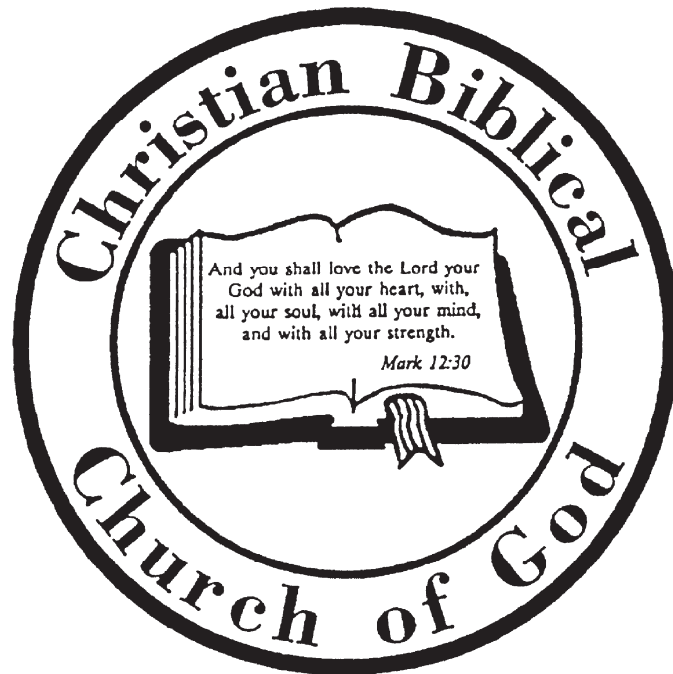


The Beatitudes



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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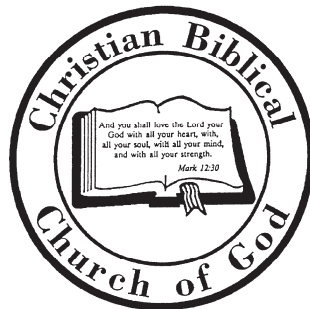
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The Beatitudes

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

- ☐ The Beatitudes I
- ☐ The Beatitudes II
- ☐ The Beatitudes III
- ☐ The Beatitudes IV
- ☐ The Beatitudes V

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Contents

Booklet

	PAGE
Beatitudes I -----	1 – 13
Beatitudes II -----	14 – 24
Beatitudes III -----	25 – 32
Beatitudes IV -----	33 – 45
Beatitudes V -----	46 – 56

Compact Disc

[When included]

Tracks 1 & 2	Beatitudes I
Tracks 3 & 4	Beatitudes II
Track 5	Beatitudes III
Tracks 6 & 7	Beatitudes IV
Tracks 8 & 9	Beatitudes V

The Beatitudes

Foreword

This series on The Beatitudes is a compilation of five sermons by Fred Coulter that will help you to come to an understanding of what Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount in the book of Matthew. A brief explanation of the teaching of each sermon transcript follows.

The first sermon transcript is Beatitudes I. It focuses on how to not become lost living in a lawless society. Such a society, at its core, teaches that all individuals are a God unto themselves. So, people live their lives thinking that what they believe to be truth is true. Then with all the individuals deciding for themselves what is right and wrong the societies become fragmented and the people find themselves in conflict with each other because there is no universally agreed upon standard.

The second sermon transcript, Beatitudes II, covers what Jesus meant when He said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” To receive the comfort that is possible only with a relationship that puts God’s desires ahead of all other individuals a warning is given and explained in this transcript. That warning is that you must never let another human being fill the vacuum in one’s life that belongs to God. Additionally, coverage is given to dealing with a state of depression that comes when you are simply overwhelmed with the demands of life.

The third sermon transcript, Beatitudes III, covers what Jesus taught when He said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” This blessing is that people who pursue righteousness find that the important things of the world that society encourages people to seek are vanity. The things are entirely useless for lasting peace of mind and happiness. Only a relationship with God can provide you with lasting peace of mind and happiness.

The fourth sermon transcript in this book is Beatitudes IV. It emphasizes that the true spiritual comfort that comes from God is what is important for one to know and understand all the time. Stated is that things cannot comfort you. A pet, such as a dog, will love you despite who you are and will demand love from you. But God is the only One Who can give you comfort in our mind, in your heart and in your whole being.

The last sermon transcript is Beatitudes V. It reviews some of the teachings of Jesus that previous transcripts in this book covered. In addition, it covers more about the human nature of mankind. Much is said regarding Jesus coming in the flesh to suffer as men suffer.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

The Beatitudes I

How To Keep Your Bearings In A Lawless Society

“Blessed are the poor in spirit...”

Fred R. Coulter

How do we retain our attitude in God's way? What is causing the society to be lawless in addition to the liberal politics? *It's the liberal Protestantism!*

Liberal Protestantism says that you don't need the Old Testament because it's all been fulfilled. If you want to read some of the Psalms for inspiration, that's okay.

It's become more liberal besides that. Some of them say, 'The Gospels of Jesus...'—because it says there that Paul wrote that he was a minister unto the Jews, unto the circumcision—'...only apply to the Jews, and all of those writings of Paul that pertain to the Jews, we don't have to believe. We just accept the ones that teach us to believe in Jesus.'

That's where those like Joel Osteen are coming from. That's why he talks about 'your better self, your greatest days are ahead,' when it's right on the verge of economic collapse and all of this sort of thing. They pass the offering basket four or five times during each session.

Not everything is the appearance of what it should be. That combined together with the New Age philosophy, which is that you are a God unto yourself and there's no sin. What you believe to be truth is true because you are a god. That is the ultimate of going back to Gen. 3 where Satan said, 'You'll become like God because you decide what's right and wrong.' ***There's no standard!***

Living in such a society where they just have an outward form of Godliness and they mention God, now they have a form of Christianity where you don't have to repent and you don't have to be baptized.

As a matter of fact, I got an e-mail from a man who was really irate because I said that you have to repent and be baptized. He said, 'You're preaching Catholic doctrine.' *Hello!* I didn't even answer him. I thought if I answered him it would only make matters worse because I would have to say, 'I'm amazed at your total ignorance of the Word of God!'

We will see that the way that we 'stay the course' and have 'an anchor to the soul' (Heb. 6), and the way that we survive in a lawless society is to understand what's going on. Don't expect any of them to change. The more lawlessness and the more defying that there is of God, know for sure, sooner

or later, more severe correction and national disasters are at hand.

How do we know that? *Because we believe the Old Testament as well as the New!* This is what Paul is writing about to Timothy and what was happening in his day. Also notice that a lot of what Paul wrote was also a prophesy of what's happening today.

2-Timothy 3:7: "*They are* always learning but *are never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth.*" That's what we have today. "*the knowledge of the Truth*" contained in His Word, because the carnal mind likes to 'cherry pick':

- pick out the Scriptures which please the self
- pick out the thing which make them happy

That's what they will accept, which is really, when you get down to it, the 'way of Cain.' Those who are truly Christ's, those who truly believe in the Word of God, are those who believe what God says.

Verse 8: "Now just as Jannes and Jambres stood against Moses, in the same manner also these are *brazenly* standing against the Truth; *they are* men of depraved minds, reprobate in respect to the faith."

They'll trust in themselves. All you have to do is take these Scriptures and survey any religious channel or any religious program that's on TV, then listen to all of the political speeches and compare it with the Word of God, and you will see that they are:

- all long on emotion
- lacking in substance
- giving good sounding words that really cannot be fulfilled

Verse 9: "But they will proceed no further, because their folly will become clearly evident to everyone... [those who are in the Church and have the Spirit of God] ...just as theirs also was. But... [here's how we begin to keep 'our rudders' going in the way that they should in times of lawlessness] ...**you have closely followed my doctrine...**" (vs 9-10). If you go through 1st & 2nd Tim. and Titus, you'll see the word 'doctrine' pop up.

The first thing on the way to lawlessness is that doctrine divides! *It's supposed to! Divide you from the world, you see!* Love unites! In other

words, 'if we have a good feeling and just think good thoughts about each other, we're all united.'

It sounds like a little bit of religiosity on television, 'Obamism' on the political front: 'We, together, we'll do it! We, together, will make it right!' I thought: Who was the first one this side of the Flood that said that? *Nimrod!* 'Follow me!'

- We don't need God!
- We don't need Noah!
- We don't need Seth!
- We don't need Japheth!

'You follow me and we'll make it!' You leave out doctrine.

"...conduct, purpose..." (v 10). All of these are important in keeping our mind not only fixed, but also to keep us faithful in a time when all of these things are going on.

"...faith, patience, love, endurance" (v 10).

Matthew 24:13^[transcriber's correction]: "But the one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved." There's a reason for endurance.

Everyone thinks we're living in the last days. 'Isn't that wonderful? Christ is going to return.' It's great that Christ is going to return, but His return is going to be in a manner entirely different than most people, and even a great many in the Church of God, *think*. It's going to be something! Leading up to that, as Paul went through, we're going to have persecutions and sufferings. So, just plug in there 2-Cor. 11, and read about all that Paul went through. Every minister needs to ask themselves:

- Are you willing to go through all of this?
 - Will you still be faithful?
- Especially for all of those of you who:*
- ask and beg for money
 - take it away from the brethren
 - steal from them so you can build yourself up.
 - What are you going to do when you have nothing?
 - What are you going to do when you are alone and there's no one to ask money from?

2-Timothy 3:11: "Persecutions and sufferings—such as happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra...." You can also put in there Ephesus. What happened to him? *For the faith, he was stoned to death!* That's very interesting when you read it. They left him for dead. He wasn't stoned to death, but nearly dead. The disciples were all amazed when he got up.

You have in Acts 14 all these Lyconians who, when they heard the Word of God, attributed what was being done with the miracles and healing, to the local gods. The pagan priests ran out there to offer offerings to Paul and Barnabas for the miracles that they had done; saying, 'The gods have come down from heaven to be with us.' Paul and Barnabas ran and said, 'No! No! No! Don't do this.' They barely stopped them from doing it. Then they believed.

What happened? Their belief wasn't really very deep. The Jew's came along a stirred them up and caused them to go after Paul to stone him.

"...*You know* what sort of persecutions I endured; and the Lord delivered me out of them all" (vs 11). That's a thing to remember. We need to ask God for His deliverance and we need to ask God to rescue us.

We need to understand that only God can rescue us from Satan the devil, because Satan comes along with a lot of good plans which seem right to a man.

Colossians 1:10: "That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing..." Yes, you can please God.

- As God looks down on the earth, where is He looking to for the people of God, those who have His Spirit?
- Do they love Him?
- Do they trust in Him?
- Do they believe in Him at all times and in all circumstances?

"...being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God" (vs 10). Conversion is a process and you grow in that, you *grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2-Pet. 3:15-18).

Verse 11: "Being strengthened..." This is what we need to do. That's why I gave that series of sermons, *Be Strong In The Lord*, before I went through all of the terrible things that are going to happen, because you have to be:

- strong in spirit
- strong in mind
- strong in faith
- strong in the love of God
- strong in endurance

God alone can strengthen you! I know when I've had the flu, just horrible for about ten days. If you've had the flu, you know what that's like. You understand what I'm talking about:

- you lose strength

- you're weak
- you're fuzzy-headed
- you can't think
- you have boxes of Kleenex
- you're blowing your way through every box
- you're coughing, hacking and all of this sort of thing

I lived on scrambled eggs with lots of cayenne pepper and chicken soup. My wife said, 'I'm tired of chicken soup.'

"...with all power..." (v 11). That power comes from God and comes from His Spirit. When you get like this, you're weak and you're miserable, you just have to go to God and say, 'O God! Strengthen me! Help me! Raise me up.' That's all part of it. Remember that *all of the things that Jesus went through, we will experience in varying degrees in our life, one way or the other!*

- all of that is to perfect us
- all of that is to keep us focused on what we need to do

"...according to the might of His glory..." (v 11). That His purpose can be worked in our lives, through whatever the circumstances may be.

"...unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy" (v 11). After the things you go through, it brings the peaceable fruits of righteousness:

- it is not joyful to go through a trial
- it is not joyful to go through sickness
- it is not joyful to have persecution come upon you

When you understand the whole purpose of it coming from God, then the joy comes later.

Verse 12: "Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light." Here's one thing that is good in all the troubles and difficulties, whatever it may be, realize it is all going to be replaced, and we have our part in it. God the Father has qualified us.

Notice what God has done, v 13: "Who has **personally** rescued us from the power of darkness and has transferred *us* unto the kingdom of the Son of His love; in Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* firstborn of all creation" (vs 13-15)—those who are created by a resurrection from the dead. That's where He's Firstborn (v 18).

Keep that in mind and always go to these Scriptures, which help us out of the difficulties that we are in. Ask God to change the circumstances, to

open the door, to be merciful and kind in all things that you are going through.

2-Timothy 3:12: "And indeed, everyone who desires to live Godly in Christ Jesus shall be persecuted." That's one way or the other; it's going to come.

As you look at the world, understand that *political solutions cannot accomplish spiritual solutions*. Or, you can phrase it another way. *Politics can never bring about spiritual stability!*

As a nation, turning our backs on God and killing the most innocent in the womb... There was a teacher who, in the sex education class at school, was showing what happened to babies when they abort them. They tear them apart. He was showing the pictures of that. He got fired by trying to show teenagers that if you go out and have sex, you get pregnant and you say, 'Oh well. An abortion will take care of it.' *I want you to understand what you're doing to that innocent life.* He got fired.

There's no room for Truth, as it says here, brazenly standing against the Truth.

Verse 13: "But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, deceiving *others* and being deceived *themselves*." It is a multiplying factor in doing so. It's going to happen.

Verse 14: "But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*."

Here's a key: We're going to cover this. We're going to see that through Jesus Christ we can understand parts of the Old Testament that really are only amplified when you have the Spirit of God and when you know what Jesus taught.

Verse 15: "And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings... [Old Testament] **...which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.**"

What does this tell us? *In order to have salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, you need the Old Testament, but it has to be through Christ!* That's why when Jesus was resurrected and began to open the minds of the disciples, He showed them, how that in the Law, the Writings and the Prophets, it prophesied of His suffering, death and resurrection. But you need the New Testament to go back to the Old Testament to make it all come alive.

Verse 16: All Scripture... [Old and New Testament] *...is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work" (vs 16-17).

I read this Scripture recently and a man though that when I said in 2-Tim.2, 'Preach the Word!' that I meant that he was to preach the Word. *No!* This is Paul writing to Timothy and that as a minister, that's what **he** was to preach, not stories, fables, myths, and emotional sounding things.

2-Timothy 4:1: "I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word!...." (vs 1-2).

That's what the ministers are supposed to preach. They're not to preach about the Word. They're not to give nice stories that confirm little Scriptures in the Word. They are to 'Preach ***the Word!***

"...Be urgent in season and out of season..." (v 2). It's always new. It's eternal. We need to be taught also by repetition.

"...convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine" (v 2). There's 'doctrine.' 'Doctrine' is written four times.

Verse 3: "For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves *a great number of* teachers, having ears itching to hear *what satisfies their cravings.*" That's why you have modern day preachers preach mostly about:

- build the self up
- tell them how good they are

All goodness comes from God and there's no goodness inherent in any man. That's what the Bible teaches.

Verse 4: "And they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths." What's going to happen at the end? *The great deception!* It's going to be awesome!

You can see that the more you know about the Word of God, you can see the divide is getting more and *more and more*. You follow the Word of God:

- you're divided out from the world
- you're divided out from that kind of thinking
- you're divided away from the world because you're with God

That happens because they're developing more and more lawlessness and listening to myths and stories. Here's what we are to do.

Verse 5: "But *as for* you, be vigilant in all things, endure hardships... [as a minister]: ...do *the*

work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry." Then Paul said that he's 'ready to part, fought a good fight, and so forth.'

Let's apply this New Testament and Old Testament. New Testament, the teachings of Jesus. Then we will look in the Old Testament and see how the teachings of Jesus quoted from the Old Testament, become alive with the addition of the teachings that we have in the New Testament and the Spirit of God.

As I pointed out in the sermons, *Can A Man Or A Woman Be Right With God?*, circumcision doesn't change the heart. *Circumcision of the heart does!* Sacrifice of an animal does not change the heart, but *recognizing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and repentance changes the heart!*

The Jews have said this, which I'll bring out a little more clearly, that when one came to the temple, the priest was there to dispense the blessings of God. You had to come to the priest to receive the blessings of God. In the New Testament, you come to our High Priest in heaven above, Who is Jesus Christ, and He gives the blessings; not through a man, but directly to each one of us.

That's where the churches in the world and even the Churches of God have lost their way. A church, or gathering, or assembly of those who have the Spirit of God—unless they are taught to have a personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ, which goes beyond the bounds of any organization or any minister—it's directly between God and the individual. The minister is to be on the sidelines to teach the Truth, to help all the brethren grow in grace and knowledge, as the minister also grows in grace in knowledge. If he doesn't, how can he teach the brethren to grow?

We'll see how all of this comes together as Paul said that, 'You've known the Holy Writings, which through faith in Jesus Christ are able to lead you unto salvation.'

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5):

I just wonder how many of the modern lawless Protestant Evangelical Fundamentalist theologians would be bold enough to reject the Beatitudes? Probably not. Do they understand them? *Probably not!* Let's see if we can do it.

Matthew 5:1: "But seeing the multitudes, He went up into the mountain; and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth *and* taught them, saying" (vs 1-2). ***Here's the teachings to the disciples!***

Remember when Jesus was walking on the water and Peter went out and he walked on the water a little way? Pretty soon he lost all of his faith and

was sinking, and the Lord saved him; lifted him up. They got aboard the boat, and Jesus rebuked the winds and the winds ceased. They all were astonished! What did Jesus say to them? *'Oh, you are hard-hearted! Why can't you believe!'* They weren't yet converted.

So likewise, we have in Luke 24, where He was walking with the two and He told them all about what happened. They were telling Jesus, because they didn't recognize Him, and they said that all of this has happened and that has happened.

Luke 24:21—after Christ was crucified and died: “And we were hoping that He was the One Who would redeem Israel. But besides all these things, as of today, the third day has already passed since these things took place. And also, certain women from among us astonished us, after they went to the tomb early; for when they did not find His body, they came *to us*, declaring that they had indeed seen a vision of angels, who said, “He is living.” And some of those with us went to the tomb and found *it* exactly as the women had said, but they did not see Him” (vs 21-24).

How did Jesus answer them? These were some His disciples that He personally taught. Just the Words of Jesus alone without repentance and receiving of the Holy Spirit, which had not yet occurred with them, it's still bouncing off their hard-hearts. He said the them, ‘Oh, foolish and slow of heart to believe *all* that the prophets have written.’ That was something—‘hard of heart.’

Even though Jesus taught them, the realization of how they come together, does not come until we have more teachings of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God. The Words that Jesus taught, *‘are Spirit and they are Life.’* They apply to everybody, not just to the Jews.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit...”

Matthew 5:2: “And He opened His mouth *and* taught them, saying, **‘Blessed are the poor in spirit...’**” (vs 2-3). I’m being a little facetious here to make a point. This is teaching for *all* people.

Verse 3: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” The Kingdom of Heaven is coming to the earth. He’s not going to give it:

- to the rich
- to the wise
- to those who think they need it
- to those who think they deserve it
- to those who think that God has *got* to give it to them

He’s drawing the difference between:

- those that He’s going to call

- those who are going to humbly receive what He says
- what the religious leaders and many of the Jews of their time thought

They thought that Jesus was going to come and politically align Himself with them, accept all of their teachings and get rid of the Romans. Well, He didn’t do that!

Let’s see what Jesus said concerning men. Here’s the opposite of “...**poor in spirit**...” and this is also similar to ***humble in heart***. He talks about the scribes and Pharisees. If you don’t believe this, read some of the book *Code of Jewish Law*, by Ganzfried and Goldin.

Matthew 23:4: “For they bind heavy burdens and hard to bear, and lay *them* on the shoulders of men; but they will not move them with *one of* their own fingers.”

This is what happens when people become ‘the elite’ and they become the ones to tell everyone what to do. This is why, now, we go to the Words of the New Testament and the Old Testament and find out: What does God tell us to do? All of us together, not just the little people down here that you can’t trust with anything. If God calls them and gives them His Holy Spirit, *He’s trusting them with the greatest gift that they could ever have!*

Verse 5: ““And they do all their works to be seen by men.... [think if they would have had television then] ...They make broad their phylacteries... [résumés] ...and enlarge the borders of their garments; and they love the first place at the suppers, and the chief seats in the synagogues,... [because they’re important] ... And the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called by men ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’” (vs 5-7). They love to give long prayers, to deceive and to take widows’ homes.

Verse 8: “But you are not to be called Rabbi...” That’s why Paul went by Paul. Even today, you can replace that with ‘Mister, Mister, Elder, Elder.’ That’s why Paul went by Paul! That’s why I tell people, ‘You can call me Mr. Coulter when you see in the New Testament that he was called ‘Mr. Tarsus.’ He was called Paul. That kind of thing works both ways. It works to keep the underlings under your control and it works to exalt the people that are over them. God doesn’t want ministers ***over*** people. He wants them alongside *teaching* the brethren.

If there happens to be a need for authority and power to get rid of false prophets, then we have all the authority and power we need. We can get rid of them and kick them out, but we are to love the brethren and serve them. Here’s why.

“...for one is your Master, the Christ... [the Messiah, the Savior] ...and all of you are brethren” (v 8). That’s why how many times Paul wrote, ‘we,’ instead of ‘me or I.’

Verse 9: “Also, do not call *anyone* on the earth your Father...”—in what the world would call, ‘a religious sense.’ Catholics are always confronted with this. You go to the Bible and look at Catholic doctrine and you will find the Bible is the opposite of 99.9% of all Catholic doctrine. Here’s why:

“...for one is your Father, Who *is* in heaven” (v 9). Think of this: It’s an absolute blasphemous thing against God to call some priest who is probably:

- A. a homosexual
- B. a pedophile
- C. a whoremonger

Most of them fit into that category unless they are physical eunuchs. They are there to represent God. They are there, that in the Mass, these sinful men are idolized by the people, because they claim that they have the power to make Christ sacrifice Himself again and come into the bread and the wine. It can’t come into the bread and wine until the priest does it, which then makes the priest greater than God the Father and Jesus Christ. You talk about exaltation! We’re going to read what’s going to happen, here.

