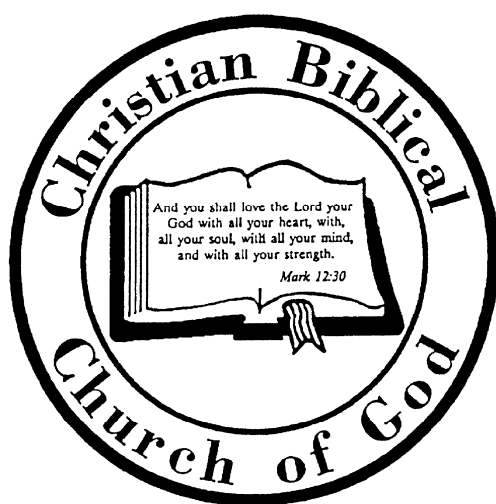


The Washing of the Water By the Word



Transcript Book

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Washing of the Water by the Word

Foreword

This book contains the transcriptions of five sermons delivered by Fred R. Coulter on the Washing of the Water by the Word. These five sermons provide the spiritual tools needed by a Christian to fight the addictive nature of the society we live in. This series is intended to be a follow on to the series titled The Addictive Society.

This series is an overview on how the Word (Jesus Christ) becomes the cleansing agent with the with the water (the Holy Spirit). What's the highest attainment of spiritual growth we can reach? *'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.'* *The mind of Christ!* How does Christ convert us? *By the washing of the water by the Word* and it is a spiritual operation, that is accomplished as Col. 1:27 states: "...which is Christ in us, *the hope of glory.*"

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The Washing of the Water by the Word I

Fred Coulter

Greetings, everyone, welcome to Sabbath services! Today we're going to talk about and study:

- What is the washing of the water by the Word?
- Why do we need it?
- How do we in our prayers ask God to help us?
- *It's a very important thing!*

Let's come to Ephesians 5 and let's see the one place where Paul writes about the *washing of the water by the Word*. Then we'll put some other Scriptures together and understand what he's talking about here.

Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify it... [sanctify means *to make Holy*. ...having cleansed it... [Cleansed it from what?] ...cleansed it with the **washing of the water by the Word**" (vs 25-26).

This is a process! It's not just something that happens once, because *cleanse it* is present tense. And with the "...washing of the water by the Word... [notice what it's to do]: ...That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame." (vs 26-27). That's the whole process that Christ is using to perfect the Church.

Now, let's come back to Ephesians 1; let's see how this ties in with the first part of it, to see what He is doing with us so that we can be Holy and without blame. Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things*... [Some people seem to think that means that we go to heaven or something like that. *No!* But the things that help us in conversion—God's Spirit, the Word of God—these are heavenly things sent to the earth.] ...in the heavenly *things* with Christ. According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love" (vs 3-4).

- So what is this going to do?
- How does this operation work?

Let's see what it's destined to do, v 5: "Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will."

What is the washing of the water by the Word? Let's come to the Gospel of John, chapter four; here we find the first instance where Jesus talks about living water. We will see that the *living water* has to do with the Holy Spirit. So the *washing of the water by the Word*, then, has to do with the Holy Spirit. Then we will see that confirmed in John 7.

John 4:9: "Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, 'How *is it that* You, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, *to give You water* to drink? For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.'.... [They weren't to associate with any Gentiles. That was a tradition of the Jews, not a Law of God.] ...Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you had known the gift of God... [Now what is the gift of God? *The Spirit of God*.]...and Who it is that said to you, "Give Me *some water* to drink," you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water'" (vs 9-10).

Now where else do we find living waters? Where else is that mentioned? Besides John 7 where else is that mentioned? *The book of Revelation!* What comes out from underneath the throne of God? *Living waters, crystal clear!* So that has to do with the supply of the Holy Spirit. Then she didn't understand that and she said: "...how then do You have the living water?" (v 11).

Let's see how it is explained here in John 7:37. You've heard this said before, too. We'll come back and we'll see it in John 6 that it's combined with something else. John 7:37: "Now, in the last day, the great *day* of the Feast, Jesus stood and called out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.'.... [We'll see that has to do with the *washing of the water by the Word*.] ...But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which those who believed in Him would soon receive; for *the* Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified" (vs 37-39).

So there we have it. "If anyone thirsts..." This is a way of explaining that human beings were made incomplete and needing the Holy Spirit of God and needing the righteousness of God to fulfill their purpose in life. We'll see how Jesus explains it. We also have to understand that this comes through Christ. This is the part of the Holy Spirit of God which is called the Spirit of Christ and it is to do something for us. This has nothing to do with baptism. Baptism is the start of the covenant relationship between you and God. This has to do with something else that involves overcoming. It

involves overcoming in our minds and in our hearts, having our minds and hearts changed.

Let's see what Jesus said here, John 6:35: "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time.'" Meaning this: If you are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit of God, you are believing in Christ at all times and therefore, the Holy Spirit will satisfy the purpose of your life.

Without the Holy Spirit, you're never going to know the purpose of life, you're never going to be satisfied in what you're doing. That's why people say, like it says in the Proverbs, 'Fool's delight is to discover himself.' And how many people out there, especially the hippies, they come along and they say, 'Hey, what are you doing?' *Well, man, I'm finding myself.* 'Were you lost? Where did you go? How do you find yourself?' And all of these things are motivated because God made us incomplete, needing the Spirit of God. So, if we do, then there's another aspect tied to it: he "...shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time."

Here's how Jesus explained it, v 48: "I am the bread of life.... [the *bread of life* combined with the *living waters* then is what converts you] ...Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which comes down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (vs 48-51).

They couldn't understand that. They couldn't understand about eating His flesh and drinking His blood and how does that fill in with the living waters?

- You first have to *repent and be baptized*; that puts you in covenant with God.
- Then you *receive the Holy Spirit*; so now you have Christ, Who is the living bread.
- Through the *renewal of the covenant* with the unleavened bread and wine, then we receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is to come to us spiritually just as water:

- to *wash*
- to *cleanse*
- to *heal*

We'll see how that does here, v 53: "Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.'" When we get to the Passover time, we know that Jesus

broke the bread and said, 'Here, take this, eat, this is My flesh which is broken for you.' Then He took the wine and He said, 'All of you drink of it, this is the blood of the New Covenant which is shed for the remission of sins.' That shows that you cannot have a relationship with Christ unless that is done that way, *exactly as the Scriptures show.*

Now, for many years I haven't given detailed sermons concerning the Passover, and so forth, but this year I'm going to because there's a lot there. What I'll have to do is also I'll have to show you the first and second editions of the Passover book, and then third edition—*The Christian Passover*. How could something so simple require so many pages? Well, the truth is, because *it is so simple and so meaningful*, Satan the devil has many counterfeits to try and keep the true Christians out of covenant with God. ***If you get out of covenant with God, you can lose your salvation.*** So therefore, there are so many things that come along to try and destroy that relationship.

Now let's see what He said, v 53: "...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves." Of course, they were wondering, 'How can this be?' These were disciples who were following Him; not all the disciples—and a disciple means a *learner*—who followed him believed Him. Read John 8, we've gone through that before. They didn't believe in Him.

Verse 54: "The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; For My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink.... [Imagine after Christ got done repeating this and repeating this, they were beside themselves. 'What is He saying and doing?' See, because after that those disciples who didn't believe, they were offended and left! So much so that only the twelve were there and Jesus said to them, 'Are you going to go?'] ...The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him" (vs 54-56).

So the *Holy Spirit* and the *washing of the water by the Word* and *Christ in us* all tie together. Here's the whole lesson of it, v 57: "As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me."

- by all the words that He taught
- the message that He brought
- how He inspired the apostles to write what they wrote

We shall live by Him.

Let's come to John 15 and see something else. Here we see that the Father is also involved in it, because the Holy Spirit, as we have seen, has two aspects:

1. the begetting from the Father
2. the Spirit of Christ, which gives us the mind of Christ

Then both of these work together with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

John 15:1: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one.... [How does He cleanse each one?] ...that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you.... [The *washing of the water by the Word*.] (Then He explains very clearly here): ...Dwell in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you *bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, *and* you *are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing” (vs 1-5).

That’s why there has to be *conversion*. And *the washing of the water by the Word* cannot take place until there first is:

- repentance
- baptism, which is the circumcision of the heart
- then the Holy Spirit can be given

Once we have that, we need to grow in grace and knowledge, grow in understanding, and all of these things combine together, and that’s the process of conversion that we have by living God’s way. And *the washing of the water by the Word* becomes very important.

Now let’s look at the opposite of this. Let’s come to James 1, and see where it talks about unstable water of those who are unconverted. This is about praying and asking for wisdom, and so forth, and having endurance.

James 1:6: “But let him ask in faith, not doubting at all because the one who doubts is like a wave of *the sea* that is driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*.... [That’s the way of the world. And who is the ‘prince of the power of the air,’ which sweeps people along? *Satan the devil!*] ...Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. *He is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (vs 6-8).

That’s the very first reason why we need the *washing of the water by the Word*—to increase the faith, to change our thinking. ***Changing our thinking and cleansing our minds is the whole total purpose of conversion!*** And it takes *the washing of the water by the Word* to do that. Let’s see what James says to the double-minded; what happens when you’re double-minded. We can equate this to,

as the things that we covered concerning the ‘church wars.’ (*Seven Churches-Church Wars I & II*)

James 4:1: “*What is* the cause of quarrels and fightings among you? *Is it* not mainly from your own lusts *that are* warring within your members?.... [We’ll see that’s double-minded. You want to follow God, but then you let your lust rule and you’re like the waves of the sea, tossed back and forth.] ...You lust, and have not; you kill, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel, but still you do not have, because you do not ask.... [What happens when they hear that? ‘Oh, you’re not asking, well, then I’ll ask.’] ...*Then* you ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with evil motives... [*unrepentant*; we will see what the *washing of the water* is to do internally with us through repentance, beginning with repentance] ...with evil motives, that you may consumer *it* on your own lusts. *You* adulterers and adulteresses, don’t you know that the friendship of the world is enmity *with* God?.... [One foot in the world; one foot in the Church.] ...Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (vs 1-4).

Now notice what’s taking place inside. This is the reason we need the washing of the water by the Word, v 5: “Or do you think that the scripture says in vain, ‘The spirit that dwells in us lusts with envy?’” Because we’re going to see *the washing of the water by the Word* is the answer to

- *overcoming lusts* that pull you down
- *sin* that still dwells in the mind
- *bad experiences* of the past that still haunt you

That’s what *the washing by the Word* is. It starts with human nature and the lust that dwells in there. That’s what we need to get rid of.

Verse 6: “But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, ‘God sets Himself against *the proud*, but He gives grace to *the humble*.’.... [And humbling means *repenting and yielding* to God.] ...Therefore, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.... [he’s the ‘prince of the power of the air’ giving you double-mindedness so that you’re unstable like water. One way one day; one way another day. Can even change in minutes.] ...Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, purify *your* hearts, you double-minded!” (vs 6-8).

So how do we purify our hearts? *It has to do with the washing of the water by the Word*. Now notice the word *cleanse*, so many times that we’ve already covered. ‘You are *cleansed* by the Word that Jesus has spoken.’ That’s the cleansing by the water of the Word. Let’s see how that requires repentance.

Let's come to Psalm 51; here is a great Psalm which helps us understand

- real repentance
- how we are to yield to God
- how we are to be completely broken-hearted when we sin and do things that are not right
- we ask God for forgiveness

—and notice what He says, because this ties right in with *the washing of the water of the Word*.

Now this was after David had committed his sin with Bathsheba and here's his repentance, Psalm 51:1: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions." This is a model of prayer for repentance, especially if you have committed a real bad one, like David did. You wouldn't expect that David would have done anything like this, when you consider how he started.

So he was really repenting, and he says: "...blot out my transgressions" (v 1), because there were many. What did he do?

- he shouldn't have had the affair in the first place
- he shouldn't have sent a servant over there to invite her over to his place
- she should not have been bathing up on the roof where she knew the king would walk in the evening
- she should not have accepted the invitation
- then they should not have had the affair
- then he tried to cover it up

When you start sinning, what happens? *You drift further and further from God!* When you try and work it out yourself without repentance, it doesn't work! It only gets more complicated, only becomes more trouble.

So then he said, 'Oh, well, I'll solve the problem. I'm the king, I'm the commander in chief. I'll get General Joab up here and we'll work out a deal. I'll tell him to send Uriah the Hittite here and I'll get him to go sleep with his wife.' Well, Uriah wasn't quite so stupid, because he knew where his house was and he knew where Bathsheba bathed and he knew where the king walked. And why would the king reach clear down into the lower ranks and ask for Uriah the Hittite to come home, eat with the king, and then the king say, 'Oh, well, go have some pleasure with your wife.' And he said, 'No, my lord, if I'm not there fighting with my men, I'm not going to go with my wife.'

So he didn't do it. Now it makes you wonder what he suspected. Now David was really in a pickle, so he tried to convince him the next night and give a whole much more wine so he would be kind of half-looped and really want to go home and have an affair with his wife, like he should. 'No, my lord, I can't do it.' So then again he called Joab and said, 'Joab, when you're in the thick of the battle against the Amorites, I want you, when Uriah the Hittite is right up there with all the opposition, I want you to back away and let him die.'

Joab remembered that. Imagine what the general would think. So this, where he says here, 'blot out all my transgressions,' he had multiple transgressions and planning and he still didn't come to his senses until God sent Nathan the prophet. And he still didn't understand it until Nathan the prophet said—after giving the parable of the poor man with the little ewe lamb that was stolen, and then David said, 'Well, that man should be really punished'—'You, you are the man.' Then he related what he did with Bathsheba and so forth.

Now notice his approach. That's why you hear sin explained this way—*dirty*. Right? *Because it is!* So David said, v 2: "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." That had to be washed away internally as well as removed from the book of Life. *Washing by the water by the Word!*

"For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me" (v 3). Right there in the forefront of his mind. Have you ever had it that way? You just can't get rid of it? Or you have an experience that you just can't stop remembering and reliving? That's why you need the washing of the water of the Word. Think of all the things that he had to have cleansed out of his mind. All the deviousness to work out all these details to try and get it done. The using of an innocent man Joab, his general, to come and have that man killed. Sound a little like the mafia—doesn't it? But, just because he's king and has all power, that makes it even worse.

So David in his repentance really understood. He said: "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge" (v 4). God's judgment was right. What was the everlasting punishment that David had, even though God forgave him his sin, because it was so grievous? *He said, 'You're going to have trouble in your household all the rest of your life.'*

You read the life of David after that. He had the incident with Absalom and Tamar. And then you had all of the other wives that David had. Other men took them that very day in the sight of the sun. Then the rebellion by Absalom. It got so bad that when the

rebellion was going on and the kingdom was split, because of Absalom wanting to take over being king, and nothing but trouble and confusion and David was so afraid that he was leaving the palace with some of his troops and things like that. And a man was coming along and he just cursed him, shook his fist at him. ‘You brought all of this upon us, blah, blah, blah.’ And Joab said, ‘You want me do him in?’ He said, ‘Nah, leave him alone, he’s speaking the truth.’ So he finally learned the lesson. God is right!

So then he admits this, he admits human nature. This is what we have to understand. “Behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me” (v 5). Was David born of an adulterous affair? *No! We are born with the law of sin and death within us!* And unless we have the Spirit of God to have the washing of *the water of the Word*, and *to have our hearts and minds converted*, we are going to go back and do just like David and revert back to the lusts of the law of sin and death within us. Then think we’re justified in doing it. So this is a really a deep repentance here.

“Behold... [here is the whole purpose of the cleansing and washing the water by the Word.] ...You desire truth in the inward parts...” (v 6). Now what is it said of human nature? *‘The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.’* Is that not what happened with David in this affair? Was he not deceitful in it? Was he not desperately wicked in what he was doing? *Yes, indeed!* Wants the truth in the inward parts.

How much truth do we have? We can put it another way. How much are we willing to let the Spirit of the Truth, which is *the washing of the water by the Word* to convert our minds and actually change the way that we think with the Truth of God? *Because that’s what it’s all about!* That’s how we are converted. That’s how we come to have the mind of Christ. So God is really performing a miracle in us. He’s taking us with this deceitful mind:

- leading us to repentance
- granting us His Holy Spirit
- having us grow and overcome
- giving His Spirit to us so we can change from deceitful to truthful, from carnal to Holy

—and all of those things are part of the *washing of the water by the Word*.

Now notice what else he says here, v 6: “...and in the hidden part...”—or the secret part. The secret recesses of the mind also have to be converted and changed. You can’t say, ‘God, I love you,’ and then in the secret part of your mind still hold hatred for people, still hold grudges against people, still relive sins of the past. You have to have all of that

washed out. “...and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom.... [Now along with this washing, notice he gets a little scrubbing with it, too.] ...Purge me with hyssop... [What is hyssop? *Hyssop is like a scouring pad.* Did he have a lot of dirt and sinful things in his relationship with God and in his mind, so to speak? *Yes!*] ...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (vs 6-7).

When did David receive the Holy Spirit? *When he was anointed to be king!* So here he gave in to the pulls of the flesh after years and years and years. And also, after God gave the blessing and the promise, because David’s heart was tender before he did this. And he was sitting in his house playing on his ten-string instrument. And he said, ‘Oh, God, I’m in this house built of cedar and You have no place to live. Let me build a house for You.’ Remember that? Then Nathan the prophet came and said, ‘Yes, do all that’s in your heart, but you will not build it, but your son because you’re a bloody man.’ But he had the blessing of doing all the plans, saving all the money, and everything to build it.

Verse 8: “Make me to hear joy and gladness that the bones which You have broken may rejoice.... [That’s how crushed he was. His bones weren’t broken, but felt as though he was broken.] ...Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create...” (vs 8-10). Now notice that. This is what has to be done. That’s why *the washing of the water by the Word* because

- it *cleanses*
- it *helps*
- it *creates*

—and you need the Holy Spirit plus the Word of God, which gets back to two things you’ve heard how many times—*prayer and study!*—right? *Yes!* “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.... [He wasn’t ‘double-minded’ and like the ‘waves of the ocean.’] ...Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me” (vs 10-11). So how close was he to really being right on the edge? *Very close indeed!*

(go to the next track)

Now, let’s continue on with the *washing of the water by the Word*; we need God’s Spirit and we need His Word. What we need to do is have our minds cleansed. I want to go to is Hebrews 10:15, because here is the whole thing concerning how we get converted and change and then build the character of God.

Now they know this, that whenever we change our thinking, our brain structure changes and that the connections between the different cells of the brain refocus in a different way. That’s how, for

example, when you first learn to ride your bicycle you're scared to death. You think you're ready to fall down and sure enough you do fall down. So then they invented training wheels and then you put it on with training wheels and you don't know how to hold this thing up and you gradually learn how to do it. Then when you get it all down pat and you have trained your brain on what to do, why you can do so many things. You can do wheelies, you can squeal, you can do loop-de-loops and all this sort of things. You know just when to lean, you know when not to lean, and everything comes automatic. Same way with driving a car. You first get in, start driving a car, oh, man. But once you train your mind, or your brain, then it connects and it does it more automatically.

So this is how the Holy Spirit works and the washing of the water by the Word. Hebrews 10:15: "And the Holy spirit also bears witnesses to us; for after He had previously said, 'This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,' says the Lord: 'I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds'" (vs 15-16). ***Changing the way that we think and changing the structure of our brains, that's conversion and that is the result of having circumcision of the heart.***

Let's see how that works. Let's see what it does for us. We'll see why it does it for us, Psalm 19:7: "The law of the LORD is perfect..." If you had a perfect one rare gold coin, would you throw it away? *No, you wouldn't!* You would treasure it—right? *Yes!* God's law is that way. That's where the Protestants put themselves. They throw that which is perfect by saying it's abolished, and accept the traditions and doctrines of men in place of it. "The law of the Lord is perfect..."

Psalm 12:6: "The words of the LORD... [*by the washing of the water by the Word*] ...are pure words..." Jesus said, 'by the Word, you are cleansed.' It changes your mind. It helps you overcome the sin within and it actually restructures your brain. That's why when you have a real problem you need to overcome, you ask God to 'please with *the washing of the water by the Word* get rid of this memory in my mind. Let me remember the lesson, but I don't want to live through it any more. I don't want to see it the window of my mind anymore. "The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Psalm 19:7: "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul... [*gives you health—physical health, spiritual health.* And if you have spiritual health and peace of mind your body's going to be more healthy—is that not correct? Do not a lot of the problems and sicknesses that people have are a result of sin externally and sin internally? *Yes!*]

...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes" (vs 7-8). In other words, giving you a new education. Letting you be able to see things in the perspective that God sees them. Or if we have glasses, since you just took off your glasses, you know, through the lens of Scripture. That's how we are to view things—'enlightening the eyes.'

"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever... [notice what all these things cover, and then we'll take some Scriptures out of Psalms 119 and see how all of this ties together. It's a fantastic thing.] ...The fear of the LORD is clean... [Doesn't come with any baggage. When you love God and fear Him and keep His commandments, it's right, it's good, it's true. You're doing the right thing.] ...enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (v 9).

So you see why we need to have our minds converted and changed *by the washing of the water by the Word*. Now I know I've had some things come along in my mind that I've just had to pray to God that way. 'Oh, Lord, cleanse it with *the washing of the water by the Word*. Help me to just forget this, get it out of my mind. Remove this thought from me.' You ever had that happen to you? Something just keeps coming, BAM! in your mind! Then you have to go to God that way. You have your part to do, but God will do it.

"...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether, More to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.... [Now notice what happens when you have these things in your mind. When the laws and commandments of God are in your mind, inscribed there, as part of the way that your brain is structured and then led by the Holy Spirit.] ...Moreover, by them Your servant is warned..." (vs 9-11). That's that automatic thing that comes up, 'Oh, oh, I'm not going to do that'—internal warning signal.

