

Passover and the Love of God

Fred R. Coulter—March 21, 2015

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath Services. Before we get into the message today, I want to bring out several things that we need to have online:

1. *The Day Jesus the Christ Died*

This is a book we've sent out probably close to 30,000 of these altogether. Please understand that the whole purpose of God in the Bible centers around the Passover when Jesus was crucified—Old Testament, New Testament—and it goes from beginning to ending, and from ending to beginning.

To show you how important that it really is, Gen. 3 is the first recorded sermon from God to Adam and Eve after they had sinned. When they sinned and then their judgment included receiving 'the law of sin and death' within their members. Because they were created by God, He gave them a language right from the beginning. They could speak, communicate with God, they could understand. *God gave them choice!*

Whenever there is choice, then you also have to have a plan to handle if they choose the wrong way. We've got a sermon online, *What Would the World Have Been Like if Adam and Eve Had Not Sinned?* It would have been more like the Millennium. God knew that He had to have everything in place to go. That's why Rev. 13:8 says that 'the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world.' God had it all planned out.

God's plan is so great that it is absolutely fantastic, indeed. We're kind of like looking through a peephole here to try and understand it through the Bible.

After God talked to them about why they did it, Genesis 3:15: "And I will put enmity between you... [Satan the devil, the serpent] ...and the woman, and between your seed... [followers of Satan] ...and her Seed... [followers of God and Christ] ...He will bruise your head... [annul and eliminate all of your works] ...and you shall bruise His heel." Prophecy of the coming crucifixion, 4,000 years before it took place.

As you go through the Old Testament there are various prophecies of it, and so forth, which we cover in the book *The Day Jesus the Christ Died*.

Then we have another book for people just starting to learn about the Holy Days:

2. *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?*

All of the occult holidays in the world, the people are so deceived that they accept them as Christian. That's quite a thing!

Here we are nearly 6,000 years away from this prophecy. The world doesn't know it, they call it all Christian, so that's why in the book *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* we show where they all began and how it happened. How did the world get so deceived that they accept what God condemns as true and condemns the Truth of God as evil? There's a prophecy on that in Isa 5, 'Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.'

Here's a quote we have in the preface, by Dresden James (page viii):

"When a well-packaged web of lies...

I want you to think of, when I read this: Adolph Hitler, Barack Obama, the pope, the imams, all of those who lie, politically and religiously.

...has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the Truth will seem utterly preposterous and its speaker a raving lunatic."

Not many people can really handle the Truth. To show you how important that the Passover is, it is the most maligned, most assaulted, most substituted by those who should know the Truth—Jews and Christians—to say nothing of the other pagan religions.

Here's the book *The Christian Passover—14th or 15th*, when should it be observed and what is its meaning. We have just finished recording it and we're doing the final editing on it. Randy has it online right now, put it up on cbcg.org. Just to read the 29 chapters and conclusion—not counting the appendices; the appendices are too difficult to try and read, because there's Hebrew and Greek and things in there—*25 hours!* It all hinges around:

- when does a day begin and end
- when was the sacrifice given
- what is the meaning of the phrase 'ben ha arbayim'

This knowledge is so vital that Satan has attacked it generation after generation. The people of God are few, just like it says, so therefore, different people who have strange doctrines. *Satan has perverted everything!* That's how we ended up in the world with the Eucharist with the Catholics and the Lord's Supper with the Protestants. ***All of those things deny the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, pervert it and twist it!***

Today we're going to cover some very important things leading up to the Passover. We've already sent out the DVDs and the CDs that have everything on it. We have the:

- Sabbath before Passover
- Passover Ceremony
- Night to be Much Observed
- First Holy Day
- Last Holy Day

—all on one CD for the audio.

All of the videos are downloadable, streaming. So if in your home you have someone who is technically good enough, like Jonathan here, he could set it up real easy. If you have Wi-Fi, you can get a little attachment to your television screen and you can run it through your laptop and have the full picture of the sermon. So, we have those.

The reason we do this is because we want the truth to go out. God has made the technology available and the brethren are scattered. We have so many people coming to the website that we could not accurately tell you how many fellowship groups we have. We are running right now at 140,000 a month coming to the websites.

Don't despair that we don't have a huge crowd here. But nevertheless, on the Night to be Much Remembered and the Holy Day we'll fill room up. We anticipate about 24.

It's also very interesting that the book, *A Harmony of the Gospels*, covers the Passover, as well. But fully 40% of the Gospels wrap around the Passover. Then the rest of the New Testament tells us what to do after you have been baptized.

Just before Jesus died, or right as He died, He said, 'It is finished.' Then the veil that covered the front of the temple was ripped in two. The Protestants say, 'God's plan was completed.' They miss on a couple of other things. What this does is that this limits what they do, the most important thing is to have your sins forgiven. Yes, that is true. But what else is even more important than that is what do you do *after* you have had your sins forgiven.

