

Purpose of Baptism

Fred R Coulter – July 1, 1999

People want to know how we do the things that we do. We try and be as efficient as we can with whatever money that God sends us. And we're very happy that we have a Canadian office now, that it can be a benefit to everyone here. And I'm happy to be up here in Lethbridge tonight and be up in Calgary tomorrow. And it started out here in this area, it started out with Pauline—she was the first to call or write, I forget which. And since then God has just added by people reaching out to other brethren they know, giving them tapes or giving them literature. We're not out after numbers and we're not out after money—and it just dawned on me, here let's go to Matthew, the tenth chapter. You know, sometimes you go for years and you read a verse and you read this part in the Bible and even though you study the Bible every day, or even as I have done, I have translated the whole New Testament now—and we hope to have that available sometime first part of next year.

And here in Matthew 10:7: “And *as you are* going, proclaim, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal *the* sick. Cleanse *the* lepers. Raise *the* dead. Cast out demons. Freely you have received; freely give” (vs 7-8) And it finally dawned on me: ***freely you have received, freely give!*** And I think this: that this means that the brethren should not be merchandized—that is have a letter begging for money every month coming out to the brethren. Because if you do that then you're merchandizing and you're not getting it free, you're getting it by coercion, right? The way it is “freely given”—that if a person loves God from their heart, wants to keep the commandments of God—which includes tithing and offering—and they ***freely give***—then you don't have to go out and ask for money, because you freely receive and then we give back. And everything that we do we try and benefit all the brethren. We haven't spent money on property or lands, therefore, we're able to give out now—when we get the Passover book done and we're almost done with the second edition and that will be 440 pages. And it's going to be really a wonderful book. Because it's not just going to explain about the Passover, it is going to be a book explaining about the whole plan of God. And it will be about this thick, hard cover for all the brethren and everything that we're going to do is to give back to the brethren ***freely***—or who ever wants.

And so, I think it's very, very important that we understand that. We live within the budget that God gives us—and try and be prudent and have some reserves as you saw with the financial report from last year from the United States, and I'm sure, Wayne sent one out here to all of you from Canada. Try and have some reserves so we can do the things that God wants us to do. Now, we've reached the point that we need a small office, because we've been crowded into two bedrooms in my home. So we've got a small office, 800 sq. feet, that we're able

to get for \$800 a month for the whole thing. We don't have to pay any extra beyond that. And we're going to be able to do the audio-cassettes, video cassettes, do all the literature production and computer work and everything right down there in the office. We really need that.

But, I really feel—here let's go back to 2-Peter, the second chapter, and I feel one of the reasons God had to do what He did was because in merchandizing the brethren—that is asking for money, money, money, money all the time—it really sowed the seeds of destruction. Plus you put in there the hierarchy. Plus you put in there those who snuck in, the internal spies, unawares. How many were still in Worldwide when Stavrinides hit with his nonsense? I believe he was a long-term plant. Just sitting there to kill your faith; confuse you. But in this tape, which I entitled *How Satan Confuses You with Wrong Thinking* from this man in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he shows the way that the society is thinking today. Now when you couple that with the three tapes on the Jesuit Agenda—and I'll send you some extras so you won't have try and watch it at Sabbath services, because those are pretty long. So you can pass them around and maybe watch them at home or something like that. You will see the methods that Stavrinides used kill the faith within the Church. And then who was his follow-up man? Anybody guess, who was his follow-up man? *Herman Hoeh was an accomplice*. Who was his follow-up man? *Samuel Bacchiocchi*. ***To get you away from the Holy Days. To get you from the Passover***. Because Satan knows a very important thing. “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” So if he can get you to compromise one thing, especially concerning the Passover.

Now, I want you to think about this: There's really not much confusion concerning Trumpets, Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles, right? When is the fulfillment of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles? *When Christ returns*, correct? Well, by that time it's too late for Satan anyway, right? But, how about Passover, Unleavened Bread and Pentecost—those are important for salvation to the Church, as well as the others. But these three Feasts that we have, they're the ones which put us in contact with God the Father and Jesus Christ today, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

So if Satan can get you to miss the mark on any one of those, then he's got you on the come. And then the wrong thinking comes along. “Well, let's talk about what we agree on.” And lo and behold, got ya! And that's exactly what happened. That's why there are a lot of brethren who are more interested in getting along with brethren and people than being right with God. So they come along and say, “Well, you believe in the 14th, that's all right, I believe in the 15th.” Well, the 15th Passover is ***not*** a

