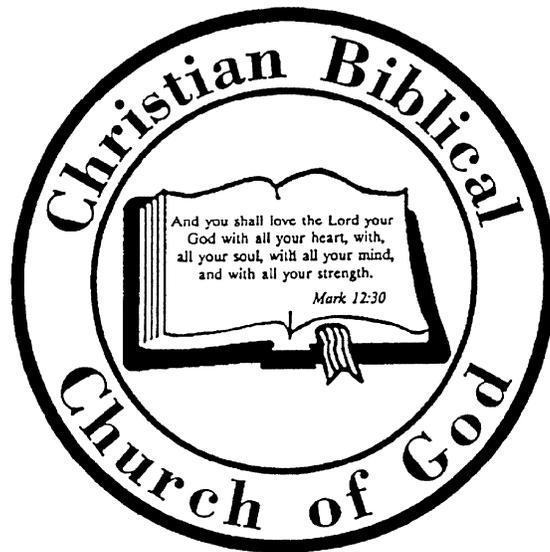


Spring Feasts 2016



Transcript Book

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Sabbath Before Passover

(The Scroll/Scripture of the Truth)

Fred R. Coulter—April 16, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services on the Sabbath before Passover. The time of Passover has come, and it's very important for us to understand:

- what it is that God has done
- how great that God is
- how fantastic His plan is
- how wonderful our calling is

We know that God's Word is true. But let's look at something that I covered some time ago. Let's look at it again. Sometimes it's good to come back to different Scriptures that are important.

We know that Revelation tells us that Jesus was 'slain as the Lamb of God from the foundation of the world.' That's a very important point that we need to know, understand and recognize. This will help us understand:

- the love of God
- the greatness of God
- the mercy of God
- the forgiveness of God
- why the Passover is so important, because it is the renewal of the New Covenant unto eternal life.

Daniel 10:21—this is the angel Gabriel speaking with Daniel, and he's given Daniel different prophecies. And he says, very importantly here, which is actually the verse that introduces Dan. 11.

Daniel 10:21: "But I will show you that which is written in **the Scripture of Truth**..." That has to be in heaven above. All Scripture was written on scrolls, so it could also be *'that which is written in the Scroll of the Truth.'*

Think about it! God is so great and fantastic that He records everything. So, when it tells us concerning the Word of Truth, concerning God's Word, it is so important for us to realize that God has inspired the Word of God, and it is *God-breathed!* And how important that is concerning Christ.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the very first prophecy was of coming Messiah (Gen. 3:15). God knew when He gave independent free moral agency (IFMA) to Adam and Eve, and they had to choose. He set before them life. He set before them everything that they needed to know.

We don't know how long they were with God in the Garden of Eden before they had sinned, or before God has loosed the serpent to test them to see whether they would obey His voice or not. But nevertheless, God provided, before the creation of man, the salvation of mankind. This is important for us to understand when we realize:

- what Christ did
- what He prophesied
- what that means in relationship to our salvation

Let's see a very important Scripture, which also refers to it. Then we'll look at some of the Scriptures in the Old Testament. Heb. 10 tells us about Christ, about His sacrifice and why the blood of bulls and goats cannot forgive sin. Only Christ's sacrifice *once for all*. That means *once for all time!*

Hebrews 10:4: "Because *it is* impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Their sins were forgiven to the temple. They were justified to the temple, but not with God the Father in heaven above, because that is a *spiritual* thing, and it takes a greater sacrifice.

Remember, the sacrifice of something less than human can never forgive human sin. It takes something greater than human life, ***and that life is the life of God our Creator!***

Verse 5: "For this reason, when He comes into the world, He says, 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but You have prepared a body for Me.... [that's Christ speaking to God the Father] ...You did not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin. Then said I, "**Lo, I come**...'" (vs 5-7).

Think about this: the whole Bible is about the coming of Jesus Christ: ***His first coming and His second coming, and how that fits into the plan of salvation, which then is revealed beginning with the Passover and all the Holy days of God!***

"...(as it is written of Me in **the scroll of the book**)... [the Scripture of Truth in heaven (Dan. 10:21)] ...to do Your will, O God" (v 7). That's something! That is very, very powerful for us to understand, and that sets the course for us. We are to use our independent free moral agency *to choose the way of God!*

Remember this: ***human will can never***

produce spiritual results! We need the Spirit of God, the love of God, the power of God within us to accomplish what He wants done within us as His future sons and daughters.

Verse 6: “You did not delight in burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin.”

Verse 9: “Then He said, ‘Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.’...” He says it in two places; ‘as it is written of Me.’] ...He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant*; by Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.**” (vs 9-10). This is why we keep the Passover!

Jesus Christ was the Lord God of the Old Testament, God manifested in the flesh and He came to die for our sins! That was no easy task. That was really something.

You’ll find in the new book *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* how God the Father and Jesus Christ worked that out that He would come in the flesh so that He may establish the second covenant, which is the covenant to eternal life. **“By Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”**

That’s quite a thing! Now let’s understand something else from the words of Jesus Christ. John 10 also reveals the love of God and the care of God, and it also reveals something else: ***there is only one way to God the Father, and that is through Jesus Christ!***

He said on the Passover night—and we’ll read those words when we take the Passover—***I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me!*** You need to think about that in relationship to:

- free moral agency
- the choices that God has given us
- the purpose of the Passover
- understand that human will never accomplishes God’s purpose

We need to choose God’s way. And the first thing we say in the model prayer is—after honoring God, His Holiness and His name—***and Your will be done on earth***—that means in our lives and everything about God’s plan—***as it is in heaven!*** There is nothing that goes on in heaven that is against the will of God.

John 10:1: Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold through the door, but climbs up some other way, that one is a thief and

a robber.” That’s what all this counterfeit religion out there is; all Protestantism, Catholicism, and all the other religions are all the daughters of Babylon the Great. Granted, some Protestants are *for* Jesus, but they don’t have eternal life, because they don’t keep the Passover. If you do not keep the Passover correctly on the correct day, as Jesus said, ***‘You do not have life in you!’*** We’ll see that.

Verse 2: “But the one who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (vs 2-3).

God calls us by name, and whatever our new name is going to be, that’s going to be a fantastic thing—isn’t it? *Yes!* He knows us! He knows us very well! So does God the Father, because the Spirit of God—which is a combination from God the Father and Jesus Christ—dwells within us! ***We are actually a temple of God because of that!***

Think about how important that is in our relationship with God! How important that is in understanding the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

Verse 4: “When he brings the sheep out, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.” That’s why it’s from the Word of God. ***If it’s not of the Word of God, it is not of the voice of God,*** and also the three words: ***Obey My voice!*** It’s recorded for us!

Verse 5: “But they will never follow a stranger...” That’s why the Church is scattered today. Because of the sins of the Church, God had to scatter it and that way God would test everyone whether they truly loved Him with all their heart, mind, soul and being, ***or*** whether they didn’t.

“...for they will flee from him because they do not know the voice of strangers” (v 5). Isn’t that talking about scattering? Leave them! Think about it! How many brethren have had to leave so many churches because:

- the ministry takes over with the will of men
- half-breeding in Protestantism into it
- setting up hierarchies over the brethren

Terrible things have gone on in the Church of God, and we’ve all had to go through those ‘church wars.’ Nevertheless, the purifying of us, through all of those trials, makes us better Christians before God. Then Jesus explained the parable.

Then it talks about the hireling and the hireling will leave people to the wolves. That is exactly what has happened, and some people have

fallen away. They can come back if they repent, but it's going to take some real deep repentance in order to do it.

Verse 14: "I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine. Just as the Father knows Me, I also know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep**" (vs 14-15).

This is important for us to understand: Remember the *Scroll* or *Scripture of Truth* in heaven above that was written about Jesus, where He came to do His will. We'll look at Psa. 40 in a little bit, where it also says the same thing. Isn't that interesting and profound!

Verse 16: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also... [that's us] ...and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and* one Shepherd. On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again" (vs 16-17).

Notice what else He says concerning this. I want you to understand how much Christ has loved each one of us! God applies the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to each of us individually. And to do what Jesus did takes an awful lot of love.

- Powerful love!
- Godly love!
- Merciful love!
- Tender love!

Verse 18: "No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of Myself**..." His own free will and volition to lay His life down as a sacrifice, to go through everything that He went through.

We'll see some of the prophecies of it, and we'll see how that turned out when it actually occurred and what happened. The *Scripture of Truth* is first established in heaven, and then give to us. This is why faithfully preserving the Word of God, faithfully translating the Word of God, is so mighty, mighty important. We are the children of God, and the way that it is going to be transferred into being the spirit sons and daughters of God is at the resurrection. *The Passover is the first step toward the resurrection!*

Verse 18: "No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of Myself** I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Let's understand what it means in the Greek. The death of Jesus Christ is called *the death*. It is the death of God manifested in the flesh. Adam and Eve

sinned right in the face of God, having been created by God, no exterior around them that was contrary to God.

- God instructed them
- God told them
- God gave them understanding

But they *chose* to go *their* own way. They *chose* to want to become God *their* way rather than *God's* way. All human being were then given, as part of the penalty against Adam and all of his descendants—because God is going to take care of all human beings—is that we have *the law of sin and death*.

Jesus also had to have 'the law of sin and death' within Him as a human being, which He received from His mother Mary. This is important because if He did not have 'the law of sin and death' in Him, He could not have been tempted. We know that He died, so He had to have the law of death in Him.

Hebrews 2:9: "But we see Jesus, Who *was* made a little lower than *the* angels, crowned with glory and honor on account of suffering **the death**..." It's called **the death** because it covers the sins of all mankind.

Also, let's understand something in Rom. 6. This tells us something very important in our relationship with God. When we repent:

- first we answer the call of God
- we repent of our sins
- we are baptized by full immersion in water
- our sins are forgiven

This is so significant, and as we come to the Passover we need to understand our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ, through the forgiveness of sins and baptism. *Baptism is a death!* You bury the old self, but because you have to grow in grace and knowledge, you're raised out of the watery grave so you can 'walk in newness of life' with God's Spirit to change, grow, and overcome as we will see during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound?... [notice that in the Greek this is very emphatic]: ...**MAY IT NEVER BE!**..." (vs 1-2). You can't!

So, all of those who say that the Law has been done away actually, if they say they believe the Bible, are insane to a certain degree, because Jesus said that He didn't come 'to do away with the Law or the Prophets.'

“...We who died to sin...” (v 20). Living he way of man, which ‘seems right’ leads to death. Why? *Because of the carnal mind!*

- the carnal mind is enmity against God
- the human heart is ‘deceitful above all things and desperately wicked’

‘Who can know it?’ *God does!* We’re not to live in sin! We’re to live in the way that we’ve been doing! We are to change and walk in ‘newness of life.’

Verse 3: “Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into **His death?**” The New Covenant is the conjoining of death: the death of Christ and your watery-grave death in baptism are conjoined. Think of that! That is the New Covenant and this is what we are going to commemorate when we take the Passover this coming week.

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into **the death...**” the very crucifixion. When you read all of those words about what He suffered: He did this for you! He did this for me! ***He did it individually for every human being as the Creator God of all human beings, to redeem them back to Himself!***

Of course, if you know the whole plan of God, He’s going to offer this to all human beings in His own set time. But at the present time, we are the first fruits, the first called, and *we are baptized into the death!*

“...so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life” (v 4). That’s fantastic for us to understand!

- Isn’t walking in the commandments of God “...newness of life”?
- Isn’t having the Spirit of God and being led of the Spirit of God “...newness of life”?
- *Yes, indeed!*

We have to show that we will love God and will obey Him under all circumstances! Eternal life is so important, eternal life is so great, and eternal life is going to be so wonderful that God wants to know:

- Will you obey My voice?
- Will you love Me and keep My commandments?

That’s what we talk about on the Passover night!

Verse 5: “For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also **shall we be...**”—future! And the only time that takes place is at the resurrection when Christ returns.

“...in the likeness of *His* resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him...*” (vs 5-6). Put to death the sin that is within your body. The ‘law of sin and death’ that we all have, every one of us! It doesn’t go away instantly. We will see that there has to be change, growth, overcoming.

“...in order that the body of sin **might be destroyed...** [this shows that it is a future progressive getting rid of] ...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin” (v 6). Everything about the New Covenant is to be released from being enslaved to sin. The suffering of ***the death.***

Hebrews 2:10: “Because it was fitting 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.”

I want you to think about that for just a minute. Think how God is so fantastic, and His justice is absolutely perfect. He created us to be His spirit sons and daughters. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, and the sin of every human being since that time, He took upon Him ‘the law of sin and death’ so that He would be able to be the perfect sacrifice.

“...to make the Author [Christ] of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He Who is sanctifying and those who are sanctified *are* all of one... [because they have the Spirit of God] ...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” (vs 10-12).

Remember the Scripture that says to the Laodiceans, that if they repent and overcome He will grant them to sit in His throne with Him because He overcame. This is what is so hard for people to understand:

- God is perfect
- God is love
- God is righteous

How are you going to make someone who is perfect, *perfect?* *Perfection is also something that is accomplished for us through Christ*—through us and in us—*because He became human!* He had *the law of sin and death.*

Notice how Jesus overcame. It wasn’t easy; it was difficult! Look at the trial He had with Satan the devil, and Satan was after Him all the time. We will see what He had to through with the crucifixion, and all of that was prophesied and *written in the*

Scripture of Truth in heaven above before it ever took place.

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. That's why He prayed so fervently before He was arrested, because it was such a powerful thing that was going to happen.

Hebrews 5:7: "Who [Christ], in the days of His flesh, offered up both prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him **Who was able to save Him** from death... [God the Father] ...and was heard because *He feared God.*" He loved God and always did the things that pleased God.

What did He say of Himself? *Of Myself I can do nothing, but the Father in Me does the works!* Don't you think that's quite an amazing thing?

Verse 8: "Although He was a Son, *yet*, He learned obedience from the things that He suffered; and having been perfected..."—even more by becoming a human being and taking upon Him the full human nature with *the law of sin and death!*

And we will see that He was tempted in every way like we are. So, the temptations had to be real. The temptations had to be in overcoming *the law of sin and death* in Him, never sinning once!

"...He became *the* Author of eternal salvation to all those who **obey** Him" (v 9). Just add to *obey: My voice!*

Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful..." No other book can do to the human mind and heart, through the words that are here, which Jesus said, 'The words that I speak to you are Spirit and they are Life; the flesh profits nothing.'

"...and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart. And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him **to Whom we must give account**" (vs 12-13).

This is why we are conjoined in baptism to the death of Christ. Only His death, and hence then His resurrection because He never sinned, is able to save us from sin.

There is nothing else! We have our choices, we have to choose, and we will talk about that when we get to the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 14: "Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the

Son of God, we should hold fast the confession of *our faith*. For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, **but One Who was tempted in all things** according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; **yet, He was without sin**. Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (vs 14-16).

