

Garments of the Bride

Fred R. Coulter—July 23, 2011

Won't it be great being on the Sea of Glass and see all those things happen and see how God is going to do things? Here's another scene:

Revelation 19:4: "And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, Who sits on the throne, saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!' And a voice came forth from the throne, saying, 'Praise our God, all His servants... [that's us] ...and all who fear Him, both small and great.' And I heard a voice like that of a great multitude, and like *the* sound of many waters, and *the* sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Hallelujah! For *the* Lord God Almighty has reigned'" (vs 4-6). He's coming! Notice all the warnings that are going to be coming down to this earth. They're going to hear this.

Verse 7: "'Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' [We talked about that earlier. How do you make yourself ready.] ...And it was granted to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for **the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints**" (vs 7-8).

That is symbolically telling us that we are going to receive clothes made of spirit matter—if I could put it that way. If you're a spirit being, you have to have spirit clothes—right? We're all dust of the earth—isn't that correct? This table is dust of the earth, but it's not a person. This building is dust of the earth, but it's not a person. So things are going to be made out of spirit for spirit beings, but they are not spirit beings, but things composed of spirit for the use of spirit beings. Does that make sense?

Didn't Jesus say, 'I go to prepare a place for you and if I go I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may also be'? Where is the place we're eventually going to be? *New Jerusalem!* New Jerusalem has got to be made out of spiritual material for all the spirit family of God. So whatever the garments are, it's going to look like fine linen, pure and bright "...for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints."

Let's see how Jesus phrases this, Rev. 3, to the church of the Laodiceans. We'll give a short message on the Laodiceans. Revelation 3:14: "And to the angel of the church of *the* Laodiceans, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginner of the creation of God."

What do we have here? *We have 'Amen,' which then is the final*—right? Then you have 'Beginner,' which then that ties in with the

'Beginning and the Ending.' And Jesus says this in Rev. 1 and He says it again in Rev. 21: 'First and the Last,' the 'Beginning and the Ending,' 'Alpha and Omega.'

Verse 15: "'I know your works..." Everybody has works. Let me explain it this way: Everyone decides; you can say that's not true I haven't decided. No, that is your decision for the time being—isn't it? Everything you do is a decision: a thought, then an action; a thought, or an attitude.

"...I know your works... [that's where all works start] ...that you are neither cold nor hot..." (v 15). Isn't it interesting that we live in an age where one of the very descriptive words that people use is *cool*, which is lukewarm? Why would God be so hard—of course, He's hard on the Laodiceans, He's also hard on the four other churches that received correction—on the Laodiceans? I think it's because of several reasons:

1. In a prophetic and historical sense it is the last church era, or the last church age, if you don't like the word era.
2. It is also because in this day and age that we have today, we have so many, many things concerning the Bible available to us, that we should be on fire with passion and willingness to work God's way.

That's why He brings it out here. But what happens, when you get overloaded, or your think you're overloaded? *You kind of turn off*—don't you? That's what happens when people reach a certain point. They figure, 'Well, we understand as much of the Bible as we can.' And they're satisfied with that, but God wants them to go on to perfection.

What happens when you become static? You're up a little, you're down a little; you're up a little, you're down a little; and you're not growing. So this is what lukewarmness is. God says here: "...and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth" (v 16).

I want you to stop and think that this is the best description as to what has happened with the Church of God. We have been scattered. Once we've been scattered, spewed, then He gives us the instruction, He tells us the cause and then He gives us the instruction as to what we need to do.

This becomes very important because all of these things fall upon us to see and to understand what is the Truth and where we're going and what we need to do. And part of the difficulties that we

run into is this: so many Churches of God—that is the different corporations of the Churches of God—have gone astray in different things and they are lukewarm because they have left the main purpose of attaining the Kingdom of God the way that the New Testament tells us to. Because of that,

- you've had difficulties with doctrine
- you've had difficulties with ministerial authority
- you've had difficulties in understanding the Bible

—and those things all amount to the problems that people are confronted with when they are spewed out. You feel alone; you feel adrift. Those who return and seek God, He gives the way to do it.

