

THE WORD SPEAKS

DECEMBER 8, 2022

WHY JESUS CHRIST

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COLOSINIANS 1:27

To whom God would make known

what is the riches of the glory

of this mystery among the Gentiles;

which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

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WHY JESUS CHRIST PART 1

In Genesis God designed the world that we live in today. This world is populated by living creatures of many different kinds. Life that lives on land, in the water, in the air of many different kinds. We have plants that grow everywhere also. Life that is microscopic, bugs of different kinds and shapes. All of this live works together, yet when God designed all of this different kind of life, he included rules for all of its different kinds of existence. In Genesis 1:11 **And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.**

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. God spoke grass upon the earth and trees upon the earth. God then described each kind of plant. Grass is an herb which spreads its seed **after its kind**. This word kind means of its own kind, not another kind. Grass does not make a different kind of life only grass.

The same is true with trees. God designed a tree to give fruit with seed inside of it. These seeds only make the same kind of trees, not another kind of tree. As we read on, we see that God used same rules for the life that is in the water and the life that is in the air.

Genesis 1:20 ¶ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind:

This design on life continues upon the land. **Genesis 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.**

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind:

All life on this earth of any kind can only replenish its own kind. A kind of bird makes that kind of bird as a child which then grows. All life is in the seed, and that seed recreates its own kind. God gave all life upon this earth to man to subdue and to have dominion over life on this planet.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

When we look at Adam and Eve God talks about a few different things. In Genesis 1:26 God decided to make man in His image, and in Genesis 1:27 God created man in His image. God's image is spirit, we will consider this. **Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

Man was formed of the dust of the ground. The shape of man is human. Our image is that of flesh. God breathed into the man's nostrils the breath of life. This man then became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

This is the life we are used to and know, "Body and soul". Earlier God talked about creating mankind in His Image. Since God's Image is spirit, our image would have been spirit also. Adam was able to talk directly to God because of the spirit

from God that was in him. Adam was also given spiritual authority over all the earth. When Adam ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil he died on the spot. While his body and soul lived on, his created spirit was now lost to him. With no spirit life left, Adam's spirit and his ability to rule spiritually was lost to him. Along with this Adam's ability to have a conversation with God was gone also.

God created Adam, formed Adam, and made Adam. With these three parts Adam was given rulership under God over all the earth. Adam was what God wanted for mankind, a spiritual man.

DAY 2

WHY JESUS CHRIST PART 2

1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was *made* a quickening spirit.

What Adam lost for mankind Jesus Christ gained. Jesus Christ was that last Adam and is now our savior. Through Jesus Christ we now have access to God.

Jesus Christ, the last Adam was as God wanted Adam to be. We were created in the image of Jesus Christ the last Adam. This created part of us cannot be seen, felt, heard, smelt, or tasted. Our five senses cannot interact at all with the created spirit. God designed the ability of the spirit body inside of us with the ability to interact with our mind. **11 Cor 5:17** **Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature** <2937 ktisis> **old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

[Ktisis – *ktis*’-is from **2936**; n f; AV-creature 11, creation 6, building 1, ordinance

14) the act of founding, establishing, building etc

1a) the act of creating, creation]

We are created brand new; this is the spiritual life that Adam lost which is now made available because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. With the ability of our mind to interact with the spirit inside of us God is now able to talk to us directly.

Ro 8:29 **For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

This is us, both foreknown and predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ the second Adam is the example that we are to live by conforming our lives to Him. This process of conforming our lives begins with the process of replacing our thoughts with those words that are in God’s Word. We read a section of God’s Word and think about it. We then consider if that is how

we think about what we are reading. We compare the thoughts of God's Word to the thoughts of our head. At this point we change the way we think to conform with the words in God's Word. This is how we grow into the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ. We reflect the thoughts that we think to God's Word.

The cost that was required for this life we are to live was the sacrifice of the same kind of blood that Adam had when he sinned and died. A perfect blood that sinned required a perfect sacrifice to die for an atonement for that soul that sinned. Jesus was the Passover sacrifice that year supplied by God for all of mankind so that we could now have access to Himself. Jesus's life laid the foundation of reconciliation of mankind to God.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Because Jesus Christ made this sacrifice for us God was now able to give us spiritual life.

Ro 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Raised us up from our body and soul life into the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved ☺) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

What made all this available for mankind was to believe and confess upon Jesus Christ as our Lord at the same time we believe in our innermost being that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and we are saved, made whole.

Ro 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This word saved is the word “sozo”: used in the New Testament as save, made whole, heal, be whole. Here this word is representing the spirit that was lost to mankind when Adam sinned is now being restored to all who believe on Gods Son, Jesus Christ.

I would like to go back to Genesis and look and Adam and Eve for a while. God talked to Adam and Eve about what He wanted for them. **Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

29 ¶ And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so. 16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This was not a one-way conversation, Adam talked to God also. They were friends who carried on many conversations. Look at the next verse here, Adam named every living creature on the earth. That would take a while. Adam had all the time necessary to talk to God about each creature and make a name for that creature. If he had a question He could ask God about it, after all He was a child of God.

Children always have questions of their parents as they are learning. No reason that Adam was any different.

19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, *This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

Adam named the kind of being that God made woman. We now have man and woman. Later Adam will give a name also to his wife; he called her Eve.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Adam not only talked to God, He prophesied as a man of God of what marriage was. Later after Adam and Eve sinned God still talked to them, but now they heard God talking with their ears. The spirit in them was now gone. **Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.**

This couple was what God wanted all mankind to be. God wanted to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. This ability was lost to mankind for thousands of years but has now been made available through Jesus Christ. **Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

I would like to look at the interaction that Adam and Eve had in that garden with the serpent. Before we do that, I will show you the two commands that God gave Adam to live by. **Genesis 2:16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Adam was allowed to eat of every tree was the first thing he heard. Right after this he was given a choice to obey. He was not allowed to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and he was given consequences if he did eat that fruit. God told Adam that the day, that moment, that he ate of that fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil he would surely – absolutely die right then and there. God used words to communicate with Adam and Eve, God also used words to communicate with all of mankind through the Bible.

How important are these spoken words of God. Can they be treated casually, or changed for our convenience? How about if we forget some of these words or add some of ours just because we like the sound of what is being said. These are some of the challenges that Eve went through in that Garden when she talked to the serpent in the garden.

DAY 3

EVE'S TEMPTATION

Genesis 3:1 ¶ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

One day in the Garden of Eden the subtil- subtle serpent approached Eve with a loaded question. This word beast is the word “chay.” This word means life or living thing. Satan was much smarter than Eve. The loaded question was a misquote of what God had already said attempting to cause doubt to God’s spoken word. The question was “**Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?**” This is along the line of (did God really say). What God had already said was **Genesis 2:16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

While what satan had asked was similar in meaning to what God had said, the words that satan used had changed. Satan’s words were geared to misdirect Eve’s thoughts dealing with God’s Words. Satan wanted Eve’s emotions involved in her thought process. What was the result of this interrogation? Eve began to doubt what God had said while she was considering what satan had said. Eve answered the serpent, but she also changed the words that God had spoken. **Genesis 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:**

Remember what God said? **Genesis 2:16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Eve now is having a hard time remembering the words that God had spoken. She is thinking about the question she was asked by satan, not about the words that God had spoken. Remember satan is more subtle than any living thing on this earth. Eve omitted the word “freely” that God had spoken. Then Eve continued her conversation with the subtle serpent. The results so far are that while considering what the subtle serpent, who is satan, said; Eve is forgetting the words of the Word that God gave.

- 1 – Eve considered what satan had said and began to doubt what God had said
- 2 – Eve responded while considering satan’s words
- 3 – Eve omitted a word of the word’s that God had given for her to live by

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eve still does not have her head on the words that God had said. She is following the words loosely not really thinking about them. Here she added the word touch and changed the word shalt which is absolute to the word lest which is only a possibility.

- 1 – Eve considered what satan had said and began to doubt what God had said
- 2 – Eve responded while considering satan’s words
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- 4 – Eve added a word to the word’s that God had given for her to live by
- 5 – Eve changed a word of the word’s that God had given for her to live by

Eve no longer has the words that God gave her to live by. These words from God are spiritual, God gave them to us from His thoughts. These words from God are our only strength to protect us from the attacks from our adversary, satan. By no longer holding onto words from the spiritual realm, Eve only has her five senses to deal with a subtle spiritual creature. Let's look at the next part of this conversation between satan and Eve.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan directly attacks God's Word saying that absolutely, ye shall not (absolutely) die. Satan said shall not surely, the absolute opposite of what God had said. Then satan gets into words that describe the senses realm: eyes open, knowledge of God. At this point Eve is thinking with her flesh, her five senses. We see words like see, good food, wise; all these words deal with the realm of the flesh, not of the spirit.

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Satan now directly attacks God's Word while redirecting Eve's attention to the senses and away from the spiritual realm.

Genesis 3:6 ¶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she

took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Now Eve no longer has any spiritual resources to protect her from this subtil attack. Eve thinking with her senses desires the fruit of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve now takes of the fruit she has been told by God not to eat and not only eats it, she gives it to Adam who was standing next to her. **And gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

Stop right here, Adam was there the whole time with Eve. Adam heard everything and let his wife do what he knew God had told them not to. Adam knew the consequences for this act that he was about to do. How do we know this?

1 Timothy 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

What Adam did here with full knowledge was to fully spite God and follow God's arch enemy, satan. Not only did this cost Adam his spiritual life and connection to God; this act allowed satan to gain spiritual control over this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Satan is now acting with the authority of a god over this world.

To be fair about this, both men and women make catastrophic decisions out of desire for their spouse still today. Decisions made from the five senses can never guide us toward God. The flesh is contrary to the spirit. So the question "Why Christ?" begins with the answer of who we become in Christ. Let me take you to Colossians. **Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:**

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

This “Christ in us” is the foundation for all that God wants for us. Adam lost what God has now made available to us. The knowledge of how to pick up these abilities that are now ready for us is in God’s Word. A quick example of what we now have is in

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

This is talking about our prayers holding back satan and all of his kingdom until we are no longer here and it is satans full time; this is the time the antichrist is reviled and the worst tribulation ever is seen on the earth.