That's quite a thing, brethren, and we need to understand that. Think of what He has done for us.

We're going to look at some of the other things that were prophesied of Him, what He would go through. He knew that it would happen; He understood how it was going to be. But He constantly had to overcome.

- He overcame!
- He had to overcome the world with Satan the devil!
- He had to overcome Satan the devil!
- He had to overcome *the law of sin and death* within Himself!

Let's understand this Scripture in Rom. 8 because it's very important. Jesus did not come as some human-looking being, but was really not human. He had to make the payment for all sin past, present and future. Of course, we know how God's plan works with that.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit." That's the whole purpose of the Days of Unleavened Bread:

- overcoming human nature
- changing
- growing
- repenting
- understanding the Word of God
- loving God
- loving each other
- serving the brethren
- preparing for eternal life

You're walking according to the Spirit, because you're not minding the carnal things of this world.

Verse 2: "Because the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus... [the giving of the Holy Spirit] ...has delivered me from the law of sin and death." That does not mean that it's been taken out of you. It means that through the power of the Holy Spirit of God, and through the Word of God—and through

your choices—you are able to overcome sin!

That's why in the model prayer it tells us: **'forgive us our sins as we forgive others, and deliver us—rescue us—from the wicked one!'** **Every day!** That's how we grow and overcome, because conversion is a process. Overcoming with Christ was also a process, because He had to do it every day. With the law of sin and death in Him, He had to be perfect and never yield to any temptation whatsoever.

Here is the reason why, v 3: "For what *was* impossible for the Law to do..." The Law can't do anything; you must:

- *choose* to obey
- *choose* to love
- *choose* to repent

"...in that it was weak through the flesh..." (v 3). People without the Spirit of God don't want to do the things of God *God's way!* They may profess that they want to do some of the things of God, but too many times it ends up *their way!*

- What do you think about Sunday-keeping?
- What do you think about Holy Day keeping vs holiday-keeping?

Interesting, isn't it? How many people, when they hear about the Sabbath, say, 'Oh good, I want to keep the Sabbath'? *NO!* They say, 'Well, you know that was done away, or that was the old law.' When they hear it, the Law can't make them do anything! ***They have to choose!***

So, to solve the problem, here is what God did, "...God, having sent His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh...**" (v 3)—in the likeness of sin, of flesh; that's the way it is in the Greek. This tells us that He had to have 'the law of sin and death' in Him. How could He be in the likeness—Greek: 'homoiomati'—which means *the same exact human nature* and carrying 'the law of sin and death.'

"...and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (v 3). So, the proposition was that since God gave man—because of the sin of Adam and Eve and all their descendants—"the law of sin and death" by inheritance, they were by nature *sinners*. The only way that God can condemn sin in the flesh is that it had to be Jesus' flesh, because **He** was the sacrifice. Remember, *Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us*, "...and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

- that's how He was perfected
- that's how He overcame
- that's how He was able to provide this for us

And for what purpose? Verse 4: "In order that the righteousness of the Law... [because He puts it in our heart and mind] ...might be fulfilled in us, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according to *the* Spirit." There it is, brethren!

(go the next track)

One of the most important things that Jesus did in laying down His life—first for those whom He calls, later for the whole world in God's plan—was to show His great and fantastic love.

Of course, that's expressed in John 3:16. I'll explain that a little later as we go through the Days of Unleavened Bread. But this is applying to us now:

- if you have the Spirit of God
- if you are choosing to love God
- if you are choosing to obey God

—in every aspect of your life ongoing—*then you are walking according to the Spirit as led by the Spirit!*

Let's see some of the prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament. Psa. 40 is where it is that it's written *in the scroll of a book*. It makes you wonder exactly how God has done all of the inspiring of His Word, through His servants. Remember what Peter wrote: ***The Holy Scriptures never, at anytime, came by human will, but by Holy men who were inspired of God!*** Moved by the Holy Spirit to write what was contained in the ***Scripture of Truth*** in heaven above; or the ***Scroll of Truth***.

Psalm 40 talks about the things referring to Christ. It has part of it, but when you read the Psalms they sometimes run in consecutive order, other times they don't. Other times there are things there of David and how he felt, and having the Spirit of God in him. That also reflected upon his growing and overcoming, and walking in the Spirit, as well.

Also, David himself went through many, many trials for the very purpose of writing the Psalms. These then are given to us so that we can receive, with God's Spirit, the inspiration that is here:

- to help us in time of need
- to encourage us
- to lift us
- to understand the Truth
- to see how great God is

and all of these things combined together.

Now, some of these verses we can apply directly to Christ, and some of them apply directly to David. We can relate to all of them because we likewise go through human experiences—having the

Spirit of God, walking in the Spirit of God, growing and overcoming—and have many of the same experiences that are identified here in the book of Psalms. This is why it's so important that if you get down in trials and difficulties and get discouraged, get out the book of Psalms:

- read them
- study them
- pray over them
- ask God to help you

Psalm 40:1—a fantastic Ps.: “I waited patiently for the LORD, and He inclined unto me and heard my cry.” God hears our prayers! Every single one of them!

Verse 2: “He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon **a Rock...**”—that Rock is Christ. You can read of that in Matt. 7 and 1-Cor. 10.

“...and established my steps. And He has put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise to our God; many shall see and fear, and shall trust in the LORD” (vs 2-3). This both to David and to Christ.

Verse 4: “Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust and does not respect the proud, nor those who turn aside to lies.” Very interesting! Stop and think how many lies that there are in the world and who's the father of liars but none other than Satan the devil, and he is ‘deceiving the whole world.’ For us this means that we don't turn aside to the things of the world.

Verse 5: “O LORD my God, many things You have done, Your wonderful works and Your thoughts which are toward us; there is none to compare unto You; if I could declare and speak of them, they would be more than can be told.”

That's true, especially when you get to the part of trying to figure out the question: What is going to be like to be a spirit being in the Kingdom of God? What is that going to be like? Let's draw a little parallel here. It's almost like a baby in the womb wondering—which he can't because he doesn't have any thoughts—what it's going to be like when I get out of this watery mess. He has no idea! We have some ideas of it, but do we really understand it? We can understand the Scriptures. But there are more “...than can be told.” That's what it's going to be when we're resurrected. Amazing!

Here's a direct prophecy of Christ that we read in Heb. 10:

Verse 6: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened... [in the Greek it

says ‘You have prepared a body for Me.'] ...burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, ‘Lo, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me’” (vs 6-7). What is that book? *The Scroll or Scripture of Truth* (Dan. 10:21).

Verse 8: “I delight to do Your will, O My God...” This is what it has to be with us:

- prayer
- study
- Sabbath-keeping
- Passover
- Holy Day keeping
- plan of God
- growing in grace and knowledge
- delight to do the will of God

That is walking according to the Spirit!

“...and Your Law is within My heart” (v 8). What does it say of us? *That God will do to us*—who are in a covenant relationship having the Spirit of God—that *He will write His laws and commandments in our heart and mind!* Of course, Jesus had the Law of God within Him!

Verse 9: “I have preached righteousness in **the great congregation...**” Stop and think about that. Even though there were a lot of people who followed Jesus, because of the healings and the preaching, how many were really converted? Well, there were only 12 apostles, and a total of 10 times 12 or 120 that were might be the very firstfruits of the ministry of Christ. Interesting, isn't it? “...the great congregation...” has to be a prophecy of the resurrection where we are all assembled together on the Sea of Glass.

“...lo, I have not kept back my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not hidden Your loving kindness and Your Truth from **the great congregation**” (vs 9-10).

How does it go out to the great congregation and the whole world? *The Bible?* Now, with so many Bibles in the world and all the digital Bibles available, do you think that anybody is going to have an excuse. ‘Lord, I didn't know.’ *Well, I sent it, it was available; did you read it?* ‘No, I didn't.’ *That's not My fault, God will say!*

Verse 11: “Do not withhold Your tender mercies from Me, O LORD; let Your loving kindness and Your Truth always preserve Me.” That's how Christ lived His life in the flesh.

Verse 12: “For evils without number have

encircled Me...” I wonder how many demons were always going around trying to stir up trouble wherever Jesus went?

“...My iniquities have taken hold on Me...” (v 12). Jesus never sinned, but He bore the sins of the world. And because He put ‘the law of sin and death’ in mankind, when He bore all the sins of the whole world, those were all the sins. Think about that with the 6,000 years of human existence. That is an amazing thing.

“...so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of My head, and My heart fails me. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver Me; O LORD, make haste to help Me” (vs 12-13). That’s exactly what God the Father did in resurrecting Christ.

Let’s look at some other prophecies concerning Jesus. Isa. 53 is really quite an amazing prophecy, and the one who gave the words to Isaiah was the One Who became Jesus Christ. So, when Jesus came, He knew everything that was to take place. Did He not tell His disciples, when they were walking up to Jerusalem, that He was going to be arrested, beaten and scourged by the elders and Gentiles? The disciples couldn’t understand it. It says that it was hidden from their understanding. Later Christ opened their minds.

Isaiah 53:1: “Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant... [that’s Christ growing up] ...and as a root out of a dry ground...” (vs 1-2). There was no one else who would be righteous during the life of Christ.

“...He has no form nor comeliness that we should look upon Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him” (v 2). He didn’t come as some great hero. **NO!** We will see what kind of life He led.

Isn’t it really true what is here? We’re going to see that it will increase even more, v 3: “*He is despised and rejected of men...*” The irony of it all is with the Orthodox Christianity of this world. This is what they actually do **because they don’t obey the voice of God!** They have another Jesus. They may say they love Jesus. But what did Jesus say? *Why call you Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things that I say?* Everything that Jesus said, taught and what’s in the Bible is there for all to know. But because they want it *their way*, and you can never have God *your way*, they actually despise and reject Him.

“...a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our infirmities... [by His stripes we are

healed] ...and carried our sorrows...” (vs 3-4). That’s why we are to put all of our sorrows and cares upon Him, because He cares for us.

“...yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted” (v 4). ‘Well, He got what He deserved; look at that, He went against the priests and the religious authorities here.’ They didn’t even know it.

Verse 5: “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions... [remember, he had to be perfected through suffering] ...*He was* crushed for our iniquities...” That’s what scourging does, it crushes!

“...the chastisement of our peace...” (v 5). In other words, in order for us to have peace with God, it had to come upon Him first.

“...*was* upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed” (v 5). Then He talks about human nature. Remember, we talked about Jesus is ‘the door,’ we have to come ‘through Him,’ and He’s ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life.’

Now it talks about us as sheep. Here we are, v 6: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” All human beings upon Christ. Think of that!

Verse 7: “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet, He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.” Most human beings would be mad and just raving, cursing and whatever going through things like that.

Verse 8: “By oppression and judgment He was taken away...” Think about all the people in the world who have been oppressed, all of those who have been killed. Delores and I were talking the other night and we said, ‘There’s never been a time when there hasn’t been war.’ War by men wanting power! Wanting wealth!

You look at the political things going on in the world, not only here in America, but in the world, the religions of the world, the things of the world. It’s going just exactly as Jesus said; building up for the worst time that has ever been. That will not come until God has made a full witness to this world.

“...and with His generation who did consider that He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He *was* stricken” (v 8). They didn’t know it; they had no clue!

Verse 9: “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; although He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth”—though He carried ‘the law of sin and death.’

Verse 10: “Yet, the LORD willed to crush Him...” This was planned; this was thought out by God. Jesus said, ‘**I** will go and save them; **I** will become a man and die. And, Father, since I have created all of them, **lay upon Me all their sins so that they may become one in Us.**’ That’s what Jesus has done. That is what the Passover is all about.

“...and He has put Him to grief: You shall make His life an offering for sin. He shall see His seed... [it’s all going to come out with the Family of God] ...He shall prolong His days... [because He was resurrected from the dead] ...and that the purpose of the LORD might prosper in His hand” (v 10). God’s plan and purpose begins with the Passover. That’s why it’s so important.

Verse 11: “He shall see of the travail of His soul.... [we’re going to read about that in just a little bit] ...He shall be fully satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; and He shall bear their iniquities.” That’s something, because in God’s plan, in the end it’s all going to come out fantastic and magnificent beyond our wildest dreams or understanding. That’s what we have to look forward to.

- *God has called us* to be the firstfruits
- *God has called us* to change, grow and overcome
- *God has called us* to have the mind of Christ
- *God has called us* to have His commandments and laws written in our heart and mind
- *God has called us* to have His love within us
 - ✓ to love the Father
 - ✓ to love Jesus Christ
 - ✓ to understand what He **willingly did**
 - ✓ to understand what He **willingly gave**

So that we could be saved! And yea, in God’s plan the whole world!

Verse 12: “Therefore, I will divide to Him *a portion* with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He has poured out His soul to death... [the soul that sins dies; and the soul unto death that Jesus died was for the sins of all mankind] ...and He was counted among the transgressors; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors.” Think about that!

When we take of the Passover on the Passover night we’re going to cover some of these same Scriptures again there. We are in a covenant with God the Father and Jesus Christ for eternal life. What a great blessing that is, and for Their mercy, kindness, love, understanding and forgiveness that They give to us. It is unbelievable!

I want you to remember that Jesus said, ‘**I lay My life down, and I have authority to take it back again.**’ Here’s what He did:

Isaiah 50:6: “I gave My back to the smiters...” He didn’t resist and fight, and He did that for all of us. And remember that **everything about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is applied to each one of us individually!**

- so then our sins are covered
- so that we may be perfected
- so that we may grow in grace and knowledge
- so that we may be ready for the first resurrection
- so that we can help solve the problems of this world

by being kings and priests reigning and ruling with Jesus Christ to really bring this world what it deep down in its heart and mind really wants.

“...and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting... [all prophesied to be done, and you can read in the New Testament, it happened] ...for the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore, I have not been disgraced. On account of this I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed” (vs 6-7).

Brethren, this is what we need to do. We need to claim the promise of Jeremiah, that God would set His mind like a flint, like brazen walls against the evil that’s going on in this world. Yet, at the same time have the love of God, the Truth of God, the mercy and compassion for those who repent.

Verse 8: “*He is* near who justifies Me... [that justification is also for the sins of all mankind] ...who will contend with Me? Let us stand together; who *is* My adversary? Let him come near Me. Behold, the Lord GOD will help Me; who *is* he *who* shall condemn Me? Lo, they all shall grow old like a garment; the moth shall eat them” (vs 8-9). God takes care of all the adversaries.

Remember: **all of this was written in the Scroll of Truth in heaven above!** Think of that! That’s going to be amazing! Think of what that’s

going to be like. There's a place where it is kept; I wonder if that's some kind of library? I wonder what God has written in there coming down through all eternity before He created man? (speculation)

Isa. 52 tells us another prophecy of the life and death of Christ, and what He had to do so that no man could say, 'Lord, I've had it so bad, You just can't understand what it's like.' *NO!* He fully understands what it's like. Here's why:

Isaiah 52:14: Many were astonished at Him—for *His body was* so disfigured—even His form beyond that of the sons of men." Think of all the gruesome deaths that you have seen documented and witnessed on television or saw pictures of in a book. More than any!

