

July 1

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

1ST Timothy 3:9 states...Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience...

According to Ray Prinzing: “Faith” is more than a tenet, a creed, a doctrine of theology. “Faith” is a living, vital confidence founded in the revelation of divine truth. When we possess and hold the mystic secret of “the faith,” it does not refer to just “any faith,” but of “THE FAITH”. The identifying article “**the**” is used in the Greek text, and specifically identifies it as a certain faith, that **TRUTH** which was kept hidden from the world until revealed at the appointed time, and which is secret to ordinary eyes, but is made known by divine revelation. It bespeaks of truth which is only understood by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.” (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

The key to understanding “THE FAITH” is to be found in a person. The person that we are speaking of is the Lord Jesus Christ. The mystery of “the faith” is found in Who He is and what He has accomplished..

Many people have faith, but not “the faith”. Some have faith in themselves, the stock market, their intelligence, their good looks, their riches, their job, their abilities, their denomination, their Pastor, and so on. As was just stated, this is faith, but not “the faith”. True faith is exhibited when it is placed in the person and work (the cross) of the Lord Jesus Christ. All else is faith, but not “the faith”.

Faith remains a mystery to many people due to the fact that they do not associate their faith with Christ and Him crucified. It is imperative that our faith be placed in the crucified and risen Christ. Colossians 2:14,15 states...Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it...2nd Corinthians 13:5 states...Examine yourselves, whether you are in “the faith”; prove your own selves...

ARE YOU IN “THE FAITH”?



July 2

THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL

Ephesians 6:19,20 states...And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak...

According to Ray Prinzing: “Galatians 5:11, “If I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution?” One might preach creed, politics, clothes-line holiness, etc. fighting this and that “ism”, but there is no **GOOD NEWS** in any such preaching. Let those who do not have any **GOSPEL** proclaim such things, and let those who are being initiated into the good news, faithfully declare it.” (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

Within the meaning of the word “gospel” lies the understanding of the mystery of the gospel. The word “gospel” literally means good news or glad tidings.

According to Dr. E. W. Bullinger: “The “good news” was first heralded by angels sent specially from heaven; and the exact terms of the proclamation are recorded. The angel of Jehovah spoke from the glory of Jehovah, and said: “Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a SAVIOR, which is CHRIST, THE LORD.” Thus the good news concerned a Person, Who would “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21): the Savior Whom God had anointed (Messiah), appointed, given, and sent.” (Dr. E. W. Bullinger)

We are now able to see and admit that the gospel is the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that it results in GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE! Our failure to see that the effects of the gospel shall be extended to ALL PEOPLE is what causes many not to understand the mystery of the gospel. 2nd Corinthians 5:18,19 states...And all things are of God, Who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation...WOW!

THAT IS GOOD NEWS! THAT IS GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE! THAT IS THE GOSPEL! Let us stop preaching our lists of dos and don'ts to people. THAT IS BAD NEWS! Let us tell the world that they are forgiven, saved, and reconciled, having been bought with a price. When people hear the TRUE GOSPEL they will *want* to repent and surrender their lives to the Lord of glory!

PREACH THE GOSPEL!



July 3

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:32 states...This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church...

According to Ray Prinzing: “You might “join” or “un-join” some man-made group, but **THE CHURCH is not something that can be joined.** “**The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**” [Acts 2:47]. **THE CALLED OUT ONES ARE GOD’S. He gives the calling, and He works it out experientially in each one.** The first time the word “church” is used in the New Testament, is found in Matthew 16:18, when Jesus said, “-- and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” **The context reveals that it is upon the solid, divine revelation that HE is “the Christ, the Son of the living God,”** [Matthew 16:16], that the church is founded.” (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

The Greek word “ekklesia” means: assembly, or a gathering of called out ones. This would mean that the church is to be seen as a living and breathing organism. It is not a denomination, a

building, or any certain religion. It is made up of people. WE ARE HIS CHURCH! Many people think that when they get up on Sunday morning that they are preparing to “go to church”. It is hard to go to something that we already are. We must see ourselves as the very CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light to show forth His praises in the earth. When we assemble ourselves together with other believers we are bringing “the church” to where we go. We are not going to a place to “have church”, but we **are** the church, coming together to corporately share in the presence of God. In essence, we are coming together to form the Lord’s body. **IT IS TIME TO STOP HAVING CHURCH AND TO START BEING THE CHURCH!!!** There is a difference.

The called out ones are those that have received a revelation from God. They have received the revelation that JESUS IS THE CHRIST (THE ANOINTED ONE), and that they are part of the many membered body of Christ. This understanding of the Lord’s church remains a mystery to many due to the fact that they continue to look in the physical realm for a definition and explanation of the church. When you realize that you are the church of the Lord Jesus Christ you will stop waiting to press into His Kingdom. We must STOP limiting our relationship with the Lord to a building that we go to on Sunday morning or Wednesday night. WE ARE THE BUILDING OF THE LORD! WE ARE A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD!

YOU ARE HIS CHURCH!