This is hard to read in modern English because it was written in old English.

This word letteth which we think as allow was used completely the opposite when this was written. Letteth was used they way we use prevent. Our prayers prevent satan, stopping him in his tracks. We are what is holding satan back from complete disruption of this world.

DAY 4**ONLY BELIEVE**

This verse is strange sounding because it was written in a form of English we no longer use. It is called old English and was used over 400 years ago.

Our prayers have this strength to stop satan in his tracks because of who we are in Christ. Jesus Christ was faithful to God everywhere that Adam was not. Adam relied on his five senses when he was tempted by the subtle satan, and knowing what God had said would happen he still sided with his wife and ate of that fruit and died spiritually. Jesus Christ when tempted for 40 days and nights while he was without food and water stayed faithful to God. His answer all three times to this same subtle satan was **“it is written”** and He then proceeded to quote God’s Word. Jesus Christ relied upon God’s Word to live His life; His entire desire was to do His Fathers will.

Joh 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jesus said that whosoever does God’s will is His family.

Mr 3:35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

What does it take to be able to do the will of God. Our body and soul being has no strength to stand against the spiritual subtility of satan. The first step after we become a spiritual being, becoming born again is to read and know God’s Word. After we understand what is written in the scripture we have to consider our thoughts on the same subject we have found in God’s Word and see if our thoughts agree with scripture. If not we need to change the way we think to bring our

thoughts into agreement with God's Word. This will allow us to do the fathers will and be considered part of Jesus Christ's family.

Read the scripture, get quiet and consider what you have read, repeat this process until you have understanding. This all takes time, but it comes with God's approval.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

It is through God's Word that we find all of our needs in life. It will save our souls from what would harm us, bring us health when sick or injured, deliver us from sin. We need to act like a sponge when it comes to God's Word and hold God's Word in us.

Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

God calls His word the Word of Life.

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

We need to take God's Word and live life from a spiritual viewpoint.

How to start. God has already laid out the foundation for the steps we need to follow. Everything starts with the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord freely while at the same time believing what is written in God's Word; God got Jesus up from the dead. Jesus Christ did get up from the dead and is now seated in the heavenlies interceding for the entire church of God.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This verse teaches us how to be saved. This word saved we covered earlier; it means to be made whole, given back what Adam lost that day in the Garden of Eden. **2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

We have a new creation inside of us; a spirit that is alive. This allows us to be part of the Church of God. This is the life that the Word of God teaches us about. This life comes by God's Word; when we believe the words in this book and act upon them we are made a new creation.

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

This new life inside of us liveth and abideth forever; it allows a connection to God with the ability to walk with and talk to our new Father.

Every life has characteristics that are natural to that kind of life. Our new spiritual life inside of us comes with the same abilities that Jesus Christ and Adam were given by God. **John 14:12 ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

We will be able to do these works because it is “**Christ in us the hope of glory.**” God kept this a secret from everybody, even the angels.

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

This secret which God kept is now made known to His saints, those people who believe upon Jesus Christ which are now separated spiritually, by their connection to God, from this world.

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

What does having Christ in us entail, what is it that we are supposed to do?

In the next chapter of Colossians, we learn more about this subject of Christ in us the hope of glory. Verse 9 teaches us that the fulness of God lives in Christ and verse 10 teaches us that we are complete in Christ who is head of all things spiritual. God has made sure that we have access to anything that we might need through both His word and through His Son Jesus Christ.

DAY 5**MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT**

I wanted to go back to the temptation of Eve briefly before we get started today.

Genesis 3:1 ¶ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

One day in the Garden of Eden the subtil- subtle serpent approached Eve with a loaded question. This word beast is the word “chay.” This word means life or living thing. Satan was much smarter than Eve and every other living creation on the planet. It is only the spiritual words from God that give us enough strength to allow us to stand against the wiles of satan.

Eve went through a 5-step process to forget the words of God and be spiritually helpless.

- 1 – Eve considered what satan had said and began to doubt what God had said
- 2 – Eve responded while considering satan’s words
- 3 – Eve omitted a word of the word’s that God had given for her to live by
- 4 – Eve added a word to the word’s that God had given for her to live by
- 5 – Eve changed a word of the word’s that God had given for her to live by

The very first thing that Eve did wrong was that she listened to what satan was saying. She then considered the words that he was speaking. While considering satan’s words she forgot the words that God gave to both Adam and herself.

At this point Eve no longer has the words that God gave her to live by. These words from God are spiritual, God gave them to us from His thoughts. These words from God are our only strength to protect us from the attacks from our

adversary, satan. By no longer holding onto words from the spiritual realm, Eve only has her five senses to deal with a subtle spiritual creature. Let's look at the next part of this conversation between satan and Eve.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan directly attacks God's Word saying that absolutely ye shall not (absolutely) die. These words are what was protecting Eve; these words were her strength.

Satan said shall not surely, the absolute opposite of what God had said. Then satan gets into words that describe the senses realm: eyes opened, having the knowledge of God.

At this point Eve is thinking with her flesh, her five senses. We see words like see, good food, wise; all these words deal with the realm of the flesh, not of the spirit. Words are what frame our lives, every thought we have is framed by words.

We stopped in Colossians chapter 2. I would like to look at a few verses here.

Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Everything we that we know about Christ Jesus is found inside of God's Word. Just words for us to think about. By establishing ourselves in these words we become rooted and built up, strengthened, becoming established in faith. This allows us to live just. In these words we are to live in thanks.

At this point God gives us a warning; watchout for others who would corrupt our thoughts. Philosophy is a way of thinking. It is found as a new and interesting way to think about something. Philosophy has to be considered (step one – down fall of Eve), responded to (step two), understood (step 3 -5). A new way to think will come with new words. Words of God's Word will be added, changed, left out. These words will be attached to things of the five senses. Things that attach to the world, and not Christ. These words are always designed to move our thoughts away from God.

The thoughts of God are found in God's Word. These words contain the fullness of all that we are in Christ. All that we need to know is found in these words.

2Peter 2:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

This word knowledge means upon knowledge. Not just any knowledge but a knowledge that a craftsman has. A knowledge that has been learned over time and is very skilled. We are given wisdom to operate this knowledge through Jesus our

Lord who calls us to glory and virtue. It is through this glory and virtue that we find exceeding great and precious promises in God's Word. By acting upon these promises we share in the divine nature of Jesus Christ and escape the corruption of the world.

This is the "what," of why Christ. Let's get into the how of why Christ. To understand the how we need to start in Corinthians. Earlier we learned that we were a new creation in Christ. **2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*** This new creation was not without benefits. In Colossians we learned that we were complete in Christ. **Col 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:** To be complete means we are missing nothing.

John 14:12 ¶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. Christ is in heaven interceding for us, standing beside us every step we make toward God.

1Corinthians 12 starts out with God proclaiming that he would not have us ignorant. He wants us to have an understanding of spiritual matters. **12:1 ¶ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.** We are getting into some of these spiritual matters right now. The foundation for all things spiritual for us, is God.

1Cor 12: 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. Here it says there are differences, different kinds of gifts, but it is the same God involved in all of them.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. Again, it says here that there are different ways of ruling but the same God rules overall.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. Now we learn that there are different ways that things work, different ways things are energized, but it is still the same God that is doing the energizing. It is God that makes spiritual things work for us. This word worketh is the word *energeo* – 1754. We will see this word again in a little bit.

Verses 4, 5 and 6 were all dealing with gifts from the Spirit, from God. Now in verse 7 we will be dealing with the manifestation of the spirit. There is a contrast here. A gift from a Spirit which is getting something new, or a manifestation of a spirit that you already have. Remember we are a new creation in Christ. This creation is called Christ in us the hope of glory. We are a spiritual creation which is designed to be the mirror image of Christ. **Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.** The process of replacing our thoughts with the thoughts of God's Word are what conforms us to the image of Christ.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

A manifestation is a evidence of something else. Sound is a manifestation of something that makes that noise. A roaring engine, a thundering waterfall, crying for unhappiness, screaming for fear... and so on. Spirit is life and life does things. Things that are done leave marks that can be seen. These evidences are manifestations of that which left the mark that can be seen, heard, felt, touched or tasted. A manifestation can be detected by the senses. Here God says these manifestations are for our profit in all things.

There are 9 different evidences of the spirit that are talked about here. Three that are spoken out loud, three that are listened to via the spirit that is inside of us, and three that are examples of the power of God in action.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

Here in verse 11 God talks about who gets to operate these different manifestations of the spirit that are listed in verses 8 – 10. This verse starts with the word but. But is a contrast word used to change the subject or to change the attention to something else. Here God is telling us that our focus needs to be intensified. This is something important so pay attention.

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. Here is this word “energeo” again. God energizes this same Spirit that worketh in all nine of these manifestations. Then we have this word dividing. This verse is a great example of how Eve went through her downfall when she dealt with satan. In this same verse we have two different nouns that work as subjects of their word group. Spirit which represents God and man which represents the recipient. After this we have the pronoun he; this is where confusion sets in. Does God pick whom gets to operate these different manifestations which are a profit to the whole church, or does the man or woman get to choose which of these manifestations they get to operate to bless others in the church.

Remember Jesus said that the Apostles, the first example to the church would be able to do all that he did and more. In Colossians God said that we were complete in Christ. Our prayers stop satan in his tracks right now. This is done with the manifested power of God through the operation of a combination of one or more of these nine listed choices in this section of 1Cor 12. The Church of God would be handicapped if any of the members of this church we are part of could not operate all that God made available.

There are two ways how this handicap could happen to the church members. God could choose to limit the ability in one or more members of His church. This would make God a respecter of persons. This would mean that God thought more of one of His children over another one. Or people could have their ability shut down through lack of knowledge or fear. Both wrong teaching on a subject or no teaching on a subject would limit understanding on a subject. **1Cor 12:2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.** We all follow our teachers. Nobody can know more than they were taught.

Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in 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 fulness of Christ:

There has been no difference of measure in any of these verses: the same measure of faith, measure of the gift of Christ, measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. God does not respect one person over another.

To get back to this verse 11 we need to talk about grammar. Nouns and pronouns work together. A pronoun always connects back to the closest associated noun.

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. Here we have God energizing the manifestation and the man or woman who believes deciding which of the nine manifestations they want to operate. The he connects to the man, the closest noun.

Our strength is always in God's Word. The benefits that we can receive from the scripture is limited by our understanding of that word. **2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**

Are we rightly dividing the Word of God? This is where our strength and our protection from satan lies.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

DAY 6**PUT YE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

We finished in Ephesians 6 last week where it talked about putting on the whole armor of God which would allow us to stand in the evil day. How is this done? In 2nd Peter God tells us more on this subject. **2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**
3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord is found in God's Word. All that we need to live life in a Godly manor unto glory and virtue is taught to us through applying God's Word. By acting upon the promises in God's Word we escape the corruption that is in the world through our extreme desires. This knowledge from God empowers us to stand faithful in the evil day, which is whenever we are confronted by the realm of satan.

God has always given free-will to those who serve Him. The choice is ours to believe God or not; to serve God or not. **De 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:** Choose life or accept death God tells His servants. This was His final appeal to their logic, before death was their only option. Today our choice is the same, choose those things that God has given to us through His Word in faith, or choose separation from God through unbelief. It is only God that brings life. In verse 11 of

1 Corinthians 12 the rules of grammar are simple and plain. Yet in our church's we have the emissaries of satan who sit in the pews just to deceive the elect.

Mt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Yes, some are deceived, and those whom are deceived then teach others eventually bringing new doctrine into the church to deceive even others. **Ga 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**

This has happened and is happening today. What are we to do? Follow the example of those in Berea. **Ac 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*. God has already put Christ in us. So what is this talking about that we have to put on. **Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;** The mind is where the thoughts are; this is where we have a choice. This is where we put on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the thoughts of the word that we put on.

Ephesians 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. This knowledge of the new man, the new creation in us is what God wants us to put on. The more we change our thoughts to that which is spoken in God's Word, the more we resemble Jesus Christ. We always look like what we are thinking. The words in the Word of God represent the image of Christ. **Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among**

us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God's Word enables us to understand "the how" to walk spiritually with our Lord Jesus Christ. The manifestations of the spirit when they are activated enable God to empower the Church of God to care for the whole Church. With the utterance manifestations of the spirit: Speaking in Tongues, Interpretation of tongues, and Prophecy, God can exhort, edify and comfort the members of His church. This encourages us to stand in face of all the troubles we face every day.

With the revelation manifestations of the spirit: Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, and Discerning of Spirits God can speak to us directly about our daily lives and what is going on around us. Word of knowledge gives us information about anything we need on the spot. Word of Wisdom gives us information of how to use that knowledge we have already been given. They work together to enable us throughout the day. Lastly, we have Discerning of Spirits which work together with Word of Knowledge and Word of wisdom. This manifestation teaches about any spiritual involvement in the situation either good or bad that we need to know to be able to handle what is happening.

Finally, we have the power manifestations. These work with the utterance manifestations. Faith, miracles, and healings are the power manifestations that enable the church to bring about the impossible into existence. God tells us what, where, how, when, and why, of what He needs of us which we then act upon with faith to bring about miracles and healings for the Church.

God wants us empowered to walk out with full authority in partnership with Jesus Christ as a witness of what God has done for His Church. **Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** The apostles were the first examples to the Church whom we still follow today. Today as we step out upon the promises of God, we are the witness unto the world of who Jesus Christ is. As a loving Father, God wants us to have everything that He has given to us.

Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Think the words of the Word of God in your thoughts.

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Grace is when we do get what we don't deserve. Everything that Jesus Christ got, Adam had. We are now participating in what Jesus Christ won back for us, the same that Adam lost for mankind. We are what God desired in His heart for Children. You are a child of the most-High God.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in 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 fulness of Christ:

This day is the day that we see our Lord as He is.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

God has given us everything that we need to walk in the fullness of who we are in Jesus Christ. While we are complete in the fullness of Christ we have not yet

completed our journey in Christ. **1 John 3: 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.** When Jesus Christ comes back for us our journey will be completed and we will be complete in the unity of faith.

Now, at this time, we need to read God's Word for quiet time with God. Study God's Word to get closer to God and stand approved before God. Speak God's Word because His Words are the Word's of Life. We have been given the responsibility to reconcile people to God. **11 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

God gave us a job and then committed to us the tools to do the job. This means the tools to do the ministry of reconciliation are only given to the members of the Church of God. The tools committed to us, is the Word of God. If we choose not to speak God's Word, it does not get spoken. God is depending upon us, His children to stand up for Him. We have been made His Ambassadors for Christ, God's front runners to the whole world.

Acts 2:42 ¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The apostles Doctrine consisted of 4 things that they did faithfully to build the church in the first century.

1. They taught the Word of God
2. They fellowshiped daily with each other in God's Word
3. They ate together as a family
4. They prayed together

2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. This is how they built the first century church. They continued daily with one accord in the temple with all who came each day, teaching God's Word, praising God and giving their time to all who needed it. They went from house to house spending intimate time eating with all who attended that evening. They prayed together. This pattern was repeated all through acts and is the pattern we need to follow today in our churches.

Whenever the Word of God is taught and people believe, signs, miracles and wonders happen. This is the bait that makes us successful fishers of men. This makes us witnesses for Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of having a successful ministry of reconciliation in your life.

This church will not last forever, **Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

At this point when everybody on the earth has heard God's Word and has had a chance to believe upon Jesus Christ, the time of the church will be over. There are two trips mentioned for Jesus Christ where His saints are involved. One trip to retrieve His saints, and another trip where He comes back with His saints as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

DAY 7

THE CHURCH OF GOD

God has many names that He calls Himself. These names are used to describe His relationship to His created and the different characteristics that He has. The New Testament from Romans to Jude is written to: the called of God, those called to be saints, those who are born again, the Church of God AKA the Body of Christ. These are all the same group of people described in different ways.

Here are some examples.

- **Romans 1:6** Among whom are ye also the *called of Jesus Christ*: 7 To all that be in Rome, *beloved of God*, *called to be saints*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 1:2** Unto the *church of God* which is at Corinth, to them that are *sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints*, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- **Ephesians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to *the saints which are at Ephesus*, and to *the faithful in Christ Jesus*:

Called of God

Ro 8:28 – 30, 1Co 1:9

Called saints

Ac 9:41, Ro 1:7, 1Co 1:2

Born Again

Joh 3:3, 1Pe 1:23

Children of God

Mt 5:9, Joh 1:12, Ro 8:14, Ro 8:19, *Ro 9:26*, Php 2:15, 1Jo 3:1, 1Jo 3:2

Church of God

Ac 2:47, Ac 12:5, Ac 14:27, Ac 15:4, Ac 20:28, Ro 16:27, 1Co 1:2, 1Co 10:32, 1Co 11:22, 1Co 12:28, 1Co 14:28, 1Co 15:9, 2Co 1:1, Ga 1:13, Eph 3:10, 1Th 1:1, 2Th 1:1, 1Ti 3:5, 1Ti 3:15, 3Jo 1:6.

The Body of Christ

Ro 7:4, Ro 8:10, Ro 12:5, 1Co 10:16, 1Co 12:12, 1Co 12:27, 2Co 5:10, 2Co 12:2, Eph 3:6, Eph 4:12, Eph 5:23, Php 1:20, Col 1:24, Col 2:11, Col 2:17, 1Th 5:23, Heb 10:10.

God will not contradict His Word but He will contradict our understanding of His Word. We need to look to what is written as stronger evidence of what God means to say over that which we think is being said. What I am saying here is to keep our opinions out of our head when we are reading the scripture, or in other words let the Word of God speak for itself. Read the entire context, as the scripture must agree with the surrounding verses as well as all other scripture relating to the same subject. Let the words of the scripture form our thoughts rather than trying to fit the scripture to our thoughts. Compare translations of scripture with other translations of scripture for a better understanding of the words that God gave. Let the Word of God be our only rule of faith and practice.

One of the things we learn in God's Word is that everything we need has already been given to us through the applied knowledge of what we learn in Gods Holy

Word. **2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge (1922 – epignosis, upon knowledge) of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

Jesus Christ is coming back, that is not a question but an answer. We do not know when He is coming back but the circumstances of His return are told.

The first time Jesus came He was born, then He lived and learned until He was 30 years old (30 was the legal age of an adult not 18 like it is today). Then He began His ministry and taught and preformed many signs and wonders. After this by His choice He stayed on that cross and was crucified. Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified fulfilling scripture. God chose Jesus to be the perfect Passover sin sacrifice for Israel, once and for all, supplied by God that year.

A short side note here. God describes the entire population of the earth as three different groups of people: **1Co 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.** Two of these groups of people are chosen of God, and the other group does not identify with God as part of their lives. The Jews are Israel, a group of people that all descended from one faithful man of God. The Church of God are all who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior: **Ro 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** The Gentiles are everybody else in the world that do not fit into the category of the first two. The sacrifice that Jesus did upon that cross satisfied the requirement of redemption for the sin that Adam did on that day in the garden. Adam died

spiritually that day, and now anybody descended from Adam can become a child of God and be saved.

After 3 days and 3 nights of Jesus being dead God raised Him up from the dead and Jesus walked around showing Himself alive to many. He then gathered his apostles whom He had chosen, walked with them and taught them more. Almost the whole book of John is addressed to the time after His resurrection. After giving His Apostles more instruction of what was to follow, He then ascended into heaven.

All this took some time, Jesus did not show up one day say I'm here and then leave. He had some things to do while he was here to give people time to believe on Him. The second time Jesus comes will involve some time passing also. The second time that Jesus comes is described two different ways. Once he will come back for His saints. The gathering together is one way people describe this event; the bible describes several things that tie together to explain this event. The other way Jesus is described as coming back is when He comes back as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Jesus comes back with His saints to kick satan out of his rulership of this world. This event will be a huge war that will destroy all life upon this planet.