In our house we have ADT protection against thieves, burglars, and even us if we forget to turn it off. One time it went off and so I was upstairs. So ADT called in about ten seconds. So I'm standing there, 'Hello, who is this?' *This is Fred Coulter.* 'What's your password?' *I don't know.* (because I didn't know it; now I remember it) 'What's the name of your neighbor across the street?' I couldn't remember, *I don't know.* *Well, why don't you let me hang up and I'll get the information and call you back.* 'No, no, I can't have you hang up.' As Dolores pointed out, that's just the way a thief would answer it—'I don't know, but I'll find out.' In the meantime you never call back, you rob the house and get out of there. I had to call on

Dolores, ‘Help, what is the password? What is the name of the neighbor next door?’ Because she was ready to call the police and dispatch them out there immediately.

So just exactly like with the Word of God. Once you have these things in your mind, you are warned. Don’t think that! Don’t do that! Replace it with something good and right. Let it be washed out of your mind.

Verse 11: “...in keeping them there is great reward.” What are the greatest rewards?

- love
- joy
- peace
- peace of mind
- understanding

Correct? Aren’t those the greatest rewards? *Yes!*

Here’s something else it does, v 12: “Who can understand his errors?... [You don’t know right from wrong unless you know the Word of God. It doesn’t automatically work unless it’s written in your heart and in your mind. That’s what conversion is all about.] ...Oh, cleanse me... [How? *With the washing of the water by the Word!*] ...from my secret faults.” The secret recesses of your mind. That’s what God wants us to do. Now we’ll show you how to do it in a little bit.

“And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me... [This is the whole thing all together. That’s why we’re to have the laws in our minds and inscribed in our hearts. We’re going to see all the things in Psa. 119. ‘Oh, how I love your law. How do I cleanse my way? What do I do?’ And all of these things. It’s fantastic when we put it all together.] ...then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart... [with *the washing of the water by the Word*] ...be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (vs 13-14).

Let’s go to Psalm 119; we’ll look at several sections of it. If you want a really fantastic revelation concerning the laws, commandments, statutes, judgments, precepts, everything about God’s way, His testimonies, read all of Psa. 119; not all the way through. Take each section. This is an unusual Psalm. Notice right above v 1 it says *Aleph*. That’s the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse in the Hebrew begins with *Aleph*. It doesn’t begin that way in English. In each section there are eight verses times twenty-two, which is the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, then takes up all the verses. Let’s see what the last verse is here so we can get the right one—176.

This entire Psalm is called a Psalm of Degrees. And each one of these eight verses is a degree. The singers at the temple were to memorize this to sing it from memory and notice what it says here. Let’s just start with v 1 because this is a really good place for us to begin.

Psalm 119:1: “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.... [If it’s in your mind, you’re going to walk in it automatically—right?] ...Blessed are they who keep His testimonies and who seek Him with the whole heart.... [And that’s what’s to happen as we become more converted, become more whole hearted.] ...They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.... [So if someone says, ‘How do you live?’ *I walk in the ways of the Lord. How do you live?*] ...You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently” (vs 1-4). Now precepts is interesting. That’s every concept of God—*diligently!*

Notice, he laments a little bit here of the pull of human nature, v 5: “O that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed when I have respect unto all Your commandments. I will praise You with uprightness of heart when I have learned Your righteous judgments” (vs 5-7). That’s what happens with the *washing of the water by the Word*.

- this is why we have Sabbath services
- this is why we go through the Word of God
- this is why we do what we do, because God is converting us and we’re growing in grace and knowledge

He is perfecting us. He’s getting us ready for His kingdom through *the washing of the water by the Word*.

“I will keep Your statutes; O forsake me not utterly.... [v 9 ties all of this together]: ...With what shall a young man cleanse his way?... [Young man or young woman.] ...By taking heed according to Your Word” (vs 8-9). You follow the Word of God. You know the Word of God and have it written in your heart with *the washing of the water by the Word*. And also what it does with *the washing of the water by the Word*, it cleanses out those secret little things in the corner of your mind that only you know, that only you’ve experienced, those things that you’ve told no one. And all of us have plenty of those—don’t we? *Yes, indeed!* God cleanses all of that out.

Verse 9: “With what shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; O let me not wander from Your commandments.... [notice the cooperation that we need also]: ...Your Word I have laid up in my heart, so that I might not sin

against You?... [The more you understand the Word of God, becomes part of the way you think, the less you're going to sin. That's the whole purpose of it.] ...Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes" (vs 9-12).

Come down here to v 18; this one I really, really like because this explains more about the Word of God. How is the Word of God written? '*Line upon line; precept upon precept; a little here, a little there.*' Are there things in the Word of God that even though you've gone over in the past, you go over it and you learn more—right? You understand more.

Verse 18: "Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law." Or we can also say out of the Gospels, out of the general epistles, out of the Epistles of Paul, out of the book of Revelation. Open my mind, open my eyes that I may behold—and that is understand, see the things that I've never understood before. And those things will come with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

Verse 33, I like this section here: "Teach me, O LORD..." And that's all a part of our prayers to God. How do we learn the Bible? Well, God is the one Who teaches us. How does He teach us?

- from His Word we study
- with His Spirit it's written in our hearts and in our minds.

That's how He teaches us. And what does it say there in John 6:45? '*And all shall be taught of God.*' So all the mechanics of learning and teaching and growing and understanding and God's Spirit all come from God. So if we want to understand something, we ask God, 'Teach me.' He's not going to teach it to you instantly. You've got to search it out. You've got to put it together and then when you do, you'll know it. 'Well, God has taught me.'

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with all my heart" (vs 33-34). Notice the complete yieldedness to God, the complete fantastic attitude toward the laws and commandments of God. That's why you've heard me say in the past that Psa. 119 has got to be a prophetic understanding of how Christ looked at the laws of God. Not entirely, but in the main.

Verse 35: "Make me to walk in the path of Your commandments... [Now what is a path? *A path is a way!* Who is the way? *Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!'*] ...walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in them.... [What did Jesus say? *He said, 'If you love Me, keep the commandments, namely Mine.'*] See how the Bible

all ties together? Old Testament/New Testament.] ...Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness.... [He didn't want to become double-minded like we started out there in James 1.] ...Turn away my eyes from seeing vanity; give me life in Your way" (vs 35-37). Look at Solomon, did he get lifted up in pride and vanity in his old age? *Yes, indeed, he sure did!* Did not David with the thing—he wasn't old age then, he must have been about what, about his 50s at that time, with Bathsheba. But he learned.

"...give me life in Your way. Fulfill Your word to Your servant, so that You may be feared..." (vs 37-38). Fulfill your word to your servant and if we add to that *the washing of the water by the Word*, to growing in knowledge and understanding and grace with the Word of God by the Spirit of God, then all of this comes alive. I don't know about you, but hey, when I read and study Psa. 119, I get all excited and I feel about this high. You'll understand why.

Verse 39: "Turn away my reproach which I fear, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I have longed after Your precepts... [As David said in another Psalm, 'I have longed after you as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.'] ...give me life in Your righteousness" (vs 39-40). That's fantastic.

What I want you to do is tie all of this together with *the washing of the water by the Word*, v 47: "And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I have loved. And I will lift up my hands unto Your commandments, which I have loved, and I will meditate on Your statutes" (vs 47-48). That's how you get them written in your heart and in your mind.

Verse 49: "Remember the word to Your servant upon which You have caused me to hope.... [*The Word of God gives us hope!* Claim the promise of that hope. Claim the promise of God's inspiration.] (notice what it does): ...This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your Word has given me life" (vs 49-50)—or in time of trial and testing. We all have that and we all go through that. That's why we need the Spirit of God to give us comfort, to uplift us.

Let's come to v 97; this one you've heard many times, but look at it. "O how love I Your law!..." If you love God,

- you'll love *His Word*
- you'll love *His commandments*
- you'll love *His law*

Notice tying in with having it written in our hearts and in our minds, v 97: "...It is my meditation all the day." And what you think in your heart, that's what

you are. If you think of these things in your heart, that brings conversion with the Spirit of God.

“Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.... [Notice what it does]: ...I understand more than the ancients because I keep Your precepts” (vs 98-100). Isn’t that something?

Now, I don’t want you to be like the man who shot his TV. He got mad at the TV because there was some commentator on there talking about something he knew was entirely wrong, so he shot the TV. The neighbor heard it, the police came out and he got arrested for aggravated assault. Well, it didn’t do any good to shoot the TV, ruined the TV.

But, when you hear people say things and when you watch the news, how many times do you find yourself talking back to it because you know the Word of God. Now, even if you shout back, you’re not going to make it heard at the other end. It isn’t going to do any good to shout. So if it really upsets you, there is the power off, turn it off. You know more than they do. And the truth is, God expects you to. Is He not educating you to be a king and priest in His kingdom? *Yes!*

Here’s what else it will do, v 101: “I have held back my feet from every evil way...” So if you’re walking in the way of Lord, you’re not going to be walking in the way of evil.

Now, stop and think about this for just a minute. By keeping the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, that’s the day of pleasure for the world—is it not? *Yes, indeed!* Starts out Friday night with parties and boozing and carousing, and all of this sort of thing. Saturday in the daytime you’ve got all kinds of sports and sales and shopping, and all of this thing. So just by keeping the Sabbath, that in itself keeps you out of the way of an awful lot of evil. Maybe you’ve never thought of it that way.

Verse 103: “I have held back my feet from every evil way, so that I might keep Your word. I have not departed from Your ordinances, for You have taught me.... [Now let’s tie this in with where Jesus said, ‘He who eats Me shall never be hungry.’] ...How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!.... [That is the palette of your mind, because it does so much for you to change you and convert you.] ...Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way” (vs 103-104). So again, don’t shoot your TV, just hit the power button.

Now let’s look at some of the things that cleanse us and how we are to change our lives with

this. You’re going to notice the comparison. You’re going to notice the difference. Here is what Paul says here concerning how we are to be converted:

2-Corinthians 6:14: “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness?” That doesn’t mean you treat people in the world in a harsh way. They just don’t understand. But you can’t have fellowship with them. ‘Oh, come on, let’s go down to the bar on Friday night here and have a good time. All the women will be here and all of this.’ *Nah, can’t do that.* ‘Oh, let’s go to the ball game on Saturday. You know, this college game. It is a great game.’

I like to watch certain sports and I like football and I’m glad they’re changing the rules so they don’t kill them every time that they tackle them. But you know, you can’t do those things on the Sabbath. You can’t go out with them. Besides, I like to watch it on television. I don’t like to go in the crowd.

Verse 15: “And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial?...” Belial are *sons of worthlessness*. And that’s generally attributed to what? *False prophets!* So, we don’t go to other churches and say, ‘How do you understand the Scriptures here?’ Now they may have some things that are right, that’s true. But if it is, we prove it out of the Bible for ourselves.

“...Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of the living God... [Christ and God the Father are dwelling in you.] ...exactly as God has said. ‘I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God... [That’s the result of *the washing of the water by the Word*, the cleansing of the mind through the Spirit of God.] ...and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.... [So then we have a command. What are we to do here?] ...Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,’ says the Lord, ‘and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says *the* Lord Almighty” (vs 15-18).

Now notice what we are to do, what this is to lead us to do, 2-Corinthians 7:1: “Now then, beloved, since we have these promises, we should purge ourselves from every defilement of the flesh and *the* spirit... [How? *By the washing of the water by the Word!*] ...perfecting Holiness in *the* fear of God.”

There’s one other step that needs to be, 2-Corinthians 10 and this tells us how we are to do it. This is the way that we need to do it mentally and spiritually:

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the flesh*, we do not war according to *the flesh*.... [This is why we cannot use human betterment as a way to improve ourselves, because that’s the way of the world. Yes, we need to be better, but we need to be better *from the inside* with God’s Spirit.] ...we do not war according to *the flesh*. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to *the overthrowing of strongholds*” (vs 3-4). That is with the Spirit of God. And what stronghold is the hardest one to control and overthrow? *The mind!*

So he talks about, v 5: “Casting down vain imaginations... [You correct yourself. You know when your vanity is starting to get a hold of you. You know when the thought is a wrong thought.] ...and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...” We are to

- use our minds
- use the Word of God
- use the Spirit of God

—this way: “...and bringing into captivity... [controlling it] ...every thought into the obedience of Christ” (v 5). That’s the perfect thing we need to do. We’re going to fall short.

- That’s why there’s *repentance!*
- That’s why there’s the *washing of the water of the Word!*
- That’s why in *bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ* we get the reliving of the past experiences and sins out of our lives!

We remember the lesson, like the Apostle Paul did. He remembered he persecuted the Church, but he didn’t relive it. When you relive those things over and over and over again, or there is something that just keeps coming back into your mind, coming back into your mind, you need to grab a hold of that thought, pray about it, come before God and ask Him to cleanse it out of your mind with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

“...bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ; And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled” (vs 5-6). *That’s how you overcome the disobedience!*

- you replace the disobedience with obedience
- you replace sin with righteousness
- you control your thoughts

As the Proverb says, *‘Guard the door of your mind.’ That’s how the washing of the water is to work in our lives.*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ephesians 5:25-27
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-5
- 3) John 4:9-11
- 4) John 7:37-39
- 5) John 6:35, 48-51, 53-57
- 6) John 15:1-5
- 7) James 1:6-8
- 8) James 4:1-8
- 9) Psalm 51:1-11
- 10) Hebrews 10:15-16
- 11) Psalm 19:7
- 12) Psalm 12:6
- 13) Psalm 19:7-14
- 14) Psalm 119:1-12, 18, 33-40, 47-50, 97-104
- 15) 2-Corinthians 6:14-18
- 16) 2-Corinthians 7:1
- 17) 2-Corinthians 10:3-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- John 8
- John 6:45

Also referenced:

- Book: *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- Sermon: *Seven Churches-Church Wars I & II*

The Washing of the Water by the Word II

Fred Coulter

Greetings, everyone; welcome to Sabbath services! Let's see something very interesting here in Jeremiah 17. No one would want to be Jeremiah today, because he had to be one man against everybody. They were against him and they plotted to kill him and they plotted to take his life away and threaten him, and they did a lot of things to him. Jeremiah was a priest sent by God to warn Judah and Jerusalem, and also the children of Israel, of the impending destruction of Jerusalem.

Now, today we see some things very similar happening in many places of the world. I'm going to have to bring you an update on the city of Detroit, because I think that will be very astonishing to you to find out what is happening there. But the thing that is almost unreal is that the people didn't believe him. Everybody is used to everything the way that it is, and when people go their way, they're successful for a while. They get along for a while, but every activity of human life tends to sin. Every good thing that is started out ends up somehow in corruption. You can see that

- in religion
- in politics
- in education
- in people's lives

God made us so that we need to be redeemed. Part of the redemption comes

- by going to God
- by following His Word
- by living the way that He wants us to live

Then in the New Testament we find much more concerning *salvation and conversion and overcoming*. So we'll talk about some of those things today.

Jeremiah 17:13: "O LORD, the Hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed... [Always happens! Anyone who goes against the commandments of God, they pay the penalty or the price for sinning, and *sin is the transgression of the law.*] ...'Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth because they have forsaken the LORD, the Fountain of living waters.'" The *Fountain of living waters* is the source of the Holy Spirit.

We know in Rev. 22 that it shows that out from underneath the throne of God and the Lamb flows a *river crystal clear of living waters*. This shows that for all eternity we will be receiving the Holy Spirit.

Here's what the *living waters* are to do. Every experience in our life, especially the wrong

experiences, leaves an impact in our minds that affects our emotions. It affects us in many, many different ways. Some people go into mental disease because of it. Some of them never recover from the shock of what they went through. I know every time I watch a documentary on the veterans from WWII and Vietnam, and, of course, the Korean War. It's true in every war, when you see somebody next to you die, it makes a lasting impression upon you; you never, *never, never* forget it. And how about all of the survivors of the Holocaust that were rescued at the end of WWII, all that they went through.

The human mind is very strange. It doesn't want to believe that what they hear about evil that is coming or that may happen, they somehow give an exemption for themselves. A father or mother says to their son or daughter taking the car, 'Be careful, drive slowly.' *Yeah, mom!* 'Some people get killed if you're not watching what you're doing.' Then hours later they get a call from the police that your son or daughter has been killed in a car wreck. Somehow the human mind tricks itself. It's called the deceitfulness of the mind into believing that if you do something that is not right, it's not going to affect you. Somehow you'll be able to get around it. Somehow you won't be able to get caught.

Let's come back here to v 9 to show the source of what human nature is. Human nature is a combination of *good and evil*. Human nature also has within it *the law of sin and death*. It's just automatic. Here's the source of all it, v 9: "The heart... [the center of your thoughts and emotions] *...is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" In other words, no human being aside from the Word of God and aside from God can really understand what needs to be done to keep us going in the right direction, and how to overcome the sins and problems that are with us.

Let's examine a little bit more here, v 10: "I the LORD search the heart..." God knows every man, every woman in the world. He *searches the heart*, but He's given us free moral agency. He didn't make us automatons. He didn't make us so that we're just like a machine.

- He's given us minds to think.
- He's given us emotions.
- He's given us the capacity of love
- He's given us the capacity of reproduction

All of these things are very tremendous blessings that God has given. But every one of them can be used in a way that is evil.

“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” (v 10). Everyone’s life is going to be according to how you live it. This is why when we come to God—repent, are converted, receive the Holy Spirit—then our minds need to be converted and changed, and that is a process. That’s not something that just happens and it’s all over. *It’s a process!* There are times when we do better and there are times when we don’t do better.

Let’s see what happens when they forsake God. Notice what happens when people dedicate themselves to evil. Now, the other day they had a big arrest in New York City. They arrested over 100 mob members. Here are people dedicated to crime, dedicated to doing evil. I was thinking, this is very similar to another organization located in Italy, too—isn’t it? The head of the Mafia is called what? *Godfather!* Sound familiar?

Here’s what happened to the children of Judah. Once people give themselves over to evil, look at how God describes it when it reaches its point of just unbelievable proportions, v 1: “The sin of Judah *is* engraved with a pen of iron, with the point of a diamond; *it is* carved upon the tablet of their heart and upon the horns of your altars.” Right down into the very depths of your being. These things can be changed through repentance and the Spirit of God.

So let’s see what happens, v 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.’” You trust in a man. That can be yourself, it can be someone else, and God says because of human nature that’s going to resort in a curse.

“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.” Here’s the other side of the coin:

- This shows that there is hope.
- This shows that there is change.
- This shows that God will be with you if you turn to Him

Verse 7: “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters... [that’s the *Fountain of living waters*] ...*it* send 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” (vs 7-8).

So notice all the way through, if you read through all of Jer. 17—and you’ll see this throughout the book of Jeremiah—he indicts them for sin, then holds out hope, shows them that they need to turn to God, shows them what’s going to happen if they continue in the way that they are going.

Let’s come back to Acts 2; let’s see the turning point in your life in turning to God. Everyone has to come to this point if they’re seeking God. And if they’re seeking God, they will come to this point. Here among the people that were gathered at the temple on that day of Pentecost, there were those who participated in the mob of crucifying Jesus Christ. And so they had blood on their hands.

Think of this: Is there any sin that could be worse than participating in killing Christ? Let’s think of this a little bit further. Did Jesus die for the sins of all mankind? *Yes!* So what does this mean? *Since ‘all have sinned and come short of the glory of God’—what does this mean?* This means even though we were never anywhere near, and even in that time period to participate in killing Christ, *we still have done so because of our sins.*

Acts 2:36—this is the beginning of the preaching of the Gospel to the world: “Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance that God has made this *same* Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” So if He died for the sins of the whole world, that means since ‘all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,’ all have participated indirectly, but nevertheless, *spiritually directly* in crucifying Christ. So then here is the change and here is the moment. Here is the moment of awareness that we all have to come to. And of course, as we grow in grace and knowledge, the more that we will see the depths of our own human nature and the more that we will be repenting.

Verse 37: “Now after hearing *this*, they were cut to the heart; and they said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (vs 37-38). That is the missing ingredient that all human beings need to be complete. *We’re never complete unless we have the Holy Spirit of God!* Here, it shows how it comes.

We’re going to see also how then it works, and what is it that God is doing, how is He doing these things, and how do we yield to God and cooperate with God and work with the Spirit of God and let the washing of the water by the Word cleanse our hearts and our minds and our emotions.

Let’s come back where we started last week. Ephesians 5:25: “Husbands, love your own wives, in

the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; so that He might sanctify it..." (vs 25-26). Make it Holy. So the whole process of conversion is coming from the heart that is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked

- to one that loved God
- to one that loves other people
- to one that obeys God
- to one that has Christ as their Head.

"...might sanctify it... [be changed from carnal to spiritual] ...having cleansed *it* with the washing of water by *the Word*" (v 26). It's the whole Church. This applies to everyone. This is how God, with His Spirit, works with us, and works with us through prayer.

Everything that we are and everything that we think and every experience that we have gone through is registered in our minds. Some people say, 'Well, how can I forget?' Well, we'll discuss that, but the thing that causes people problems is this: *When they mentally and emotionally relive those bad experiences* and what they have done. Relive the sins. Or some problem or thought comes to the mind and you can't get rid of it. That's when you go to God in prayer and get on your knees and ask God, 'Please, cleanse my mind with *the washing of the water by the Word.*' That's God's Spirit. God wants to give us *His love, His Truth, written in our hearts and in our minds.* That's all part of the *washing of the water by the Word* to sanctify us and cleanse us.

Now here's what He wants. "That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be holy and without blame" (v 27). Now that's how we want to stand before God. What happens when you repent? What happens when you go to God and say, 'Oh, God, forgive me my sins.' Sometimes people say, 'Oh, I don't know if God can forgive my sins.'