Verse 10. “Neither be called Master; for one is your Master, the Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant” (vs 10-11):

- to serve
- to teach
- to help
- to inspire
- to encourage
- to comfort
- all of those things

Verse 12: “And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled...” A great principle in life. That’s why you never fall until you reach the top.

“...and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted” (v 12). You humble yourself by understanding how great God the Father and Jesus Christ are and how absolutely precious your calling is. You don’t exalt yourself.

- What is the greatest political entity that is ever going to hit the earth?
- What is he going to call himself? *God in the flesh!*

Let’s see what Jesus taught. Jesus didn’t mince words. There’s an occasion to be polite and there’s an occasion not to be polite, especially when

you’re dealing with those who think they are better than other people; not only think, but who are taught that they are better, preached that they are better.

Luke 14:1: “Now, it came to pass, when He went into a house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees on *the* Sabbath to eat bread... [to have a meal] ...that they were watching Him. And behold, there was a certain man *who had* dropsy *standing* in front of Him. Then Jesus answered *and* spoke to the doctors of the law and to *the* Pharisees...” (vs 1-3). Here’s this great, august, gathering. This had to be with all the Pharisees, scribes and doctors of the law who:

- had on all their phylacteries
- they had on their Sabbath best
- they had all of their places in order according to rank at the table where they were going to eat

Just picture this: Here’s a man with dropsy standing in front of them. So, Jesus asked a question which they ought to know.

“...saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’” (v 3). What did the Pharisees say back in Luke 13:14^[transcriber’s correction] when they came to be healed on the Sabbath? *The Pharisees said, ‘Don’t come to me to be healed on the Sabbath Day. Do it during the week!’* Jesus was ‘sticking it to them.’

Verse 4: “But they were silent. And after taking hold of *him*... [He even touched an unclean man with his sickness] ...He healed him and *then* let *him* go.” Can you imagine the dumbfounded silence of all these great, exalted people?

Verse 5: “And He answered *and* said to them, ‘Who among you shall have a donkey or an ox fall into a pit, and will not immediately pull it out on the Sabbath Day?’” *Because that’s my property and I don’t want it to be injured!*

Verse 6: “But again, they were not able to answer Him concerning these things.” He probably knew everyone who pulled an ox out. He probably knew everyone who did something to benefit himself on the Sabbath, etc.

Verse 7: “Then, observing how those who were invited were choosing out the chief places... [they were trying to figure out who would go where] ...He spoke a parable to them, saying, ‘When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit in the chief place, lest someone more honorable than you has been invited by him. For the one who invited you and him shall come to you and say, “Give place to this one,” and then shall you begin with shame to take the last place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the last place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he may say to

you, “Friend, come up higher.” Then shall you have honor in the presence of those who are sitting *at the table* with you. For everyone who exalts himself **shall be humbled**, and the one who humbles himself **shall be exalted**” (vs 7-11).

Who is the One Who humbled Himself, the greatest of any being in the universe? *Jesus Christ!* That’s why He has a name exalted above every name. That came from God the Father. This is quite a parable, here. This all portends with how to have a *broken spirit*.

Verse 12: “And He also said to him who had invited Him...” He’s talking to the chief Pharisees who invited Him to this dinner with all of these ‘mucky-mucks.’ They were probably going to try and have an inquisition of Jesus to find out what He really taught, but none of that occurred. So, He said:

“...When you make a dinner or supper, do not call your friends, nor your brethren, nor your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and a recompense be made to you. But when you make a feast, call *the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind*; and you shall be blessed...” (vs 12-14).

He’s talking about how He is going to do His calling for those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb:

- those in the society who have been rejected
- those in the society who people don’t like
- those who are accounted as nothing

“...for they do not have *the means* to repay you. But you shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just” (v 14). A little politics coming in here. You always have a little flattery. ***Beware when men flatter you.***

Verse 15: “Then one of those who sat *at the table* with Him, after hearing these things, said to Him, ‘Blessed is the one who shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God.’” ‘I’m on Your side, Lord.’ There’s a second way to exalt yourself; in politics it’s called ‘the puller.’ You push the other person higher by flattery and he pulls you up.

(go to the next track)

- How do we keep our bearings in a lawless society?
- How do we retain our attitude in God’s way?

We see this in politics all the time; we see it in the way that people approach others all the time:

- compliment people
- tell them how good they are
- make them feel good about themselves

- you will be exalted
 - you can pull them up
- We’ve seen this in a hierarchy:*

- you flatter the man
- you get a raise
- you get a position
- you become adviser

Then you begin exercising that surrogate power from the ‘big chief,’ and you begin putting your own people who have been flattering you. That’s the whole thing with the hierarchical and corporate structure. That’s why Jesus said here about *exalting the self*.

Let’s go through the rest of it and see that there are some people who will just never humble themselves. They will just never associate themselves with Jesus Christ, the true Jesus. They like a nice version of Jesus that they agree with. But the true Jesus and have to really do what he said; to be poor in spirit requires an awful lot. Then we’ll go back and see, in the Old Testament, about being poor in spirit and how the teachings of Jesus Christ have magnified that and brought it out all the more.

He says this, He’s talking to him there, Luke 14:16: “But He said to him, ‘A certain man made a great supper, and invited many. And he sent his servants at suppertime to say to those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.” But everyone with one *consent* began to excuse himself....’” (vs 16-18).

A good example is this: One of the brethren told his son-in-law about the Sabbath and the son-in-law answered this way: ‘Well, when Jesus comes down and tells me to keep the Sabbath, I will.’ Jesus already did that in many ways.

This supper He’s talking about is the wedding supper of the Lamb:

- He’s inviting them to eternal life
- He’s inviting them to eternal glory
- He’s inviting them to the whole plan of salvation

“...The first said to him, “I have bought a field, and I need to go out to see it...” (v 18). You can tie this in with Matt. 13 and Mark 4 concerning the parable of the sower.

“...I beg you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five pairs of oxen, and I am going to try them out; I beg you to have me excused.’ And another said... [I’ve got a better excuse than any of these] ...‘I have married a wife, and because of this I am unable to come’” (vs 18-20). That’s a good excuse.

Verse 21: “And that servant came and reported these things to his lord. Then the master of the house was angry; *and* he said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, *the* crippled, *the* lame and *the* blind.’” This all ties in with, as we’ll see a little later, those that Jesus calls:

- the poor of the world
- the weak of the world
- the uneducated of the world

to teach them the greatest things they need to learn:

- how to have the character of Christ
- how God the Father, through this and His Spirit, qualifies them for eternal life.

Verse 22: “And the servant said, ‘Sir, it has been done as you commanded, and there is still room.’ Then the lord said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled... [last minute evangelism] ...For I tell you, not one of those men who were invited shall taste of my supper’” (vs 22-24). He also says in another place about the wedding feast, ‘Many are called, but few are chosen.’

- all of those who think they are great
- all of those who think they are doing great work for God

‘Ain’t a-gonna’ be there!

Let’s see how we truly become ‘poor in spirit’ toward God so that He can exalt us in due time.

Let me preface this by saying that every once in a while I watch some of these prison documentaries. They start with those who are at the lower level and the lower level ones are more willing to seek God and more willing to have a conscience concerning what they have done, or the weakness, or whatever. Those who get into the murders and the premeditated murders...

I was watching one of a premeditated murderer who was given life. God says, ‘Execute them!’ There’s a reason for that. The day is going to come when there will be no more tax money to pay all of these prison guards and they’re going to have to let all the prisoners go because they can’t feed them, they can’t protect them and they’re all going to be released. You know they’re not going to line them up, shoot them and kill them.

This man who was sentenced to life instead of death said, ‘When you kill in a premeditated way, there is no such thing as real remorse. I know! Even though they treat me in this prison in various severe fashions, I have no remorse.’ I thought to myself, ‘The key to criminality is that *they are so lawless*

and self-centered on themselves that it is impossible for them to give their lives to Christ, which then involves repentance and great remorse.

The ones who humble themselves, here is how it is done. You start out at the first of Luke 14 and you come all the way through. All of these verses come together.

Here He was at first with the Pharisee who invited Him to supper on the Sabbath and then He leaves there, comes out:

Verse 25: “And great multitudes were going with Him; and He turned *and* said to them.”

Just think about this: I would love to see Joel Osteen do this when he preaches. I don’t think he ever will because I don’t think he would fill up the auditorium so he would get enough cash to continue paying for it.

Verse 26: “If anyone comes to Me...” He’d have to get up there and say:

If anyone comes to Christ, here’s what you going to have to do, because this is for spiritual salvation and eternal life. Furthermore, when I get done reading this, I just want to give you a heads up. Next week we’re going to meet on Saturday because that’s a Sabbath. I want to give you another heads up. We’re not going to be celebrating Halloween, Christmas, Easter or New Years.

We’re going to keep God’s way and His Holy Days. We’re not going to pass out any more grape juice. We are going to all keep the Passover on the day that Jesus died.

He won’t do that! This is tantamount to what he would have to do because here is what it says that Jesus said. All of this is because eternal life is so important that there is no room for self-exaltation or human-exaltation. Christ is the One Who is exalted.

Verse 26: “**If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father, and mother...**” This means to love God more in comparison to, but it also means that even your relatives will believe that you hate them because you have chosen Jesus Christ instead.

“...his father...[closest thing to you] ...and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, and, in addition, his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple**” (v 26). This helps us understand what we read back there in:

Matthew 5:3^{transcriber’s correction}: “Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs shall be the

Kingdom of Heaven,” because they’re not exalting themselves.

The truth is, in order to find yourself in Christ, you must give up yourself to Him; rather than Christ finds you because you’re so important. Christ discovers your great abilities, because of who you are! Or, you were born into a certain family and He is bound to choose you. We’ve heard that before.

Also, you have to give up your life to Christ. Just living in this life and overcoming sin, and so forth, there are going to be times when you say, ‘I hate life in this world.’ ***You love God and love His way!*** That’s why Solomon said, ‘It’s better to go to a funeral and see the ultimate end of what happens to everyone, than to go in the house of mirth,’ because you learn something, even the most exalted die. You need to die in Christ first; that what he’s talking about.

Luke 14:27: “And whoever does not carry his cross... [whatever your difficulties or problems may be] ...and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” There’s the whole lesson about exalting yourself.

Let’s come back to the Old Testament and let’s look at a few Scriptures here, concerning this. We see how Jesus expanded this, and when we read this in Psalms 37, then we have a greater understanding of it. Let’s see how all of this carries through, especially in today’s world.

Psalms 37:1: “Do not fret yourself because of evildoers, and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity.” Who:

- have all the riches
- have all the wealth
- have all the fame
- have great name recognition

Verse 2: “For they shall soon be cut down like the grass; and wither as the green herb.” Who has been *cut down*? Think of all of these movie stars who die in their 20s and 30s because of drugs, because of fame, because of wanting to become great sex objects. You can think of Anna Nicole Smith and Marilyn Monroe; both died at nearly the same age. Anna Nicole Smith said, ‘I’ll probably die the way that Marilyn Monroe did.’ Sure enough, she did! They’re ***cut down***.

Verse 3: “Trust in the LORD... [that’s how you remain humble] ...and do good... [under all circumstances at all times] ...dwell in the land... [looking forward to the Kingdom of God] ...and cherish faithfulness.” ‘You shall be fed’ not only physically, but spiritually, because spiritual feeding is the most important thing.

Verse 4 is a key, because you have a relationship with God, you can please God and you have God’s Spirit, which is the greatest thing of all. Think about this, which I’ve emphasized at the Feast of Tabernacles:

God destroyed the temple and everything that He created in the physical system, with the covenant with Israel. You do not go to a physical High Priest to receive the blessings of God. You go directly to Jesus Christ and God the Father and those blessings come directly to you through His Spirit. That is really quite a thing! Because of this:

Verse 4: “Delight yourself in the LORD...” Once you understand about not exalting yourself in the flesh, in your mind, in your abilities or whatever it may be, you won’t do it anymore.

That’s why Job had to learn the lesson. God had to say, ‘Okay, Job, since you’re so good, I know you’ve done these things, but it is all that I’ve commanded you to do and you say that you’re as righteous as Me and great as Me:

- Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
- Where were you when I called out the stars of heaven and created them and all the angels of God sang for joy?
- Where were you when I did this, and that, and the other thing?
- Where were you when I created the ocean?
- How great are you?
 - Was Job abased?
 - Did he exalt himself? *Yes, indeed!*

“...and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (v 4)—because your desires are to love God, serve Him and be in His kingdom.

Verse 5: “**Commit your way unto the LORD...**” That’s exactly what Jesus was talking about there, about loving Him more than ‘father, mother, brother, sister, and so forth.

This is why daily we need the blessing of God in our lives, in our mind and in our heart; ***so that He can guide us and lead us!*** We’re to be led by the Spirit of God. We commit our way to the Lord whatever we do. That’s why every day, we pray:

- we ask God’s forgiveness for our sins
- we ask God to bless us
- we ask God to lead us

He’ll do it!

“...trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass” (v 5). One caveat: according to *His* will, in *His* way, not in the way that we may think. Ultimately,

we will end up at the place where our desire is, *His* way.

Verse 6: “And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light...” That has to be the light of the world. We have that today. How is the righteousness going to be ‘brought forth as the light?’ *The ultimate is going to be at the resurrection!*

“...and your judgment like the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret yourself because of him who prospers in his way; because of him who carries out wicked schemes” (vs 6-7).

Just think about this: How many prospered in all the wicked lies and deception through the stock market, real estate and all these things. Has it all come up to bite them? *Yes, it has!*

Verse 8: “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret yourself, it leads only to evil, for evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth” (vs 8-9). That’s what we need to look to. The Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven is coming to the earth.

Verse 10: “It is but a little while, and the wicked shall be no more...” Just go back and read the book of Revelation and see what happens to the wicked, especially Rev. 16 and the seven vials of the wrath of God. *That’s coming!*

“...yea, you shall diligently consider his place, *but* he shall not be *there*. But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (vs 10-11). Quite a Scripture! *Quite a thing that God holds out to us!*

Here’s a promise; claim this promise. This will help you in your attitude greatly.:

Isaiah 57:15: “For thus says the high and lofty One Who inhabits eternity... [God’s level of existence; think of that] ...Whose name *is* Holy; ‘I dwell in the high and Holy place, even with the one who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’” Isn’t that something?

Verse 19: “‘I create the fruit of the lips; peace, peace, to him who is afar off, and to him who is near,’ says the LORD, ‘and I will heal him.’” The greatest healing is not just physical. The greatest healing is overcoming carnal nature with God’s Spirit.

Verse 20: “But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, which cannot rest, and its waters cast up mire and dirt. ‘*There is no peace,*’ says my God, ‘for the wicked’” (vs 20-21).

Let’s see what God is doing with us. This is why on the Sabbath Day with God’s Spirit, with His Word, when we assemble together—in our homes, whatever it may be—there’s a special blessing that comes from God. There’s a special thing that comes when we have this approach concerning the Sabbath.

Isaiah 55:1: “Ho, everyone who thirsts...”—this is spiritually. We’re going to see a little later on, those who ‘hunger and thirst’ after God’s way ‘will be filled.’

“...come to the waters... [Holy Spirit ...and he who *has* no money...” (v 1). When you get on your knees and pray, there’s not a slot: Deposit \$2.00 please, then your prayer will ascend. Or, have to go to a priest and you confess your sins and then he tells you, ‘I’ll do a Mass for you for so much money and you go do 200 hail Marys and 200 our fathers and your sins will be forgiven.’

“...come, buy and eat...” (v 1). We’re going to see, a little later on, especially during Unleavened Bread, that that’s the whole thing. *We buy from God*, not with money, but *with our attitude, humility and His Spirit!* We eat the Word of God; that means that we bring it into our hearts and minds. That’s what makes us function.

“...Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.... [the various levels of the understanding of God] ...Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread? And your labor for *what* never satisfies? Hearken diligently to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness” (vs 1-2)—which is *the blessing of God!*

Verse 3: “Bow down your ear...” This is all why we have the humility.

Let’s understand something concerning humility and meek in spirit and a humble attitude, too. This is not to let men run over you and you become like a ‘milk-toast blanket’ that is bulldozed by a bulldozer or run over by a steam roller. You ‘stand strong in the Lord.’ This is your standing to God.

“...and come to Me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you...” (v 3). You’re in covenant with God and that’s what baptism is all about. Those who do not baptize or understand about baptism, really are missing the whole point of why it’s necessary.

We have put a series together about baptism. Through the years I have given enough on it and different aspects on it that we now have a sermon series with Transcript Book on *Baptism* {truthofgod.org} Baptism has either been relegated to nothing, or, Baptism has just been an oath to get into a church and be accepted by a corporate

organization, rather than a Divine covenant for eternal life with God.

“...even the sure mercies of David” (v 3).

Let’s see how James, the brother of Jesus, interpreted the tabernacle of David, which also includes the ‘sure mercies of David,’ which is continuous access to God and forgiveness upon repentance.

After they got done discussing how God saved those and gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles who were not circumcised. {*Epistle to the Galatians/Circumcision Wars*} We don’t want to get into a great debate about that, because that is quite a different subject altogether.

Acts 15:13: “And after they were silent, James answered *and* said, ‘Men, brethren, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited *the* Gentiles to take out a people for His name’” (vs 13-14). This a whole summary of Acts 10 and the incidence with Cornelius and his household.

Verse 15: “And with this the words of the prophets agree, as it is written.” How did they establish their authority? *By the Word of God!* Notice how James interprets this:

Verse 16: “After these things, I will return and will build again the tabernacle of David which has fallen; and its ruins I will build again, and will set it up.” What is he referring to? *He’s referring to the Church!* So, the covenant, “...even the sure mercies of David” is eternal life and rulership under Christ.

Verse 17: “So that the residue of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, says *the* Lord, Who does all these things.”

This is an important judgment, because it is upon ‘all the Gentiles upon my name is called,’ who were not required to be circumcised. That was really a revelation, because now we have the greater circumcision of the heart, which changes the heart. This is what the whole New Covenant is about:

- changing the heart
- changing the mind
- being converted
- growing in grace and knowledge
- going through all the things and experiences that we just discussed at the beginning of the sermon

“...and all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, says *the* Lord, Who does all these things.’.... [God is doing it] ...Known to God are all His works from the beginning of the world.

Therefore, my judgment is *that* we do not trouble those of the Gentiles who have turned to God” (vs 17-19).

- they were already keeping the Sabbath
- they were already keep the Holy Days

That’s not the argument, here. The argument is circumcision and the prominent sins in the Gentile countries.

Verse 20: “But *that* we write to them to abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* sexual immorality, and *from* what has been strangled and *from* blood. For from *the* generations of old, Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him in the synagogues, being read every Sabbath Day” (vs 20-21). So, he was sending this to Sabbath-keeping Gentiles. That’s quite a thing!

Isaiah 55:3: “...I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given Him *for* a witness to the people...” (vs 3-4). It exalts the Son of David: Jesus Christ. David was a witness to the people but Jesus was the spiritual fulfillment of that.

“...a Prince and Commander of people. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know; a nation *that* did not know you shall run to you because of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you” (vs 4-5).

Now that he has set this up, here is what we are to do in seeking God. Add up all the other things that we have covered so far about how to be ‘poor in spirit.’

Verse 6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” He’s always there. ‘Where can I go from your Spirit? If I go into heaven, You’re there. If I go into the depths of the earth, You are there’ (Psa. 139)—He’s always near.

Verse 7: “Let the wicked forsake his way... [those who exalt themselves, humble themselves] ...and the unrighteous man his thoughts...”—the circumcision of the heart. When you have the New Testament, as we started out, and you come back and read the Old Testament, does this not give us the keys to faith and salvation through Jesus Christ? *Yes!*

“...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (v 7). As we know now, *through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!*

Who would have thought that He would have done it that way? That’s why all those prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus and all the things that He had to suffer, they didn’t understand what was going to happen. Here’s a

prophecy of it. Now that you have the New Testament, you can look back and understand it.

Verse 8: “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts... [Who would have thought that God would have done it that way] ...nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD.” That’s why you can’t take, ‘Well, I believe this. This is my opinion so let’s go ahead and do this because this looks really good.’ That’s why you have to check it with God’s Word. Maybe it’s really not so good.

Verse 9: “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Think about this for a minute. What do we have here in the Word of God? ***We have the Words of God! His thoughts expressed in writing!***

Let’s think about this in how God is exalting us, if we humble ourselves and become ‘poor in spirit.’

With God’s Spirit, this is something; I want you to really think about this as we read it. This in itself is a very humbling experience when you understand it and realize what God is doing. That’s why it says, ‘I will work a work in your day that you will not know or understand.’ He’s doing it *within* us. Here’s the everlasting covenant that He promised, “...the sure mercies of David.”

Hebrews 10:16: “‘This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,’ says *the* Lord: “I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.”

In other words, when you have the laws, the Words of God, the New Testament, all of these things that you can have inscribed in your mind, what is happening in that process of conversion? *God is teaching you as much as you are able in this flesh with the Spirit of God, to learn to think like God!* Isn’t that something?

That’s a very humbling thing in itself. You can’t learn to think like God as long as you have your mind only on yourself. ***Those who are totally narcissistic and self-centered have exalted themselves in their own mind so high that they are unable to receive the Words of God!*** Isn’t that something? That’s what God is doing to us. That’s what humbles us in all the things that we do and think.

This is what God is doing, Isaiah 55:9: “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” God is the One Who is lifting us to this through His Spirit as we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

Verse 10: “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from the heavens, and does not return there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be which goes out of My mouth...” (vs 10-11). God’s Spirit comes into you through Jesus Christ to be inscribed in your heart and in your mind so that we begin to think as God thinks.