Passover and never has been a Passover, and if you keep the 15th you are not connected with Christ. It's that simple! And I put a new chapter in there—*The Passover of the Exiled*. And I have a wonderful quote from a Qaraite Jew, who are the Scripturalists of Judaism. They reject a lot of the Rabbinic stuff—almost all of it. And he says, “We do not practice anything on the 14th because we are not in the land. We are as an unclean thing because of our sins and the sins of our forefathers in whose steps we are walking. And in exile, we are as the Gentiles in their uncleanness, so therefore, we do nothing on the 14th.” That is quite an admission! So the Passover, so-called of the 15th, is actually the Passover of the rejected, because they have been rejected of God, sent into exile, sent into captivity and scattered. So if we keep a 15th Passover, guess who we're joining; and Satan would love nothing better than to get the Church of God to do that so they would reject Christ. So now you need to see the stakes that are at hand.

Now here, back to this merchandizing thing—this all fits together. 2-Peter 2:1: “But there were also false prophets among the people, as indeed there will be false teachers among you, who will stealthily... [now the Greek means *stealthily, sneakily*] ...introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many people will follow *as authoritative* their destructive ways; *and* because of them, the way of the truth... [Now, that's what we live. That's why in the series that I've been doing on *religion*—and I'm going to do one more to finish it off—we are not a religion. People will look at us and say, ‘Well, you're religious because somehow God is only restricted over here into this category they call *religion*.’ That's the way they view it. We're not to be religious. We are to *live the way of truth*. We are to have direct contact with God the Father and Jesus Christ. We are to be the sons and daughters of God and the brothers of Jesus Christ. And I finished the last video that I did by saying, ‘Who ever heard of calling a family—which God's way is—a *religion*?’ That's how Satan deceives people. He gets them out of relationship with God and into a religion. Now let's go on:] ...will be blasphemed” (vs 1-2).

- Has the Sabbath been evil spoken of?
- Has the Holy Days been evil spoken of?
- Has eating of unleavened bread during the Days of Unleavened Bread been evil spoken of?

You know, some people can walk into a former Church of God now where you can keep Sabbath or Sunday, whichever you like. Come for Feast of Unleavened Bread, well you can leavened bread or unleavened bread, whichever you like. Or you can keep the “Lord's Supper” quarterly, as the Seventh Day Adventists do; or weekly as the Catholics do—whichever you like. And that's how they've muddled down all of the thinking.

Verse 3: “Also, through insatiable greed...

[meaning: *to getting more and more money*. More and more and more and more and more and more.] ...they will with enticing messages exploit you for gain; for whom the judgment of old is in *full* force, and their destruction is *ever* watching.... [Then he gives a warning. This is something for all of us to heed.] ...For if God did not spare *the* angels... [now think of that] ...who sinned, but, having cast *them* into Tartarus, delivered *them* into chains of darkness to be kept for *the* judgment; And *if* God did not spare *the* ancient world, but saved Noah, *the* eighth, a preacher of righteousness, when He brought *the* Flood upon the world of *the* ungodly” (vs 3-5). And then all the way down through the rest of the chapter there.

Now, if you don't have the study we've done on 2-Peter and Jude, well, by all means get it. Because when 2-Peter 2 and the book of Jude are put in together like that, that tells a tremendous story. Because though they are similar, they bring out certain facts, and you can see things that are happening today in the Church of God. So what you're going through, brethren, is no different than the Church of God has experienced from the beginning. You're going to have the trial of your faith by fire—and fire is the trial. So, that's what it means to *freely give* because your *freely receive*. And so, if we all do the things that God wants us to do, beginning by loving God—and that's a primary and important thing. Now, I'll mention a little bit more about that tomorrow. I think it's very important that we understand it, brethren. And I don't think that we understand how much *the thinking of the world has affected the Church*. Now, I want to give you an example of some of the false thinking, and then we'll get into the meaning of baptism, since we'll have a baptism tomorrow morning.

How many have seen the ad of Michelin where there's this little baby inside the tire, and it's on the top of a hill, and it's coming down the hill and the baby's going like this coming down the hill. And then it flashes down a little further down the road. Here comes momma duck and her little ducky-poos crossing the road. And it looks like that he's going to smash into it with the Michelin tire. All of sudden it stops and the ducks are safe and they walk across. The little boy is like this—real happy. I saw a documentary on the background for doing that ad. It's very interesting. It was done by an all-female advertising agency. And it was done to sell Michelin tires to women. And it was predicated not on one single fact as to how good a Michelin tire was. And I often wondered, when I saw that ad, why is this ad kind of kooky? And I finally figured it out after watching this documentary. They are not interested in the facts. They want to get you thinking emotionally. Now, you know what happened? That one ad increased sales to women 25 percent. That's what they're doing to the children in school.