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1 ¶ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The time period between the time that Jesus Christ comes back for His Saints, and the time that Our Lord and Savior comes back as Lord of Lord's, and King of King's gives everybody else left upon this earth time to be reconciled to God. This is time for all the earth, those that are left, to believe upon Jesus Christ as Lord.

Jesus Christ left the earth with a promise of blessings to His disciples. On the day of Pentecost these blessings became a reality. Since that day when Jesus Christ

ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of God the Church of God AKA the body of Christ has been building **I Co 12:12 – 27**. It is God's plan to use this Church of God to spread His word to the entire world. **12 ¶ For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 ¶ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

This body of Christ is a spiritual body made up of each born again child of God. Each of us are part of this body of Christ. This section also describes how we should get along with each other and how important we are to each other.

The time gap in the middle between the first time that Jesus Came and when comes back for His Church, gives the entire world we live in now a chance to believe on Jesus Christ and be reconciled to God. Remember **John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

I looked at every usage of believing with Jesus in the same sentence. I also looked all the usages of in Him, on Him, In Jesus and on Jesus when believing was involved. I found these prepositions in use, <eis 1519> into or unto, <epi 1909> upon, <ek 1537> out of, in the Greek text but never <en 1722> in. The usage of the words believe in Jesus were added in the English translation. The difference in the use of these words is action. When you believe; on or unto or upon or out of something you are acting on what you believe. When you “believe in”, action is not necessarily involved. Jesus did so many things for us on that cross. The act of believing involves remembering all that He did for us, thinking on the things Jesus Christ represented in God’s Word.

Joh 3:15 That whosoever believeth in <1519> him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in <1519> him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on <1519> him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in <1519> the name of the only begotten Son of God. In these examples the proposition “eis” is used. This proposition would be better translated unto or upon. The proposition in would be “en” which is translated in as “directly in the middle of” which we don’t find when dealing with the subject of believing.

Jesus second coming has two parts to it with a time span in the middle. It begins when Jesus Christ comes back for His Church and ends when Jesus Christ comes back with His Church as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. This time span is so that Israel has one more chance to take God at His Word and believe upon Jesus Christ. It will begin not with a birth but with the sign of a gathering of all who have believed on Jesus Christ since His first coming. This is talked about in a several places in the New Testament Epistles.

1Co 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God

God has shows here that He has divided all the people of the earth into 3 categories. God has always separated the people that believe upon Him from the other people of the world. The subject of the whole bible from **Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 22:21** revolves around Jesus, either the promise of His coming to redeem mankind or the promise of His return to complete His work on this planet.

Because of this the Scripture is addressed to or for different people that God wants to address. “To” would be when you could read the scripture with your name supplied as the recipient of the subject spoken. This would be as if the scripture was written directly to you. “For” would be talking about someone else but in a way where you could learn by example from the spoken subject. While we can

learn from all scripture (**2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**) we cannot always substitute our name into the subject of that scripture. Israel had scripture addressed to them concerning the coming of Jesus as their Savior. (The Savior has already come, we no longer need to wait for Him) When Jesus the Messiah did show up they rejected Him as their Messiah because Jesus did not fit the vision they had for Him. They had a picture in their mind of who the messiah should be. They thought of the Messiah that they had read about in the scrolls as Lord of Lords and thought that the Messiah would set up His Kingdom on earth as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. They were looking for somebody powerful not meek. (God will not contradict His Word but He will contradict our understanding of His Word. Any contradiction we think we find in God's Word will be either in the translation or in our understanding of that scripture.) The leadership of Israel rejected the Messiah that God delivered to Israel. They then continued waiting for Savior that God had already sent.

Scripture that is addressed to the group (Jews, Gentiles, Church of God) of people that you belong to is directly for your benefit. You could act like it is your name in the scripture while you are reading it because it applies directly to you. Scripture that is addressed to one of the two other groups is for you to learn from. While all scripture is not for our direct instruction, it is all for us to learn from. **Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime** (Before Christ, the promised Messiah showed up) **were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

God then turned His attention to the Gentiles and allowed the benefits of Jesus Christ to be shared with the whole world. All those who believed unto Jesus Christ, either Jew or Gentile, became part of a new group of people categorized by God

called the Church of God. God delivered new revelation to His Prophets concerning the new relationship of the Church of God to Jesus Christ. He then delivered promises concerning both parts of Jesus Christ's return, soon to come. Jesus Christ's return for His saints, and Jesus Christ's return with His saints. God also told of things that will occur leading up to the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Stop here

What I would like to look at in the scripture next is the subject of Who, What, Where, When, Why and How talked about in the Bible surrounding THE promise of the return of Jesus Christ.

DAY 8

WHEN JESUS CHRIST COMES BACK

What I would like to look at in the scripture is the subject of Who, What, Where, When, Why and How talked about in the Bible surrounding promise of the return of Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This is the first of the 5 W's, "the why". God so loved the world (*this is talking about the people of this world.*) that He gave His only Begotten Son. God felt the people of this planet were worth the death of His only Begotten Son; this death was the prelude to bring those who would believe upon Jesus Christ out of their separation from Him; to bring those who would believe, out of their spiritual death. **John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** This life is spiritual, life of the same spirit that God is. God will be our father, forever.

1 Corinthians 15:20 ¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

This would be # 2 "the what" of our quest. Here we have spiritual life that is eternal. Our flesh and soul alone is considered dead to God. In Christ we become body, soul, and spirit.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming <3952>.

This word coming <3952 – 48reek48ia> always relates to the personal presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have a promise here that Jesus Christ is coming back in person.

3952 παρουσία 48reek48ia par-oo-see'-ah, n f AV-coming 22,

presence 2; 24 1) presence 2) the coming, arrival, advent 2a) the future visible return from heaven of Jesus, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God

Christ was raised from the dead. But that is not all that is said here. God says that Christ is the firstfruits of them that sleep, only the first to be raised from the dead in this manor, this means more fruit is coming. Who are these fruit? Verse 22 says they that are in Adam, all those who are from Adam's line will die.

The same in reverse applies to the line of Christ, everybody that is from Christ. Here God has separated by identification those who would believe upon Christ from the rest of the world. Not everybody belongs to Christ, only those which receive the seed which is God's Word are Christs; those who believe God's Word are those who belong to Christ. They will all be raised to everlasting life.

Verses 20 through 23 teach us of something new. Verse 20 talks of Jesus Christ being resurrected from the dead and being the firstfruits of them that sleep. Sleep is also used of those who have died in Christ that God will later get up from the dead. Verse 21 talks about resurrection of the dead being brought by man, (by man came also the resurrection of the dead). It is not clear from this verse which man brought death or which man brought this resurrection from the dead. In verse 22 we are giving clarity. Death came to all men from Adam. We all are from the seed of Adam through our parents and our parents/parents back to the first parents Adam and Eve. Therefore, we are all in Adam and have a sentence of death on us.

This would be our first birth where we got the life that is in our breath; as long as we breathe, we live. Remember in **Gen 2:7 and the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.** In the same manor all who have received the seed of God's word in them, those who believe on Jesus Christ, will be made alive. The sentence of death put upon us because of Adam at this point is rescinded because of Jesus Christ. Verse 23 shows the order that this will happen. After Christ comes those that are His will be made alive. This would be # 2 "the what" of our quest. Here we have resurrection from the dead related to Jesus Christ. We do not have all of the details of this resurrection from the dead yet so let's keep reading.

I want to take a brief look at what the biblical use of seed means. The word seed always represents life; seed represents the kind of life. The first and second usage of seed is the definition of grass and trees. Grass produces seeds which in turn produce more of the same kind of grass. And the tree produces fruit which has the seed inside of the fruit. (In both cases it is the seed that has the life in it to produce more life.) This is a little bit different than how we classify our agriculture. We have categorized plant growth as: grass, bushes, trees, flowers, cactus and many more, God put all plant life into two categories, grass and trees.

Ge 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Ge 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Ge 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Mt 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

God is comparing those who receive His seed to fruit trees. We produce more of the same kind of trees, (People who have the seed of God's Word inside of them) which in turn produce more fruit.

Lu 8: 10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Here Jesus is talking to His disciples who are faithful. God wants His Word known to the faithful. You could say that the Word of God Is the Will of God. God does not want us to guess at what He is trying to say.

It says in 2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This is not new like it is used but new to you. This is brand new as in never seen before. We are a new creation which leads to the question what is new in us. This seed that is in us has made us life; it is a viable and separate life from the body and soul, our breath life, we were born of our parents with.

The Living Word of God is the seed God has sown among the people of the earth to procreate His children. **Phil 1:23, 2:16; Heb 4:12; 1 Jo 1:1** all relate to God's

Word being alive. God calls on people who have received this seed to also reproduce others of the same kind. **Mat 13:23 he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**

If you notice the fruit described also has seed inside itself. That means that it has the ability to reproduce itself continuing the “gene” or seed of its own kind.

Ge 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind <04327>: **and God saw that it was good.**

04327 מִינִי miyn meen AV-kind 1) kind, sometimes a species (usually of animals) Groups of living organisms belong in the same created “kind” if they have descended from the same ancestral gene pool. We get our word gene from this word. If you remember your biology classes you will know that we get our genes (this is where characteristics, our size and shape, the color of our hair and eyes and so on) from our parents.

Things produced after their kind look like what they came from. Kind of plants and grass look the same, kind of animals or fish of the sea look the same and so on. In the same manner we have taken characteristics of our parents and sometimes look just like them.

Php 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.

In this manner of holding forth the word of life we are like Christ.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and

of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The word judges us and guides our steps.

1Jo 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life

This word of God is life.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

2Co 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written <1449 eng-graf'-o> not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

The spirit of the living God has engraved His word into our hearts Written with Spirit. The purpose of this is that we are to be known and read of all men. People will learn God's Word by our lives. We are to become the living epistles of God. The word in action is what is known and read of all people, both men and woman.

