

The Church That Is and Is Not, Yet Is

Fred R. Coulter—May 21, 2016

I want to cover a couple of things here that are very important for us to understand. I think it's very good, I think also Eric and Frans did an excellent presentation in their messages. It really shows how God works with individuals and helps them speaking in ways that are effective for the people of God comes from the heart. It shows that what makes speaking effective is:

1. God's Spirit
2. desire from within

Having the laws of God and commandments of God written in our heart and mind.

3. a desire to serve

The desire to serve is not exaltation or anything like that.

Andrew told me when I first talked to him that people in Malaysia said that Christian Biblical Church of God is not a church. As he said in his message, 'wherever two or three are gathered, there's where the Church of God is, because Christ is in the midst.'

I'm sure there are a lot of people who know very little about Christian Biblical Church of God, other than on the website and Church at Home (churchathome.org) and some of our books and booklets. Were they surprised to hear that we're going to have conference, Andrew? *They were!* They probably thought two or three would be here.

I did a little figuring last night. How does the Christian Church of God function with those participating in the Church? I've kind of nicknamed the Church this way: Christian Biblical Church of God is a Church *that is*—we do exist; *that was*—because we came from other churches; and, *yet, is not*—because it's hard to find us. We'll peel back the veil just a little bit. For everybody's information we are not financed by rich people.

Guess how many elders we have? *We'll have one more after we get done this morning!* Eighteen plus Russell Kemp, who will be ordained here shortly, that's 19! I think that qualifies that *we are!*

1. Roger Kendall
2. Marlin Fannin
3. Gene Palm (not able to be here because of his wife and condition)
4. Steve Durham
5. Roger Tointon (the man up here leading the songs)

6. Lyall Johnston from New Zealand (he got sick last night so he's recovering in his room this morning)
7. Andrew Moses

That was interesting how that came about. Years ago Andrew's father called and I talked to him on the phone several times. He kept asking me to come to Malaysia. I said, 'I just can't do it. We'll have to do the best we can with what it is.' After we got things going with the office in Australia and Roy taking care of that, then I sent everything to Roy. He tried to go there last Feast of Tabernacles, but couldn't make it, but went there during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

What happened when he got there and saw the fruit that was there, and talking with Andrew and also talking with Andrew's uncle, it was determined that he should be an elder; he was ordained by Roy on April 23rd in Malaysia. That shocked the whole Church of God community there. He's still getting e-mails from them: Is it real? Did it really happen?

8. Roy Assanti
9. Roy Mack
10. Helmut Berger, South Africa (the situation is such that it's very difficult for him to get out of there)
11. Frans Peeters

They didn't tell you that he's already translated a good number of booklets and things like that into Dutch. Who knows, maybe we'll have something in German a little later.

I found out yesterday, because I understand some German, so we're running down the hall and he's running down the hall. And I said, 'Schnell! Schnell!' That's German, so I said, 'What is it in Dutch? He said, 'Schnell, Schnell.'

12. Ben Ambrose
13. Norbert Bohnert
14. Duncan MacLeod

Duncan is now doing writing. We really appreciate what he does and he helps out Roger Kendall.

15. Gilebaldo Elizando (takes care of the Latinos, travels to Mexico)

Then we also have, not as an elder, but we have as a worker in Canada: Miguel Murcia takes care of the Spanish website. So we've got quite a few things going and Frans Peeters has a Dutch website. Roy is trying to work up one for Australia. We have:

16. Stan Timek
17. Lawrence Burchfield

Lawrence lives right in the middle of the most ‘born-again’ Christians in the world, Oklahoma. However, they only have a little dim of light, because most of those are the Protestants who are *for* Jesus and they have some understanding.

It’s like some of them are saying, let’s see who was it? Billy Graham’s daughter said, ‘We all ought to take Dan. 9 as a message to us as a nation to repent.’ So they have some knowledge. They need to keep the Sabbath in order to get more ‘oil.’

18. Russell Kemp
19. Fred Coulter

The reason I say that we’re *the Church That Is and Is Not, and Yet Is*, is because we have most of those who work for the Church work in their homes, thanks to the Internet.

We have working in Montana: John and Heidi Vogele. They help with many things in putting together the literature and all of that.