I gave a short sermon one time, so I'll just summarize it. Jesus said in His last prayer, 'Father, I have finished the work you have given Me to do' (John 17). That's His whole ministry up to that point. Then when He died on the cross, He said, 'It is finished.' That was a separate special thing being the sacrifice for the sin of the world. That was a separate work in addition to all the preaching, teaching, and training disciples, and so forth.

When the last of the seven last plagues is poured out, it is said, 'It is finished.' The plagues against human beings has ended. Then after the Millennium and after the great White Throne Judgment, Jesus said, 'It is done! It is finished!'

Remember, He also said, 'I am the Beginning and the Ending.' When there's an end to a beginning, then there is a new beginning. What happens after He said, 'It is done'? A new beginning, New Jerusalem, new heaven and new earth. That's why it's so important for people to have the knowledge. That's why it's so important to have the information here in these books.

We better not be like the world. I'm getting reports—and you've probably seen it on television—how 'dumbed down' this generation is. If you have Fox News and watch Watters World, you have to be careful of all of the near-pornography that comes up with that, because he goes to spring break with all the college students bashing everything up. I just flip to another channel when that comes up.

But anyway, ***they do not know anything!*** Most people who go to church don't know very much anyway. They only know what they are told. If someone comes along preaching the Truth, then the first thing they do is attack the messenger. Then people back away because, 'Hey, you don't want to be with something like that.' Remember, what did they do to Jesus? *They killed Him!*

With the world the way it is, Jesus told us, 'These are the beginning of sorrows; don't be troubled.' When you watch the news and stuff, there's a lot of trouble.

We're just going to rehearse a little bit of the things leading up to the Passover. Remember this: John 14, 15, 16 and 17 are *the words of the New Covenant*. That's why, with the Passover Ceremony, which we have a booklet for that, as well, we read the words of the covenant.

These covenant words are *God's contract with us* and *our contract with God*. Of course, when we come to John 14, the disciples did not know what was going to happen on that Passover night. We see that in the message here in those chapters that Jesus is forewarning the disciples that there are going to be some difficulties coming. Not only that, but beyond in the time ahead.

John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me." Isn't that interesting? That tells us that Jesus is saying that He was God. If you worship anything other than God, you are sinning.

Remember when Jesus came through the storm walking on the water. Then the disciples were all afraid. Peter—the bold anxious one—said, 'Lord,

if it's You, bid me to come on the water.' He said, 'Come.' Peter stepped on the water, and he said, 'Oh, oh, what did I do?' He could have walked on the water, just keeping his eye on Christ, but he didn't, so he started sinking. When Jesus got into the boat, they worshiped Him.

Here Jesus starts talking about what *we* need to do always: *keep our minds on the goal*, v 2: "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were otherwise, I would have told you. I am going to prepare **a place** for you." That means in New Jerusalem.

A lot of this they couldn't understand. So, we are very thankful that God inspired the Apostle John to write all of this down, because these are some of the most important words we need to know.

Verse 3: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; so that where I am, you may be also. And where I am going you know, and the way you know" (vs 3-4). Not quite! That had to be revealed even more.

Verse 5: "Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going; how then can we know the way?'"

Here is one of the most profound verses in the Bible, v 6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

- anyone who rejects Christ can never come to the Truth
- anyone who accepts another Jesus will be confused and muddled in what they understand

It must be:

- the true Christ
- with the true calling
- with the true answering
- with true repentance
- with true baptism

The way of God is really something. It's a way of:

- truth
- righteousness
- goodness
- also of suffering

Acts 4 is part of the teaching that the apostles received during the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection. This is when they were brought before the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin had a special, what they called, the Chamber of Stones, which was all demolished in the earthquake when Jesus died. So then, they had to meet someplace else.

They wanted to know why they were preaching these things. Acts 4:8: "Then Peter, filled with *the Holy Spirit*, said to them..." This is an

official message from God. To the Jews you need to understand how official that is with the Sanhedrin. This represents all the Jews in the world.

- the whole life and death of Jesus Christ
- His resurrection
- the way they denied Him
- the way that they persecuted Him
- the way that they killed Him

All of those things were witnesses to the Jews.

Here it is to the high priest and all three of them there: the high priest, Caiaphas, the one who sought the death of Jesus and John and Alexander and so forth.

Verse 8: "Then Peter, filled with *the Holy Spirit*, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, If we are examined this day as to a good work *done to the* infirm man... [He healed him. He's been there at the temple begging alms at the Gate Beautiful for years and years.] ...by what power he has been cured. Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, Whom you crucified, *but* Whom God has raised from *the* dead, by Him this *man* stands before you whole.'" Quite a witness!