Verse 15: "So shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for they will see *that* which *was* not told to them; yea, what they had not heard, shall they consider." It's going to be an astonishing thing when that takes place.

Psa. 22 is really quite a Psalm. I wonder what David thought when he wrote this? This had to be written in *The Scroll of Truth* in heaven above. God inspired David to write this so that we would all know that God knew what He was going to go through when He came as Jesus Christ in the flesh, as Savior of the world. He had to experience everything that every human being experiences, yet, *never sin!*

These are some of the words that Jesus cried on the cross when He was dying; Psalm 22:1: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me, and *why are You* so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O my God, I cry in the daytime..." (vs 1-2).

Some of the other Scriptures apply to Israel and so forth, but I just want to go through the things that apply directly to Christ.

Verse 6: "But I am a worm, and no man... [because He was so beaten and scourged] ...a reproach of men and despised by the people. All who see Me mock Me; they shoot out the lip; they shake the head, saying, 'He trusted on the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, since He delights in Him!'" (vs 6-8). That's what they said right at the base of the cross: *If You are the Christ, come down and we will believe You!*

Verse 9: "For You are He who took Me out of the womb, causing Me to trust while on My mother's breasts." Recalling everything that took place with His birth and childhood.

Verse 10: "I was cast upon You from birth; You are My God from My mother's womb. Be not far from Me; for trouble is near, for there is none to help" (vs 10-11). None whatsoever! He was going to die an ignominious shameful death!

Verse 12: "Many bulls have encircled around Me; strong bulls of Bashan have surrounded Me." This must have been the demons. I wonder what it was like looking down where Christ was crucified? Satan and the demons were probably circling around laughing and hideously saying, 'He's going to die! He's going to die! He's going to die!' I'm sure that they didn't believe that He was going to be resurrected.

Verse 13: "They opened wide their mouths at Me, like a ravening and a roaring lion." What does it say of Satan the devil? *He's like a roaring lion seeking to devour whomever he can!*

Verse 14: "I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint..."—from the beating He took; not one of them broke, by the way.

"...My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels" (v 14). He could just feel the life going out of Him. The last thing that ended His life was the thrust of the spear in His side.

Verse 15: "My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evildoers have encircled Me; they have pierced My hands and My feet; and You have brought Me into the dust of death. I can count all My bones; they look and gloat over Me" (vs 15-17).

He could look down and see His ribs. How many were out there saying, 'Ha! Ha! Ha! Look at Him!' Then, of course, all the demons gleeful with joy that here the Son of God was going to die! They did everything within their power to do it. Satan directly inspired and possessed Judas Iscariot to betray Him, just exactly as it was prophesied.

Verse 18^[transcriber's correction]: "They divide My garments among them and cast lots upon My vesture." Those soldiers right there were fulfilling prophecy. They didn't have a clue! They had *no clue* as to what was going on. Really, when you stop and think about the whole actual crucifixion of Christ, no one but God the Father and Jesus Christ knew what was going on.

Satan self-deceived himself into thinking that if he could get Jesus dead, *he* would take over the universe! The disciples didn't know; they ran away fearful. They couldn't understand it. They didn't know why the One Whom they knew was the

Messiah was dying on the cross; such a horrible, terrible and wretched death. They thought He was going save them from the Romans. They thought He was going to set up the Kingdom of God. That's all He talked about, now look, there He is, He's dying!

That's why He had to teach them when He was resurrected. Can you imagine the great joy of what they went through when Jesus did? Think of that!

Verse 19: "But You, O LORD, be not far from Me; O My strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog.... [that has to be Satan] ...Save Me from the lion's mouth; yea, and from the wild ox's horns. You have answered Me" (vs 19-21). Then He projects forward to the resurrection.

Verse 22: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You...." (vs 22-23). We read that in Heb. 2.

What Jesus kept His mind on was returning to God the Father so that He could endure the things that He went through. It was necessary! It was ordained! Because God a sinful nature to human beings, and God paid the price for all human beings and their sins. That's why we have to come to repentance. That's why we need to keep repenting every day, because of the evil and wretchedness that is still in our mind. We'll talk a little more about that during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 31: "They shall come and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall yet be born, that He has done this." In other words, He has finished this!

Now, let's just take a little look in the New Testament, and let's see what was on Jesus' mind. Think about all of the difficulties and problems that Jesus faced.

- think of all the hideous things that were done against Him
- think of the hatred of the priests, scribes, Pharisees and all that despised Him, all that were there crucifying Him

Luke 23:33: "And when they came to the place called *Place of a Skull*, there they crucified Him and the malefactors, one on *the* right and one on *the* left. Then Jesus said, '**Father, forgive them**... [I want you to think about that] ...**for they do not know what they are doing.**'...." (vs 33-34). They don't understand it.

Isn't that true of so many human lives, *we don't even know what we are doing!* We get caught

up in so many things! And even given over to Satan the devil and the demons. They do not what they are doing!

"...And as they divided His garments, they cast lots. Now the people stood *by* observing, and the rulers among them were also deriding *Him*, saying, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself, if this is the Christ, the chosen of God.' And the soldiers also mocked Him, (v 34-36). That's something! Remember what we read in Psa. 22, *the Lord has done this!*

John 17:1: "Jesus spoke these words... [had to be given directly by Jesus Christ to John] ...and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; since You have given Him authority over all flesh... [past, present, future] ...in order that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him'" (vs 1-2). Then we have the Millennium, the second resurrection and all of that.

Verse 3: "For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You did send." Because being in the flesh, Jesus was not 100% God. When He was resurrected from the dead and re-joined God the Father as God, then there was God the Father and God the Son. But at the time of praying here, the Father was the only *true God*.

Verse 4: "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave Me to do." He finished it! That is referring to His ministry in preaching and teaching. He finished that, but then there was the Passover that also had to be finished.

John 19:28: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had now been finished..." Referring to:

- His physical life
- His sacrifice for the sins of the world
- teaching and training the disciples up to the point that He had

He taught them a whole lot more after He was resurrected and later through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"...so that the Scripture might be fulfilled..." (v 28). Look at that! What Scripture is that? ***What was written in heaven!***

He "...said, 'I thirst.'" (v 28). So, it's all written in heaven first, inspired

- to Moses
- to the Prophets
- to the apostles and the writers of the New Testament

We have it here in the Bible so it “...might be fulfilled...”

Verse 29: “Now, a vessel full of vinegar was sitting *there*. And after filling a sponge with vinegar and putting *it* on a *stick* of hyssop, they put it up to *His* mouth.” It just touched His lips, He didn’t drink any of it.

Verse 30: “And so, when Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, **‘It is finished.’**...” He finished His ministry and finished the ordeal of His crucifixion; one of the most prophesied things in the Old Testament. And one of the most written about things in the New Testament.

“...It is finished...” That doesn’t mean that the work of God is complete, because Christ had to:

- be resurrected from the dead
- send the Holy Spirit
- build His Church

“...And bowing His head, He yielded up *His* spirit” (v 30).

After that, because the soldier had put a spear into Jesus’ side, He died. It was done, and “...He yielded up *His* spirit.”

Then Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus came and put Him a tomb. All of this happened when the Passover occurred on the fourth day of the week—Wednesday. This year Passover occurs on a Friday, so we take it Thursday night.

It has to be in the right year, with the right sequence of days so that He could be in the grave three days and three nights. This is what God has done for every single one of us! It was:

- known by God the Father and Jesus Christ
- prophesied in the Bible
- written down in the *Scripture of Truth* in heaven above
- fulfilled and finished exactly as God has said

I want you to think on this when it comes time for taking the Passover this coming Thursday night!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Daniel 10:21
- 2) Hebrews 10:4-7, 6, 9-10
- 3) John 10:1-5, 14-18
- 4) Hebrews 2:9
- 5) Romans 6:1-6
- 6) Hebrews 2:10-12
- 7) Hebrews 5:7-9
- 8) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 9) Romans 8:1-4
- 10) Psalm 40:1-13
- 11) Isaiah 53:1-11
- 12) Isaiah 50:6-10
- 13) Isaiah 52:15-15
- 14) Psalm 22:1-2, 6-23, 31
- 15) Luke 23:33-36
- 16) John 17:1-4
- 17) John 19:28-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Daniel 11
- Genesis 3:15
- John 3:16
- Matthew 7
- 1 Corinthians 10

Also referenced: Book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

FRC:bo
Transcribed: 3/15/16

First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—2016

Fred R. Coulter—April 23, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, 2016. For me this is my 56th Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. I'm happy we're all here on God's Holy Days.

- these are the days that God blesses
- these are the days that God commands us to keep

This is one of the things that sets us apart from the rest of the world that we love God, we keep His commandments, and we keep His Holy Days. It is true that God says that *seven days you shall eat unleavened bread*.

We know the command for the Feast of Unleavened Bread is right here in Lev. 23. Let's begin the Feast right here in the chapter of the Feasts of God. Lev. 23:5^[transcriber's correction] has to do with the Passover, and we've already had the Passover.

Leviticus 23:6^[transcriber's correction]: "And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD. You must eat unleavened bread seven days. On the first day you shall have a Holy convocation.... [that is today] ... You shall not *do any servile work therein*, but you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days...." (vs 6-8)

That was for the priesthood and all the offerings on the altar. But the people brought the offerings and offered them. One of the most important ones was the offering for the redemption of the firstborn. That was because God passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt and spared their firstborn, while God executed the firstborn—man and beast—of all the Egyptians.

"...In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*" (v 8).

We know that every Holy Day we are to bring a special offering to God, because this is our thanksgiving to God for all that He is doing. It's very interesting that one man said one time, 'Well, if God is first in your life...' and he was talking to some of the Protestants '...why is He last in your budget?'

When we come to Deut. 16:16 we find that God gives the commands to bring an offering. He demands all the males to come three times, minimum, during the year. Women—because there's childbirth, taking care of the sick and so forth, and those who couldn't come—He does not demand that they come. But, unless it's under circumstances like

that, they should.

Deuteronomy 16:16: "Three times in a year shall all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place which He shall choose: in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before the LORD empty." We're not to come empty, or maybe just have a little bit and throw that in the offering.

But, v 17: "Every man *shall give* as he is able..." It's something we have to pre-determine to do and desire to give to God of our own free will and volition, as he is able. Now, here's the category:

"...according to the blessing of the LORD your God, which He has given you" (v 17). That's not just necessarily the physical blessing, that's spiritual blessings. That includes understanding the Word of God, having contact with God, knowing God and understanding His Word; all of those are tremendous blessings that God gives to us.

Now, our part is that we respond to God. It's just like Paul wrote that 'the one who sows sparingly is going to reap sparingly,' (2-Cor. 9) and God doesn't want you to give grudgingly or by compulsion, but you do it freely of your own free will, because God says so. God is able, if we sow bountifully we will reap bountifully, and God's grace will be sufficient to us in all things. That's what God wants us to do.

With the tithes and offerings that all the brethren send in we are able to serve many, many people. We are reaching pretty close to 3700 on our mailing list just here in the United States.

I hope you all have the new book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* You're going to find that is a very helpful and inspiring book for you, so that you know:

- why God has called you
- what He is doing
- how you need to respond in your life to Him
- and the great blessings that God is going to give us

(pause for offering)

Now let's come to Exo. 13, and as we read these Scriptures, we'll apply them spiritually to us. Yes, there is the physical part we need to do:

- **put the leaven out of our houses**

We should do that before the Passover. Get rid of it all, because the Passover is an unleavened bread day, as well.

➤ **eat unleavened bread seven days**

There's another special consideration for the Feast of Unleavened Bread that God brings out in:

Exodus 13:1: Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Sanctify all the firstborn to Me...' (vs 1-2). Spiritually speaking we are the Church of the Firstborn. All of us have been sanctified to God the Father, to be His sons and daughters as spirit beings in the Kingdom of God. There are spiritual parallels that we can learn here.

"...whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, of man and of beast. It is Mine" (v 2)—because that is a new creation of God.

Verse 3: "And Moses said to the people, 'Remember this day *in* which you came out of Egypt...' So, it's right along with the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

"...out of the house of bondage; for the LORD brought you out from this place **by the strength of His hand**.... [the might of *His* hand] ...There shall be no leavened bread eaten. On this day you are going out, in the month Abib. And it shall be when the LORD shall bring you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month. **You shall eat unleavened bread seven days, and in the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD.** Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And there shall be no leavened bread seen with you, nor shall there be leaven seen with you in all your borders" (vs 3-7).

They had to unleaven not only their homes, they had unleaven the whole country. What they did, they would collect it and then they would burn it. All the leaven was to be collected and burned *before* the Passover Day, **because the Passover Day was also an unleavened bread day!** And it is called that in the New Testament. But it's not part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is in addition.

In the spring we have Passover, which is one day; that's unleavened. Then seven days of Unleavened Bread, a total of eight days. In the fall we have the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days, and then we have The Last Great Day, which is the eighth day, so we have eight. We have an extra one at the beginning and an extra one at the end that God has put there.

Verse 8: "And you shall tell your son in that

day, saying, 'This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out from Egypt.' And it shall be a sign to you upon your hand, and for a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD'S Law may be in your mouth, for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt" (vs 8-9). Look at the world today. Let's see a little spiritual analogy:

There's even a new movie coming out called *The God's of Egypt*. All the religions of the world came from Babylon to Egypt and spread to the whole world.

When we are called out of the world, God is bringing us one by one out of *spiritual* Egypt, also called 'spiritual Sodom.' As we know and have seen, we are to have the laws and commandments of God in our heart and mind.

➤ **redemption of the firstborn**

Verse 10: "You shall, therefore, keep this law in its season..." What is the law? *Not only the Feast, but the firstborn!*

Verse 11: "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and shall give it to you, **you shall set apart to the LORD all that opens the womb**, and every firstborn that comes of any animal which you have; **the males shall be the LORD'S**" (vs 11-12). They belong to Him!

Verse 13: "And every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb.... [notice how important this is]: ...And if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck.... [that's pretty strong language] ...And **all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.**"

There's a reason for that, and this helps explain the reason between the problems of Deut. 16 and Exo. 12.

Verse 14: "And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What does this *mean?*' you shall say to him, 'The LORD brought us out of Egypt by the strength of *His* hand, from the house of bondage.'" Today, we're brought out of the bondage of sin, out of the bondage of spiritual Egypt, also called 'Babylon the Great.'

Verse 15: "And it came to pass when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn of the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of animals. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD all that opens the womb, that are males. But all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.' And it shall be for a token upon your hand, and for frontlets between your eyes, for the LORD brought us out from Egypt by strength of *His* hand" (vs 15-16).