Not everybody is Christ's but only those who have believed on Christ are His. All of this has an order to it, Christ the first fruits, the first begotten child of God to be resurrected from the dead and then those that are Christ's at his coming.

<52reek52ia> 3952.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Jesus Christ was that promise waited for since Adam and Eve got put out of the Garden of Eden.

Remember **John 3:16 whosoever believeth <1519 eis> in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** All those who confess with their mouth Jesus as their Lord and that believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead are Jesus Christ's, Romans 10:9-10. Here we have #3 of the 5 W's, "the who". God is choosing those who would believe on Jesus to be resurrected from the dead: made alive, have everlasting life, be made unto salvation.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (sozo – made whole).

When we get saved all of our sins are washed away and full access is given for us into the inner court of God; the judgment from God has already been made. Jesus Christ paid in full the payment for our sins, so there is no need of a further judgment as there is for the rest of mankind. When God gives gifts, He does not take them back.

God dealt with Israel as a nation, but now He is reaching out to the whole world one person at a time. People from both Israel and the rest of the world are now brought into the Church of God. Here are some of the benefits of being in Christ Jesus.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: This is some of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

1 Corinthians 15:20 – 23, John 3:16, Romans 9:8 only give us some information; those of us that believe on Christ shall be made alive. **1 Corinthians 15:23** also says when, at Christ's coming. <54reek54ia> Remember we are looking for the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How in the scripture as it deals with the return of Jesus Christ. This would be #4 of our search "the when" answered. When Jesus Christ comes back, we shall be made alive forever.

1Corrianthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. This is because the image of who we will be is found in that seed that is in us, which is the word of God. This is another example of why we are called epistles. When we walk in the steps of Jesus following His example, we are living pages of God's Word. **Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

Jesus Christ was the living Word of God.

DAY 9 WHEN JESUS CHRIST COMES FOR HIS SAINTS

1Corinthians15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed <236>,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised <1453> incorruptible, and we shall be changed <236>.

1453 εγείρω egeiro eg-i'-ro

to arouse, cause to rise; 1a) to arouse from sleep, to awake; 1b) to arouse from the sleep of death, to recall the dead to life; 1c) to cause to rise from a seat or bed etc.;

236 αλλασσω allasso al-las'-so

1) to change, to exchange one thing for another, to transform

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is the transformation.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? {grave: or, hell}

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is why we look to the risen victorious Jesus Christ who is free from sin, rather than looking to the strength of the fleshly body burdened with sin; the victorious Christ is path to freedom. Our path to victory is spiritual through Jesus Christ.

These verses say the same thing as **1 Corinthians 15:20 – 23** but with more information. All who are Christ's will be changed/transformed <236> (**1 Co 15:52-54**), but it does not tell us here how we will be changed after the dead are called awake, incorruptible, and the rest of those who believe on Christ are changed/transformed, only that we will be transformed <236>, so we will keep looking.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 ¶ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming <3952 – 56reek56ia> of the Lord shall not prevent <5348> them which are asleep. {prevent: or, come before, or, anticipate, or, precede} These footnotes are correct. This word prevent is used as how they spoke when the King James Bible was translated. It means to come before, proceed.

5348 φθάνω phthano fthan'-o apparently a primary verb; TDNT-9:88,1258; v AV-come 4, already attain 1, attain 1, prevent 1; 7

1) to come before, precede, anticipate 2) to come to, arrive at 3) to reach, attain to

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise <450> first:

450 anistemi – this word just means to get up, either from sitting or lying down, or from getting up from the dead. It is never used of the resurrection for the final judgment in the bible. Here the New Testament saints get up from the dead and meet Jesus Christ in the clouds. *(Eph 1: 13 – 14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory) The first part of this verse talks about getting the new creation inside of us. The last part of this verse relates to the church being redeemed to be with God. The price that Jesus Christ paid upon that cross was what was paid to redeem all of mankind who would believe upon Him for God.

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together <726> with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Caught up together -726 αρπάζω harpazo har-pad'-zo from a derivative of 138; TDNT-1:472,80 AV-catch up 4, take by force 3, catch away 2, pluck 2, catch 1, pull 1; 13 1) to seize, carry off by force 2) to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly 3) to snatch out or away

Here this word **726** harpazo means to take by force or to physically catch away. God is physically taking hold of all of the Christians, first the dead and then those who are alive and remain and taking them to the clouds in the air to meet Jesus Christ.

These two verses, 16 and 17 are both the beginning and the end of the whole event of Jesus Christ coming back to earth for his saints: the event of the gathering-together of all the saints by the Lord. Those of us in Christ that are left alive will be next to meet Jesus Christ in the air.

We get to add the #5 W to our list, “the where”. **To meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** We meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air and wherever the Lord is, we shall be also. We now have the 5 W’s that apply to the church of God but not a lot of details and we still do not know the how we will be changed. Let us keep searching and see what else we can find.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. {comfort: or, exhort}

I looked at the English literal translation of the Greek text of this section, **1 Thessalonians 4:14** “**For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also God those who are fallen asleep through Jesus will bring with him.**”¹ All those who are born again before they die are not forgotten by God after they are dead.

Now in **2 Th 2:17** we have more information on the where; we will meet Jesus in 3952 παρουσία 58reek58ia the clouds. And what Jesus does with us after He gathers us together. He will bring us with Him; **so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

¹ Translation from the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament. George Ricker Berry

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by (<5228> huper) the coming <3952> of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together (<1997> episunagoge) unto(<1909> epi) him, {unto him: or, around him}

Here in verse one those who have believed on Christ, those that are Christ's, (not Jerusalem, Jerusalem as a nation rejected Christ and that nation is being put on hold until God gives them a second chance to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior Gods Way) are being lovingly begged by two things: the coming <3952 Parousia> of our lord and by our gathering together <1997 – episunagoge> unto Him. They are two separate situations that happen in the s–me time period and are not the same thing.

There are some interesting words in this verse. The word “by” is the 59reek word **5228 huper 1) in behalf of, for the sake of** This word “huper” is a preposition, A preposition describes a relationship between other words in a sentence . In this case “by the”, we are being pleaded with because of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, {unto him: or, around him}.

Jesus Christ is coming back!!!!

The word coming **3952 parousia 1) presence** Always denotes personal presence. This word means Jesus Christ will be there. Hip, Hip hooray!!!

The word “gathering together” **1997 episunagoge** *ep-ee-soon-ag-o-gay'*
1) a gathering together in one place; This verse talks of Jesus Christ bringing together all of those who ever believed on Him in one place at the same time, the whole family of Christ together in one place at the same time. Talking about a church meeting! Oh Yea ☺

The word “unto” **1909 epi 1) upon, on, at, by, before;** This word “unto” is a preposition also and tells us that all of those who believed on Him will be gathering upon Him. We will all be meeting Jesus Christ at the same time; it looks like we will be hugging Him. So far, we have learned some of the Church Of God, (the dead in Christ) will be made alive at his coming and the rest will be changed, transformed. Also, we will all be gathered together upon Him in the clouds, then we will ever be with the Lord. I’m ready, are you?☺

2 Thessalonians 2:2,3 Don’t let our mind creep up with doubt’s. Paul is saying here not to let anybody talk you out of what you have been taught. Don’t listen to any spirits or any preacher talking against The Hope Of The Return Of Jesus Christ or any letter that seems like it has authority talk you out of The Hope Of The Return Of Jesus Christ. Just don’t get talked out of the burning expectation of **The Hope of The Return of Jesus Christ**. This is Gods story, take His word for it.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 **That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away <646> first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

646 apostasia from 575 + 2476 apo – away from and histemi -to stand

1) a falling away, defection, apostasy

To stand and away from. Apostasia is the feminine form of the word apostasion, the word for divorce. This word apostasion is used figuratively like to separate mentally from a disagreement or a difference of opinion and literally like an actual

separation that includes distance. To determine this usage, we are looking at the context of where the verse is located.

The Day of Christ, The Lord's Day and the Day of the Lord are the same day; also "in that day" is worth looking at.

The second thing before the day of Christ can happen is the antichrist, the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition has to be revealed **2 Thessalonians 2:3**. What these verses are saying is that this appearance of Jesus Christ along with the gathering of His saints is not the Day of the Lord, but the beginning of what has to happen for that Great and Notable Day to begin. This verse also does not tell us what the Lord does with us after he takes us from this world.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This will happen over a period of time where this man will act as if he were god, performing signs and wonders, deceiving and corrupting the people against the words of the true God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth <2722> that he might be revealed in his time.

Now we know what is stopping satan from fully exercising his authority over this world; satan has to wait until it is his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth <2722> will let, until he be taken <1096>out of the way <3319>

2722 κατεχω katecho kat-ekh'-o from 2596 and 2192; TDNT-2:829,286; v
 AV-hold 3, hold fast 3, keep 2, possess 2, stay 1, take 1, have 1, make 1, misc 5; 19
 1) to hold back, detain, retain 1a) from going away 1b) to restrain, hinder (the
 course or progress of) 1b1) that which hinders, Antichrist from making his
 appearance 1b2) to check a ship's headway i.e. to hold or head the ship 1c) to hold
 fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of 2) to get possession of, take 2b) to
 possess

1096 γίνομαι ginomai ghin'-om-ahee V, TDNT- 1:681,117; { See TDNT 156 }
 AV-be 255, come to pass 82, be made 69, be done 63, come 52, become 47, God
 forbid + 3361 15, arise 13, have 5, be fulfilled 3, be married to 3, be preferred 3,
 not tr 14, misc 4, vr done 2; **678** 1) to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to
 be, receive being 2) to become, i.e. to come to pass, happen 2a) of events 3) to
 arise, appear in history, come upon the stage 3a) of men appearing in public 4) to
 be made, finished 4a) of miracles, to be performed, wrought 5) to become, be made
 3319 μεσος mesos mes'-os from 3326; adj

AV-midst 41, among 6, from among + 1537 5, midnight + 3571 2, misc 5; 61
 1) middle 2) the midst 3) in the midst of, amongst

What this verse 7 is literally saying that “The hidden secrets of sin are already
 effectually working and the only thing in the way of the effects of this sin is the
 unmovable Church of God until Gods Church is literally no longer in the middle of
 satan's realm”.

