

## Anchored to Christ

James Saunders—February 21, 2015

Welcome to Sabbath services, everyone. I appreciate being here in Hollister, California, with beautiful sunshine.

Currently, three things stand out in my mind. I'm a techie guy, I look after computers for an insurance company, 134 users and IP phones, so I use the web a lot. At home we do not have cablevision; we cut it off. We use Internet and I get my news from about six or seven newspapers on the web, some Canadian, some American. Fox News is one of them and Huffington Post is another wild source, because they have stuff from the UK as well as Canada and the United States, so you can compare stories. Most of it is managed news.

I don't know where you really get the whole truth, other than from the Word of God. But the three things that stand on in the last couple of months. One is that they're focused on find new worlds out there. They found what they call a 'super-earth,' and they speculate like crazy about it; it could be this and what if? They call it science, but it's not science. It's not science at all, it's speculation.

Science is when you make a hypothesis and then you yoke together data as to whether it's true or not true. If it's not true, you discard that hypothesis and come up with a new one. It's like the 'theory' of evolution is now 'factual science,' which is nonsense! It's still a 'theory,' nobody has proved anything.

The second one is that they're really starting to go hot and heavy again on UFOs. Wasn't it an American official—who was an advisor to Obama—that just resigned or left office, and he said that he didn't get all of the files released on UFOs. He wanted to do that, to show the people what *they think* the truth is.

The third one is really wild: vaccinate, *vaccinate, vaccinate!* It's everywhere! The pressure to get... There are headlines that say 'we want everybody vaccinated,' even the children in your precious private school. They want to do that in both countries—United States and Canada. The border, in a lot of ways, does not exist when it comes to things like that.

- What do you do in all of this?
- Why are they doing all of this?

When the world goes crazy on you, it's abandoning God, but man needs God. He need a replacement, so he comes up with a replacement.

Proverbs 21:2: "Every way of a man *is* right

in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts." Man *thinks* what he's doing is right. But he *needs* God. He does not have then inherent ability to govern himself.

Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of Him are perceived from *the creation of the world*, being understood by the things that were made—both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse; because when they knew God, they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but they became vain in their own reasonings, and their foolish hearts were darkened. While professing themselves to be *the wise ones*, they became fools" (vs 20-22).

Yet, they don't really know they're fools; they think they're the wise ones. They need God, so they invent alternate gods. They don't know they're doing it, but they rejected the *real* God and now it can be anything:

- going to the gymnasium
- sports
- a politician
- whatever

They need it because God built it into man, we're not just an island unto ourselves' we need help from God. Man has great difficulty in imagining a spirit being, which is why they create gods with icons and statues, because 'I can see my god in front of me.'

John 3—Christ is explaining to Nicodemus, not answering his question. That's what's so nice about all the words of Christ. When people ask Him questions... I remember the first time going through this many years ago and I thought, 'He never answers their questions.' He comes up with what He knows they need to know.

John 3:8: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know *the place* from which it comes and *the place* to which it goes; so *also* is everyone who has been born of the Spirit." Until recently—with technology today—what they can do with CGI and movies, they can create a spirit being, sort of, and have it walk through walls.

Prior to that—even today most people cannot imagine a spirit being and what it would be like to be a spirit being. All of you attempt to think through that, what it is going to be like to have a body that isn't rusting out, doesn't ache, go where you will.

I personally believe that you're not going to be limited to the speed of light in travel, because

when you know the physics of the universe that's out there, and God created all of that, how do you get to all of those to do whatever it is that we're supposed to do—which we don't know, yet; Christ is going to tell us. God will have further plans for that.

Imagining a spirit being is very, very difficult for man to do, hence, he creates gods of his own, that he can see and manipulate; he creates them, generally speaking, in *his own* image. Hence, they come up with aliens and worlds where beings live, and all of that good thing.

- Why is this not possible?
- Why is not possible for there to be worlds out there with human beings on it right now?

2-Corinthians 5:14: “For the love of Christ compels us, *because* we have thus concluded that if one died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but to Him Who died for them and was raised again” (vs 14-15). He died for all!

If there are other worlds out there with individuals alive—human beings—Christ would have to go there and die for them, as well. That's not what the Scripture says. So, that's not possible for there to be worlds out there with human beings on it alive, according to Scripture. If you don't know the Bible, it's not an obvious answer. If you know Scripture, it's an obvious answer.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” It doesn't not say *God loved many worlds*. It just says, “...the world...”—the world that God created. If He was available to all those other worlds, it would say, ‘God so love all the worlds...’ But it doesn't.