Let's see something that is one of those things that creates some problems if you don't understand the firstborn. You can't go from Exo. 12 to Deut 16 and then understand it in the way that the Passover was changed. **God never changed the Passover from the 14th to the 15th.**

I'm sure you know that because you have the book: *The Christian Passover*. That's a big thick 500-page book! That book explains everything! One man asked: Why does it need 500 pages to explain about the Passover? The answer is **because it is so important to God that Satan has attacked it from hundreds different way!**

If Satan can get the people of God to begin missing keeping the Passover the way that they should, just a little... Remember: Satan always works with incrementalism, then a little more, then a little more, and pretty soon they will miss the mark!

Deut. 16, I admit, is a little confusing. But we have the answer to that in the book *The Christian Passover*. Deuteronomy 16:1: "Keep the month of Abib, and observe the Passover to the LORD your God. For in the month of Abib, the LORD your God brought you forth out of Egypt by night." Passover first, leaving Egypt second. Passover is one day, Unleavened Bread is another day.

Verse 2: "And you shall, therefore, sacrifice the **Passover offering**..." This is not the sacrifice, this is the offering. Remember, Passover is observed at night. What did they do on the day portion of the Passover? In the first Passover they left their homes at sunrise and they all gathered in Rameses and then beginning the night of the 15th they left Rameses and began the exodus, and that became The Night Much to Be Observed unto Lord.

What is a **Passover offering**? Here's a clue. Remember that the offering for the domestic Passover at the house was that you would take a kid from **the flock**, and that would be either a goat or a lamb.

When we come to Deut. 16 it looks like everything has changed, but it hasn't. I want you to read it from this point of view, from the point of view of Exo. 13, which is that they had to **redeem their firstborn by an offering of a lamb**. All the males belong to God.

They could also redeem it with an *offering of the herd*, but at no time was there ever a Passover calf to be eaten with the Passover meal. It was always a **lamb** from the sheep or a kid from the **goat**.

When you read here, this is talking about all the **firstborn offerings to redeem the firstborn**—man and beast—on the day portion of the Passover in preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread so

they could eat the meal that night and *then the firstborn would be redeemed!*

If you read it that way then you understand the truth of it. I have it fully explained in *The Christian Passover* book.

Verse 2: "And you shall, therefore, sacrifice the Passover offering to the LORD your God, **of the flock and the herd**... [He distinctly said that it should not be of the herd in Exo. 12] ...in the place, which the LORD shall choose to place His name there."

The **redemption offering** would be brought to the tabernacle or the temple. The Passover could be celebrated at home, because it was a domestic Passover.

Verse 3: "You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it..." So, these offerings **for the redemption of the firstborn** began on the day portion of the Passover, and then continued through the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Then they could eat unleavened bread with it seven days; these are the seven days of Unleavened Bread.

"...the bread of affliction, for you came forth out of the land of Egypt in haste, so that you may remember the day that you came forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life" (v 3). That is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the whole meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 4: "And there shall be no leaven seen with you in all your borders for seven days. Nor shall *any* of the flesh, which you sacrificed in the first day at sunset remain all night until the morning."

The redemption offering was very much like a peace offering. The peace offering had the same command that it had with the Passover lamb that you couldn't have anything left in the morning, and you had to burn it. Here it doesn't say that you had to burn it. "...Nor shall *any* of the flesh, which you sacrificed in the first day at sunset remain all night until the morning."

The *Passover offering*, remember, is different than the *Passover sacrifice*. The Passover offering is what they did at the temple *for the redemption of the firstborn*, beginning the day portion of the Passover going on into the evening and night of the first day of Unleavened Bread and that was to be their meal. As it were they literally stayed up all night then, as we will see here in just a minute.

Verse 5: "You may not sacrifice the

Passover offering... [for the firstborn, not for the Passover meal] ...within any of your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, but at the place which the LORD your God shall choose to place His name in, there you shall sacrifice the Passover offering at sunset, at the going *down* of the sun, at the time that you came out of Egypt” (vs 5-6). This could not be the Passover meal because they had to stay in their houses *until sunrise!*

Verse 7: “And you shall boil and eat *it...*” Some translations have ‘roast’ but that’s incorrect. In Exo. 12 it says that you’re not to boil it. This is an entirely different offering.

“...in the place which the LORD your God shall choose. And in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents” (v 7). This shows that they stayed up all night, and these offerings turned out to be offerings redeeming the firstborn, and also a celebration of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and also keeping the Night to Be Much Observed unto the Lord.

There you have it all right there! That’s why there’s confusion with it, because the Jews come along and say that God changed the Passover. No, He didn’t change the Passover at all! But you have to put Exo. 13 with Deut. 16, and then do the comparison like we just did, and Exo. 12 was to be of the flock, a lamb or a kid. It was not be boiled in water at all; this says boil, so this has to be the *redemption of the firstborn offering*. I hope that helps explain it.

Leavened/Unleavened:

What is another lesson of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Leaven, during the Days of Unleavened Bread is considered a type of sin. Putting in the unleavened bread is a type of putting in the Word of God, of having your heart and mind developed the way that God wants it to be.

This is important for us to understand. As we are going to see, the whole Feast of Unleavened Bread is:

- to be converted
- to get sin out of your life
- put righteousness in

That’s the whole theme of it, and in keeping the Feast we recognize the evil within, ***inherently within!***

Let’s see what Jesus says about human nature; human nature indeed is abundantly evil. And even many of the things that appear good are not good, because they break the laws of God. Jesus said what comes from within with human nature:

Mark 7:21: “For from within, out of the hearts of men...”—and women and children, all human beings, because we have human nature.

We will see about the ‘law of sin and death’ within us. We have to overcome that ‘law of sin and death.’ That’s the whole purpose of conversion: changing, growing and overcoming. Here’s what we are without God:

“...out of the hearts of men, go forth **evil thoughts...**” (v 21). The first one is *evil thoughts!* Why did God bring the Flood (Gen. 6)? *Because the heart of man was only evil from His youth continually!* It’s not just the actions alone that God is concerned with. *God is concerned with the heart and mind:*

- what we think
- how we react
- what we do

Conversion is a complete changing of the mind!

All the things that we are going to read here, the way that human nature is, is what we see on television every day. This is the way that the thoughts of human beings are.

“...**adulteries, fornications, murders...**” We’ve just covered right here nearly 100% of all movies, stories, histories, television, whatever!

Verse 22: “**Thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness;** all these evils go forth from within, and *these* defile a man” (vs 22-23).

We know Jer. 17, but we need to look at some of the verses before and after, because this is what raw human nature is like. This is what our nature is like. Think of it this way: Jesus is talking about what comes forth from within. This is just human nature! Human nature causes sin, and human nature within is called, by Paul, ***the law of sin and death!***

Let’s talk about this, and follow this through, because this is a good comparison for the Feast of Unleavened Bread: ***the wicked/the righteous!*** And we could put in there the unconverted mind and heart. Later we’ll see the converted mind and heart.

Jeremiah 17:5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the LORD.’” That’s why all the schemes of men never work, even though it appears good. It’s really incredible when you think about it.

Here’s what’s going to happen when you

leave God, compared to a plant, v 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. **Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD**” (vs 6-7). See the difference here: *leavened/unleavened!*

Verse 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters... [Psa. 1] ...*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.” *That’s the blessing!*

Now the cursing, v 9: “The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

People don’t even know that these things are deep within them. But look at what it produces in this society; look at it now. I think that right now with all the things that are coming out in movies, on television and things like this, that Satan is preparing for a great on-slot on this world, and it’s going to come if it’s not already pretty much on its way.

Verse 10—no one can escape this whether converted or unconverted: “**I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins,** even to give to each man according to his ways, **according to the fruit of his doings.**” His about that for a minute!

What are “...the reins...”? *The reins is the connection that God has with every human being through the power of His Spirit to know what the heart or the mind of a man or woman is!* He doesn’t control us because He gives us free, independent moral agency.

“...according to the fruit of his **doings.**” There are thoughts and there are doings.

Here’s a very interesting Proverb and this is something that we need to overcome. We need to realize it so that we don’t slip back into the ways of being carnal.

Proverbs 21:2: “Every way...” It doesn’t say *some of the ways, part of the ways, most of the ways!* It says: “**Every way** of a man *is* right in his own eyes, **but the LORD ponders the hearts.**” Just like we saw right back there in Jer. 17. Isn’t it interesting that we find this all the way through the entire Bible: *the comparison:*

- right and wrong
- good and evil
- righteousness and unrighteousness
- truth and lies

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are

clean in his own eyes...” Think of that! *Everything!* Even the most evil acts that some people commit, *they think* they are justified and right in doing them.

“...but the LORD weighs the spirits” (v 2). God is involved all the time! This is important in understanding how we need to look at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and what we need to do:

Verse 3: “**Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.**” You do what God says; remember the three words: *Obey My voice!*

How do you overcome sin? *That the whole purpose of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!* We will see how, but there are works that need to be done with it, and these are the works of God:

Verse 6: “By mercy and Truth iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the LORD *men* turn away from evil.”

Some of these Proverbs are so absolutely fantastic!

Verse 7: “When a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Now let’s put this together, all of this. We are to be converted and transformed! We will see how that is, what we need to do, what God needs to do and how God responds to us. This follows right along with what we just read in Proverbs:

Romans 12:1: “I exhort you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy and well pleasing to God,** which is your spiritual service.” Your spirit service comes by:

- the laws and commandments of God written in your heart and mind
- helping and serving those of your family and the brethren
- to love God
- to love the brethren

That’s how God wants us to live our lives!

Verse 2: “Do not conform yourselves to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**”

- from all of *the evil*
- from all of *the vanity*
- from all of *the self-will*
- from all of those things that seem right to a man *but the ends thereof are the ways of death*

“...in order that you may prove what *is* well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God” (v 2).

How do we come from sin to righteousness, because that's what it's talking about. Again, you read the first part of Rom. 3 and there are many quotes that Paul gave from the Old Testament.

Romans 3:23: "For **all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**" Every one of us! Our physical life after conversion is fulfilling Rom. 12:1-2—to be renewed; renew your mind; that is conversion. That means that we need to repent of our sins.

Verse 24: "*But* are being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that *is* in Christ Jesus"—our *Passover!* The Passover is the sacrifice of God for the forgiveness of the sins of us as human beings. We need:

- God's will
- God's way
- God's forgiveness

Verse 25: "Whom God has openly manifested *to be* a propitiation **through faith in His blood.**..." And we're going to see it takes the blood of Jesus Christ to wipeout our sins. He carried up Him all the sins of the world!

All the sins of the world haven't been forgiven, because the whole world hasn't repented! But for those of us, as we covered earlier, ***we are*** the Church of the Firstborn, ***we are*** the ones who are under the grace of God, received the Holy Spirit of God and able to have our minds changed, our hearts and everything converted through the power of God's Holy Spirit. *That's how God does it!*

"...in order to demonstrate **His righteousness.**..." (v 25)—or justification. It's this:

- you sin
- you repent
- God forgives
- God covers it with the blood of Christ
- you are now justified

That's all by the righteousness of God. So, His righteousness here is talking about His justification from [our] past sin.

"...in respect to the remission of sins that are past" (v 25). God isn't give you a carte blanche in the future to commit sin. But that doesn't mean that since you have repented and have received the Spirit of God that you are perfect and cannot sin. ***NO!*** We'll see in just a little bit that the whole process of growing and overcome every year—that's why we have the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread every year—so that we know and understand that we need to continue to work on our human nature and continue to overcome the things and sins

in our lives. There are still sins that are there, because we have to fight against 'the law of sin and death.'

All sins are *past!* You sin, immediately it's past! God's not going to forgive your sins tomorrow, today, because you haven't sinned, yet. Tomorrow hasn't come! That's why the Bible says, "***Today if you will hear His voice harden not your hearts!***" ***Today!***

Verse 26: "Through the forbearance of God; *yes*, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time, that He might be just, and the One Who justifies the one who *is* of *the* faith of Jesus."

- you believe in Jesus Christ
- you believe in His shed blood
- you believe that He has died for your sins
- you accept that sacrifice

Then you also have to get up off your knees and sin no more!

Jesus said that if your brother sins against you seven times in a day—which shows that there are weaknesses and things that come along—you're to forgive him. Same way with God! We have to go to God to be forgiven. We'll see it here when we finish this.

Verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting?..." The Jews can no longer say:

- 'Oh, we're the promised people.' ***No! The Church of God is the promised people!***
- 'Jerusalem is the Holy City and Palestine is the Holy Land.' ***No! It's no the Holy City and the Holy Land, because God isn't there and it's full of sin and wretchedness at the present time!***

"...It is excluded. Through what law? *The law* of works? By no means! Rather, *it is* through a **law of faith**" (v 27). *You believe* what God has said!

(go to the next track)

Verse 27: "Therefore, where *is* boasting? It is excluded.... [because God gets all the glory] ...Through what law? *The law* of works? By no means!...." There are no longer animal sacrifices.

Now we need the true spiritual works of God, and if we have the works of God and doing those, those are not our works. We're not trying to save ourselves by our works. We are to love God and keep His commandments; those are the works.

"...Rather, *it is* through a law of faith. Consequently, we reckon that a man is justified by faith, separate from works of law" (vs 27-28).

Take note of the books: *Judaism: A*

Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men? by Phil Neal; and you don't have *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* with Appendix Z: Understanding Paul's Difficult Scriptures Concerning the Law and the Commandments of God in it, you need to study Appendix Z to know what *works of law* are. Those are the traditions of men, the works of Judaism and the physical sacrifices at the temple, which were required.

The temple no longer exists and sacrifices are no longer needed, because Jesus is our Sacrifice and our High Priest in heaven right now. We go through Him for the forgiveness of sin, with God the Father.

Verse 29: “*Is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also *the God* of the Gentiles? YES! *He* is also God of *the* Gentiles.” All of us as human beings live, move and have our being in God. Even the wicked partake of breathing, eating and sleeping. God has provided that for all. But for those whom He calls He has provided

- His Spirit
- His Word
- the understanding

This is the unleavened bread that we are to eat:

- the Bread of God
- the Word of Truth

Verse 30: “Since *it is* indeed one God Who will justify *the* circumcision by faith, and *the* uncircumcision through faith. Are we, then, abolishing *the* Law through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the* Law” (vs 30-31). Why? *Because they are written in our heart and mind!* That's how our minds are transformed.

Heb. 10 becomes very important for us to know and understand. Here is what God wants:

- to love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- love your neighbor as yourself
- love the brethren as Christ has loved us
- love our enemies

There are many ways we can love our enemies.

Here is the whole purpose of the covenant that we are in, as we have covered with the covenant of the Passover and what that means.

Hebrews 10:14: “For by one offering... Rom. 3—He is the propitiation, the continual atoning of our sins. We will see how that works.

Verse 14: “For by one offering... [the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through His crucifixion] ...He has obtained eternal perfection *for* those who are sanctified”—set aside. Just like the firstborn, all

the firstborn are set aside or sanctified to God.