You talk about an education that is greater than anything that you could ever receive in the world, you receive through the Word of God, the Spirit of God and from the Bible!

Verse 11: “So shall My Word be which goes out of My mouth, it shall not return to Me void...” ***God is going to complete the work that He’s going to do in you!***

“...but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do” (v 11). You compare that with how many ‘religionists’ merchandize the Word of God rather than really teach the Truth.

Here’s the ultimate, v 12: “For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break out before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.” This is what we are going to experience when we start bringing in the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. The whole earth is going to change.

Verse 13: “Instead of the thorn, the fir tree shall come up; and instead of the brier, the myrtle tree shall come up; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign *which* shall not be cut off.”

How are you going to do this? *Through the Sabbath Day!*

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 3:7-10
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- 5) 2-Timothy 3:12-17
- 6) 2-Timothy 4:1-5
- 7) Matthew 5:1-2
- 8) Luke 24:21-24
- 9) Matthew 5:2-3
- 10) Matthew 23:4-12
- 11) Luke 14:1-26
- 12) Matthew 5:3

- 13) Luke 14:27
- 14) Psalm 37:1-11
- 15) Isaiah 57:15, 19-21
- 16) Isaiah 55:1-3
- 17) Acts 15:13-21
- 18) Isaiah 55:3-9
- 19) Hebrews 10:16
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Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

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- Psalm 139

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- *Code of Jewish Law* by Solomon Ganzfried and Hyman E. Goldin

Sermon Series:

- *Be Strong in the Lord*
- *Can A Man Or Woman Be Right With God?*
- *Baptism*
- *Epistle to the Galatians/Circumcision Wars*

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The Beatitudes II

“Blessed *are* those who mourn...”
“Blessed *are* the meek...”

Fred R. Coulter

We’re here in Matt. 5 and we pointed out last time about how well that the unity of Scripture between the Old and New Testament comes together, and also how that the New Testament opens up the Old Testament and gives understanding. The New Testament is not written in the same way that the Old Testament is.

The Old Testament is written with the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. In there:

- you have history
- you have genealogies
- you have Psalms and Proverbs, which are parables

You also have in the Prophets, and in the Psalms especially, a design of the Scriptures, which is: ‘Here a little, there a little; line upon line, precept upon precept.’ In the Old Testament, you can read along and it will go from current to future, back to the past and to near future.

In the New Testament we don’t have it that way. We have the Gospels, Acts and then we have the General Epistles. Beginning with the General Epistles going all the rest of the way through the Bible to the book of Revelation, you have a unique form of writing—the epistolary form of writing—which is a letter.

The Epistles accomplish what God wants, in a very personal way. We are to have a personal relationship with God. It’s very important to understand why He chose the epistolary form of writing. That is so that we have a personal relationship with God, which then comes to us through the writings, which also reflects the personal relationship that the apostle had directly with God. It’s so unique that no other religious writing in the world is in the epistolary form. That’s something!

You could also say, in a certain way, that the New Testament Epistles are love letters from God to us. You could look at it that way. That also makes it very personal.

With the teachings of Jesus, He came to magnify the Law, to make it Holy, to make it glorious, to make it honorable and He began doing this in Matt. 5:

Matthew 5:3: “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Let’s understand something: you look and see all the problems in the world and you see the difficulties going on. Yes, there are many and they are multiplying and getting more and more complicated with the consequences far more serious than ever before.

Think about it this way. As unworthy as you may consider yourself, all the brethren of God, and this goes clear back to Abel, clear down through all of those that qualified for eternal life in the calling that God gave them in the Old Testament, being the prophets and some of the kings and so forth. ***God has chosen all of us to rule and reign with Christ and bring the solutions to the world!***

Stop and think for a minute, especially look at the elections in America. I shake my head and never in the history of the world have we been confronted with the lack of leadership that we have, evidenced in the ones who are there {Barack Obama administration}. As you look at the politics going on here in America and then you look at the politics in every other country in the world, they are so bad. Why are they so bad? *First, they don’t follow God’s laws, which it would be better if they would!*

However, the reason is because governing people really is a prerogative of God, which Adam and Eve chose not to do. They didn’t want God saying, ‘Here’s the way to live.’ They said, ‘God, that’s unfair and You’re oppressive. We want to choose how we will live.’ Satan came along and said, ‘Yes, you go right ahead.’ Here we are today and we’re going to reach the culmination of it pretty soon.

“Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

There’s an awful lot to this one verse. Let’s see something that we understand and we experience. It shows how God is going to save the world through Christ and us. We’ve gone through this many times but we need to understand this.

Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God.” That’s something we need to pray about every day, brethren, that God will lead us with His Spirit. That He will actively, through His Spirit, help us to think of the things that we need to do and how we need to conduct our lives.

As the opening prayer was, ‘God save us from ourselves.’ It’s like the black preacher was preaching. He was praying, ‘Lord, Your chil’un are subject and prone to sin. God, save us from the prone.’ Only God can save us from ‘the prone.’ That’s a temptation.

We have to be led by the Spirit of God. These are the ‘sons of God’ and as we come down toward Passover time I’m going to talk more about our personal relationship that we have with God. We tie that together. When you think about all the things that are going on in the world, you ask yourself the question, ‘How am I going to survive?’ *God will have to lead us and protect us!* Always remember Psalms 91.

Let’s carry this further, v 15: “Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, ‘Abba, Father’”—a close, personal, intimate relationship with God.

Verse 16: “The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—...[Heb. 1:1-3 and Rev. 20:4-6] ...if indeed we suffer together with Him...” (vs 16-17).

There’s some suffering we are going to go through and with the suffering there’s going to come some mourning. We’ll talk about that in just a bit. What I want to do is to get the overall view here.

“...so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (v 17). Remember that *whenever there are problems, look at the other side of the coin*, because to “...be glorified together with Him” is the whole key as to why we are here and doing what we’re doing and continuing in the way that we are.

Notice that we get a comparison. Whenever we have trouble and difficulties, I know that we do, we need to put everything in perspective. When there are troubles, God will lead us to the solution. He amplifies it even more.

Verse 19: “For the earnest expectation of the creation itself...” Whenever I think of that, I like to think of a picture I’ve seen on television or a movie, a shot of the earth from outer space. With that, that’s the whole creation of God on the earth.

“...is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God; because the creation was subjected to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who subjected *it in hope*” (vs 19-20)—the return of Christ and the hope is us, along with Christ.

Verse 21: “In order that the creation itself might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of

God.” There, it says that we are going to help deliver the world.

That’s why, in some of the things like we’ve been discussing before services, we see all the difficulties going on. That’s good. Just remember that it’s one thing to know the problems. It’s another thing to also know the solution. ***The solution is not going to be solving spiritual problems by political means*** by having new leaders.

“...by reason of Him who subjected *it* in hope, ***in order that the creation itself might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*** For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now. And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship—the redemption of our bodies” (vs 20-24).

Let’s look at the promise of mourning, where He says, **“Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**

There are some people in the world today who have no clue as to what’s going on. They have money, they have wealth, they have everything they want. Everything is at their fingertips, but here’s a promise they don’t know of.

Luke 6:24: “But woe to you, the rich, for you are receiving your consolation! Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep! Woe to you when all men shall speak well of you! For their fathers did these same things to the false prophets” (vs 24-26). This gives us a little consolation right here, when we see this in the world.

Just stop and think about this every time you see on the news some rich person that has come upon their judgment, or some rock star, movie star, politician or whatever.

I might mention that in the current economic thing that there was a gathering in Davos, Switzerland, where all the rich of the world were planning all of their strategies for all of us. Look up Davos Conference or Davos, Switzerland and you’d be surprised what they know, what they’re doing and how it’s all being planned for the whole world.

God is going to let them do that. The economic problems that we’re going through now, if we have been wise and have taken care of ourselves, we will be able to make it through. God will see us through, but know this: *All of those who are the big moneymakers in the world, their day is coming!* If you want to know how it’s going to come, read Rev. 18, the judgment of Babylon the Great. Even the gold and silver, which can see you through some

economic times, they’re going to throw in the streets.

Let’s examine this a little bit more. Why do we groan and moan? The first one I have down here is because of sickness. You moan because of:

- sickness
- disaster
- tragedy
- emotional trauma
- sin
- government oppression

especially if you have to go and start dealing with the government.

They had a \$200 project to do in San Jose, to do a handicap on-ramp so that they could get into a certain building. It probably would have cost them no more than \$8,000 or \$10,000 max, but by the time they got done with consultants, over-seers of the consultants; the construction, the over-seers of the construction; and 18 different plans that they had the architects do for \$100,000.

They weren’t satisfied with that. So, they sent them back and said, ‘Do it in 3-D so we can view it on the screen and see how it will be.’ Guess what it was to put in a ramp to get the handicapped in the building? *\$1,200,000!* It took well over a year and a half. That is government incompetence and oppression.

There’s another one that ties in with what we just read back there in Rom. 8. This is how we feel when we see the world.

On a trip to Las Vegas, I was happy that I wasn’t reserved a room in one of the downtown high-rises there. It just really, really got to me seeing all the senior citizens there at the ‘one arm bandits’:

- pulling them
- drinking their coffee
- drinking their beer
- drinking their drinks
- smoking their cigarettes
- just sitting there mesmerized
- pulling these levers

looking at this little screen to see if they can come up with the three bars and win. It really did; it just really got to me. But in a greater sense, when you look out to the whole world...

There is a mourning and a feeling that we get when we see all the problems and difficulties going on in the world. One that really got me recently was the investigation that was done in Southeast Asia by MSNBC where they were

investigating all of the pedophile sex, where the mothers and fathers would sell their 6-10-year-old children into prostitution so they would have money. Of course, it just ruins and destroys lives!

Then I also saw on the news where pedophilia is so bad on the Internet. The Supreme Court ruled that virtual pedophilia, not using humans, is legal. Now they have the virtual pedophilia so real that they can hardly tell the difference between human victims and virtual victims. There’s an organization that have people spend their days watching nothing but pedophilia to determine which is real and which is virtual so they can bring charges against those who are bringing the real pedophilia.

You talk about a schizophrenic judgment and stupidity! The guest speaker was explaining what was happening even to little three-month-old baby girls and grown men. Glenn Beck asked, ‘Doesn’t this affect you?’ *Well, she feels a little vindication when they get the real ones!* Can you imagine spending eight hours a day watching on-line pedophilia? She said that in one day she can to through 10,000 images. I thought, *this is insane!* It really got to me in the pit of my stomach just hearing it. She was asked, ‘How does this affect you?’ I guess she has compartmentalized her mind and numbed her mind enough that she can handle it. There’s going to come a breaking point because the human mind was not designed to handle it.

Ezek. 9 really brings out the kind of mourning that we will experience when we find how bad sin really, really is. In a way, being in the Church, we’ve been very protected. That is good. We need to be protected. As we get closer to the end it’s going to be a different story.

Ezekiel 9:1: “And He cried in my ears *with* a loud voice, saying, ‘Let the executioners of the city draw near, even each *with* his destroying weapon in his hand.’” Isn’t that interesting? *Spirit beings in charge of cities!* That’s what it’s talking about.

Verse 2: “And behold, six men came from the way of the Upper Gate which faces north, and each had his slaughter weapon in his hand. And one man among them *was* clothed with linen, and a writer’s inkhorn by his side. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.... [this is a direct order from God] ...And the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherubim, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed in linen, *with* the writer’s inkhorn by his side. And the LORD said to him, ‘Go through in the midst of the city, in the midst of Jerusalem...’ (vs 2-4). Of course, then, in the end-time, we can apply that to all the children of Israel.

“...and set a mark on the foreheads of the men who are groaning and are mourning because of all the abominations that are done in her midst” (vs 2-4). When you moan and groan because of sin:

- in the world, because of victims in the world
- in the Church
- in your family

Whatever it may be, God notes that. Remember that the other half of the promise is comfort. We'll get to the comfort in just a little bit.

Verse 5: “And He said to those in my hearing, ‘Go through the city after him, and slaughter. Let not your eye spare, nor have pity. Fully destroy old *men*, young men and virgins, and little children and women....’” (vs 5-6)—because they're all so corrupt.

When you read this, don't get really ‘blown away,’ remember the second resurrection. God can't deal with them in this gross sinful condition for salvation at this time, but He can resurrect them to a second physical life and give them an opportunity for salvation without all the evil that they've experienced in their first lives. Keep that in mind. As I mentioned here, you have to look at both sides of the coin.

“...But do not come near any man on whom is the mark. And begin at My sanctuary...” (v 6). What is the ‘mark’ of God? We've heard of *the mark of the beast*, a lot of that, but what is the mark of God? *The Holy Spirit is one! Another one is the Sabbath and Holy Days!* ‘It's a sign between you and Me throughout your generations.’

“...And begin at My sanctuary....” (v 6). So, all of us who are elders, ministers and teachers, we'd better pay attention, God's going to begin with us.

“...And they began with the old men who *were* before the temple. And He said to them, ‘Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!’ And they went out and slaughtered in the city” (vs 6-7).

This is a depiction of the coming Tribulation. Things are going to be so bad. You need to understand how bad it was at the temple at that time. It was so bad that after the revival by Josiah, which was the last revival, it immediately plunged back into the ways of Manasseh. It was utterly horrible!

Verse 8: “And it came to pass as they were slaying them, and I was left alone, then I fell on my face and cried, and said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel... [Ezekiel is

mourning, groaning and sighing] ...in Your pouring out of Your fury on Jerusalem?’ And He said to me, ‘The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of blood, and the city is full of perversity. For they say, “The LORD has forsaken the land; and, the LORD does not see.” And even I, My eye shall not spare, nor will I have pity, *but* I will recompense their way upon their head.’ And behold, the man clothed with linen, *with* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, ‘I have done as You have commanded me’” (vs 8-11). That's quite a thing! That is a staggering chapter!

These are the kind of things that are going to come upon us because of what is happening in the world today.

Let's look at some other things concerning moaning, groaning and sighing. This gets down on a personal level with sickness and disease. Psa. 38 is really quite a tremendous Psalm. I know when we go through trauma and difficulty and received correction, either directly or indirectly or whatever it may be, we can identify with this.

Psalm 38:1: “O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath...” Always ask for mercy and kindness in God's judgment.

Jer. 10—here's what we need to always understand. This is why we ***walk in faith, believe in hope and live in love!*** Here is a basic thing. This is why we need God. Here is the thing that we come to, let's understand: ***Never let another human being fill the vacuum in your life that belongs to God!***

- only God can comfort you
- only God can help you
- only God in intervene to direct you

This is what has happened in the Churches of God. That's why they are scattered. Just like God was not pleased with Israel and He sent them into captivity and scattered them; God was not pleased with His Church and He struck Pasadena ‘with the sword’ and scattered the Church, scattered it abroad and still some of the brethren and the ministers haven't learned a lesson.

If you don't believe that is true, all you have to do is read *The Journal*. It's filled with a bunch of nonsense by men who think they are very important and are a gift to God. It's the other way around:

- God is a gift to us
- Christ is a gift to us

Jeremiah 10:23: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself...” Man is incomplete. He *thinks* he knows, he wants to decide, but he

doesn't have the ability, tools or the knowledge to do so.

I thought it was very interesting that they now know why young people and teenagers get in trouble and make stupid decisions. Remember, that can affect your whole life. It is because the frontal cortex of the brain is not fully developed to assimilate the knowledge and information you need to make decisions concerning right and wrong, good and evil and to have the thoughts of being cautious and careful, and so forth, until no sooner than twenty. Now you know why God counts adults from twenty and upward. Then, it's ready to be trained. Just because the physical brain in the frontal cortex is mature, and now you have a process of thinking, you've got to train the mind.

“...the way of man... [or woman] ...is not in himself. It's not in man that walks to direct his steps. O LORD, correct me...” (vs 23-24). Back here in Psa. 38 it says, “O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath...”

“...but with judgment; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.... [he's pleading for mercy] ...Pour out Your fury on the nations who do not know You, and on the families who do not call on Your name; for they have eaten up Jacob and have devoured him, and have destroyed him, and have made his dwelling desolate (vs 24-25). God will do that.

I know this. Whenever anyone goes through a sickness, it is difficult. A severe sickness is even harder. A severe protracted health problem and sickness is even very, very difficult to bear. Nevertheless, God is still with us.

Psalm 38:2: “For Your arrows stick fast in me, and Your hand presses heavily upon me. There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger...” (vs 2-3). God punishes for sin. If there's repentance, God lifts it.

“...nor rest in my bones because of my sin, for my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me” (vs 3-4). There are going to come times in our lives that we will feel so burdened down and we'll be mourning, that it's hard to handle.

He was really in bad shape. He was seeing his last. Even though it is a Psalm of David, it reminds me a little bit more of King Hezekiah when God said, ‘You're going to die’ then, gave him a reprieve.

Verse 5: “My wounds are putrefied and fester because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day

long” (vs 5-6). When you're really sick and down, about all you can do is kind of sleep and roll in bed. It's hard to take.

Verse 7: “For my loins are filled with a burning; and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and painfully broken; I groan because of the anguish of my heart. My LORD, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You” (vs 7-9). The important lesson to remember here is not only God dealing with us, but that God is still with us even in this condition.

Verse 10: “My heart pants; my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also is gone from me.”

Verse 15: “For in You, O LORD, do I hope; You will answer, O LORD my God, for I said, ‘Hear me, lest they rejoice over me; when my foot slips, they magnify themselves against me.’ For I am ready to fall... [to come to death] ...and my pain is always before me, for I will confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin” (vs 15-18).

Verse 21: “Forsake me not, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O LORD my salvation” (vs 21-22). This carries us all the way through the whole process:

- of mourning
- of sickness
- of near-death experience

We moan and groan because of the oppression of the enemy. Here's what to do when you're feeling depressed. You need to talk to yourself. Don't go around and say, ‘I'm depressed.’

By the way, they now have a new market for anti-depressant drugs. Did you hear about it? *It's for dogs and cats!* They expect it to be a \$5-billion a year field. The reason is, people are not having as many children today so they have animals that they treat like human beings. The worse thing to ever do is to treat a dog like a human. A dog is not a human and it doesn't know what to do. It has to have a pack leader. If you don't believe that, watch *The Dog Whisperer*. He'll tell you.

Our two little dogs, when I feed them, they come up to the door of the garage. I don't let them step over the threshold. When they do, I say, ‘No!’ Then if they don't obey themselves, I just tell them, ‘I'm your pack leader’ and they're happy.

Psalm 42: 5: “Why are you cast down, O my soul... [you have to figure out what's going on] ...and moan within me? **Hope in God...** [that's what you need to do, turn to God] ...for I shall yet, praise Him for the salvation of His countenance. O

my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore, I will remember You from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermons from Mount Mizar. Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and Your billows have gone over me” (vs 5-7).

What he was experiencing was just like kind of being adrift in the ocean and the waves are coming upon you. Yet, in that:

Verse 8: “The LORD will command His loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, *even* a prayer to the God of my life. I will say to God my Rock, ‘Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the **oppression of the enemy?**’” (vs 8-9). So, you can have the “...oppression of the enemy.”

Verse 10: “As with a crushing in my bones, my enemies taunt me while they say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’” Sometimes God wants to deal with you one-to-one, all alone. When you ever get to the point that you feel like God is way, way off, that’s when to call on Him and He will be near.

Verse 11: “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why do you moan within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall yet, praise Him, the salvation of my countenance, and my God.” *God will restore you!*

Psalms 43:1: “Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation. Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.” He’s asking for God’s help, protection and deliverance, continually.

Verse 2: “For You are the God of my strength...” Let’s understand that human beings are so weak, inadequate and incomplete. I think the older you get the more you understand that. We need to be delivered from deceitful and unjust men.

They’re finding today that there are so many senior citizens that are finding themselves in bad trouble because they followed bad advice of people saying, ‘You can make a lot of money on this.’ Then they lose everything they have and end up out on the street.

“...why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning under the oppression of the enemy? Oh, send out Your light and Your Truth... [this is what’s going to deliver us] ...let them lead me; let them bring me to Your Holy mountain and to Your tabernacles” (vs 2-3). Let’s amplify this with the New Testament. Where do we come in our prayers to God?

- to Zion in heaven above
- to the Holy of Holies in heaven above

- right to the very throne room of God

There we have it! That’s why the promise is, “**Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.**” There’s part of the comfort.

Verse 4: “Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; yea, upon the lyre I will praise You, O God, my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why do you moan within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall yet, praise Him, the salvation of my countenance, and my God” (vs 4-5). *God will deliver you out of it!*

Let’s see some more of the solutions. We’ve dwelt enough on mourning. Let’s quit mourning and look to the solution.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how we need to come to God and how He will help us.

I always remember what William Tyndale wrote. When you read about his life and analyze what he went through. He really went through thick and thin to provide us with the English Bible. He was, you could say, the father of all English Bibles. He always used to say, ‘If God bid you to go on a trip over the seas, He will send a tempest upon you to see if you trust Him or believe Him or no.’

Whenever we have any of these trials and we’re groaning in our sickness, or whatever the oppression may be, look at these from this point of view: ***These are to strengthen us in faith because these are to lead us closer to God!***

This helps put it all together. This brings us through the tunnel of darkness or the valley of death unto light.

Psalms 54:1: Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your might. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth, for strangers have risen up against me, and violent men seek after my soul; they have not set God before them. **Selah**” (vs 1-3)—***stop and think and meditate*** on this.

Verse 4: “Behold, God is my helper... [tie that in with Heb. 13] ...the LORD is with those who uphold my soul.” There are other people that God is blessing to help you.

Verse 5: “He shall reward evil to my enemies. Destroy them in Your faithfulness. I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good, for He has delivered me out of all trouble, and my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies” (vs 5-7).

That’s why you pray for your enemies. Jesus said, ‘Love your enemies. Pray for them.’ God will handle them. God will take care of them. If they won’t be converted, then He’ll handle them in a different way. This is what we need to realize. When we are mourning because of what we’re going through, God is always there. He hasn’t gone far off. He’s right there.

