I don’t think they had a clue when He said this to them:

John 16:32: “‘Listen, the time is coming, and has already come, that you shall be scattered each to his own, and you shall leave Me alone; and, *yet*, I am not alone because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. But be courageous! I have overcome the world” (vs 32-33). The *peace of God* will be with us to:

- help us
- guide us
- show us

It will come from God and we need it, especially in the days that we are living.

Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you now with all joy and **peace in believing**...”

- believing God
- believing His Truth
- believing the Gospel

...that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit” (v 13). That’s quite a statement. May that be for us.

Romans 16:20: “But the God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly... [He was thinking the return of Christ would be coming soon] ...The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.”

Verse 24: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with all of you. Amen.”

It’s very interesting that what you see here is that Paul had a couple of additions to what he originally wrote, and so he added another paragraph

at the end with *amen*. So, at the end of the book of Romans here you have three *amen*'s. It's like you writing a letter—P.S., oops P.S #2, oops P.S. #3.

In Col. 3:15 is how we are to live using God's Spirit. This is also something very important for us to realize for those who are stuck on Church government. Where does Church government begin? With the ministry? *No, begins with each one!* If the peace of God rules in each one, we're going to have fewer problems between each other.

Colossians 3:15: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you were called into one body, and be thankful.... [coupled with that:] ... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... [How does it come richly? *A lot of Bible study!*] ...in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And *in* everything—whatever you do in word or in deed—do all in *the* name of *the* Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and *the* Father by Him" (vs 15-17).

*That's how we are to have **the covenant of peace** work in our lives and help us through these times of disaster and problems that come along, and so that we can help each other and help the brethren and preach the Gospel and do the things that God wants us to do!*

*May the **covenant of peace** be with all of you!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 11:5-9
- 2) Ephesians 1:1-2
- 3) Hebrews 7:1-2
- 4) Isaiah 9:6-7
- 5) Isaiah 53:3-5
- 6) Isaiah 54:10-14
- 7) Romans 8:4-9
- 8) Romans 2:4
- 9) Ephesians 2:11-22
- 10) Romans 5:1-2
- 11) Psalm 29:11
- 12) Psalm 85:7-13
- 13) Psalm 86:9-13
- 14) Psalm 37:1-4
- 15) Ephesians 3:20-21
- 16) Psalm 37:4-7, 11, 26-34
- 17) Psalm 103:1-5, 8-18
- 18) John 14:15-28
- 19) John 16:32-33
- 20) Romans 15:13
- 21) Romans 16:20, 24
- 22) Colossians 3:15-17

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 11:4
- Romans 3
- Zechariah 14
- Ephesians 2:1-9
- Romans 2-4
- Hebrews 8; 10

Also referenced: Books:

- *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah* by Fred R. Coulter
- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Why Were You Born?* (coming soon)

FRC:lp
 Transcribed: 1-24-15
 Formatted: bo-1-25-15

Copyright 2015—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.