- we are the Church of the Firstborn
- we are set aside and sanctified by God
- we are set aside from the world
- we live in the world, but we're not part of the world

Here's what God wants. This is why you hear us say all the time: prayer and study, *prayer and study*, ***prayer and study***, and yielding to God. Why? The same way with Sabbath services or keeping the Sabbath at home.

We have Church at Home (churchathome.org) and we have thousands who come to Church at Home every month and use **churchathome.org**. You've read the letters that we sent out in a recent mailing. Brethren, we're serving a lot of people that we don't even know. That's the amazing thing of the Internet.

Verse 15: “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, **“This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,”** says *the* Lord...” (vs 15-16). After the days that Jesus came and He gave Himself as an offering and sacrifice for sin.

Here is the covenant and the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

- we eat the unleavened bread, *which a type of the Word of God*
- we put the leaven, *which a type of sin, vanity, arrogance and evil from within*

“...I will give My laws into their hearts...” (v 16). That happens with the Spirit of God through the Word of God. Remember that the Word of God is all God-breathed; it's all inspired by the Spirit of God. When we read the Word of God, it is a spiritual experience. This is to help us to let God put His laws into our hearts:

“...and I will inscribe them in their minds” (v 16). Inscribe is very interesting. They know that our memory within our mind is much like inscription. Memory is something written right upon the cells of your mind. There are different places:

- memory for sight
- memory for smell
- memory for sound
- memory for emotional experiences—good and bad

All of that is in our mind! We must have our mind:

- ***cleansed*** with ‘the washing of the water by the Word.’
- ***sanctified*** with the Spirit of God so that we have our sins forgiven

It's all right there!

Verse 17: "And their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again." That's really quite a promise!

Now, let's see how this works; let's see what God is doing, and this is continual. Repenting of sin, because it's all lodged here in the mind is a continuous thing that we do, because with 'the law of sin and death' it's right there to pull you back, *pull you back, pull you back!*

1-John 1:6: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness..." We have to walk in the Light of Christ. He is the One Who is the Light, and we have to keep coming to Him because He's the Light. The Word of God is the Light.

If you're walking in darkness you're doing it without the Word of God, without the Spirit of God; you're walking in darkness in the world. And if the darkness in you is great, 'how great is that darkness?' Jesus said.

"...we are lying to ourselves..." (v 6). *The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked above all things!* (Jer. 17:9). There it is right there!

"...and we are not practicing the Truth" (v 6). The Truth is the Word of God.

- that's how it's written in our heart and mind
- that's how it's converted
- this is how we get the leaven of sin out of our lives

and put in the righteousness of God! There's got to be the cleansing of the mind. We'll see right here, this is it. I want you to notice carefully how John has written this:

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another..."

Verse 3: "...our fellowship—*is* with the Father and with His own Son Jesus Christ." Then our fellowship with one another.

Verse 7: "...and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, **cleanses us from all sin.**" Just exactly as Paul wrote.

I want you to analyze this verse a little more carefully: "However, if **we**..." John is including himself.

When John wrote this he was probably about 85-years-old, so what he's doing is saying that even at 85 and after being an apostle of Jesus Christ for all of those years, say 55 years or more,

he includes himself in the ones needing forgiveness of sin!

But we have to be *walking in the Light of God's Word as He—Christ—is in the Light and there's no sin in Him!* Then we have fellowship with one another "...and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, **cleanses us from all sin**"—continually!

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us." 'We're all good people, we don't sin. We're all lovely and nice people.' Show me one group that's really, really that way. Outside of those who are in the Church of God and have the Spirit of God, it's not so.

Verse 9: "**If** we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" Notice that it is a *cleansing!* That's what we need; to have our minds and our lives clean through the laws and commandments of God, His Spirit, His Truth and walking in the Light; all of it together. That is the whole package of the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread for the New Testament. To *put in Christ* and to *put out sin!*

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

1-John 2:1: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you **may not** sin.... [subjunctive; that tells us that we can sin] ...And *yet*, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the* Righteous; and He is *the* propitiation for our sins..." (vs 1-2). In other words, the relationship that we have with God is this:

- He calls us
- we repent
- we are baptized
- He's forgiven our sins
- He gives us the Holy Spirit

That is a beginning and that is a start! The finished product does not come until the resurrection. Between the start and the finish is the whole life of living by every Word of God. As Jesus said, '*Man—men and women—shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*'

That comes right back to *obey My voice!* See how consistent the Bible is all the way through? God is there to forgive you through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Some sins are very hard to overcome, so you may have to repent of them over and over again for a

long time, until they are wiped out of your mind. It's not that God doesn't forgive you, it is that *you need your mind transformed by the renewing of your mind!*

To renew your mind you need to get rid of the old mind that was in there, which was carnal, hostile and against God. So, you see how that works.

Jesus gave a warning to the scribes and Pharisees that were not just to put on a front. *We're not to appear righteous outwardly, but inwardly we're full of greed and lust!*

There are some people who are so good at putting on that they actually live a double life! Sometimes being married, and the husband or wife does not know that the double life is going on for years and years. That's sad, but that shows you how deceitful the carnal mind is.

Let's see what Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees. We're not to be bums and filthy, dirty on the outside, that is true. What good does it do if you're the nicest most handsome man, or the most beautiful woman in the world finely dressed with the best of everything and your mind is evil and sinful? *Doesn't do you any good!* We've talked about the Light, and here's what Jesus said:

Luke 11:34: "The light of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is without guile, your whole body is light..." Evil affects your whole body; not only how you think, but how your body functions, etc.

"...but when *your eye* is evil, your body also *is* dark. Therefore, beware *that* the light that *is* in you is not darkness. Now then, if your whole body *is* light, not having any part dark, it shall be full of light, as when a lamp shining brightly gives you light.' Now, while He was speaking, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him; and He went in *and* sat down" (vs 34-37)—because He didn't wash His hands. That was a ghastly sin!

Verse 38: "But the Pharisee, seeing *this*, wondered why He had not first washed before dinner.... [of course, Jesus knew this] ...Then the Lord said to him, 'Now, you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are full of greediness and wickedness'" (vs 38-39). How much evil is covered with a facade of goodness? That's exactly what they were doing.

So, Jesus wasted no time, He said, v 40: "**Fools**, *did* not He Who made the outside also make the inside? Rather, give alms *from* the things that are within; and behold, all things are clean to you. But **woe to you, Pharisees!** For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every herb, but you pass over the judgment and the love of God. It is obligatory *for*

you to do these things, and not to set aside those *lesser things*. **Woe to you, Pharisees!** For you love the chief seat in the synagogues and the salutations in the marketplaces" (vs 40-43).

'Oh yes! Here comes the rabbi, here comes the priests! Look! It's the pope!'

Verse 44: "**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are as unseen tombs, and men who walk over *them* do not know *it*." Now, that's pretty strong!

Verse 45: "And one of the doctors of the law answered *and* said to Him, 'Teacher, *by* saying these things You are also insulting us.' And He said, '**Woe to you also, doctors of the law!**.... [you're worst than ever] ...For you weigh men down *with* burdens heavy to bear..." (vs 45-46).

You don't cleanse just the outside; *you cleanse the inside!* Let's see how all that works. Let's put all of this together.

Psalm 51 is the Psalm of repentance. This is so fantastic and important, because there can be no forgiveness without repentance, and there can be no change and overcoming unless you are growing in grace and knowledge. What is going to happen? The longer you are in the Church and the more that you are overcoming and growing, *the more that you are going to understand the sin deep within!*

This the repentance of David after his affair with Bathsheba:

- you talk about self-deception
- you talk about taking advantage of office
- you talk about using your authority improperly

Same way with Bathsheba; she knew what she was doing! She consented to it! Because it takes 'two to tango.' When David came to himself and repented... How long was he converted? *Decades!* This should have never happened!

With us it needs to be the same way. That's why when we start getting old and gray, *we've got to watch and make sure that we don't think that we have it made and we regress back into sin!* Here's how David started out:

Psalm 51:1: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions.... [the same thing in 1-John 1] ...Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" (vs 1-2). The sin is lust within! The sin is the evil thought (Mark 7). Here's what we need to do; this is what David did:

Verse 3: "For I acknowledge my

transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight..." (vs 3-4). When you sin, yes, other people are involved, other people get hurt. But you sin against God! Because

- God says that 'you shall not' *and you do!*
- God says 'you shall do this' *and you don't!*

See how that works?

"...that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (vs 4-5). That's just another way of talking about the 'law of sin and death.'

- that's the thing we have to *fight within*
- that's the thing that needs to *be cleansed and rooted out*

and replaced with:

- the Word of God
- the love of God
- the Scriptures of God

We need to have it in such a way that as we are led by the Spirit of God, we think with the laws, commandments, words, precepts and concepts of God.

- not in terms of carnality
- not in terms of the way that the world is
- *but in the way that God is*

Verse 6: "Behold, **You desire Truth in the inward parts**; and **in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom.**" That's something! We must have the wisdom of God through His Spirit and through having the Truth in our *inward parts!* That's starts with:

- God's Truth
- His love is true
- His faith is true
- His righteousness is true
- His Word is true
- His commandments are true
- His precepts are true
- everything concerning God is true

And in Him 'there is no variableness or shadow of turning,' because His light of righteousness is constant all the time!

Verse 7: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." That's what Jesus says. This takes repentance! Listen! Look at how many things we're covering in the Old Testament, and yet, we're preaching New Testament doctrine.

God says to people, what they need to do if

they're living in sin. This is what the world needs to do; God says to those who are following *their own* religious experience, another Jesus or Baal, whatever:

Isaiah 1:15: "And when you spread forth your hands, **I will hide My eyes from you**; yea, when you make many prayers, **I will not hear**; your hands are full of blood." There needs to be repentance! What I want you to do is see how very similar 1-John 1 is with this section of Isa. 1. That proves another point, which is that God 'is the same yesterday, today and forever.'

Verse 16: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean..." How do you do that? This is not the dirt from working someplace; this is the filth of sin, which is within. So, how do you wash yourself and make yourself clean?

"...put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes; cease to do evil" (v 16). Evil is the transgression of the laws of God.

Go back and read 1-John 2:4—right after John says that His sacrifice is for the propitiation of our sins, he says: "The one who says, 'I know Him' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him." That's exactly what we have in Isa. 1.

Verse 6: "Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is **obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked.**"

Isaiah 1:17: "**Learn to do good...**" That takes time!

- How do you pray?
- How do you study?
- How do you overcome temper?
- How do you overcome evil?
- How do you overcome lying?
- How do you overcome jealousy?
- How do you overcome sexual obsessions?

"Learn to do good... [Have your mind cleansed! We'll see how God does that!] ...seek judgment, reprove the oppressor. Judge the orphan; plead for the widow" (v 17). God says that if you do that, you come to Him and here's what will happen. Notice how this parallels 1-John 1:

Verse 18: "'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool. **If...** [same thing; independent free moral agency (IFMA)] ...**If...** [and it applies to us] ...you are willing and obedient... [Didn't we read that we have to obey Christ? *Yes, indeed!*] ...you shall eat the good of the land; but **if...** [the choices; we have to

choose] ...you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured *with* the sword'; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken *it*" (vs 18-20). **The Word of God never fails!** Remember that! *It never fails; not one word of it!*

Let's see what Rom. 7 tells us about human nature and 'the law of sin and death,' then we will see what we need to do so that we are unleavened *from the inside out!* Isn't that true, you don't put the leaven in unleavened bread. It's unleavened from the inside out. When there is leaven in it, it puffs up from the inside out!

After showing that we have to keep the commandments of God, because they're Holy, righteous and true, then Paul talks about the working of human nature within him.

- even though he's converted
- even though he has the Spirit of God
- even though he knows what is right
- even though he knows what is wrong

Human nature is there to pull us down. Paul explains it, and he says that we are rescued from it through Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:14: "For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, having been sold *as a slave* under sin; because what I am working out myself... [if I do it myself and it turns out to be sin] ...I do not know... [what made me do it] ...For what I do not desire to do, this I do; moreover, what I hate, this *is what* I do" (vs 14-15). We find ourselves in that situation many, many times. That's why there needs to be

- prayer every day
- study every day
- repentance every day

Even repentance right in the minute when something happens that isn't right, you can pray in your own mind to God for forgiveness for it, because 'the way of man is not in him to direct his steps.' It has to come from the Spirit of God.

Verse 16: "But if I am doing what I do not desire to do, I agree with the Law that *it is* good." Nothing wrong with the Law; it pointed out to you what was wrong.

Verse 17: "So then, I am no longer working it out myself; rather, it is sin *that is* dwelling within me... [hasn't yet been all the way removed] ...because I fully understand that there is not dwelling within me—that is, within my fleshly being—*any* good. For the desire to do good is present within me; but how to work out that which is good, I do not find. For the good that I desire to do, I am not doing; but the evil that I do not desire to do,

this I am doing" (vs 17-19). We find ourselves in that—don't we?

Verse 20: "But if I do what I do not desire to do, I am no longer working it out myself, **but sin that is dwelling within me.** Consequently, **I find this law in my members...** [the law of sin and the law of death] ...that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man; but I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members. **O what a wretched man I am!** Who shall save me from the body of this death?" (vs 20-24). And it is through Jesus Christ!

Let's see how that works. The putting away of the spiritual leaven in our mind is a daily exercise, something we need to do all of the time. This becomes one of the most important sections in the Bible, tied together with Rom. 7

2-Corinthians 10:3: "For although we walk in *the* flesh, we do not war according to *the* flesh." There are no possible ways of human endeavor to get rid of sin within. That can only be done by repentance, by God's Spirit and by learning to do good, cease from doing evil and have our mind cleansed.

Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds... [that law of sin and death] ...casting down *vain* imaginations..." (vs 4-5)—how we think and vain reasonings.

"...and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ" (v 5). That is a description of how we must overcome, bringing every thought, not getting carried away with carnal wild ideas, but bring every thought into captivity to Christ.

Get rid of those things out of your mind. That's getting rid of the leaven. Put out the leaven! That's why Paul said, '**For Christ has been sacrificed for us, therefore, let us keep the Feast. Not with the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of Spirit and Truth!**' That's how we do it!

Verse 6: "And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled." Bring every thought into captivity!

Let's see what we are admonished to do in the book of Ephesians. The book of Ephesians is a wonderful, tremendous book to help you grow, change and overcome. Here's what Christ is doing. Rely on Christ to change, grow and overcome with the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 5:26: So that He might sanctify it... [the Church; each and ever Christian] ...having cleansed *it...*” He’s cleaning us, forgiving us, purging. We have our part: we need to cease to do evil, learn to do well:

“...**with the washing of the water by the Word**” (v 26). What is that? *The water is the Spirit of God! The Word is the Word of God!* We use the Spirit of God to train our mind to renew our mind, to let it be converted. We grow and overcome. That’s how we **become unleavened from the sin within**, and only through the sacrifice of Christ—and only through His being our Passover and the forgiveness of sin—is this possible with the Holy Spirit of God.

