

## Lingering in Sin (Go To Meeting)

Tom Fannin—June 1, 2024

Time goes on, as we know, and here we are now a few weeks past the Days of Unleavened Bread and making our way to Pentecost.

I want to start today by turning back to Gen. 13, and we're going to kind of review a little bit about a Abram/Abraham and Lot

Genesis 13:5: "And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. And the land was not able to bear them that they might live together, for their substance was great, so that they could not live together. And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. And the Canaanite and the Perizzite lived in the land. And Abram said to Lot, 'Let there be no strife, I pray you, between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brethren'" (vs 5-8).

So, see wisdom there in the case of Abraham didn't want to have strife between them. Certainly, as God's people, His brethren, that's the attitude we should have, too. We see things maybe not going the way they need to be going as we don't want strife or difficulties between each other.

Verse 9: "'Is not the whole land before you? I pray you, separate yourself from me. If *you go* to the left, then I will go to the right. Or if *you go* to the right, then I will go to the left.' And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* all well watered—before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you come to Zoar. And Lot chose all the plain of Jordan for himself. And Lot journeyed east; *thus*, they separated themselves from one another" (vs 9-11).

We see here in the case of Abraham and Lot they were both blessed, they both had a lot of substance. So, let's move on to Gen. 19 and follow the story.

They were both herdsmen; they both had a lot of livestock, family and servants. As they separated, Lot chose an area that looked well watered, which if you have livestock, that's where you desire to go. But we know he went into Sodom with his family and God told Abraham that he was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and Lot was in the midst of that.

We know two angels were sent there to warn Lot and his family.

Genesis 19:12: "And the men... [the two

angels] ...said to Lot, 'Have you anyone here besides yourself? Bring your sons-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and anyone *else you have* in the city, bring *them* out of this place... [Lot had quite a bit of family in that city] ...for we will destroy this place, **because great is the cry of it before the face of the LORD.** And the LORD has sent us to destroy it'" (vs 12-13).

Yes, when there is a multitude of sin and wickedness, ***it even cries out and Lord sees this!***

Verse 14: "And Lot went out and spoke with his sons-in-law, who married his daughters, and said, 'Get up and get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy this city.' **But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be jesting.**" *They weren't taking seriously!*

You can see when we think about the future and the things are going to go on in the future in the warning this world will receive. A lot of people may think the same thing that this can't be, this is this is not real.

Verse 15: "And when the morning dawned, then the angels hurried Lot, saying, 'Rise up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.' But he lingered..." (vs 15-16).

That's what we'll be talking about in the message today is *lingering*. It says of Lot here that he lingered.

"...so the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hands of his two daughters (the LORD being merciful to him), and they brought him forth and set him outside the city. And it came to pass, when they brought him outside, *they* said, 'Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountain lest you be consumed'" (vs 16-17).

We know that Lot did leave with his wife in his two daughters; the other stayed behind. But notice here again in v 16, speaking of Lot, it says "**...he lingered....**"

- What does that mean?
- What was happening here?

Linger means *to have a hesitation, to be reluctant, to delay!* This is talking about something that's going on within the mind, something you're considering or thinking about. When we look at Lot and what was going on:

- Did he have reason to linger there?
- Was there a lot on his mind?

When it comes to our physical lives and physically thinking, absolutely, there was a lot going on with Lot here. We read that he had his family there, says he had sons-in-law. We don't know how many children he had, he and his wife, but he had sons and laws, and daughters.

Did he have grandchildren there in the city? Well, he very well could have since he had he had children that were married. So, he had his family there, his children, and his grandchildren, possibly. That's where his home was; that's where he was established.

We read earlier that he had a lot of substance. So, what he had was there in the city; he had a lot invested there in that city.

So, yes, when it comes to the flesh and physical and how we think, I can understand—and maybe you can, too—why he was lingering. He was considering thinking a lot about what was there and didn't have a lot of notice, did he? He was told they needed to get out.

- Do we linger at times within sin?

*or*

- Do we strive to come out continually of sin?

I want to mention something else in v 16, if you'll notice:

“...so the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hands of his two daughters (**the LORD being merciful to him**), and they brought him forth and set him outside the city” (v 16).

So the Lord, with the help of the two angels, they are got at least the four of them out. **The Lord God showed mercy to Lot and his wife!**

- If God did not show mercy to them and doing this to them, would they have come out?
- Would he had lingered and considered thought about these things too long, and have been a part of that destruction”

*Possibly so!* But nonetheless, God showed mercy and got them out of that situation.

We know sin has a stronghold, doesn't it? It works on us in a lot of different ways. Certainly it's a mental struggle. We, as men and women, struggle with sin; it is strong.