July 4

THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

Colossians 4:3,4 states...praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak...

According to Ray Prinzing: “For as the body is one, and has many members, and all members of that one body, being many, are one body; **SO ALSO IS THE CHRIST**. For by one Spirit (His) are we all baptized into one body . . . and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” [1 Corinthians 12:12-13]. There is a corporate Christ body of which **HE** is the Head. And to become a part of this body in its full expression of reality means more than just to have the beginnings of an anointing. It included the whole process of our identification in His death and resurrection, till even our body is changed like unto His glorious body. He went into the grave as Jesus, but He certainly came forth as **THE CHRIST**. There is dimension beyond dimension, in one glorious expression after another, until **HE** becomes the fullness that fills **ALL IN ALL**” (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

The understanding of Christ remains a mystery to many due to the fact that they do not see the CORPORATE ASPECT and expression of the Christ. They recognize that Jesus is the Christ, which is right and proper, but they do not see that they too are a part of the Christ! Remember...

Christ is one, but has many members. Jesus is the head and we are His body. We are His fullness that fills all in all. Think about that. Jesus, the Christ, is not complete without His body. Once again, His body is the fullness of Him that fills all in all.

We must see that Jesus is THE CHRIST and we are HIS CHRIST. The word “Christ” means: the anointed One. Jesus is the anointed One, and in Him, we are His anointed ones. He is the anointed One with many anointed ones. THIS IS THE CHRIST!

Colossians 1:26,27 states...Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints...which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory...We must see that the Christ has enlarged Himself. He is now a many membered man. The anointed One is in us.

THIS IS THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST!



July 5

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 13:10,11 states...And the disciples came, and said unto Him, Why do You speak unto them in parables? 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...

According to Dr. E. W. Bullinger: “The term “the Kingdom of heaven”, occurs only in Matthew, where we find it thirty-two times. Matthew was divinely guided to retain the figure of speech literally (“heaven”), so as to be keeping with the special character, design, and scope of his gospel. But in the parallel passages in the other gospels we find, instead, the expression “the Kingdom of God”. In other words, the term “the Kingdom of heaven” tells us where it is from, and the term “the Kingdom of God” tells us Who this Kingdom has for its Ruler.” (Dr. E. W. Bullinger)

According to Ray Prinzing: “Paul taught very clearly that “the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” [Romans 14:17]. Meat and drink pertain to natural, earthly things. Righteousness, peace, and joy are spiritual, heavenly qualities. Righteousness does not spring out of carnal flesh, for such is corruptible. But righteousness can be made manifest in the sphere of our mortal flesh as an expression of HIS INNER DWELLING, for He is our righteousness.” (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

Luke 17:20,21 states...And when Jesus was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God comes not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you...This is probably one of the most beautiful statements that Jesus ever made. Unfortunately, many people do not understand what Jesus was actually saying. Most people think that the Kingdom of God is a planet that they are going to “fly away to” one day. They always speak of it as though it is something off in the future, not realizing that it is WITHIN THEM. It is even more shocking that Jesus spoke

these words to the PHARISEES. Have you ever stopped and thought about that? Jesus told the PHARISEES that the Kingdom of God was WITHIN THEM. WOW! How could that be true?

According to J. Preston Eby: “The Pharisees were treating as future what was already present. The Kingdom of God was right there *within them* if they could have understood it. “But,” someone objects, “surely the Kingdom of God was not within those carnal, hateful, legalistic, Christ-rejecting Pharisees!” Some say that the correct translation should be: For the kingdom of God is “*in your midst*,” or “*among you*,” meaning that the Kingdom was present in their midst in the person of Jesus, “among” them but not “within” them. It cannot be denied—the Kingdom was indeed present among them in the very life of the Son of God, the King of glory! **But that is not the meaning of this passage.** The clearest meaning of the Greek can always be ascertained by *usage*. The way a word is *used* reveals its true meaning—the meaning that the Holy Spirit of inspiration puts upon it, not the meaning our English translators give it. It is a thing of wonder—the Holy Spirit has faithfully, powerfully, wisely and indisputably recorded for us the precise meaning of the word here translated “within”. The Greek word is “ENTOS” meaning simply, according to Strong’s Concordance, “inside; within”. The word is used in only one other place in the New Testament, in Matthew 23:26. It is the Lord Jesus Himself that uses the word on both occasions, and notice what He says. “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you make clean the *outside* of the cup and platter, but *within* they are full of extortion and excess. You blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is *within* (“entos”) the cup and platter, that the *outside* of them may be clean also.” No one can argue that “ENTOS” means “in the midst” or “among” in this place—it clearly means “within”. “Within” is contrasted with the “outside” of the cup and platter and plainly speaks of the pollution *within* the hearts of men, not *in their midst* or *among* them. The evil in men is not something apart from them or outside of them but something rooted deeply in the inward nature. The question follows—how could Jesus say to the same Pharisees that both corruption was within them and the Kingdom of God was within them! It sounds like an obvious contradiction. But it isn’t. Paul spoke of a dual reality within man when he said, “For I delight in the law of God after the *inward man*: but I see another **law in my members**, warring against the law of my (spiritual) mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members” (Rom. 7:22-23). Little wonder that in desperation he cried out, “O wretched man that I am!” It is really very simple. The carnal, soulish heart of man is the seat of all uncleanness, just as the deeper spirit of man is the root of all godliness. So it is not surprising that the Pharisees failed to discover the presence of the Kingdom within them, for they were not walking after the spirit, but after the flesh.” (The Kingdom Of God, J. Preston Eby)

THE KINGDOM IS WITHIN YOU!