First of all, He defines the cause, v 17: “For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy...’” That’s very important. That’s the correct translation there. ‘Become wealthy’ means you *weren’t wealthy at one time*. What happens? You look at all of the blessings that are physical and you say, ‘This is from God’—correct? *Yes!*

If God has given them, how should we then really react? By saying, ‘Boy, we’ve got it made. Look what God has blessed us with. We have this, we have that, we have the other thing.’ *Or* should we not ever be satisfied with what we did yesterday and count that as ammunition to run on today? Every day we need to go forward, but if you’re lukewarm, you’re standing still.

“...and have need of nothing’... [I’ve heard people say, ‘Well, what more could we ask for? Look at all of this that we have.’] ...and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (v 17). What happens when you reach a certain level of blessings from God that God gave in the physical realm? And remember this, every physical blessing that God gives He expect us to use that as a springboard to do spiritual things, not become satisfied and rest on our laurels.

What happens when you don’t pray? What happens when you don’t study? What happens when ministers are instructed, ‘Don’t use any more than twelve Scriptures in a sermon and make sure they’re never over an hour long, forty-five minutes would be best’? Then this goes out to the ministry and what are they going to do?

This kind of adds to the lukewarmness even more. I’ve heard people say, ‘Boy, I just don’t get anything out of sermons anymore.’ Where are you? *Right there!* God’s Word is full! God’s Word is tremendous! We are to learn every time. I’m still learning. Read and study, got to do it every day. Every sermon; got to prepare every sermon. Don’t

go back and get those you did five years ago, because everything is different today than it was five years ago. People’s thinking is different today than it was five years ago. So likewise, every Sabbath we need to have something that we can learn, that we can grow in, that we can understand, that we can advance rather than stay static.

Here’s the counsel from Christ. This then is a matter of having passion, a matter of really working, v 18: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire...” We read that this morning—right? That then is what? *The real purified righteousness*. This is what you would call the finality as it were of the washing of the water by the Word. You have your mind cleansed, filled with God’s Spirit, led by God’s Spirit; God’s laws and commandments written in your heart, your mind, and your inward parts. You think with the Word of God, you live by the Word of God. You act by the Word of God because it is an integral part of you.

“...so that you may be rich... [May be! When do the true riches come? *Resurrection!*] ...and white garments...” (v 18). There are the garments. The priests and the Levites wore white linen garments. That is to signify righteousness and pureness and no sin. I imagine that they had to have a lot of new garments being made all the time to replace the old ones. If you’re a priest or a Levite, what’s going to happen? *Animal sacrifices!* Guess what’s going to get on you? *Some blood, some guts, some gore!* Well, it has been defiled, you can’t use it.

“...white garments so that you may be clothed...” (v 18). Now it’s very interesting!

Galatians 3:26: “Because you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did **put on Christ**” (vs 26-27). The Greek actually means that you have been ‘clothed’ *with Christ*. That’s a very interesting expression in the Greek: *clothed with Christ*. To put on the garments there, to be clothed, and white garments that you may be clothed. You can go to Rev. 19 and you can see that Jesus has those white garments, as well.

Revelation 3:18: “...so that you may be clothed, and the **shame of your nakedness** may not be revealed... [The ‘shame of the nakedness’ is that you do not have a right relationship with God. When you don’t have a right relationship with God, what happens? *You’re not able to handle spiritual things!* You’re not able to handle the problems when they come along.] ...that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see” (v 18).

Notice all of these things come from Christ: “I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified...” (v

18) But you buy all of these other things as well. You buy by your work, by your keeping the commandments of God, having them written in your heart and mind, the white garments, which is the righteousness of the saints.

So that your nakedness—another way of expressing nakedness is your carnality—is not revealed. Don't operate in a carnal way. And when you don't have the Spirit of God, and when you're not examining yourself, and when you're not praying and studying and repenting, what happens? *You don't see yourself as you really are!* When you don't see yourself as you really are, you go on out into the world and you look at all the people out in the world, and you think, 'Boy, there are a lot of sinners out here,' and you begin to compare yourself among them and, hey, you're still in pretty good shape compared to them—right? *False comparison!* Our comparison is what? What is the standard? *Christ!*

Here's what He says, v 19: "**As many as I love...**" He's got it right there. All of those who find themselves struggling with problems as the Laodiceans, remember God loves you. That's the first sermon that I gave in the *Love* series. The first sermon is: *When All Else Fails, Remember God Loves You*. Also to give you help and encouragement, also remember this: ***As long as there is life, there is hope!*** Never get so discouraged that you feel like giving up. Never get so discouraged that you think this trial and this challenge is too difficult. Remember: ***As long as there is life, there is hope!***

- you get on your knees
- you repent
- you cry out to God for His Spirit
- you cry out to God for His forgiveness
- you cry out to God for His love
- you cry out to God for His understanding and to clothe you spiritually.