Let's come to Matthew 12, and let's see something that Jesus said concerning sins and forgiveness. A lot of people worry, 'Have I committed the unpardonable sin?' The answer to that is this: *If you have committed the unpardonable sin you wouldn't worry about it, because you wouldn't care.* Can God forgive your sins? *Yes, if you repent from the heart!*

Matthew 12:31: "Because of this, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men except the blasphemy against the *Holy Spirit*; *that* shall not be forgiven to men.... [We have a whole section there in the series on Hebrews about the unpardonable sin.] ...And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age nor in

the coming *age*" (vs 31-32). So, yes, *God can forgive your sins.* Look at what the Apostle Paul was doing. Now there's a good example—correct? He was taking those Christians, arresting them, putting them in chains, even agreeing to the martyring of some of them, such as Stephen as we have in Acts 7, agreeing with it, yet God called him and he repented and those sins were forgiven. *So, yes, our sins can be forgiven!*

Let's come here to Psalm 86, because someone is going to say, 'I don't know how to pray.' The way you pray is get on your knees and go to God and talk to Him. He will hear you. He will answer you. Psa. 86 is a great Psalm so that we can understand something very important in how God deals with us when we repent, and how God looks upon us, and how willing that God is to help us. If you don't think that God can help you, then you're *accusing* God, contrary to His Word, that

1. He doesn't love you
2. He doesn't care for you
3. He won't give you the spirit of repentance

Notice how David prayed, Psalm 86:1: "Bow down Your ear, O LORD, answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my soul, for I am holy; O You my God, save Your servant who trusts in You.... [notice the faith, notice the humility; all of this is part of it] ...Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I cry unto You all day long.... [So if you have some problem that has really got a hold of you, then you need to keep at it in prayer all day long" (vs 1-3). That doesn't mean you have to be on your knees, but that means that you keep praying to God to help you to overcome it.

Verse 5: "**For You, LORD, are good and ready to forgive...**" God is waiting for repentance. He is ready to forgive, and He will cancel out those sins and we will see how He does it. When you go back and you in your mind relive these things, because they're there somewhere in your mind, then you have to go to God and say, 'God, by the washing of the water by the Word, cleanse my mind and help me to forget.'

Now the one thing you remember is the lesson. But don't go back with guilt. A lot of people have guilt. They do something or they think of their children, or they think of their relatives or their husbands or their wives and then they get a 'guilt complex' and they worry and they can't sleep. As I talked to a woman the other day. She just somehow all of a sudden just had a lot of guilt. I was explaining to her about the two sermons that she was going to hear about *The Washing of the Water by the Word.* Don't let guilt control you. Do not let emotions *control you.* That's why we said you have to 'bring every thought into captivity to Christ.'

God is, v 5: "...good and ready to forgive, and rich in mercy to all those who call upon You.... [David did, and here's how he did it]: ...Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble... [or a time of difficulty, or a stressful situation, or a flood of thoughts coming into your mind that you don't want.] ...In the day of my trouble... [whatever your trouble is] ...I will call upon You, for You will answer me" (vs 5-7). Now that's a promise.

Sometimes you need something to help build your faith while you're praying. How do you do that? *You say, 'Oh, God, You are true, You are Holy, You are the one Who answers prayer. You are the one Who loves me, You're the one Who care for me, help me to really understand and help me to yield myself to You. Cleanse my mind, cleanse my heart.'*

I remember a man who was converted for 30 years and all of a sudden he started swearing in his mind, and he just couldn't get it out. It was really just driving him to despair. So I told him, 'What you need to do is,' just what I said, 'go to God. He's ready to forgive. That's part of your mind that needs to be cleansed, washed away, re-programmed with the Holy Spirit of God. Re-programmed with the Word of God written in your heart and written in your mind and that will change your thoughts.' Well, he did that, took him about three weeks total. And he said, 'Yup, that worked.' But can you imagine, converted 30 years and then all of a sudden going back in his mind cursing and swearing. You talk about a loop—'I thought I was converted.'

Verse 10: "For You are great and do wonderful things; You alone are God.... [The key is *we are to be learning all our lives*]: ...**Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your Truth...** [walking in the way of the Lord] ...unite my heart to fear Your name" (vs 10-11). You could say: Unite my heart to

- love You
- have faith in You
- believe in You
- hope in You

—especially in times of difficulty.

"I will praise You, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forever, For great is Your mercy toward me... [I guess, David really needed that—didn't he?] ...and You have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave" (vs 12-13). The 'wages of sin is death' and He has delivered us from that death.

Let's see how this takes place; let's come to Psalm 103. Here we have some more promises from God. Never forget that. If you get really discouraged and you get down and you're having trouble and

you're fighting things in your mind, and troubles are at work, and troubles are at home, and troubles are with other people that you know, you just go someplace, get on your knees, open up the Bible to Ps. 103 and read it and *make it part of you*.

What the Psalms do: *They teach us how to pray*. That's why sometimes, if you're going along and you know you need to pray and you think, 'Well, I don't know what to pray about.' There are lots to pray about all the time; there are never any shortages of things to pray about. But what you do is you get the Bible, you open it up, you get on your knees, you go like to Ps. 86 we just covered, you come here to Ps. 103, and let's see what this Psalm teaches us.

Psalm 103:1: "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name." Now this ties right in with what we are to do—right? How are we to love God? *With all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and all our strength!* And "...all that is within me..." That's just another way of saying the same thing.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (v 2)—all of His blessings, because there are many. Now, don't equate all blessings in the area of physical things, because the greatest blessing is

- repentance
- forgiveness
- the Holy Spirit
- growing in grace and knowledge
- understanding the Word of God

Those are great blessings and benefits—correct? *Yes, indeed!* Even if you had all the gold in the world, *it's not to be compared to a Bible*. Gold cannot give you eternal life. Gold cannot instruct you in anything. It just sits there and you look at it, and you're mesmerized by how it shines and sparkles and everything. It can't do a single thing! So the question then is: What do you do with it? Well, since we all don't have a big pile of gold, let's ask the question, what do we do with our lives? *That's what it is, because our lives are worth more than that gold.*

This ties in right with Matt. 12 that we read earlier, v 3: "Who forgives **all** your iniquities... [ALL, not some, but *all*. That's why there's the *washing of the water by the Word* to get rid of all the things that need to be gotten rid of.] ...Who heals all your diseases."

Here's something that's interesting. This shows that there must be forgiveness of sin *before* there is healing. And they have found this. People that hold things in their minds: anger, resentment, bitterness, hatred, and all of these things, are the

ones who end up with some very serious diseases in their lives, because all of those toxic thoughts—that’s what they are—cause our brain to emit toxic hormones into our system. So it’s just like polluting your whole system. Because ‘as a man thinks in his heart, so he is.’ If you’re thinking good thoughts and have God’s Spirit, then you won’t have toxic thoughts. You’ll have *the washing of the water by the Word*. So if we could liken it this way: all sin and wrong thoughts cause uncleanness internally. That’s why it’s said of God that He is a heart knowing God who cleanses the heart.

Verse 4: “Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your desires with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (vs 4-5). So that’s something!

Just think about it now. You’re on your knees, you’re praying to God, you’re thinking of these things, and what comes into your mind? You start thinking of everything that God has done for you—correct? You start thinking about all the good things that He has done. And then you compare that with the difficulties and troubles you’re going through.

- Can He help you with that? *Of course, He can!*
- Can you overcome it? *Yes, you can!*
- Can you learn a lesson from it? *Yes, you can!*
- Should you remember it emotionally with a guilt complex? *No, you should not!*

That takes away from the forgiveness that God has given.

Verse 8: “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy. He will not always chasten, nor will He keep His anger forever.... [There are times that we do things, God is angry at us, yes. God is angry at us. We need to repent of those things. He will turn His anger away.] ...He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him.... [And here is what God does with your sins]: ...As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (vs 8-12). *Gone!*

If you’re on the earth, you keep going around the earth, going to the west, you’ll never come to the east. And if you’re on the earth, you’re going from east to west, you’ll never come to the west. *It’s been removed from you!* Sometimes people feel, ‘Well, God doesn’t understand me. He doesn’t understand what I’ve gone through.’ **Really?** Sometimes we think our problems are so great that even God can’t understand them.

Verse 13: “As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust” (vs 13-14). Yes, and we get old and we pass away, and so forth.

Verse 17: “But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting... [That’s further away than from the east is from the west—right?] ...everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him... [Of course, that is the fear where you love God.] ...and His righteousness is unto children’s children, To those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember His precepts to do them” (vs 17-18). So that’s quite a thing—isn’t it?

This is how then, ***through the washing of the water by the Word***—it takes the Word of God. It takes the Spirit of God and it takes our repentance and yielding to God in order for this to be accomplished in our lives.

(go to the next track)

What if you have a problem that is so overwhelming? What do you do when you have a problem that is so overwhelming you kind of feel like you’re down in a well? Like you say, ‘Hello’—and your voice comes back to you. Well, David felt this way. Regardless of how low you are, regardless of how you feel

- God will hear you
- God will help you
- God will answer for you

Always remember that. Never get so discouraged that you think, ‘God doesn’t love me, God doesn’t want me.’ Regardless of your trials and difficulties.

David felt that way, he says, Psalm 130:1: “Out of the depths I have cried unto You, O LORD.... [he was feeling really overwhelmed] ...LORD, hearken unto my voice, and let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who shall stand?.... [Of course, no one would.] ...But there is forgiveness with You...” (vs 1-4).

Remember, He is ready to forgive. And forgiveness is the first step and then being able to have *the washing of the water by the Word*, the Holy Spirit, in your mind, to help you to change the way that you’re thinking.

“...But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope” (v 5). Now you see, how that ties together—***washing of the water by the Word***.

Let’s see again how this is likened unto cleansing, because Christ wants to present the Church Holy and unblameable for Him. John starts

out and he shows that the whole focus of this is to keep your mind on God the Father and Jesus Christ. And that with the Spirit of God and doing so and going through the things that we have covered here, that you have a fellowship or relationship with God. The relationship with God is always maintained by

- prayer
- love
- obedience
- yielding to God
- repenting when you sin

That's how it's maintained.

1-John 1:6: "If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness... [the way of the world, the way of Satan, and so forth] ...we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth." Here is the way that human beings deceive themselves. Remember where we started. 'The heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things.' And so we lie to ourselves to try and make ourselves think that it's not as bad as it may appear.

"...we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth" (v 6). So in practicing the Truth, what is the Truth?

- *Your Word* is the Truth
- *Your commandments* are the Truth
- *Your precepts* are the Truth
- *Your way* is the Truth from everlasting

When we come to repentance, when we change, when we are going the way that we need to go, now then, we come into a different situation and relationship with God.

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the light, as He is the light... [And He's the light of the world. The Word is light, the commandments are a lamp to my feet, etc.] ...*then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from **all sin**."

These things can be forgiven and this is how then we change and grow and overcome. We're to be cleansed from the inside out, not the outside in. You know what Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees. He said, 'Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! All you cleanse the pots and pans and wash yourself outside, but within you're full of dead men's bones and all kinds of uncleanness.' And He said, 'Cleanse the *inside first* and all things will be well for you.' So this is what he's talking about, cleansing inside, because all sin begins in the mind. All sin then leads us in the way that we don't want to go, so that's why we repent of it.

"If we say that we do not have sin..." (v 8). That's what people say today. Some of the greatest

ones around say, 'Appeal to your better self.' Well, there is a better self, but your better self cannot bring you eternal life—because it's what? *Still you!* What you need is God and His Spirit. Now can you change your circumstances somewhat if you appeal to your better self to do better? *Of course you can!* Will that change the heart? Will that wash away all of the problems of the past? *No, it won't!*

"If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.... [Notice how that is very close to v 6.] ...If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (vs 8-9). So that's where we always come back to. Doesn't that tie right in with the Old Testament that we read that He is ready to forgive? That He forgives our sins and heals our diseases and removes them as far as the east is from the west? The Bible agrees Old Testament and New Testament together.

"...and to cleanse us..." (v 9). That's what it said back there in Eph. 5, *to cleanse us with the washing of the water by the Word*. So, this is why when there is repentance and forgiveness, then what do you do? *You replace the way that you have been thinking with the right way to think from the Bible!* "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (v 10).

Part of the New Age religion is this: There's no right, there's no wrong, there's no sin. You are the truth, the truth is in you, and all you have to do is discover the truth in you and you'll be just fine. Now that's just a sanitized version of the Hindu philosophy that you are god within. So if you discover yourself, you'll discover God. And as Deepak Chopra has said, 'You look in the mirror and you're god.'

I remember the first time I saw one of his books, it was entitled *How to Know God*. I was on the plane flying up to Seattle and so here's a woman reading that. I just couldn't resist it. Sometimes you just can't resist it! I glanced over and I was reading part of it, and so forth, and she was going along. After she put the book down, while the plane was landing, I said, 'I notice you're reading this book, *How to Know God*.' I said, 'I can guarantee you one thing, this man does not know God.'

How do we know God? *With His Spirit!* But notice what it says, 1-John 2:3: "And by this *standard* we know that we know Him... [What is that standard?] ...if we keep His commandments." There you go. Some people keep some of them. Some people keep more of them than others. Some people don't keep any of them. But if you're Christ's then you know by this standard you know Him. Everyone who says, 'I know the Lord' and is going to church on Sunday, doesn't know Him

because that's not the Lord's day. Now they may know *a* lord, but that is not the Lord of the Bible.

John doesn't mince any words, v 4: "The one who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him." Well, now that's not being very nice to call someone a liar to his face. Remember what we've gone through here recently, 'We all must have civility in our political conversation.' Yes, we're going to make all of those who are conservatives be kind and gentle. And all of those who are not conservatives and who are liberals on the other side, we'll continue bashing you and attacking you because we're right. 'We're better than you are, we know more than you are and you're just nothing but a bunch of hay-seed hicks over here who know nothing.' *Not what it says!*

"The one who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him" (v 4). That's how you judge everything, as you would say in the world, 'religious.' Is there another power in the world? *Yes, there is!* Another god in the world? *Yes, there is!* He's called Satan the devil and he comes as an 'angel of light.' Notice the obligation and notice how this ties right in with what Paul wrote about the washing of the water by the Word that He might sanctify us so that we would be holy and blameless.

Notice v 5: "On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word... [Now that's a very interesting statement because *Word* here in this case could also mean His whole message, everything that Jesus has taught.] ...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected..." And that agrees with Eph.5:25, *the washing of the water by the Word*. Perfection comes bit-by-bit, day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month, year-by-year.

I think the older you get, the more you realize how weak you are and how you're depended upon God for

- everything physical
- every breath of air
- every drop of water
- every morsel of food, etc.

How then when you look and analyze your life, especially if you're sick, when you're sick, you've been down, and you're feeling really miserable. Yes, you know you need God—right?

"...truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him" (v 5).

- We understand it.
- We know Christ.
- We know God the Father.

How?

- through our relationship with Him
 - through the Holy Spirit
 - through the commandments of God
 - through the Word of God
- and all of those things combined.

Now here's the challenge to those who make religious claims, v 6: "Anyone who claims to dwell in Him..." Now notice what he is bound to do.

- Anyone says, 'Well, I'm a Christian.' *Okay, fine!*
- Anyone says, 'I love the Lord.' *Okay, fine!*
- Anyone says, 'I love God.' *Okay, fine!*

What is the requirement? *Anybody can say it!* "Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself... [You put your foot in your mouth and now you gotta eat it.] ...obligating himself also to walk... [a way of life] ...even as He Himself walked" (v 6).

In other words, Christ is the goal. Christ is the model. That's the one that we are to shoot for. Now let's see how this is accomplished.

- How does God affect this?
- What is called *conversion*?

He affects it through His Spirit, *through the washing of the water by the Word*.

- What does it do for us?
- How are we to respond?
- What does this do for our lives?

Colossians 1:9: "For this cause we also, from the that we heard *of it*... [that they were believing in Christ] ...do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." How do we be filled with knowledge of His will? *By studying His Word in all wisdom!* It gives us wisdom and spiritual understanding. We see things as they actually are, because the deceitfulness of our human nature has been overwhelmed with the Spirit of God. It is still there as long as we're in the flesh. It's still there, but it's not guiding and directing and controlling us and gripping us.

"...be filled with the knowledge of His will... [that's why we study the Word of God] ...in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That you may walk worthily... [Notice how that ties in with 1-John 2. We're to walk as He walked.] ...that you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God" (vs 9-10). That's the most important thing. We can have a lot of knowledge concerning a lot of other things. Those who design buildings, make rockets that go clear out into the universe, they've got a lot of knowledge. We're

sending things out there into God's realm—aren't they? But do they have the knowledge of God? *Most of them believe in evolution.*

Here is how this is to be with *the washing of the water by the Word*, v 11: "Being strengthened with all power... [And that is through His Spirit.] ...according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy." In other words, there is nothing in this life that we have to face that we cannot face with

- the Spirit of God
- the Word of God
- the Truth of God
- and loving Him
- and loving each other

—that we cannot face, that we cannot overcome. That's all a part of conversion.

Verse 12: "Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light." Remember the end result of this is eternal life. It's not just to make you a better person. It's not just to cleanse your mind from sin. ***It's to cleanse your mind from sin to develop and have the mind of Christ***—to walk in His way, to think as He thinks, to do things as He does.

This is what calling of God is all about. Because we know that Satan the devil is the 'prince of the power of the air.' Notice where we are when we receive the Spirit of God, v 13: "Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness... [That's Satan the devil. The Greek there is *rescued*. The Greek there *personally* is very interesting, because that is what is called a middle-voice verb. We don't quite have the same kind of thing in English, but that means that *you are the subject and you are also the object*. That is personally rescued us Himself for Himself.] ...form the power of darkness and has transferred *us* unto the Kingdom of the Son of His love." In other words, *Christ in us*, the mind of Christ in us—that's the hope of glory.

Verse 14: "In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins." What we're talking about is something that the world does not know. Now the world is out there trying to solve its problems, trying to understand good from evil, right from wrong. They have some things right, they have some things that are not right, but they don't understand the power of it that comes from Satan the devil and they don't understand what is necessary for there to be the conversion and the changing of our minds *through the washing of the water by the Word*.

Verse 26: "*Even* the mystery..." That means secret. So if you ran a survey; you're from New York and say you go down to Times Square and say:

- Can you tell me the purpose in life?
- Can you tell me what God is doing?
- Can you tell me how that affects you?
- Have you ever had an understanding of God?
- What do you believe concerning God?
- Have you ever read the Bible?
- Have you ever thought that the Bible contains in it everything you need for salvation?

I doubt if you'd get one right answer. Most people say, 'Ah, man, don't bother me.'

"*Even* the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations... [It wasn't made known until Christ came, in its fullness, except to the few that God called in the Old Testament.] ...but has now been revealed to His saints. To whom God did will... [It's *God's will* that you know.] ...to make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery... [*Salvation!* You become a spirit immortal being, a son or daughter of God, to live forever. That's God's plan. Most people think it's a soul that wafts off to heaven. *No, it isn't!*] ...what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (vs 26-27). The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, in our minds and hearts

- to *lead* us
- to *guide* us
- to *convert* us

—*by the washing of the water by the Word.*

Verse 28: "Whom we preach, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, so that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." That's what God wants. We come from being sinful and imperfect to being righteous and perfect and that perfection then takes place at the resurrection.

Now as I've done many times, I said, 'Okay, take a pen and just put a mark on a piece of paper.' That's what you were, that's the size you were when you were conceived. Now here we are all grown up. We look at that and think, 'Oh, my, look at that.' {We've got online with Church at Home, *Why Were You Born?: From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God*. We have the first five up there now. }

Today, because of the pictures from space, we can say, 'All right, let's go out and look at the world from up in space.' You can't see any human beings there. We're all still full grown a speck of dust. And just like the speck of dust that we were when we were conceived and now we're full grown, in a comparable sense that's going to be the difference between what we are now and what we will be at the resurrection.

This is why God wants us to be perfected. "...make known what *is* the riches of the glory of

this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (v 27). Let’s look at some other Scriptures here to show how we accomplish this. It’s to make everyone perfect in Christ. And the whole reason we have Sabbath services and Holy Days and study the Bible is for this right here:

Ephesians 4:12: “For the perfecting of the saints... [That’s accomplished by *the washing of the water by the Word.*] ...for *the* work of *the* ministry, for *the* edifying of the body of Christ; Until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto *the* measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ” (vs 12-13). Now, you talk about a goal for life—isn’t that something? *That’s really something!* That’s what God wants us to be.

Then he says, while we’re still here living on the earth, v 14: “So that we no longer be children, tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness... [Because all of these different ones out there, they know Jesus, they know Christ, they have this way, they have that way, and ‘here’s how we can help you,’ and all of that sort of thing, but unless it’s according to the Word of God, there may be some good things in it, but it’s not going to amount to anything spiritually forever.] ...in *cunning* craftiness, with a view to the systematizing of the error.”

When Paul wrote this, there were false apostles and false prophets out there bringing another version of Jesus, bringing other ways, so called—which there’s only way and that’s Christ—of salvation. Now we look and we look at organized Christianity, have they systematized the error? *Yes!* How have they done that? *By tradition!* So much so that they have the audacity to say that we don’t need the Bible any longer, when God says it is the Word of God.

But here’s what we are to do, v 15: “But holding the Truth in love... [There it is again, the love of God, the perfection of God.] ...may in all things grow up into Him Who is the head, *even* Christ.” As God looks at the Church, He tells what He is doing. God is working a work among His people wherever they are. And remember Jesus said, ‘Wherever two or three are gathered, there I am in the midst of you.’ So it’s not about numbers. The first thing we need to learn about numbers is the lesson of Gideon. God said, ‘Gideon, raise up an army. I want you to go against the Midianites.’ So he sent the word out, 32,000 men came. God said, ‘That’s too many.’ And here they were all anxious to go. I’m sure they had their bows, their arrows, their spears, their swords, their bludgeoning things. Boy, you get hit with some of those.

You watch on the History Channel some of the wars that they had in ancient Rome. I know

Dolores and I were watching one where in one day 90,000 men were killed! Without an atomic bomb! Spears and swords—and I’ll tell you something: You get a sword going through the middle of you and that’s it. You get one coming across the back of your neck or the front of your throat, it’s over with. It was interesting to see how men would go out and do those things. I tell you, God is doing something better. God is doing something greater. So wherever the people of God are on the earth, we’re few indeed, because Jesus said we would be.

But here is the thing that’s important, v 16: “...fitly framed and compacted together by *that* which every joint supplies... [We won’t recognize what God is doing till the resurrection. When that happens, we’ll know. We’ll see the finished product, because we’ll all be there.] ...according to *its* inner working... [The inner working, that is of God’s Spirit.] ...in *the* measure of each individual part, is making the increase of the body unto *the* edifying of itself in love.”