When you think of Cain and Abel in situation they were in—particularly there with Cain—God told him about sin and how sin worked. ‘It has a desire for us.’

**But our jobs**—especially us who are in the Church that have God's Spirit in this calling—**is to rule over sin!**

1-Corinthians 10:1: “Now, I do not wish you to be ignorant *of this*, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And *they* all ate the same spiritual meat. And *they* all drank *of* the same spiritual drink; for they drank from *the* spiritual Rock that followed *them*. **And that Rock was Christ.** But with many of them God was not pleased, for their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness. Now these things became examples for us...” (vs 1-6).

That's what we're going to keep in mind as we think about Lot and what went on there.

Verse 6: “Now these things became examples for us, so that we might not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.’ Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed, and twenty-three thousand were destroyed in one day. Neither should we tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted *Him*, and were killed by serpents. Neither *should we* complain against *God*, as some of them also complained, and were killed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them *as* examples, and were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages are coming. **Therefore, let the one who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall**” (vs 6-12).

So, we have these things written for our examples, for our admonishment to learn from. That's why we're going to be talking about what went on there with Lot.

When we think about sin, and lingering and sin, and what happens when we allow sin to take part and take hold, we have the examples in the Old Testament there of things that went on.

But we have recent examples, too. Many of us in our lives, we've seen things take place within the Church and what **lingering and sin and allowing sin to take hold**, what that has done to the Church, the Body of Christ.

So we have living and current examples, as well, that we need to keep in mind, thinking about what the outcome of some of those things were.

Well, as we move forward to Pentecost from the days of Unleavened Bread, these are things we need to be thinking about.

- How do we come to this understanding that we have about the Truth?

- How did we come to know this?

1-Peter 2:9: “But **you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people for a possession of God,** that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, **Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous Light;** who once *were* not a people, but now *are the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy” (vs 9-10).

That’s how we came to this Truth, ***through God calling us! Through His mercy!*** We’ll be talking more about mercy through the message, the mercy of God.

Even when we find ourselves in situations, maybe where we linger, ***God is a merciful God,*** but we know it’s through God’s calling us out of darkness and His mercy that we have this understanding of the Truth.

Ephesians 2:4: “But God, Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. (*For* you have been saved by grace.) And He has raised *us* up together and has caused *us* to sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus” (vs 4-6).

***God’s love;*** that’s how we’re able to have this knowledge of the Truth! God loved us and gave us grace through Christ.

We’re talking about how did we come to this Truth, to this understanding. To understand sin and understand darkness of this world, things we’ve been called out of.

Deuteronomy 7:9: “Therefore, know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, **the faithful God Who keeps covenant** and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations. And he repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slow to repay him who hates Him. He will repay him to his face” (vs 9-10).

So yes, we know there will be a day where God will repay to the face, because everybody will have to stand before God in judgment. But we’re focusing again on how we come to this Truth and this knowledge that we have.

But it says here “...**the faithful God Who keeps covenant**...” As we went into covenant with him, he keeps covenant with us. He also keeps mercy and, and that’s something we need to think about.

Even the state we find ourselves in at times where we’re troubled and we have problems and

trials and maybe we linger in things we shouldn’t be lingering in ***God keeps His mercy with us as long as we’re desiring to keep faithful to God*** to “...love Him and keep His commandments...”

So we can always think about that, and be thankful that God keeps mercy with those of us who do that.

2-Peter 2—Peter specifically here in an example he’s giving talks about Lot. Peter in his day, just like us today, we read in the Old Testament about what happened. Peter had knowledge of this, too.

2-Peter 2:7: “And *if* He personally rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the lawless ones *living* in licentious conduct; (For **that righteous man**...” (vs 7-8)—even though he was living in that environment.

He was called righteous, because undoubtedly Lot loved God. He was trying to obey God and do right before God. He’s called ***righteous Lot!***

Verse 8: “(For that righteous man, dwelling among them, through seeing and hearing *their* lawless activities, *was* tormented day-by-day *in his* righteous soul) *the* Lord knows *how* to rescue *the* Godly out of temptation, and to reserve *the* unrighteous to *the* day of judgment to be punished” (vs 6-9).

We just read that in Deut. 7. We need to keep in mind that the Lord knows how. Sometimes the situations we find ourselves in, we don’t know how. We don’t know how we’re going to get out of it or come out of it or be rescued.

***But the Lord knows how!*** That’s what we need to keep in mind. ***God knows how!*** In the case of Lot, He sent his two angels. But God knows how we need to remember. ***God does rescue us! He is very merciful to us!***

- Could we have come out of sin or the bondage of sin on our own?
- Could we have done that?