He says: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten..." (v 19). Chastening is not easy to take. But afterwards, that's what you need to look to. In Hebrews 12, Paul was dealing with, at this time, is what we would call the *Laodicean attitude* as found in Rev. 3.

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... [that's what happens to the Laodiceans, but they just don't see it] ...and let us run the race set before us with endurance. Having *our minds* fixed on Jesus... [You have been baptized; you have been clothed with 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." You need to consider everything that He went through, and remember He did this willingly. Think of that next time you're struggling with a trial. He did it willingly, because *He knew* why this was necessary, and why only He could be the sacrifice to save mankind from their sins, because He was Creator. Think of that! What a fantastic thing that God did!

Remember this, too: Jesus said, 'I lay My life down for the sheep, and no man takes it from Me. I lay it down and have received authority from My Father to receive it back.' And this was from when? *The foundation of the world!* Quite a thing!

I want you to stop and think about that for minute this way. Since every one of us have our own sins and we need to be redeemed through Jesus Christ, we need to be forgiven through His shed blood, Christ did this for you, *and you, and you*—every individual separately, as well as the whole of all of us together. That's a tremendous thing. That's how much God loves us. When He says, 'I love you. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten.'

Verse 3: "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.... [this is what happens to Laodiceans when they become lukewarm] ...You have not yet resisted to the point of losing blood in your struggle against sin" (vs 3-4).

I have yet to come and anoint someone, 'Come over here and anoint me, I'm bleeding because I'm overcoming sin.' *No!* Christ did! You go back and read Psa. 22 and Isa. 53, and see how, in graphic detail, the things concerning the crucifixion were laid out way, way before, at least 1200-1500 years before. Then he gives an admonishment, much like we find back there in Rev. 3.

Verse 5: "And you have already forgotten the admonition that He addresses **to you** as to sons: 'My son... [right at that point, put your name in there] ...do not despise *the* chastening of *the* Lord, nor grow weary of being reproved by Him.' For whom *the* Lord loves... [Doesn't that tie right in with Rev. 3 that we just read? He says, 'I love you.'] ...He chastens, and He severely disciplines every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God is dealing with you as *a Father* with *His* sons. For who is the son whom *the* Father does not chasten?" (vs 5-7). God is dealing with you as His sons/daughters to be in the Kingdom of God. That's what God wants and He wants us clothed.

Revelation 3:19: "...Therefore, be zealous and repent." Sometimes we make the mistake of saying, 'Oh, I sinned.' I've done this; you've done it. What do you think in your mind because you're kind

of ashamed to go pray and ask for forgiveness? So you say to yourself, I said to myself, ‘Well, when I get things squared around I’ll repent.’ *That’s exactly wrong*, because no one can get anything squared around unless you repent first, not later. Don’t do it that way. He also says be zealous.

Matthew 11:11: “Truly I say to you, there has not arisen among *those* born of women *anyone* greater than John the Baptist. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.”

This tells us how much God has in store for us. I think that in this life we can’t fully grasp every fantastic thing that God has for us. And always remember this, as I’ve said concerning fulfilling prophecy, God does not fulfill to the minimum, or just a itty-witty bit or the whole world will miss it. He fulfills to the maximum, the ultimate. So, think of what God is going to give us to the maximum and the ultimate. That’s what He wants to give us and that’s expressed in this phrase:

“...But the one who *is* least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is taken with a **great struggle**... [In the account in Luke He says *with great difficulty*.] ...and *the zealous ones* lay hold on it” (vs 11-12). That’s why we are to be zealous. That’s why He *commands* them to be zealous back there. To be zealous means that you have *passion*. If you have a passion for it, they even recognize in the world that if someone is doing something and they have a passion for, they also are probably going to be ones who are perfectionists. In other words, their passion for it is so strong that they don’t want to have anything that is substandard. They don’t want to have anything that is just good enough or minimum. They want to do it to the fullest, and so this is what God wants for us, too. You “...lay hold on it.”