Then it goes on and he says: Don’t do as the world. Don’t go out there and live like the world and act like the world and do like the world. No, he says, v 22: “That concerning your former conduct... [This is what it’s going to result in. Our conduct *will be changed* by the Spirit of God *through the washing of the water by the Word.*] ...concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man... [You keep working against the sin, against the lust, against those things that come against you.] ...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (vs 22-23).

And that’s what God is doing. That is the work that is being accomplished in you. Now God has given us free moral agency. What we need to do is always choose

- to love God
 - to serve Him
 - to build our relationship with Him, through
 - ✓ study
 - ✓ prayer
 - ✓ the way we live
- all of these things, all put together.
- that’s why we need *Sabbath services*
 - that’s why we need *the Word of God*
 - that’s why we need *each other*
 - that’s why we need *the love of God*

That’s what God is accomplishing now through the *washing of the water by the Word*, so that you can overcome everything that is there. ***Let the Word of God***

- *cleanse your heart*
- *cleanse your mind*
- *lead you and guide you in everything that you do*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 17:13, 9-10, 1, 5-8
- 2) Acts 2:36-38
- 3) Ephesians 5:25-27
- 4) Matthew 12:31-32
- 5) Psalm 86:1-3, 5-7, 10-13
- 6) Psalm 103:1-5, 8-14, 17-18
- 7) Psalm 130:1-5
- 8) 1-John 1:6-10
- 9) 1-John 2:3-6
- 10) Colossians 1:9-14, 26-28, 27
- 11) Ephesians 4:12-16, 22-23

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 22
- Acts 7

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

- *Hebrews*
- *Why Were You Born* (churchathome.com)

Washing of The Water by the Word III

Fred Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. Let's come to Ephesians 5 and let's see something very important. Let's see what all of this is to do and how that ***the washing of the water by the Word***. We saw how the water is a type of Holy Spirit, the Word is the Word of God, and how that ***by the washing of the water by the Word*** we're going to see is one of the most important things in our

- changing
- growing
- overcoming
- developing the mind of Christ
- and the character of God

So let's go to Ephesians 5; here is the whole of what God wants us to do, right here. What is the most pleasing to God is we love Him and serve Him and keep His commandments. What is the whole purpose of it? What is the whole purpose of conversion? Ephesians 5:1: "Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children."

That's quite a goal! That also ties in with Matthew 5:48: "Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect." So you look at this sinful body and as long as we're in the flesh and we have the *law of sin and death* in us, it's a sinful body. We're going to do things that aren't right. We'll have little bloopers, big bloopers, and some catastrophic bloopers, but we can recover from it.

Ephesians 5:2: "And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us... [then we go back and we think about what Christ did to give up being God, to become a human being, so that He could save His creation. That's quite a thing and that's what the Passover's all about. We're coming closer to the Passover, like was mentioned earlier. We're two months from the Passover.] ...and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor." Now then it warns:

- don't do certain things
- don't live like the world
- don't get involved in sexual promiscuity, etc.

Sometimes these sentences of Paul are so long, especially the first chapter. The first chapter in Greek is almost one sentence. Now he would flunk English classes, but it was perfect Greek.

Verse 22: "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord... [And that would solve an awful lot of problems, not all of them, but a

lot of them.] ...For the husband is *the* head of the wife, even as Christ *is the* Head of the Church; and He is *the* Savior of the body. For even as the Church is subject to Christ, in the same way also *let* wives be *subject* to their own husbands in everything" (vs 22-24). This is how we are all to be subject to Christ, the same thing. So everybody's under authority. God's not picking on women, everybody's under authority.

Verse 25: "Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it." So, there is the reciprocity, you see. Both are incomplete and both need to come together and both need to do what God wants them to do; likewise, as we respond back to Christ.

Verse 26: "So that He might sanctify it... [sanctify it means *to make it Holy*] ...having cleansed it... [that shows a process] ...**with the washing of water by the Word**" (v 26). And as we've been seeing, that's how then we get our minds converted and changed and actually spiritually reconstructed with the

- Word of God
- Truth of God
- Spirit of God

And how then today we're going to see one of the things we need to do, as I have mentioned but we'll see it a little bit more today, you need to have God erase the sins from your mind. You need to pray and ask God, 'God, ***with the washing of the water by the Word***, cleanse my mind. Help me to get rid of these thoughts. Help me to overcome ***through the washing of the water by the Word.***'

Verse 27: "That He might present it to Himself *as* the glorious Church..." That's what God wants. It's not a matter of overbearing. It's not a matter of authority in that particular sense, but it's a matter of all of this based on the love of God.

And this then, is how we come back to v 1, "Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children."

Verse 27...not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it might be Holy and without blame." That all involves

- prayer
- repentance
- changing
- changing our thinking
- letting the Word of God being put in our mind

Let's see what else God does. This becomes very interesting as we put it together here. Let's come to Jeremiah 11:20—this shows how God operates all the time: “But, O LORD of hosts Who judges righteously...”

- with mercy
- with judgment
- with love
- with understanding

“...Who tries the heart and the mind... [Now here Jeremiah was suffering so many things, and he was really going through it. You talk about one man against the world. That was Jeremiah.] ...let me see Your vengeance on them. For to You I have committed my cause” (v 20). Now that's something—isn't it? *Yes!*

Now let's see the same thing in Psalm 7. So all of this is an ongoing process as

- we change
- we grow
- we repent
- we overcome
- have our minds cleansed

God has the mind so it can forget. But as I mentioned we need to be like the Apostle Paul. *He remembered the lesson, but didn't relive the past.*

Psalm 7:1: “O LORD my God, in You have I taken refuge; save me from all who pursue me and deliver me.... [Quite a thing! David had a lot of different problems. These here was when he was being chased.] ...Lest he tear my soul like a lion, ripping it in pieces, and there is no one to deliver. O LORD my God, if I have done this... [whatever it was] ...if there is iniquity in my hands, If I have rewarded evil to the one who was at peace with me, or if I have plundered my enemy without cause—Then let the enemy pursue my soul and take it...” (vs 1-5). So, here he was bargaining with God. I don't know whether I would be willing to bargain with God quite that way, but David was a man after God's heart so he could do that. We all have enough to overcome.

Verse 5: “...yea, let him trample down my life upon the earth and lay my honor in the dust. Selah. Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; lift up Yourself against the rage of my enemies...” (vs 5-6). That's also something to remember: ***Let God fight your battles for you.*** Just let them be. Now there are certain things we need to do, but don't get in the middle of a battle. Turn them into God's hands. He'll take care of it. Because how many times you try and fight a situation and someone has done something and you get all involved in it and there's really nothing you can do about it—right? *Put them in God's hands!*

Verse 6: “...and awake for me at the judgment which You have commanded.... [v 8]: ...The LORD shall judge the people; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me. O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous, for the righteous God tries the hearts and reins” (vs 6, 8-9)—of both those who are seeking God and those who are not.

Now let's see how the Apostle Peter tells us how we are to cleanse; all of this is a cleansing:

- cleansing of the heart
 - cleansing of the mind
 - changing the way that we think
 - changing our whole approach
- and everything that we do.

1-Peter 1:14. Here again it tells us what our relationship with God is and what we need to be doing. “As obedient children, do not conform yourselves to the former lusts, as you did in *your* ignorance. But according as He Who has called you is Holy, you yourselves also be Holy in all *your* conduct.... [Now the only way that can be is by change of mind, ***by the washing of the water by the Word.***] ...For it is written, ‘You be Holy because I am Holy.... [Here is a series of tremendous promises that go with this.] ...And if you call upon the Father, Who judges... [righteously] ...according to each man's work without respect of persons, pass the time of your *life's* journey in *the fear of God*” (vs 14-17).

“Knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things, by silver or gold, from your futile way of living, inherited *by tradition* from *your* forefathers; But by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot... [We have—with the Word of God, God's Spirit—all the tools necessary to be perfected with the Spirit of God.] ...Who truly was foreknown before the foundation of *the* world, but was manifested in these last times for your sakes; *even for you* who through Him do believe in God, Who raised Him from *the* dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God” (vs 18-21). That's where we're continually looking, not to ourselves, not to our abilities, not to what we can do though we have put forth a maximum effort as we're led by the Holy Spirit of God.

“Having purified your lives by obedience to the Truth unto unfeigned brotherly love through *the* Spirit, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (v 22). So there's the whole formula right here expressed in a little different way by the Apostle Paul. So it's the cleansing of the heart, the sanctifying of us by ***the washing of the water by the Word.***

Let's look at some of the things of cleansing and purifying and how that is. First of all, let's see from Matthew 23, what God said to the Pharisees and the scribes. So it's not a matter of what of you do on the outside. It's not a matter of what the impression is that people can look at you and see. That's fine, but what God is interested in is

- what is in your heart
- what is in your mind
- how are you thinking

Here's what Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees—read all of Matt. 23, that's a pretty heavy chapter. It would be like going today to an assembly of rabbis or Catholic priests and pointing out all their sins in a very powerful way. He was not tactful.

Matthew 23:25: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!..." In doing the research for *Lord, What Should I Do?* and why churches are falling apart, the #1 thing was *hypocrisy*. Not a matter of a little fault, not a matter of something that was slightly misguided, but *hypocrisy*. They would say one thing and do another, same way in politics.

I came home the other day for lunch and Dolores said, 'Did you hear about this Republican that just resigned for adultery with a woman? He was just elected.' And I said, 'No.' Well, he was a hypocrite. He was married, pretended he wasn't, went online, worked out things to go with this woman. I guess John Boehner took him into the office and said, 'Resign!' You can't be hypocritical in your behavior.

Here's what the hypocrites do, v 25: "...For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but within you are full of extortion and excess." Sound like a lot of people we know? Someone sent me an article, Why is Bernie Madoff in prison? Then showed that what he did was nothing compared to what the Social Security dilemma is.

Verse 26: "Blind Pharisees!..." Remember what He said when He healed the man who was born blind and the Pharisees came and said when they understood He was speaking of them, they said, 'Are we blind?' And Jesus said, 'If you were blind, you would be without sin. But you say that we see, but you don't.' *Yes, indeed!*

"Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside... [That's with the *washing of the water by the Word* to cleanse *inside*.] ...cleanse the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside may also become clean.... [Notice He tells them again]: ...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful *on the* outside, but within are full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness. Likewise, you also outwardly appear to men *to be* righteous,

but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness'" (vs 26-28).

That's the way that human nature is. We need to be changed from within. What happens when you have a whole society that completely rejects the normal standards that God expects from the Ten Commandments? Well, we have the example of the Flood. Everyone's imagination was evil only from his youth up. Think what we're doing to some of the youth today. We're putting them on these computer games at what, age five? Some of them get so good that even their fathers can't compete against them.

But most of those computer games are what? *Very demonic!* What does it do to the mind? What does it do to the mind when you watch evil? When you think evil? When you practice evil? Your mind has to be cleansed and that's why we have *the washing of the water by the Word*.

Let's see how we get cleansed. Let's go to the book of Proverbs. As I've mentioned, the book of Proverbs is really a good study for getting things reoriented in your mind. Because it talks about right and wrong, good and evil and how you then can in your thinking be able to make judgments concerning things so that you're not getting yourself in trouble and you're not living contrary to the Word of God.

Here's part of the thing of the inward mind must be changed. Proverbs 26:24: "He who hates *and* disguises it with his lips stores up deceit within himself." You build deceit! Why? *When you do that with hatred*—and we'll talk about different things we need to overcome—you *justify yourself* that you are right and you are building up deceit within.

"When he makes his voice gracious, do not believe him... [it's talking of a con man right here] ...for seven hateful things *are* in his heart. *He whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be revealed before the congregation*" (vs 25-26). In other words, it will come out.

This is why there's repentance, there's confession, and there is the cleansing of the mind. Proverbs 28:12: "When the righteous triumph, *there is* great glory; but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves. He who covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* shall have mercy" (vs 12-13).

- How do you establish your thoughts?
- How do you 'bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ'?

As we're told we are to do!

- How do we let the *washing of the water by the Word* change us within and overcome these things?

What we need to do when we're reading this, we need to think about:

- the Holy Spirit
- the use of the Holy Spirit
- how we do this
- how our minds work
- what we need to do
- the things that still are problems in your life

Of course, we're always going to have problems as long as we're in the flesh, so none of us are without problems. Think about that and then pray about it. We're going to talk about some of the things that get people down and things that get stuck in their craw and things that they have a hard time letting go. So here's the basic approach we need to take.

Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man, but the answer of the tongue, are from the LORD." So He's given us the ability to do that. Here is the problem with the carnal deceitful mind. This is

- why we need the *Spirit of Truth* to lead us
- why we need the *Word of Truth* to guide us
- why we need *the cleansing by the washing of the water* by the Word

Verse 2: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes..." Everyone thinks he's right.

We have the 'Smokers Paradise' down below here where we meet. Every once in a while I see people going in. I see young healthy people going in/coming out, and if you would have walked up to them and said, 'Don't you know that this is going to kill you?' *Oh, well, I've been smoking three years and I don't have cancer.* Then you watch the old people go in and it's quite amazing. You can tell that they have been smoking for years, but they've gotta go in, they've gotta get their fix with the cigarettes. The difference between the youth going in and the older people going in, who have been smoking for years, is dramatic.

The youth, they look vibrant and young, no wrinkles, no grey hair. Now I didn't get my white hair from smoking; that just came upon me gradually for fifty years. But, even if they're slumped over, coughing, and you can tell that they're short of breath. I don't know if you've ever seen someone die from emphysema. It's a terrible, terrible thing! One day they were young, like the young ones going into the store, Smokers' Paradise, but now look at them. It's a terrible situation.

I remember going to visit someone in the hospital who had lung cancer and they had to put a tracheotomy here and they just couldn't quit smoking, just could not quit smoking. And so they would take the cigarette, stick it in the tracheotomy

and light it and smoke. That's the end of the 'smoker's paradise'; that's their paradise. I remember one time someone described to me what a smoker's lungs look like. The lungs are very delicate. Now they can repair, they can heal, if you catch it in time. But there are like little—I don't know how to describe it—but they clean the air, they take in oxygen, release carbon dioxide, and all of this is necessary for your health.

So if you don't smoke, you're going to be fine. You won't get any of the diseases that they get from smoking, but now you have something even worse: marijuana. And that THC not only goes into the lungs, it goes into the mind and it messes up the mind, sometimes permanently because it affects the synapse between the nerves where the electricity of your brain is supposed to cross from cell to cell, and they burn them up, sometimes permanently. Other times they can recover from it.

But 'every way of a man is clean in his own eyes.' You think you're right. You can use many examples. What about the kamikaze pilots? They were 'right' in doing what they were doing. What about those who commit murder? They always have an excuse as to why they did it. I remember watching a case of one man. He killed his wife and three children, planned the whole thing, disappeared; they couldn't find him. He changed his name. He was supposed to be a church-goer and all of this sort of thing. He killed them so they could go to heaven immediately. So he knew he was 'right.' So he had absolutely no remorse.

He moved from the east coast to Colorado and they finally caught him. What's this one that they have? *Most Wanted!* What they did, they were able from his picture to reconstruct his whole face and head what he would like at his age. They put that out on *The Most Wanted* and they got a lot of calls. One of them was right on. And here the man went out there, reestablished his life, going to church, married again. 'Every way of a man is clean **in his own eyes**, but the Lord weighs the spirit.'

This is the key: Are you having trouble overcoming? Having trouble getting rid of evil thoughts or bitterness or guilt or worry or resentment? Verse 3: "Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established." That is the key to *the washing of the water by the Word*. "Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established." So what you do is you take this verse when you're praying, you get on your knees and say, 'Oh, God, I need your help, please. Help me to establish my thoughts.' Commit your works to Him, your thoughts to Him. There it is right there.

Let's see how this works as described in the New Testament. We have our part to do. God has

His part to do. We have the effort that we have to put forth. God gives us of His Spirit and His Word and this is why you have heard it said, how many times—prayer and study—right? *Yes, indeed!* That’s how it works. As long as we’re in the flesh, we have things to overcome and this is what the Apostle Paul is talking about. And we have thoughts that need to be

- washed
- changed
- overcome
- replaced

When we do that, then our works will be established, committed to God, and then our thoughts will also be established.

2-Corinthians 10:3: “For although we walk in *the* flesh, we do not war according to *the* flesh.” In other words, it’s simple this way: You cannot overcome human nature with human nature. You may be able to make some adjustments where you don’t do quite as bad as you used to do, but you never can overcome human nature with human nature. It takes the Spirit of God.

Verse 4: “For the weapons of our warfare... [Because our warfare is what? *Against Satan the devil and against human nature—correct?*] ...*are* not carnal... [That is, they are not physical.] ...but mighty through God... [The strength comes from God.] ...to *the* overthrowing of strongholds.”

Some of the things in the mind are *strongholds* that really have to be overcome. I can’t imagine what it would be like for say someone who is a Catholic priest and gave the mass for how many years. He’d have a lot to overcome, but even that can be overcome. Look at what the Apostle Paul had to overcome.

“...mighty through God to *the* overthrowing of strongholds.... [the strongest hold that is on us is our carnal mind] ...Casting down *vain* imaginations... [It’s all in the mind—is it not? And how many battles and difficulties do we go through in our minds that are what? *Imaginations!* Shadow boxing, mental boxing, thinking through different things: reliving them, laying awake at night, daydreaming, whatever.] ...and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God... [And that’s what happens. Sin is there to exalt itself against God.] ...and bringing into captivity... [Showing we must have the control. This doesn’t come easy. This comes through ***the washing of the water by the Word.***] ...and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ.... [Showing a life-long process. “And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience, whenever your obedience has been fulfilled” (vs 4-6). So there is the formula for the washing of the water by the Word.

Now, let’s look at some other Scriptures that we need to look at to see then how we can do it in a practical way. Here’s how we do it. Let me tell you one that Job said that he had that he did. When he was accused, ‘Well, Job, you’re not telling us the truth. You’re probably out there committing adultery, or something like that, looking at the beautiful women, something like that.’ And he said, ‘No, I don’t do that.’ He said, ‘I made a covenant with my eyes.’ In other words, he made a covenant with himself to turn away from doing evil. Now that’s what we have to do. What if it surprises you on the television? *You have a remote, hit the button!*

Proverbs 16:17: “The way of the upright *is* to turn away from evil... [Turn away from it. Where do you turn away from it first? *In the mind!*] ...he who keeps his way preserves his soul.” That’s a great proverb there.

Here’s how God works with us. Again showing the way that man’s heart is, Proverbs 21:2: “Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts. To do righteousness and justice *is* more pleasing to the LORD than sacrifice” (vs 2-3). So there it is!

Conversion, retaining the Holy Spirit, growing in grace and knowledge, are all the substance and the things of overcoming. Today we’ve got a lot of distractions going on. So we need to be able to know how to fight against that. This is a central key combined with the other Scriptures there:

- Proverbs 16:3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.”

Combine that with

- 2-Corinthians 10:5: “...bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ.”

Combine that with

- ***the washing of the water by the Word***

Combine that with

- having the commandments and laws written in our hearts and in our minds

And it actually changes our brains *physically*. They know that thinking builds the brain. And your brain still is growing, if you don’t have things like Alzheimer’s, it’s still growing and in use by actively using your brain until very, very old age.

They have this one ad. It shows this librarian. Remember the ad with the librarian. She’s in England and she’s a very fastidious gal and she rides her bicycle going to work. When she’s going down the street it shows her going down the street with some books in the basket on her bicycle and when she’s making a left-hand turn she puts her hand out; that shows she was very fastidious, really took care of herself. But as she got older and older

she improved even more and she was able to do things, even like hang gliding and tennis, and things like this. But the whole thrust of it is, is that if you keep your mind active and you keep doing, and you live right, your body and your mind are going to respond.

Proverbs 4:20: “My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart” (vs 20-21). And there you can put Heb.10:16, writing in our hearts and in our minds.

Now here is what it is. This works together with the Holy Spirit of God, which is called what? *The Spirit of Life! The Spirit of Truth!* “For they are life to those who find them, and health to all your flesh” (v 22). When you are upset, angry, worrying, bitter, resentful, and all of those things, it affects your health. They now know that they can actually measure how your brain puts out toxic hormones with evil thoughts. Quite a thing!

The book of Proverbs has been right all along, v 23: “Above all **guard the door of your mind...** [It could also be heart, but mind.] **...with diligence...**” That is the whole central thing

- with conversion
- with behavior
- with changing
- with growing
- with overcoming

—through *the washing of the water by the Word*. ...for out of it *are* the issues of life” (v 23). For us, that’s sure true with eternal life—isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*

“Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you. Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established” (vs 24-26).

So now we have with Proverbs 16:3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.” Here we have it here, watch where you’re going, ‘guard the door of your mind and all your ways will be established.’ And how are we to go? What did Jesus say? ‘*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*’ and ‘none come to the Father except through Me.’

(go to the next track)

Let’s also see some other things, what we need to do. This involves prayer. This involves yielding to God. Let’s come to 1-John 1:

- here’s what we do
- here’s how we do it
- here’s a promise

You have trouble—what was that movie, *Music Man*—‘There’s trouble in River City.’ At that time they had a terrible evil pool table down there. That shows you how times have changed.

Here’s the key: our fellowship with God is the key to all of this. That is the *spiritual power* that comes from God. 1-John 1:6: “If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth.” If you’re lying to yourself and every way is right in your eyes, *you’re deceiving yourself.* What does it say about the heart? *‘The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it.’*

Conversion is a miracle, because it’s taking you from that aspect of living to the way that the carnal mind is to having your mind perfected through the Spirit of God. And there are things that we need to do as we’re led of the Holy Spirit and through prayer and through study, all of it combined together.

It’s just like a perfect recipe for a perfect whatever you’re going to make. You’ve got to have all the ingredients in it. You how the brownie was first made? *They forgot to put in the baking powder!* And so rather than admit a mistake, they just said, ‘Well, this is a brownie,’ and put some frosting on it. Spiritually speaking we need all the parts of the Word of God and the Spirit of God put together. So here’s how we start.