Psalms 61:1: “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth I cry to You when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the Rock higher than me” (vs 1-2), What all of these things do is:

- they build trust
- they build faith
- they build hope
- they build the love of God

Verse 3:” For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower against the enemy. I will dwell in Your tabernacle forever; I will take refuge in the hiding place of Your wings. Selah.... [meditate on that] ... For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your name. May You add to the days of the king’s life; may his years be as many generations. May he abide before God forever; prepare mercy and truth to preserve him. So I will sing praise to Your name forever, so that I may daily perform my vows” (vs 3-8). This shows how we are delivered.

Let’s see the comfort that God gives us. Psalm 23 is a Psalm that everyone knows when you have troubles, trials and difficulties. Let’s look at it again and let’s see how this clearly reflects:

- how God intervened for Christ
- how He will intervene for us
- how important it is to always keep our minds on the goal

Psalm 23:1: “The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... [all troubles and difficulties on every side] ...I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they **comfort me**.... [God brings you comfort] ...You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies....” (vs 1-5). That’s what God is doing for the Church today, before the return of Christ.

“...You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow

me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (vs 5-6). Those things inspire us and strengthen us and lead us in the way that we need to go.

Let’s look at some other things concerning comfort. This is something that is going to happen to Jerusalem one day. That’s going to be when Christ returns. God knows everything that is going on. He promises that:

- in our difficulties
- out of our troubles
- out of our moaning and groaning

He will comfort us!

Isaiah 40:1: “‘Comfort ye, comfort ye, My people,’ says your God.” I think it’s significant that in the *Messiah* by Handel, this is the very first song that is sung. It leads off everything with the Messiah.

Verse 2: “Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished...” You think all that’s going on over thee in the ‘unholy land’—I don’t like to call it the ‘Holy Land,’ it’s anything but Holy—it makes you wonder. Has more blood been shed in that area of the world than any area on earth? *I’m inclined to believe so!*

“...that her iniquity is pardoned... [it’s the day God begins dealing with Judah] ...for she has received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins” (v 2). They’re going to be comforted.

All the promise of comfort, Isaiah 49:13: “Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break out *into* singing, O mountains; for the LORD has comforted His people...”

This is the ‘bringing back’ after the Tribulation is all over. We’re going to be part of this, as the saints, going out to wherever the people of Israel are and start bringing them back to the inheritance that God has given them.

“...and will have compassion upon His afflicted. But Zion said, ‘The LORD has forsaken me, and my LORD has forgotten me’” (vs 13-14). God says, ‘No! I haven’t done that!’

The Comforter—the Holy Spirit

There has been a question about: Is Zion the same thing as Jerusalem?

- Zion refers to the City of David
- it refers also to the temple
- it can refer to Jerusalem
- it can refer to all Israel

- spiritually, it refers to Sion in heaven above

In the Old Testament, when you go back there, you can have all these applications to Zion.

Now let's come to the New Testament. How is it in the midst of all your troubles, you get comfort and you feel relief and you feel comfort. What is doing that? *It is the Spirit of God!* The Spirit of God will give you comfort and will give you peace of mind. All of those things that come 'unglued' when you go through a trial or sickness and you become upset, oppressed and all of those things.

This is part of what we go through for the Passover ceremony in the New Covenant; John 14:14: “If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.” We need to always keep that in mind with what God has said, ‘According to His will.’

Verse 15: “If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments. **And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter...**” (vs 15-16). Everything that we go through, we need the special gift of the Holy Spirit of God, which makes us complete. No human being is complete. Even with the Holy Spirit, that is only the earnest of the final project after the resurrection.

“...that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, **and shall be within you**” (vs 16-17). That is really a tremendous thing to understand.

Verse 26: “But *when* the Comforter comes, *even* the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that One shall teach you all things...” This is also important, not just reading and learning out of the Bible:

- What happens when we go through our trials and difficulties?
- When we come through the other side, what does it do? *It teaches us something!*

We learn a lesson; we learn it because of the Holy Spirit that teaches us this.

“...and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you” (v 26). That's special to the apostles so they could write the New Testament.

Verse 27: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give *it* to you. Let not your heart be troubled, **nor let it fear.**” That's how we are comforted.

Let's see how it operated in Paul's life, and see some of the things that he went through that he even got despaired. This is really quite something. Paul ties this all together.

2-Corinthians 1:3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort**; Who comforts us in all our tribulation...” (vs 3-4).

Here's the reason. It's not just for you alone, because you're able to help those who later go through the same thing and you can encourage them. That's what Paul said, here.

“...in order that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trial, **through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God**” (v 4). Isn't that something? God is going to give us that comfort:

- we may go through trials
- we may be afflicted
- we may be sick
- we may be mourning

But the promise is ***we will be comforted!*** Claim that promise. Do just like David did. He said, ‘O Lord, hear my voice.’ Sometimes when we're sick, down and out, we're feeling terrible, rotten and blah, *and sometimes* you don't even feel like praying because you're so miserable. ***Pray anyway! Ask God to intervene and help you!***

2-Thessalonians 2:15: “So then, brethren, stand firm, and hold fast the ordinances that you were taught, whether by word or by our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God—even our Father, Who loved us and **gave us eternal encouragement and good hope through grace**” (vs 15-16).

Through all the things that we go through, this is important for us to understand with the days that are coming ahead of us because they're going to be really awesome things to take place.

Verse 17: “Encourage your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.” ***That's the comfort of the Holy Spirit!***

2-Thessalonians 3:1: “As for the rest, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and may be glorified, in the same way that *it has been* with you; and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked men, for all *are* not of the faith” (vs 1-2).

There is another part of it, too. Ask God to deliver you from them *before* you get in their clutches. That saves a lot of trouble.

Verse 3: “But the Lord is faithful... [remember that God will not fail you, cannot fail you] ...Who will establish you and keep *you* from **the evil one.**” Isn’t that part of the daily prayer: ‘Deliver us from the evil one’? That’s Satan the devil!

Verse 4: “Now concerning you, we trust in *the* Lord that you both practice and will be practicing the things that we command you. And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into *the* endurance of Christ” (vs 4-5).

That’s really quite encouraging. When troubles and difficulties come, always look to the other side of it. Look to the way out:

- claim the hope
- claim the comfort
- claim the blessings that God gives

“Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

- Who was called the ‘meekest man’ on earth? *Moses!*
- Was he weak? *No!*
- Was he milk toast? *No!*
- Was he ‘blown with every wind of doctrine?’ *No!*

Meekness is the opposite of self-exaltation. That’s entirely different. Meekness and humility are brothers, they go hand-in-hand. Meekness means that *you don’t exalt yourself*. You’re not vain; you’re not ‘puffed up.’

Let’s see Jesus’ example. Who was more meek than Moses? *Jesus!* Here again is some encouragement and tremendous hope that God gives to us. What we need to do is understand our relationship with God directly and with Jesus Christ. What’s so important is that since God has chosen to use men to teach His Word, everyone who teaches needs to point them always to Christ and God the Father. *Always!*

If they don’t, if they point them to themselves, what happens is that the minister, elder, or teacher—whoever it may be—is taking to himself the attributes of God and *putting himself between* the people and God. Also, this helps solve a lot of problems, because every individual is going to have faith and confidence in God to go to God and pray for help and solution.

You don’t have to come and counsel every ‘itty bitty’ thing with the minister. That’s the corporate way of doing things. Look to men and come and counsel to the minister for every little

thing that you do because you don’t have brains enough to make your own decision. *No!* God expects you to grow and mature and make your own decisions.

Let’s understand how important our relationship with Christ is.

Matthew 11:25: “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes.’” The mystery and Truth of the Plan of God, He has given to those who love Him, not to the wise of the world, not to the intelligent of the world.

Verse 26: “Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight to *do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, **and** the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*” (vs 26-27).

That is a key to our calling! Also a key in our relationship with God! God is dealing with us personally, on an individual basis. When we come together as the brethren of God in assembling on the Sabbath and on the Holy Days, then with this in mind, we learn more of God, love and appreciate each other more, because we know that God is dealing with each one of us as individuals. Then when we come together, we can work together and do the things that we need to do in a better way than on any other basis. Here’s what Jesus said:

Verse 28: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; **for I am meek and lowly in heart...**” (vs 28-29).

Jesus could be the meekest of any on the earth, greater than Moses (Heb. 3). He understood what meekness was because as a human being, when He remembered what He was as God, He couldn’t get ‘puffed up’ in the flesh.

“...and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light” (vs 29-30). Because He’s there:

- to help us
- to forgive us
- to encourage us
- to lift us out of it

When He does and we give all glory and honor to God, what does that do? *That humbles us and gives us meekness, too!*

Here is where Jesus quoted that beatitude, Psalm 37:11: **“But the meek shall inherit the earth**

and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Let's see how this brings us out of all the difficulties. This brings us the comfort. That's why when you pray and study when you're in a difficult situation and you study certain Scriptures, you'll find it brings a peace of mind to you that you couldn't get any other way. Remember that ***you can never worry yourself into peace of mind!*** They are two opposites and they don't meet.

Notice how the focus is unto God. Psalm 25:1: “To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed; let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Show me Your ways, O LORD...” (vs 1-4). That's how we grow in grace and knowledge. It comes out of the Word of God.

“...teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your Truth...” (vs 4-5). This is really a profound Psalm. You can add all the things that are Truth:

- we're to walk in Truth
- the Truth will set us free
- the commandments of God are Truth
- the Law is Truth
- all the ways of God are true from the beginning

“...and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long” (v 5). Sometimes there's nothing to do but wait on God. Other times there are things to do after you know what you need to do.

Verse 6: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness sake, O LORD” (vs 6-7). All of this is leading up to a meek attitude. All of this is:

- God do this for me
- God help me with this
- I look to You
- I trust in You

Verse 8: “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will teach sinners in the way. The meek He will guide in judgment; and the meek He will teach His way” (vs 8-9). Why? *Because they're not 'know-it-alls! They aren't bought into themselves!*

Verse 10: “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.” This is a tremendous Psalm. Take it the opposite: All of those who do not take His covenant and His testimonies, who transgress against God, the way of God is:

- tough
- hard
- miserable
- painful
- corrective

Yes, indeed!

Verse 11: “For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. What man is he who fears the LORD? He shall teach him in the way that He shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease, and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him... [because they're meek] ...and He will show them His covenant” (vs 11-14). This is quite a thing!

What do you think when you say, ‘His name's sake.’ That means: For the sake of God's name, which is:

- Holy
- righteous
- good
- true
- merciful
- kind
- gracious

And do it because God delights to do it, not because we necessarily ask, though we're asking. In Ezek. 20 there is a connection between the Sabbath, the Holy Days and God's namesake, because His name is on it and His presence is in it. Every time someone thinks of this, he thinks of the Sabbath and Holy Days, it's true; for God's name sake.

When you're meek, you want it because of the sake of God's name, His promises and everything He stands for. When you're filled with vanity and exalted, you want it because of who you are and you deserve it. That points right back to the first commandment. When you get back to the first commandment, you have to go through the other three that follow. The truth is, you can't separate any of the Ten Commandments:

- you cannot have the right God, and then reject the Sabbath
- you cannot have the right God, and then have idols and statues
- you cannot have the right God, especially those who are supposed to speak for God,

then speak for themselves—meaning that they’re anything but meek

That’s why Jesus was meek and lowly, because He didn’t do anything from Himself. He did what the Father commanded Him to do. He spoke the Words that the Father wanted Him to speak. *He did nothing of Himself!*

Let’s finish in John 5 on meekness, to amplify the meekness of Christ. Remember, this has got to be a tremendous thing to understand and the meekness of Jesus has got to be greater than any human being, because He gave up being God to become human. He never took the prerogatives of God to Himself, out of human vanity, to exalt Himself in any way. This is really something to understand. This will amplify the kind of meekness that we need to have, also, ourselves.

John 5:19: “Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself, but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner.’” How much less can any of us other human beings, do anything of ourselves?

- we have nothing we didn’t receive
- we didn’t come here on our own
- we didn’t grow out of the ground separate from our mothers and fathers

It goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. That is the witness of, what you might say, the ‘belly button.’ As I’ve mentioned before, with that you know that you’re nothing unto yourself except what comes from your father and mother physically, and you of your children and they of their parents. All the way back.

Here, Jesus didn’t do anything of Himself. Of any human being on earth, was He more capable of doing something on His own than any other human being? *Of course! Yes, but He didn’t do it!*

Verse 20: “For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him greater works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder.” This is something! This is really something!

Verse 21: “For even as the Father raises the dead and gives life, in the same way also, the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son so that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him. Truly, truly I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life and

does not come into judgment; for he has passed from death into life” (vs 21-24).

Here’s what defines the meekness of Christ. You tie that in with what we covered earlier in Jer. 10, He says:

Verse 30: **“I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me.”**

That’s a perfect example for us!

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:3-4
- 2) Romans 8:14-17, 19-24
- 3) Luke 6:24-26
- 4) Ezekiel 9:1-11
- 5) Psalm 38:1
- 6) Jeremiah 10:23-25
- 7) Psalm 38:2-10, 15-18, 21-22
- 8) Psalms 42:5-11
- 9) Psalms 43:1-5
- 10) Psalms 54:1-7
- 11) Psalm 61:1-8
- 12) Psalm 23:1-6
- 13) Isaiah 40:1-2
- 14) Isaiah 49:13-14
- 15) John 14:14-17, 26-27
- 16) 2-Corinthians 1:3-4
- 17) 2-Thessolians 2:15-17
- 18) 2-Thessolians 3:1-5
- 19) Matthew 5:5
- 20) Matthew 11:25-30
- 21) Psalm 37:11
- 22) Psalm 25:1-14
- 23) John 5:19-24, 30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 91
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- Revelation 20:4-6; 18
- Hebrews 13
- Hebrews 3
- Ezekiel 20

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“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

The Beatitudes III

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

Fred R. Coulter

I think it's very important in the days that we're living in, to really concentrate on what our attitudes need to be. Always remember this: In the middle of the political seasons that we're going through, here is an absolute truism that never fails: ***You cannot solve spiritual problems by political means!*** Don't put any hopes in any politician that he's going to do anything to solve the problems of the sins of the nation.

God has to deal with us individually. The most important thing is that we develop the mind of Christ and the character of God, because *God is training us so that we can become the rulers in the Kingdom of God!* That's the thing that we need to concentrate on. Regardless of who you are and where you are, consider this: You are part of the future solution that God is going to bring upon this world. The thing that's missing in the world is:

- the love of God
- the character of God
- the mind of God
- the leading of the Holy Spirit

That's what's missing in the world!

Men wanted to go their own way. God said, 'All right, go your own way. But know that you're going to have problems and difficulties.' This puts you in a special relationship with God, because His eyes are always upon the saints. His thoughts are always upon His people. What He wants us to do is to develop His character so that we can be the solution to the problems of the world.

Let's come to Matt. 5 and continue on with *The Beatitudes*. These are the attitudes that bring us the kind of understanding, the peace of mind, the lack of fear and all of these things are important to have. Here's what we need to do, especially if you start getting down because of problems, difficulties, and the things that are in the world. If you watch the news, it gets worse and worse and you get depressed because of it. When you see news and things, it can depress you and put you down. The way you are lifted up is:

1. read the Word of God
2. concentrate on the *Beatitudes*
3. get on your knees and ask God to help you
 - to give you peace of mind
 - to give you understanding

- to lead you with His Spirit
- to protect you with His angels

That's my prayer for the brethren everyday!

Those who are sick need to be raised up. Those who are depressed need to be encouraged. This is why we have these teachings of Jesus so that in these times we can focus on what we really need to focus on.

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

Righteousness means:

- the righteousness of God
- the commandments of God
- the Spirit of God

The longer that you have the Spirit of God and the more that you understand about God's way, the less that the glitter and glamour of the world and things in the world have attraction for you. That's just the way it works. It's automatic! There's a blessing for *hungering and thirsting* “...after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

Now let's look at the parallel over here in Luke 6. When you look at all the success of the wicked, as we were discussing earlier about the expensive prostitute ring that Spitzer got caught in, the woman who he 'hooked up with' is now in line to make millions and millions of dollars. You look at that and you think, 'That's awful'—which it is. A lot of people might say, 'That's unfair.' Some other people in the world will say, 'I ought to do the same thing so I can make millions.' You have to look at that and think:

- their reward is now, ***ours is coming***
- theirs is temporary and will be destroyed, ***ours will be eternal***

Luke 6:21: “Blessed *are* those who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed *are* those who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men shall hate you, and when they shall cut you off, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as wicked, for the Son of man's sake” (vs 21-22). We'll cover persecution a little later.

Verse 23: “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy; for behold, great *is* your reward in heaven...”

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

[which Christ is going to bring with Him when He comes] ...for their fathers did these same things to the prophets.”

I want you to understand, when you look at the financial world today and what is happening, how this is true.

Verse 24: “But **woe** to you, the rich, for you are receiving your consolation!... [it’s all evaporating] ...**Woe** to you who have been filled, for you shall hunger! **Woe** to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep! **Woe** to you when all men shall speak well of you! For their fathers did these same things to the false prophets” (vs 24-26). There you have it!

Let’s look and see how God gives these promises and how these things tie in with what we find in the Old Testament. As I’ve mentioned before and I’ll say again, you can recognize every false preacher when he says—besides telling you to come the Church on Sunday—‘the Law has been done away or the Old Testament has been fulfilled’; you know he’s lying. He may be very convincing, but that’s why you have to go by the Word of God. ***Judge everything by the Word of God!***

Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear; for I *am* with you; be not dismayed... [discouraged or frustrated] ...for I *am* your God...” The God that made heaven and earth and everything that there is. You’re on His side, and He’s on your side.

“...I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.” (v 10). That’s why we are to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. That righteousness includes *all* of God’s way. He always gives us encouragement. Keep this in mind.

Verse 11: “Behold, all those who were angered against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing. And those who strive against you shall perish. You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught” (vs 11-12).

Because ***if God is for you, nothing can be against you!*** It doesn’t matter about:

- physical frailties
- age
- weakness
- whatever

If God is for you, you can’t have anything, anyone, any comparison to that kind of help, support and love that God gives you. Remember that Christ died and was raised from the dead to put you into this situation with God!

Verse 13: “For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, “Do not fear; I will help you.” Do not fear, you worm Jacob *and* men of Israel; I will help you,” says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel” (vs 13-14). Of course, the Church is the Israel of God today. Keep that in mind.

This is what we have to keep in mind in everything; Isaiah 49:8: “Thus says the LORD, ‘In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will preserve You, and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the earth...’” That’s talking about Christ, Himself but also that’s talking about us. Our covenant that we’re going to renew with the coming Passover is the New Covenant for eternal life.

“...to cause them to inherit the wasted inheritances; that You may say to the prisoners, “Go out!” To those who *are* in darkness, “Show yourselves!” They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; nor shall the heat nor sun strike them; for He who has compassion on them shall lead them; even by the springs of water He shall guide them. And I will make all My mountains into roads, and My highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim...” (vs 8-12). Which is probably the Far East.

Verse 13: “Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break out *into* singing, O mountains; for the LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion upon His afflicted.” That’s why we *hunger and thirst after righteousness*.

To the world, this would be a hard thing to take, because you need the Spirit of God to do this. They want all the benefits that we have talked about, here, but they don’t want to have to do the repentance and the obedience.

Psalms 143:1 “Hear my prayer O LORD; give ear unto my supplications; in Your faithfulness and in Your righteousness answer me.” That’s quite a thing.

Stop and think of the work that God is doing in us. The greatest creative work that He is doing is that we are the ‘workmanship of God’ today. Our attitude toward God through *hungering and thirsting after righteousness* and being filled with that, is the number one priority in our lives. When you do that:

- you will see that there will be a change in your attitude
- you will have the strength and character of God’s Spirit

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

- you will be able to understand the problems and things that are going on
- you will see the solution and the handiwork of God in doing it

In his prayer he says, v 2: “And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.” That is, because of his own works. The way is only through Christ.

Verse 3: “For the enemy has pursued my soul...” Isn’t it interesting that wherever we have *hungering and thirsting* we also have some persecution and that’s exactly as it falls there in Matt. 5.

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:10)

—because you’re *hungering and thirsting after righteousness*. So, it follows right here, too.

“...he has beaten my life down to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, as those long dead. Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart is weary within me. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I consider the work of Your hands. I stretch forth my hands unto You; my soul thirsts after You like a parched land. Selah” (vs 3-6). This also tells us why we go through the trials and difficulties that we do. It’s so that we can have this attitude.

It might be interesting if you want to do an interesting word study. Go through the Psalms and look up every verse where it is *hear Me; hear, Lord*. I think you’ll be surprised how many times it’s there.

Verse 7: “Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails; do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, for I do trust in You...” (vs 7-8). Trust involves:

- faith
- belief
- yielding to God

“...cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul unto You. Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; I flee to You to hide me. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground of uprightness. O LORD, for Your name’s sake quicken me; in Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble. And in Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant” (vs 8-12).

That’s quite a Psalm! Look at all of the elements that are in there that are necessary for us for our heart, our mind and our attitude.

Also, as I’m going to bring out concerning some of the things with ‘works and righteousness’ in preparing to do some writing on ‘works,’ I came across something that was, I think, very important.

Let’s just do a little detour and come to Rev. 2 & 3. Let’s understand that God says in many places, that He is going to render to every man ‘according to his works.’ So, works are important. Another way you can tell a false prophet is when he says that you don’t need any works. We’re just going to read a few words, here, just to get the point home.

Revelation 2:2: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance...”

- Verse 5: “...repent, and do the first works...”
- Verse 9: “I know your works and tribulation and poverty...”
- Verse 13: “I know your works...”
- Verse 19: “I know your works...and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.”

Revelation 3:1: “...Sardis...I know your works...”

- Verse 8: “I know your works...”
- Verse 15: “I know your works...”

Romans 2:6^[transcriber’s correction]: “Who will render to each one according to his own works.”