“...**with the washing of the water by the Word.**” That’s how we bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. There it is right there!

Now, we have our part. Eph. 4 tells us what we need to do. It is:

- put out the leaven
- put out the sin
- put in the righteousness
- have your mind cleansed and scrubbed with ‘the washing of the water by the Word’
- bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

Ephesians 4:21: “If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the Truth* in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (vs 21-23).

- by the Spirit of God
- by the washing of the Word of God
- bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

Verse 24: “And that you put on the new man... [converted] ...which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth.” Then it shows to put away the things of lying, the things of anger and those things that cause you to sin.

This is why there is repentance every day, growing and overcoming every day. I’ll tell you one thing, after all the years that I have been in the ministry, the more that you do this, the more that you will understand how evil and rotten and wretched that human nature is, and why we need the mind of Christ and the Spirit of Christ, and why it is so important for us to grow in grace and knowledge this way.

So, Paul says right here, Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor” (vs 1-2). Then he finishes the rest of the chapter by saying, ‘**Put away sin!**’

- this is how we are unleavened in Christ
- this is why Christ died for us
- this is why He gives us the Holy Spirit
 - Be renewed in your mind!
 - Bring every thought into captivity into the obedience of Christ and the love of God!

Have a good Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Leviticus 23:6-8
- 2) Deuteronomy 16:16
- 3) Exodus 13:1-16
- 4) Deuteronomy 16:1-7
- 5) Mark 7:21-23
- 6) Jeremiah 17:5-10
- 7) Proverbs 21:2
- 8) Proverbs 16:2-3, 6-7
- 9) Romans 12:1-2
- 10) Romans 3:23-31
- 11) Hebrews 10:14-17
- 12) 1 John 1:6-7, 3, 7-10
- 13) 1 John 2:1-2
- 14) Luke 11:34-46
- 15) Psalm 51:1-7
- 16) Isaiah 1:17-16
- 17) 1 John 2:4, 6
- 18) Isaiah 1:15-20
- 19) Romans 7:14-24
- 20) 2 Corinthians 10:3-6
- 21) Ephesians 5:26
- 22) Ephesians 4:21-24
- 23) Ephesians 5:1-2

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Leviticus 23:5
- 2 Corinthians 9
- Exodus 12
- Genesis 6
- Psalm 1

Also referenced: Books:

- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal

FRC:bo
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Last Day of Unleavened Bread *To Do the Impossible!*

Fred R. Coulter—April 29, 2016

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Time marches on!

It's very interesting the way that God has laid out all of the Holy Days, put everything in season and has given us His Word, which is absolutely essential from Genesis to Revelation.

What do we preach on the last day of Unleavened Bread? There is a theme to it. But let's see Paul's instruction to Timothy on what ministers are to do. It's very interesting the way that he worded it. Let's see what Paul wrote to Timothy as to how he was to conduct his ministry. This is one part of it; this is the preaching part. There are many other aspects to the ministry and serving the brethren and so forth.

2-Timothy 4:1: "I charge you..." This is quite interesting, because at that time there were a lot of false ministers and false doctrines pushing in on the Church.

Verse 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." This is a very weighty charge from God and Christ!

- How is a minister to teach and preach?
- What is he to do?

There are several things in here where Paul tells Timothy how to fight off the false doctrine. And today we have that multiplied millions of times over.

Verse 2: "**Preach the Word!**..." That's very interesting—isn't it? That's the Word of God as inspired by God Himself—God breathed or God spirited—because this is what God wants us to know. That's why He's given us His Bible.

"...Be urgent in season and out of season... [never get slack; always be diligent] ...convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine." There's a time for doctrine, and—as we have seen with the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread and the sequence of the way things go through, the dates on which they are to be held—are all what you would call *doctrinal issues*. Doctrine means *teaching!*

Verse 3: "For there shall come a time..."—and it did right after the apostles died, and especially after the Apostle John died. Everything just flew

apart, and out of that came the rise of the Roman Catholic Church in 325_{A.D.}

Verse 3: "For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine..." Isn't it interesting that the Feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us to live by every word of God, and there are things that there a things that we have to really be diligent about and zealous about. Always on top of it! Human nature is inclined to:

- slack up
- to let down
- to put off
- to wait until tomorrow
 - ✓ tomorrow becomes the next day
 - ✓ the next day becomes the next week
 - ✓ the next week becomes the next month

Lo and behold, we're just like the lazy man who sits back with his hands and twittles his thumbs. Disaster comes upon him and he doesn't know it.

This is why we are to teach the way that God wants us to teach. And we've seen this happen in our lifetime—haven't we?

"...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*" (v 3). It's absolutely true today! We have hundreds and hundreds, even thousands of things to distract us *and take us away from the Truth of God!*

Notice what will happen when you reach a certain point. We can be slack and then repent and overcome. But is we keep going and if we do not really stick with the Truth and the righteousness and doctrine of the Word of God, notice what happens:

Verse 4: "And they shall turn away their own ears from the Truth..." In other words, they won't want to listen to the Truth! Isn't that the way human nature is? *It doesn't want to be confronted with the Truth!*

"...and they shall be turned aside unto myths" (v 4). What are those myths? *You know them:*

- Christmas
- Easter
- New Years

All the holidays, etc.!

This is why God has put all the Holy Days in Lev. 23, in one place. We've already had the first day of Unleavened Bread. It's very interesting how the sequence worked out, because the last day of Unleavened Bread is on a Friday, then we have a Sabbath. That happens on occasion.

Remember this: the Calculated Hebrew Calendar is the only way how we determine when we keep the Feasts of God. We have just sent out the latest calendar for the next seven years for you.

Leviticus 23:4: "These *are* the appointed Feasts of the LORD..."

- He appoints them!
- He owns them!
- He created them!
- We are to observe them!

"...Holy convocations..." (v 4)—a special gathering together in the name of the Lord, because He's made an appointment with us, and through His Word and through His Spirit we are going to learn.

It's like Jesus said of the scribe, 'The scribe will teach things, reaching into the things—some new, some old—put it all together so that we learn, reinforced and strengthened.

"...which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons. In the fourteenth *day* of the first month, between the two evenings, is the LORD'S Passover... [we have kept that] ...and on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD..." (vs 4-6)—which then is the Night to Be Much Observed and begins the Holy Day, then Holy Day services—the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 8: "But you shall offer a fire offering to the LORD seven days..." For the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread it's very interesting:

"...In the seventh day *is* a Holy convocation. You shall do no servile work *therein*" (v 8). Today is that day.

We always take up an offering on the Holy Days. I'm not going to belabor the point. We all know what God commands. We all know that if God is first in our life, then He should also be first in our budget.

I'm sure that you have received the new book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* This is going to be a wonderful book; it's going to help so many people. I'm sure that you are going to enjoy everything about it with the audio version and the two DVDs with the series from Church at Home (churchathome.org).

All of this just shows you and demonstrates that the tithes and offerings that come in are used, every bit of it, to serve the brethren. We don't use it to glorify ourselves. We use it:

- to serve the brethren
- to serve God
- to feed the flock

so that you can grow in grace and knowledge and that you can attain *the complete state of unleavenedness at the resurrection*, so that you can be in the Kingdom of God!

(pause for offering)

Many times God leads us in a way that's different than we think ought to happen. This is exactly what God did in bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt. They left on the beginning of the 15th day of the 1st month—the Night to Be Much Observed unto the Lord—then they began their exodus to leave Egypt.

God knew the hearts and minds of all the people, so here's what he says after they had great rejoicing that now they were on their way. They were leaving all the Egyptians and Pharaoh.

Exodus 13:17: "And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not lead them *by* the way of the land of the Philistines..." That was a travel route from Egypt coming around by the Mediterranean Sea going to the 'Holy Land.' That was the easy, quick way to go, but God had many other things in mind that He wanted to do with the people, for the people and to give them His Law.

Verse 18: "...And the children of Israel went up armed out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had strictly sworn the children of Israel, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry my bones away from here with you.' And they moved from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people" (vs 18-22).

Notice what God did, deliberately! Sometimes God does this in our lives, too, to show us His intervention! In this case, to show His power to the children of Israel and to destroy the Egyptians.

Exodus 14:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal Zephon. You

shall camp before *it* by the sea” (vs 1-2).

Here’s the Red Sea and to go to the ‘Holy Land’ was to go through the land of the Canaanites. To go the way God wanted, they turned south. They went down by the Red Sea. There was a very narrow place for them to camp by. Behind them were the mountains and in front of them was the sea.

Those who really don’t believe God say that it was kind of a sea of reeds, kind of a marsh and they just went through it. **NO!** We’re dealing with the Creator God Who created the heavens and the earth, and He wanted to show them a great display of His power, and also to destroy the Egyptians. So, God brought them there.

Now, Pharaoh and all those back in Egypt said to themselves: ‘What have we done? We’ve let all our slaves go!’ Think about it! Let’s use a modern example: take away all your electricity and electronic devices. You sit there and think: ‘I’ve lost everything!’ For most people that would be true! Well, that’s how they felt:

Our salves are gone! I have to cook my own food! I have to bring my own water! We know what we will do; we heard that they went down by the Red Sea and we’re going to go get them.

That’s exactly what happened! Pharaoh got his army—600 chariots and all the men of war—and they came like a fury, ‘We’re going to get our slaves back, because we need them.’

Verse 8: “And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And he pursued the children of Israel, and the children of Israel went out with a high hand. So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army. And they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes. And, behold, the Egyptians marched after them. And they were very afraid....” (vs 8-10). They had just left. They were all happy and on their way. Can you imagine all the songs that they were singing as they were walking along happy, and all of a sudden they turn around and see, ‘Look! The Egyptians are coming!’

Did God make a mistake? Look at that, they became afraid! Remember, there will be times when we will have trials so that we can trust God. Ask God for the help through it; don’t be afraid.

“...And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. And they said to Moses...” (vs 10-11). We’re going to see some very interesting things here

in the sermon for today. **God does things for us that we cannot do!** But when trouble comes, there’s always human nature. What is the first thing that human nature always does? *Accuse someone else!*

So, that’s what they did! They came to Moses and said, “...‘Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness because *there were* no graves in Egypt?...’” (v 11). ‘Why do we have to be buried out here? *We could have been buried in Egypt!*’

“...Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt?” (v 11) They were having second thoughts. Some people may have second thoughts about: I don’t know about this little group. Look at the whole world and everything, they can’t be all wrong. Really?

Notice that they changed their story, because at the beginning of the book of Exodus it says that they were moaning and groaning because of the slavery that they were under and the harsh treatment that they were under. They were crying out to God, and God told Moses, ‘I heard their cry; I’m going rescue them.’

Notice how they changed their story, v 12: “Did we not tell you this word in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians?’ for it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

- God’s way is not fair!
- Why did He do this
- Why do we have to suffer?
- Why is it so difficult?

Verse 13: “And Moses said to the people, **Fear not!**....” That’s exactly what it needs to be with us. We’re going face some terrible times in the future, but we need to have the same thing: **...Fear not!....** Don’t going running over to the Egyptians and say, ‘Here I am, I’ll wait on you! Don’t kill me!’

“...Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today... [God has a purpose in mind for what He is going to do] ...for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall never see them again! **The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall be still**” (vs 13-14).

This tells us the theme of today. **God alone can do the impossible!** He alone can help us and rescue us!

- He’s the One Who called us out of this world

- He's the One Who brought us to the point of baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit
- He is the One Who has opened our mind to the Word of Truth

—which is even greater than what happened with the children of Israel here at the Red Sea. **"The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall be still."**

Verse 15: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to Me?... [Moses got carried away with it, too] ...Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward.'" Another theme: ***You go forward toward the Kingdom of God!*** You do not go backward into Egypt. You go forward!

Verse 16: "And you—lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." That's must have been a fantastic experience. It was pretty deep where they went.

When God does something so great at this, men come along and they like to minimize it. Well, God likes to maximize it. You know what happened; God performed another miracle. He told them:

Verse 17: "And behold, I *am* about to harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. And I will get honor for Myself upon Pharaoh, and over all his army, over his chariots and over his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD when I will be glorified through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen" (vs 17-18). That was a message to Moses.

What did God do? Here are the children of Israel right by the sea. Here are the Egyptians coming to block them off. What did God do? *He sent a cloud and it came between:*

Verse 19: "And the angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved. And he went to the rear of them. And the pillar of the cloud went from in front of them and it stood behind them. And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. **It was a cloud of darkness to one, but gave light by night to the other, so that the two did not come near one another all night.** And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. And **the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind** all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground...." (vs 19-22).

They were camped in a long column. There wasn't room for them to organize around closer together. When they went across the Red Sea, God

opened it up really, really wide. All they had to do is—if you've ever been in the military—what is called a 'flanking movement' so they could get across the Red Sea very quickly. I don't know how wide it was, but it must have been a tremendously wide thing. Not like when you see the movies *The Exodus* and *The Ten Commandments* where they walked down a little narrow channel into the Red Sea. **NO!** This was wide! It had to be really terrific and tremendous for the Pharaoh and the soldiers to look at and see, 'Look! The water is way up there! Look! The water is way down there!'

The children of Israel went across, got the other side and it was early morning. Then God lifted the cloud from between them and the Egyptians saw that the children of Israel had crossed the Red Sea. God put it in their hearts to go after the children of Israel, because God had a plan. Here's what God did:

Verse 22: "And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground. And the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and went in after them to the middle of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch... [right about dawn] ...it came to pass that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and the army of the Egyptians was thrown into confusion" (vs 22-24). ***That's how God fights!***

Sidebar concerning war and fighting: The children were not to go to war unless God said, 'Go to war and I will fight for you.' We will see that in many instances as we go through the meaning of this day. When they went to war without God, they lost! So, this is the way God fights! He caused confusion among the Egyptians! They didn't know what to do.

Verse 25: "And He loosened their chariot wheels... [BOOM! BOOM! They all fell off!] ...and made them go heavily, so that the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for **the LORD fights for them** against the Egyptians.'" Isn't that something?

This is why another lesson out of this last day: not to complain, not to accuse someone else, but look to God, ask for His help and also to remember: ***God fights for us!*** We turn it over to God's hands.

Verse 26: "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.'" BANG! The waters came down, closed in and all of them

died, everything crushed, nothing left!

The children of Israel were all happy, really rejoicing: dancing and praising God, thanking Him for what a great and wonderful thing that this was. You find that in the first part of Exo. 15. They were glorifying God so much; it was a wonderful, wonderful thing. This was really a great event. This is how the children of Israel left the land of Egypt.

This also had another affect; God said that this would be known in all the nations around, that He had fought for the children of Israel and had delivered them. That would put the fear of the children of Israel in the eyes of those that they would conquer. Then God would complete the battle and help them take over the land.