Verse 7: “However, if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin.” So that’s how we have our hearts cleansed. *‘Purify your hearts, you double-minded.’*

And this is true repentance. This is through confession to God. Not the priest. Oh, by the way, I got an article. Boy, they’ve got a really slick thing now. Dolores told me about it. She saw it on the news and someone sent me a news article about it. Did you know that you can have your sins forgiven on your iPhone? *You can dial up your local padre; probably even see him!* You have two-way pictures. *‘Father, I confess my sins.’* ‘What are they, my son?’ *‘Well, I did this and did that and did the other.’* ‘Okay, you do twenty hail Mary’s and thirty Our Fathers and send in \$5.00 to the parish and your sins are forgiven.’ *‘Okay, thanks, Father, until next time.’* No, that’s not the way it’s going to be. You’re not going to connect with God on your iPhone. You connect with God on your knees and praying to Him! He hears you. And also another side that they have already discovered which is this: When people pray, a certain spot in their brain is activated.

Then we have the Holy Spirit with us, which convey all these things to God and helps clean out all of the riff-raff that we have in our mind that doesn't need to go to God. And actually conveys it to God directly in a language that the Holy Spirit converts our thoughts to, to go to God. So we've got all the help in the world.

So here's what we do: "...cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (vs 7-8).

- "If we proclaim we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in darkness, we are lying to ourselves..."(v 6)
- "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us" (v 8)
- "...and we are not practicing the Truth" (v 6).

See how the deception takes us away? Here is the thing, 9: "If we confess our sins... [And what did Jesus say? 'All sin shall be forgiven the sons of men except the sin of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.' All sin against the Son will be forgiven. All blasphemy against the Son will be forgiven. All sin will be forgiven if what?] ...**If we confess our own sins...** [to God! That doesn't come by an iPhone. That comes by 'knee power' and yielding to God.] ...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Cleansing with *the washing of the water by the Word*. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (v 10). I love John, because it's just like the Proverbs—right and wrong, good and evil. No middle ground here, just the truth. Proverbs there tells us what we need to do. This shows us how we do it.

Let's come to 2-Timothy 1 just to show us what God has given to us with His Spirit and how then we can bring every thought into captivity to Jesus Christ. 2-Timothy 1:7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear... [unto bondage again (Rom. 8).] ...but of power... [The power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Word of God, the power of the Truth, the strength to change.] ...but **of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness.**" So that we can, through the Spirit of God, control our minds.

Let's see what we have to do. Come to Ephesians 4 and let's look how we need to examine our lives, see what we need to change, and ask God to cleanse us with *the washing of the water by the Word*. *The washing of the water by the Word* does this for us, concerning our past behavior and how those thoughts and those ways can still come in and cause us problems.

Ephesians 4:22: "That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man... [That's something you do day-by-day, bit-by-bit.] ...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.... [It is a renewal, a changing that God does *within*. We're going to see, it's going to involve also forgiveness and forgetfulness. To ask God to forgive and to ask God to take the thoughts from us.] ...be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth" (vs 22-24).

So what God is doing with us, with *the washing of the water by the Word*: He is making us like Him; He is creating in us!

Eph. 4 tells us what *we are to do*. Ephesians 2:10 tells us *what God is doing*: "For we are His workmanship... [Anything that takes place to mold our minds and change our thought through the Spirit of God is the work of God. It's not what we can do, but only what God can do.] ...For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works... [Remember: 'Commit your works unto the Lord and your thoughts shall be established.' You having trouble bringing your thoughts into captivity? That's how to do it right here.] ...unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them."

Let's see how *we do it*. Ephesians 4:25: "Therefore, let each one put away lies... [Because the carnal mind is deceitful. And it's kind of an automatic response in order to protect the self. You lie before you even know what comes out of your mouth—right? *Even as little children*—right? *Yes!*] ...and speak the truth with his neighbor because we are members of one another" (v 25).

Now then here's a real trick, v 26: "When you become angry, do not sin.... [There are Scriptures in the Proverbs which say, 'Don't keep company with an angry man or a furious man or man who rages, lest you become like him.'] ...**do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger.**" This is important, because there are a lot, a lot of things we need to do.

What starts the day? *Sundown*—right? *Don't drag in the problems into a new day!* And don't let the sun go down on your wrath or your anger or any of these things, because it's going to affect a very important of your life, which is sleep. You know what that's like. I know what that is like. I've spent nights tossing and turning, thinking and worrying. Sooner or later you get worn out. And sometimes you get so wound up in it you can't get your mind to turn off. So that's why you have to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

I tried to make an acronym of things that we need to work on. It was a little difficult to do, but I'll tell you what I came up with. Now there are eight characteristics:

1. guilt
You have a guilt complex or your feel guilty because of something.
2. resentment
3. anger
4. bitterness

All of those things you can study in the Proverbs. Has a lot to do with how we think and react. So that makes the word G-R-A-B.

Guilt: Put all guilt feelings on Christ, because He died for you. If it's something you have no control over, don't feel guilty because you are not the one who has done it. You know, fathers and mothers get guilty because their children do things and it's the children who have done it, not them. So don't take guilt on yourself.

Resentment: comes when you don't get your way or resentment comes when someone does something to you and you let it bug you.

Anger: is easy to come by, everybody has it.

But all of these things what I'm talking about, don't let it control your mind. Because God has given us the Spirit of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness and we can bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Bitterness: Same way with bitterness.

Right here in Eph. 4 he talks about a couple of these things, v 27: "Neither give place to the devil.... [all of these things then can lead to where Satan can take advantage of you with one of his fiery missiles] ...Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working *at* what *is* good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who had need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth... [How's that for a challenge? *Yes!*] ...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption" (vs 27-30).

Now how do you *grieve* the Holy Spirit of God? *By not letting the Holy Spirit of God wash you with the washing of the water by the Word and not repenting, not going to God to control your mind!* So if you do all of these things, wouldn't it be nice to have all of these things lifted from you, whatever ones you have?

I remember talking to a person who was just overcome with emotion and grief, self-

condemnation, and bitterness, and anger. So in praying for her, I just asked God to cast out the spirit or the attitude of those things. Then I also instructed her very similar to do right here.

Verse 31: "Let all bitterness... [So we can put resentment and bitterness together here.] ...Let all bitterness... [we can put resentment and bitterness together] ...and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice." How? *By the washing of the water by the Word!* So you might want to write this down: G-R-A-B:

1. guilt
2. resentment
3. anger
4. bitterness

Now there are a few more things that are left that we need to get rid of, too. So I had to work hard on this next word for an acronym with this, and it is: pity—self-pity—hatred, envy, and worry. So the acronym for this is P-H-E-W:

5. pity
6. hatred
7. envy
8. worry

GRAB-PHEW. That's the best I can do. Everybody wants an acronym to remember it. So I'm sitting there, it took me about 35-40 minutes to come up with that. It was almost like a word puzzle.

So take any of these that you might see in here and they might come and go periodically with you. But *ask God to help you and cleanse your mind!* There are some people who are just angry at others and even the sight of them sends them into a fit! Well, if that does it to you, how's the Holy Spirit working in your life? *Take it to God ask God to help you!* You can overcome it. You can overcome it with no problem. You may have to work at it. You may have to continually pray about it until it's gone. But God will take care of it for you.

Now, let's look at something that's important for us to do here. Let's see how prayer is involved with this—*prayer and forgiveness*. Not only forgiveness to you from God the Father and Jesus Christ, but *your* forgiveness to others. Remember what did Jesus say concerning our enemies. He says, 'Love your enemies. Pray for them who despitely use you and persecute you.' You can pray for them. Maybe God would convert them. Wouldn't that be amazing? If not, you can do the prayer, as I mentioned before, of the rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*. 'Rabbi, what is a prayer for the tsar?' *May God keep him far away from us!*

This has to do with the cursing of the fig tree. When they came by in the morning, Mark

11:20: “And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from *the* roots. Then Peter remembered *and* said to Him, ‘Look, Master! The fig tree that You cursed has dried up.’ And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith *from* God.... [Now in the Greek it’s a little more specific. It is: Have the faith *of* God. Well, it can only come from God.] ...For truly I say to you, whoever shall say to this mountain, “Be taken away and be cast into the sea,” and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he said will take place, he shall have whatever he shall say” (v 20-23).

Now let me tell you something that is harder to move than a mountain—right there, that *carnal mind*. This is a greater challenge than moving a mountain. Now if we need a mountain moved, God will do it, but we need our minds converted more than moving mountains. Because just think how vain we would be if we moved mountains—moved that mountain, move this mountain, move the other mountain. No good!

Now here’s the point of what He’s making, v 24: “For this reason I say to you, all *the* things that you ask *when* you are praying, believe that you will receive *them*, and *they* shall be *given* to you.” We are not to pray to move mountains. We are to pray in faith the things that we need. And the thing we need is our minds cleansed with *the washing of the water by the Word*, God’s laws written in our hearts and in our minds, have our thoughts established according to the Word of God. Do not get carried away with GRAB-PHEW: with

- guilt
- resentment
- anger
- bitterness
- pity
- hatred
- envy
- worry

—ASK!

Then He tells us something else, which is important. This is essential concerning prayer and our relationship with God in carrying through with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

Verse 25: “But when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone... [Now that’s very inclusive—isn’t it?] ...anything against anyone, forgive...” (v 25). When that came up again later on, Peter asked Jesus, ‘If my brother sin against me, how often should I forgive him, seven times?’ Jesus said, ‘No, not until seven times, but to seven times seventy.’ 490! This is why you’ve heard me say many times, and always remember this, *as long as there is life, there is hope* regardless of what a person has gone through. As long as there is life,

there is hope. God can reach down if they’re willing to repent and call them. But the first step in all of that is coming to the absolute knowledge and conclusion and conviction and shame that your life has been a mess and only God can straighten it out.

Now concerning others—forgive! Now if Jesus can be on the cross and say, ‘Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do,’ were not those the enemies? *Yes!* Here’s the reason, 25: “...so that your Father Who *is* in heaven may forgive you your offenses....’ [We all want to have our sins forgiven. Now that’s the bargain that Jesus said.] ...For if you do not forgive... [And we can put in there, neither will your forget. *The lack of forgiving displays a remembering of.*] ...For if you do not forgive, neither will your Father Who *is* in heaven forgive you your offenses” (vs 25-26).

Matthew 18:35 says: “...if each *of* you does not forgive his brother’s offenses from the heart.” So that’s important. That comes with *the washing of the water by the Word*, too.

What if you have something that is very difficult for you to forgive and it’s very difficult for you to say, ‘Oh, Father, forgive this. It’s a terrible situation.’ Then you have to pray and ask God to help you to have the understanding of why you need to forgive. Then you need to take it one step further. You need to take it one step further.

Not only do you need to forgive, you need to forget. But—learn the lesson. Right after saying here in Philippians 2:5: “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus.” That’s the goal of *the washing of the water by the Word*.

Philippians 3:1: “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. Indeed, for me to write the same things to you is not troublesome, but for you *it* is safe. Beware of dogs... [That’s just like saying, ‘*Guard the door of your mind.*’] ...beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.... [That’s the circumcision party.] ...For we are the circumcision...” (vs 1-3). We have had our hearts circumcised through the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God. And our hearts and our minds are to be changed and converted. That is something that is an ongoing process all the time.

“For we are the circumcision, who serve God in *the* spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and do not trust in *the* flesh... [All of the things from GRAB-PHEW are trusting in the thoughts of the flesh, the carnal mind—right? *Yes!*] ...Though I might also have *reason* to trust in *the* flesh. If any other thinks he has *cause* to trust in *the* flesh, I *have* much more... [So he relates some of them. Then we will see how he considers those things.] ...Circumcised on *the* eighth day... [Right on time, by a rabbi.] ...of *the* race of Israel, from *the* tribe of

Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; with respect to law, a Pharisee; With respect to zeal, persecuting the church; with respect to righteousness that *is* in law, blameless” (vs 3-6). Commended by the high priest for his good diligent work.

“Yet the things that were gain to me... [Notice how he puts the perspective in this. You can tell by what he said here that he learned the lesson of every one of these things, but he wasn’t reliving them.] ...Yet the things that were gain to me, these things I have counted *as* loss for the sake of Christ” (v 7). That’s what baptism is all about. You die in that watery grave, commit yourself in the covenant relationship with God.

Verse 8: “...for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count *them* as dung... [That’s how he looked at them. The Greek word there is ‘skubalon.’] ...that I may gain Christ And may be found in Him... [This is the goal. This is how we need to look at things.] ...not having my own righteousness, which *is derived* from law, but that *righteousness* which *is by the* faith of Christ—the righteousness of God *that is based on faith*” (v 8-9). That He’s writing in our hearts and our minds, His laws and His commandments in the Spirit, so we obey in the Spirit.

“That I may know Him... [Notice what he’s reaching to. That way you’re not stuck in the trap of all of these carnal reactions. You’re continually reaching toward what God wants in everything.] ...That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (v 10). Now that’s quite a statement—isn’t it? He understood what that was when he was persecuting and causing the Christians to be killed at his command.

“If by any means I may attain unto the resurrection of the dead” (v 11). *That is the goal!* Our growth and overcoming between now and then is the important thing. Things in this world, we could use, they are fine, they are good. God wants us to have them and use them, but *not have that between us and God*. Always have your mind on the resurrection.

Like I said in one of the Church at Home (and Randy did a good job on this) that when you are at your worst when you first get up in the morning and you have your bad breath and your hair is all messed up and you look in the mirror and you see more wrinkles, and all of this sort of thing. I said, ‘**Remember, God loves you.**’ So what he did, he put a camera in his bathroom and he came up and showed kind of his distorted face looking into a mirror. **Remember, God loves you.** God is looking to

- your heart
- your spirit

- your mind

This body, though we wish it wasn’t the way it is, *is going to be changed!* For that day we can all say, ‘Hallelujah,’ and we will. We will be there to say it.

Notice his attitude and this is the attitude of always going forward and not getting stuck down with GRAB-PHEW. “Not as though I have already received, or have already been perfected; but I am striving...” (v 12). That’s what we do. ***The washing of the water by the Word:***

- growing
- praying
- study
- overcoming
- living

...but I am striving, so that I may also lay hold on that for which I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus” (v 12). Nice way of putting it—isn’t it? That reminds of the saying, ‘You grab them by the scruff of the collar,’ when you’re trying to catch a little kid who is doing something and you grab them. Christ laid a hold of us, so that we can become like Him.

Verse 13—this is important; the key thing. This is what we need to do. It was very interesting when I was watching a special on the mind. The place where our memory is has two functions:

1. to remember
2. to forget

We can’t possibly remember everything. Our minds couldn’t handle it. So it’s also designed to filter some things out and forget them. With God’s Spirit, with the washing of the water by the Word, we can forget them. If they keep coming back, then ask God to cleanse it. Keep going to God until it doesn’t come back, only in the form of remembering the lesson.

Verse 13: “Brethren, I do not count myself as having attained; but *this* one thing *I do*... [Now he’s listed all of his sins right here—didn’t he?—all the things he went through.] ...this one thing *I do*—forgetting the things that are behind...” Through the washing of the water by the Word you can forget the things that are behind. Those were all done.

Yesterday is gone and over with. So is last week, so is last month, so is last year, so is five years ago, ten years ago, twenty years ago. Or you go clear back into your childhood where you may have had some traumatic thing in your life that is still there in your mind and you need to pray and ask God—through ***the washing of the water by the Word***—to wipe that away. Why should you carry that with you all your life?

“...forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth to the things that are ahead... [It’s the same thing. Put out the sin, put in righteousness. ‘Bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ....Guard the door of your mind with all diligence.’] ...and reaching forth to the things that are ahead, **I press**... [Always working, always doing, always going ahead.] ...toward *the* goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (vs 13-14).

He always kept that in mind. Now if we do this in our prayers daily, just think how then God can cleanse us and help us and guide us. Fantastic thing. Now notice what he says. And you think, ‘Oh, well, the Apostle Paul can do that. He was an apostle. Little old me, man, you don’t know what my life has been.’ *Yes, God knows* what our lives have been from the instant we were conceived.

Verse 15: “So then, let as many as *be* perfect be of this mind... [Forgetting the things that are behind. Let *the washing of the water by the Word* change and convert.] ...And if *in* anything you are otherwise minded... [Now isn’t that a blessing? God will reveal even this to you. So even some of the thoughts of the past that need to be repented of and cleansed out, who’s revealing that to you? *God, through the Spirit!* So, those things can be cleansed away.] ...God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, in regard to that which we have attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind” (vs 15-16). So, there it is!

Then he talks about those who have left, and so forth, but come down here to v 20, because here’s the goal. So when you get up in the morning and look and see that you’ve lost a little more hair or it’s more grey or you have more wrinkles or it’s hard to open your eyes, and I tell you the routine that a lot of us go through in the morning to get up, to clear our throat, to blow our nose, clean out our eyes, clean our ears, and all of that sort of thing.

Remember: **God loves you!** God has called you. And when you look at see this old physical body shriveling up, remember Paul said, ‘*I have run the course, I have finished the race.* Now there’s a crown of glory laid up for me, a crown of righteousness and also for all those who love His appearing.’

Verse 20: “But for us, the commonwealth of *God*... [That’s interesting. That is ‘politeia’ in the Greek, meaning *politics*. You hate the politics of this world? You hate what the politicians are doing? *You’re going to replace them!* Isn’t that a great solution? *Yes!*] ...the commonwealth of *God* exists in the heavens... [Christ is going to bring it] ...from where also we are waiting for *the* Savior, *the* Lord Jesus Christ.... [Here’s what He’s going to do]: ...**Who will transform our vile bodies...**” (vs 20-

21). And our bodies indeed are vile! I mean, it’s amazing how much inside God conceals from having to be outside. Need I be descriptive? *No!* And you know how vile it is when you get really, really sick. Then all the vileness comes up and you feel miserable, and all of that

“Who will transform our vile bodies, **that they may be conformed to His glorious body**... [Now that’s a deal—isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*] ...according to the inner working of His own power, *whereby He is able* to subdue all things to Himself” (vs 21).

So that’s how you let *the washing of the water by the Word* be an active, daily, ongoing thing

- to convert you
- to change you
- to let God create His character within you

Learn the lessons of the past! Don’t dwell on them! ***Forgive! Forget! Go forward!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ephesians 5:1
- 2) Matthew 5:48
- 3) Ephesians 5:2, 22-27, 1, 27
- 4) Jeremiah 11:20
- 5) Psalm 7:1-6, 8-9
- 6) 1-Peter 1:14-22
- 7) Matthew 23:25-28
- 8) Proverbs 26:24-26
- 9) Proverbs 28:12-13
- 10) Proverbs 16:1-3
- 11) 2-Corinthians 10:3-6
- 12) Proverbs 16:17
- 13) Proverbs 21:2-3
- 14) Proverbs 16:3
- 15) 2 Corinthians 10:5
- 16) Proverbs 4:20-26
- 17) Proverbs 3:16
- 18) 1-John 1:6-8, 6, 8, 6, 9-10
- 19) 2-Timothy 1:7
- 20) Ephesians 4:22-24
- 21) Ephesians 2:10
- 22) Ephesians 4:25-31
- 23) Mark 11:20-26
- 24) Matthew 18:35
- 25) Philippians 2:5
- 26) Philippians 3:1-16, 20-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Hebrews 10:16
- Romans 8

Also referenced: Book: *Lord, What Should I Do?*

Washing of the Water by the Word IV

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. Today we're going to cover something that perhaps affects every single one of us in the room, regardless of our age, regardless of whether we're man or woman. And it has to do with how do you recover from traumatic events that are still lodged in your mind.

Let's come here to Luke 4, and let's see the purposes of the ministry of Jesus Christ. There are experiences that we all go through that may be very devastating and long-lasting. What do you do with those? Have you ever gone along and all of a sudden a bad memory comes back on you? Unfortunately, for people who have really been abused or hurt, it doesn't come back on you, it hardly ever goes away. And it can affect everything in your life, from

- the way you think
- to your health
- to how you view the world
- how you view other people

This is what Jesus was talking about here in Luke 4:16: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and according to His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day and stood up to read. And there was given Him *the* book of the prophet Isaiah; and when He had unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was written, '*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...*'" (vs 16-18).

What we are talking about is something that only be done with the Spirit of God. Not only the preaching, but what He's talking about which He talks about right afterwards.

"...for this reason, He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal those who are brokenhearted... [There is a brokenhearted or broken-spirited healing that has to take place with us.] ...to proclaim pardon to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind... [both physical and spiritual] ...to send forth in deliverance those who have been crushed" (v 18). Those who have been crushed are those who have suffered terrible traumatic things and also along with physical things. We're going to talk about some things here that are important for us to understand. This was given as a prophecy in Isaiah.

Let's go back to Isaiah 61, and let's see what else it says, because it goes on a little bit further. And I would have to say that it is my observation within the Churches of God that because too many human ways were used to control the Church that they ended up destroying people's lives. That can happen

- within a family
- within a church
- within groups of churches (congregation) in society
- in your work
- in your family
- between you and another friend at a young age or an older age

These experiences lodge in our brains. By the same mechanism we remember, they've also discovered that the brain can forget. We're going to talk about how we handle those emotional, spiritual, and mental things that are in our mind that we must deal with. We can't go along and say, 'Oh, I shouldn't think of that!' *No, it'll come back again on you.* It is true you shouldn't think about it, but the question is: **How do you get rid of it or erase it?**

So Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me because the LORD has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the broken hearted... [The heart is the seat of all your emotions and your mind is the memory.] ...to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."

Have you ever watched any of these specials on those who are in prison? You can see it on National Geographic and you can see it on CNBC. You can see it with prisoners all the way from misdemeanors to hard-hearted criminals. And the only thing you can say is, it's a pitiful situation. This world is in just terrible shape. People are in terrible, terrible shape. When we come out of the world, we have to have all of that taken care of in time within the church and with our conversion.

Verse 2: "To preach the acceptable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God... [That's yet to come.] ...to comfort all who mourn; To appoint to those who mourn in Zion, giving to them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness..." (vs 2-3).

What happens when you have a big problem? *You're weighted down emotionally*; you're heavy. You haven't gained any weight, but your mind feels like it weighs fifty pounds. "...so that they might be called trees of righteousness... [conversion] ...the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified" (v 3). So that's the whole purpose. This is the key that we need to look at.