***There’s no way any of us could of our own selves come out of this world!*** In the grasp that Satan has on this world, we could not have come out of that on our own.

Colossians 1:12: “Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the Light; Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness...” (vs 12-13).

***God has personally rescued us, because there is a power there that holds this world captive!***

“...and has transferred *us* unto the Kingdom of the Son of His love; in Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* Firstborn of all creation” (vs 13-15).

Yes, God personally rescued us and He continues to rescue us through the calling we had and coming into covenant with God and Jesus Christ. That was a rescuing, but They continue to rescue us through Christ.

So, when we have sin in our lives and we have difficulties and problems, through Christ and the grace given to us is the opportunity we have to repent continually. As things come to our mind—God works through us with His Spirit—we continually have a rescuing; something we need to keep in mind.

It’s a struggle we have in the flesh, all of us. Paul had that same struggle.

Romans 7:25<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup>: “I thank God *for His salvation* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this, on the one hand, I myself serve the Law of God with *my* mind; but on the other hand, with the flesh, *I serve* the law of sin.”

Paul is saying here that within his mind, Paul having God’s Spirit, just like we have God’s Spirit within us. In the mind there’s a desire to obey God and keep His commandments and love God.

But within the flesh, we find ourselves in a situation where we fall to sin from time-to-time, in the lusts of sin, in the desire and the drawing of sin. It’s a constant struggle within the flesh. But Paul goes on:

Romans 8:1: “Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit; because the Law of the Spirit of Life...” (vs 1-2).

That is the process that we went through with answering the call:

- being baptized
- accepting Christ as our personal Savior
- the forgiveness of sin
- receiving of the Spirit of God

“...Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death” (v 2). *We have continually a deliverance!*

1-John 1-2 it talks about sin. In this propitiation, we have or this continuing atonement we have through Christ for our sins. All we have to do is confess our sins, with a heartfelt confession and a desire to change and our sins are forgiven.

then we continue to walk in newness, just as Jesus Christ walked.

So, yes, we have this knowledge and we have this understanding, but within the flesh, we continue to struggle.

Let’s go back now to what we refer to as *the faith chapter*: Heb. 11. We’re going to talk about the patriarch Abraham here, but:

- Could we go back?
- Could we go back to what we came out of, what we were drawn out of?

Hebrews 11:8: “By faith Abraham, being called *of God* to go out into the place, which he would later receive for an inheritance, obeyed and went, not knowing where he was going. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, like a foreigner, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the joint heirs of the same promise; for he was waiting for the city with *the* foundations of which God is *the* Architect and Builder” (vs 8-10).

We know Abraham did these things by faith, but he was awaiting something different: ***Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God!***

Speaking of all the patriarchs here and those we know of in the Old Testament, it says:

Verse 13: “All these died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them from afar, and having been persuaded of *them*, and having embraced *them*, and having confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth.”

Because this is temporary! What we go through here in the flesh on earth, it’s temporary. ***But what we look forward to is eternal!***

Verse 14: “For those who say such things make it manifest that they seek *their* own country, *as promised by God*. And if, on the one hand, they had let their minds dwell *fondly* on the place where they came from, they might have had opportunity to return. But now, on the other hand, **they are aspiring to a more excellent country—that is, a heavenly one.** Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God because He has prepared a city for them” (vs 14-16).

That’s who we are, brethren! We’re aspiring for something better!

- that’s why we do this
- that’s why we love God and Christ and are faithful to Them
- that’s why we strive not to linger in things, but to try to continually come out

*Because we want something better!* We don't want to go back.

And as it says here, **IF** their minds would have thought about these things and they could have had an opportunity to possibly go back, but they didn't. They remained faithful, just as we should. In our time, we have seen some go back.

Hopefully, God grants repentance and mercy to the ones who have gone back will come back out again. But let us just make sure that we're moving forward.

Let's go back to Exo. 16 and look at a good point that's brought out here, referring back to the children of Israel. We've already read a couple of times there that the things we see recorded for us in the Old Testament we use for examples. This ties right into the days of Unleavened Bread:

We know Israel at this time is out of Egypt and they were on their way to something they had been promised. But they had their difficulties in their struggles.

Exodus 16:2: "Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, 'O that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots, when we ate bread to the full, for you have brought us forth into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger!'" (vs 2-3).

Maybe they thought about what they had come out of, and it was difficult. God was testing them to see if they would follow God and be faithful to God and remember the things He had promised them, this 'promised land.'