Verse 11: "This is the Stone that was set at naught by you, the builders, which has become the Head of *the* corner." Verse 12 is an amplification of what Jesus said, "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..."

Verse 12: "And there is no salvation in any other, for neither is there another name under heaven which has been given among men, by which we **must** be saved." That's very interesting in the Greek, because the word 'must' means *absolutely necessary*. What this does is tie right in with what Jesus said in:

John 14:6: "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..." Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ and only through the Father. Jesus also told the disciples another way they would know that He is truly the Son of God and that He is God manifested in the flesh.

Verse 7: "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. But from this time forward, you know Him and have seen Him." That's kind of a little spiritual double-talk as far as the disciples were concerned.

Verse 8: "Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and that will be sufficient for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long a time, and you have not known Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; why then do you say, "Show us the Father"?' (vs 8-9). Christ and the

Father are one (John 17). Separate individuals, but one God Family, one purpose, one goal.

Then He says to them, v 10: “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?...” By the Holy Spirit. That’s not two-in-one or three-in-one, being one. They are:

- one in the Family of God
- one in purpose
- one in plan
- one in goal
- one in Truth

“...The words that I speak to you, I do not speak from My own self; but the Father Himself, Who dwells in Me, does the works” (v 10). Jesus was in contact with the Father every single day from birth.

Verse 11: “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe Me because of the works themselves.” All the miracles that He did, and all the disciples were there with Him, saw the thousands healed and feeding of the 4,000 and then 5,000, walking on the water, raising from the dead, and all of that.

Verse 12 was fulfilled a short time later: “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me shall also do the works that I do; and greater works than these shall he do because I am going to the Father.”

Let’s see how that was fulfilled in the book of Acts. After Ananias and Sapphira lied about their intentions, which also tells us, what a lesson, when you say something, let your ‘yes’ be *yes* and your ‘no’ be *no* and then see how many mental arguments you have to try and get around that.

Here Ananias and Sapphira pledged to give everything of sale of the property, but they received more than they thought it was worth. They decided to keep it back when they had said they would give everything. Everlasting lesson: they were both struck dead and were taken out and buried.

Acts 5:11: “Then great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard these things.” Imagine how quickly that the ‘twitter-tongues’ were spreading that.

Verse 12: “And many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch...)” Right there at the temple. Here are all the leaders of Judaism, the priests and the rulers and everything, the whole Sanhedrin, and this got to be too much for them.

Verse 13: “And none of the others dared to join them, but the people magnified them; and

believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (vs 13-14).

Notice what happened; what a fantastic witness, v 15: “Insomuch *that the people were* bringing out the sick into the streets and putting *them* on beds and stretchers, so that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. And a multitude from the cities round about also came together to Jerusalem, bringing sick ones and those beset by unclean spirits; *and* they were all healed” (vs 15-16).

Then all the leaders rose up and said, ‘What’s going on?’ Then again, they wanted to do away with them. Gamaliel rescued them. So, there’s an example—greater works.

Here’s a promise, John 14:13: “And whatever you shall ask in My name... [according to the will of God] ...this will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

{Sidebar: We have twenty messages on *The Keys to Answered Prayer*}

Here’s another *if*, most important thing, v 15: “**If** you love Me... [that love is expressed by what we do] ...keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.” That is a literal translation of the Greek. Jesus being the Lord God of the Old Testament, that includes every word of God, as Jesus said.

There are some that were fulfilled and superseded by the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—all the priestly laws, all the sacrificial laws. Those are all replaced by a higher standard. Christ is our High Priest. We now have His sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, not the animal sacrifices. That’s why the veil was ripped in two from top to the bottom.

Paul wrote that animal sacrifices can never take away sin. We are not dealing with just forgiveness, like going to court and paying a fine and you won’t go to jail. We are now dealing with spiritual before God the Father.

Verse 25: “I have spoken these things to you while I am yet present with you. But *when* the Comforter *comes, even* the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things, and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you” (vs 25-26).

That was necessary for writing the Gospel. That’s why Paul was called to spend three and a half years in Arabia being taught by vision and being taught by Christ personally, so that he would be on the same par as the apostles were. We need to understand. What we’re reading here is what the Holy Spirit inspired John to write.

Verse 27: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you...” This is something we really need today with all the troubles that are there. Peace of mind, because of love and faith and belief in Jesus Christ. Never has there been several generations of people like we have now, so submitted to so many things that bombard the heart and mind, that act upon us all the time.

Never has there been any generation in the history of mankind, until this generation, where you can have visual things brought to you from around the world *instantly*.

We’re trying to use all those things with the websites and have the books downloadable, audio, text, sermons, video. That’s why we have churchathome.org and the things that we have there, so that we can preach the Word of God to people, challenge them with their beliefs. So that God can begin to work with people. All of the other Churches of God are doing the same thing, too. God is going to have a great witness. Never before have we had these verses so fulfilled as we do now.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now you were dead in trespasses and sins...” Stop here for a minute and think on this.