Let me read you something on definition. This is from the *Cruden’s Complete Concordance* a definition of ‘works.’ I never thought of it this way. We have, but we haven’t expressed it exactly like it is defined here. Work is some kind of action, but what precedes the action? *The thought!* Here’s the definition of work.

from: *Cruden’s Complete Concordance*:

It is taken to mean: 1) For such business as to prosper in every man’s calling which may be done in six days.

Six days shall you labor and do your work.

2) For any thought, word, or outward action, whether good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: “For God shall bring every work into judgment...”

Work is put for miracles, such as the work that Jesus did. Works of God denote His work of creation, His works of providence in preserving and governing the world,

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

His work of redemption, and particularly the faith of true believers, is called the ‘work of God.’

We are called ‘His workmanship.’

By good works, are to be understood all manners of duties inward and outward, thoughts as well as words and actions toward God or man, which are commanded in the Law of God or ‘proceed from a pure heart and faith unfeigned.’

When you start talking about works and judging works, God’s also judging thoughts. That’s why the process of being ‘unleavened’ is that the Holy Spirit reveals to our mind, the inner sins that are there, so we can be cleaned by the ‘washing of the water by the Word.’ This is why *hungering and thirsting after righteousness* becomes so important.

This is why God looks to the heart, because every action is determined by thought beforehand, whether instantaneously or considered. Here’s how we are to approach God. This is how we are to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. Notice David’s attitude here.

Psalms 42:1: “As the hart [deer] pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?” (vs 1-2). At the resurrection, you’re going to see Him face-to-face! That’s quite something.

Psa. 63 is one of my favorite Psalms. This is also the attitude that we need to have. Here’s how you *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. That means, all the characteristics of God:

- love
- truth
- mercy
- kindness
- goodness
- temperance
- forbearance

All the fruits of the Holy Spirit; those are all righteousness.

Psalms 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You!... [don’t wait until it’s too late] ...My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.” Think of the vastness of a desert. Look at this. We have the blessing today, that in our own living rooms we can watch specials:

- about the earth
- about the heavens

- about creation
- about all the animals of God
- things like this

Even in the worst desert in the world, the Kalahari Desert, it has a little bit of rain every four or five years and sometimes none for about nine years. Yet, there’s life! There are even people who live there! They don’t live right in the desert, but they live right on the borders of it. When they get close to the Atlantic Ocean, the mist comes in and there’s a whole lot more life there in the Kalahari.

I turned on the television, and here, they were showing a special of a scientist, which was really quite interesting. He was tracking down the male ‘Y’ chromosome of the Europeans and where they were in the world. Actually, he didn’t know it, but he was tracking down the chromosome of Noah, Shem and Japheth, because he didn’t know the Bible.

Anyway, guess where he found a lot of the ‘Y’ chromosome before they came to Europe? *They found it in the Caucasus!* Then they also found, that it went East and North. He was tracking down the various ones that they had taken blood samples of years before in these various areas and he had to go to the most desolate region in Siberia. The furthest north and the furthest east of places where men live.

I couldn’t get over this. He had to go 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and there were Nomads. Their families had lived there for centuries. They live in climates where it gets down to—with wind-chill factor—over 100 below zero Celsius. Yet, there are reindeer living there. Because of the long Summer that they have, where they have all the sun, it doesn’t melt down below the permafrost, but when the snow comes, and it comes early, because by the 3rd or 4th of November, the sun sets at 2 o’clock in the afternoon. That means that it’s only up about four hours.

It gets really cold at night. The wind really blows. These people live there. In order to come and meet them when they were driving up there, this one man had to walk in this kind of weather for six days and six nights to meet the special snowmobile that was bringing them there. One of these big, huge snowmobiles that they have, not the little ones that we think of people having today.

It was amazing how these people lived. The reindeer would kick the snow and eat whatever was under there, because of the snow. They lived off the reindeer. All of their dwellings were made out of reindeer hides. Everything that they had depended upon the reindeer.

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

I’m sitting there in the comfort of my home watching this on television. This, I’ll have to tell you, really made an impression upon my mind, that he would go all that far to track down these people. The thing that really got me was that these people lived there!

He was amazed at how they slept because everything is frozen. You even go into their abodes, which are made of reindeer hide, and unless you’re close to the fire, you can see your breath. I thought, ‘I just turned up my thermostat because I’m cold.’ I thought, ‘You spoiled thing!’ I was eating a snack that I got out of the refrigerator while I was watching this go on. Here they’re scraping off reindeer bones to get what they’re going to eat.

They had a special tent for him to sleep in. He got in there and you could see his breath. He knocked up against the side of the leather and it was frozen stiff. Inside this bigger abode, there was a smaller place for him to go to sleep. He didn’t have a sleeping bag. He had to sleep in his clothes. I thought, ‘How do these people bathe?’

If you get a chance to see that, watch it. It ‘blew my mind.’ It made me so thankful for what we have and to realize that everything we have, God has given to us so that we can develop the character of God. Just think. When Christ returns, those poor, pitiful, people are going to be saved out their current circumstances.

Nevertheless, I have to finish the story on going to bed. It showed this other little tent that was inside the other tent and it had a candle in there. No sleeping bag, just his clothes. No pillow. If I don’t have a pillow, my head is ‘wiped out’ and I can’t sleep. I have to have the right sized pillow. It has to be the right height, not too high, not too low, because I’ll get a bad neck going down or a bad neck going up. I can’t understand how people sleep on these huge, great, giant, pillows. It just ‘blows my mind.’ I have my one special one.

Here’s this guy, a redhead Nordic tall fellow, chasing down the genetic gene. They took blood samples of these people before and he went there to confirm it and take more blood samples. Also, to let them know that they are direct relatives of Europeans. They are Mongolians-type, living up here in the Artic.

Anyway, he lay down to sleep and he said, ‘It was warm.’ There, in the middle of 100 below zero Celsius, people live; people exist. Everything they do is to eek out an existence.

But for us, God has given us the opportunity:

- to have His Word
- to understand His Word
- to be called
- to have a relationship with God

I was sitting there at about 1:30 or 2:00 o’clock in the morning, because I went to bed about 7:30 p.m. I thought to myself that I just had to go pray and repent of all the stupidity of the blessings of all the physical indulgences we have here today, that are legal and lawful for us to have, but we just take it for granted.

How quick do you think we would be to gripe and complain if our thermostat went out and it was 10-degrees below outside and it got to be 7-degrees below in the house? I thought, ‘That’s why we have what we have. No other reason but:

- to develop a real relationship with God
- to know the Word of God
- to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*

When they showed the landscape, it was all snow, white, wind blowing, reindeer, you’re out there having to run back and forth to catch them. When they would have to go to another area, they would have to:

- tear down their abodes
- put them all on sleds
- lasso the reindeer
- put the harness on them
- go wherever they were to go to the next place

I thought to myself, ‘O God, we had better really, really take advantage of everything You have blessed us with!’ Sometimes you’ll have something like that that will give you an experience of understanding what God has done. That’s why it says, here:

Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is, to see Your power and Your glory—as I have seen You in the sanctuary” (vs 1-2). David saw, probably, some sort of visage of God there in the sanctuary when he had the Ark of the Covenant in a tent in his house.

Verse 3: “Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips when I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore, **in the shadow of**

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

Your wings I will rejoice” (vs 3-7). **God’s unseen protection!**

Verse 8: “My soul follows hard after You; Your right hand upholds me.” That’s really something. That’s the attitude that we need, here.

Psalm 107:1: “O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” We’re going to see that the next one that we cover is **be merciful**. All of this ties together.

Verse 2: “So, let the redeemed of the LORD say, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.” Never forget! God has redeemed us from the hand of Satan, the devil.

Verse 3: “And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness, in a desert by the way; they found no city to dwell in” (vs 3-4). He’s talking about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their families. They were sojourners in a strange land.

Verse 5: “Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried...” (vs 5-6). This is also talking about Israel in the wilderness. It’s talking about the scattering of Israel into the world. There are many things involved here.

“...to the LORD in their distress, and He delivered them out of their troubles. And He led them by a straight way, so that they might go to a city to dwell” (vs 6-7). What is our city of habitation? *New Jerusalem!*

Verse 8: “Let them praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of man, For **He satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with good things**” (vs 8-9). Quiet something.

Now, let’s come to Isa. 55 and let’s see how this ties into the Gospel and how it is that when Jesus said, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”**

Isaiah 55:1: “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters... [those are the living waters of God’s Spirit] ...and he who *has* no money...” Also this means that this is something that you cannot buy with money.

“...come, buy and eat. Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price... [those are referring to the good things of God] ...Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread?...” (vs 1-2). In other words, that which is in the world that does not lead to the true righteousness of Christ.

“...And your labor for *what* never satisfies?...” (v 2) That’s why people get into addictions. They have a **hungering, thirsting and longing** and they don’t know how to fill it. Then they get addicted and obsessed in what they are doing.

I heard of a case where a woman is going to sue some gambling casinos for \$20-million because they allowed her to, in three days, stay up night and day and gambled and lost all of her money. Why? Why do people get into things like that? *Because:*

- they don’t know why they’re here
- they don’t know where they’re going
- they don’t realize that the only thing that can fill them is the Spirit of God

This is what he is talking about here. God says that the way that you fill that void is this:

“...Hearken diligently to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.... [the righteousness of God] ...Bow down your ear, and come to Me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David” (vs 2-3).

Let’s come to the New Testament and see how Jesus expressed it here in John 6. The only thing that will ever satisfy that void in a person’s life is obtained only by:

- repentance
- forgiveness
- baptism
- the receipt of the Holy Spirit of God
- growing in grace and knowledge

nothing else will do it:

- no amount of drinking
- no amount of gambling
- no amount of working
- no amount of money
- no amount of success in this world can possibly fill that void

God made it that way so that we come to Him!

Now, let’s see what Jesus said after they wanted to have the manna. They were chasing Him down because He fed the 5,000 and they said, ‘Oh, boy! This is good! Look at this, we won’t have to work any more. We’ll just follow this guy around and make Him king and He’ll provide bread for us.’

Surely Obama, if he could do that, would really be thought of as the Messiah, but he can’t do that. He’s a mere mortal like everybody else, in spite of what his pastor likens him unto Christ; he’s not. **Christ is Christ** and the political means aren’t going

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

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to solve this and Obama can't do it anymore than anybody else.

Let's see what Jesus said for people who want to have everything given to them. That's the whole point of it. Too many people want to have everything given to them. God will give it to you, but you've got to work for it. God will provide for you, ***but you have to do it His way!***

Spiritually, all of the striving for the physical food is never going to satisfy. Jesus answered them when they said, 'How did You get back over here on the other side of the Sea of Galilee when we were looking for You over there so we could find some more bread.'

John 6:26: "Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly I say to you, you do not seek Me because you saw *the* miracles, but because you ate the bread and were satisfied. Do not labor *for* the food that perishes, but *for* the food that endures unto eternal life...'” (vs 26-27). That comes through Christ. That comes down to what we are going to be doing concerning the Passover.

“...which the Son of man shall give to you...” (v 27). It can only come from God the Father through Christ. You can't come to the Father unless you come through Christ. It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, you sooner or later are going to have to come to God through Christ, because that's the way that it is, either in this life or in your next life. It's still going to have to be that way. So, He says:

“...for Him has God the Father sealed.’ Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, in order that we ourselves may do the works of God?’” (vs 27-28). ‘What can we do that we can have this bread provided for us by something we can do?’ In other words, ‘Lord, how did You cause the fish and bread to multiply? You tell us so we can do it.’

Verse 29: “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God: that you believe in Him Whom He has sent.’” Just like this definition of work. It has to do with thought, and belief has to do with thought; “...that you believe in Him Whom He has sent.” So they said, ‘Okay, that's good enough.’

Verse 30: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What sign will You perform, that we may see *it* and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, as it is written: “He gave them bread to eat *that came down* from heaven.”’” (vs 30-31). ‘That sounds fair enough. What do we have to do?’

Verse 32: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven; but **My Father gives you the true**

Bread from heaven.” In other words, what is the true purpose of human life? Just to eat and survive? *No!*

Verse 33: “For the Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” You can eat all the food and bread you want, but you're still going to die.

Verse 34: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘Lord, give this bread to us always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘**I am the Bread of Life...** [Whom we are seeking after] **...the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time**’” (vs 34-35).

You now are fulfilling the very purpose as to why you were created and God is still creating in you, that life, character, and so forth. That's why we need to ***hunger and thirst after righteousness!***

Verse 49: “Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died.” In other words, even if you did have manna, you're still going to die. You need something greater than manna.

Verse 50: “This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.... [the way of God] **...I am the living Bread...** [which He gave as a complete sacrifice, which we'll cover as we lead up to the Passover] ...which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and **the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world**” (vs 50-51). He laid His life down and no one took it from Him.

Verse 52: “Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, ‘How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?’ Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you... [this is kind of like rubbing some salt in the wound] ...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves’” (vs 52-53). Even His disciples couldn't understand this, because they had not yet had the Passover of the New Covenant.

Verse 54: “The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. **The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him**” (vs 54-56). That's a lot for these people to try and understand, which is also a good way of dividing the true believers from the flatterers.

Here is the key. Here is the answer, which they missed, which we need to learn:

Verse 57: “As the living Father has sent Me, and **I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me.**”

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

That’s the whole key! *So, let’s ‘hunger and thirst after righteousness’ and we will be filled. The greatest filling is going to come at the resurrection!*

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:6
- 2) Luke 6:21-26
- 3) Isaiah 41:10-14
- 4) Isaiah 49:8-13
- 5) Psalm 143:1-3
- 6) Matthew 5:10
- 7) Psalm 143:3-12
- 8) Revelation 2:2, 5, 9, 13, 19
- 9) Revelation 3:1, 8, 15
- 10) Romans 2:6
- 11) Ecclesiastes 12:14
- 12) Psalm 42:1-2
- 13) Psalm 63:1-8
- 14) Psalm 107:1-9
- 15) Isaiah 55:1-3
- 16) John 6:26-35, 49-57

Also referenced: Book: *Cruden’s Complete Concordance* by Alexander Cruden

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The Beatitudes IV

“Blessed are the merciful...”

Fred R. Coulter

Let's go to Matt. 5 and review a little bit here. I think you will see that as all of these come in order there's a reason for them to be in the way that they are. As I've mentioned *John the Baptist as "Bridge" Between Old and New Covenants...* [note chapter three, pg 28, of Commentary in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*] ...what Jesus is teaching here now is the unity of *Scripture between the Old and New Testament*. All of these things are founded on the Old Testament, but now, brought to us with the spiritual application of the New Testament.

We'll just review until we get down to where we're going to be today; Matthew 5:3: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (vs 3-4).

The true spiritual comfort that comes from God is what is important for us to know and understand all the time. You can't be comforted by things. You can get some comfort from a dog, if you're down and depressed, because a dog will love you in spite of who you are and what you are and will demand love from you. I think God created the dog for that very purpose. True comfort comes from God. God is the only One Who can give you comfort in your mind, in your heart and in your whole being.

Verse 5: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Verses 3 & 5 tell you the basic qualifications to enter into the Kingdom of God. Each one of these, each Scripture in itself, is not an end to itself—the beginning and an ending—it is a beginning and it branches out into the Old and New Testament to give us a more full definition of it.

Psalms 119:18: “Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Law.” So, what we are reading in Matt. 5 is the Law of the New Testament.

In *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* you see that there are seven divisions of the Bible. The middle division is the Gospels and Acts, which gives a balance to everything that God has done. With the four Gospels and the book of Acts, that's five books, and that is the spiritual counterpart of the Law, which is the five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These things become very important because they go back into the Old Testament and as the New Testament was being written, they go forward into the New Testament as well, to bring it all together.

In part three we covered Matthew 5:6: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” That has to be, constantly, our attitude toward God. The righteousness is just not commandment-keeping or justification through forgiveness of sin, this is righteousness in character, understanding and in becoming more God-like.

Let's see the goal of all the teachings that Jesus has given, v 48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect.”

The goal and standard that we have is the absolute highest. We can reach that and attain that in increments through our lives with God's Spirit and with His Word, but the perfection is going to go also, on into all eternity, as the sons and daughters of God. When we read these Scriptures, let's realize that they expand out way further than just reading a verse or two or turning here or there. It's all part of God's great plan for us.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

Now, we come to the one that we're going to cover today, We're going to see how important mercy is. This goes right back to the very nature of God. Actually, when you read all of these things here:

- poor in spirit
- mourn
- meek
- hunger and thirst
- merciful
- pure in heart
- peacemakers

These all relate to characteristics of God. God is the most humble Person in the whole universe. That's why He's in control of it. He's also the most powerful, because He's Creator and Ruler over all. True rulership comes through true humility. So, this is what God is teaching us; likewise, merciful.

Let's see that in addition to love, mercy is one of the great characteristics of God toward man. When we understand that and realize it, this helps us an awful lot.

God gave us the nature that we have and of course, when Adam and Eve sinned the ‘law of sin and death’ was put into their being.

I actually had a man write to me and say, ‘No, God didn't do that. Satan did that.’ I thought

about that and I thought, ‘No! God did it because Satan does not have the power to put something within human beings that is passed on by heredity.’ He can influence behavior. Demons can possess people, but nothing is passed on by heredity from demons. Otherwise, that would make Satan a creator. God says *He* creates, good, righteousness, and also evil.

Here we are, we’re born into a world and we have a nature that is automatically hostile against God. Of course, that comes out in varying degrees, depending on how we’re reared, taught and things like that; all the way from those who want to know about God and will follow God, to the very worst criminal who is in prison for life, is hardened and has no feelings about anyone or anything but himself.

If you want to know the epitome of that, and if you have an opportunity to watch any documentaries on Charles Manson and his brood, that will tell you the epitome of a seared conscience. When he dies and the second resurrection comes about and he’s resurrected in the second resurrection—I’m just kind of projecting forward—we don’t know what his attitude is going to be then. This is why God said that those who do terrible and awful crimes, it affects their minds so much that they *must* be executed. Man says, ‘Oh, no! He was temporarily insane.’ So, they inflict upon them ‘cruel and unusual punishment’ called life in prison, which God never intended.

I’m kind of straying, here, a little bit just to show the difference between the extremes of human nature. So, here we are born into this world and we have this nature. Until God begins dealing with us and unless our parents teach us correctly, we’re going to end up with certain deficiencies. We’re subject to all of these things. So, God executes mercy in relationship to man, very easily. He also executes vengeance for those who won’t repent. Remember that *before mercy is given, true mercy, there must be repentance!*

Exo. 34—this is after the children of Israel sinned by making the golden calf and Moses got angry, threw the tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written on the ground and broke them.

Exodus 34:1: “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Cut out two tablets of stone like the first ones....’” We are one step removed from God because of sin. The first ones, God cut out and He wrote on them. The second ones, Moses had to cut out and he took them up to God. Yes, God wrote on them, but we’re one step removed from God.

“...And I will write upon the tablets the words that were in the first tablets, which you broke.

And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. And no man shall come up with you, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mountain. Also do not let the flocks nor herds feed before that mountain.’ And he cut out two tablets of stone like the first *ones*. And Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone. And the LORD came down in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.... [this must have been an awesome thing] ...And the LORD passed by before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious...**’” (vs 1-6).

Even though the people sinned, Moses intervened and said, ‘O God, don’t exterminate all these people. If you’re going to do that, blot out my name.’ God said, ‘No, I won’t do that.’ He was merciful even in spite of their sin, and also, with Aaron; Moses pleaded for Aaron and God spared him. God did execute judgment on those where the instigators of that and those who did not ‘come on God’s side.’ Nevertheless, the characteristics of God are ‘merciful and gracious.’ We can add in there, because God is love.

“...longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, **keeping mercy to the thousandth generation...**” (vs 6-7). I mentioned this one time and I said, ‘the thousandth generation. If it’s 25 years, that’s 2,500 years,’ but no, that is 25,000 years.

Let’s think about where we are as the modern descendants of Israel and the modern nations of Israel today. We’re here doing what we’re doing because of the mercy of God, that God had toward Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and the children of Israel. We have been blessed with all the things that we have because of God’s mercy in fulfilling His promises, because He promised Abraham that He would do it. It is not dependant upon the righteousness of those who receive it. However, if those who receive it sin, He’s going to bring some correction. All of that is because God is merciful.

“...forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear *the guilty*... [if there’s no repentance] ...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, to the third and to the fourth generation” (v 7).

This shows the goodness and mercy of God and the severity of God. God says, “**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.**” We will see what God requires of us on that in a little bit.

Now, let's see how these were incorporated into part of the Ten Commandments. Let's come to Exo. 20. The second commandment is actually the longest commandment, a little longer than the fourth one.

Every once in a while Paul Harvey says something that's very interesting. He said—and even Zig Ziglar said this—that if you read the Ten Commandments, they are not difficult to understand. People try to make them difficult to understand because they don't want to do them. So, when we read the first and second commandment, you will see that they are not difficult.

Exodus 20:1: “And God spoke all these words, saying, ‘I *am* the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me’” (vs 1-3).

That's pretty simple. Does anyone not understand that? I'm sure everybody here, understands it. If you talk to anyone else in the world concerning this, they would understand what it says, but they don't want to do it.

Verse 4—second commandment: “You shall not make for yourselves any graven image, or any likeness of *anything* that *is* in the heavens above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters under the earth.”

That's not too terribly hard to figure out. Don't make any thing of any likeness representing God, “...in the heavens above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the waters under the earth.” There are two parts to this:

1. you are not to make them
2. Verse 5: “You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, the LORD your God *am* a jealous God...”

A lot of people say, ‘If God is jealous and we're not to have jealousy, how can God be jealous and He doesn't allow us to be jealous?’ He does allow us to be jealous for the right thing. Stop and consider this:

- Who made the heavens and the earth? *God did!*
- Who created everything that's on the earth? *God did!*
- Who made man and woman the way He did? *God did!*
- Who provides everything that we have, saint and sinner? *God does!*

we breathe the same air:

- that God gives to the earth
- that the sinners do
- that the incorrigible prisoners who have life in prison do

God has one humbling reminder of where we came from, and that's called a ‘belly button.’ Every once in a while, if you get lifted up in your vanity and think you're so great, just reach down and feel your belly button. That tells you that:

- you didn't created yourself
- you're not independent
- you came because of your father and mother

That goes back to their father and mother, and their father and mother and all the way back to Adam and Eve. Don't ask me if Adam had a belly button or not, I couldn't tell you, but he knew that God had created him.