But, you know, in difficult times, they started thinking about what they'd come out of and what they had before. As it says here, they had bread to the full. But what were they in? *They are in captivity of Egypt! **Sin** in that land!*

God rescued them and brought them out. But they started thinking about what they had.

Hopefully we don't find ourselves in this situation where we think about where we were, and what we had in the past. ***But we're thinking about the future! We're not wanting to go back to anything!*** But we're looking forward to life:

- considering what it took
- considering personally being rescued
- considering the promises we have to look forward to

There is **a Bread** we should desire, and not the desire that the old bread that they desired in captivity.

When we think about them and we think about us, what bread do we want? *Christ talks about the Bread that we need to desire!*

John 6:32: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true Bread from heaven.'"

There was a bread that Israel received in the form of manna, but the **true Bread** comes from God.

Verse 33: "For the **Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven** and gives Life to the world.' Therefore, they said to Him, 'Lord, give this bread to us always.' Jesus said to them, '**I AM the Bread of Life**; the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time'" (vs 33-35).

That's what we want our minds on, not the bread we had in the past, the things that we were a part of in the past. Maybe they were good things, blessings to us, but still they were a part of captivity of this world.

***But we want Jesus Christ!*** We want that Bread of Life, the Bread that we never have to worry about hungering anymore because it fills us up. It gives us the things that lead to eternal life. We come to Christ continually believing in Him and trusting in Him, and in the promise is given to us.

We have a choice: What bread do we want? ***We look forward to the Bread of Eternal Life!***

We know that it's God's Spirit *within us* that helps us to understand all these things we're talking about here in the message. God's Spirit also helps us to move forward.

1-Corinthians 2:9: "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.'"

We know this is a prophecy, the things being talked about. But Paul goes on to say:

Verse 10: "But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, 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?...." (vs 10-11).

That's how man understands what the things that go on in this world. That's how men and women think, based on what they see in this world and what they understand according to this world. But that's

not the spirit we've been given. We have a much better understanding.

"...In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God. Now, we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God" (vs 11-12).

We just need to remember the power of God's Spirit, and what it does *to us* and what it does *for us*:

- teaching us
- instructing us
- leading us
- bringing things to our mind that we need to know
- giving us a better understanding

***IF*** we are led by it—as sons and daughters of God—we will be led in the right direction toward God and Christ!

We're talking about having God's Spirit, the Spirit that helps us to understand even the deep things of God; it's a Spirit of Power. It's God's Power that He's given us. We need to be using that Power continually—as we're talking about in this message—so we can come out of things and not linger.

2-Corinthians 10:3: "For although we walk in *the* flesh, we do not war according to *the* flesh."

There is a warring according to the flesh, but that's not the war we take part in.

Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds."

That's what God's Spirit does within us; it helps us to overthrow strongholds. We continually face strongholds.

Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps *us*; and let us run the race set before us with endurance."

- Do we all have sins that easily entrap us?
- Do we all have weights in our lives?

I think we all would answer *yes, we do!*

***IF*** anyone says, 'No, I don't have weights in my life, things that are pulling me down, or I don't have sins in my life that easily entrap me,' ***THEN*** I guess you've become the perfect person! But we know that's not how we are. We all have things

we're trying to overcome and trying to escape and trying to put aside.

Verse 2: "Having *our minds* fixed on Jesus, the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the Throne of God. Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners against Himself so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds" (vs 2-3).

So, we need to consider ourselves and examine ourselves, and make sure we're continually coming out of these things so we can ***run the race with endurance.***

- we have God's Spirit within us that Power to help overcome these things
- we have Christ as an Example

Paul writes here, v 3: "Now meditate deeply on Him..." and what He went through for us so we could have mercy and receive His help from Him!

He intercedes for us! Hopefully, ***IF*** we think about that, when we have these struggles and difficulties and problems, *it helps our weariness when we think about what Christ went through!* We certainly don't want to be lingering:

- for anything that is a stronghold for us
- for anything that entraps us.
- for anything that may try to draw us back to what we came out of

***We don't want to live in that!***

2-Peter 3:10: "However, the Day of *the* Lord shall come as a thief in *the* night in which the heaven itself shall disappear with a mighty roar, and *the* elements shall pass away, burning with intense heat, and *the* earth and the works in it shall be burned up. Since all these things are going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in Holy conduct and Godliness" (vs 10-11).

Something for us to consider, because we know this is coming!

Verse 12: "Looking forward to and striving for the coming of the day of God, during which *the* heavens, being on fire, shall be destroyed, and *the* elements, burning with intense heat, shall melt? But according to His promise, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (vs 12-13).