We have Phil Neal who is our editor. He’s in Mississippi. Bonnie Orswell, Nancy Spaller and Laila Patterson do transcripts. How many here have transcript books? I have to tell you a little sidebar on Bonnie Orswell; she used to transcribe Roderick C. Meredith’s sermons; so that’s why ‘Uncle Rod’ doesn’t like me.

Then we have Randy Vild, he’s really very gifted. He’s the one who takes care of Church at Home and the website: churchathome.org, and does all the editing, splicing in, all of that sort of thing.

Then we have offices in Hollister. In Hollister we have three women who work there. They’re not in the Church, but they are very dedicated: Kimberly has been with us for 15 years; Terri has been with us for 12 years and Bonnie has been with us for nine years. Bonnie takes care of digitally editing the messages, so that’s all computer work. She also helps me when we’re reading, like we have read the whole Bible. We’ve got the whole Bible online. Took a little over two years to read it, and then it all had to be edited. So she had to edit it.

Then we have the book, *The Day Jesus the Christ Died*, and the new book that you just got, *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* We have that read. We’re able to read that because they were late in getting the cover to us.

The way it works, I stand over here with a microphone and I have the book printed out in a reading column, which Vogele’s do for me. Then I have the recorder on. Over behind me is Bonnie Infante. In reading along, whenever there’s a mistake she says, ‘Correction.’ Then go back and

state it again. Sometimes it’s got to be two or three times; got to get it through your thick head. I forget all the books we have read, but we have *The Christian Passover* book read.

We also have working for us in the office—he comes in one day a week—Ken Redmond. We bought a great big high-speed copier for this project. That is to take all the transcripts and make spiral notebooks. These are the extended series that we have. We have over 40 right now, plus we have ten study-packs for new people that we send out to them, much like it would be a correspondence course. So, we have that all developed.

How many here have gone through the *Love Series*? Good! How many have gone through the three *Grace Series*? Good! All the formatting on all of these transcript books Bonnie Orswell has done. She is quite amazing; she can just sit down and go zip, like that. So we’re thankful for it. She lives in Alabama. Laila Patterson lives in Washington. Nancy Spaller lives in Alabama, as well.

Then we have Jim and Betty Hyles. He’s been like a personal assistant to me for 15-16 years. Right now he’s 85 and be sure and pray for him and Betty; he is really having a difficult time with prostate cancer. So be sure and pray for him.

Just recently Bob Hunnicutt passed. If you look at the congregation here, we have a pretty good mix of young and old. So, we’re very happy to have a new generation come along. God is the One Who has to work in the minds of those people, because you just don’t go out and say, ‘Okay, we need a new generation; come on in.’ But God has done this over and over again down through time. God is able to handle it.

I’m sure that God will provide more for us that we can do. In the meantime for all of us, my prayer every day for every one of us who are getting up into the 80-years old—I’ll be 81 in July—that whatever time God wants us to have to continue serving, and everybody who is over 65, that God would bless with health, strength and added years concerning the times we’re living in and things that we need to do. And the things that need to be accomplished.

Through all of this, as you look at us, and as you look at what the Christian Biblical Church of God has done:

- it’s not because we’re great
- it’s not because we’re smart
- it’s not because we are better than anybody else

It’s because God has given us a love and a passion to serve Him!

I brought with me for all the elders—this would be good for you to go through, too—*The Obedience of a Christian Man* by William Tyndale. He lived 1494-1536. We would not have the Bible in any English if it weren't for that man and to stymie the whole Catholic Church. God used one man, because he loved God and hated the Catholic Church with a passion, a righteous hatred. I brought it for all the elders to take and read. If you want it, you can just write for it and order it, we'll send it to you.

We all need to know God is in charge all the time, everywhere. God will provide what is needed at the time that it is needed. He will provide those to do it. The thing that is important now is that as we're coming along and developing, we need to keep in mind several things. Let's see something important.

Jeremiah was a prophet for 40 years to the house of Judah. God said, '*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*' That meant at the very instant of conception He knew Jeremiah. When Jeremiah got old enough, God said, '*I'm going to send you as a prophet to the house of Judah and the house of Israel.*' So, there are prophecies that apply to the other ten tribes as well.