All right, let's ask some questions. How did we get in some of these problems anyway? We can look back at our childhood and growing up and there

are many first-time experiences, including sexual encounters that you can probably still remember to this very day. The key on all of those things is this: ***you don't want the emotion to be carried forward with the memory.*** And you want to diminish the memory to a very little part of your mind. But here's how it starts out: How many kids want to go to Disneyland? 'Oh, yeah, let's go to Disneyland. Oh, yes, we're going to have fun there.' And the parents go, they're totally unaware they're being led into witchcraft. *Because it's fun!* Everybody's having a good time. But what does that set the stage for?

Matthew 24:10: "And then shall many be **led into sin...**" Want to focus on that phrase, because if you're never taught the Truth and you don't know what is right, it's easy to get led into sin. And it's easy to come to accept sin as something that you live with.

I can't help but think of those poor girls who have been kidnapped and kept in prison someplace for years and years and sexually abused. How can that kind of memory be mitigated? What do we do? How can we help them? And essentially, as what we're going to see, we can help to a certain point, but they have got to come to where they have to tackle the problem head on themselves regardless of their age. When they're younger, parents can help them do it. When they're older, especially if you're alone and neglected and abused and put aside, lots of times people just become sort of wasted human life going through the motions of living.

- no purpose
- no understanding
- no relief
- not knowing what to do

So people get *led into sin*. They get led into the sin of sex and of drugs, gangs. Of course, that's one of the first things that Proverbs talks about: don't get into gangs.

You get led into wrong religion. You get led into many different things—don't you? Then you also have things come along in a way of accidents. How many here have been in a traumatic accident? How many have suffered from violence? How about incest? How about rape? How about robbery? Today, in watching television, our emotions are calloused because we see these things as almost everyday occurrences on television—right? *Yes!* And our children play with digital games where killing just comes naturally, where snuffing out a life is a game. *So they lose the feeling, they lose the emotion toward other people.*

All of these things come along. Then you can talk about marriages; you can have good, bad and ugly marriages, abusive marriages; could be husband abuse or wife abuse. Then you have the

problems of divorce and remarriage; have the problems of war. How many here have been in shooting war? Those things you don't forget. Then it edges into other things. It edges into *demon influence*. Demon influence is not demon possession. We'll talk about that, too.

Let's understand something concerning all of these things. Let's first of all go to Psalm 103. Here's a Psalm we all need to be aware of; the first four verses are what we need to look to:

Psalm 103:1: "Bless the LORD, O my soul and all that is within me... [That's the beginning of changing these things, right there. As we're going to see, it is your personal relationship with God.] ...bless His Holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases" (vs 1-3).

That's very interesting, the way it is. He doesn't say who heals all your diseases *and* forgives your iniquities, because *you have to have your sins forgiven first*. We are going to see that what we have in our minds, with these things that emotionally bother us, may have been instituted by someone else rather than you. But nevertheless it is still sin. A lot of the things that are sin are things that we see. And what did Jesus say about lust and adultery? How about music? How about rock stars? How about athletics? All of those are things you see and you do. "...heals all your diseases."

Having *forgiveness of sin* first and then *being healed* comes second. So, if you want these things in your mind healed, then you need to repent of the sins that caused them, even though you may have been led away by someone else.

Verse 4: "Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies." Let's look at God's promise here in the New Testament, and we will find out that, yes, Jesus is there. You can confess your sins to Him, confess them to the Father, and *you will be forgiven*. Then we will see what you need to do.

Matthew 12:31: "Because of this, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men except the blasphemy against the *Holy Spirit*; *that* shall not be forgiven to men." That is rejecting the Spirit of God from the Father

- with malice
- with forethought
- with vindictiveness
- with hatefulness
- with no repentance

When someone is worried that they've committed the unpardonable sin, the very worry tells you, you haven't, because those who commit the unpardonable sin won't worry about it.

Verse 32: “And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man... [Whether in a religious setting or whether in swearing and cursing.] ...it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age nor in the coming *age*.”

The next verse tells us something very, very important. It shows there's part that God has to do. He's the One Who's going to forgive, but then we have the part we need to do. Because in forgiving sin for sickness, Jesus said what? ‘Go and sin no more.’

Verse 33: “Either make three good... [That means *we've got things in our lives to take care of.*] ...and the fruit good... [the fruit of the Holy Spirit] ...or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt... [there's no middle ground] ...for a tree is known by its fruit.” There are things we're going to have to do. Let's see there are things that come upon us that we may or may not have any responsibility for. It may have been the responsibility of the family.

Verse 43: “But when the unclean spirit has departed from a man... [Now a lot of these things are influenced by Satan the devil. We'll see that in just a minute. Some of it is by demon possession. Remember Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene.] ...it goes through dry places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house, from which I came out.’ And after coming, it finds *it* unoccupied, swept and set in order.... [That shows nothing was done to build and protect. Nothing was done to establish a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.] ...Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Likewise shall it also be with this wicked generation” (vs 43-45).

Isn't that what's happening in this world today? Look at how much more demonic and occult are the movies, the music, the sports. Look at all the basketball players, occult tattoos all over them and they know that they have this done so that spirit of this artwork will be with them to make them bigger, better, stronger, and faster, all into Satanism. I don't think we realize how much the young people and us as adults have been subjected to those kinds of influences. Here's something we also need to be aware of, to repent of, and also to avoid.

Let me just say something here that's very important to understand, especially viewed from children within the Church. You see your parents wanting to grow and change and overcome. Perhaps you may view it from the point of view, ‘Oh, they're getting so ‘religious.’ They're really not ‘hip’; with it.’ Let me tell you something. Do you think that there is ever a time that you can overdo your

relationship with God? *No!* But you can take the Word of God by the letter of the law and use it as a club against your family and children and God doesn't want that, because that's not based on love. The more that you love God with all your heart and mind and soul and being, the more that you'll be able to understand what I'm talking about and put these things out of your lives.

Now I remember dealing in a situation with a woman who was in the grips of the spirit of fear, spirit of torment. And in praying for her, I asked God to cast out the spirit of fear—and we'll see the source where that comes—the spirit of torment, the spirit of doubt, the spirit of resentment and hatred. All of that does not come from God. Here's where it comes from.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now you were dead in trespasses and sins, In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world... [Just part of the world. Let me tell you something, today there is a great division between the Truth of God and the way the world lives, more than ever before.] ...according to the prince of the power of the air... [That's Satan the devil and he can put thoughts into the minds of people. He can lead great athletes. He can lead great musicians, politicians, whatever it may be.] ...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience” (vs 1-2).

If you live a life wanting to go against God, you're a child of disobedience. Now remember, *all sins can be forgiven men*. These things can be forgiven, but if we're not aware of them and we don't act upon them and we don't repent of them, then those things can take us down, sometimes the rest of our lives. And we ought not let that happen.

Notice, Paul includes himself in this, v 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world*. But God, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made us alive together with Christ. (*For* you have been saved by grace.)” (vs 3-5).

This is where we need to come, brethren. Have you ever had a bundle of wire? Have you seen how some ranchers take bailing wire, they open the bales of hay and they take the wire and they wrap it and they wrap it. Pretty soon you get a big bundle of wire. Well, you take a strand of that out of there, then compare with the wire before it was put on the bale and then ask the question: Can you make this wire as straight as it originally was? The answer is—*not by human effort!* But if we likened that to our lives, yes, *by the Spirit of God*. Yes, *by repentance and serving God*.

Now some of these things, because of this, we have to use the spiritual tools of God. Let's see what Jesus said. Here's where the disciples could not cast the demon out of this young boy, and it was a pitiful case. So, the father came up to Jesus when He came down off the mountain to the crowd there. Mark 9: "Then one from the multitude said, 'Master, I brought my son who has a dumb spirit to You; for wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and gnashes his teeth, and is withering away....'" (vs 17-18).

You can have this, you can have trauma. There are some people who just are so traumatized they stare off into space, same kind of thing. You can have trauma that you don't want to talk to anybody else. You can feel so violated inside by what someone has done that you really don't want to be around anyone else the rest of your life. It can get that serious. Here, this poor boy, it came on him ever since he was a child.

"...And I spoke to Your disciples, in order that they might cast it out, but they did not have the power.' And He answered him, saying, 'O faithless generation!... [He was talking to His disciples.] ...How long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.' Then they brought him to Him. But when the spirit saw Him, it immediately threw him into convulsions; and he fell down on the ground and began rolling about and foaming at the mouth'" (vs 18-20).

What do you do in cases like that? Today, a lot of that can happen with drugs. Your kids can go out to have a good time and someone says, 'Oh, here, take this. This will make you feel real happy.' Can destroy their whole life. BANG! Just like that. That can happen with all kinds of drugs. That can happen even with smoking marijuana. Oh, you know the Republican presidential candidate from New Mexico, Johnson I think his name is, he wants to legalize marijuana. Well, he doesn't even know what he's talking about because you can have the un-hybrid type of marijuana can be overcome more easily in the system than the hybrid that they have with all the strong seeds that they smoke. And those seeds can get so strong, that a person can smoke those seeds the first time and they become psychotic, because it goes directly to the brain, affects the way that they think.

There are going to be people like that. How many people smoke marijuana here in California? Remember the smoke-in they had up in San Francisco when they were pushing to legalize marijuana, and guess who was financing that? Anybody know who was financing that? *George Soros!* Showed thousands of people out at the park, all smoking, and here's this huge cloud of marijuana smoke rising up out of it. God is going call some

people who have had experiences like that. What are we to do? *We are to help them!* We are to show them how they can get their lives in right order with God. There are also some health things they need to do. We can tell them those things as well. So we're talking about some difficult things, just like this here.

Verse 21: "And He asked his father, 'How long a time has this *demon* been with him?' And he said, 'From childhood.... [That could happen.] ...For it often throws him both into the fire and into the water, that it might destroy him. But if You have the power to do anything, have compassion on us and help us. And Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to the one who believes'.... [This is where a lot of us are today. We read these things and say, 'Yes, that's true.' We read this over here and we say, 'Yes, that is true.'] ...And the father of the little child cried out at once, saying with tears, '**Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief**'" (vs 21-24).

You can't do these things that are instigated by Satan, nor these traumatic things that affect your life, that many people continue to ruin and destroy their lives with the emotional feelings that they still have within them, because they are not able to overcome it by themselves. How do you overcome it? We'll see, part of the answer is here.

So then Jesus cast him out after the multitude came, and so forth. Jesus took him up. Everyone said he was dead, but he was fine. What I want to get to is here, v 28: "And when He came into a house, His disciples asked Him apart, 'Why were we not able to cast it out?' Then He said to them, 'This kind cannot be made to go out by anything **except prayer and fasting**'" (vs 28-29).

Those are the spiritual tools! God has used prayers that I have prayed to cast out demons. It doesn't make me anything. Every minister should be able to do that. But it also takes faith on our part and it takes the faith that we know that God has given us the authority over every sickness, over every disease, over every bodily weakness, and over the demons.

So some of these problems need to be approached from this point of view, right here. Those things need to be taken care of to cast them out and to relieve the mind from the fear, from the wrong thinking. Sometimes we get so mixed up in this world that our brains actually become 'mis-wired.' Wrong thinking will form the synapses of the brain in a different way; same way with music. Music can form your brain in a wrong way. That's why it takes away from morality. We need to understand that.

Let's look at some of the things that we need to do with this. It has to do with *changing the brain*

through the power of God's Spirit! Eph. 5 is talking about Christ, what He's doing to the Church. This is why, brethren, that our relationship with God is so important. That's why John wrote in the first chapter of the Epistle of John that 'our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ.' That's where everything comes from. That's the center of everything.

Christ is with us and in us and for us, with our children, and with those that He's working with to call. But here is the goal that He wants done.

- How is He going to heal the brokenhearted?
- How is He going to heal those who have been captive and all that they have gone through?

Ephesians 5:26: "So that He might sanctify it..." The Church, because He gave Himself for the Church.

Verse 25, says: "...Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; So that He might sanctify it..." [sanctify means *to make it Holy*, which means taking that which is unholy, convert it and make it Holy by this process]: ...having cleansed it... [We'll talk about cleansing. That comes with repentance.] ...having **cleansed it with the washing of water by the Word**" (vs 25-26).

Now the water is the Spirit of God. God is the source of ever-living water. God is the source of His Spirit. So this is the **washing of the water by the Word**. It takes

- prayer
- repentance
- the Word of God
- the Spirit of God

—*and then the action of the washing of the water by the Word*. Let's see how that works.

(go to the next track)

First thing you need to do is you need to repent for your sins and your part, because whatever the difficulty is, even though you were lead away, many times along the way you could have said 'no,' or could have turned back; some cases you cannot. But nevertheless, it's like they have in the world, you're an accomplice, so you're guilty to a certain degree.

So that's why you need to repent. Just like if Satan influences your life and you don't know it, be it through music, be it through friends, be it through your work, be it through movies, be it through television, whatever, you still have your part in it because you went along with it. Some cases you didn't know. Some cases a friend who is taking drugs says, 'Here try this, you'll have a good Friday

night. Boy, this will really make you feel good. Try it.' You choose to do it, so you have to repent of it.

So here is the prayer of repentance. This prayer was prayed by David after he had the whole affair with Bathsheba and killing her husband Uriah the Hittite. That was a gigantic sin, built up over a long period of time—wasn't it? *Yes!* Notice how he approached God with his repentance and notice what he asked for, and notice how closely that ties in with Eph. 5.

Psalm 51:1: "Have mercy upon me, O God... [We do need mercy, not judgment, not justice, we need mercy and release, just like Jesus said.] ...according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions." Confess them to God, name them, spell it out.

Verse 2: "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin... [Washing of the water by the Word. God wants the *inside* clean. That's what He told the Pharisees and the scribes, that 'you cleanse the outside, but God wants the inside clean. If the inside is clean, then everything outside is also clean.'] ...for I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me" (vs 2-3).

Think of that! You have something so traumatic in your life that it's right there in the forefront of your mind all the time. That's a tough one to get rid of. And we will see there is a second step that needs to take place with this. But this is the first step: You need forgiveness from God. And that forgiveness can only come through prayer and your personal prayers to God. God will hear, regardless of the circumstances that have taken place. If you truly repent to God,

- you want to get rid of this thing
- you want your life to change
- you want your mind to change
- you want your heart and your feelings and circumstances to change

—then you come to God 100%. Ask Him to cleanse you.

Verse 4, because here's the key: "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight... [All laws of right and wrong, good and evil, come from God. When we're dealing with these severe spiritual problems, it is a sin against God. Whether you have been lead away into it or whether you deliberately did it, you still have your part in it.] ...and done evil in Your sight, that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge."

Here's the thing that is something we all need to understand and he talks about human nature

that we're born with. And with the human nature that we're born with, we have the *law of sin and death* within us. That's another way of explaining human nature. But human nature needs to be converted and that's the whole process that we're talking about here through repentance.

He said: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (v 5). Here's what God wants. How do you overcome sin? Remember, what is the thing concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *You put away leaven before the Passover and the Feast*—right? That means you recognize the sin, but it's just like we read with the demon cast out and it's still cleansed and nothing is put in there, it's going to come back and it's going to be worse.

So, what you need to do is *replace*. You *repent* and you *replace with the washing of the water by the Word*, by God's Spirit. You replace in your mind the evil with His Word. That comes through prayer and study.

Because here's what God wants, v 6: "Behold, You desire Truth in the inward parts..." **Inside!** Everybody can see the outside. God sees the inside:

- He knows the mind!
- He knows the heart!
- He knows the thought!
- He knows everything!

Verse 6: "...and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom.... [That's what we need. We need the wisdom of God to change, to grow, to overcome.] ...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (vs 6-7). God can take away every single one of these things. I'm no different than anybody else. I've had to go to God and say, 'God, forgive me, cleanse my mind *with the washing of the water by the Word*.'

Now then we have to go to the second step when it involves other people. There's another step you need to take and this is the hardest one. It becomes important for us to realize how these things take place and why prayer is so important and the missing ingredient in most prayers.

Jesus cursed the fig tree and it dried up. When they came back the next day, Mark 11:21: "Then Peter remembered *and* said to Him, 'Look, Master! The fig tree that You cursed has dried up.'.... [This also can become part of our prayer. Remember where we read in Mark 9, 'I believe, but Lord help my unbelief.' Okay, here's part of it, right here.] ...And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith *from* God'" (vs 21-22). That's the closest we could get to—the Greek implies *faith of God* or *from* God. You can't have God's faith as God has

faith, but we can have faith *from* God. How big is your problem? How great is the difficulty? How burdensome is the mental drag?

Verse 23: "For truly I say to you, whoever shall say to this mountain, 'Be taken away and be cast into the sea,' and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he said will take place, he shall have whatever he shall say." Things lodged in our minds and emotional trauma, and lack of forgiveness for those who are perpetrators causes these things to stay in our minds and it continues to be sin within. It can be

- bitterness
- anger
- hatred
- rage
- rebellion
- pornography
- swearing
- cursing

It can be any of these things that go on in your mind in the hidden part that only God knows. You need to repent of those. That's harder than moving a mountain, even without any prayer. You can use dynamite and trucks.

Notice carefully, v 25: "**But when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive...** [That's what needs to be done.] ...so that your Father Who *is* in heaven may forgive you your offenses." Caveat—right? You can't say, 'God, I love you. God, forgive me. God, forgive my sins, but I'll never forgive that person over here.' ***Your prayer just fell to the ground.*** What if you really don't like that individual? Did God qualify it? ***No! He didn't say forgive the ones you like!*** The ones you like you're most likely to forgive—isn't that true?

Think back in your life. Now here we're dealing with another problem, but it's still a trauma and still a sin within in the hidden part. Because we can all come to church and when we meet each other everything's nice and hunky-dory and hand shaking, 'How are you today,' but it's still in the brain—right? ***Yes!*** The hidden part God knows, and you know.

If it's a person, regardless of who it is, if it's someone that you really offended and they're still offended at you, then you also have to go to that person and make up with them. Do you want to be forgiven? ***Then you've got to do these things***—right?

What if it's something that you know you need to do and you don't quite have enough in you or the person is far away and you can't go to them and say, 'I'm sorry, forgive me. I forgive you for

what you did.’ The least you can do is write a letter and then see if you can make some contact after that.

What if the person is already dead? Ask yourself a question: If the person is already dead and you still have part of your mind—think about this for a minute: How does God want us to love Him? *With all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul*—that’s our whole being—*with all our strength*. If you have a corner of your brain reserved for hatred for a certain person and because they did a certain thing you hold something against them, or because you were expecting them to behave in a different way than they did and you became offended.

I even know people who said, ‘Well, someone didn’t shake hands with me at church, I’ll never forgive them for that.’ How petty do we get? You don’t want that. What if you’re confronted with the thing that they’re no longer living? You can’t go to them. If you have something against your mother and father, you go out and stand on the grave and say, ‘I forgive you for this.’ They can’t hear anything; the dead know nothing. But you can repent of that part of your mind that you hold that sin and let it live in your mind.

You’ve got to put to death all of those strongholds in the mind. You’ve got to forgive that person. I know someone who hated his dad, absolutely hated his dad. Then his dad died, but he still couldn’t get over it until he repented of hating his father. Maybe his father was really abusive to him. Maybe he beat him up. Maybe almost killed him. But what did Jesus say to those who were killing Him? ‘Forgive them, Father, for they don’t know what they’re doing.’

The long and the short was, when he forgave his father for what he did that caused the hate, and asked God to forgive him for the hate that was in his brain—causing him trouble and trauma to this day—when that was taken care of he began to be released from it through *the washing of the water by the Word* and continuous repentance and continuous yielding to God and asking God to continually cleanse, because these are things you just don’t get rid of at the snap of the finger.

If the trauma is so terrible, such as being raped, ask God to cleanse your mind from it. Only God can do that; or if it’s incest. Those are difficult propositions to face, but those are very much more common in the world than we would even like to entertain the thought that it is. And in some countries it’s the normal practice.

God said He came to heal the brokenhearted. Are you a captive to your own sin because of lack of repentance? and lack of forgiveness? You have to ask that yourself. I’ll let that be something you can

judge yourself on. You know what’s in here [the mind] and God knows what’s in here, so you confess to God.

If you need to confess to the person, go to the person. I’ve known cases where once that is done, you talk about a real repenting and sobbing session of release, of joy, of gratitude when that burden is lifted. We need to do that within the Church, brethren. I know someone was commenting to me, why, why within seventh-day keeping people there is so much in-fighting and self-righteousness? *Because of the lack of what I’m talking about today, that’s why!*

I know a big high mucky-muck minister, who to this day says he’s mellowed, but he still harbors hate and that has incapacitated him. These things affect our emotions; they affect our health. I know people that have been oppressed within the Church and I even know one man personally and I feel the way he was treated within the Church of God caused him to die of cancer, because of the trauma.

- You can’t reserve in your mind trauma
- You can’t dwell on those things
- You must put them behind
- You must put them back

Paul talks about that—doesn’t he? Philip. 3—here’s what we are to do. That’s why there has to be

1. *repentance* on our part
2. *forgiveness* toward the individual to God
3. and ask God to *release* it out of your mind.

Let’s look at it physically this way. What if you saw someone who had a belt around their waste and a big chain on it and they had an anchor. Everywhere they went that anchor drug behind them—Clank! Clank! Everyone would look because it’s outside, they would look and see, ‘That’s kind of stupid. What kind of person would do that, drag an anchor behind him?’

And he just says, ‘Well, it’s my burden to bear.’ The thing is: Christ takes all of our burdens—right? *Yes, He does!* He says, ‘Take My burden.’ And that burden is the lifting of this. Mentally and spiritually, do you have any chains and anchors that are holding you back? You alone know, so you need to repent.

Now another good thing about it is this. When you do, you have forgiveness. The other person has been forgiven by you, and now God can deal with you directly and you can love God more. You can serve Him more. You don’t have to have the depression of carrying this burden mentally. Here’s what you do. You have to do this, just like I said. The part of the brain that remembers is also the

part that forgets. So you ask God for forgetfulness in *the washing of the water by the Word*. Here's what we do.

Philippians 3:8: "But then truly, I count all things... [That is all the supposedly good things in the world that he had done when he was with Judaism, and so forth.] ...I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count *them* as dung; that I may gain Christ."