That ties in with Matthew 7:13, Jesus says: “Enter in through the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.” That’s the way of the world. Compromise, get along, go along, accept sin, live in sin, accept perversion, live in perversion—all of those things. The more sin, the more people expect it.

Did you know that Planned Parenthood right now is lobbying the United Nations to have the United Nations lower the consent for sexual participation for children to six years of age! The further you go into sin, the broader the way has to be in order for people to accept it in their minds as okay. That’s what breeds lawlessness. And what did Jesus say in Matt. 24 about lawlessness? ‘*Lawlessness shall be multiplied.*’ So hang on, we haven’t seen anything yet!

Verse 14: “For narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that leads to life, and **few** are those who find it.” *We are the few!* There’s no safety in numbers. **The safety is in God the Father and Jesus Christ!** God can add any number he wants. When you start looking at numbers, always remember Gideon. Remember what happened there? *God told Gideon, ‘I want you to go to this battle and I want you to fight against the enemy.’* Then they had the fleece episode—remember that? ‘Is it You, really, Lord? Okay, I’m going to put this fleece down and if there’s dew on the ground and the fleece is dry, then I know it’s You.’

He comes back the next day and found it that way. Then he says, ‘Lord, I’m not satisfied. I want dew on the fleece and dry ground. Then I’ll believe You.’ So God did that. So he said, ‘Okay, we’re going to go to battle.’ He sent out the word, ‘All of you gather your arms, your bows and arrows, your spears, your shields, and everything else, your slings. Come on, we’re going to go fight the enemy.’

They all came—30,000. What did God say? The numbers were there; everyone was ready. He said, ‘No, that’s too many. Now we’re going to sort it out, and I’ll tell you what you’re going to do. All of the men who drink water like a dog, those are the ones that I want.’ So sure enough, the number was 300 out of 30,000. And God said that’s enough.

If God is for you and fights for you; you don’t need lots of numbers of people, **you need God!** Besides, think of what He can do to the enemy. Go back and read some of the accounts. He can blind the enemy, He can make them have arguments among themselves and kill each other. Hey, that’s pretty handy— isn’t it? He can send angels to kill them. That’s even more handy— isn’t it? *Yes!*

Remember Sennacherib’s army of 180,000? Sent the angel in there at night—they’re all gone. Sennacherib gets up in the morning to go to the battle to come after Jerusalem and Judah, and here’s this strange silence all around. There’s nothing, *nothing!* And he looks out there and they’re all dead men lying on the ground. And all of the booty, and all of the pillaging that they did in the other countries and Egypt was all with them and the last stop was going to be Jerusalem. They were three days gathering all the loot. *Remember those things!* When you have a difficulty or trial, God is going to help you. Don’t worry about being the few! Never be discouraged!

It’s like the evangelist who had one man show up at the revival. You’ve heard this before. He was the only one there; it was a stormy night. The evangelist got up and gave him everything he was going to give, just exactly like it was a full tent of

people. That poor farmer was sitting down there like this, with his eyes wide open. When it was all done, the evangelist got down there and said, ‘How did I do?’ He said, ‘You did fine, but you didn’t have to dump the whole load of hay on me.’

(go to the next track)

Well I’m very happy to have been here, very happy to cover these things. I want to leave you with some encouragement. Let’s come to the book of Ephesians. Now the book of Ephesians really is one of Paul’s most inspirational epistles.

You will hear me preach out of this and use this many times, because we all need encouragement, and we all need inspiration. And I want to emphasize this: *Never get down on yourself that you wonder why God has called you.* I can tell you this. One of the reasons that God has called you is because you are willing to repent, you are willing to follow God’s way, that’s why.

That’s what’s so important. And I want you to also understand that because we’re going to have trials, I think we’re right in the area of the beginning of sorrows. I think every one of us are going to be met smack head-on with some pretty difficult trials that we’re going to have to go through.

I want you to always remember, as we will see here, that *God the Father Himself not only loves you, but is active in your life.* Don’t look and see who you are, as you are, and from where you have come. We are to become a new creature or a new creation in Christ. That creation is done on an on-going basis.