All the way through the Bible, God shows the stupidity and the vanity of idols and other gods, which is nothing more than Satan and demon worship. He says, “You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, the LORD your God *am* a jealous God...” Since God has done all of this in His love and mercy for all of us, wouldn't you be jealous if you did something of a great consequence and then someone turned around and just:

- threw dirt in your face?
- spit in your face?
- turned around and walked off?
- did whatever they wanted to?

That's what mankind has done to God! That's why He's jealous. Why should people give homage to a piece of wood, a piece of stone, or a piece of metal, when the living God is there which you can worship and He'll bless you and do things for you. That's why He's jealous. That's why this penalty comes:

“...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me” (v 5). There are people who hate God. All you have to do is just look and see: Do they have the judgment of God against them because of hating God? God would not be just, God would not be fair if He did not, in giving mercy to those who repent, if He did not, also on the other hand, have a penalty against those who live in sin.

Verse 6: “**But showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**”

A lot of people, especially those out there in Protestant land, claim:

- that you don't need to keep the commandments of God
- that the Old Testament has been fulfilled
- as the Catholics with their weak-kneed excuse says when someone asks them, or a

priest, ‘Why do you bow down to idols and worship them?’ *Oh! We don’t do that! We venerate them.*

Why did you make them in the first place?

Let’s show that ‘God is the same yesterday, today and forever’ and is always true, and His laws and commandments in the spiritual application of the never change from generation to generation. In different societies and situations there may be different judgments that need to be made concerning the laws, but not whether they are applicable or not.

In John 14, we find again, the unity of Scripture, which is the whole point of this series of sermons. This is also a test for us. To everyone who reads this, it is a test. You say you love God, how are you going to prove your love? You cannot tell your husband or wife, ‘I love you.’ Then as soon as they’re out the door, run over to your neighbor and commit adultery, because you have no love or no loyalty.

The same way with God, if you say you love Him and despise His commandments, you don’t love God. That’s why Jesus said:

John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments.” Look at the blessing that’s going to come if you do.

An expansion of the blessing that God said for ‘those who love Me and keep My commandments,’ which we’re reading here, is that He would have ‘mercy to a thousand generations.’ Here’s the immediate thing for us with the Holy Spirit.

Verse 16: “And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter... [we covered that in the section on ‘blessed are those who mourn, they shall be comforted’] ...that it may be with you throughout the age.”

Here is the blessing that those who truly, truly, love God, repent and receive the mercy of God, that comes that cannot come any other way; except through *the love and mercy of God* and our response to Him by loving Him and keeping His commandments.

Verse 17: “*Even* the Spirit of the Truth...” — so that you can find your way out of your own deceitful human nature and you can understand the Word of God living in this world where Satan the devil, is the god of this world.

“...which the world cannot receive... [that’s why the world is blinded and cannot understand] ...because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be **within** you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come

to you. Yet, a little while and the world shall see Me no longer; but you shall see Me. Because I live, you shall live also. In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you” (vs 17-20).

How? There has to be some provable verification that you belong to God. Not a feeling, not because you think so, but because you do have the Spirit of God, and it is proved by your actions.

Verse 21: “The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me...” Here’s the test. You say you love God; you say you love Jesus. Are you keeping His commandments? *You have them and you keep them!* When you understand that Jesus was the Lord God of the Old Testament manifested in the flesh, then when He says, ‘If you love Me keep My commandments,’ that goes all the way back to Genesis and extends to Revelation. It’s all the way through.

“...and the one who loves Me...” (v 21). Here’s another benefit. *You receive the Spirit of Truth!* Now you receive another benefit of God, which comes from His mercy because He’s merciful and gracious.

“...shall be loved by My Father...” (v 21)—*the Sovereign of the whole universe!*

That’s why in the beginning of the Sermon Series: *The Love Of God* #1 is *Remember, When All Else Fails, God Loves You*. Everything else is going to fail. It’s all physical, it’s bound to fail. Just like us, ‘all flesh is like grass, like the flower of the field:’

- it grows
- it’s green
- it blossoms
- it withers

If you don’t believe that is true, the older you get, just check in the mirror:

- What do you see? *Wrinkles!*
- What is that? *Withering!*

The Word of God is true. Do you love God? *‘The one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father!’ You can’t have any greater position in life than that!* A lot of people think that:

- if they have power, they’re something
- if they have a lot of wealth, they’re something
- if they have control over people, they’re something

They’re nothing!

Too many ministers of God follow that way and don't teach the love, Truth and mercy of God, and tell the brethren that God loves them. The Father loves each one of us individually and has the capacity to do so for *all* whom He calls, ***because He is God!***

Here comes another benefit. Look at all of these benefits. Loving God and keeping His commandments *comes from the mercy of God!*

“...and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him” (v 21) This really got to Judas.

Verse 22: “Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’” ‘How can you show Yourself to us and no one else is going to see this?’ Well, it was after the resurrection and they saw Him directly. But God manifests Himself to us in a way that the world cannot understand, because of His mercy and graciousness toward us, which is through His Spirit.

- God’s Spirit *draws* you
- God’s Spirit *leads* you

No one can see that—can they? *No!* There came a time in your life when you said:

- Where’s God?
- What am I going to do?
 - ✓ you started searching
 - ✓ maybe praying
 - ✓ maybe because of circumstances in your life you were in deep trouble
 - ✓ maybe you were like Jeremiah, you were in deep ‘skubalon’ and God rescued you
- How did God rescue you?
 - ✓ In a way that you knew the hand of God did it, though you didn’t see it because it was by His Spirit!
 - ✓ Maybe with the assistance of the angels who are to be ministering spirits to those who are ‘heirs of salvation!’
- How does God do it today?
 - ✓ with His Spirit
 - ✓ with His Word
 - ✓ with preaching
 - ✓ with teaching

God manifests Himself to you and if you are drawn to God and follow that ‘draw,’ you’re going to find God the Father and Jesus Christ. ***That is merciful and gracious!*** Here’s the key: How is God going to manifest Himself to everyone whom He calls and the world be completely ignorant of that fact, except that they see you’re a nice person?

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...’”

When you see the Word singular that means Christ’s entire message.

“...and My Father will love him, and ***We*** will come to him and make Our abode with him” (vs 23). That’s why, with the Holy Spirit, we have the mind of Christ and the begetting of the Father. Not just singular, but *We*.

Here’s the dividing line and here is where mercy is not extended because there is no repentance. Here is where graciousness and mercy is not given because they don’t love God.

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, Who sent Me.” ***That’s the greatest secret of God manifesting Himself to us, with His Spirit, through His Word!***

If you take the Bible and give it to your neighbor and say, ‘Would you read this?’ *Oh, it’s the Bible. No one can understand that. I need my priest.* Or, someone would read it and say, ‘I can’t understand that. *How can God be loving, kind and merciful and allow children to die?*’ You can only understand that if you know the Word of God.

John 16:22: “And likewise, you indeed have grief now, but I will see you again...” Christ’s talking to them and they had a special blessing for 40 days that no one else in the world has ever had. That is to see the resurrected Christ in person, bodily. Not everyone all 40 days, but up to 500 brethren He appeared to at one time, as Paul wrote of. That’s a ‘once in a lifetime’ experience.

Consider this in relationship to the viability of the Word of God and the writers who wrote it. ***They saw the resurrected Christ!*** Everyone who wrote the New Testament, saw the resurrected Christ, with the exception of Luke, but he was under the tutelage of Paul and Paul saw Him.

Do you suppose that these men would even think of concocting of some story or myth to write as the Word of God after they had seen Christ, Who was resurrected from the dead? *Of course not!* That completely eliminates any argument that someone says, ‘Well, this is written by men.’ God chose to use men, but men who would be honest, because of this.

Verse 23: “And in that day you shall ask Me nothing. Truly, truly I tell you, whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until this day, you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in allegories; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in allegories, but I will plainly disclose to you *the things* of the Father. In that day, you shall ask in

My name... [absolute guarantee] ...and I do not tell you that I will beseech the Father for you, for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God” (vs 23-27). The reason that God gives mercy and grace is so that *you will want to love Him*.

We won’t turn to the Scriptures because we don’t want to get bogged down in a lot of details, but let’s just ask:

- What was in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle and the temple?
- What did the Holy of Holies picture? *It pictured the throne of God!*

What was in there was the Ark of the Covenant with the over-arching of the angels and in the weavings of the tabernacle that was made in the wilderness, they wove cherubim right into the fabric. When Solomon built the temple, God gave David the instructions to give to Solomon, and the workmen carved the cherubim right in the wood that was overlaid with gold. Then, the mercy seat was there. That’s what the Ark of the Covenant was called. We need to understand that whenever we come to God, it is the *Seat of Mercy* and the central focus of all the worship under the Old Covenant, through the tabernacle and temple, and the central focus of our worship with God today, because of our access to God the Father in heaven above—*His mercy!*

Let’s look at some Scriptures. Let’s come to Psa. 136. Always remember this: Repentance, then forgiveness through mercy and the graciousness of God. *You’re not going to receive the mercy unless there is repentance!*

This we know: Jesus said that ‘you shall not use vain repetition’ in your prayers like the heathen. So, when you read Psa. 136, though every verse ends with, “...for His mercy endures forever...” *it’s not a vain repetition.*

Psalms 136:1: “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, **for His mercy endures forever.**” In *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, you will find a little star after mercy, which reads:

Throughout, the Hebrew could also read
His steadfast love.

His mercy and His steadfast love are tied together!

Verse 2: “Oh, give thanks to the God of gods, **for His mercy endures forever.** Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for His mercy endures forever**” (vs 2-3). What is Jesus called in Rev. 19? *Lord of lords and King of kings!*

Verse 4: “To Him Who alone does great wonders, **for His mercy endures forever**” You can read the whole thing and giving thanks to God.

Verse 26: “Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven, **for His mercy endures forever.**” That’s quite a tremendous one!

Now, let’s see something else about God, a little finer description of the mercies of God. We find almost all of these in the Psalms. Isn’t that something?

The power of Psalms in teaching us to pray and helping us to establish a relationship with God—note sermon series: *Keys to Answered Prayer*—what we need to understand about the Word of God is this: Since it’s inspired by the mind of God, Who is eternal, the messages and things in the Psalms have so many layers of meaning in every verse, that the longer that we have the Spirit of God and the more that we know the Truth of God, the more that inspires us to understand, coming out of these verses.

You will experience this, as you read and study the Bible. You’ll read along and all of a sudden it’s kind of like a light goes on. ‘DING!’ You say, ‘I never saw that before!’ It’s been there all the time. God is so great and He’s designed the Bible for a lifetime study. There is so much in there because it was inspired by His Spirit, so there is a spiritual connection you get with it when you pray and you are crying out to God, it just leaps off the pages. It’s been there all the time, but you didn’t understand it until that very instant, regardless of how many years you may have been baptized. That’s the way the Word of God is.

It’s like one man asked me—wrote in an e-mail—‘Once you get all the training as a minister and once you’ve done all your preaching for five to seven years, what more is there for you to learn?’ I wrote him back and said virtually what I just told you, here.

We’re going to read this whole Psalm, because it shows all of the interconnecting things with mercy, a graciousness of God and the Truth of God.

Psalms 25:1: “To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.” It’s the same personal relationship that David had with God, because in his house he had this special room where the tent was which housed the tabernacle, until the temple was built. That’s where he would go pray. That’s where he would go play the instrument of ten strings. I’m sure that when he sinned he kept himself back further, like in Psa. 51, which we’ll read a little bit later. Just keep this in mind when we read some of these Psalms of David.

Verse 2: “O my God, I trust in You...” Notice where all of this comes from, and notice the relationship.

“...do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me” (v 2) That doesn’t mean he won’t have to fight the enemies, but don’t let them win, Lord.

Verse 3: “Yea, let none... [no one] ...who wait on You be ashamed...”

- you don’t have to be ashamed of God
- you don’t have to be ashamed of what you believe
- you don’t have to be ashamed of the Bible that you have
- you don’t have to be ashamed of the mercies and kindness that God has given you
- be thankful
- be grateful

Verse 4 is also a continuous, on-going thing. You don’t just learn this all at once: “Show me Your ways, O LORD...” That’s vs the way of man; ‘there’s a way that man goes that seems right, but the end thereof are the ways of death.’

“...teach me Your paths” (v 4). Notice that David wants God actively involved in working in his life. Now we have the whole Word of God.

Verse 5: “Lead me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long.”

(go to the next track)

Notice how David approached God, v 6: “Remember, O LORD, Your **tender mercies**... [God’s tender mercies] ...and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old.” In other words, through all eternity God had loving kindness and tender mercies. The way you avoid the wrath of God is to love Him. Later we’re going to find out that because of that, other people might persecute you. That doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love you.

Verse 7: “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness sake, O LORD.”

Notice what this does in the changing of how he’s approaching God, here. In other words, when you come to God, you repent of your sins, you received His tender mercies and His graciousness to forgive you, it does something to you spiritually, internally. Notice what David says:

Verse 8: “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will teach sinners in the way.” You have here:

- show me your ways
- teach me your paths

now he’s going to:

- teach sinners in the way

Which means that when you sin, what is there? When you repent, what happens? *There’s a lesson to be learned!*

Verse 10: “All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth...” The sinner won’t say that, because he’s on the wrong road.

“...to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies” (v 10). What are we going to do at the Passover? *Renew the covenant through the Passover and we remember His covenant!* Keep it.

Verse 11: “For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. What man is he who fears the LORD? He shall teach him in the way that He shall choose” (vs 11-12)—how to make right choices. Isn’t that a part of life?

Verse 13: “His soul shall dwell at ease...” He’s not anxious or filled with anxiety, as Jesus said, ‘Don’t be anxious over anything’ (Matt. 6). If you’re on God’s side, God is for you.

“...and his seed shall inherit the earth” (v 13). Here’s something. God doesn’t give everything that He knows to everybody in the world. It’s a mystery to them, but it’s called here:

Verse 14: “The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.”

We’re talking about graciousness. How does Paul open every one of his Epistles?

Ephesians 1:1: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and to *the* faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace...” (vs 1-2).

In the Beatitudes we’re going to find out about peacemakers. Those are not the ambassadors in the world. Grace comes from God, which He gives to you through:

- His love
- His Spirit
- His Word
- His kindness
- His relationship with you

—and peace, because you love God and are no longer fighting Him, which puts you in the category which we read there in the second commandment. Those who hate Him, are at war with Him. We’re no longer at war with Him because we’ve repented and have God’s Spirit.

“...*be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ” (v 2). See how that ties in with

John 14 that we read earlier? The whole Bible fits together.

Verse 3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ”:

- to understand the Bible is a heavenly thing
- to receive the Spirit of God is a heavenly thing
- to walk in the ways of God is a heavenly thing that God gives you the power, motivation and desire to do, through:
 - ✓ conversion
 - ✓ mercy
 - ✓ grace

Verse 4: “According as He has **personally chosen us for Himself...**” *That’s something!* A lot of people want to be important, but what is more important than God personally choosing you? *Nothing!*

“...before *the* foundation of *the* world...” (v 4). That doesn’t mean that He knew us before the foundation of the world; nor is this fatalism in taking away the choosing between good and evil. God has His plan, as we have already covered, before the foundation of the world and this is what it’s referring to.

God made a choice before the foundation of the world that He would call certain people who would repent. Until they repented, He wouldn’t call them. Even Saul (Paul), when God called him and knocked him down on the road as he was going to Damascus, had instant repentance. He said, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do? I have these orders to go arrest all of those who are following You. I don’t have them any more, Lord.’

“...in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love” (v 4). That ties right in with what we read in:

Matthew 5:48: “Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect.”

Ephesians 1:5: “Having predestinated us...” That’s the predestination of *what we are going to be*; **not** predestinated us in a special category that we had no choice in it, vs those that He predestinated to evil and they had no choice in it. Otherwise, there’d be no repentance. There would be no choosing right and wrong.

“...for sonship to Himself... [His very sons and daughters] ...through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will” (v 5). What Paul has done here in these few verses has given us a great summary of the whole plan of God.

Verse 6: “To *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace... [we’re talking about His grace and mercy] ...wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*; in Whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the remission of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He has made to abound toward us in all wisdom and intelligence” (vs 6-8).

All of this brings us up to a certain point in learning and understanding. Now we are ready to receive some things of God that needs all of this basic foundation first.

Verse 9: “Having made known to us the **mystery...**” To the world, it’s a mystery. It’s called *the secret of God* (Psa. 25).

“...of His own will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself; that in *the Divine* plan for the fulfilling of *the* times...” (vs 9-10). That’s the correct translation. Not ‘in the dispensation of time’ from which they get the false doctrine of ‘dispensationalism,’ which I won’t get into here.

“...He might bring all things together in Christ, both the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth; *yes*, in Him, in Whom we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestinated according to His purpose, Who is working out all things **according to the counsel of His own will**” (vs 10-11).

All of that expands on Psa. 25, that if we keep His covenant we’re going to know the ‘secret of God.’ Here it is! The ‘secret of God’ is that we are going to be resurrected and **born into His kingdom as spirit beings and live forever!**

Barbara Walters was interviewed, and she said, ‘There’s no reason why we can’t all live to be 150.’ I was looking at her and I thought: you have a long way to go, gal! You could tell that she has had all of her facials and her cream and all of this sort of thing. It’s like everyone else who is getting older, you want to live longer. You don’t know the plan of God, *but we do!*

Psalm 25:14: “The secret of the LORD... [What on earth is God doing?] ...is with those who fear Him... [to hold Him in awe and worshipful reverence] ...and He will show them His covenant”—and the whole purpose of it. That’s what Eph. 1 is all about.

Here again, you have a verse here, and the New Testament expands it. You don’t have the New Testament fighting the Old Testament, the Old Testament fighting the New Testament. *No!* It’s all together.

Verse 15: “My eyes are ever toward the LORD...”

What is one of the most important things that we are to do as human beings, even in the world? *You are to have goals! You're to have something to work for!* The successful people, even in the world, have their eyes always on the goal where they're going. What is our goal? *The Kingdom of God!* Our eyes always have to be on Christ and God the Father. Notice how this pulls us through all the difficulties and problems that we go through.

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, *since* we are surrounded by such a great throng of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily entraps us; *and* let us run the race set before us with endurance.” What are you looking for in running a race? *The finish line!*

Verse 2: “Having *our minds fixed on Jesus*, the Beginner and Finisher of *our* faith... [as I pointed out in *Jesus, Our Hero and Champion*] ...Who for the joy that lay ahead of Him endured *the* cross, *although* He despised *the* shame, and has sat down at *the* right hand of the throne of God.”

There you go! Don't let any trial or difficulty get you down. It may depress you for a while, but there is God to help you and encourage you. When you get through the problem and past the pressure and stress of it, you can look back and see the reason for it. As long as you have your mind on Christ then you're going to succeed.

Verse 3: “Now meditate deeply on Him Who endured such great hostility of sinners...” You do that by:

- thinking about God
- praying to Him
- studying the Gospels

“...against Himself so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds” (v 3).

That's not only a command, but that's also a promise, which is this: *If* you keep your mind focused on Christ, *if* you keep your mind on the goal, you are not going to get weary and you're not going to get faint of mind, because the strength of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, is going to make you 'strong in the Lord.' You don't have to be powerful physically—'strong in the Lord.' He also gives a little comparison:

Verse 4: “You have not yet resisted to the point of *losing* blood in your struggle against sin.” The closest we come to that is if you shave, like men, and you cut yourself in the morning.

Psalms 25:15: “My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net.... [you're going to escape all the traps of Satan the devil] ...Turn unto me, and be gracious unto me, for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring me out of my distresses” (vs 15-17).

Again, it doesn't matter what the circumstances are. Don't look to the circumstances or even your own anxiety and mental problems that you are having when you are going through difficulties. Like here, “...The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring me out of my distresses.”

Verse 18: “Look upon my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.” See how that ties in right from the first verse all the way through? This is why I'm going through the whole Psalm.

Verse 19: “Consider my enemies...” You can bring up to God, ‘Look at all these enemies. Lord, how am I going to handle them? I can't fight them. You fight for me.’ Can God fight against the enemies better than anyone else? *Yes, He can! Without a doubt!*

“...for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on You. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles” (vs 19-22)—*which God will do in the long run!*

Let's come to Psalms 51. Again, when David sinned he appealed to the tender mercies of God. Of course, this is the Psalm that he prayed for his repentance with the affair with Bathsheba and the killing of Uriah, the Hittite.

Psalms 51:1: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions.”

God had one caveat for David. He told him, ‘because you did this in secret, I'm going to do this before the sun and the whole world. Because you despised My commandments in this sin, your whole household is going to rise up against you. You're going to have difficulties and troubles of a greater proportion than you've had in the past.’

Sometimes God gives us some correction to teach us a lesson. In the long run, just before David died, obviously God looked at all those things. When you read what David passed on to Solomon in giving him:

- all the wealth
- all the iron
- all the gold

- the plans that God gave him for the temple

You will see that David recovered.

Sometimes there are things that God will give us as kind of reminders because if our sins are as grievous as they were with this, sometimes He has to do that. Notice what David says.

Verse 2: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, for I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me” (vs 2-3).

That’s why as long as you have a sin that is bothering and plaguing you, bring it to God constantly until He takes it completely away from you. *He will! He Will!*

Psalms 103:1: “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.” Can a man bless God? *Yes!*

- by his heart
- by his mind
- by his attitude
- by how he lives his life

Verse 2: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” That’s when we get ourselves in trouble. It’s when something comes up and we forget all the blessings and we forget all of God mercy, love, and so forth. Here’s what He does:

Verse 3: “Who forgives all your iniquities... [through His mercy and graciousness] Who heals all your diseases... [even if you die, He’s going to resurrect you] ...Who redeems your life from destruction... [by teaching you how to live properly] ...Who crowns you with **loving kindness and tender mercies**” (vs 3-4).