July 6

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

Revelation 10:7 states... But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He has declared to His servants the prophets...

According to Ray Prinzing: "The mystery began in Genesis, chapter one, and through all the processings, as mentioned in the various fragments of these mysteries that we have touched upon, we now come to its glorious fulfillment-- **THE MYSTERY OF God is to be accomplished, brought to the full, and ready for revelation. All of that which has been done in secret, the inner hidden work, is to be climaxed and made ready for all the universe to behold. We stand in awe before Him Who has worked so marvelous a purpose-- bringing forth "man in our image, after our likeness."** [Genesis 1:26]. **HE is bringing forth after His own kind, that He might be God of gods, King of kings, Lord of lords."** (*Whispers Of The Mysteries*, Ray Prinzing)

The mystery of God begins with Genesis 1:26 (Let Us make man in Our image) and ends with 1st Corinthians 15:28 (God shall be all in all). In order to make man into the image of God it takes God and man. It is a collective effort that involves man being radically changed into the image of His Creator. This is brought about by the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD. With that being said though, man is not to be seen as a robot. Man does indeed play a part. His part is one of SUBMISSION to the sovereign will of God. His choices, if you will, are being brought in line with the sovereign will of God. Man is not being forced to serve God, but rather, he is being DRAWN by the Spirit of God to submit and relinquish his kingdom and his will to that of his Creator. God is bringing man to the place where he says...YOUR KINGDOM COME! YOUR WILL BE DONE IN ME! The making of man (the human race) into the image of God is to be seen as a process. It began with Adam in the Garden of Eden and will continue until God is all in all. The fall of Adam was NECESSARY! It was a schoolmaster to lead man through God's purpose of the ages.

Through the fall of Adam we learned that:

1. GOD IS SOVEREIGN
2. GOD CREATED ALL THINGS (GOOD AND EVIL)
3. GOD SUBJECTED THE CREATION TO VANITY
4. GOD WILL DELIVER THE CREATION FROM BONDAGE AND CORRUPTION

The mystery of God is being carried out according to His purpose one dispensation at a time. The recognized dispensations are: Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, Law, Grace, Kingdom, and the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. Within these dispensations, God is drawing the creation to Himself in three great harvests. They are: Remnant, Nations, and World (all things).

The mystery of God can be seen and understood by reading the book of Job, especially the last chapter. The latter end of the creation will be greater than its former. This is the mystery and purpose of the ages, in which our God shall be everything to everyone.

HOW AWESOME IS OUR GOD!

July 7

THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL'S BLINDNESS

Romans 11:25-27 states...For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins...

The apostle Paul tells us that we are to consider the mystery of Israel's blindness, not remaining in ignorance to the fact that they are not forgotten, but that they are still a special people to God, for they shall all be saved after God's dealings with them in the ages to come. If we do not understand this mystery we will be wise in our own conceits. This speaks of being wise in our own eyes, but not having the wisdom of the Lord.

According to Ray Prinzing: "Consider the uniqueness of God's operation, **"For God has concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all."** [Romans 11: 32]. The Greek word here for "concluded" literally means "shut up together." Israel was called and chosen to be God's special people, and through whom He would bless all nations. And then comes this rarity of His operation, He took Israel, scattered her among all nations, hardened their hearts and shut them up in unbelief with all nations, and then purposes to have **MERCY UPON ALL--** upon all Israel, and upon all nations among whom they have been scattered." (Whispers Of The Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

Why would God operate in this manner concerning His chosen people? Let us consider a few scriptures that do shed some light on this mystery.

Romans 11:11,12 states...I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?...Romans 11:15 states...For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?...Romans 11:26 states...And so all Israel shall be saved...Romans 11:30-32 states...For as you in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God has concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all...Romans 11:32 (Today's English Version) states...FOR GOD HAS MADE ALL PEOPLE PRISONERS OF DISOBEDIENCE, SO THAT HE MIGHT SHOW MERCY TO THEM ALL...

CAN YOU SEE IT? DO YOU GRASP IT? The blindness of Israel in part will result in the RECONCILING OF THE WORLD! Romans 11:33 states...O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!...

FOR OF HIM, AND THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM, ARE ALL THINGS: TO WHOM BE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN!



July 8

THE MYSTERY OF THE FATHER

Colossians 2:2,3 states... That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...