Now, I want all you children to listen carefully. **You must get the facts first!** Don't let the teacher work on you to tell you about self-esteem

and how you feel. Because how you feel has nothing to do with facts. Get the facts first before you get your emotions involved. How many lives have been destroyed when emotions get involved first? *Many, many!* And Satan is seeking to destroy your lives, though you are children, by getting you to think in wrong ways. Now emotion is not wrong, but get the facts first. What does God say first? He establishes that—let's go back here to Exodus 20 for just a minute—it's a most important thing. Yes we are to love God with all our heart and mind and soul and being, but we have to get the facts first, don't we?

- Can you have misplaced love? *Yes!*
- Can you love a false god? *Yes!*
- Can you be enticed with emotion? *Yes!*

So God gets the facts first. Now, this is for all of us, every one of us, because they have used this kind of thinking within the Church. Exodus 20:1: "And God spake all these words, saying, **I am** the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (vs 1-3). Fact! Before anything else. Fact is:

- God is God.
- God is Supreme.
- God is Lawgiver.
- God loves you.

Now then, you can start bringing in some emotion. God has given all of His commandments for our good. And He's given the fifth commandment to obey your father and mother that you can live long.

Now, I want all of you children to do this—and I'll bring it up also Sabbath: You read in the paper what young teenagers do when they get the car and they do what mom and dad tells them *not* to do. Is there any mother and father that tells your children, "Go ahead and drive as fast as you can with as much booze under your belt as you can get in, plus a little cocaine, a little marijuana mixed in with it, and just see what you can do." They're dead! In the graveyard! Why? *Because they didn't honor father and mother.* So there's a reason for that. There's a reason and purpose for every one of the Ten Commandments here. When you understand that, when you realize that, then you're going to keep yourself from making mistakes. All young teenage girls, do yourself a favor sometime. I don't know if they have them anymore—they have so many abortion clinics, I don't think they have homes for unwed mothers—but *it destroys your life* because God intended for there to be marriage and children within marriage. God intended it, so that you can have a mother and a father that loves you, care for you, provide for you, teach you, educate you, show the right way to go. And that's the important thing. And when you get to feeling that you can turn off your mother and father and turn on television and turn on your friends and one of Satan's devices is to put a friend between you and your parents, that you have more loyalty to a friend than you do to your mother and father. That's important to understand. And also, children today have almost everything they've ever wanted. And if

you don't get it—I've seen them in the store—temper tantrums! *Unreal!*

Then you can go through all the rest of the Ten Commandments here. Let's talk about baptism now. Let's come to the book of Romans, the second chapter. Here's the beginning of baptism. There's a meaning for baptism, which is profound. That's why infant baptism has no validity before God, because you have to know what you are doing. And if you are two weeks old and you're brought in before a Catholic priest, and crying and screaming and yelling and not even know the language, don't even know how to speak, you don't even know who your mother and father is, and this gink with a turned-around-collar backwards and with his cold hands grabs the baby and gets a little water and goes (mumbles) and you're so-called baptized. *That has nothing to do with God whatsoever.*

To be baptized, God has to do something in your life first! And you can all tell me a story. I told you a little bit about mine, how God led me to repentance. Now let's pick it up here, Romans 2:4—because something special and profound has to happen. Now you don't think it's so special, you don't think it's so profound because God is doing it in such a way that He's gently leading you to repentance. Verse 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?**" So God is the One Who's leading you to repentance. There has to come repentance first! Before baptism.

Now, hold your place here in Romans because we'll come back to it, let's go to John, the sixth chapter. There's something that's very important that we have to do which affects everything that we do. Which is this: *you must believe God!* Not just believe that there *is* a God, because the demons believe that and won't obey. There are a lot of people that believe that there *is* a God, but they *don't believe God!* Now what's the difference between believing that there is a God and believing God? The difference is this: *If you believe God, then you will do what He says!* Now think of it this way also: All of the words of God contain the promises of God and the promise of eternal life. So that's why after feeding the 5,000 here in John 6, Jesus told them when they wanted to know what is the "work of God"—now let's read it right here, v 28: "Therefore, they said to Him, 'What shall we do, in order that we ourselves may do the works of God?' [so we can be fed.] ... Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God: that you believe in Him Whom He has sent'" (John 6:28-29). You believe God the Father. You believe Jesus Christ. You believe on "Whom He has sent." That is believe in Christ, but then you have to believe the Father, because Jesus said, "If you believe in Me, believe in the Father."