Just think of it this way: Kind of like an anointing from God by crowning you with a ball made out of:

- olive oil
- herbs
- frankincense
- myrrh

Just like it was when Aaron was anointed priest, ‘the oil ran down all over him.’ Just think that that’s how God wants to give it to you, that it’s just right crowned on the top of your head and running down all over you; “**...Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.**”

Verse 8: “The LORD is **merciful and gracious**... [that’s where we started] ...slow to anger, and **abundant in mercy.**”

Verse 9: “He will not always chasten, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt

with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (vs 9-10).

That’s because He’s merciful. It says that ‘God sends the sunshine on the just and on the unjust and the rain on the just and the unjust’ (Matt. 5). So, God is even merciful to them.

Here’s part of your relationship with God. How abundant is it? Verse 11: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him.”

You don’t have to worry about God holding back on His mercy. That’s His nature. That’s why there’s repentance, so there can be a changing, a cleansing. That’s why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to realize that **God is in the spiritual business** of changing our minds, building character in our minds, and actually restructuring our minds with His Spirit and His Word. That’s why God has mercy and forgiveness, so He can wipe those sins out of your mind. Here’s what He does with that.

Verse 12: “As far as the east is from the west...” This is the eventual goal of God, with all your sins. When He removes them, they’re removed, but we have to have our mind cleansed to get them out of our mind because the impression of those sins are still there. That takes some time.

“...so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion upon his children... [through His mercy] ...so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him... [through His mercy] ...For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes, for the wind passes over it... [think of a desert] ...and it is gone; and its place shall know it no more. But the steadfast love... [or the mercy] ...of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness is unto children’s children, to those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember His precepts to do them” (vs 12-18). It says a lot!

Psalms 18:30: “As for God, **His way is perfect**...” Ask a Protestant:

- Do you believe that God’s way is perfect? *Yes!*
- Why do you say that Jesus did away with the commandments of God:
 - ✓ if they are Truth?
 - ✓ if they are righteousness?
 - ✓ if they are perfect?
- Does that mean that you have a very imperfect religion?

They won’t like that!

“...the Word of the LORD is tried... [it’s perfect] ...He is a shield to all those who take refuge in Him, for who is God besides the LORD? Or, who is a Rock except our God? The God who girds me with strength and makes my way perfect”(vs 30-32). ***You shall be perfect, even as your Father Who is in heaven is perfect!***

Let’s come back here and look at some other verses. This is what the world can’t figure out; v 25: “With the merciful...” That’s why He said, ***‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.’***

“...You will show Yourself merciful; with an upright man You will show Yourself upright.”

What does he show himself with the wicked? *Harsh, judging, recompensing evil for evil!* But, with the merciful, “...show Yourself merciful; with an upright man You will show Yourself upright” (v 25).

Verse 26: “With the pure You will show Yourself pure...” That ties right in with the next Beatitude we’re going to cover, those who are ‘pure in heart.’

“...and with the crooked You will show Yourself cunning” (v 26). In other words, they’re all entrapped in the automatic penalties of their sins, which is by the cunningness of God. They don’t understand that. That’s quite something!

Psalms 117:1: “O praise the LORD, all you nations; praise Him, all people, for His **merciful kindness is great toward us**; and the Truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!” (vs 1-2).

If His Word is Truth, how can you do away with it? The only way you can do that is to do away with God and God isn’t going to accommodate you just because you think that way.

Psalms 119:75: “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that You have afflicted me in faithfulness. I beseech You, let Your steadfast love... [or mercy] ...comfort me, according to Your promise to Your servant. Let Your **tender mercies** come to me so that I may live, for Your Law is my delight” (vs 75-77). See the whole attitude?

When you understand the mercy of God, this is why He expects you to be merciful. There’s a blessing, if you are. Just remember that every time you harshly judge someone in your mind, always think this: Do you want mercy? *or* Do you want this evil judgment I just gave in my mind? *You want mercy!* Get rid of the evil judgment.

Verse 156: “Great are Your **tender mercies**, O LORD; according to Your judgments give me life.” *God certainly will!*

Let’s understand something concerning the mercy of God even in desperate times. Let’s come to the book of Joel in the Minor Prophets. Even in the worst trial the most severe things that come upon you, you need to understand why God is doing it and allowing it and what He wants you to do.

Joel 2:11: “And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army; for His camp *is* exceedingly great; for powerful *is He* who executes His Word, for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can endure it? ‘Therefore, even now,’ says the LORD...” (vs 11-12). Even in the worst time of the world!

I call your remembrance, that after all that had come upon them, Revelation 9:21: “And they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thievery.” In the midst of all of these things, God wants repentance.

Joel 2:12: “‘...turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. Yes, rend your heart and not your garments, and **return to the LORD**... [repent and come back to God] ...your God: for He *is* **gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of the evil**. Who knows if He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?” (vs 12-14).

Right in the midst of the Day of the Lord, what is God interested in? *Repentance!* That’s why the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude are rescued from the Tribulation, because He’s interested in repentance and they repent.

Let’s see the opposite of when you are not merciful. What is God doing to do? Just put in your notes, there, Psalms 78 is where God even turned by the hand of His anger when Israel in the wilderness had a flattering repentance toward God. He even spared them.

Here’s quite a lesson in Matt. 18:21. Everyone wants to know, ‘How far do I have to go, God?’ That’s what Peter’s asking here.

Matthew 18:21: “Then Peter came to Him *and* said, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?... [What’s my obligation?] ...Until seven times?’” If we want the mercy of God, which extends forever, what did Jesus say?

Verse 22: “Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you until seven times, but until seventy times seven.’” That 490 equates to... Have you ever forgiven anyone even seven times in one day? How about 490 times in one day? If you have to, you’re sure living with a sinner.

Verse 23: “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven... [to drive home the point] ...is compared to a man, a *certain* king, who would take account with his servants. And after he began to reckon, there was brought to him one debtor who owed him ten thousand talents.... [that’s \$180-million today] ...But since he did not have *anything* to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. Because of this, the servant fell down *and* worshiped him, saying, “Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.” And being moved with compassion... [this is because of mercy] ...the lord of that servant released him, and forgave him the debt” (vs 23-27).

What this servant should have done was gone out to everyone who owed him money and said, ‘I forgive you! I forgive you! I forgive you! *because I’ve been forgiven.*’ He didn’t!

Verse 28: “Then that servant went out *and* found one of his fellow servants, who owed him a hundred silver coins... [just 100-pence, if we could put it that way in British coinage terminology] ...and after seizing him... [notice the difference in attitude and behavior] ...he choked *him*, saying, “Pay me what you owe.” As a result, his fellow servant fell down at his feet and pleaded with him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” But he would not *listen*; instead, he went and cast him into prison, until he should pay the amount that he owed. Now, when his fellow servants saw the things *that* had taken place...” (vs 28-31).

He probably came back to his fellow servants and said, ‘Guess what? ? The lord forgave me all of that \$180-million!’ *So, they knew!*

“...they were greatly distressed; and they went to their lord *and* related all that had taken place. Then his lord called him *and* said to him, “*You* wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt, because you implored me. Were you not also obligated to have compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had compassion... [mercy] ...on you?”... [He didn’t do it] ...And in anger, his lord delivered him up to the tormentors, until he should pay all that he owed to him” (vs 31-34).

Here’s the lesson; this is why there’s a blessing to the merciful—for they shall find mercy.’ Verse 35: “Likewise shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each *of* you does not **forgive his brother’s offenses from the heart.**” Very important! What is this telling us?

If we expect God to forgive us, then God expects us to forgive those whom we come in contact with that need forgiveness, not judgment in harshness and cruelty!

When there is mercy, the truth is, ***no one really deserves it! But with repentance, God in mercy and compassion, will give it!***

If we don’t have mercy, *God will take all those sins that we have repented of and put them right back on us!*

Ask yourself these questions:

- *If you withhold mercy, do you want God to withhold mercy from you?*
- *If you withhold mercy, do you want God to put back upon you all your sins that He has already forgiven you?*
- *No!*

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.”

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural Reverences:

- 1) Matthew 5:3-5
- 2) Psalm 119:18
- 3) Matthew 5:6, 48, 7
- 4) Exodus 34:1-7
- 5) Exodus 20:1-6
- 6) John 14:15-24
- 7) John 16:22-27
- 8) Psalm 136:1-4, 26
- 9) Psalm 25:1-8, 10-14
- 10) Ephesians 1:1-4
- 11) Matthew 5:48
- 12) Ephesians 1:5-11
- 13) Psalm 25:14-15
- 14) Hebrews 12:1-4
- 15) Psalm 25:15-22
- 16) Psalm 51:1-3
- 17) Psalm 103:1-4, 8-18
- 18) Psalm 18:30-32, 25-26
- 19) Psalm 117:1-2
- 20) Psalm 119:75-77, 156
- 21) Joel 2:11-12
- 22) Revelation 9:21
- 23) Joel 2:12-14
- 24) Matthew 18:21-35

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 19
- Matthew 6
- Psalm 78

Also referenced:

From: Chapter Three of Commentary in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*: John the Baptist as “Bridge” Between Old and New Covenant

Sermon Series:

- *The Love Of God (#1—Remember, When All Else Fails, God Loves You)*

- *Keys To Answered Prayer*

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The Beatitudes V

“Blessed *are* the merciful...”
“Blessed *are* the pure in heart...”
Fred R. Coulter

Let's review where we are. What we have found with these is that with all of these Beatitudes, are those things are what you might call 'bridge Scriptures' from the Old Testament to the New Testament, to show the unity of Scriptures.

There is an application in the Old Testament and an application in the New Testament, and this is actually the foundation for the New Testament based on the foundation of the Old Testament. This is why when we come to Matt. 5, it becomes a critical point as we go along, in understanding, concerning the Old and New Testament. Jesus said:

Matthew 5:17: “**Do not think...**” All Protestants ought to look at this very closely. That means that if you don't think it, you don't let it enter your mind. You don't even 'suppose.'

Let's reiterate something that's very important in understanding about Jesus Christ. He was God manifested in the flesh. Therefore, any changes in anything that God originally gave, God alone can change. Man cannot change it, because we're told not to 'add to or take away from.' That's why we have in *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, and in the New Testament, Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets? That becomes very important in the instructions that we're going to find, here, concerning the Beatitudes.

“... that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...” (v 17). It can also be translated, *destroy*, but 'abolish' is the best one, or to *do away with* the Law and Prophet. This is the whole foundational lynchpin of modern Protestantism.

When you go back and study the life of William Tyndale and what he wrote, you find that he upheld all of the commandments of God and said that you have to keep the laws and commandments of God from the bottom ground of your heart. In other words, the very innermost part of your being. I think in his last days, when he was translating the Old Testament, he began to see the need to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days vs Sunday and the holidays.

So, Jesus says: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...” (v 17). Yet, isn't it interesting that the same Protestants who want to prove that Jesus was the Christ, where do they go? *They go to the Old Testament, which they say has all been fulfilled, to show that Jesus is the Christ!* Then from that rather than saying, 'This

supports the Old Testament with the New Testament. We'd better listen to *all* the Word of God.' They say, 'Since that is done we can just eliminate it, avoid it and everything in the Law and the Prophets have been done away.'

“...I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill” (v 17). Here's the little 'catchword' that they use for *fulfill*: 'Since Jesus fulfilled it, that is, all the Law and the Prophets, therefore, it has been done away.'

There's another meaning to the word *fulfill* in the Greek, which comes from 'pleroo,' which means *to fill to the full*, which is more of what Jesus is talking about, because He came to *fill to the full* the laws and commandments of God with their spiritual intent and meaning. Also, to fulfill all the prophecies concerning Himself, which did not do away with them but are the foundation and ground of proving Who He really is.

Because of what Jesus said, He didn't want anyone to be in doubt. The next verse clarifies it, v 18: “For truly I say to you... [in other words, here is the truth of what I just told you] ...until the heaven and the earth shall pass away...” It's very obvious, is heaven and earth still here? *Yes!*

“... one jot or one tittle...” (vs 18). That refers to what's in the Old Testament, because 'jots and tittles' are in Hebrew. In Greek there is emphasis and breathing points, which are equal to 'jots and tittles.'

“... shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled” (v 18). Where is it that it tells us that everything has been fulfilled for a new beginning? *Rev. 21 and 22, 'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth!'* They're not here either. Then, He goes on saying here, which is a very important Scripture:

Verse 19: “Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven...” —which doesn't even say that he is going to be there.

“...but whoever shall practice and teach *them*, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you, unless your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees...” (vs 19-20).

Which is why if you don't have the book *Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin, and

have acquainted yourself with what is in it, ***you will never understand Judaism***. You'll never understand what He is talking about, because most people believe that the scribes and the Pharisees followed the Bible. They did not follow the Bible anymore than Protestantism or the Catholics, today. They followed *their traditions*, which they claim are *greater* than what Moses gave. They have replaced all the commandments of God. You can read of that in Mark 7, about what Jesus said about their traditions, which reject the Word of God.

What righteousness would exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees? They were very punctilious according to the letter of everything, even when they used the Laws of God, they were very punctilious concerning that. So, the righteousness that exceeds it is what Jesus is teaching here: *the spiritual application of the laws and commandments of God*. We'll get to those a little later. I just want to emphasize it, here. Unless it does:

“...there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven” (vs 20).

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

I haven't quite finished with that. I need to cover a few things concerning it.

Remember this: The very interior of the Holy of Holies was centered around the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant with the cherubim overarching it, was called the Mercy Seat. That's where the presence of God was going to be when it was the tabernacle and temple. The Mercy Seat reflects God's throne in heaven above. We know that Jesus is at the right hand of God dispensing mercy for all of those who repent. That's why Jesus is the propitiation of our sins, because of His sacrifice. So, ***“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.”***

Let's see something else that Jesus said, and this is something that the scribes and Pharisees couldn't understand.

Matthew 9:11: “And after seeing *this*... [that Jesus was eating with the tax collectors and sinners] ...the Pharisees said to His disciples, ‘Why does your Master eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”

What's another meaning that's behind asking that question? *Rather than being with us, because they were the religious and political leaders!* If Jesus was the Messiah, they thought that He ought to:

- associate with them
- become politically aligned with them

- overcome the Romans
- kick them out
- take back the land for the Jews

They obviously couldn't answer it, but I'm sure that was in the back of their minds in answering the question.

Verse 12: “But when Jesus heard *it*, He said to them...” Here's a very interesting thing: When Jesus answers a question, He answers it more broadly to cover many more things than just the particular, small, little, question that is being asked. Here He gave a great principle.

“...Those who are strong do not have need of a physician, but those who are sick. Now, go and learn what this means: **‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’**” (vs 12-13). That's what we're learning here:

- it's not the sacrifice of animals
- it is not a setting up of a religious ‘letter of the law’ thing

like we see in some of these very small religious movements where the minister is the ‘kingpin’:

- he is the great whatever
- everyone has to wear a certain kind of clothes
- everyone has to, like the Mormons:
 - ✓ if you're dedicated, you have to have your ‘holy’ underwear
 - ✓ you have to wear it all the time
 - ✓ even when you're showering you can't let it be totally off your flesh

I suppose the way they did it when they were showering is, they had one hand on it while it was hanging on a hook, or something close by, while they showered.

Those are all physical exterior things. God wants the conversion of the heart. The first thing that is converting the heart is not something you do externally. That may be the first step, but the goal that God wants is that you change internally *spiritually*. What you do out here without the change in your heart and mind and in conversion, you'll never understand what Jesus is talking about.

He says, v 13: “Now, go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’.... [upon repentance, forgiveness of sin, etc.] ...For I did not come to call *the* righteous...” Since there are no righteous, who is He talking about? *Those who think they are righteous!*

“...but sinners to repentance” (v 13). The first step to receiving mercy is repentance. You cannot have mercy without repentance.

Let's see why Jesus went through the things that He went through:

- Why did God come in the flesh as Jesus did?
- Why did He have to go through the things that He had to go through?

As Creator, if He wants to reconcile all mankind, then He's got to do something to reconcile all mankind, that is for those who will repent. Here is what Jesus did. Let's get a full overview of this.

Hebrews 2:6: “But in a certain place one fully testified, saying, ‘What is man, that You are mindful of him, or *the* son of man, that You visit him? You did make him a little lower than *the* angels...” (vs 6-7)—that's true, we are lower than the angels; they are created spirit beings. In the original Hebrew, it actually means: ‘You have made man a little lower than God,’ being made in His image though, but of flesh, of the dust of the earth.

“...You did crown him with glory and honor, and You did set him over the works of Your hands...” (v 7) You can read that in Gen. 1. He gave him dominion over the whole earth and everything that's here.

Verse 8: “‘You did put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing *that was* not subjected to him.... [on the earth] ...But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.”

In other words, man, though he has the imagination to do anything he desires, is still limited because God has a greater fulfillment and potential for human beings. So that man *can* receive all things, here's what God did:

Verse 9: “But we see Jesus, Who *was* made a little lower than *the* angels, crowned with glory and honor on account of suffering **the death**...”—referring directly to His crucifixion and everything that was connected with it.

“...in order that by *the* grace of God He Himself might taste death for everyone” (v 9).

That's why Christ died for *our* sins and in *our* stead. We'll see why He had to do this and why He had to go through all of the scourging, beating and everything that He went through, which is what we're covering here, before the Passover and during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

It's important to understand this: A lot of people have this in mind: God is not fair. He made us the way He made us, and He made us weak, and He made us so that we're subject to sin. God is way up there in heaven and:

- nothing touches Him
 - He's always righteous all the time
- God is not fair to man to:*

- put him through this
- let him go through it
- let him suffer
 - ✓ all the death
 - ✓ all the dying
 - ✓ everything all round

So, God said, ‘All right. What I'm going to do is, I'm going to come in the flesh and I am going to become human. I will take the same judgment upon Myself that I gave to human beings.’ The wages of sin is death, and though He never sinned, He took that death.

Nothing could be more fair than that. As the Creator of all human beings, God brought the justice through what He did. He has to make that known to people and He has through His Word, and so forth. We see this explained in the next verse:

Verse 10: “Because it was fitting... [proper or it was just] ...for Him, for Whom all things *were created*, and by Whom all things *exist*, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

It's hard for human beings to understand that, but nevertheless, they cannot understand why there's so much suffering in the world and the suffering in the world is because of sin. So, Jesus took it upon Himself.

Verse 11: “For both He Who is sanctifying and those who are sanctified *are* all of one; for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in *the* midst of *the* Church I will sing praise to You.’ And again, ‘I will be trusting in Him.’ And again, ‘Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me’” (vs 11-13). Which is yet to be fulfilled and will occur at the resurrection.

Verse 14: “Therefore, since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in like manner He also took part in the same, in order that through death He might annul him who has the power of death—that is, the devil.” ***God has taken care of the sin of men and also the sin of the devil!***

Verse 15: “And *that* He might deliver those who were subject to bondage all through their lives by *their* fear of death. For surely, He is not taking upon Himself to help *the* angels; but He is taking upon Himself to help *the* seed of Abraham... [we are the seed of Abraham if we have been baptized into Christ] ...For this reason...” (vs 15-17).

Here's why: Since we started out with that God is merciful and gracious, as we found God's declaration to Moses (Exo. 34), now we see this extended forward in the same way, at this time.

“...it was **obligatory**...” (v 17)—meaning exactly that. Why was it obligatory?

- God is Lawgiver!
- God decreed that the wages of sin is death!
- God gave us a nature that is subject to sin!

In order to redeem His creation, God Himself was obligated to do it this way. It couldn't be done by a sacrifice, which happens out here, exterior to you. What you do outside has nothing to do with what's on the inside, because ***God alone knows the thoughts and the heart!*** This is what God is interested in changing, because what you do on the outside must first originate on the inside. Before the physical work of doing something takes place, you must have the mental work of thinking of it, planning of it. This is where we need to change. Because of that and our nature, ***we need mercy! Christ is preparing to be the most merciful by doing what He went through!***

“...for Him to be made like His brethren in everything that He might be **a merciful and faithful** High Priest *in* things pertaining to God...” (v 17). Jesus said that He desires ‘mercy and not sacrifice.’

“...in order to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people” (v 17)—meaning *a continual source of mercy*, which goes right back to the meaning of the original Mercy Seat, as talked about in the Old Testament and referring to the throne of God in heaven above. Remember, it started out that ***God is merciful and gracious “...to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”***

Verse 18: “For because He Himself has suffered, having been tempted *in like manner*, He is able to help those who are being tempted.”

Psalms 145:8: “The LORD is gracious...” Let's take that word for just a minute and let's plug it in with a few New Testament Scriptures.

Romans 2:4: “...the graciousness of God leads us to repentance?”

Note Eph 2: ‘For by grace are you saved, through faith.’ (Eph. 2). We have right here, again, this ties it together. When you bring the understanding of the New Testament to the Old Testament, that magnifies the Law, as it was prophesied that Jesus would do, to make it honorable and glorious.

Psalms 145:8: “...and full of compassion; slow to anger and abounding **in steadfast love**.... [can also mean mercy] ...The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works” (vs 8-9). This, again, shows the nature of God.

This is why in having us as the children of God, He wants to give us His character. In giving us His character, He wants us to understand about

mercy. That's why there's so much having to do with the mercy and forgiveness.

Let's come to Psalms 86 and we'll finish with **‘Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.’** This is a wonderful Psalm:

- in helping you in prayer
- in coming to God
- in confessing your sins

Psalms 86:1: “Bow down Your ear, O LORD, answer me, for I am poor and needy.” God hears us. All we have to say is, ‘God, hear us.’ Just go to our place where we pray in private. Pray and ask God to hear us. *He will!*

I know many times I've opened up the Bible to this place where we are right now in praying to God, and this has helped me in establishing my thoughts in prayer, and so forth.