According to Ray Prinzing: "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." [John 16:28]. Furthermore, "It is expedient for you that I go away." [John 16:7]. What was He saying? God, omnipotent, omnipresent Spirit, invisible, **THE FATHER SOURCE**, dwelled in the man Christ Jesus, manifested as **SON**. In this realm there was limitation, "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do." [John 5:19]. As the Spirit (Father) directed, so He did. Faithful, obedient, He sought not His own will, but only to fulfill the will of the Father. Men knew Him as Jesus, they could not see the Father in Him. But furthermore, it was necessary to leave the realm of limitation (sonship) behind, and to return into **His FATHERHOOD POSITION**, so that He might fulfill those purposes which were beyond the realms of sonship. The very fact of "being in the form of a servant, made in the likeness of men," [Philippians 2:7] meant limitation. Jesus knew His position as a **SON**, but He also knew of His position as **FATHER**, and that it was expedient for Him to return to that realm from which He would be able to impart, pour out of Himself, as the Source for every need." (Whispers Of The Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

YES... Jesus was the Father manifested in the flesh. The understanding of the Father remains a mystery to many people due to the common, traditional error of trying to make the Father and the Son as two separate beings. When we use the term "THE SON OF GOD", we are to understand this as God in the form of the Son. God, the eternal Word, was made flesh, and dwelled among us. Here is a list of some other scriptures to help you understand the mystery of the Father: Isaiah 9:6, John 10:30-33, and John 14:8-9.

The mystery of the Father was manifested in the Son. Jesus, the everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6), was the Word made flesh, Who dwelled among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

WHEREBY WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER!



July 9

THE MYSTERY OF THE SEVEN STARS

Revelation 1:20 states... The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches...

According to Ray Prinzing: “Revelation 2:1 carries right on with this, adding one more word to the phrase, “These things says He that **HOLDS** the seven stars in His right hand . . . “ We note the word “holds”-- from the Greek “krateo” **TO LAY HOLD ON**. God has, and **IS** laying hold of, apprehending a people for Himself. **They are becoming a part of His RIGHT HAND COMPANY**. They are so held by Him, that His hand cannot move without them being moved with it. Furthermore, they don’t move until the hand moves. But becoming totally one in the **WILL** of the right hand, when moved it is with all the ability, power, authority of that hand.” (Whispers Of the Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

Let us now try to point out a few things concerning this mystery. We are told that the seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches. We are then told that they are in the Lord’s right hand. The Greek word for “angel” is “aggelos”, literally a messenger. The word “angel” is not the translation of the Greek word, only its English spelling. The term “right hand” speaks of power and strength. “Hereafter shall we see the Son of Man sitting on the **RIGHT HAND OF POWER**” (Matthew 26:64)...The term “seven churches” speaks of the seven (spiritual perfection) church ages:

1. EPHESUS - APOSTOLIC CHURCH
2. SMYRNA - MARTYR CHURCH
3. PERGAMOS - STATE CHURCH
4. THYATIRA - PAPAL CHURCH
5. SARDIS - REFORMATION CHURCH
6. PHILADELPHIA - MISSIONARY CHURCH
7. LAODICEA - APOSTATE CHURCH

We can now see and understand that the mystery of the seven stars speaks of God, throughout the church ages, laying hold of a remnant (His messengers), and elevating them to a position of power, strength, and authority.

According to Ray Prinzing: “**These stars shall give forth His light, HIS MESSAGE**, to stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the power of His right hand. They shall abide-- not like unto those who rise up in a brilliant display to dash across the heavens, and burn out-- these are **FIXED in God**, positioned in the place He has prepared for them, and prepared them for. They are His sign of **PEACE** when the enemy would tread in the palace-- seeking to usurp the dominion. They shall destroy the adversaries with the brightness of their shining, and they shall restore righteousness in all the earth. “Peace on earth, good will toward men.” (Whispers Of The Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

READ DANIEL 12:3!



July 10

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY

Ephesians 3:9 states...And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ...

According to Ray Prinzing: “Fellowship-- the act of sharing in common. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order.” [1 Corinthians 15:22-23]. As every man is regenerated, to receive the **LIFE** of Jesus Christ, and oneness with the Father, they shall also be enriched with the knowledge of **HIS mysteries--they shall KNOW**. Because, Moffatt goes on, in his translation, He is “**intending to let the full sweep of the divine wisdom be disclosed now by the church (His called out).**” The Amplified-- “The purpose is that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known...” (Whispers Of The Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

Many at this present time do not comprehend the mysteries of God. They are too enchanted by their denominational ideas about God. When they are exposed to the deeper truths of God they suddenly say...“That’s too deep for me. I think I will just go back to the basics.” This is a normal reaction that we are to expect from people when they are exposed to the deeper things of God. We must not be offended or upset at this person. **THEY ARE HELD CAPTIVE, BEING IN BONDAGE TO THE CARNAL MIND. THEY ARE IN BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY!** We must love and forgive them as they go through the process of coming out of Babylon.