Is that anchor in your brain or in your soul or in your emotion? Is that like a little pile of manure sitting back there rotting and festering that is always there? You know how a manure pile does? *It lets off odor and it lets off heat and lets off steam*. It's a wonderful place for maggots; flies love it. Do you have a place like that in your mind that you need cleansed out? Maybe in some of the cleansing you better ask God for a little backhoe, get some of this stuff out. *Count it all but loss!*

- What good does it do to be mad at someone who's dead?
- What good does it do to be mad at someone because you have hurt feelings

—and now your whole health and your whole mind and your body and your emotions are affected by it?

Verse 8: "...count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count *them* as dung... [the Greek there is 'skubala'] ...that I may gain Christ."

Listen, do you want to gain Christ? *or* Do you want to hold onto these things? What is it that you want in your life? That's what we have to ask ourselves. I've had to ask myself. We've all had plenty of experiences where we can be mad and angry and indignant—and righteously so. But maybe God had another purpose in it than we thought.

I know the things that Dolores and I have gone through and our children have gone through. I remember one night, and one of the things you can do to try and drown this, but it won't drown it, you can have a little libation. A little scotch would do just good, two or three or four would do even better. That makes it lovely—huh? And then you go to bed and you get this big hangover. And I woke up at two in the morning, because it was a very low, traumatic time in our lives. I mean, the very, very lowest. And I sat up in bed at two o'clock in the morning and said, 'They can't do this!' And I sat there and thought to myself, *but they did*. When you have something like that, it'll take you a while to get over being angry, but you have to go and ask for *the washing of the water by the Word*. 'Take it away, O

God, forgive them for what they've done. You deal with them the way You want to deal with them.' Put it all in God's hands.

Here's what it needs to be for us—gain Christ, v 9: "And may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness..." [Which includes what? *All of your hatred and bitterness and anger and resentment and jealousy*—right? Because you think you're right in it, so it's your righteousness—correct? 'I deserve to be angry at this person, look what he did to me.'

"...which *is derived* from law... [Or that is just from carnal ways.] ...but that *righteousness* which *is by the* faith of Christ—the righteousness of God *that is* based on faith. That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings... [Notice the change of his heart and mind.] ...being conformed to His death; If by any means I may attain unto the resurrection of the dead; not as though I have already received, or have already been perfected; but I am striving..." (vs 9-12).

This is what we need to do, brethren, and what I'm talking about here. Some of these are long-term problems. You may know people that I don't even know of that need to have this information, that need to understand what this is. Ask them if they would please watch this video or if they would please listen to the CD that we're going to send out.

- Think about what you're thinking!
- Think about how it's dragging you down!
- Think about how it's destroying your life!
- What do you want to do with your life?
- Can you live the rest of your life the way you're going now?
- What is going to happen?

Some of these things are that serious.

But here's what we do, v 12: "...but I am striving, so that I may also lay hold on that for which I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren... [Here's what we need to do.] ...I do not count myself as having attained; but this one thing I do... [Now notice carefully:] ...forgetting the things that are behind..." (vs 12-13). Look what Paul had to forget—*beatings, chaining, persecution, killings*—all at the behest of the priests. 'He was right, he gave me the orders, that was the perfect thing to do.' Really? *No, it was hatred and against God!*

Likewise, anything that you have. You can't justify having it—can you? He'll forgive all of our iniquities provided we repent and provided that we forgive. Then with *the washing of the water by the Word* we can begin to forget. We can begin to put away the emotion of the experience. We learn the

lesson, so it doesn't happen again, but we put away the emotion of the experience and replace that with

- the *love of God*
- the *joy of God*
- the *Word of God*

That way when you meet people you can truly look them right in the eye and you can love them, be thankful for them, regardless of what they've gone through.

God doesn't call us by merit badges—does He? 'Oh, this one's been pretty good over there. Oh, that's almost an Eagle Scout, I'll choose him. He has all those merit badges.' No! He looks down and says, 'Oh, here's this one in great trouble. I'll call him. I'll call her.' God is the Expert Converter and Repairer. **He can convert and repair the mind with your active participation!** You have got to put forth the repentance and the forgiveness and the understanding of how to run your mind and control your thoughts.

That's what it means back there in 2-Cor. 10 to 'bring down every vain imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ.'

- Does hatred do that? *Yes!*
- Does jealousy do that? *Yes!*
- Does bitterness do that? *Yes!*
- Does demonism do that? *Yes!*
- Living in the world the way the world is, does that do that? *Yes!*

All of it together. So we've got a huge plate set before us—don't we? Now notice what he does: "...forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth to the things that are ahead" (v 13).

Randy and I were talking one day and he was saying, 'The kingdom.' So I thought, yes, that's what we need. So how many did I do on the kingdom? Twenty-one half-hour programs on the kingdom. That's what we need to be focused on. And there are ten ways to enter into the Kingdom of God. So if you haven't heard that one and you don't go online, it'll be coming one of these days. But we're up to 142 and we've done 160 and I think we're up to about 72 on the CD's with this coming mailing.

"...forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth to the things that are ahead" (v 13). That's what we're to do. All of this

- cleanses the mind
- lifts the burden
- relieves the depression
- gets rid of the anger
- gives you clear vision to understand what you need to do.

Verse 14: "I press... [He says, I press. That's the work that needs to be done.] ...toward *the* goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus... [here's a promise]: ...So then, let as many as *be* perfect be of this mind. And if *in* anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal even this to you" (vs 14-15). Isn't that a blessing? *You be of this mind and God will help you see other things you need to repent of, too!* That's a tremendous blessing—isn't it? *Yes!*

Now look, we're on the road to perfection through Christ, but all of us are a walking bundle of mistakes, otherwise we wouldn't be here. Isn't that true? *Yes!* God has called what?

- He's called *the weak!*
- He's called *the foolish!*
- He's called *the low-born!*

But He has a great surprise for all the elite of the world. They're all going to become unemployed and we're going to take their places when Christ returns. So, we have a lot to look forward to. Let's remember this.

Verse 15: "...otherwise minded, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, *in regard* to that which we have attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, be imitators together of me, and bear in mind those who walk in this way, as you have us *for* an example" (vs 15-17).

Brethren, a lot of us who have been in the Church a long time, we have varying degrees of baggage that we need to get rid of. If we've had trauma or circumstances that are very long-lasting in our lives, we need to ask God to help us

- repent
- forgive
- overcome

You will see it will work miracles in your mind and the way that you think.

It will help you in your relationship to God in prayer and in study and in loving God and serving Him. It will clean away. For those of you have glasses—have you ever had glasses so fogged over and you get used to them and you think your eyes are going bad. So you go to the optometrist and he takes a look at your eyes. He doesn't tell you that, 'Well, they're just fine, but I noticed your glasses are dirty. Let's clean them up.' Then you say, 'Oh, what a relief that is.'

Let's see if we can do that with this, with the washing of the water by the Word!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 4:16-18
- 2) Isaiah 61:1-3
- 3) Matthew 24:10
- 4) Psalm 103:1-4
- 5) Matthew 12:31-33, 43-45
- 6) Ephesians 2:1-5
- 7) Mark 9:17-24, 28-29
- 8) Ephesians 5:26, 25-26
- 9) Psalm 51:1-7
- 10) Mark 11:21-23, 25
- 11) Philippians 3:8-17

Scripture referenced, not quoted: 2-Corinthians 10

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

- *Washing of the Water by the Word*
- *Kingdom of God* (www.churchathome.com)

Washing of the Water by the Word V

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. We had a very interesting discussion before Sabbath services about the problem of trying to solve spiritual problems by political means. They will never work, because they all have to have either their own version of God or leave out God all together. So it can never solve the problem.

If they could solve the problems, then there would be no need for Christ. And if they could solve the problems, then they could perfect themselves without God. So, none of those things are true and none of them can work out. And even if we see and know and understand some of the problems, again, there has to be repentance. If there's no repentance, then they're not going to change. It isn't going to happen. So we need to keep that in mind.

So there are a lot of things going on and all you have to do is read Deut. 28 and Lev. 26. Everyone wants the blessings while they live in their sins and no one wants the curses while they reject God. That is the conundrum of human nature. It is irrational to begin with.

Let's talk about today, in this age, we need to realize this: we have more things that we need to overcome. We have far more influences in our lives than at any time in history. Once we understand that and then we use the armor of God and we use the principles of God, then we can overcome them. There are so many entrances into our mind and so many things that we have in our mind that have to be erased. We're to learn the lesson, but we don't have to relive the spiritual and emotional trauma concerning it. That's the important thing.

Let's do an overview so we see exactly what we're dealing with in the washing of the water by the Word. That's another way of saying: How does Christ convert us? *By the washing of the water by the Word* and it is a spiritual operation.

What we're going to do is we're going to survey Eph. 1-3. Then we're going to go through chapter 4 and then we will come to chapter 5 and we will end up where it is the *washing by the water by the Word* and that is the **action of conversion** by Christ.

Ephesians 5:25 and let's read that verse so we can realize that's where we are going. "...Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it." It is His job to make us Holy. It is His job, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to perfect us. We have our responses and we have our responsibilities and we have what we need to do because conversion is a

joint project. We have to be involved and there are things that we need to do.

Verse 26: "So that He might sanctify *it...* [To make it Holy. What is the true Holiness that is going to make it really Holy? *Obviously, the resurrection!* That is the goal. That is the end of it—right?] ...having cleansed *it...* [So it's a process. Cleansing where? *In the mind, in the spirit!*] ...with the washing of water... [He's the *fountain of living water*. The Holy Spirit is a type of water.] ...by *the Word*" (v 26).

You can say the Word then becomes the *cleaning agent* within the water, which is the Spirit. This leads us to the ultimate conclusion in our physical lives. What's the highest attainment of spiritual growth we can reach? '*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*' *The mind of Christ!* That is accomplished in Col. 1:27 with Christ in us, *the hope of glory*.

God is doing a tremendous and mysterious thing on earth that the rest of the world doesn't know. It can't comprehend it and it cannot see it. It can see our behavior, but it cannot see what God is doing. Have you ever wondered where it says there in Matt. 13 that the Kingdom of God is likened unto leaven? We just finished the Days of Unleavened Bread which tells us during the Days of Unleavened Bread leaven is sin. How can the Kingdom of God be likened to leaven? There's a good action to leaven, which this is portraying. That is the *unseen action* of the Holy Spirit within us.

Just like you put leaven into dough and the bread rises, but you don't see the leavening, you see the effects of what the leaven has done. So she put into three measures of flour leavening until the whole thing was leavened. We'll talk about that as we lead up to Pentecost. So we're going to come from Eph. 1 now, let's go there, and then we will end up again at Eph. 5:25. because everything leading up to that verse pertains to the washing of the water by the Word.

Let's look at some interesting things right here in Ephesians 1:1: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and to *the* faithful in Christ Jesus.... [Meaning that this letter was circulated to all the churches possible.] ...Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ" (vs 1-2). Always remember, because there is an argument, and we're going to tackle part of that argument, about the trinity. But if you read the introductions of every one of Paul's epistles, he

distinctly leaves out the Holy Spirit in the category of God, which, *if* the Holy Spirit were God, he would have to put it in the introduction. The Holy Spirit of God is the power of God, not a third person in a trinity and the trinity comes from pagan philosophy, anyway. Paul took care of that when he spoke on Mars Hill with the philosophers.

Then it talks about the blessings that come from Christ:

- “...He has personally chosen us...” (v 4)
- “...predestined us for sonship...” (v 5)
- and that “...we have redemption through His blood...” (v 7)
- “Having made known to us the mystery of His own will...” (v 9)
- “...*the Divine* plan [of God] for the fulfilling of *the times*...” (v 10)

Verse 13: “In Whom you also trusted after hearing the Word of the Truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in Whom also, after believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise... [this shows an action of the Holy Spirit of sealing us]...which is *the* earnest of our inheritance until *the* redemption of the purchased possession, to *the* praise of His glory” (vs 13-14).

Then he gives a tremendous prayer here on how he wants us to understand the will of God. Ephesians, chapter two, is very important because we have to remember where we came from and who was working in our lives before we were called—*Satan the devil*.

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins... [Without the Spirit of God, we are as good as dead. That hasn’t happened, but also living in our trespasses and sins was a result of what?] ...in which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience; Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the world*” (vs 1-3).

Everyone is influenced by Satan the devil, who is the god of this world, through the means that he has put in the world, if not directly by him and his demons. And they control the governments, the education, the religions, and the banking systems of this world. That’s why Christ has to return to bring the Kingdom of God and take it away from them.

You can argue all day long about political things, about monetary things, but until you get rid of the inspiration and the power of Satan the devil,

yes, and the worship of Satan the devil by the elite of the world—which you cannot do, that’s a job only Christ can do. Someone asked, ‘What would it take?’ Well, I’ll tell you what it would take.

1. You’ve got to be able to bind Satan. *Can’t do that!*
2. If you did #1, then you would have to identify all of the super-elite that were in direct contact and worship of Satan the devil to carry out their plans in their governments and the coming world government.

You would have to, as you look at the whole earth, you would have to have so many Seal teams of experts to isolate them and to kill them regardless of the time zone on earth all at once. And no man can do that. So, even though you go vote and vote for lower taxes—I vote for lower taxes—political means will never get rid of Satan the devil, because he is the one who has setup the politics. We need to realize that it’s by repentance.

We also need to realize v 9: “Not of our works...” Though we have works. In other words, we come to the same mind and attitude of Jesus Christ when He said, ‘I of Myself can do nothing.’ And you stop and think about whatever you do in your life. God has given you the ability to do it. All of that physical comes from God as well. But people in the world don’t realize it. Everything we do comes from God.

Does He not give us breath when we’re born? And we keep breathing until when? *Our last breath!* This past week we had a very nice funeral for Evelyn Gardner who died the week before. There was a dispute about her birth certificate, so she was either 97 or 98. God says that He’s given to man three-score and ten and if by strength four-score. Well, she went eighteen years beyond that. But nevertheless she had breath from the time she was born until she gave her last breath and God puts that in every one of us. So we need to give God all the credit.

Essentially, regardless of what you are doing, there is nothing in this world, whether you know it or not, that you can do without God having made it possible. Spiritually, since we were dead in sins and trespasses and we are physical and are going to die, the only way we’re going to have eternal life is through Christ and that is not of our works, though we have works that we need to do. But we’re going to see those are works that come from God that He demands of us and not what we do.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...” (v 10). I want to emphasize *the*

created, because we're being created in our minds and spirit and the finished product will come at the resurrection. That's what the *washing of the Word* is all about

- to keep us in contact with God, with His Spirit,
- to keep us yielded to God so Christ can work in us
- to where we can change and grow and overcome spiritually.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10). That tells us where we're going. This tells us what we ought to do. And the good works are found where? *In the Word of God!* Let's stop and think of the major sin of mankind. What is the major sin of mankind? If he understands anything about God, he wants to improve God, beginning with Cain. And that he thinks he's so smart that he's going to figure out a way that he can make God's way better, when he cannot make God's way better.

The truth is, only God can make you better if you yield to Him. Now just put in your notes there, Jer. 18, where he talks about the potter and the clay. And God is working us just like the potter and the clay.

Then he comes down here talking about being built up, Gentiles and Jews together, v 20: “You are being built up... [This creation is a process of being built up—ongoing, present-tense passive.] ...on the foundation of the apostles and prophets... [That is through their writings and word.] ...Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone In Whom all the building, being conjointly fitted together... [That's what God is doing. That's going to be something at the resurrection when we will see the completed work of Christ. Think of all the work that He's doing, spiritually.] ...is increasing into a Holy temple in *the* Lord; In Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in *the* Spirit” (vs 20-22). There again we see the Spirit is not God.

Then we have Eph. 3. There is an additional revelation given to the apostles and prophets about the plan of God that we are going to enter into the Family of God. It gives more understanding of the mystery or the secret plan of God. He is going to do everything that He is going to do. Like someone was saying the other day, ‘If you get the principles, if you get the foundation of it all, everything else can be put into place.’ So this is what Paul is talking about here. We'll get this into the record to see what God is doing. This will help us understand Eph. 4 &

5 and how that fits in to the *washing of the water by the Word*.

Ephesians 3:14 “For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man.... [The action, the ‘dunamis,’ the power, the inner man. That's where it's all going on.] ...That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (vs 14-17). Having the mind of Christ, having the Word of God in us. And, of course, we have that today more than every before—right? *Yes, we do!*

Verse 18: “*And* that being rooted and grounded in love... [And that is the basic principle of all and that is the greatest part of the washing of the water by the Word is the love of God. We'll see that by time we finish this series.] ...you may be fully able to comprehend... [God wants us to know! God wants us to think! Think properly, put things together rightly. ‘Rightly divide the Word of God,’ etc.] ...comprehend with all the saints...”

And we have it today, brethren. What Satan likes to do is come along and dumb-down. That's been his primary tool of interference within the Churches of God—to dumb everybody down, to restrict it by a hierarchy, that no one can go above the 18 points of an exalted idol of a man called *an apostle*. Some people don't like it when I mention it that way. But I don't think that he would even want, if he were alive today, to have people use that as the sum total of the Gospel. But men for power have done it.

We need to know, v 18: “...what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height” of the plan of God. Today we have the Word of God. That's important. So we need to take the Word of God, multiply it in our lives, multiply it in preaching the Gospel and in teaching all the brethren. The goal, as we'll see later, is *perfection!*

“And to know the love of Christ...” (v 19). This comes how? *Prayer! Meditation!* Try this one time: If you're on a long trip, turn off the radio, turn off the CD, if you have kids in the back of the car—you know today they keep them all entertained with videos and their parents don't know it, Satan is right there putting it in their minds, putting it in their minds, putting it in their minds. Everybody exalts Walt Disney, but he's one of the tools of Satan to introduce kids into occultism. If you don't believe that, watch every movie. Watch everything that he does. To exalt women over men is his goal. So this sets the society for what? *An upside-down society, Satanic-occult society!* We're to come out of that.

Verse 19: “And to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” That’s at the resurrection.

Verses 20 and 21 are important, because that’s the lead-in to Eph. 4. So we can understand how the Holy Spirit is working and how we need to work with the Holy Spirit and how we need to have our minds cleansed, because as never before, with everything out there, there are things that can lodge in our minds just BAM! in a flash of a second. We have that on television. We have it on billboards, we have it in magazines. Everyone is attacked by all the pornography at the checkout stand at the grocery store—right?

Who are the magazines aiming at? *Women*. I think time I found one magazine for men, all women. Of course, Oprah is the big star, but she is a New Age believer. And New Age religion comes from whom? *Not God!* ‘The prince of the power of the air.’ Oh yes, you can be positive. Oh, yes you can be happy. Oh, yes, you can do all of these things. But always remember—you can come from prosperity to poverty in a split second. That’s why we’re not to get our minds on physical things or physical emotions and things like that.

God wants us to be filled with all the fullness of God, which will happen at the resurrection, v 20: “Now to Him Who is able... [That means has the power.] ...to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us... [the Holy Spirit, the power] ...to Him *be* glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen.” (vs 20-21). So what we’re doing is for eternity. Isn’t that something?

Let’s come to Ephesians 4 and see how all of this fits together, and then how that ties into chapter five and *the washing of the water by the Word*. He was in prison (v 1), and he appeals to them:

Ephesians 4:2: “With all humility and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (vs 2-3). Now mark that for Eph. 5:25, *washing of the water by the Word*, which is the Word of God, Christ, and the Spirit.

Verse 4: “*There is* one body and one Spirit, even as you were also called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, Who *is* over all, and through all, and in you all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ” (vs 4-7). This means that we stand in or under the grace of

God, from which comes all of the spiritual blessings from God.

Come to Romans 5, because we need to understand about the grace of God even more than we have. That’s why we did the series *God’s Grace and Commandment-Keeping*. God has called us, not to just keep the commandments, God has called us to be like Him. God has called us to keep all the commandments as motivated and led by the Spirit of God. What God wants is the total conversion of our minds. That’s the key.

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Instead of being at enmity against God, hostile to God, we have peace.

- God the Father loves us
- God the Father has called us
- Christ loves us
- God the Father has forgiven us through the sacrifice of Christ

—and so forth. And then that means we’re justified. All of that we have to believe on faith.

Verse 2: “Through Whom [Christ] ...we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand... [Grace is the state of relationship that we have with God and we are standing in that. We’re going to see that sin, constant sin, puts us at the edge of that grace or out of that grace, if we go too far.] ...into this grace in which we stand, and we ourselves boast in *the* hope of the glory of God.” Always keeping our mind on

- the Kingdom of God
- the hope of God
- the resurrection
- the return of Christ

—all of that together.

Verse 3: “And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations, realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance.” What did Jesus say? He didn’t say once saved, always saved. He said ‘*The one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved.*’ Now that’s the end when Christ returns or the end of our lives when we give up our last breath.

“And endurance *brings forth* character... [And the way you understand character is once you have gone through the trial, once you have endured the trial and you see the hand of God in that trial and what He’s been doing, then you can look back and you can see—‘yes, that’s what God wanted done in my life.’ Then you are motivated by that to change—correct? *Yes!*] ...and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope of *God* never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into

our hearts through the Holy Spirit... [Again, the power of God.] ...which has been given to us” (vs 4-5). This is what we’re talking about back here in:

Ephesians 4:7: “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ... [comes freely] ...For this *very* reason, He says *that* after ascending on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. Now, He Who ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He Who descended is the same one Who also ascended above all the heavens so that He might fulfill all things” (vs 7-10).

This is another way of stating the whole goal and purpose of Christ in our lives. Now then, we come to another important section here. God has chosen men to convey the Truth of God through preaching. God does the working in the minds of people so that they can come to understand God. And then before them is set the choices whether they will begin to obey God, love God, answer the call—all of those things are there.

Verse 11: “And He gave some as apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Now that’s the order in which they came within the Church. This does not imply a hierarchy, but these are functions of those who are elders.

Here’s the purpose, and this is the greatest sin within the Churches of God—the hierarchy, that those ministers think that they have been exalted above the brethren to rule over them with force and cruelty, to extract money from them. God does expect tithing and offering, but God gives it to us to choose to do so in our obedience to Him.