Here in **2 Thessalonians 2:1** the Church of God is taken out from among the rest
 of the people in the world. It explains here in verses **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** that it
 it is the Christians, the Church of God, that wrestle against the principalities and
 powers of this world and hinder satan and his devils from interfering with not only

our lives but those of the whole world. (It is by our specific prayers that we stop satan in his tracks right now by specifically tending to the things of God in our faithful prayers. This binds satan and his devils from operating in this world).

DAY 10 THE END OF GOD'S CHURCH ON EARTH

On this day of the gathering of the Lords Church, those who did not believe what was spoken about Jesus Christ, those who would not believe on Jesus Christ will be left in this world to the devices of satan. This then frees satan to raise up his anti-christ and to deceive the whole world in a manner of his own choice. This is why Jesus said **Mt 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

Those who are gathered by Jesus Christ are those who believed upon Christ. They are the faithful; they are those which have been holding satan back by the power of their prayers. With the separation of God's children from this earth, this part of God's history with one of the groups of the people that He has worked with on earth will be over. Remember there are just three groups of people living upon this earth. **1Co 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.** At this point the church of God is gone. This event is a huge sign designed by God; a major group of people upon the earth will just disappear. This is already predicted in God's Word. This event gives Israel a chance to wake up and realize that it is now their turn again as God's chosen. God will now give Israel another chance to accept His Son as their Lord and Savior. Remember Israel rejected Jesus Christ as being the promised Messiah.

With the faithful of God no longer upon this earth restraining satan and his devils, satan will now have free reign over all the people of the earth to interfere and to do as he likes.

The very act of all the people of the whole Christian church disappearing from all over the earth at the same time is a powerful statement of the authenticity of the New Testament and of Jesus Christ. This prophetic sign of all the Christians of the

world being gathered by Jesus Christ and disappearing is a declaration to the Church of Israel that it is once again their time to receive God's attention. This event is a shout to Israel that it is time to quit rejecting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This event declares Jesus Christ as the one and only true Lord. Satan also will receive this as a declaration that it is now his time to rule unopposed.

Isa 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, Those gentiles who believed became part of the church of God.

Ac 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. The church of God speaks God's Word to all the people of the earth.

Ro 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard¹⁹¹? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. All the earth will hear God's Word from the church of God. God's Word will be preached unto all them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. All these people will have a chance to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; this is the ministry of reconciliation at work. **11 Corinthians 5:18 – 19**

191 ακουω akouo ak-oo'-o a root; TDNT-1:216,34; v

AV-hear 418, hearken 6, give audience 3, hearer 2, misc 8; 437

to be endowed with the faculty of hearing, not deaf 2) to hear

2b) to attend to, consider what is or has been said 2c) to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

I want to go to 2 Thessalonians 2:3 for a minute. **Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

This verse has had me puzzling for a while. It is nestled in between two verses that talk about the church leaving this earth. By this alone it seems that this word apostasia- falling away would be a physical separation of the church of God from this world. I will come back to this in a moment but first I want to look at some things.

It has always been Gods intention that all the people of the earth get a chance to hear about His Son Jesus Christ. The time before the gathering will be with a surge of people throughout the world believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and getting born again. This will be preceded by a mass outreach from the faithful of the Church of God, to anybody who does not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This outreach will be throughout the world, to everybody in the world who lives; this outreach will be regarding Jesus Christ and Him crucified. **(Ro 10:18 their sound went into all the earth, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth).**

Wycliffe Bible Translators are pursuing this outreach right now with bibles being translated into every know language of this world and then distributed to the people of that language, this is their website www.wycliffe.org/. With the translated bibles at hand faithful believers will have the tools for outreach to the world. **2 Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you**

by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (Ac 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth). The purpose of people is God. God desires worship and gives people a choice to give this worship. **Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.** God is looking for those who are looking for Him. **Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.** Jesus Christ makes available worshiping God in spirit.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God gave Jesus, His Son, to the whole world. Once each living person of the world has had its chance to believe upon Jesus Christ and the Church of God is full, then God will turn his attention back to Israel as a Nation and they also will have another chance to believe on Jesus Christ as Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. This verse talks about the Day of Christ or the Day of the Lord being at hand. There are two things that must happen first before that great and notable Day of the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, The first one is the church of God must leave this earth.

A falling away <<646 apostasia > **2 Thessalonians 2:3**, (we are still working on this verse). **4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

- A falling away – 646 apostasia – a separation or divorce from this world. This word is the feminine form of 647 – apostasion, divorcement. This word apostasion which we use for divorce, would mean an apostasy, or a separation from the idea or teachings both literally and figuratively. This verse three talks about two things that must happen before the day of Christ can happen. The first one is a falling away – apostasia. This word is puzzling me very much. Apostasia is nestled in between two verses that refer to the church leaving, and the church being out from the middle of satans realm. This would seem to mean that the apostasia would be a literal separation.

Yet when I refer to the conversation that Jesus had with His disciples in Mathew 24, I see something else. **Matthew 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 ¶ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand) ☺

This section talks about great tribulation and the effects of this tribulation upon the people of the church; during this same period God's Word is being preached all over the world. Tribulation is the word **2347 thlipsis** –**This word symbolically means grievous attention or distress**, it means a pressure or burden upon the spirit. It has the sense of that which presses upon the spirit; mental pressure, affliction, anxiety. This word is used as tribulation and affliction and a couple of other uses. It is used 39 times between Mathew and James and 5 times in the book of revelation. This tribulation not only is throughout the Christian church but will be upon the Church of Israel later. We are going to look at both tribulation in the Christian church and God's comfort and strength to those being tempted.

Day 11

PROMISED TRIBULATION

We see three things, in these three verses, that talk about three separate incidents which are related together by proximity: 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, and coming up 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

In this section of scripture in 2 Thessalonians, we see three verses relating to one of these close together.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 ¶ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming <3952 parousia> of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together <1997 episunagoge> unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. This is talking about the Lord's Day, when Jesus Christ comes back as Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away <646 apostasia> first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken <1096 ginomai> out of <ek 1537> the way <3319 mesos.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

- Be caught up together – 726 harpazo – to seize, carry off by force from this world to the clouds.

2 Thessalonians 2:1.

- A gathering together -1997 episunagoge – a gathering together in one place. (This is an assembling together of every Christian that ever lived in the same place at the same time in the clouds upon Jesus.)

2 Thessalonians 2:7

2722 katecho kat-ekh'-o from 2596 and 2192; v, AV-hold 3, hold fast

1096 ginomai ghin'-om-ahee V, AV-be 255, come to pass 82,

3319 μεσος mesos mes'-os from 3326; adj, AV-midst 41

What this verse 7 is literally saying that “The hidden secrets of sin are already effectually working and the only thing in the way of the effects of this sin is the unmovable Church of God until Gods Church is literally no longer in the middle of that sin”.

Here we have three verses in the first and second part of the same book in scripture. They talk about the Church of God being removed and being gone from this earth, which is satan's realm. Before I move forward with this thought, we need to spend some time talking about the relationship of satan and the Church of God. This relationship brings much trouble to the Church of God.

Genesis 2:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

What we have just learned about satan is: he is an enemy of the seed of Christ, the prayers of the Church of God crush his skull and his skull bruises the heels of the Church of God, satan's whole purpose is to steel, kill, and to destroy everything about Jesus Christ whose whole purpose is that we, the Church of God, might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. Satan hates the people of the Church of God because they have the seed of Christ in them.

The Church of God has been given the ministry of reconciliation, along with the word of reconciliation to go with it. While we preach God's Word to people and they believe; signs, miracles, and wonders follow. What also follows is satan and his devils to '2 Cor 4:3-4' follow to blind the minds of them which believe not, in case the light of the glorious gospel should shine upon them and they should be converted and healed.

What tools does satan use to blind the minds of them who will not believe.

Pressure or pleasure are tools used to distract minds from God's Word. Pleasure would be according to our desires that feed our flesh. These could be desires (lusts) for wealth, of things of taste, touch, or any of our senses. Lust is an overload of desire that overwhelms everything else. The need to be with another which fills your entire heart. The need to fill sensuality or lust of sex. Popularity, power, control can also be addictive. Satan delivers any to all of these things to any who are listening to God's Word. Anything to stop people from being delivered by God's Word.

Words of hatred by any who would attack those would believe. Threatening's against family, against friends, against those nearby to stop all from hearing and believing people who are speaking God's Word. Threats of beatings: threats of incarceration, threats of death, all of these threats include hints of don't listen to those speaking God's Word. Anything to get you to give more attention to those who hate you, than to God who loves you. God says to persevere through these moments of intense persecution and He will reward you with life and a crown.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried <peirazo-tempt>; and ye shall have tribulation < 2347- thlipsis>ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:5 – 13 that there will be great tribulation against the Church. Whenever there is outreach of God's Word, satan or his minions are there trying to cause interference of any who might believe God's Word. This interference will be in the form of pressure or pleasure; the whole purpose is to distract you from believing the words that bring you closer to God.

Ac 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. The church of God speaks God's Word over all the earth.

Ro 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard<191>? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

In the days before the Church of God is full, there will be great outreach of God's Word. The whole world will hear about Jesus Christ and have a chance to believe. At the same time there will be great persecution against the Church of God to stop this outreach. This is what Jesus prophesied about in Mathew. I know we covered this already, but please bear with me. We will look at this one more time.

Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted <2347>, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

This happened in the first century and is happening again now.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. This is an ongoing process by satan to discredit Gods word and the people who teach it.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Sin will multiply and pleasures of the flesh will distract people from the Love of God. The world is getting ready for this time, right now. This time is not yet, but it is coming.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

This has happened before in the first century, referenced in the book of Acts. Here God is telling us to withstand the temptations of all forms that we are confronted with, pressure of pleasure.