According to Ray Prinzing: “On the other hand, there are some truths which can only be **SHARED IN COMMON** by those who have been duly processed by the way of the cross, death to self, set apart unto the Lord, and led by His Spirit into more truth. When someone suddenly says, “that’s too deep for me,” if you want to share fellowship with them, you have to leave the mystery truths and find a common basis on what they do know, as far as they have gone in their walk with Christ. An adult can enjoy a short conversation with a child, but they also need that in-depth sharing with their own peers. Therefore we are admonished to grow up into Him, and be no more children.” (Whispers Of The Mysteries, Ray Prinzing)

This is the fellowship of the mystery. It is lonely at times, but God will be faithful to bring truth-seeking people into our path who are of the same mind. God will also bring us into the path of others who need to be encouraged. **SO BE READY!** The fellowship of the mystery will eventually include all men. Of this we are sure, for the scripture tells us so. In the meantime, be encouraged in knowing that it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 13:11). Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear (Matthew 13:16)...

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



July 11

THE LAKE OF FIRE

Most people who read about, talk about, or preach about the lake of fire do not have the foggiest idea what these words mean. They assume that it is a literal lake of fire designed for the purpose of perpetually tormenting people. Let us take a fresh look at this lake. We will be pleasantly surprised to find out the true meaning of these words.

We must ask ourselves these questions:

1. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS FIRE?
2. IS IT LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC?
3. WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THIS FIERY JUDGMENT?

Daniel 7:9,10 states...I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened...Revelation 20:11-15 states...And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (Hades - the grave) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell (Hades - the grave) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire...

According to Dr. Harold Lovelace: "The lake of fire has been used to scare people, and it was not meant to do so. The lake of fire is only recorded a number of five times in Revelation 19, 20, and 21 by the Greek word #4442 pur. Check again in your Concordance, and you will find that the verses that read "Holy Ghost and fire, hell fire, unquenchable fire, ministers a flame of fire, fiery indignation, God is a consuming fire, lake of fire and brimstone, and the overcomers stand on a sea of glass mingled with fire." These terms are from this same word pur. Therefore it is the same fire in all these places. Now notice that in Mark 14:54 when Peter warmed himself by a fire, it is a different Greek word. Another word used to bring fear is brimstone. Yet when its meaning is looked up in a dictionary, you will discover that its meaning today is sulphur. It is called the king of chemicals. Even in recent years it has been used for medical purposes. What is interesting is that in your Concordance it is listed as #2303, theion, and its root word is #2304, theios, meaning Godlike, divine power. Its root word is #2316 which is theos, meaning God or divinity. Now we can see the importance of being baptized with the Holy Ghost and FIRE and understanding Hebrews 12:29, "For our God is a consuming FIRE." For sure, He knows how to cleanse / purify us to make us in His image." (Read And Search God's Plan, Dr. Harold Lovelace)

As we can see, the words “lake of fire and brimstone” mean: DIVINE PURIFICATION! Daniel saw it as a stream and John saw it as a lake. Can we now see that the words “lake of fire and brimstone” are to be understood symbolically, portraying a spiritual fire that is by nature corrective, and for the purpose of purification? This lake of fire speaks of God Himself and His ministers, for our God IS a consuming fire, making His ministers a flaming fire (Hebrews 12:29 and Psalm 104:4).

This experience of purification is to be for a period of time. IT IS NOT FOREVER! This can be discovered by studying the words “olam”, “aion”, and “aionios”, which words do show that God’s judgments are “of the ages”, but not to continue past the ages, for the ages shall come to an end, and God shall be ALL IN ALL! -OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE!-



July 12

THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTION - PART 1

Revelation 20:4-6 states...And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years...

Revelation 20:14,15 states...And death and hell (Hades - the grave) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire...(This is the second {general} resurrection)

John 5:28,29 states...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (judgment)...(This speaks of the righteous and wicked in the second resurrection)

Daniel 12:2 states...And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting (age-lasting) life, and some to shame and everlasting (age-lasting) contempt...(This speaks of the righteous and wicked in the second resurrection)

The apostle John tells us in the book of Revelation that there is a “first” resurrection. This would then tell us that there is a “second” resurrection to come at a later time. The first resurrection happens 1,000 years before the second (general) resurrection. Hebrews 11:35 tells us that the Hebrew people served God in order to obtain a *BETTER RESURRECTION*. If there is a better resurrection, then there is also another resurrection that is less desirable. It is important to understand and distinguish between these two resurrections.

Over the next few days we will attempt to look at, understand, and dissect the all-important subject of resurrection, including the nature of resurrection, seeking to understand the spiritual and physical aspects of the term resurrection. But rest assured. There shall be a first and second resurrection, in which lies the hope of all humanity, whether just or unjust.

THANK GOD FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTION!