God told Jeremiah, '*I'm going to give you a mind of bronze and fortify your forehead like the flint of rock.*' I see that in Tyndale as well. Jeremiah was one man alone against everybody. He was the son of a priest. He lived in one of the priest's cities. Later on they're called the men of Anathoth, that was the priestly city. Because of what he spoke to the Jews and what God was going to do, those in his own home town wanted to kill him.

God said He would be with Jeremiah. As you read it, I suggest you go ahead and use that as a Bible study. What you will find is that Jeremiah had to go through a lot of difficulties and problems. He got so discouraged that he said, 'Oh, God, why did You do this to me?'

Remember when he was thrown in the sewer? Up to his neck in the sludge? God looked upon him as doing a good job and He'd rescue him. The people looked upon him, 'We're glad we threw him in there.' People don't like to be told to repent and amend their ways.

Jeremiah 23:1: "'Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture,' says the LORD." That's both religious and political.

As we read these words, you can see it's happened today. Look at this nation! Look what Obama is trying to do in the last few months of his presidency! ***To turn this nation into Sodom and Gomorrah literally!***

Verse 2: "Therefore, thus says the LORD, God of Israel, against the shepherds who feed My

people, 'You have scattered My flock, and have driven them away, and have not taken care of them. Behold, I will bring upon you the evil of your doings,' says the LORD."

Did that happened in the Church, as well? *Everyone of us were scattered!* Didn't every one of us have a time when we were alone and said, 'Lord God, what do You want?' *So, did Jeremiah!* This happens and God has to intervene and rescue.

Verse 3: "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and will bring them again to their fold...." This applies in type to the Church, but it applies to all of Israel. Let's look at what it is today. Look what happens:

Verse 14: "I have also seen in the prophets of Jerusalem a horrible thing; they commit adultery and walk in lies.... [right in the pulpit] ...They also strengthen the hands of evildoers..." Sounds like political corruption in Washington, D. C., in London, in Paris.

Want to know why we have terrorists coming against us? And you'll never kill them all and you'll never get rid of them because the cause is not their hatred; ***the cause is the hatred of the people of Israel and Judah against God and His Sabbath, His Holy Days, and His way!*** So, He sends correction. If they repent, the terrorists will back off. If they refuse to repent, more comes. ***You can't fight against God!***

"...so that none returns from his evil; they are all of them like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah.' Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets, "Behold, I will feed them wormwood and make them drink poisonous water; for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has gone forth into all the land" (v 15)—and from every pulpit.

There may a few who are calling for repentance, but unless they begin by repenting of Sunday-keeping, Easter, Christmas, Halloween and all of those things, the only good that comes from them is if and when they read the Word of God. Maybe someone will then pay attention to it.

Verse 16: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you vain... [Are we vain? Is this nation vain?] ... they speak a vision from their own heart, not out of the mouth of the LORD.'"

You need to understand this. The first time you read something about someone who is supposed to be a minister and he says, 'I had a dream...' ***Check what he teaches!***

Verse 17: “‘They still say to those who despise Me.’ The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace!’”....—go do whatever you want! They read the verse, ‘God didn’t send His Son to judge the world, but to save the world,’ therefore, God is not judging me.’ *Not true!*

“...And they say to everyone who walks after the imagination of his own heart, ‘No evil shall come upon you!’ For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD to see and hear His Word? Who has attended to His Word and heard *it*?” (vs 17-18). *That’s us, brethren!*

My hope and prayer is that there will be enough repentance out there with the people of America—I don’t know what’s going to happen in Britain. Frans Peeters could tell you what’s happening in the Netherlands; it’s almost a whole lost cause of Islamic-takeover. Because of what we’re reading right here, the very thing. Geert Wilders is one man who has been telling the Western world for how long, *‘Islam is going to take over!’* In London they’re cheering the fact that they have an Islamic mayor. What a disgusting thing.

God looks down. What we need to do, let’s give ourselves a little test as we’re going through this.

- Do I really love God?
- Do I really love His Word?
- Do I really hear His Word?

or

- Do I think I’ve been in the Church so long I don’t need to study the love of God?
- I don’t need to study the grace of God?

Really? Maybe you ought to check your lamp, like Eric said.

Sidebar: I learned very important point from William Tyndale while reading this on the way to the conference. What are the keys to the Kingdom that God gave to Peter? Can you answer that? We’ve always known that the papal claim of *the keys of Peter* were that he controls who goes to heaven and who goes to hell.