Our adversary, satan has a three-fold purpose on earth. **John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** Here in this wonderful contrast between satan and Jesus Christ; we see that satan only wants to hurt us. Again in 11 Corinthians we see more about satan. **11 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.** Here satan blinds the minds of those who are lost; he replaces the word of God that is in their minds with distractions so that they no longer have any light of God's Word to see by. There is no longer any light for their path in life. **Genesis 4:4 ¶ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:**

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. This word enmity is the word hatred, satan hates the seed of Jesus Christ. The woman throughout history has only had access to one seed, the child of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to be born of a woman; He was born with perfect blood. This means that no male on earth could procreate that birth. All carry sin in their seed, this curtesy of Adam. Adam sinned and the sin was so bad it carried into his blood to curse all mankind.

Salvation of mankind had to come through a faithful woman of God who by free will, would accept a creation of life inside of her. **LU 1:26 ¶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,**

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.

29 And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Lu 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. Mary accepted the Angel of God's words as they were God's Words. Mary then said OK God, that would be the short form of Mary saying **be it unto me according to thy word.**

Mary was the mother of that seed of the woman, which was promised in Gen 3:15. Jesus was born without sin; He was born to live as a man on earth lives, without committing sin. Jesus Christ the anointed messiah was sacrificed on the eve of Passover to be the perfect sacrifice to redeem all of mankind. Today all who believe on that seed Jesus Christ, believing that He was raised from the dead and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Rom 10:9,10), have Christ in them the hope of Glory. **Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** We have that seed of Christ in us. We are who the enmity of satan, are hated by satan. It is because of this that when ever God's Word is taught, satan or one of his falling angels is there to cause as much confusion as possible. This is the steal, kill, or destroy mission at work; this is the foundation for all tribulation.

I should also point out that when ever God's Word is taught to people, it falls on one of four different types of ground, four different kinds of people.

Mat 13:3-43, 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Here Jesus taught but gave no details of what He was talking about.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

The disciples are smart. Instead of deciding what it was that Jesus must have been talking about, they catch Jesus alone and ask Him why He is being so vague.

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance:

Take care of what God gives you and you shall have more than all that you need.

The number one thing that God has given us is His Word that he magnified above all His name. **Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

Do not take care of what you are given by God, and you will lose all that you have. **Mat 13:12 but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.**

Mat 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: The people had a heart that would not believe God's Word

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and

should be converted, and I should heal them. They don't believe God, want nothing from God.

16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. The disciples were the first to hear what God had in store for those who would believe upon His Son, Jesus Christ.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*. **18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.**

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. Remember 2 Corinthians 4:4, Satan is blinding the minds of those who believe not.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. Here is someone who loves what they hear and act briefly upon what is taught. They do not put roots into God's Word; they spend no time studying it and give it no Credence. When life gets tough because of God's Word, or when life gets good against the face of God's Word, they flee from it.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. This also is someone who does not hold onto the Word of God. They care more about the pleasures around them than the promises of God. This person has had their mind blinded **2 Cor 4:4 lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. This is the building of God's Church. The Word is heard, and people are born again, becoming children of the most High God.

This is the explanation of Jesus of the parable of the Sower.

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Satan is always ready to attack where the Word of God is taught. This is always the start of tribulation, remember vs 21, unbelief brings tribulation or persecution.

This tribulation has divided the people of the church already, just look at the different denominations. One of the effects of these attacks on some of the people of the church is fear. In this fear they quit speaking God's Word completely or partially, leaving out what it seems the attack is focused on. Over a period of time new churches form submitting to the authority of the land instead of the authority of God. People no longer get to hear the power of God's Word; they get to listen to

the Word watered down, and the people become underfed, anemic and powerless to withstand the adversary.

During this tribulation to the Church of God which has been going on since the day of Pentecost, some people have already stood strong as witnesses to all, and others will stand strong until the end being saved by God. In this process of persecution, the individual who stands strong in the face of temptation to betray God will be honored by God. Others in the face of persecution have been offended by the cross of Christ. They did betray one another to save themselves from people, and still to come others will do the same; it is always people who are the tools of satan. They will both betray friends and family to save themselves from persecution. This is the group of people who are mentioned in **11 Thessalonians 2:3**; this is those who are the seed upon rocky ground, who run from persecution and leave the faith.

There always have been those who stood faithful in the gap between the persecution to the people of the church and God in their prayers for the Church. They stand as intercessors and as a witness and a light to guide others to Christ. Stand strong and faithful on the name of Jesus Christ knowing that God has a white robe and up to 5 Crowns for you.

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Everything in life is centered around Gods Word. Either we receive the teachings of Jesus Christ and worship and give God the Glory, or we reject them and push against the teachings of Jesus Christ replacing the leftover absence of God's Word with a broken cistern.

Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. This broken cistern would be a philosophy or religion or even a different way of thinking to take the place of God's Word.

Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Tribulation comes whenever the spoken or written word of God is rejected, and the people or the government of the people lash out at those speaking and those hearing and believing.

Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your

name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. This is what the people who are speaking God's Word or listening to God's Word face.

Luke 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony. (1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear)

14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer do not think ahead of time of what you will say **(Mt 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak)** God will fill our mouth with words, just open your mouth and let the words come out. **Mt 10:20 For it is not ye that speak,** (We do the speaking but the words are from God, not our thoughts) **but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you**

Mr 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, (these words are given to us by Jesus Christ, at the moment that we speak; we will not find these words in our mind, but in our mouth only. Don't ask, just speak.) **that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost** (We do the speaking but the words are from Jesus Christ) **Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things,** (this would be by revelation of Jesus Christ) **and bring all things to your remembrance** (the things that you have studied, God will

bring back to you), *whatsoever I have said unto you* (and things God has told you before will be brought back to your memory).

DAY 12**PROMISED TRIBULATION CONTINUED**

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. (this would be by revelation (in your thoughts) and inspiration (in your mouth, bypassing your mind and thoughts) from Jesus Christ)

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom (words for your mouth and understanding for your heart), **which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.**

We are told to be ready to speak without present knowledge or forethought of what we will say. That we speak is our choice, but the words that we speak belong to God.

16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation <2347>: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. Here we are promised we, the church of God, will have tribulation.

Acts 8:1 and Saul was consenting unto (Stephens death) his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. The apostles stood in the face of tribulation and preached God's Word. They endured threatening's, beatings, imprisonment, persecution for the privilege of speaking God's Word.

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution <2347> that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. Those who had been taught God's Word then taught God's Word to others. They were so excited about what they had learned, they told every other Jew they met about Jesus Christ.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation <2347> enter into the kingdom of God.

This is what the Christian Church is going through now and has been going through since the day of Pentecost. Christians are being hunted, persecuted, beaten, jailed, tortured, and killed. There have been several periods of time in history when the whole Church Of God was under attack with the sole intent of killing every man woman and child of that church. The pressure, to the people of the Church Of God, was so great on their minds that there was no relief except from God. This kind of attack is going on in many of the Muslim countries of the world today.

From the records that I have read² of these time periods some stood faithful until the end. Others forsook God and turned on their family and friends. Of these that forsook God later some of them turned back to God and stood faithful until the end.

This tribulation causes tremendous pressure on the people trying to share Gods word. We all have pressure all around us; on the job, at school, from our friends, from strangers, at church and so on. Because of this pressure there is room for great temptation to doubt the promises of God. Doubt in this situation leads to

² Jesus Freaks; 0233D.C. Talk, Voice of the Martyrs

rejecting the Word of God. This is the apostisa talked about in 11 Thessalonians 2:3. Seed that fell on rocky ground.

This time that we are in, from Pentecost until the return of Christ is a time of great affliction. This affliction is from satan being in people's hearts against the Church of God. We are the Church of God that worship Jesus Christ today. The intensity of this pressure and persecution varies from person to person, and it varies from country to country. ***(Joh 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him*** If satan can manage to reach one of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ in the personal presence of Jesus Christ, what makes you think that he cannot reach you. These temptations from satan come into people's hearts in the form of thoughts that include doubts, and fears, and varied emotions. These temptations are designed to replace your thoughts that hold God's Word. ***(Ac 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?)*** This emotion was greed. The temptations come when you look at the personality of a man or woman of God, instead of listening to the words of the Word of God that the man or woman of God is speaking. **11 Timothy 4: 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. We need to listen to the words of the Men and Woman of God that are speaking to us. After this we need to take these words to God's Word and see whether these things are so. **Ac 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The woman's seed is Jesus Christ, it is first spoken of in **Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed** (seed of the serpent which are tares, satans children, wolves, the antichrist's) **and her seed** (those with Christ in them); **it shall bruise thy head**, (The seed of Jesus Christ steps on satan's head) **and thou shalt bruise his heel** (satans head bruises our heels). **Revelation 12:17 and the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed.** This would be all who are born again that have Christ in them the hope of glory,

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We have Christ in us who is the Word of God.

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Fruit has seed in it which bears more fruit.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: when God's Word fills our life, our walk in life is watched by all.

Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The word of God that we speak is the seed that gets people born again. Just like seeds grow into flowers, God's Word in peoples heart creates a life in that person which is the child of God. In the same manor babies grow up: they learn, they grow, they accomplish

many things as they become good at what they do, children of God do the same. We study God's Word, we speak God's Word to others, we act on what we learn out of God's Word. God's Word is the strength of God to us, and the pathway of our lives.

Satan has been defeated and "the prophesy" found in Gen 3:15 affects him every day. **Gen 3:14-15 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:**

15 And I will put enmity <0342> between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

0342 הַבִּיָּא 'eybah ay-baw' from 0340; n f; AV-enmity 3, hatred 2; 5 1) enmity, hatred

Webster's dictionary gives as a definition of the word enmity as "the quality of being an enemy"

God told satan that he would not get along with Jesus Christ, in fact he would be an enemy of Jesus Christ and those of Jesus Christ.

It is Christ in us the hope of glory. **Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

This promise in Gen 3:15 relates to us also. We have that seed of Christ in us along with the authority of Christ in us to heal the sick and cast out devils.

We shall bruise his head and he shall bruise our heel. Have you stepped on him lately. ☺ We do this through our prayers and by acting on the promises in God's Word.