Verse 2: “Preserve my soul, for I am Holy; O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You. Be **merciful** to me, O LORD, for I cry unto You all day long” (vs 2-3). We all want mercy. As I pointed out last time, when we receive mercy, we also have to be ready to give mercy.

Verse 4: “Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.”

This ties right in with mercy, v 5: “For You, LORD, are good and **ready to forgive**...” A lot of people say, ‘I wonder if God can forgive me?’ Why did Jesus die? *To forgive you upon repentance!*

Note sermon: *The Unpardonable Sin*, #29 Hebrews series {truthofgod.org} If you committed the unpardonable sin, you would have no desire to even repent. You would not even care. A lot of people, especially after they're baptized think, ‘I won't sin any more.’ Yes, you will because God is getting the sin out of your mind, reworking your mind to be those who are pure.

Verse 3: “Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I cry unto You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul, for You, LORD, are good and ready to forgive, and **rich in mercy to all those who call upon You**” (vs 3-5). Everything about these first five verses that we have read are:

- attitudes of repentance
- attitudes of praise
- attitudes of crying out to God to receive grace and mercy in time of need.

Verse 6: “Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me” (vs 6-7).

God does in many different ways. You’re not going to hear a voice, but He’ll answer you in your life, in your circumstances. The first thing in repentance, He will lift the burden of the guilt that you have. That’s what God desires.

Verse 8: “Among the gods there is none like You, O LORD; neither are there any works like Your works.... [here’s a prophecy]: ...All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O LORD, and shall glorify Your name.... [When will that take place? *When Jesus returns!*] ...For You are great and do wonderful things; You alone are God” (vs 8-10).

- once you have mercy
- once you have forgiveness
- once you have contact with God
- once you know that He is dealing with you in a gracious way

Now what?

I was reading in the paper about Pope Benedict XVI’s coming visit. He’s actually going to be, I think it is, in Washington D.C., on the Passover Day. All the things that they are doing for the preparation, protection and everything like that, they even in New York City have set aside 100,000 ponchos in case it rains. They are bringing in 530 priests from all over the world to help dispense the little wafer in the Mass.

I was thinking, ‘They’re all locked into this system and it’s a system that’s not of God. Yet, everyone looks upon how ‘holy’ this man is, and yet, at the same time we have the Dalai Lama up there in Seattle, so between the two of them, we’re going to have a double whammy. Nevertheless, here is what God wants us to do, not do some silly thing before idols:

Verse 11: “**Teach me Your way...**” So that we can:

- live in the way of God
- walk in the paths of Truth
- be led by the Spirit of God, which is the light of God to lead us

“...O LORD; I will walk in Your Truth...” (v 11). It doesn’t take very much to find out that:

- the commandments are true
- the Law is true
- God’s Word is true from the beginning

That all ties in with that!

“...unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart...” (vs 11-12). God desires mercy and not sacrifice!

Matthew 22:34: “But after the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they came together *before Him*. And one of them, a doctor of the law...” (vs 34-35). Very interesting. Since He was teaching the spirit of the Law, now, they want to know, ‘What is the greatest Law?’

Verse 36: “Master, which commandment is *the* great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (vs 36-37). *That’s the whole purpose of mercy and repentance, that you love God!* Then you love your neighbor, you love the brethren and even love your enemy.

Verse 39: “And *the* second *one* is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (vs 39-40).

In the account in Luke it says that one of them said, ‘Who is my neighbor?’ So He gave the parable of the man who was beaten up, robbed and left by the roadside. Here comes a priest walking along. He can’t contaminate himself because this man is bloody, over here on the other side of the road. He goes clear on the other side, bypasses him and leaves him there dying and bleeding.

Then a Levite comes by and looks a little closer. He hurries on because he doesn’t want to dirty himself with blood, because you become unclean with blood and ‘I must get to the temple to offer the sacrifices. I must be clean.’ Here comes what the Jews would call a dirty rotten Samaritan. He comes over there:

- takes the man
- binds up his wounds
- puts him on his donkey
- takes him to an inn
- dresses up his wounds a little bit more
- leaves the money with the innkeeper

And says, ‘On my way back, if I owe you more, I’ll pay you, but make sure that he’s up and on his feet.’ Then Jesus asked, ‘Who was his neighbor?’

There are many, many, many things that Jesus was teaching to give us the spiritual application of the laws and commandments of God. We’ll finish it off right here.

Verse 40: “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” That’s an interesting way to put it. It doesn’t say that on ‘these two pillars the Law and Prophets rest.’ *No!* He says that loving God and loving your neighbor, that’s from whence everything that God does, comes. So, it hangs.

“Blessed *are* the pure in heart...”

Psalm 86:13: “For **great is Your mercy** toward me...” Let me just say that as you grow in grace and knowledge from the time that you are baptized and you go through all the life experiences that you go through:

- there are going to be some good
- there are going to be some bad
- there are going to be some small sins
- there will be big sins
- there will be in some cases, horrendous sins that are unbelievable and that you don’t ever want to speak about again

What will happen is, you will come to understand *the greatness of God’s mercy* in an incremental, step-by-step way. You will love God more for His mercy and kindness in forgiving you on a constant basis. That’s why David says, ‘great is Your mercy toward me.’

“...and You have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave” (v 13).

Romans 6:23: “...the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This rounds out everything concerning the mercy of God:

Psalm 86:14: “O God, the proud have risen against me, and the company of violent men have sought after my life, and have not set You before them. But You, O LORD, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in **steadfast love and Truth**” (v 14-15). That’s what God wants on the inner part—*Truth!*

Verse 16: “Oh, turn to me, and have mercy upon me; give Your strength to Your servant and save the son of Your handmaid. Show me a token for good, so that they who hate me may see and be ashamed because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me” (vs 16-17).

You can see how all these Beatitudes tie together, New Testament and Old Testament.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how all of these fit together, that each one builds upon the other in showing the steps of building Godly character. In other words, the attitudes that we need to have so that God will:

- fill us with His Spirit
- fill us with His knowledge
- develop His character in our heart and mind
- Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, **for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven**

We have to start out not being exalted, but yielding to God. With every Beatitude, there’s a blessing that comes.

- Blessed *are* those who mourn, **for they shall be comforted**
- Blessed *are* the meek, **for they shall inherit the earth**
- Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, **for they shall be filled**
- Blessed *are* the merciful, **for they shall find mercy**

“Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8)

What we see with each one of these steps is that they are in progression.

- What does it mean to be ***pure in heart***?
- Why do we need our hearts pure?

Let’s see how the apostles phrased it when they were talking about how God was calling the Gentiles without requiring them to have physical circumcision. After they were all together:

Acts 15:7: “And after much discussion had taken place, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Men, brethren, you know that from *the* early days, God made *the* choice among us *that* by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Gospel, and believe. And God, Who knows the heart...” (vs 7-8).

Another way of putting that is ‘the heart-knowing God.’ God is the only One Who can truly know the heart. That’s why we need:

- mercy
- forgiveness
- kindness
- compassion

Everything from Him!

“...bore witness to them *by* giving them the Holy Spirit, even as *He did* to us, And made no difference between us and them, ***and* has purified their hearts through the faith**” (vs 8-9).

Purifying our heart and purifying our mind is the whole result of all of the Beatitudes leading up to this. We will see how God accomplishes that. What does it mean, ‘pure of heart?’

- you have no hidden agenda
- your intentions and your motives are pure toward God
- you have no ulterior motives
- you’re not in it to get something for yourself

- you're not in it to take something from someone
- you do not have hypocrisy
- you're not hypocritical
- you're not two-faced

We'll start out with the end result and contrast it with those who are not 'pure in heart.'

Titus 1:15: “**To the pure, all things are pure...**” You're also not imputing motives to others and sometimes those who do have wrong motives are taking advantage of those who are 'pure in heart.'

“...but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing *is* pure; rather, both their minds and consciences are defiled” (v 15). There are all too many in religion that fit this category.

Verse 16: “They personally profess to know God, but in *their* works they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient, and reprobate unto every good work.”

This also tells us something that's important to realize. With a pure heart, you're going to be obedient and you're going to have good works. That's what you desire.

Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he...” Whatever is the innermost part of your being:

- how you think
- how you react
- how you view things

God knows it! That's why He gives us His Spirit. To receive a pure heart is also a process of cleansing.

“...‘Eat and drink,’ he says to you, but his heart *is* not with you” (v 7). This is the defiled in heart with hidden motives.

Proverbs 24:1: “Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them.”

As I watch all of this economic news going on, I can see something that is just absolutely amazing. Everything is based on greed. Everything is how they can make profit, regardless of what happens to the ones that they're making profit on, whether they're making money or whether they're losing money.' They've got all kinds of schemes where they tell people, 'Wonderful! Wonderful! Put your money in here. We will make you a good return.' It's like a big stack of cards or a big domino display where you hit the first domino and they all topple. They don't care if you lose money. They don't care if they take it. That's just really something. So, don't be desirous of their wealth or

what they're going to do. *Their day is going to come!*

Verse 2: “For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.” That's the defiled. Those who are not pure, those who are defiled in heart and mind. That's how they think. This is the, what you might say, the first step in criminal behavior.

People give themselves into thinking how they can scheme and take. How they can steal and possess. This is what all 'con games' are based upon. If you see any television reports on some of these schemes that people have and how many fall for it, it is unreal.

I know that every once in a while I get an e-mail from someone in some weird country, mostly in Africa, mostly in Nigeria, and of course, one of the poorest nations on earth. One of them said, 'My husband was a colonel in the war in Kuwait and he made \$25-million off of oil. He died of his wounds and now I need to process the \$25-million. I will be very happy to give you several million, but you have to help me first. In order to get the money released from the bank, I need \$25-thousand wired to this account, which then will free up the \$25-million and I will send you 'X' amount of the \$25-million.

I got an e-mail similar to that from a woman. She says, 'I have breast cancer and I'm ready to die and I need to get this processed before I die.' I thought, 'I'll test her out.' What I did was, I sent an anointed cloth. I said, 'I'm sorry to hear that you have breast cancer and before anything can be done, I think it's best that you petition God for your healing. Here's an anointed cloth that you can use.' After about three months—and I sent it express mail—it came back: 'Person Unknown, Address Not Valid.' If you think, 'Ooh, my! That's wonderful! I'm going to get all this money for just a little bit out.' Remember:

Verse 2: “For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.” They're not with you. They want to take from you. You'd be surprised how many people have gotten caught up in that and have lost their money.

Let's see from where we start with our heart and mind so that we can have a 'pure heart.' Through the process of conversion and through the process of receiving the Holy Spirit after repentance and baptism, etc., then we have the process of having our hearts purified. Here is what many hearts are like. We will see the contrast all the way through here.

Jeremiah 17:1: “The sin of Judah is engraved with a pen of iron... [that’s pretty strong talk] ...with the point of a diamond; *it is* carved upon the tablet of their heart and upon the horns of your altars.... [in other words, everything that they do religiously is sin] ...While their children remember their altars and their Asherim beside every green tree on the high hills.... [the Asherim is the obelisk in the grove] ...O My mountain in the field, I will give your wealth *and* all your treasures for spoil, and your high places because of sin, throughout all your borders. And you, even of yourself, have let go of the inheritance, which I gave you”... (vs 1-4)—because God:

- brought them in there
- blessed them
- gave them the land
- watched over them

Fantastic!

“...and I will cause you to serve your enemies in a land, which you do not know. For you have kindled a fire in My anger, *which* shall burn forever” (vs 3-4). We’re reaching that way in America today, much the same way.

There is so much sin all around, everywhere, that what people consider as an acceptable level of behavior, is defined downward. The deviancy, or the sin, is made more and more acceptable. You wait and see, the time is going to come that they will say that there are so many sex predators and there are so many sex sins that we need to eliminate all of those laws off the books, because we don’t have the time to chase them down. Our courts are overloaded with it and we can no longer afford to do it. That will show you that we have reached the same point that they have reached here in Jeremiah.

Verse 5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man... [why you never have anyone between you and God] ...and makes flesh his arm... [or his defense] ...and whose heart departs from the LORD.’ You cannot have a pure heart unless you are with the Lord.

Here’s what’s going to happen. As you watch any of these things concerning the different nations and the things that take place in those nations, you can judge them by this: *God will bless any nation that will be righteous!* As you look at the problems and difficulties of the different nations of the world, what you are looking at the judgment of their sins that God has put upon them.

Verse 6: “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes. But he shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land that is not inhabited.”

When I look at some of these vast areas where people are still natives, running around in their bare skin with no clothing, in the deserts or in the jungles, or in the backlands, and this is what they are, I think about what a terrible, terrible situation it is, but true. God’s Word is true! He wants us to understand this for a purpose, because you have to see the contrast here, in order to understand all of Jer. 17.

Verse 7: “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD.” We just saw what happens to the rebellious and the warning that God gave to them before they went into captivity.

Verse 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters...” What does that remind you of? *Psalms 1:3!*

“...*it* sends out its roots by the river, and *it* shall not fear when the heat comes, but its foliage shall be green; and he is not worried in the year of drought, nor will it cease from yielding fruit” (v 8). This is likened to what we are to do with our lives:

- always growing
- always overcoming
- always producing
- always loving God
- always walking in the way of Truth

Verse 9: “The heart... [this is what needs to be purified] ...*is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Look at all the sins that people get themselves wrapped up in and you understand what this really means.

Verse 10: “I the LORD search the heart... [the heart-knowing God] ...*I* try the reins... [Is he going to yield to My direction?] ...even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. As the quail that hatches eggs it has not laid; in the same way he who gets riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the middle of his days, and in his end he shall be a fool” (vs 10-11).

Jeremiah knew, realized and understood that he needed God, though he was God’s prophet, and He needed God’s correction, help and comfort! You read all about what Jeremiah had to go through. I tell you, it’s something!

Jeremiah 10:23: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; *it is* not in man who walks to direct his steps.” Why? *Because his heart is ‘deceitful above all things!’* The way that He thinks is right, as it says in:

Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25: “There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death.”

Jeremiah understood that, “...***it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.***” That’s why so many things go wrong. What we are seeing the world today is the collective sinfulness of everyone bringing out greater, *greater* and ***greater*** problems. It’s going to come to a point where it’s going to be too much. It’s going to be just like that whole set of dominos. They all start collapsing! It includes every part of the society. Not only economics, but also every part of society:

- schools
- transportation
- where you work

Everything! Notice the solution:

Jeremiah 10:24: “O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing. Pour out Your fury on the nations who do not know You, and on the families who do not call on Your name; for they have eaten up Jacob and have devoured him, and have destroyed him, and have made his dwelling desolate” (vs 24-25). *That’s coming, too!*

What Scripture is a famous Scripture in the New Testament in the book of Romans that tells us about carnal nature? *The carnal mind is enmity against God*—which means that he’s at war with God and an enemy of God—*is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be!* God takes this—this is where we all begin—and changes us and to make us pure in heart. That is the whole object of what God is doing.’

Remember, Jesus said, ‘This generation shall not pass until all these things have been fulfilled?’

Proverbs 30:11: “*There is* a generation that curses their father and does not bless their mother.... [that’s today] ...*There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and yet, is not washed from their own filthiness. *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up” (vs 11-13).

I want to read to you about the political scene today, v 14: “*There is* a generation whose teeth *are like* swords, and their jaw teeth like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth and the needy from among men.”

I thought to myself as I was preparing the sermon and reading that, I thought: Does that not describe this generation today, in degrees and progression, more and more. It’s even hard to ‘channel surf’ to try and find something that’s descent to watch. So, my wife watches My Homes, how they fix up homes and sell them I watch the History Channel and National Geographic and a

little sports. However, even there, what do you have? *Cheating, steroids!*

Proverbs 21:2: “***Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts.***” Always remember that *God knows!* You can lie to yourself. You can lie to others, but God knows. Sooner or later, one day or the other—because God knows—everyone’s going to have to face the truth, because God ‘ponders the heart.’

Verse 8: “The way of a guilty man *is* perverted; but *as for the pure*, his work *is* right.” There again, we have the comparison. God is there to help. God is there to bless.

Let’s see what they do in a ‘religious’ sense; Isaiah 66:17: ““Those who sanctify themselves, and purify themselves *to go* into the gardens... [the groves] ...after the rites of Achad... [*the one*] ...eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, will be cut off together,” says the LORD.”

I forget which channel it is on, but every once in a while I watch this man who travels around who eats all these weird exotic foods. Some of them are really something, but he loves deep fried mice, a tender delicacy, which he eats head first. When I saw him crunching on the head, he said, ‘Mmm! This is good. This is good.’ I thought, ‘Ugh!’

Then I got an e-mail from a woman in China. She said, ‘Are the laws concerning clean and unclean foods still applicable today?’ I e-mailed her back and said, ‘Yes, they are.’ I said, ‘I know in China that you’re going to have a very difficult time,’ because 80% of what they eat is unclean.

I never will forget how this fellow who eats all these exotic foods—it’s showing him eating termites, grubs and worms—when he was in Mexico, he got deep fried pork stomach. Nothing like a big mouthful of parasites! He was in China and they were taking him to all of these different places and one of their specialties is donkey meat. It is cooked and cured just like pastrami. You go to China and get a pastrami sandwich and eat it, you’ll hee-haw afterwards. They use everything! They take the donkey hide, take the fur off of it, cook it tender, shred it in noodles and put it in hot sauce, and he devoured it. He thought that was wonderful. It also showed how that they have delicacies with swine snouts. I couldn’t believe it, all the imagination of men, that’s something!

Psalms 24:3: “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?...” Let’s take this spiritually, because it says, “***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***” The end result of coming from being:

- carnal minded

- sinful
- being converted
- having the Spirit of God
 - ✓ cleanse you
 - ✓ wash your mind
 - ✓ develop the character within you

The end result will be the resurrection and you are going to see God face-to-face, as we'll see a little later. Just project this forward to that.

Verse 3: “...Or who shall stand in His Holy place? He who has clean hands...” (vs 3-4). Not washed with soap and water. That means *clean from sin and evil*, because it talks about those who do sin, they use both hands, earnestly.

“...and a **pure heart**, who has not lifted up his soul to vanity and has not sworn deceitfully.... [God knows the heart] ...He shall receive the blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (vs 4-5).

Let's see how this is expanded, again. Actually, Psalms 15 amplifies what we just in Psalm 24.

Psalms 15:1: “LORD, who shall dwell in Your tabernacle?... [live with God] ...Who shall dwell upon Your Holy hill?... [New Jerusalem] ...He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart” (vs 1-2). Not saying one thing and doing another thing.

Verse 3: “He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change it; he who has not put out his money at usury, nor has he taken a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved” (vs 3-5).

All of these things show the blessings that come when you're yielding to God and He's cleansing your heart and your mind.

1-Peter—lots of times you forget the first couple of verses and you miss a lot when you do, especially in the Epistles of Paul, because he says, ‘blessings, grace and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,’ most of the time.

1-Peter 1:1: “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the elect strangers scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia; who have been chosen according to the predetermined knowledge of God the Father...” (vs 1-2). It is God Who leads us to repentance. It is God Who draws us to Him and then through that, we come to Christ.

“...by sanctification through the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus

Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you” (v 2). Again, this goes right back to what we covered earlier on grace and mercy.

Verse 3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

We haven't been called to be good religious people. We have been called to become the sons and daughters of God. ***When Christ returns, we will be changed from flesh to spirit and be immortal forever!***

Verse 4: “Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us, who *are* being safeguarded by the power of God through faith, for salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time” (vs 4-5). That's quite a salutation to a letter.

Verse 13: “For this reason, be prepared in your minds... [in coming to have a pure heart] ...be self-controlled...” Which is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. By the way, you analyze all the Beatitudes and these are the attitudes so that you can develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is love, peace, joy and all of things listed in Gal. 5!

“...and be fully hoping in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v 13). What is the final grace we are going to receive? *The resurrection!*

Verse 14: “As obedient children, do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, *as you did* in your ignorance. But according as He Who has called you is Holy, you yourselves also be Holy in all your conduct; for it is written, ‘You be Holy because I am Holy.’... [that goes right back to the books of Moses] ...And if you call upon the Father, Who judges according to each man's work without respect of persons, pass the time of your *life's* journey in the fear of God; knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, by silver or gold, from your futile way of living, inherited by tradition from your forefathers; but by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who truly was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for your sakes; *Even for you* who through Him do believe in God, Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God. Having purified your lives... [purifying our heart] ...by obedience to the Truth... [here we find the steps of purification] ...unto unfeigned brotherly love through the Spirit, **love one another fervently with a pure heart** (vs 14-22). That's something! Notice how this is accomplished:

Verse 23: “*For* you have been begotten again, not from corruptible seed, but from incorruptible *seed*, by *the* living Word of God, *which* remains forever.” That shows you and starts the process.

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All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

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- 1) Matthew 5:17-20
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- 3) Matthew 9:11-13
- 4) Hebrews 2:6-18
- 5) Psalms 145:8
- 6) Romans 2:4
- 7) Psalm 145:8-9
- 8) Psalms 86:1-12
- 9) Matthew 22:34-37, 39-40
- 10) Psalms 86:13
- 11) Romans 6:23
- 12) Psalm 86:14-17
- 13) Matthew 5:8
- 14) Acts 15:7-9
- 15) Titus 1:15-16
- 16) Proverbs 23:7
- 17) Proverbs 24:1-2
- 18) Jeremiah 17:1-11
- 19) Jeremiah 10:23
- 20) Proverbs 14:12
- 21) Proverbs 16:25
- 22) Jeremiah 10:24-25
- 23) Proverbs 30:11-14
- 24) Proverbs 21:2, 8
- 25) Isaiah 66:17
- 26) Psalms 24:3-5
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- 28) 1-Peter 1:1-5, 13-23

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- Revelation 21; 22
- Mark 7
- Genesis 1
- Exodus 34
- Ephesians 2
- Psalms 1:3
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- From: *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*, Appendix H: How Did Jesus Fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
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