July 13

THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTION - PART 2

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “The apostle Paul clearly speaks of a single resurrection in which both “the righteous and the wicked” are raised. This cannot be the first resurrection, wherein only those “blessed and holy” shall be raised. Paul must be referring to the general resurrection of ALL the dead, small and great, including both righteous and wicked people—all who did not inherit the first resurrection. Paul makes it very clear (as does Jesus) that in this general resurrection there will be found both Christians and non-Christians. The Christians will be found written in “the book of life;” the rest will be judged and “cast into the lake of fire.” And so it is clear that there will be Christians raised in BOTH the first and the second resurrections. Those raised in the first will reign with Christ for a thousand years; the others will miss this, yet will receive life (immortality) at that later time. Hence, the scriptures make a distinction between the overcomers and the church in general.” (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones)

Luke 12:35-50 sheds much light on the subject of resurrection, ruling and reigning, and judgment for the purpose of correction. This passage speaks to us of three classes of people:

1. FAITHFUL SERVANT - made ruler over all that God has...those in the first resurrection (Revelation 2:26).
2. UNFAITHFUL SERVANT - appointed his portion with the unbelievers to be corrected... those in the second resurrection (1st Corinthians 3:12-15).
3. UNBELIEVER - appointed for correction and purification...those in the second resurrection (Revelation 20:11-15).

We must take note of these three classes of people. There are “overcomers”, “unfaithful servants”, and “unbelievers”. We must also take note of their just retribution. The overcomers are rewarded with the first resurrection, being given the privilege of ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ. The unfaithful servants and unbelievers await fiery judgment for the purpose of correction. The unfaithful servant is saved like as by fire (1st Corinthians 3:12-15), and the unbeliever is cast into the lake of fire. Remember...Our God is a consuming fire! This fire is a purifying, cleansing, and spiritual fire that consumes wood, hay, and stubble (the carnality within man). As well, take note of the different levels

or degrees of correction. Some are beaten with few stripes, and some are beaten with many stripes. This is not talking about a literal beating, but is referring to heavy or light correction (judgment). This is the second (general) resurrection that includes just and unjust people.

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “1st Corinthians 3:12-15 does not deal with the judgment of unbelievers. It deals strictly with believers who have laid Jesus Christ as the Foundation of their “temples.” Once that foundation is laid, the man is a Christian. Paul then discusses the works of the Christian in terms of what he builds upon that Foundation. He makes it clear that Christians, at least some of them, will find their works judged by the fire of God. If his works are unacceptable, he will still be saved, yet will suffer loss, for the fiery law of God will burn up all the dross. This passage is interesting, because it shows there will be Christians in the second resurrection. Further, these Christians will be judged by the same law, the “lake of fire” that will judge the unbelievers. The only difference is that they will be given Life after their works have been tested and revealed in the fire, while the unbelievers themselves will be brought into a longer and more severe judgment as prescribed in the law.” (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones)

PRESS IN...FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD!



July 14

QUALIFYING FOR THE FIRST RESURRECTION - PART 1

In light of the fact that there is a first and second resurrection, and that the first resurrection is a *better resurrection*, the next logical line of thought would be:

1. How do I obtain a better resurrection?
2. How does one qualify for the first resurrection?

Luke 14:12-14 states...Then said He also to him that bade Him, When you make a dinner or a supper, call not your friends, nor your brethren, neither your kinsmen, nor your rich neighbors; lest they also bid you again, and a recompense be made to you. But when you make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And you shall be blessed; for they cannot recompense you: for you shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just...As well, Matthew 18:21-35 sheds much light on what qualifies a person to be raised in the first resurrection. This passage (parable) is about FORGIVENESS! In light of Luke 14:12-14 and Matthew 18:21-35, we can see that an OVERCOMER is a LOVER and a FORGIVER. An overcomer is one who does things for others, being motivated by the love (agape) of God, not expecting anything in return. As well, he is one who FORGIVES (releases others from their debt) ALL PEOPLE!

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “To attain the first resurrection, “the resurrection of the just,” one must know and practice the principle of grace and *agape* love. This is the highest form of love, for it is the love of God. More importantly, he who would qualify for the first resurrection

must have the grace to hold no grudges. He must forgive from his heart the sins (debts) of those who have transgressed against him. This is made plain in many of Jesus' parables, most notably the one in Matt. 18:21-35. There we find that God will cancel the debts (sins) of those who appeal to Him for grace. He must learn the principle of the Jubilee, the cancellation of all "debt," for this is the key to receiving one's inheritance, the promise of God." (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones)

WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE AND FORGIVE!



July 15

QUALIFYING FOR THE FIRST RESURRECTION - PART 2

As we have already established, an OVERCOMER (one who qualifies for the first resurrection) is a LOVER and a FORGIVER. Let us continue with this thought, delving deeper into the specifics of a lover and a forgiver.

The key to understanding love and forgiveness is to be found in the law of God, more specifically, the law of Jubilee. The Jubilee is about forgiveness, including the cancellation and forgiveness of debts. This can be found in Leviticus 25:8-10. This law was a type and shadow of Jesus Christ. He, as God manifested in the flesh, came to this earth to forgive and cancel the sin debt of the whole world. JESUS IS THE JUBILEE! WE ARE FORGIVEN! WE ARE LOVED! We have been reconciled (2nd Corinthians 5:18-21) and made to be reconcilers.