Now, they had a long way to go, because they had to go to Mt. Sinai. From the time that they left Egypt until the time they got to Mt. Sinai was seven weeks. That ties in with Pentecost, and we will cover that as we get toward Pentecost.

But again, here's what we need to learn from this; Exodus 15:23: "And when they came to Marah... [because they left and came to the wilderness of Shur and they found new water] ...they could not drink of the waters of Marah because it *was* bitter. Therefore, the name of it was called Marah."

Notice the short memory that people have, v 24: "And the people murmured against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'"

Stop and think of this for a minute: All the way through the difficulty and problems that they had on their way to Mt. Sinai. How many plagues did the children of Israel see come upon the Egyptians before they left? How many fantastic things occurred? God delivered them! They left and walked through the Red Sea!

This is another lesson for us: When things get difficult, don't blame God. Go to Him and ask Him for His help. Go to Him and ask Him to intervene.

Notice what the people did. They didn't say, 'Hey, everybody, look the water here is not fit to drink. How about we all gather around and get on our knees and pray to God and ask Him to make it possible for us to drink the water.' Wow! That would have really changed history—wouldn't it? *Yes, it would have!*

Verse 24: "And the people murmured against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?' And he cried to the LORD. And the LORD showed him a tree. And when he had cast it into the waters, the

waters were made sweet. There He made a decree and a law for them, and there He proved them" (vs 24-25).

- our faith will be proved
- our steadfastness will be tried
 - Do we really believe?
 - Do we really understand?

All of these things will affect us, and this is why we can learn the lesson out of this last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Verse 26: "And He said, 'If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your God...'" Remember the three words: ***obey My voice!*** And the other response is: ***if you hear!*** That means *to listen to the voice of God and hear to obey, then God will bless you!*

"...If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your God, and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His laws, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; **for I am the LORD Who heals you**" (v 26). Tremendous thing to know:

- God will heal us!
- God does heal us!
- *And we look to Him!*

It also shows that there are two things we need to do:

1. listen to the voice of God
2. obey Him

Then maybe there's something physical that needs to be done just like it was here in casting the tree into the water.

"...and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His laws, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians..." (v 26).

Stop and think about this for minute: Look at all the sickness and disease that we have today in this modern world. Here's the answer right here:

- Have they left God?
- Have they turned their backs on God?
- *Yes, indeed! They surely, surely did!*

Psa. 78 is a very interesting Psalm because it recounts their exodus and shows that the children of Israel over and over again:

- did not believe God
- did not obey Him
- did not do the things that God told them to do

That's why we have the history here. We have the Law and then we have Joshua, Judges, 1st & 2nd Samuel, 1st & 2nd Kings. They all give us a history of what the children of Israel did. They didn't follow God!

Psalm 78:14: "And in the daytime He led them with a cloud and all the night with a light of fire. He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink, as from the great depths" (vs 14-15). The miracles that God can do He did for them. The water just started flowing out of the rocks as if from the great deep.

Verse 16: "He brought streams also out of the rock and caused waters to run down like rivers. **Yet, they continued to sin still more against Him by rebelling against the Most High in the wilderness.** And they tempted God in their heart by asking food for their lust" (vs 16-18).

What they should have done was that they should have said, 'Look, God had done all these things for us, and He can provide food for us.' God already had in mind that He was going to send them manna. So, He sent the manna and you have the whole lesson there with that.

Time and again they would sin against God! After He sent the flesh—the quail—they were eating it so quickly that a plague came upon them.

Verse 30: "They were not turned away from their lust, but while their food was still in their mouths, the wrath of God came upon them and killed the strongest of them, and struck down the chosen men of Israel. For all this they still sinned and did not believe in His wonderful works" (vs 30-31).

- Isn't that true of people?
- How much does it take to really believe God?

This is why in the New Covenant He's given the Holy Spirit:

- to lead us
- to help us
- to guide us

Verse 33: "Therefore, He ended their days in vanity and their years in terror." I wonder why we have the war of terror upon us?

Verse 34: "When He slew them... [this is typical] ...then they sought Him..."

'Oh, God, why did this happen?' Like 9/11, tragic thing, terrible thing! Even the President said for everybody to go to church and synagogue, go to

the temple. Well, that lasted about three weeks!

"...and they turned back and sought after God earnestly. And they remembered that God was their Rock, and the Most High God was their Redeemer. Nevertheless..." (vs 34-36). This is why the Feast of Unleavened Bread, so that we know that we have to live the way God wants us to live.

"...**they flattered Him with their mouths, and they lied to Him with their tongues**" (v 36). Does that not perfectly describe the Christianity of the world today? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 37: "For their heart was not steadfast with Him; neither were they faithful in His covenant. But... [notice the mercy and compassion of God]: ...He, *being* full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; yea, many times He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away and does not come again. How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness and grieve Him in the desert! And still again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel" (vs 37-41). *Good lesson for us!*

Now let's look in some of the Psalms and let's see how God will intervene for us. A lot of this has to do with prayer:

- daily prayer
- daily Bible study
- daily hearing the Word of God

There are going to be times when we will be overwhelmed. Just like if you looked out there, as the children of Israel did, and saw the Red Sea and say, 'How are we going to cross that?' Sometimes problems come just like the waves of the ocean.

Psalm 3:1: "O LORD, how my foes have increased! Many are the ones who rise up against me. Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God.' Selah." (vs 1-2). Whenever you see that word 'Selah' that means *stop, think and meditate on it!*

Verse 3: "But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the One Who lifts up my head. I cried to the LORD with my voice, and He answered me out of His Holy mountain. Selah" (vs 3-4). Stop and think about it!

- You pray to God; God will hear and answer!
- You ask Him to help you; He will be there!

Sometimes we may have to go through certain things, but God always answers our prayers! *So, you look to God for everything!*

There's quite a bit in Psa. 25, which tells us how we draw close to God, how we yield to Him, and how we grow and overcome.

Psalm 25:17: "The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring me out of my distresses." Isn't that something? That's how you are to pray to God. He will!

Verse 18: "Look upon my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins.... [ask God to help you] ...Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul and deliver me... [when troubles come, you ask God to help you, ask God to intervene; He will deliver you] ...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 18-22). Just put your name there. **God redeems us out of all of our troubles!**

Psalm 33:18: "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope in His loving kindness."

How about those of us who have the Spirit of God? We are the center of God's attention, because He wants us to grow in grace and knowledge and understanding, and prepare to enter the Kingdom of God.

Verse 19: "To deliver their soul from death... [eternal life] ...and to keep them alive in famine." It doesn't mean that if famine comes that you won't suffer a little bit, but will keep you alive.

Verse 20: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield." You can put these Scriptures that we're going to cover:

- the help of God
- His shield
- His protection
- His intervention
- His mercy

Psalm 34:1: "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall always be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and **delivered me from all my fears**" (vs 1-4).

Just like God told Moses and the children of Israel at the Red Sea: **Stand still! Don't be afraid! I will fight for you!**

Verse 5: "They looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and **the LORD heard, and saved him**

out of all his troubles" (vs 5-6). Yes! There are plenty of troubles we're going to run into in the world. Isn't that true? That's why we need to have:

- faith in God
- trust in God
- love God
- rely upon Him
- look to Him
- ask for His help

This is quite a thing when you understand all of this!

Notice the extra help you can't even see, v 7: "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them."

Now let's look at the theme of this Psalm, v 6: "**...saved him out of all his troubles.**"

Verse 8: "O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." You go to God, rather than try and figure out your own devices and what you're going to do. Let God lead you in what needs to be done.

Here's how we are to live, v 14: "Depart from evil and do good... [that's the theme of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

- put out sin; put in righteousness
- get rid of the leaven; eat the unleavened bread of God

"...seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry" (vs 14-15). God will help; God will hear! That's the whole lesson of today:

- that God will fight our battles for us
- that God will assist us
- that God will give us the strength, endurance and whatever we need
 - ✓ if we trust in Him
 - ✓ if we love Him
 - ✓ if we cleave to Him

Verse 16: "The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry... [listen to this and we will see the theme] ...and **the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles**" (vs 16-17).

- Verse 6: "**...saved him out of all his troubles.**"
- Verse 17: **...delivers them out of all their troubles**"

Verse 18: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are of a contrite spirit."

- God hears!
- God knows!
- God will work things out and change it!

Verse 19: “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but **the LORD delivers him out of them all.**” Deliverance comes from God! Quite a theme for today; that’s really quite something!

Psalm 37:39: “But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD... [What is that salvation? Let’s see it here]: ...**He is their strength in the time of trouble.**” When you get down to it, we don’t have much strength at all—do we?

This is why, and here’s how it’s going to happen. Sometimes it’s good to read the conclusion and then come back and read the beginning.

Verse 40: “And **the LORD shall help them and deliver them;** He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they take refuge in Him.”

How does that happen? This is interesting. Look at what God wants us to do so that this will occur. Everything in between leads up to this:

Verse 1: “^(#1)**Do not fret** yourself because of evildoers, and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass; and wither as the green herb. **Trust in the LORD, and do good;** dwell in the land, and cherish faithfulness” (vs 1-3).

“...dwell in the land...”—*stand fast with the Lord!*

Verse 4: “Delight yourself in the LORD...”
Notice:

- don’t fret
- don’t fret
- trust
- do good
- delight
- delight yourself in the Lord

“...and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass” (vs 4-5).

Those five verses are really fantastic, showing how we need to trust in God in everything. This is the working of faith! This is the process of the faith of God working in us so we can do these things:

- trust God
- look to Him
- commit ourselves to Him

Then it also says and let’s see what will happen, v 6: “And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your judgment like the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; ^(#2)**do not fret** yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of him who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; ^(#3)**do not fret** yourself...” (vs 6-8).

There it is again, *don’t fret yourself* three times. Don’t get frustrated and upset because of what other people do. Ask God:

- to intervene
- to give you grace
- to give you favor
- to remove the enemy far from us

This is why this day is so great! It is a day where we learn to trust God, trust Jesus Christ!

- do not fret
- trust
- do good
- delight
- commit
- trust
- He shall bring it to pass
- rest in the Lord
- do not fret
- cease from anger
- do not fret
- wait upon the Lord (v 9)

all the way through this Psalm.

What I want you to do is take Psa. 37 and study through it. If you’re in the middle of troubles and difficulties coming upon you, take this Psalm and get on your knees and you open it up and read it. Pray to God and you read it and pray to God. Ask Him to intervene in your life and your circumstances, whatever they may be.

- you know what they are
- God knows what they are
- you can’t handle it
- you have no strength against it yourself
- you ask God to intervene

This is how God wants us to approach Him, and trust Him in all of these evil things that come around.

(go to the next track)

2-Kings 19—this is quite an account; it’s very lengthy and you can read 2-Kings 18 and every thing leading up to it, but here the Assyrians who were conquering the world at that time had come and were ready to take down Judah, Jerusalem and

all the cities. They threatened to take them away, to kill them, to plunder everything that they had. They even sent one of their generals to speak to the people on the wall of Jerusalem and he said, 'Look, our great King Sennacherib has done so many things, has conquered this god and that god and this nation and that nation. Now, if you surrender to us, we'll give you some horses and you can go away.'

But, of course, that was all a ruse, and they told them not to believe in Hezekiah, if your king says, 'God will deliver you. Don't believe him, because has God delivered any of the other nations out of our hands? *Of course not!*'

When Hezekiah heard this, here's what happened, 2-Kings 19:3: And they said to him, 'Thus says Hezekiah, "*This is a day of trouble and of rebuke and contempt, for the children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring forth.*"' The assembly was saying, 'Look, this is exactly what it's like; we're just helpless here.'

Verse 4: "It may be the LORD your God will hear all the words of the chief field commander with which his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. And you shall lift up prayer for the rest who are left.' And the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. And Isaiah said to them, 'You shall say to your master, "Thus says the LORD, 'Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and shall return to his own land. And I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land'"'" (vs 4-7).

They took the letter that the field commander had given and gave it to King Hezekiah. Here's what Hezekiah did, and this is what we are to do whenever we find ourselves in trouble:

Verse 14: "And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it. And Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD."

Take all your troubles and difficulties, all the things that you are going through, with a humble heart, repentant. In this case Hezekiah put on sackcloth and went before the Lord and prayed and laid it out before Him this way:

Verse 15: "And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, 'O LORD God of Israel Who dwells *between* the cherubim, *You are* God Himself, You alone of all the kingdoms of the earth; You have made the heavens and the earth. LORD, bow

down Your ear and hear. O LORD, open Your eyes and see, and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, and have thrown their gods into the fire; for they *were* no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone, and they have destroyed them. And now, O, LORD our God, I beseech You, save us out of his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that **You are the LORD God, and You only**'" (vs 15-19).

And the word came to Isaiah and he went to Hezekiah, v 20: "And Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, "I have heard what you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria'"'" And the Lord said He would fight for him.

Let's see what happened, because God loves us, cares for us, wants us, etc.; v 32: "Therefore, thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria. 'He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor throw up a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same way he shall return, and shall not come into this city,' says the LORD, 'for I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake'" (vs 32-34).

That's quite a way to express it! God was doing it. Hezekiah was righteous—later on had his own problems—and trusted in the Lord. **God heard! God answered!** Let's notice how He answered, exactly as He said. Remember, this was a huge army.

Verse 35: "And it came to pass that night, the angel of the LORD went out and struck a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians...." Killed them all! We don't know what God did to do it, but **when God fights our battles, He does a good job!** He will intervene!

All of us are going to go through problems and trials. I look back on the years that we have been serving God, and yes, there have been many difficult times and trials, yes indeed! But God has delivered us out of them all! We're thankful for that and remember that. Understand that this day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures how God will fight for us!

"...Now when they arose..." (v 35). Those when were not killed and the king. I imagine that when they woke up in the morning they must have said to themselves: 'It's really quiet out there! I don't hear a thing!' A hundred and eighty-five thousand soldiers make a lot of noise getting up in the morning and getting ready, getting the battle gear

and all of this stuff ready to go. *Silence! Not a sound! They were all dead!*

“...early in the morning, behold, they were all dead bodies. And Sennacherib king of Assyria departed. And he went and returned and lived at Nineveh” (vs 35-36). Then it says his two sons came and killed him.

When God says He’ll fight for us, He means He will fight for us! He will! And He will do so because:

- He’s called us
- He loves us
- He wants us in His kingdom

We have these trials and difficulties comes so that we can learn to grow in grace and knowledge!.

Now let’s come to the New Testament. In 1-Cor. 10 we see all the examples of things that happened to Israel were to teach us lessons for those of us who are the New Covenant Christians. This chapter tells us quite a bit:

1-Corinthians 10:1: “Now, I do not wish you to be ignorant *of this*, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And *they* all ate the same spiritual meat. And *they* all drank *of* the same spiritual drink; for they drank from *the* spiritual Rock that followed *them*. And that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not pleased, for their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness. Now **these things became examples for us...** [or types for us] ...so that we might not lust after evil things, as they also lusted” (vs 1-6).