This may sound a little gruesome to some people, but God is practical. Which is better: trying to save the world with man’s own efforts—or even the church’s own efforts, because the church can’t save, only God can save—and try and help people who are so deprived that have to no background of anything. How can you save them in the wars? How can you save them with all the terrorist things going on here? Beheadings, crucifixions, and so forth. People get all despaired. It is a terrible thing, but what it shows you is what man can do to mankind under the power of Satan the devil.

- Is it not better, since they have *the law of sin and death* already in them and these experiences and they’re going to die, that they be raised to a second physical life?
- To have everything healed?
- To have all of the trauma removed?
- To have a time of peace and security to understand about God?
- *Yes, indeed!* Isn’t that better?

I look at those pitiful children that die of starvation and if you could have rescued them with enough food, what would their life have been like if they lived?

Some people will say that’s sadistic and gruesome. *No, it isn’t!* It shows the love of God that He’s going to give them an opportunity for salvation. He will give them a time of peace, love, truth, and understanding.

For us today, those of us who are going to be in the first resurrection, with everything that’s going on, we have a special battle to fight and overcome. That’s why:

- we need the Holy Spirit
- we need the comfort of God
- we need the Truth of God

Verse 2: “In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world... [Do we have that today?] ...according to the prince of the power of the air... [who has deceived the whole world] ...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience.”

How? *By getting their minds occupied with things of sins and Satan, sex and music, false doctrines, pleasures, sports, all of those things!* We can remember the time when television first came out. You could watch a sports event. All the television stations closed at midnight, give you a little rest to sleep. Now it’s 24/7.

Just take one sport, football: pre-school, grade school, junior high, high school, college, semi-pro, pro. They’re all on television. The players make millions and they’re all idolized and worshiped. You can buy your hat, shirt, glasses, trousers for whatever team. Same way with basketball or whatever sport you want. Now they want to try and get soccer in there, as well. All of those things.

What happens when it comes on television? *It eats your time up!* How much time are you going to spend finding out about God? Satan’s also got you working; he also has your wife working. He also has you paying a lot of taxes and has you in debt. He also has you that you have to live hand-to-mouth, payday-to-payday. That’s why Christ is going to return and the Kingdom of God is coming on earth. It’s going to all come to an end.

All of those things that I mentioned are all tools that Satan uses to get into the mind and heart of people. I’ll mention this again: music is one of the great things that Satan uses to keep people locked in to his way. Once you have all that music going around in your mind you can’t think of anything else.

When you go to the supermarket, just watch it. Get in their car and first thing they do is turn on the music. Can’t have a minute without music. They were in the store, there was the music. You get home and you turn on the music or you turn on the television.

- Where is God?
- What is life about?
- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?

They don't know. *Prince of the power of the air.*

Verse 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world.*"

That's why all the Churches of God need to get out and really preach the Gospel and get it out to the world. That's why we need to be doing the things that we are doing.

Let's come back to John 14 with the Comforter and with the peace. John 14:27: "...Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it fear.... [we have a lot going on in the world] ...You have heard Me say to you that I am going away, and *that* I will come to you *again*. If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I said, 'I am going to the Father' because My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it happens, so that when it comes to pass, you may believe. I will not speak with you much longer because the ruler of this world is coming..." (vs 27-30). Satan the devil right there, this was a dramatic day.

"...but he does not have a single thing in Me Yet *he comes* so that the world may know that I love the Father, and that I do exactly as the Father has commanded Me. Arise, let us go out" (vs 30-31).

***Tremendous words that were spoken here!
Fantastic!***

(go to the next track)

The whole basis for the Passover is *the love of God*. In John 3 there is one verse that everyone knows, but very few really understand. Whenever you use a verse in isolation then you can never come to the full understanding of what it means.

This is quite an interesting thing with Nicodemus. He was one of those who belonged to the Sanhedrin. He believed Jesus, but he didn't want to expose himself to criticism so he came to Jesus at night. He admitted, 'We [all of the leaders] know that You are a Man sent by God.' Jesus didn't answer any of his questions, but told him about what it means to be born again. Nicodemus didn't understand that.

This is an astounding statement because I'm sure that Nicodemus understood what this meant, John 3:14: "And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the same way it is ordained that the Son of man be lifted up... [crucified] ...so that everyone who believes in Him **may not** perish, but may have everlasting life" (vs 14-15).

If you read this in the *King James Version*, it said 'should not perish.' There's a difference between the meaning of *should* and *may*. *Should* is a

little less than *shall*. *Shall* means it's going to. You *shall* do this. *Should* is you should do this, leaving a little room for choice, but not much.

May is entirely different. It's translated this way because that's the way it is in the Greek. It is in the subjunctive, which is the same as *if*. Whenever it is *may*, that means there are conditions inherent in the statement, conditions that must be met.