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "God has made all men victims of injustice in some manner. All have experienced the injustice of sin. Most men become angry and often quite bitter over these injustices. But those who know the heart of God and the character of Jesus Christ may learn how to deal with these injustices in a somewhat unusual manner. They understand that God is sovereign, and that nothing happens to them, except that God has the knowledge and the power to work it out for their good (Romans 8:28). Those who truly believe this are the ones who do not become angry when they are personally subjected to injustice. They have learned to forgive those who wrong them and to rejoice when men persecute them. More than that, the overcomers are people who have experienced the Jubilee. That is, they have learned to release men from bondage and the prison house of sin (debt). They have learned not to hold grudges against their persecutors, but to rejoice that God has found them worthy to undergo these trials of faith. These are overcomers. The primary qualification of an overcomer--one who aspires to attain to the Feast of Tabernacles--is to be a forgiver." (The Laws Of The Second Coming, Dr. Stephen Jones)

God is going to place the overcomers in a position of rulership (Revelation 2:26) in His Kingdom. THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION! They will administer the law of God in righteousness to all the earth.

WE SHALL RULE THE NATIONS!

July 16

WHAT WILL THE RESURRECTION BE LIKE? - PART 1

What type of body will we have in the resurrection? Will our resurrected body be physical or spiritual? What will be the nature of our resurrected body? Does the Bible answer these questions? Is there a pattern or type for us to look at to determine what our resurrected bodies will be like?

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “The first and most important pattern is that Jesus was raised bodily from the tomb. The disciples came to the tomb to look for Him, but He had risen. His resurrection was NOT the same thing as His ascension, or going to heaven. It was a physical, literal event, “as He said” (Matt. 28:6). In other words, when Jesus talked of the resurrection prior to that time, He meant to convey the literal meaning of the term, not a “spiritual” event in the sense that some take it. The only real question is “with what body do they come?” (1 Cor. 15:35?) Is the resurrected body physical or spiritual? The answer is: **BOTH**. He had a heavenly Father and an earthly mother, and the resurrected body was the culmination of that relationship. He could enter the spiritual dimension (“heaven”) or the physical, earthly dimension at will. His Father had given Him all authority in BOTH realms, even as He said in Matt. 28:18 (NASB), ¹⁸ . . . **All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth**. As a result, He could take a physical form where the disciples could touch Him and see the wounds of His crucifixion (John 20:27). He could also eat food with the disciples (John 21:13; Luke 24:43). Then He could vanish (Luke 24:31) just as suddenly by taking spirit form. The question of whether Jesus was merely a spirit or if He had physical characteristics is faced and answered squarely in Luke 24:36-43.” (*The Purpose Of Resurrection*, Dr. Stephen Jones)

Luke 24:36-43 states...And as they spoke, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And He said unto them, Why are you troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as you see me have. And when He had spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have you here any meat? And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And He took it, and did eat before them...

Notice that Jesus said nothing about having blood. He only mentions flesh and bone. We must see the reality that Jesus was raised with a physical body. This physical body, though, was not limited to the physical world. He had access to the physical and spiritual realms. As well, we must see His resurrection as the *PATTERN* for our resurrection, for Jesus is the *PATTERN SON OF GOD*. His body has become the pattern for our own resurrected body!

WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM!



July 17

WHAT WILL THE RESURRECTION BE LIKE? - PART 2

Ezekiel 44:15-19 states...But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near to Me to minister unto Me, and they shall stand before Me to offer unto Me the fat and the blood, says the Lord GOD: They shall enter into My sanctuary, and they shall come near to My table, to minister unto Me, and they shall keep My charge. And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, while they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causes sweat. And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments...

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "Ezekiel is telling us that these "sons of Zadok" have authority to move in the inner sanctuary of God (which represents the spiritual realm) as well as the outer court (the earthly realm). In other words, they will move with the same calling and anointing that Jesus had after His resurrection. They will have authority in both the spiritual and the physical worlds. Thus, when they minister to God in the spiritual realm, they put on their linen "garments;" but when they come into the physical world, they put on their "woolens" (fleshly bodies). In essence, when Jesus suddenly appeared to His disciples in that closed room, He had simply "put on His woolen garments." Wool comes from animals; linen comes from plants. In His woolen garments, He showed the disciples His hands and feet, and He ate fish and honey in their presence. When He finished ministering to His disciples in the "outer court," dressed in His "woolens," He simply changed into His linen garments (spiritual body), stepped into the sanctuary of heaven, and disappeared before their eyes." ([The Purpose Of Resurrection](#), Dr. Stephen Jones)

As you can see, our resurrected bodies will be fashioned like unto the glorious resurrected body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for He is the *pattern* for all things that pertain to the sons of God. There will be no more limitations. We will be able to be seen and able to vanish. These bodies will not be limited by time and space. This is what Paul referred to as the *MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD*. Jesus Christ will be manifested in and through the overcomers in all His fullness. Philippians 3:21 states...Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue...