Now belief is so important and profound because *belief is what you operate on*, isn't it? *Yes!*

Everything that you do, you do because you believe. Now whether it's a physical thing or whether it's a spiritual thing. To mail a letter, you believe that if you put it in a post office box, it'll go to where you addressed it, correct? You believe that if you have the money in the bank and you write a check on it that you can pay your bills. You believe that there's electricity in the lines so you turn on the electrical switch—that is unless the electricity's off. You believe the Word of God because it is Truth! And if you believe the Word of God then you're going to do the will of God. And that's what God begins to put into someone when He begins to call them and lead them to repentance, to see that each individual—and He does this individually in calling them—that his or her life is empty and sinless and it's futile to try and get out of it yourself, because you can't. That's why Christ is a Savior.

Now, come over here to John 6:44: "No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him... [So when you come to the point that you desire baptism, God is working in your life. God is drawing you to lead you to repentance because He loves you, because 'He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.'](Now notice): ...and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' ..." (vs 44-45). So who's doing the teaching? When you read the Bible, when you understand the Bible, when it does something to your mind—with the words of God as I recently wrote, which are 'spirit and truth.' It is God's Spirit which is acting in your life and in your mind to do it. So what happens then, you're all being taught of the Father. That's why, brethren, it is so important that whoever is going teach or preach, teach and preach the words of God because there is nothing greater or better that can be taught or preached, is there, really? *NO!* If the words of God are truth, *which they are*; If the laws of God are truth, *which they are*; And if God sends His Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Truth, *which it is*. ***Then God the Father is the One Who's doing the teaching, is He not?***

In this one profound book—you probably heard me mention several times about the Library of Congress down in Washington, D.C.—this one book. That's why Satan likes to come along, just like with Adam and Eve and say to you, "Well, God didn't mean that here." *He's got ya!*

I recently talked to a woman who's an ex-Seventh Day Adventist, who's going down the road to give up the Sabbath—by saying, "Every day is my Sabbath." And I told her, I said, "That's not what God says. We're to worship God every day, but every day is not the Sabbath, because you got to work." "Well, Christ fulfilled the Sabbath for me." Have you heard that? *Yea! One of Satan's way*, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump." Yes! That's why God has to do it individually.

Now, let's come back to Romans 2:12: "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law..." Because they're sinning even though they have no knowledge of the law sin still affects them, right? The law of gravity is always in action.

And there's this man—I forget his name—on this video, it says, you know, God's law is very tolerant. You jump out of a plane at 12,000 feet with no parachute it's quite a while until you land on the ground. But when the law then is enforced—when you hit the ground—it's very INTolerant! So, sooner or later it's going to catch up with you, whether you know it or not.

"...shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned within *the* law shall be judged by *the* law, (Because the hearers of the law *are* not just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (vs 12-13). So that's one of the first things that God does. He leads to you understand that you need to keep the commandments of God. Then He leads you to understand that breaking them is sin—and you need to repent of your sins.

Now, let's go to Acts 2:38, and I'm sure through the years you know exactly what this says. So let's just read it into the record here, because this is something we need to understand concerning baptism.

- Now, you should never be baptized to go to a place of safety. *That's the wrong motive.*
- You should never be baptized so you can marry someone. *That's a wrong motive.*
- You should never be baptized because your brother, father, mother, sister were. *Cause that may be the wrong motive.*

You're baptized because you repent of your sins to Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Now, when Peter gave this sermon—let's come back up here to Acts 2:36, very important. Not only was this talking to the Jews there that were at Jerusalem, but this was written down for our benefit. Because we need to understand this: In baptism the sacrifice of Christ is applied to each person individually—each one, individually—that's why you're baptized individually. "Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance that God has made this *same* Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now it takes a time to grow in the understanding of that, that ***your sins killed Christ***. And when you understand the greatness and the mercy of God's calling, to apply the sacrifice of Christ to you, and the whole meaning of baptism, it is going to open up your understanding and your relationship with God the Father so much greater, that it's going to be like a whole new life. That's why I have the one I did that I call *The Second Calling*. Because many people didn't know that though they were baptized.