But what are the keys that He gave to Peter? and hence to all the apostles? and hence to all the Church? I bring this up from the point of view: We are never too old, we are never too knowledgeable, we have never learned everything that there is to learn that we need to learn in our lifetime.

So here, 500 years ago, Tyndale said what the keys were. I read it in the past, but it never really sunk in. You know what the keys are?

1. the key of *knowledge*
2. the key of *faith and repentance*

Those are the keys to the Kingdom of God. I’m sitting on the plane reading this and I thought: Isn’t that amazing? How stupid can you be? I know you never talk to yourself. You ever talk to yourself?

Here’s what’s going to happen, v 19: “Behold, the tempest of the LORD has gone forth in fury, a whirling tempest. It shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. **The anger of the LORD shall not return, until He has executed and until He has performed the purposes of His heart...**” (vs 19-20). God has:

- purposes of love for His Church
- purposes of correction for us
- purposes of correction for Israel and Judah and the nations of the world

“...in the latter days you shall understand it perfectly” (v 20).

That’s why we understand what’s going on. It all starts in the pulpit and with the Church of God it all starts with the ministry. If the ministry does not serve and love in truth and obedience and speak the Word of God, the tempest is going to come upon them and devour them. Have we lived through that?

We have a small group of battered sheep down in Pasadena. I go down there about every other month. Every once in a while I drive around where the world headquarters *used* to be. Through the years I’ve seen that where the dormitories were, those were transferred into classrooms. Where the vacant land was now there are apartments and condominiums. Where the Loma D. Armstrong garden center with the two classrooms that the tithes and offerings paid for, they are gone, torn down. The old mansion is still there. They’ve just recently torn down with the classrooms and they are calling it Ambassador Gardens. What do you know? *They kept the name!*

They’re building expensive condominiums for the very rich right on Orange Grove Avenue. If you want to ‘hob-nob’ with the rich, when you’re dead, I’ll have them live on your property. See the hand of God there? The administration building was just torn down to make room for another one. The only thing that is standing is the auditorium. I wonder what’s going to happen to it? We’ll just have to wait and see.

Here’s why, v 21: “I have not sent these prophets... [if you don’t preach the Word of God, I’m not sending you] ...yet, they ran; I have not spoken to them...” Remember when everything was: Don’t believe me, believe your Bible? Remember when it was *prove everything, check it out* with your Bible? If you don’t find it in your Bible, don’t follow me. Then it became, ‘I am God’s apostle and

you will do what I say.’ It came out contrary to the Word of God.

I want to bring us up-to-date where we are, why the Church is in the condition it is, and for us to always remember that we have got to put forth the effort, the zeal and the diligence *all the time!* We’ll see what we have to use with that.

Verse 22: “But if they had stood in My counsel and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.”

Even the Sunday-keepers, if they preach the Word of God, that’s from God. They may be *for* Jesus. There are some Protestants *for* Jesus and some Protestants *against* Jesus. Because ‘if you’re not with Me, you’re against Me. But if they are on our behalf, they are for us.’ That’s what Jesus said. So, it’s possible. God makes it important. He’s created the heavens, the earth, and everything that there is. Yet, He is near everyone.

Verse 23: “‘Am I a God *Who is* near,’ says the LORD, ‘and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him?’ says the LORD. ‘Do I not fill the heavens and earth?’ says the LORD” (vs 23-24).

That doesn’t mean God is spread out through the heavens and the earth. It means everything in the heavens and the earth is controlled by Him, by laws, by numbers. How were you created in the womb? *By the chromosomes that God put genes and chromosomes into Adam and Eve, and here we are!*

Verse 25: “I have heard what the prophets said, who prophesy lies in My name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed.” How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies and who are prophets of the deceit of their own heart?” (vs 25-26).

That’s coming again within the Churches of God. I can tell you right now there is a new book out called *The Last End—A Book of Remembrance*, put out by the leaders of the Church of God that’s in Edmonds, Oklahoma {Gerald Flurry}. I just got it. It’s filled with narcissism, false teachings, but look what it’s going to do to the brethren. That’s why it’s so important.