"...may have everlasting [eternal] life." This also gives the proposition that you *may* perish and you *may not* have eternal life, because there are conditions to it.

The famous verse, v 16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him..." This means the one who is believing on a continuous basis, not just an acknowledgement and say, 'I believe that Jesus existed.' That's nothing; that's an acknowledgement. The Bible talks about belief. It requires

- action
- thought
- purpose
- continuity

"...may not perish, but may have everlasting life" (v 16). Plug in another Scripture. What did Jesus say in Matt. 24? *At the end-time* when there's lawlessness and 'the love of many shall wax cold,' but ***the one who endures to the end, the same will be saved.*** There has to be some endurance. There has to be things that follow.

We've already read that: 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' Here is God's love to us. Jesus told us of our love back to Him and to the Father. We'll see how important that is. You have to continue on to get the conditions. It doesn't spell them all out here, but it gives the thrust of the condition:

Verse 17: "For God sent not His Son into the world that He might judge the world... [at that time] ...but that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged..." (vs 17-18)—unto condemnation. Why? *Because you accept Him as your Savior for the forgiveness of sin!* But it goes beyond that.

"...but the one who does not believe has already been judged because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment: that the Light has come into the world... [Christ! He says, 'I am the Light of the world,' the Light of the Word of God, as well.] ...but men loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil" (vs 18-19).

In other words, they don't want to repent. So, here we have inherent in this statement:

- keeping the Truth
- loving God
- forsaking sin
- coming to the Light

Verse 20: "For everyone who practices evil hates the Light..." They do, don't they? People think, 'I don't practice evil,' but try and get into an argument with good-old Southern Baptist about Sunday-keeping, clean and unclean meats, and you will see they hate the true Jesus. They want the Jesus that *they want* to accept and there's a vast difference.

The scribes and Pharisees and the political leaders during Jesus' day understood that He was the Messiah, but they turned against Him because He didn't come and politically align with them. That's what they thought. Then they said, 'How can this be the Messiah? He doesn't come to us. We're the righteous leaders.' But they really weren't.

Verse 20: "For everyone who practices evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his works may not be exposed." Be exposed as sin; 'the wages of sin is death.'

Verse 21: "But the one who practices the Truth..." This tells us a lot. Practice means *to do continually*. What is Truth? *Jesus said, 'I am the Truth.'* He's 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' What else is true?

- Word of God is true
- commandments are true
- statutes are true
- ordinances are true
- God the Father is true

If you are practicing the Truth, that means *you are keeping the commandments of God!* That means you are *keeping the teachings of Jesus Christ!*

"...so that his works may be manifested..." (v 21). We are judged by our works. Protestants say, 'Grace alone.'

I got a nasty e-mail here some time ago on that. I answered and said, 'If that's the case, why did Jesus say to everyone of the seven churches, *I know your works*. Why did He say, *To the one who keeps My works to the end...* If you keep God's works, you're not doing *your* works. If you are keeping the commandments of God, you're not *breaking* them. That's why you have to go through all of these things.

"...so that his works may be manifested..." That he was exceedingly good, that he had such endurance that he did all of these things on his own. **NO!**

"...that they have been accomplished by *the power of God*" (vs 21). **God in us! The Spirit of God!** How does that come? *This becomes a very important part of the Passover*, because Jesus said, 'Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you have no life in you.' That's symbolically, as we know.

Let's see how these works are manifested and accomplished in God by the Spirit of God and our love back to God. Jesus said:

John 15:1: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman." Note Isa. 5 where God said He planted a vineyard. He went to get the grapes and they were wild grapes. The vineyard was Israel. The Church is also likened to a vine, and now we are to bring forth the fruits that come from God. This is how to do it.

Verse 2: "He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit..." This happens periodically, because Satan likes to infiltrate and then churches have to split. We've seen that and we've all gone through that. God takes them away. Isn't that a convenient way of doing it, though emotionally and spiritually it becomes very taxing. It is also a trial of faith.

- Do you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being?
- Are you going to keep His commandments under all circumstances?

Where was Satan the devil on the Passover night? *Right there with Judas!* After Judas took the sop, Satan entered into him to do his betrayal.

"...but He cleanses each one that bears fruit..." (v 2). If you know anything about vineyards, you know that the older the stalk is, after being pruned for so many years, the better the quality of the grape and the wine. You can't get good grapes off old branches, so they have to be cut and pruned so the plant renews.

That's just like it is with the Passover. We are renewed spiritually every year through keeping the Passover the way that Christ wants us to keep it. Human beings are made to be renewed.

"...He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you" (vs 2-3). If we love God, keep His commandments, have His Spirit, His Word cleanses us.