What Paul is saying here is that if there are troubles and difficulties coming upon you don’t let it be because of the correction of God, because you’ve been sinning, because you haven’t been doing what God wants you to do.

Verse 7: “Neither be idolaters, as *were* some of them...” Just think of this: You talk about human nature and how brazen it can be. Well, here they were with God right with them in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, and yet, they committed idolatry. When Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Word of God, what happened was that people came together and said, ‘Aaron, we don’t know what happened to this Moses. He went up on the mountain and it has been many days and we’ve haven’t heard a word from him. We know that the mountain was on fire and maybe it’s a volcano and he fell into the fire. Who knows? Why don’t you make gods for us!’

You can read that account in Exo. 31. So, what did Aaron do? *He said, ‘Bring me your gold,’ and he made a golden calf!* And he said, ‘This is a feast unto the Lord’ *when it wasn’t!* You know the story. Moses came down and he was so angry that he threw down the tablets that God had written on it with His own finger the Ten Commandments.

“...as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.’ Neither should we commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed, and twenty-three thousand were destroyed in one day. Neither should we tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted *Him*, and were killed by serpents. Neither *should we* complain against *God*, as some of them also complained, and were killed by the destroyer. Now **all these things happened to them as examples**, and were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages are coming. **Therefore, let the one who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall**” (vs 7-12).

In other words we have to come to God, we have to grow in faith and we have to grow in knowledge. Every day we go forward. Never get lifted up and think that ‘I’ve done this, that and the other thing.’ Then you get carried away with vanity and difficulties and problems happen.

Here’s the point: Every problem or difficulty that comes along, v 13: “**No temptation has come upon you except what is common to mankind. For God, Who is faithful, will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear; but with the temptation, He will make a way of escape, so that you may be able to bear it.** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry” (vs 13-14). Idolatry was starting to come in there. A good example for us!

We also have another enemy to fight; let’s make sure that we understand. We have an enemy to fight who is after us all the time, and that is Satan the devil. We will see how and what we need to do so that we don’t fall into that trap.

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord...**” That’s what this whole Feast of Unleavened Bread is about: how we build the faith and learn to trust God in everything that we do. Not our own ways, devices and schemes.

We are to be wise and making good choices and all of those things are true, but we are to “...be strong in *the* Lord...”

“...and **in the might of His strength...** [all strength comes from God] ...Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities

and against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*” (vs 10-12).

This is what we are to do: get rid of the sin, get rid of the things in our lives! ***Stand with God!*** Let’s see what we are to do, how we are to develop and grow. Here is the goal. Their (the children of Israel) goal was to reach the ‘promised land.’ ***Our goal is to enter into the Kingdom of God!***

This is a spiritual battle, and the strongest thing we can have is the love of God, using the Spirit of God, to be led by the Spirit of God.

Philippians 2: 1: “Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of *the* Spirit, if any *deep* inner affections and compassions.” These are the things that we are to grow and develop in.

Verse 2: “Fulfill my joy that you **be of the same mind, having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing**”—which is to attain the Kingdom of God.

Verse 5: “**Let this mind be in you...**” That’s the whole purpose: put out the sin; put in the righteousness and develop the mind of Christ

That’s why we need to learn the Word of God—Old Testament and New Testament—and put it together. How this is going to come to us is through faith. This ties in with baptism, with coming out of the watery grave ‘to walk in newness of life.’

Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ, yet, I live....”—because we came out of the watery grave, but we take:

- the sin
- the lust
- the problems
- the trials and difficulties

and work on the things we need to work on:

- we trust God to help us in the things that are beyond our capacity
- we look to God to fight our battles for us

“...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I; **but Christ lives in me**.... [that’s the important thing] ...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, **I live by faith—that very faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me**” (v 20).

Let’s see how this works; let’s see how Paul explains this. Faith is part of the fruit of the Spirit of God. We, as human beings, have a certain amount of faith, but the faith for salvation comes from God through His Spirit. Let’s see how Paul expresses it here:

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it is *the* power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes...” This is our faith going toward God and then God’s faith coming back to us through Christ.

“...—both to *the* Jew first, and to *the* Greek. For therein... [in the Gospel] ...*the* righteousness of God is revealed...” (vs 16-17). The true purpose of life, the righteousness of loving God and keeping His commandments.

“...**from faith unto faith...**” (v 17). The Greek word for *unto* is ‘eis’; this is describing our relationship with God, which is our faith to God and His faith back to us; that goes back to God: “...**faith unto faith...**”

- from God to us
- from us to God
- from the Word of God into our mind and heart *then*
- into our actions
- into the things that we do

“...according as it is written: ‘The just shall live **by faith.**’

- believing in God
- trusting in God
- hoping in Him
- knowing that*
- He is our Savior
- He is our Helper
- He will fight our battles for us

We need to also realize that there are many, many things that Christ has promised.

Let’s see something very interesting, how we need to keep coming to God and growing and overcoming, and that He will be there:

- to be with us
- to help us
- to uplift us
- to lead us
- to guide us

All of this!

Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God is living and powerful...” Add in there: ***true, faithful, righteous, good*** and the power within us with the Spirit of God that gives us the strength to go forward.

“...and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart” (v 12).

That's what the whole Feast of Unleavened Bread is about. We examine our heart and mind, our lives and what we do. We compare that with the Word of God. We examine our faith:

- Are we trusting in God?
- Are we believing in God?
- Are we loving God?

All of these things together work in helping us to grow and overcome.

Verse 13: "And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account. Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should **hold fast the confession of our faith**" (vs 13-14).

Not only are we to grow in grace and knowledge, we are to:

- grow in faith
- grow in knowledge
- grow in understanding
- grow in wisdom and experience

All of this help comes from Christ!

Verse 15: "For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses..." We all have weaknesses. We all have difficulties and problems to overcome. He understands and we will see that He is there to help. **He will never abandon us!**

"...but *One Who* was tempted in all things according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin. Therefore, **we should come with boldness to the throne of grace**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (vs 15-16).

Let's see the promise that Jesus has given. If you have been having troubles and difficulties, they have been overwhelming you and you feel like the waves of life are just crushing you and it's hard to even lift your head up. Remember this:

- Christ is there!
- He will help!
- He won't let us down!

Hebrews 13:5: "*Do not allow the* love of money to influence your behavior, *but be* satisfied with what you have... [don't get carried away with lust because]: ...for He has said... [I want you to really think on this]: ...**'In no way...'**"

Stop and think: Jesus is **the Way, the Truth**

and the Life! God cannot lie! God's Word is true! We can have faith and belief in what Jesus has said here, and we can trust him in all of our times of trouble.

"... **'In no way will I ever leave you...** [this is of paramount importance] ...**no—I will never forsake you in any way**" (v 5). This is very powerful in the Greek, because there are three negatives here:

1. I will not ever leave you
2. In no way—no
3. I will never forsake you in any way

Verse 6: "So then, let us boldly say, **'The Lord is my Helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'**" That's quite a thing! Yes, indeed!

That's how God wants to be with us and fight our battles for us, and help us in every way. That's why we need the love of God and the faith of God. Let's see that, yes, we have a fight! We have a battle! We have to fight the good fight of faith!

1-Timothy 6:11: "But you, O man of God, flee these things, and **pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance and meekness.**" All of these things are the armament of God that we use to fight the good fight of faith. "**...pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance and meekness.**"

Verse 12: "**Fight the good fight of the faith!**..." Because Christ is there to help! God will fight for us! We are not to get frustrated and fret over the troubles and difficulties that come into our lives. We are to take them to God and He will help us in everything in every way. We will see that there is not anything that can be against us; **nothing can be against us!**

"...Take hold of eternal life to which you were also called, and did profess a good profession in the presence of many witnesses" (v 12).

Rom. 8 is quite a chapter; this is a chapter that shows us the way that we:

- grow and overcome
- put away sin
- put away the things that are in our lives
- overcome our past
- look forward to the future
- trust in God
- exercise the faith of God

—all of that together.

Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by *the*

Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God.” That’s the continuous goal that we need.

- let God lead us
- let God help us
- let God show us

that comes through:

- prayer
- study
- yielding to God

Verse 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.’” We have the begetting of God the Father and the Spirit of Jesus Christ in us! This gives us

- the strength
- the faith
- the love
- the determination

We will see that the rest of this chapter is absolutely overwhelming in its promises and assurance that we need.

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...” (vs 16-17). We are going to inherit the Kingdom of God! And later with Christ, *all things!*

“...—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed **we suffer together with Him**, so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (v 17).

This is why with the new book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* We need to keep focused on ***the promise of eternal life, eternal glory, the love of God***, the whole goal that is set before us! This is how we can overcome and live in a time when there’s going to be a great deal of trouble from everywhere, like it’s almost on every side!

Verse 18: “For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time ***are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.***”

- don’t get down
- don’t get discouraged

don’t think:

- I can’t do it
- it’s so difficult

Make yourself a promise: *no more pity-parties!* ‘Oh woe is me!’ Take the Scriptures, get on

your knees, pray to God, apply them to yourself, ask God to encourage you and help you and lift you up. ***He will!***

Notice what we are going to do when we’re in the Kingdom of God, v 19: “For the earnest expectation of the creation itself is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God.”

All the problems in this world are waiting for Christ to return and our resurrection so that all the saints together—ruling and reigning under Christ—can bring peace to this world. Think about that:

- the next time you watch the news and how bad it is
- the next time you hear of a great tragedy and how bad it is
- the next time you see things that are awful

Just remember God has called you and me, and all of the saints, so that we can solve all of these problems. But first we must develop the character of God and *that comes by faith!*

Verse 20: “Because the creation was subjected to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who subjected *it* in hope.” Understand this: there’s an organization out there *The Hope of the World*. The hope of the world *is Christ!* The hope of the world are *the saints of God working with Christ* to bring peace to this world!

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.” Think of how great this is. We’re going to be delivered by a resurrection to become spirit beings and accomplish this.

Verse 22: “For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now.” You read the history of men and what they’ve gone through, what they’ve done and you see how the world has been. What a mess! What a pitiful mess that we as human beings have made of this earth, made of ourselves, made of our countries, civilizations and so forth. ***Nothing but corruption and sin! Terrible! But we are the ones to deliver it!***

Verse 23: “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. For by hope we were saved...” (vs 23-24). We have to have that faith so that salvation will be complete at the resurrection.

“...but hope that is seen is not hope; for why would anyone still be hoping for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see... [because it

hasn't been completed yet; it hasn't arrived] ...we ourselves wait for it with patience" (vs 24-25). From faith into faith; from God to us and back to God; our relationship with God!

Verse 26: "Now, in the same way also, the Spirit is conjointly helping our weaknesses because we do not fully understand what we should pray for, according as it is necessary, but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning that cannot be expressed *by us*."

What does that mean? *The Holy Spirit of God takes the heart and core of our prayers*—all the distractions that come into our mind are all weeded out—and *it goes to God in a spiritual expression that He can know and understand!*

The Holy Spirit does that for us. Christ is our Intercessor at the right hand of God, but the Holy Spirit of God is that power that makes that intercession possible within our lives.

Verse 27: "And the One Who searches the hearts comprehends what the strivings of the Spirit *are* because it makes intercession for *the* saints according to *the will of God*. **And we know...**" (vs 27-28).

Now, I want you to really understand the rest of this chapter. This is one that we need quite often to encourage us. If you're depressed or down, or you don't know what to do, or everything seems to be overwhelming, come here to this chapter and start in v 28, because this is an all-important chapter for us.

Verse 28: "And we know that **all things...**" Think of this: troubles, difficulties, problems, trials—**all things**—doesn't say some things, doesn't say most things, it doesn't say only the ones that God chooses, but **all things!**

"...work together for good to those who love God... [everything comes back to loving God] **...to those who are called according to His purpose"** (v 28). Because we have been! His purpose is that we are going to be in His kingdom.

Verse 29: "Because those whom He did foreknow... [that's now, we're foreknown right now; He's given us His Spirit] ...He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son..." Think about that! Having a spirit body, mind and glory in the image of Christ.

"...that He might be *the* Firstborn among many brethren" (v 29). We're going to be the sons and daughters of God of the Father and the brethren of Jesus Christ spiritually forever and ever and ever!

Verse 30: "Now, whom He predestinated,

these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." That is a 'prophetic perfect' in the Greek, meaning *in God's eyes, because He's given His Spirit, if we are faith it is as good as done!*

- No one can take that away!
- No one can destroy that!
- Nothing can interfere with that!

Verse 31: "What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?"** Think of that! We can put it in a little different phrasing: *Since God is for us, nothing can be against us!*

Verse 32: "He Who did not spare even His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also grant us all things together with Him?... [when Christ returns] ...Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God?...?" (vs 32-33)—not even Satan the devil, because we overcome him with the word of our testimony, by the blood of Jesus Christ, and because we love God more than we love our own lives. No one can bring an accusation against us!

"...God *is the One* Who justifies. Who *is the* one that condemns? *It is* Christ Who died, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us" (vs 33-34). There you have the combination of the intercession of the Spirit, from us to Christ and Christ to the Father.

Verse 35: "What shall separate us from the love of Christ?... [all of these are circumstantial things]: ...*Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... [none of that] ...Accordingly, it is written, 'For Your sake we are killed all the day long...'" (vs 35-36). Yes, Christians have been killed, but that does not deter God!

"...we are reckoned as sheep for *the* slaughter.' But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For **I am persuaded...** [this is the persuasion we need]: **...that neither death, nor life, nor angels...** [Satan's angels] **...nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which *is* in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 36-39).

That's the meaning of the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

- I will fight for you!
- I will rescue you!
- Don't be fretful!

- Don't be troubled!
- Don't be jealous!
- Don't worry!
- Don't fret and stew!
- No pity-parties!
- God is for you!
- You are going to make it!

Brethren, it's been a wonderful Feast, and I hope these things have been helpful for you; and the end of the Feast is coming at sundown.

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:1-4
- 2) Leviticus 23:4-6, 8
- 3) Exodus 13:17-22
- 4) Exodus 14:1-2, 8-26
- 5) Exodus 15:23-26
- 6) Psalm 78:14-18, 30-41
- 7) Psalm 3:1-4
- 8) Psalm 25:17-22
- 9) Psalm 33:18-20
- 10) Psalm 34:1-7, 6, 8, 14-17, 6, 17-19
- 11) Psalm 37:39-40, 1-9
- 12) 2 Kings 19:3-7, 14-20, 32-36
- 13) 1 Corinthians 10:1-14
- 14) Ephesians 6:10-12
- 15) Philippians 2:1-2, 5
- 16) Galatians 2:20
- 17) Romans 1:16-17
- 18) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 19) Hebrews 13:5-6
- 20) 1 Timothy 6:11-12
- 21) Romans 8:14-39

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2 Kings 18
- Exodus 31

Also referenced: Book: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* by Fred R. Coulter

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