The point that is important for us to realize is this: As we grow in our relationship with God—which comes with prayer and study and living God’s way—you have to have all three, not just prayer and study. But

- prayer
- study
- living God’s way

Remember this, Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith...” And that faith is what you believe, and what God also adds to you as the gift of faith. Remember that *grace is your relationship with God.*

If you haven’t gone through the series, *God’s Grace and Commandment-Keeping*, do so. And if you haven’t gone through the series on *Grace*, you need to understand it, because grace is like an umbrella from God under which you are standing.

There’s one insurance company that uses the umbrella: Travelers. God gives us an umbrella. It is His grace, because:

- by grace we have been called, because God chose to call us.
- by grace we answer the call
- by grace we have been saved from Satan the devil
- by grace He has rescued us from Satan the devil.

God the Father Himself rescues us! And if you don’t think we need to be rescued, look out and see how the rest of the world is captive by him and just remember, *through God’s grace and through overcoming, we can overcome Satan the devil.*

So, “...by grace you have been saved...” And through then the grace you receive the

- Spirit of God
- love of God
- faith of God

All the fruits of the Holy Spirit; all of those are by grace. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not of your own selves...”—from within. Remember what Jesus said. He said, ‘Of My own self I can do nothing’; likewise with us. The more we yield to God, the more we trust in His grace and His faith, *the more grace and faith we will have.*

“...it is the gift of God... [You can’t earn it, though we have things we need to do.] ...Not of works... [your own works] ...so that no one may boast.... [This tells us what God is doing in our lives and God is working in our lives. God shows us His love. God shows us His concern, because God is doing something with you in your heart and in your mind]: **For we are His workmanship...**” (vs 8-10).

Remember back there in Jer. 18 that God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter, to see what he’s making. And if he doesn’t like what he’s making, crumbles it all up and starts again, till he makes it the way that he wants. And he said that ‘God is the potter and we are the clay.’ And so God is working within us to make us what He wants of us right now.

Verse 10: “For we are **His workmanship...**” That’s with His Spirit and our spirit, and remember with the Holy Spirit there are two aspects of it:

1. the begetting of the Father
2. the Spirit of Christ

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10). God is creating *in* you.

Now, carry this one step further. Remember when David repented of his affair with Bathsheba

and he was repenting in Psa. 51. He says, ‘Create *in* me a clean heart, O God.’ God is creating in you, working with the spirit of your mind and His Spirit. And the good works that we walk in them, those are the ways of God that we know of.

- His commandments
- His Truth
- His love
- His faith
- His hope

All of those things God is working with us. Come back here to Ephesians 1 and let’s see how God has done this. Now obviously, before God created the earth, He had His plan in mind—correct? *Yes, indeed!*

Paul really began to understand this. Let me remind you this: Every time you read and study an Epistle of Paul, read the first two or three verses. Those are the ones we rarely read, but these are really the most important because they set the tone for the whole rest of the epistle that he has written. And also remember this: *Epistles are special*. Epistles are letters. Look at these as personal letters from God through the Apostle Paul to us. There is no other so-called Holy book in the world that has personal letters.

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... [and that’s all the rest of us] ...Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.... [Think of that! Comes from God: His grace, His peace.] ...Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ” (vs 1-3).

We have:

- God’s Spirit
- God’s laws
- God’s commandments
- the Passover
- the Holy Days

We receive:

- His love
- His faith
- His hope
- the self control

All the things that come from God and those are all spiritual things. And the ultimate of the spiritual things are going to be what? *The resurrection!* Yes!

Verse 4: “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself...” When I was translating this, I discovered that the word for ‘chosen’ was in a special Greek verbal form. And it’s called the middle-voice verb. We don’t have such a thing in English. But middle-voice is *the one who is doing*

the action is also the one who is *receiving the benefit* of the action, so it is to himself. To show that’s what the Greek in this case means, that it shows God’s personal involvement by Him in your life for Himself, so that you are going to be a son or daughter of God. That’s how close God is working with us. Think of that! Forget where you came from. That’s not the question. *It’s where you’re going and what God is going to do* is the answer.

Verse 4: “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of the world... [This doesn’t mean that you existed before the foundation of the world, but He determined that He was going to personally choose those before the foundation of the world.] ...in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love” (v 4).