Notice the lifelong process. Eph. 5 is how we are renewed and cleansed. That happens to us spiritually and physically; our bodies are continually changing and renewing cells. The only thing it doesn't renew is teeth. I think that before the Flood they had teeth that would grow in, but now we don't.

Notice what the process is, Ephesians 5:25: “Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify it... [make it Holy.] ...having cleansed *it...*” (vs 25-26). Jesus said, ‘Now you are clean through the words which I have spoken.’ They just partook of the Passover.

“...with the washing of water... [Holy Spirit] ...by *the Word*” (v 26). The Holy Spirit and the work of God work together. You cannot have the Holy Spirit of God and not have the works of God. You cannot do the works of God unless you have the Holy Spirit of God. You cannot receive the Holy Spirit of God unless you answer God’s call, repent, and are baptized, then you receive the Holy Spirit. That’s why there are very few. It’s all here in the Bible.

Here’s why, v 27: “That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church...”—all resurrected from the dead; all have the ability to shine as the sun in full strength.

“...not having spot or wrinkle... [a type of sin] ...or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame” (v 27). That’s why we have the Passover. The cleansing is always ongoing. That’s why we have the trials and the tests.

Here is what we always need to be doing in our lives. This is why God has set it up so we have direct access to His throne. We’ll see how we stay dwelling in Christ and in the vine.

John 15:4: “Dwell in Me and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you *bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, and you are the branches...” (vs 4-5).

Verse 20: “Remember the word that I spoke to you: a servant is not greater than his master...” Or a teacher greater than the one who sent him.

Verse 5: “...you are the branches.... [that’s why we have to stay to Christ always] ...The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing.”

How does that work? Let’s see another surprise that’s going to happen to certain people. They think they are doing the work of the Lord.

Matthew 7:12: “Therefore, everything that you would have men do to you, so also do to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.” There again He’s holding up the Law and the Prophets.

Verse 13: “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; for narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way that

leads to life, and few are those who find it” (vs 13-14). Then He says to beware of false prophets and they come to you sweet, nice, lovely, purring, and educated. Then you have the other ones who are the opposite. They’re not educated and they don’t appear that way.

Verse 15: “But beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits...” (vs 15-16).

Verse 21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’...” Not everyone who says, ‘I believe in Jesus.’ If you believe in God and believe in Jesus, you’ve joined the ranks of the demons. They believe, fear and tremble.

But to believe the way it’s supposed to be, is you believe completely, continuously, with the Spirit of God. There are going to be a lot of disappointed people.

Verse 21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven.”

- Is it the will of the Father that you live in sin? *No!*
- Is it the will of the Father that you only use part of the Word of God? *No!*
- Is it the will of the Father that you give 30-minutes, once a week, on the wrong day, supposedly to God? *No!*
- Is it the will of the Father that you reject Jesus Christ and the New Testament? *No!*

I’ve got to give some sermons on ‘Chrislam’: All of the good doers will read out of the Bible these passages and will read out of the Koran these passages and we’ll have a wonderful ecumenical service. *That is the latest thing.* The founder of that is none other than Rick Warren.

Know this, any Protestant that gets on Fox News is not a servant of God. I will have to say Franklin Graham does a lot of good works, but unfortunately he may also fall into this category. He’s a nice man; he’s a good man as far as that goes. When you have Fox News, owned by Catholics, and have Rick Warren come on and give the Christmas Eve message, you know something is haywire.

Several comments were made concerning reading the Koran in schools, but you can’t read the Bible. Just recently there was, during a week of foreign languages, they had a student who spoke Arabic give the Pledge of Allegiance in Arabic.

Stop and think about it now. They will have all the wonderful moderate Muslims get along with everybody else and cooperate, get into assemblies

with those who believe in Jesus—that's fine—and then when they're all in there, remember the theme of Unleavened Bread, a little leaven leavens the whole lump. *Gottcha!*

They even have a Sharia court in Irvine, Texas. 'Oh, but we're just doing this for divorce and remarriage.' However, someone who does an honor killing who is a Muslim, what if he runs to that court and says, 'I want to be judged by this court. I just killed my daughter.' One man killed both of his daughters because they were dating non-Muslims. He was sent away to jail. Now if they have the court there and you come to the court and say, 'I want to be judged by the imams.' *Not guilty, he's only following the Koran.* See what happens? **A little leaven leavens the whole lump!**

Verse 22: "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name?... [there are a lot of them doing it] ...And did we not cast out demons through Your name?...'” Sure enough! Wasn't because of what they were doing, it was the name of Christ and belief in the one needing relief.

“...And did we not perform many works of power through Your name?” (v 22). Jesus said, 'Yes, you are just wonderful people.' **NO!**

Verse 23: “And then I will confess to them, **I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.**” —‘anomia.’