Here is the purpose of it, v 12: “For the perfecting of the saints... [Now that’s a joint project with those who are teaching God’s Word, God’s Spirit as motivated and inspired by Christ Who is the Head of the Church. And that’s how it needs to be.] ...for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” That is the building up and we build on that foundation and that foundation is Christ (1-Cor. 3. We all have our responsibility in that—don’t we? What are we to do? *Let’s see we are to work:*

- work as led by the Holy Spirit of God
- work with the Spirit of God
- work with the Word of God

To what? *To let Christ in us build the character that He wants!*

1-Corinthians 3:11: “For no one is able to lay any other foundation... [That takes away all other religions—correct? *Absolutely!* All other gods, all other saviors, all other ideas and philosophies—

period! They are all swept away as worthless, carnal activities by men who think they’re better than God.] ...no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now, if anyone builds on this foundation... [We have to build, we have to be growing in grace and knowledge. It’s expressed in another way.] ...gold, silver, precious stones... [Now we’re seeing in the economic world the value of gold, silver and precious stones—correct? Those have substance. Those have inherent wealth.] (But) ...wood hay or stubble” (vs 11-12).

What do they make paper out of for their paper money? *Wood, hay and stubble!* Those only have an emotional and psychological value. It can be stated by the government that it’s worth so much. If everybody accepts it, then that’s a psychological value. If you’re smart and you have enough of it, you will take that fiat money and you will buy some gold and silver and have some real wealth.

This pictures varying degrees of character. Notice what it says here v 13: “The work of each one shall be manifested... [Because we’re going to be tried. Like everything else, you test it, you try it, you examine it, and if it’s lacking you improve it—correct? If it needs something else, then you add to it—correct? That’s all part of building on the foundation of Christ.] ...for the day of trial will declare *it*, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall prove what kind of work each one’s is.”

Everyone has this in their lives individually after they’ve been baptized. This comes, part of life, part of Christian character, part of the works that we have been given to do. Verse 14: “If the work that anyone has built endures, he shall receive a reward.” So there are great rewards to receive.

The Bible doesn’t give us a lot about what those rewards will be, but you know, since this is the work of God in each one of us—and that’s the work of God. Everything the ministry does is the work of the ministry. That’s not the work of God. The work of God is what God is doing in each one of us.

Verse 15: “If the work of anyone is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but *he* himself shall be saved, yet as through fire.” That’s provided one other caveat—isn’t it? And what is that other caveat? *That he has not committed the unpardonable sin—correct? Yes!*

Let’s understand the relationship that God has with us today. This is so important in our realizing how we fit in Eph. 4 & 5 together and come to *the washing of the water by the Word.*

Verse 16: “Don’t you understand that you are God’s temple... [With the Spirit of God, He’s

dwelling in you.] ...and *that* the Spirit of God is dwelling in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God..." (vs 16-17). That's why—now mark this carefully and understand it. Once we're converted and have the Spirit of God within us, the Spirit of God working within us *will expose the sin within*, will make you aware of sinful temptations, so that you can repent.

People without the Spirit of God that doesn't happen to. If you want to see the utter epitome of the opposite of what we're talking about here, watch any of the harden-criminal documentaries; watch CNBC where they have this fellow that goes out and they entrap men who are out trying to get young women and young boys. And every one of them knows it's wrong, but they cannot stop.

Compare that to what would happen in our minds. 'Oh, God says, we're not even to look upon a woman to lust after her'—right? What do we do then? *We ask God to cleanse our mind!* Not like these idiots. They walk in and the fellow says, 'Well, here I am. We're CNBC and I have a transcript of your texting this girl or this boy. Why did you come here?' *'Just to hang out, just to talk.'* Lie! Lie! Lie! 'Well, I've got the transcript here and you said this and this and this.' *'Oh, I know it's wrong. I've never done this before.'* And some of them have been caught two or three times.

Just to show you that without the Spirit of God *none* of the changing and growing and overcoming will happen. So he says, v 17: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, which temple you are" (v 17). Which he's saying, if you go as far as to commit the unpardonable sin, you're going to burn up in the Lake of Fire.

(go to the next track)

Now, let's continue on right here in Ephesians 4:12: "...for *the* edifying of the body of Christ." That's all the brethren, every elder, every apostle, every prophet, evangelist, and I think the best thing we need to do today is not exalt ourselves with titles, because every man who breaks off and starts a new Church of God, he's some kind of apostle for something. Why doesn't he just study the Word of God and just be teacher? *Teach the brethren!* That's what Jesus said He was: a Teacher—right?

Verse 12: "For the perfecting of the saints... [Unless the teachers are growing and overcoming as Paul said to the Jews there in Rom. 2, 'You who teach others, don't you teach yourself?'] ...for *the* work of *the* ministry, for *the* edifying of the body of Christ... [the up-building] ...until we all... [we're all included in this process—all brethren, all elders]

...come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man..." (vs 12-13).

I'm going to give a sermon on *perfection*. That's the goal! Not who's in charge, not how much control someone has, not ruling over the brethren, because then you're abusing the flock. We, through the Spirit of God and the Word of God, are to help all of us together come to God on our knees, in our lives, in repentance and service and yielding to God to grow in grace and knowledge. The goal is great. The rewards are fantastic, but we have to do it God's way.

Verse 13: "...unto *the* measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ." How much does that take? That means that all of those who are teaching to bring this about, how can you bring it about unless you

- grow in grace and knowledge
- study the Word of God
- apply it to yourself
- explain it to others

"So that we no longer be children, tossed and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men in *cunning* craftiness..." (v 14). That's political aspects within the Church of God. What did Paul say later to the Church of Ephesus there, Acts 20? He said feed the flock whom Christ, the Holy Spirit has purchased through Christ. And he told them, 'I know that grievous wolves are going to come in and even among you will arise those who will leave God.'

That's why if there is a sin, you must have a spiritual solution. There may be some physical things you need to do as well, but you have to have the mental and the spiritual inner repentance and resolve and ability with the Word of God, with the Holy Spirit of God then, to let *the washing of the water by the Word*—Christ in you—to clean you up inside.

But notice this, v 15: "But holding the truth in love... [Not our own ideas, not our own ways, the Truth, the Word of God is true. The commandments are true, God is true.] ...may in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, *even* Christ." There's a lifetime of growth. There's a lifetime of overcoming. And this is what we're to continue to do. Remember what Paul wrote to the Hebrews. 'In the time that you ought to be teachers, you have need of milk again.'

Notice what God wants. Here is the whole working of it, v 16: "From Whom all the body, fitly

framed and compacted together by *that which* every joint supplies... [we all have something to supply] ...according to *its* inner working..." That is of the Holy Spirit within us.

- This is how there is change.
- This is how there is growth.
- This is how we overcome.

...*its* inner working in *the* measure of each individual part, is making the increase of the body unto *the* edifying of itself in love" (v 16). Use that as a measure of your life. Use that as a measure of growing and overcoming. This is how it's to be done. Now we get into the things we should not do, because those interfere with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

Verse 17: "So then, I declare and testify this in *the* Lord that you are no longer to walk even as the rest of *the* Gentiles are walking, in *the* vanity of their minds... [Don't be like the world. Don't be like the religions of the world.] ...Having *their* understanding darkened..." (vs 17-18).

Now let me explain something that's very interesting. Come to the Gospel of John, chapter three. I want to explain something to you which will help you understand why people cannot see themselves walking into apostasy, but they are.

After He says that God so loved the world, gave His only begotten son, etc. John 3:18. "The one who believes in Him is not judged... [Because you have repented. You cannot believe in Christ without repenting. It's that simple.] ...but the one who does not believe has already been judged because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." That belief must continue to go on. You must have faith, hope and love—where? *To the end!*

"And this is the judgment: that the Light has come into the world... [Who is Christ] ...but men loved darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil" (v 19). That's why they hate God. They want to continue in their sins. If they can't reform God to their ways, they'll go on their ways and continue in their sins. Whereas Paul, back in Eph. 4 said you're not to do that. .

"For everyone who practices evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, so that his works may not be exposed; but the one who practices the Truth comes to the Light..." (vs 20-21). It means exactly what it says. If you're living by the Truth and practicing the Truth:

- you're coming to Christ everyday
- you're coming to the Father everyday
- you're growing everyday
- you're changing everyday

"...so that his works may be manifested, that they have been accomplished by the *power of God*" (v 21)—or *in* God, or *through* God, and it's by His power.

What happens if you stop coming to the Light, if you stop coming to Christ, if you stop or you turn a little bit from the Light? Remember, half a degree over 12,000 miles is going to leave you many miles off course at the other end—correct? Here's a phenomena that happens when people leave the Truth. They still have enough Truth in them that they think they're still in the Light.

It's just like, we have lights here, if you turn your back to the light, you can see where the light is still ahead of you shining from back behind you. So you think you're in the light, but you're not. You're walking away from the light. What happens? *Sooner or later you walk away it gets dimmer and dimmer and dimmer*. POOF! Darkness! That's what happens to people.

They can turn around at some place on that journey away from the Light and come back through repentance, if they would. But this is how people are deceived when they first start leaving God. Then Satan comes along and he goes, 'Here's an idea.' 'Oh, that's a good idea.' BOOP! There's another idea. 'Oh, look at that.'

A lot of these Sunday-keepers are converted. How can they be when they're never in covenant with Christ? They may have some of the Bible. They may have some of the Truth, but if they are coming to the Light, which exposes Sunday, Christmas, Easter, and all of that, then they would repent—would they not? Since they don't, they have no light in them. That's what happens. This is what Paul is warning about and this is why we need to be aware of what it is with *the washing of the water by the Word*.

So here's what happens. Let's come back here to Ephesians 4:17; you see the progression. "...walking in *the* vanity of their minds." If something comes along, 'Oh, this is an idea,' compare it with the Word of God. You don't get lifted up in the vanity of your minds. How many times have we right here and also on my trips gone to 2-Chron. 32 about Hezekiah, because he got lifted up in heart, God left him. Vanity of your minds; that's what he got lifted up in.

What happens then? Verse 18: "Having *their* understanding darkened... [That's the next step. You see the progression.] ...being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts." So then your heart becomes hardened.

What's the next step? "They have cast off all feelings, *and* have given themselves up to licentiousness, to work every uncleanness with insatiable desire" (v 19). For those of you not in California, see if you can get some kind of documentary showing the abominations of Sunset Boulevard, Sunset and Vine, and Hollywood Boulevard on Friday night. You will see, yes, they have given themselves over to uncleanness with insatiable desire. That's the whole point of rock music and rap music, and pornography, and lying and cheating and stealing, and all of these things.

Paul says, v 20: "But you have not so learned Christ." Because what is the result of v 17-19, those three verses?

- a grace that is not from God
- a grace to commit sin
- a grace of license to do evil

'You have not so learned Christ.' Now let's see what we are to do and how this builds up toward Eph. 5:25.

Verse 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... [That's all a part of what we learned during Unleavened Bread. So yes, we're to put out sin, but eating the unleavened bread means we put in righteousness, not just putting out sin. Because if you put out sin, then what you're doing, you're leaving a vacuum. *You have to put in righteousness!*] ...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts" (vs 21-22).

What is the great Achilles heel of human nature? *Self-deception*—right? 'There is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends thereof are the way of death'—right? Think about it. Every human being is destructive. They may not have killed, per se, but they've hated and murdered in their minds. Look at the world. Look at all the destruction. Look at everything that is going on. *Everything ends up in destruction and every man is a walking lie!* Every woman is a walking lie. Let me just a little side bar here for all women if you've been bitten with the bug of feminism.

Who was the Creator of mankind? Let's go back to Adam and Eve. We won't use 'mankind,' because that's how *NIV* does it today.

- Who is the Creator of Adam and Eve from whom all men and women have come? *Jesus Christ!*
- Who is the Savior of men and women? *Jesus Christ!*

- Does He know the minds of women as well as the minds of men? *Yes!*
- Are both carnal and sinful? *Yes!*

Look at the great fallen idol of the pious Osama bin Laden. Now they know he was addicted, not only to his four wives, but pornography. All human endeavor leads to destruction. If it doesn't lead to destruction, it leads to an end of life, because God put in us the law of death. So we need to understand that.

So here's what we are to do. "That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man... [How do you do that? *Through the washing of the water by the Word!*] ...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (vs 22-23). That is the whole key. That is the whole reason for *the washing of the water by the Word* and this is the spiritual process of conversion within.

You cannot make people righteous by shouting at them that they're sinners. Everyone has to repent, him or herself—correct? *Yes!* That's why we have the Word of God today. We can study—can't we? *Yes!*

"And that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth" (v 24).

- you put out the lies
- you put out the deception

You put in the Truth!

- you put out self,
- you put out the ideas of Satan,
- you put out the ideas of men

You put in Christ and the Word of God through the washing of the water by the Word!

Now notice v 25 down through v 30. These become important because this tells us the Achilles heels that we still have and that we still get involved with. Verse 25: "Therefore, let each one put away lies *and* speak the truth with his neighbor... [To the world, that would be a novel idea—right? *Yes!*] ...because we are members of one another." So quit deceiving yourself. It talks about deceitful lusts, up here. Quit kidding yourself. And that is the rationalization of inner thought to justify your own sinful behavior. Isn't that correct? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 26: "*When* you become angry, do not sin... [There's a righteous indignation. We'll look at some of the Proverbs a little later and see about anger. It says stay away from the furious man lest you become like him.] ...do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger." It'll keep you awake all night. And there are certain things: anger,

bitterness, hatred, and things, which we'll expound a little bit more. are in the hidden recesses of the mind that you have to get out.

Last week I talked about getting out from underneath the real big ones, such as rape or incest, abuse, all of those things. Abuse by parents, abuse by siblings, abuse by employers, abuse by churches. Those things cause scars and hurts and you need to get those out as well, all of them.

Because here's why, v 27: "Neither give place to the devil." You've gotten rid of him through repentance and baptism, but do not open the door for him again. That's why chapter two says 'the prince of the power of the air.' Don't give him an entrance again.

Verse 28: "Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with his hands, working at what is good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth..." (vs 28-29). That's a challenge—isn't it? Let me just tell you this. The more that you put away these things and the more that you're away from them, if you start channel-surfing and go through the channel-surfing, you're going to see that almost everything on television is based on some kind of sin and some kind of lie and some kind of Satanic deception. And that affects us.

"...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear.... [v 30 tells us something very important. I'm going to re-adjust the translation here for the next printing of the Bible and it will read]: ...Do not vex [grieve] the Holy Spirit..." (vs 29-30). Because 'grieve' has a connotation that this is a person, but it's the power of God.

"Do not vex [grieve] the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption" (v 30). What are we talking about by vexing, that is working at cross-purposes with the Holy Spirit in us? What is working at cross-purposes of the Holy Spirit? *The very things we just read!* Lying, anger, giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt communication, those are working at cross-purposes of the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is what?

- the Spirit of Truth
- the Spirit of love
- the Spirit of change
- the power of God

—to convert you.

So I'm going to put a little footnote in there to explain it that you're working at cross-purposes. You *vex* the Holy Spirit of God within you or

frustrate it, because the Holy Spirit comes from God and the Holy Spirit within you communicates to God. You've got the spots of these sins *vexing* the Holy Spirit of God. Because this is what you have been sealed for the day of redemption. That ties right back here to Eph. 1:13-14, sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Here are other things which we will get into details concerning, which is this, because this also vexes the Holy Spirit. This also puts things in your minds where you are not going to be forgiving. And forgiving people their sins—not holding grudges; not being jealous; not being envious—all of those things work against the working of the Holy Spirit in your mind.

"Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice" (v 31).

Let's come back here to Matthew 18. Let's see what Christ says needs to happen. You know it's the parable of the man who had ten thousand talents and God forgave him. What did he do? *He went out and found one man who owed him a hundred silver coins and couldn't pay it!*

- after he had compassion
- after he received forgiveness
- after he received mercy
- after he had all of that debt forgiven

Matthew 18:28: "Then that servant went out *and* found one of his fellow servants, who owed him a hundred silver coins; and after seizing him, he choked *him*, saying, 'Pay me what you owe.' As a result, his fellow servant fell down at his feet and pleaded with him... [almost the same words] ...saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' But he would not *listen*... [not forgiving] ...instead, he went and cast him into prison, until he should pay the amount that he owed. Now, when his fellow servants saw the things that had taken place, they were greatly distressed; and they went to their lord and related all that had taken place" (vs 28-31).

Judgment day is going to come. This is telling us there's a time that God is going to call us into judgment concerning our carnal attitudes and ways. *We must forgive!* I've seen even documentaries where the command to forgive was used to help heal the wounds of the survivors who had a family member murdered and the murderer. Have you ever seen any of those? Where they go in and over a period of meetings the one who perpetrated the crime repents and the ones who were victimized by it *forgive*. And it lifts a great burden from the mind. When you don't forgive, it's like

plunging your brain into the ocean with a huge iron anvil. That's also called *depression*.

A lot of depression is brought about, some can be physical, some can be nutritional, but most of its caused by wrong thinking, lack of forgiveness, hatred, bitterness.

Here he wouldn't listen, so now the day of judgment comes, v 32: "Then his lord called him *and* said to him, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt, because you implored me.... ['You were on your knees crying right in front of me. Saying, 'Oh, I don't have anything to pay, how can I pay it?'] ...Were you not also obligated to have compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had compassion on you?'" (vs 32-33).

Everyone wants his or her sins forgiven, but are you willing to forgive the other person? Sometimes those who have perpetrated things against you that you still have in the back of your mind have died. So you have to forgive them before God and that will help relieve your mind from that burden. You cannot have your mind converted when you leave a section of your mind for bitterness and hatred and envy and jealousy and greed, and all of this sort of this, because it *vexes* or *works against* or cross-purposes with the Holy Spirit.

Sooner or later it's going to catch up with you. Verse 34: "And in anger, his lord delivered him up to the tormentors, until he should pay all that he owed to him. Likewise shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother's offenses from the heart" (vs 34-35).

It's not like this, 'Will you forgive me?' 'Yeah, I'll forgive you.' (grumbling and grudgingly). Is that the kind of forgiveness you want from God? *Sooner or later!* Let's see what we are to do instead of that. Here's how we change that behavior. This has to come from God. This has to come from His Spirit, because God's Spirit is to work within us and we are to use God's Spirit.

Ephesians 4:32: "And be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you." That's why we need to remember, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'

You will find this: when you do forgive and you do it from the heart and you really mean it—it may be something stuck in your craw, so-to-speak, for so long that it's going to take some time to really attain the forgiveness that you need. But keep at it. It will come. You can't say, 'Oh, God, forgive him. I forgive him, amen.' No, you have to ask God please cleanse my mind. Please cleanse that out of my mind.

Just like if there is a sin—like on a stuck record—repeating itself in your mind. It keeps coming back on you. Then you really pray and ask God to cleanse your mind and get it out of your mind. Study the Word of God and put God's Word in there to have that replace what your mind has malfunctioned on. Because when we change our thinking, and with God's Spirit we change physically, our brains so we don't think in the same way. That's what conversion is all about.

Now notice how we accomplish this, Ephesians 5:1: "**Therefore, be imitators of God...**" Think of that! That's our standard! So how is God?

- God is merciful
- God is kind
- His mercy endures forever

Right? Go back and study 2-Chronicles 33 and the companion chapter there in 2-Kings 24 about Manasseh. Look at everything that that man did and it gradually got worse over the period of his 55-year reign.

I cannot conceive of having Obama reign for 55 years over us, but I would have to say that that's probably very akin to what happened to the children of Israel. And what happened? *They all got swept up in it themselves, too!* If he came to you and asked for forgiveness, would you forgive him? He dealt with demons, put his children through the fire to Moloch, built idols in the temple, all the host of heaven. Set up booths for homosexuals, right on the temple ground. Shed a lot of innocent blood in Jerusalem. Well, God finally sent him off into captivity to Assyria. That's when the Assyrians were controlling Babylon.

Guess what he did in prison? *He repented!* God forgave him and God restored him to the throne as a vassal king. Because he probably made the promises, 'Oh, God, if You'll forgive me, if You'll ever let me go back to Jerusalem, I know that's probably impossible, but if You ever will, I promise You that when I get back there I'll destroy every idol. I'll take down everything that I ever put up. I will renounce the putting of children through the fire to Moloch.' So, that's what he did. He went back and did that.

Stop and think! Who is it that you haven't forgiven? Who is still in the back of your mind that occupies a place in your mind that you have no forgiveness? You have to answer that question. You have to examine that before God yourself so you can see what you need to do.

Verse 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). Oh, we want to go to God and say, ‘Oh, God, apply the shed blood of Jesus Christ to my sins,’ and then get up off our knees and still hate someone. Get up off our knees and still have bitterness in our mind, envy in our minds, jealousy in our minds. You can’t be double minded. We’ll talk about that a little bit later here in the next one.

Verse 3: “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among, as is fitting for saints... [Isn’t that the problem that people find in most churches? *They’re all hypocrites and doing these things—right? Yes!* And even in the Church of God—right? *Yes!*] ...nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming; but instead, thanksgiving” (vs 3-4).

That’s how we are to have our behavior changed. ***This is what the washing of the water by the Word is going to do. It’s going to clean you!*** Having cleansed it, that is the Church, and He does it each part by each part, each person ***by the washing of the water by the Word!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Ephesians 5:25-26
- 2) Ephesians 1:1-5, 7, 9-10, 13-14
- 3) Ephesians 2:1-3, 9-10, 20-22
- 4) Ephesians 3:14-21
- 5) Ephesians 4:2-7
- 6) Romans 5:1-5
- 7) Ephesians 4:7-12
- 8) 1-Corinthians 3:11-17
- 9) Ephesians 4:12-18
- 10) John 3:18-21
- 11) Ephesians 4:17-31
- 12) Matthew 18:28-35
- 13) Ephesians 4:32
- 14) Ephesians 5:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 28
- Leviticus 26
- *Colossians 1:27*
- Matthew 13
- Jeremiah 18
- Ephesians 4:1; 5:25
- Romans 2
- Acts 20
- 2-Chronicles 32, 33
- 2-Kings 24

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