Now notice what else it's to do, v 37: "Now after hearing *this*, they were cut to the heart; and they said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Men *and*

brethren, what shall we do?' [Now notice this is the same question that the carnal Jews asked so that they could get their food, 'what shall we do?' And He said, 'believe on Him Whom He has sent.' That is, believe on Christ. And if you believe then here's what you're going to do]: ... Then Peter said to them, 'Repent... [and repentance means: *stop, change, turn around, go the other way*, see that your life, living apart from God is without God and leading to destruction. And God, in His mercy, has called you. And you turn. And actually the Greek here means to —“meta” means *turn around*—“meta”—*change*.

- Go the other way.
- Go from your way to God's way.
- From your thoughts to God's thoughts.
- From your laws and rules to God's laws and rules.
- From your justification of your own actions to God's justification of your life.
- All of those.]

... 'Repent and be baptized... [now this is by full water immersion—I'll explain what that means in just a little bit.] ...each one of you... [You see this individually] ...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (vs 37- 38). And the gift of the Holy Spirit is going to change your life. Now if the gift of the Holy Spirit has not changed your life dramatically, then ask God to grant you more of His Holy Spirit, grant you more of His understanding, so that your life can be changed. We are to become **converted** in this change. That's what Peter said, just across the page: Acts 3:19: "Therefore, repent and be converted..." **Be converted!**

Now conversion is a process. There's initial conversion when you're baptized, receive the Holy Spirit. Then it's a process of "growing in grace and knowledge." Growing in God's Spirit. **Hungering and thirsting** after the Word of God and the Truth of God and Christ and hungering and thirsting after eternal life, which Christ alone can give. And **learning to love God**. And, I tell you, I've had to learn some lessons, because I would have to say that in our experience in the Church we did not learn about the love of God, did we? Oh we learned about authority, we learned about hierarchy, we learned about the Sabbath, learned about the Holy Days, learned different things like this—but where was the love of God? The love of God was only what? **Outgoing concern**. So it gradually degenerated into what? **Fear, intimidation, and letter of the law**. No conversion! No conversion!

Now, how many have heard the tapes on *Genesis 15*—I'm sure all of you have. That's going to be in the Passover book. Actually there are three chapters on the covenant of *Genesis 15*—had to break it down, write it out so it would be easy to understand. Now, let's come back to Romans, the sixth chapter here. And here's what baptism really means. First of all, God the Father draws you, leads you to repentance, then you recognize that you're a

sinner and you begin to have a burning feeling in you, some how, that you have got to have these sins forgiven. That you have got to have your life changed!

And so, what you do when you come to baptism is this: Let's pick it up here in Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein?" (vs 1-2). Now, that's why in chapter 7 he goes through about all the difficulties of growing and changing and overcoming and getting sin out of your life, through the Spirit of God. Because another thing will happen. When you have the Spirit of God you will be able to perceive more sin in your life than you ever thought you had. Why? Is it because you're a worse person? And how can you end up being worse after you've been baptized so you can be better and spiritual? Well, the truth is, you're really not worse. You're really seeing sin for what sin is, which you could not do before you had the Spirit of God. So you will experience that. We're not to live in sin any longer, so what do you do? **You repent of it!** And you grow and overcome. And all of us—all of us—are going to have some weakness that we're going to have to just struggle with all of our lives. That's just the nature of human beings, because we have the "law of sin and death" in us.

Verse 3—very important: "Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, **were baptized into His death**?... [Now, His death was the covenant sacrifice for the New Covenant. You're being baptized **into His death** means that you are also pledging your life to die in the death of Christ! That's why baptism is not for children, because you have to have a certain level of maturity and calling of God to understand that. You're baptized into His death!] ...Therefore, we were buried with Him though the baptism **into the death**..." (vs 3-4). Just as Christ was crucified; just as He was that sacrifice; just as He pledged His life to Abraham to do so.

(go to the next track)

So **baptism is a covenant death**—that's what it is. Now if you've never understood that before, ask God to help you understand it and realize that every Passover, with footwashing you're renewing your baptism. And ask God to help you comprehend it and know it and understand it, and let it become a deep part of your life.

Now there's good news. "...so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been [planted] conjoined together in the likeness of His death... [Now, planted together (*KJV*) means *co-joined or knit together* in His death—so that what it means in baptism. Notice he carries this on a little bit further: —now here's the other promise:] ...in the likeness of His death so also shall we be *in the likeness* of

His resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed..." (vs 4-6). And this tells us that destroying the body of sin is a process—**might be** destroyed. Not done all at once, because:

- we have to grow in grace and knowledge,
- we have to grow in character,
- we have to grow in experience,
- we have trials that will be there

—and, another thing with trials: trials always turn out never to be the ones that you think you're going to have. Because what happens if you think that you're going to get a trial in a certain area then you're going to kind of gear yourself up for it, so you will be ready, right? So that one never happens.