In order to understand *spirit beings*, and what it's like, *faith is needed!*

Hebrews 11: “Now, faith is *the* substance of *things* hoped for, and *the* conviction of things not seen.” The faith you have that Christ is a spirit being, God is a spirit being, and we're going to become spirit beings; that has to be a powerful faith, because you can't see any of it. You don't know what it looks like. You have no clue even what language you're going to use, or how you're going to think. But we have the faith because we have God's Spirit and Christ Spirit in us. That's going to be so. You don't have to show me today, I *know* it's going to happen. That's the important thing in understanding faith, true faith, that you're going to see all that when Christ returns and the resurrection occurs.

That's why there's all that craziness out

there, because people are pursuing other than the *true* God. Everyone is pursuing their own gods: money, fame, fortune, people, individuals or hugging trees. That's their god, going out and saving trees, that's what their focused on, that's their life.

How do we cope with all of this craziness? **We have to stay anchored in Christ to do it!** This is vital in today's world where you're constantly bombarded by media. It's everywhere, and it's so quick. A lot of it is now visual. When I grew up it was radio. So, you could imagine things in your head, the words you heard; you didn't see them like television. Now it's hard to look at television and know whether it's real or is it something they cooked up with Photoshop or CGI; it's tougher and tougher to understand.

Romans 12:2: “Do not conform yourselves to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what *is* well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God.” Be transformed; that is critical, and we have to work on it on a daily basis. You get bombarded daily! Every day we're being bombarded!

2-John 6: “And this is the love of God: that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, exactly as you heard from *the* beginning, that you might walk in it because **many deceivers** have entered into the world—those who do not confess *that* Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is *the spirit of* the deceiver and the antichrist” (vs 6-7).

Satan is out there wanting you to have your gods, which often inspired by him, so you're really worshiping him. You have to be aware that that's out there all the time. He likes to throw darts at you.

Colossians 2:20: “Therefore, if you have died together *with Christ* from the elements of the world... [which you have been baptized] ...why are you subjecting yourselves to *the decrees of men* as if you were living in *the world*? ”

A lot of people do that. They listen to the media, and they want to fight: fight for Christ, fight for God, fight for Truth. Now is not the time to be doing this. You're not going to win doing that. You're fighting Satan and the elements of the world, and it's just not going to work. Be aware that that's going on.

1-John 2:15: “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world....” That's tough one, because there are all kinds of enticing things in the world; from brand new shiny cars that you can get for no money down to vacations in all kinds of places you really don't want to go.

“...If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because everything that *is* in the

world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes..." (vs 15-16)—which is what the media and especially television is totally focused on, appealing to your eyes.

"...and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever" (vs 16-17). So, you have to do the will of God. You have to work at it, it's not easy; it's a day-to-day thing. We all goof every day, and you're looking at prime suspect #1 here.

- you have to repent on a daily basis
- you have to pray on a daily basis

to combat all the craziness that is out there and *stay anchored in Christ!*

Ephesians 6:10: Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the Lord*, and in the might of His strength. Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual power of wickedness in high *places*" (vs 10-12).

Yet, the people that are in the "...high *places*..." don't realize that's what's governing them, because they can't see it. But it's there!

Verse 13: "Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having worked out all things, to stand. Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth..." (vs 13-14).

- God's Word is Truth
- Christ is Truth
- the commandments are Truth

"...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness, And having your feet shod with *the* preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (vs 14-16). And they're there *every day!*

- thoughts in your head
- things from television
- ✓ that come at you
- ✓ that instantly sound good

You have to be aware of what they are, and you compare it against what you know of the Word of God so that you can combat that.

Verse 17: "And put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying at all times with all prayer and supplication in *the* Spirit, and in this very thing

being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (vs 17-18).

It's important in this time of craziness. And if you see a brother or sister that is getting caught up in a way, it's right and proper for you to point that out to them, in a kind way, that they're not to be this way. Don't let it carry you away. No, you can't become President and fix everything as a Christian. You're going to have to wait until Christ comes and the resurrection and we're true spirit beings and look after things the way they're supposed to be looked after.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 21:2
- 2) Romans 1:20-22
- 3) John 3:8
- 4) 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- 5) John 3:16
- 6) Hebrews 11:1
- 7) Romans 12:2
- 8) 2 John 6-7
- 9) Colossians 2:20
- 10) 1 John 2:15-17
- 11) Ephesians 6:10-18

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