How could Jesus have done away with the Law if He's going to judge these who say, 'He did away with the Law,' and not accept any of their works and not let them in the Kingdom of God. Why would He accuse them of being lawless? **Where there's no law, there's no sin!**

Most of Christianity today is bordering on such deceit that it is incongruous. Rush Limbaugh said years ago that *liberalism is a mental disease*. I'll let it go at that, lest someone think I am a little too harsh. But what Jesus said here, don't you think that's mighty harsh?

Unless you're dwelling in Him, you can do nothing, John 15:6: “If anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned.” That's exactly an interpretation of what we just read in Matt. 7.

Verse 7: “**If** you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you... [He always did the things that pleased the Father] ...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you.... [in God's time and in God's way] ...In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples” (vs 7-8).

Then we get to the power of the personal relationship that we are to have with God the Father and Jesus Christ in our lives.

- you can't have that relationship *if you're living in sin*
- you can't have that relationship *if you are keeping Sunday and if you are keeping the holidays of this world*
- you can't have that relationship *if you use only the Old Testament and not the New Testament*
- Or if you use only the New Testament and not the Old Testament

Doesn't work that way. You can't work it if you bring in Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or any of those other things.

That's why the Passover is so attacked, because Satan the devil knows that if you have the Spirit of God, and if you keep the Passover the way God wants you to keep it, and you are growing in grace and knowledge, if you are continually repenting of your sins and overcoming, **you will receive eternal life!**

Satan doesn't want you to have that. Therefore, you have all of these problems with the Passover. That's why! Those are the covenant things of God. If Satan can move you away from the covenant a step at a time, a little leaven leavens the whole lump!

Verse 9: “As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; live in My love.” You can write this down, we've covered this before, but this is what we need to remember:

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

That's the high standard. The difficulty that we have is that because we still have human nature, and we still have the things of growing, changing, overcoming, that we fall short of these things. We'll explain how it works. That's why there's repentance. I covered that God always honors Godly repentance. You can say, He says, 'Live in My love,' then you can just insert the word *how?*

Verse 10: “If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love.” That's what it's all about with the Passover. Look at what Jesus did to give His life.

Verse 11: “These things I have spoken to you, in order *that* My joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you” (vs 11-

12). That's why we need to settle all disputes and problems between each other as they occur.

Verse 13: "No one has greater love than this: that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do whatever I command you" (vs 13-14). Think of that! ***You are a friend of Jesus Christ and God the Father!*** That's an amazing thing to contemplate. That's why He is so selective. That's why God does the calling. When we answer the call and proceed with baptism, and so forth.

Verse 15: "No longer do I call you servants, because the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends because I have made known to you all *the* things that I have heard from My Father. **You yourselves did not choose Me, but I have personally chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go forth and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; so that whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He may give you**" (vs 15-16).

Peter had to learn the lesson that very night. Peter said, 'Oh, Lord, that will never happen to You. I'm willing to go to the death and go to jail with you.' All the disciples said, 'Yea!' Jesus told Peter, 'Today, in this very night, you will deny Me three times,' and he did. That's based on that you can't choose God on your own.

Let's see something else that's very important for us to realize, also written by John. This is also why we keep the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I just want you to think about 1-John 1 in relationship to your life, your relationship with God. Forget about all the troubles and difficulties. Those can all be solved, those can all be repented of and put aside.

1-John 1:3: "That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—is with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ"—*directly!* That's what the grace of God is. That's why when you have organizations and hierarchies and you have all of these other things you are not following what Jesus told His disciples.

Let's look at what happened to Peter again, after Jesus was resurrected. Remember they were all out fishing. Jesus came along by the shore there. He beckoned the men, created a fire, created some fish and was cooking them right on the barbeque there. The disciples didn't know it was Jesus until after they got a little closer to the shore.

Peter then jumped into the water. He was nearly naked and didn't want to be seen by Jesus that way. After they came up and they were there talking, Jesus asked Peter three times. Peter denied Jesus

three times now Jesus asked Peter three times: 'Peter, do you love Me?' He says, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love You.' Jesus said, 'Feed My sheep.' Then He said the second time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' He said, 'Yes, Lord, You know I love You.' Jesus said, 'Shepherd My sheep.' Jesus asked Peter the third time, 'Do you love Me?' Peter said, 'Yes, Lord, he was really upset. Jesus said, 'Feed My lambs.' That applies to every minister. *Teaching the people of God the Word of God* is what every minister, elder, teacher and evangelist needs to do.

Jesus said, 'I came to serve.' That's what it has to be: *teach the Word of God!* That's what Paul wrote to Timothy, 'Preach the Word! Be instant in season and out of season.' Why? Because everyone who has the Spirit of God stands before God in the grace of God, with direct access to God the Father and Jesus Christ with *no man, rule, or regulation of men* in between. That's why the New Covenant is so select.