"...that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might **no longer be enslaved to sin**" (v 6). Now notice, it doesn't say that you are sinless. It says you shouldn't *serve* it. It doesn't mean you won't be tempted. Doesn't mean that you won't sin. But it means you won't *serve* sin—meaning *you're not going to live a life in sin anymore*, because he started off and said up here: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound?...how shall we live any longer therein? (vs 1-2). Verse 7: "Because the one who has died to sin... [through the operation of baptism] ...has been justified from sin... [Freed (*KJV*) is not a good word here because 'freed' actually kind of gives you the connotation of *having no sin*. But this means 'justified from sin.'] ...Now if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him... [So again it's a matter of faith, a matter of belief.] ... Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 7-11).

Now, when you're armed with this and the Spirit of God, then he says—v 12: "Therefore, do not let sin rule... [This means: *don't let sin have dominion, rule, in your life.*] ...in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law, but under grace" (vs 12-14). Because **law cannot forgive!** Remember that. **Law cannot forgive! Law defines sin.** So if you look to law to do away with your sins, you're looking to the wrong thing. You have to look to the sacrifice of Christ and His mercy and His love and His forgiveness, which is grace. And **the only way you're going to overcome sin is by the grace of God.** No other way.

So if you have a problem and trial and you have a sin you're trying to overcome, you have something you have to clean up your life with and

only Christ can do it, you go to God and you repent from the very depths of your being. You go to God and ask God to help you with His grace and fulfill His promise that you can't do it, that He can do it. Then you are under grace! But if you say, "Oh, I broke the Sabbath this Sabbath therefore then, I'm going to keep the Sabbath perfect for the next ten—that's under law. Because all your good Sabbath-keeping for the next ten doesn't do any wit good in taking away the sin of breaking the Sabbath before, any more than a murderer who murders someone and runs off and is not caught for 20 years, has lived an exemplary life and they arrest him and he says, "Well, I've been a good boy for 20 years. Doesn't that forgive me for killing this man." **NO, it doesn't!** So that's why you need the mercy and grace of God.

Now, let's look at something else here. When we come to this repentance—let's go back to Psalm 51—and this is very important because the whole purpose of repentance is not to put you down, not to make you feel miserable,

- **but to purify you through faith,**
- **to cleanse your heart by belief,**
- **to give you God's Spirit through forgiveness**

Now, let's notice David's repentance here: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.... [And boy, his were whoppers at that point, weren't they? Yes.] ...Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest" (Psa. 51:1-4). So this is what God wants. That's why repentance. God doesn't call people to repent to intimidate them and put them down. God calls you to repentance so you can see your real self. So that you can see God! So that you can experience His forgiveness and receive his mercy and have your sins forgiven. And when He forgives them, He forgives them and removes them "as far as east is from the west." Now that's a real deal, isn't it? I mean, you think about that. Is God merciful? **Absolutely!** Should we take advantage of the mercy of God and sin? **Never!**

Verse 5: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.... [He understood the depths of human nature. Not that his mother conceived him because she committed adultery—has nothing to do with that. Has to do with the nature of human beings being sinful. Now here's the result, v 6:] ...Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts... [that is your heart and your mind and your being. Because if that is there—and what is truth? *'God's Word is Truth.'* He wants it written on the inside of your heart and mind so that you live by it; you think with it; you act and do the things that you do because you believe the Truth and you believe Christ.] ...and in the hidden *part* thou

shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop [which is strong cleansing], and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out **all** mine iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart**, O God; [that's what God wants] ...and renew a right spirit within me.... [Now notice, he said here, v 11:] ...Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.... [David sinned so bad, he was worried about losing the Holy Spirit. Now there are some people today who have gone so far from God they better come to the point that they need to realize how much further can I go and still have the Holy Spirit with me? So they need to repent and come back to God.] ...Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit" (vs 5-12).

Now let's come over here to Psalm 86—very important Psalm, one that is very encouraging. When you get discouraged and you get down and you think, "Oh my, how will I ever overcome?" And sometimes the human nature battle gets so tough, because it is a battle, but we have the victory through Christ. Always remember this, beginning in verse one—notice how David prayed to God. Such deep heartfelt prayer: "Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I *am* poor and needy. Preserve my soul; for I *am* holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily" (vs 1-3). He is pouring his heart before God. Now if you're having a hard time praying, or you're not finding the time to pray and you know you need to, and you have a guilty conscience and you don't want to have a guilty conscience, well go repent of that. Take the Psalms, start praying by starting out reading the Psalms, apply them to yourself. Ask God to open your mind. Ask God to grant His Spirit, cleanse your heart—He'll do that! He'll restore you.

"Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. [Now, notice v 5:] For **thou, Lord, art good**, and **ready to forgive** [ready]; and **plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee**" (vs 4-5). So remember that. If you ever think that you can't go to God and repent, that's when you better go repent as fast as you can! I know many times, we make the mistake, we go along and we sin and we say, "Oh well, I shouldn't have done that, I know better than that. Well, I don't want to go pray to God right now because I'm too embarrassed. I'll wait until I can do better." Well, you can't do better. Because until you repent and take it to God it's still there, right? That's what's so important about God. God knows we're weak. God knows we have the "law of sin and death" in us. That's why Christ is our Savior. He provided all these things to help us, to heal us, to raise us up spiritually.

Now, let's come back to the book of Romans. You will have a couple of tapes coming in a couple of weeks where I talk about human nature and the nature that Christ had. And so, I won't go through

Romans 7, but I just want to cover some things here in Romans 8, which are very important and touch on this concerning having the Spirit of God.

Now, let's understand something here that's very important. Romans 8:1, as I covered, I think, during the Days of Unleavened Bread. "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation... [What religion does is condemn you and hold you in fear and intimidation. But if you repent to God, there is no condemnation.] ...to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh... [not out after carnal things, not walking the way of the world] ...but according to *the* Spirit; Because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus... [and we just talked about that 'law of the Spirit of life':

- drawing close to God,
- praying to God,
- repenting,
- walking in every Word of God,
- loving God, loving your husband or wife,
- loving your children,
- loving your neighbor

—all those are all part of it. That's the 'law of the Spirit of life in Christ. Giving you the chance to grow in the mind of Christ. To overcome sin.] ...has delivered me from the law of sin and death.... [Because it hasn't been taken out of your system, so you're not free in the sense that you are without the 'law of sin and death'—that means you've been delivered from it through Christ.] ...For what *was* impossible for the law to do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, having sent His own Son in *the* likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; In order that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit: For those who walk according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh..." (vs 1-5).

That's all they talk about, physical things: to have, to get, to own, to see, to possess, to use. All of these are physical things of the world. And after a while you can begin to understand that. After a while, that's why, when you really begin to comprehend it you're not going to want to watch television like you use to. You're not going to want to pursue after the physical things like you use to. Oh you may even do better in it, but it's not going to obsess every thought of your waking life. Now, there are going to be a lot of people who are pursuing after the flesh in the stock market. The day is going to come, all gone! Or whatever it may be. Look at the things concerning athletes that pursue after the goals of the flesh. What happens? *One day they get too old to do it*. And where are they? *Their bones are broken, their knees have been broken how many times and their legs and they're worn out*; then it's over with and now what do they have? You know, some of these football players that, you know, you watch them play football. Well they showed one episode of several men who were like tackles and centers and they can hardly walk. They were in pain

from head to toe, day and night. What do they have? Maybe they won a Super Bowl, maybe they didn't. They're pursuing after the physical things. People can go out and buy cars, buy homes, buy clothes, buy toys. Be obsessed with all these physical things. And what do you have in the end? *And upset mind, disturbed spirit, nothing satisfies.* So we don't pursue those things. We don't walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

"...For those who walk according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who walk according to *the Spirit* mind the things of the Spirit.... [And that means you live by every Word of God. You think by God's Word. You are concerned with how you are living; how you love God; how you love your wife; how you love your children; how you love the brethren—those then become the important things in your life.] ...For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace, Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it *be*. But those who are in *the flesh* cannot please God..." (vs 5-8). And as soon as the opportunity comes to sin, they do! And that happened down in Pasadena. The very first Sabbath that they announced that 'why it's okay, brethren, to eat unclean meat.' Do you realize how many church members—I won't say 'brethren' because they probably weren't—but how many church members were back in the foyer, in the auditorium in Pasadena, planning to go the Red Lobster and *eat all the unclean food they could that very afternoon* of hearing this sermon!