Holy and blameless means *qualities of God*—isn’t that true? *Yes!* That’s why we’re called saints. We’re sanctified. “...before Him in love; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself...” (vs 4-5). I want you to notice the personal involvement here. And it began right at the start of God beginning to call you.

Come to John 6. What happened one day in your life? What was the place? What was the thing that God used to get you started? And if you began to answer, God continued with you. What were the circumstances in your life that God led you to repentance?

All of those things comes from God. Listen here, John 6:44: “**No one can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me, draws him...**” That’s how we came to understand these things—from the Father. How does He do that? Well, you get the sermon, *The Spirit of God and the Seven Spirits of God*, and that will answer the question. God’s Spirit is involved in *drawing you personally to Himself* for what He is going to give us in the sonship.

Ephesians 1:5, again: “Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will.” I read those verses today and it still overwhelms me. God has willed that He wants everyone that He calls. Think of that. Now granted, God uses human beings also to work with us, but it is God’s Spirit that does the work.

“...through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will, to *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*” (vs 5-6). That’s something! Think of that!

Nothing else really matters when you come to understand this. And the more that we focus on this and learn from it and grow in the understanding and the spiritual meaning of it, the greater we see the

calling of God and the greater we see what God is doing with us. And actually that ends up making what? Making us understand more and granting us the humility that we need.

Today with the things we're able to see in space through the Hubbell Telescope #2, what they did when they put the upgraded Hubbell #2 up in space, because they thought that Hubbell #1 was really great. Remember all the good pictures of the universe and stars and galaxies and everything like that. They chose a place out in space that when they looked out there, the only thing they saw was the blackness of the universe.

So they said, 'Let's see what's out there.' They focused on that black spot out there, left it focused, and I don't know how long it took to get the picture. But when they got that back and they looked at it, it completely blew them away. They never expected it and they had to completely revise their estimates of the number of galaxies in the universe. Because where it was total blackness out of Hubbell #1, there was vastness of galaxies that they could not hardly imagine. Instead of saying that there were 120-billion galaxies in the universe, which was their previous estimate, they had to revise it so that there is an estimate of 360-trillion galaxies!

Now, *the God who created all of those, is the One Who has called you—personally!* So, the next time you get on your knees and you pray to God, ask God to help you really think on that and ask God to help you in your personal life to really grow and change and overcome. He's given to us so many things, *personally involved* in our lives.

Maybe one of these days, when He says, 'Well done, good and faithful servant,' He's going to say, 'And that is your galaxy.' So you see, all the trivial little things that we have to give up—*they are nothing!* That's why when He says, 'I love you,' you need to let that really sink in.

With the help of what God inspired Paul to write, and with what God has given as a witness to this earth, through all of those things, brethren, we can have greater understanding; we can have a greater relationship with God.

Verse 15: "For this cause... [what I just enumerated and many other things] ...I also, after hearing of the faith in the Lord Jesus that is among you, and the love toward all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you *the* spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* knowledge of Him. *And* may the eyes of your mind be enlightened in order that you may comprehend what is the hope of His calling, and what *is* the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding

greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the *inner* working of His mighty power" (vs 15-19).

I want to leave you with that, brethren; *that's what God has called us to*. When we leave, go on our way, there'll be another Sabbath next week, a Sabbath for growing and overcoming. This is to humble us, not to make us self-righteous to the world, but to understand the agony that the world is going to go through. I'll leave it with that.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 19:4-8
- 2) Revelation 3:14-18
- 3) Galatians 3:26-27
- 4) Revelation 3:18-19
- 5) Hebrews 12:1-7
- 6) Revelation 3:19
- 7) Matthew 11:11-12
- 8) Matthew 7:13-14
- 9) Ephesians 2:8-10
- 10) Ephesians 1:1-5
- 11) John 6:44
- 12) Ephesians 1:5-6, 15-19

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 1; 21
- Psalm 22
- Isaiah 53
- Matthew 24
- Jeremiah 18
- Psalm 51

Also referenced:

Sermon:

- *The Spirit of God and the Seven Spirits of God*

Sermon Series:

- *Love*
- *God's Grace and Commandment-Keeping*
- *Grace*

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