There will be great outreach of God's Word in the last days of the Church of God. At the same time there will be a great attack against the Church of God. **Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation <2347> enter into the kingdom of God.**

Persecution will abound against all Christians in an attempt to crush the Church of God throughout the world. This persecution will pit family members against family members, church members against church members, strangers against all Christians. People will be driven from their homes seeking safety. Whenever God's Word is taught you see results according to whatever kind of ground the seed falls on. There will be great joy, great disbelief, attacks upon those listening to God's Word, and those who disappear after seeming to like what is heard.

Mat 13:3-43, 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

This takes us back to verse 3 of 2 Thessalonians 2. With a great outreach going on in the world like what was in the book of Acts, there will be a great number of people who leave the faith to be safe from the persecution that is upon the church.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling <646 - apostasia> away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

This persecution drives people to unbelief in an attempt to stop the persecution they are finding unbearable. Only turning to God during this persecution can we find strength to bear the unbearable. Not only will people turn from God's Word which seems to bring persecution, they will turn towards ways of worship that seem free from persecution. **Ho 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.** This is God's Word on the subject of turning from His Word in the face of any persecution. He will stand with us as we stand with Him. God will also reward all who stand until the end of all persecution. Until the persecution ends or until death. **James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

We stopped at this verse a while back to learn about satan and persecution.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

- Taken<1096> out of <1537>the way <3319> - Until he be taken. - 1096 ginomai 1) to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being 2) i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being to become, i.e. to come to pass, happen This word "taken" is a very

confusing word to use here. Ginomai is for something new, to become, to happen, to come to pass.

- out of - ek 1537
- the way – 3319 mesos, out of from among, out of the midst (the middle of satans realm).

Verse 7 is written in old English and is hard to understand because we don't talk this way anymore. It is literally saying: the mystery of sin is already at work, but there are those who are preventing the sin where it starts (*with prayer*) until it happens that they are out from (*separated from*) the middle of satans realm.

This word letteth is a very odd way to talk according to what we are used to. This word is used backwards from the way we use it; to prevent, not to allow. But when you compare this whole verse to the other two verses dealing with this subject: 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, and now 2 Thessalonians 2:7 they all fit together and bring better understanding. We always need to compare all the narrative that is on the same subject, because often a buildup of the story being told is seen in the development. This will often give you a complete understanding on the subject at hand.

Speaking of looking at all the narrative, let us look at two more sections of scripture in this subject.

This entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 is worth reading.

1 Corinthians 15:51 ¶ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. We will read about this again, but this whole section adds great understanding on this subject.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God

1 Thessalonians 4:13 ¶ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. We have hope of life in Christ; without Christ there is no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. See these first two verses are to bring comfort to God's Church about death. It does not clearly tie in yet, so we keep reading.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent <5348 phthano > **them which are asleep.** Another one of those backwards words being used. This word 5348 phthano, means to come before, precede, anticipate. Today we use prevent to stop. Without looking a little deeper at what is spoken we can be very lost at what is being said. Over the century's our use of language has changed, and the meaning is different. When you read a very old book, sometimes this needs to

be considered. The first English bible was written about 800 years ago; the King James version that I am using is just over 700 years old. The English language has been around for a while and has changed, from old English, into modern English. This has led to a change on how we use some words.

This is the first thing that has to happen before the Day of the Lord can happen.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: This is the earliest event in this subject found in the bible. While this verse gives the most detail, 1 Co 15:52 also talks about this event. The whole part of the return of Jesus Christ starts right here. Jesus Christ is coming back for His saints. Those who believed upon Him.

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Th 4:17 So shall we ever be with the Lord - our Lord is seated at the right hand of God. Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Getting back to this word <646> apostasia from **11 Thessalonians 2:3** we find it is nestled between two verses dealing with the subject of the gathering together of

the Church of God. Verse 1 gathering together and verse 7 taken out of the way. Altogether we have 4 points here in alignment with only one of them that could be figurative or literal.

You can't have the church in the whole world **Isaiah; 49:6, Acts 13:47, Romans 10:18** hearing, giving audience, considering and with some not only believing but understanding God's Word, (with all of the excitement that would be going on in the church) at the same time you have people (in this same church) in mass numbers turning from the faith they once had. This again is from the seed of God falling upon rocky ground with shallow soil. They have great joy while receiving God's Word but are offended when there is tribulation. Shallow ground means not much word in their heart. Remember there is wayside ground, rocky ground, thorny ground, and good ground with 30, 60, 100, fold increase. There will always be a mix of the kind of people you meet when you speak God's Word. We are not responsible for the reaction of the people to God's Word; we are only responsible to speak God's Word with our best ability, and the greatest honesty.

While there will be some that do not believe the spoken word of God there will be those that do. Whenever people believe Gods Word, when we take God at His Word and act on it, great signs, miracles and wonders happen. These will be great days for the church of God and those which believe God's Word; those day's will be full of great excitement, deliverance, miracles and healing.

Looking at the whole context between verses one and seven and the words that Jesus spoke to His disciples about this subject, the usage of "apostisia" would not be literal an actual separation or falling away from this world but a falling away from the faith, a separation from the Church of God.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

These verses talk some about the antichrist, and those who will be left behind who rejected Jesus Christ as their savior.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 ¶ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Remember who you are in Christ Jesus, and what God is doing for you, and always, always remember He is coming back. Jesus, who is now the Christ, sits at

the right hand of God. Here are some verses that talk about Him as He is, and our relationship to Him.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Finally, here is the final answer to how will we be changed. We will see Jesus Christ AS HE IS and we shall be like Him. These words **AS HE IS** are used five times in the book of 1 John. All these usages are in the present tense. Jesus Christ is our example; we need to mirror Him. When we think as He thought, (put the Words of the Word of God on in our minds. Put these Words from God on in our thoughts, and act on these words in our daily lives) we do walk AS HE walked, and we reflect HIM and are AS HE IS in this world.

It is because Jesus Christ is now seated at the Right hand of God (**Heb 4:2**) that we can reflect Him in this world. This living and vibrant savior is who we represent as Ambassadors for Christ to the world. **2 Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors**

for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

It is at this point that we are living epistles known and read of all men, that people may know God. **2 Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.**

This word "written" is the word engraved, God engraves His word into us that we may be God's ministers of reconciliation **11 Corinthians 5:18 - 20.**

What do we know so far? Jesus Christ gets up from the dead and ascends into the heavens. Later when Jesus Christ comes back those that have died will be raised incorruptible and those who are Christ's that are alive and remain will be transformed. We will all be gathered upon Him in the clouds. We will all become As He Is and so shall we ever be with the Lord. It will happen in this order; The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the trump of God. All who are of Christ shall be physically taken from where they are. The dead shall rise first and those who are alive and remain after. We shall be gathered together upon Jesus Christ in the clouds (Jesus Christ's feet never touch the earth here, He is only here to gather His saints), it looks like we will be hugging Him. When we see Him, we shall see Him AS HE IS and shall be like Him. Then He takes us with Him, and we shall ever be with the Lord.

This is the first of the two things that must happen before that great and notable day of the Lord shall come. The other is that the man of sin, the son of perdition, must be revealed.

When does this start? **1 Corinthians 15:52** says 3 things; **1.at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, 2. the dead shall be raised incorruptible, 3 we shall be changed.**

Also **1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 17** says 3 things; **1. the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: 2. the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: 3. so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

Both of these sections of scripture add to our understanding of the same subject, the gathering together of the Church of God. There is a difference between these two verses surrounding the word trump. One verse says the last trump and the other says The trump of God. While I do know that both of these words trump are the same word, it does not make since to me that this is the last trumpet sounded in the bible. Let's see if we can find some more information in the book of Revelation.

Remember this verse? **1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** Where does the Church of God go after this great and notable event?

Revelation 5: 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Here we have the 24 elders taken out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation singing praises to Jesus. Of the three groups of people on this planet; Jews, Gentiles and the Church of God, only the Gentiles and the Church of God fit this description of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. Of these two groups only the Church of God believed on Jesus and were saved. This has to be the elders of the Church of God speaking here.

Something else worth mentioning here is that God lets us know what He has in store for us after so shall we ever be with the Lord. We shall be Kings and Priests unto God and we shall reign on earth.

In Revelation 7:3-8 when the sixth seal is broken, the 144 thousand are chosen. 12,000 are chosen from each tribe out of each of the twelve tribes of Israel. After these 144,000 people are chosen there is great praise to the Lamb by the Church of God.

Revelation 14:1 ¶ And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Here we have the whole Church of God, AKA the Body of Christ in attendance before the throne of God and Before the Lamb. **Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.** They were giving praise to God and Jesus Christ.

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 ¶ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation (I will cover more about the word tribulation at a later time), **and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (so shall we ever be with the Lord **1 Thessalonians 4:17**)

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. At one time they did hunger, and they did thirst while they lived under the sun. This must have happened on the earth.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. They did sorrow, these are people talked about here.

Here we have people of all nations; and of all kindred, and of all tongues who have come out of great tribulation standing before the throne praising God and Jesus Christ. These people are the Church of God that have **come out of great tribulation and now are before the Lord serving Him day and night.** (so shall we ever be with the Lord) The Christian church has been and is in tribulation throughout the world. There is now and has been: torture, mental pressure, physical attacks, death and general bad attitude against the people of Christ. The intensity of this tribulation against the Church of God varies from country to country and administration to administration of that country.

The answer to tribulation is now and has always been prayer and praise. We are to look to God and never recant Jesus Christ even unto death. The rewards for this far outweigh the momentary pain, fear, and terror we might experience. God always

has our best interests at heart. Satan will attack everything that Christ represents.

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. His desire is to destroy the life that Christ is.

Turn your eyes to God's Word. **2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

This word is our life and the footpath to our hope. God's Word is how He reached out to us for reconciliation to Himself; take God at His Word. Believe God's Word as that is the foundation to the faith of Christ. It is in this manner that we put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Word, as we think the Words of the Word we think like Christ.

Gods Blessings to all who are listening to or reading this teaching series. Thank you for your time.

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