That’s why none of us as elders should take ourselves to be anything but servants of God. That means:

- with the Word of God
- with the Spirit of God
- with the love of God
- with the Truth of God

Verse 27: “They scheme to cause My people to forget My name by their dreams which they tell, each one to his neighbor, as their fathers have forgotten My name for Baal.”

Here’s what God says. This is the message to every person, but in particularly for those of us who are elders:

Verse 28: “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream... [let him go his way] ...And he who has My Word...” *We have it!* Think of it! Think what a blessing it is! Every single one of us can sit here and have a Bible and we can say to turn here, turn there, go here, go there, read this, God says this, and so forth.

How many languages is it in? Peeters does it in Dutch. He’s got booklets translated, and so forth. Hope we can do something for the Germans, as well. We don’t know what will happen. But we keep going; we never stop. What we’ve done yesterday, that’s yesterday, that’s gone. The only thing you can do about yesterday, if it wasn’t good, is repent of it today, so today won’t be messed up, like yesterday.

We have the Word of God. Think of that! When you know that this man William Tyndale—the most hunted hated man by the Catholic Church in the history of the Catholic Church—translated the Old and New Testament into English and everything we have in English today, 95% of it he did alone. He had a couple of helpers. The authorities were after him; he had to hide. Finally they got a man to betray him and turn him in. He spent 18 months in the prison in Vilvorde near Belgium. He finished the Old Testament. Then he was martyred.

They put Tyndale at the stake, put all the burning material around there. Had a rope with a hole going through the stake, put the noose around his neck. See what he went through? His last words were: ***Lord, open the eyes of the King of England!*** They lit the fire and he was martyred. The day Tyndale was martyred was the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles 1536. And we’re here.

“...And he who has My Word, let him speak My Word ***faithfully***...” (v 28). That’s what we’re to do. There are things that we don’t know. If we don’t know, we have to say we don’t know. Someone asked me yesterday, ‘What about this?’ I said I don’t know.

“...What *is* the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. ‘*Is* not My Word like a fire?’ says the LORD, ‘and like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?’” (vs 28-29).

No one can go against God—*period!* But God loves us and wants us to love Him. He wants to give us eternal life. He is reproducing Himself. That’s why this new book you just got, *From a*

Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born? I hope that that helps a lot of people to really see and understand that God's plan is fantastic. It is marvelous. It is beyond the comprehension of human beings.

Only God could reveal it and He didn't even reveal it to His apostles until about 30 years after they had been preaching. And revealed to us today that we can become the sons and daughters of God. That's the whole goal of where we're going.

“...And he who has My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully.... [v 29]: ...and like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets who steal My words each one from his neighbor” (vs 29-30). And you can read the rest of it.

If you preach the Word of God here, it's well received. But if any one of us got up in a Sunday-keeping pulpit and read this, and looked down there at the minister sitting in the first row and say, 'You, mister, are in that category.' The deacons would be up there and carry you out and throw you out the door.

Jesus gave the keys to Peter to give to all who will be teachers. Here is a prophetic message to Peter and to all elders and ministers. Remember, Peter said, 'Lord, you can count on me. I'll never deny You. No, I'll stick with You.' Jesus said, 'You're going to be scattered.' Peter said, 'I'll go even to prison with You and to death.' Jesus looked at him and said, 'Peter, I tell you, today in this very night you will deny Me three times.' ***And Peter did!***

What did Peter do? *It says right in Scriptures he cursed!* When he did it the third time, Jesus Who was being questioned looked right over to Peter. Then Peter left and wept and repented.

So therefore, we have John 21:15. Here's another lesson we could learn from this: *God does not operate on our faults as elders and ministers!* He gives us with His Spirit what we need to serve. He'll reveal our faults and things to us so we can repent, so we can come to do exactly what Peter was told to do here, which is for all elders and ministers.

John 21:15: "Therefore, when they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me more than these?'... [can't be political, can't have politics in the Church of God] ...*And* he said to Him, 'Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me?' *And* he said to Him, 'Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Shepherd My sheep. He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonas, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time,

'Do you love Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed My sheep'" (vs 15-17).