That's just what we read in Hebrews considering Abraham and the other ones in the Old Testament. They were look forward to a new a new country, another life in the future is promised.

Verse 14: “For this reason, beloved, since you are anticipating these things, be diligent, so that you may be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.”

So, we know what’s coming. Lot knew what was coming, and he didn’t have a lot of time. *We also know what’s coming!* That’s why Peter admonishes us here, to be mindful of that.

- who we should be
- what our should be behavior should be
- we need to be coming out of this world
- we need to be coming out of sin
- we need to not linger

***Brethren, we have time!***

In Ephesians, Paul writes that we need to be *redeeming the time*, because the days are evil. If any of us are sleeping, we need to wake up! We need to be coming out of these things, not lingering in any way—***while we have time!***

Time will run out. There will be a time when the end will come, and these things will happen. So, we need to be thankful for God’s mercy upon us that we have time now to do some of these things.

Romans 11:17: “But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and you became a fellow partaker of the root and of the fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches; but if you are boasting against *them*, remember that you do not bear the root; rather, the root bears you. Will you then say, ‘The branches were broken off in order that I might be grafted in?’” (vs 17-19).

Verse 20: “*That is true!* Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be high-minded, but fear; for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He not spare you either. Therefore, behold **the graciousness and the severity of God**: upon those who fell, severity; and upon you, graciousness, if you continue in *His* graciousness; otherwise you also will be cut off” (vs 20-22).

I bring this out just to remember we need to continue in God’s graciousness, in God’s mercy and we have to remember, as it says here, “...**the graciousness and the severity of God**...”

***There is a judgment coming!*** Time will come to an end. When we remember Lot, we also need to ***remember Lot’s wife!*** When they came out, when they were personally rescued by the two angels and taken by the hand and led out of that city, and God had mercy upon them, the instruction was clear from the angels, ***don’t look back!*** Lot’s wife

did look back, and we know she was changed to a pillar of salt.

***Think the graciousness and the mercy of God, let our minds be upon that!*** But there is also a *severity* that we need to consider, too.

Hebrews 10:32: “But remember the earlier days when, after you were enlightened, you endured much conflict in *your* sufferings. On the one part, you were made a public spectacle by both insults and severe trials...” (vs 32-33).

- being called
- being a part of the Body of Christ
- being God’s children
  - ✓ we go through trials
  - ✓ we go through problems
  - ✓ we go through difficulties

“...and on the other part, you became companions of those who were enduring the same things” (v 33).

We’re companions of each other, all of us in the Church as brothers and sisters in Christ! We need to remember that of each other. We are companions, we’re brethren, and we have each other to fall back to and look to.

Verse 34: “For you not only showed compassion to me in my bonds, but also gladly endured the plunder of your possessions, knowing within yourselves that you have a greater and more enduring possession in *the* heavens. For this *very* reason, do not cast away your confidence, which is bringing a great reward. For you need to have endurance, so that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. For *it is* but a short time...” (vs 34-37).

We need to remember this in our lives, it is but a short time. Life goes by quick and this opportunities just here and now for us.

“...until He Who is coming will come, and will not delay. Now, *it is written*, ‘The just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul does not delight in him.’ But we are not of *those* who draw back unto destruction; rather, we are of faith unto *the* saving of *the* soul” (vs 37-39).

- that’s who we are
- that’s who we need to be
  - we are not those who draw back
  - we are those who move forward and look forward to the saving of the soul

***Eternal Life through the resurrection!*** Christ being the First resurrected from the dead is our Example.

As we conclude and we think about the count to Pentecost—and we are to count—we look forward to Pentecost, let's consider:

- let's not linger in sin
- let's be thankful that we have God and Jesus Christ in our lives in the mercy They show us continually
- let's come out of sin
- let's look forward to the next Holy Day, Pentecost, *and ultimately the resurrection!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 13:5-11
- 2) Genesis 19:12-17,16
- 3) 1-Corinthians 10:1-12
- 4) 1-Peter 2:9-10
- 5) Ephesians 2:4-6
- 6) Deuteronomy 7:9-10
- 7) 2-Peter 2:7-9
- 8) Colossians 1:12-15
- 9) Romans 7:25
- 10) Romans 8:1-2
- 11) Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16
- 12) Exodus 16:2-3
- 13) John 6:32-35
- 14) 1-Corinthians 2:9-12
- 15) 2-Corinthians 10:3-4
- 16) Hebrews 12:1-3
- 17) 2-Peter 3:10-14
- 18) Romans 11:17-22
- 19) Hebrews 10:32-39

Scripture referenced, not quoted: 1-John 1, 2

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