Here's how we are able to change, grow, and overcome with this fellowship. Verse 4: "These things we are also writing, so that your joy may be completely full. And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you: that God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. **If** we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness..." (vs 4-6). You're not keeping His commandments or walking in the Truth.

"...we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth. However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin" (vs 6-7).

Think on this! What did John say? He said *we*. John is including himself in this writing. That shows that John himself had to overcome sin. That shows that he had to repent, just like it says here. Compare that with the Catholics of making saints out of all these sinning men.

"...and we are not practicing the Truth" (v 6). That's the whole way of life that we need to be living.

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us" (vs 7-8). This verse means to say 'we do not have a sinful nature. We're good people. We make some mistakes.'

That's why Paul wrote there about the law of sin and death (Rom. 7). Growing and overcoming

human nature is a lifelong project. John says so, because he says *we*, not *you*, but *we*. If you take the ‘w’ and turn it upside down, you have *me*.

Here’s the thing, tie this in with Matt. 6 about the daily prayer, v 9: “If we confess our own sins...” What did Jesus say about forgiving the sins of the brethren? *Seven times seven and from the heart*.

“...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (v 9). By the cleansing of the washing of the water by the Word.

- this is how we overcome
- this is what the Passover is all about
- this is why God has said it this way

Verse 10: “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.”

1-John 2:1: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And, *yet*, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the Righteous*.”

So, confess sins if we sin (1-Jh 1:9). Why is it put in the *if* clause? Because you don’t know if you’re going to sin or not. You may be lying in bed and you woke up and have a great attitude and everything is really wonderful and nice. You even prayed to God and thanked Him for everything He has done. You get out of bed and you fall down and you break your leg, and you say expletives. Now you have two problems: broken leg and taking God’s name in vain.

Verse 2: “And He is *the* propitiation for our sins...” A continual source of forgiveness and atoning *if we confess from the heart!* God is great and His plan is so great that notice the rest of this, but it has to be in God’s time.

“...and not for our sins only... [lest we get all uplifted in vanity and say, ‘Oh, God’s on my side, but he isn’t on your side’] ...but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (v 2).

Let’s see how abundant that’s going to be, and keep these things in mind when we come to the Passover.

Matthew 12:30: “The one who is not with Me is against Me... [you can’t be with Christ unless you’re practicing the Truth] ...and the one who does not gather with Me scatters. Because of this, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men except the blasphemy against the *Holy Spirit*; *that shall not be forgiven to men*” (vs 30-31). That is a total rejection of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

We have two messages in the Hebrew series that goes into what is the unpardonable sin. If you’re

worried you’ve committed the unpardonable sin, you haven’t done it. If you commit the unpardonable sin, you will have no conscience or questioning whether you have or not.

Notice what Jesus covers here, v 32: “And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age nor in the coming *age*.” That ties right in there with 1-John 1 and the first couple verses there in the second chapter.

Yes, our sins *can be* forgiven—*are* forgiven. We have ready access to God with His Spirit all the time.

When you understand the Word of God, and God is dealing with you *before you’re baptized*, you begin to see that you’re sinning. You begin to understand that these sins are in the mind.

After you’re baptized and you receive the Holy Spirit of God, the washing and the cleansing of the water by the Word, in growing, changing, and overcoming, *God’s Spirit within* will reveal sins that are there that you can repent of when they come to your remembrance.

We do not know, especially in this age of mass communication like we have today, how many sinful things enter our minds just by a flash of a vision or hearing of words. They never had that in the past.

If you’ve ever watched the DVD *Israel of the Alps*, they were so high up in the mountains and so far removed from anyone, they had no problems with that.

Today we are overrun with sin. We are overrun with Satan’s way. That’s why it’s so important we keep the Sabbath; we need some rest.

Keep these things in mind as we come to the Passover!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 3:15
- 2) John 14:1-6
- 3) Acts 4:8-12
- 4) John 14:6-12
- 5) Acts 5:11-16
- 6) John 14:13-15, 25-27
- 7) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 8) John 14:27-31
- 9) John 3:14-21
- 10) John 15:1-3
- 11) Ephesians 5:25-27
- 12) John 15:4-5, 20, 5
- 13) Matthew 7:12-16, 21-23

- 14) John 15:6-16
- 15) 1-John 1:3-10
- 16) 1-John 2:1-2
- 17) Matthew 12:30-32

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 13:8
- Isaiah 5
- John 17; 15:26
- Matthew 24
- Romans 7
- Matthew 6

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- *Keys to Answered Prayer*
- *God Honors Godly Repentance*
- *Hebrews: Unpardonable Sin #28-29*

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- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter
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Booklet: *The Christian Passover Ceremony*

DVD: *Israel of the Alps* (produced by the 7th-Day Adventist Church)

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 03-30-15

Formatted: bo—3-31-15

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