"...for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it *be*. 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..." (vs 7-9) And that is the whole purpose of baptism. God's Spirit is with you while He's calling you, opening up your mind, leading you, guiding you to repentance, drawing you to Himself. Then when you are baptized and receive the Spirit in you, that is the earnest of eternal life. That is the begetting from God the Father, that you will become His very own, personal, individual son or daughter. Just like with physical life every human being is different, special—unique. And everyone who's going to be born into the Kingdom of God will be special, unique and different—so much so, that God is going to give you a new name—name of Jerusalem, name of the Father and His new name. Now that's something! I think that with the Spirit of God, we need to raise our eyes up, as it were, more to God and see more of God's plan and how fantastic and great it is. And when that happens you'll love God so much more. And when that happens you will be *anxious* to repent. You'll be *willing* to change. You'll be *wanting* to be converted. Then you'll have no trouble praying, no trouble studying. Why? *Because you're motivated with God's Spirit through faith and belief in His grace.* That's what's needed in all of our lives.

"...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.... [And that's why all the scattering has gone on, to separate, to show.] ...But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the dead* is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the dead* will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you..." (vs 9-11). That's what's so important. Now, that's a promise. He's going to make alive your mortal bodies by His Spirit that is in you.

Now, hold your place here and come to 1-Corinthians 15. Did you know that you have a living, breathing, walking guarantee that you will have a spirit body? Did you know that? What is that? Let's read it: v 47: "The first man *is* of the earth—made of dust. The second man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust... [And that means carnal, physical] ...and as *is* the heavenly *one*, so also *are all* those who are heavenly.... [As Christ is raised in His glorified form now. Verse 49, here's a guarantee:] ...And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust... [What does that guarantee? That you'll have a spiritual body? *Just look at yourself in the mirror.* The fact that you have a body and the Spirit of Christ in you is a guarantee you're going to have a spiritual body. Let's read it:] ...**we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one**" (vs 47-49). That's quite a promise. That is a guarantee! God is not trying to keep you out of the Kingdom of God, brethren. God is not trying to keep you from being a spirit being. God is doing and providing everything to ensure that you ***will be!*** Now that's the way we need to view God.

Now, let's come back here to Romans 8:11: "Now if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the dead* is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the dead* will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you. So then, brethren, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to *the flesh*; Because if you are living according to *the flesh*, you shall die; but if by *the Spirit* you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live.... [That shows the whole process of overcoming.] ...For as many as are led by *the Spirit* of God, these are *the sons* of God... [Now, that's very interesting. It doesn't say 'as many as are pulled.' It doesn't say 'as many as are pushed.' You try this some time: you put a rope on the back fender of your car and you pull it real tight. Then you push on it and see if you can move the car. Never happen! You can put it in front and pull it, but God wants you ***willingly to choose to be led of the Spirit.*** And that's different.] ...these are *the sons* of God. Now you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the Spirit* of sonship, whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father'" (vs 11-15). That close, individual, personal relationship with God, that

Christ has provided into the Holy of Holies in heaven above. That's what's so important that God wants restored.

And I am convinced that He is going to destroy any Church of God that has a hierarchy, that sets itself to put ministers in positions and people over the brethren to cut them off from God the Father and Jesus Christ because you are called of God, have God's Spirit, Christ is your Savior—you have that relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. The ministers are to minister and to teach. And if they teach and inspire and help and show the love of God, then the work of God, in each individual, will increase, because then they go to directly to God the Father and Jesus Christ. And the more that you experience that and do that, the more you are going to be sure of your salvation and your conversion and that you have God's Spirit. And the more that you're going to see how that we allowed all the fleshly things of a carnal, corporation and hierarchy and all of these things to take people away from God.

Now let's go on here, v 16: "The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him.... [Now here's how to count all the suffering and difficulties in the world that you're going to come up with:] ...For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (vs 16-18).

And if you remember that, there will never, never ever be anyone who can come and take you away from God. That's what's so important. You will always know that in spite of everything God loves you. In spite of all the difficulties you've gone through, Christ has provided the way.

Scripture References:

- 1) Matthew 10:7-8
- 2) 2 Peter 2:1-5
- 3) Exodus 20:1-3
- 4) Romans 2:4
- 5) John 6:28-29; 44-45
- 6) Romans 2:12-13
- 7) Acts 2:36-38
- 8) Acts 3:19
- 9) Romans 6:1-14
- 10) Psalm 51:1-12
- 11) Psalm 86:1-5
- 12) Romans 8:1-11
- 13) 1 Corinthians 15:47-49
- 14) Romans 8:11-18

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *How Satan Confuses You with Wrong Thinking* (from someone in Tulsa, Ok.)
- *The Second Calling*
- *Jesuit Agenda* (series)
- Series on "religion"
- Series on Genesis 15

Study Paper: 2-Peter and Jude

Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

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