That is the goal of what God wants from every minister, every elder. Feed the sheep because *we love God* and *we love Christ*. We teach the Words of God. What did you hear from these three men that came up here? All different, no one conferred with one or the other. I just asked them, 'Would you please speak.' What did they speak? *The Word of God!*

What do we live by? *The Word of God!* We have the opportunity like no other generation in the world, and yet, Rev. 3 says too many are lukewarm. Isn't that a shame? *Let it not be with us!*

Ordination of Russell Kemp

Through the years God has called different men to come and be with us, be with the things we're doing. They love God. They want to serve the people of God. We need to have the utmost of respect and love for the elders. They're not perfect; I'm not perfect. They don't know everything; I don't know everything. But I can tell you one thing:

- we love God
- we pray for you every day
- we care for you for when you're sick
- we care for you when you have your difficulties and troubles
- we ask God to intervene and bless you, strengthen you, and lift you up

—every day. That's part of our prayers. That's not vain repetition. That's needed every day.

- Do you need God every day? *Yes!*
- Do you need your day blessed every day? *Yes!*
- Do you need to be protected by the angels of God every day? *Yes!*

Especially if your car rolls over! Those are not vain repetitions.

- Do we need your prayers every day? *Yes!*
- Do the other brethren need your prayers every day? *Yes!*

What was the two main things in the prayer, besides getting your food?

1. Your will be done on earth as it is heaven
2. rescue us from the evil one

That's for all of us! We pray that for the brethren of God.

1-Tim.—this was a time, just before the Church was ready to fall apart. This was a time

when they first begin to understand: Jesus is not going to come for a long, long time.

So Paul writes to Timothy, 1-Timothy 3:1: “Faithful *is* the saying, ‘If any man aspires to *be* an overseer...’” You’ve heard enough about the ministry of God. We’re not overlords; we’re helpers, we’re overseers to make sure everything is done right and properly. We’re not to rule any of the brethren’s lives. We’re not to make them our slaves and servants and vassals.

We are to help them attain to the great calling of God, to become the sons and daughters of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit of God, through the Word of God. That’s what we are to do. That’s why it’s a good work; *it’s God work!* You can’t be an elder and do your work.

Verse 2: “Now then, it is obligatory *that* the overseer be blameless, *the* husband of one wife, vigilant, serious-minded, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching.” As a matter of fact, that’s what Russell was before he retired, a teacher. Wonderful indeed.

Verse 3: “Not given to much wine, not a bully, not greedy for selfish gain; but kind, not a quarreler, not a lover of money; one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in subjection with all respect” (vs 3-4). Russell’s are already up and gone. Hope they’re doing well!

Verse 5: “(For if a man does not know *how* to rule his own household, how will he take care of *the* Church of God?) Not a novice... [not someone new] ...**lest he become conceited and fall into the same condemnation as the devil**” (vs 5-6). When we had all of those 21-year-olds ordained, what did we have? *Verse 6*

Verse 7: “It is mandatory that he also have a good report from those *who are* outside *the Church*, lest he fall into reproach and *the* snare of the devil.”

There are other qualifications that we read in the book of Titus. I can see that it is going to be a thing, which will take place in the future, God will call more who will be qualified to be elders, as God adds to the Church.

Look at all the people who are here today. The first time we had a conference here, I think we had about 30-40 people. That’s all we had. Look at today. There are many, many more who could come.

We’re very thankful that God has intervened in the lives of all the men who are elders. We love them and respect them. They are dedicated to serving God in love and in Truth.

If Russell will come forward, and Roger Kendall and Marlin Fannin we will ordain Russell Kemp.

(prayer of ordination)

We’re very happy about that. It’s a wonderful time. What we can do is this:

- we can thank God *for the fruit*
- we can thank God *for the brethren*
- we can thank God *for the elders*
- we thank God for *His faithfulness* going back through time

With that, it’s time to close.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 23:1-3, 14-30
- 2) John 21:15-17
- 3) 1-Timothy 3:1-7

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Daniel 9
- Revelation 3

Also referenced:

Books:

- *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter
- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Obedience of the Christian Man* by William Tyndale
- *The Last End—A Book of Remembrance* (Philadelphia Church of God, Gerald Flurry) {pdf at: eleazarphinehas.files.wordpress.com/.../the-last-end-a-book-of-remembrance}

Sermon Series:

- *God’s Grace and Commandment-Keeping*
- *Grace of God*
- *Grace Upon Grace*

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