ALL THINGS UNTO HIMSELF!



July 18

**THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION,
OR SAY IT IS ALREADY PAST - PART 1**

Some say there is to be no resurrection. Others spiritualize the resurrection, saying it has already taken place in their lives. They claim that there is no bodily resurrection that is yet futuristic. Let us look to the scriptures to see if these statements are valid or not.

Matthew 22:23,29 states...The same day came to Him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked Him...Jesus answered and said unto them, You do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God...1st Corinthians 15:12-19 states...Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable...(As well, read verses 20-28.) Daniel 12:2 states...And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life (age-abiding life), and some to shame and everlasting contempt (age-abiding abhorrence)...John 5:28,29 states...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (judgment)...

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "Paul makes it clear that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the pattern for our own resurrection as well. The only reason we shall be raised from the dead is because Christ was raised as the Pattern Son. Paul's argument shows the inherent contradiction of this Sadducee doctrine. If there is no such thing as resurrection, but that man simply goes to heaven when he dies, then Jesus was not raised. But if Jesus was not raised, then we are yet in our sins, because he *"was raised again for our justification"* (Rom. 4:25). So the only way we attain the promise of God is if Jesus was raised from the dead. But if He was, it is the pattern of our own resurrection as well. That is the path of Paul's logic." (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones)

HOW CAN WE SAY THERE IS NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?



July 19

**THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION,
OR SAY IT IS ALREADY PAST - PART 2**

There are those who say that the first resurrection is already past. Some believe that it has already taken place, and use Matthew 27:50-54 to justify their teaching. Others spiritualize the idea of resurrection, using passages of scripture such as Ephesians 2:6, claiming that resurrection is a spiritual thing only. There are even some who believe the first resurrection took place in 70 A.D. at the destruction of Jerusalem. As well, some believe it took place before World War I. The apostle Paul had to deal with this issue even in his day. He is recorded as having denounced certain teachers who said that the resurrection was already past.

2nd Timothy 2:17,18 states...And their word will eat as does a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some...It is not possible that they were referring to the resurrection of Christ, for Paul would have agreed with that. They were obviously referring to the first resurrection, the resurrection of the righteous (just), to which Paul did not agree. Paul clearly stated that he had not attained to the resurrection yet in Philippians 3:11,12.

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: "Some Christians spiritualize the first resurrection. This is accomplished by redefining resurrection in terms of justification by faith. Once spiritualized, it is an easy transition into a total denial of the bodily resurrection of the dead. The scriptures do tell us that through faith we move from death into life. However, the actual word "resurrection" (Gr. *anastasis*) is never used to describe the process by which one becomes a Christian. Every passage clearly speaks of resurrection in a literal sense, where those who have died rise to stand upon the earth." (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones)

DON'T LET YOUR FAITH BE OVERTHROWN!



July 20

THE 1,700-YEAR NIGHTMARE

According to Jim Rutz: "The 1,700-year nightmare is over: the Constantinian Shift is shifting back. Under Emperor Constantine, the church became an imperial audience, but is now finally freeing itself from the corset of state control. An unprecedented transfer of divine power is underway, from clerics into the hands of ordinary people. This is giving rise to an entirely new form of Christianity - with far greater repercussions than the Protestant Reformation. **The church is transforming itself from an organization to an organism.** After 1,700 years of institutional structure, the body of Christ is emerging in the form described in the New Testament. People are

rediscovering the original forms and functions in an open, participatory system mostly consisting of house churches.” (Megashift, Jim Rutz)

The words “1,700-year nightmare” refer to the rise of Constantine and the legalization of Christianity. This took place from about 313 A.D. to 325 A.D. This resulted in the union of church and state and the secularization of the church. Christianity became a matter of fashion. Many heathen customs and usages, under altered names, crept into the worship of God and the life of the Christian people. This downward spiral away from the original message of the early apostles was the falling away that the apostle Paul spoke of in 2nd Thessalonians 2:3.

According to Dr. Harold Lovelace: “This Great Truth of the salvation of All Creation by God was denounced by the Fifth General Council of the Catholic Church held in Constantinople from May 4, A.D. 553 until June 2, A.D. 553. The Dark Ages, as they are known, came upon the world for about 1,000 years, and this Great Truth was hidden.” (Read And Search God’s Plan, Dr. Harold Lovelace)

The teaching of eternal torture, that was developed by the Catholic Church, has been the primary message of Christianity ever since. It attached itself to the Protestant Reformation and continued to be the primary message that was taught. The teaching of eternal torture is the CORE DECEPTION OF MODERN DAY CHRISTIANITY! It is the strong delusion that Paul spoke of in 2nd Thessalonians 2:11. It is also the seducing spirits and doctrines of demons that Paul taught about in 1st Timothy 4:1,2. The teaching of eternal torture has SEARED OUR CONSCIENCES WITH A HOT IRON TO THE LOVE OF GOD! It is a damnable heresy that denies the Lord who **bought us** (2nd Peter 2:1)!

The church has been under this delusion for 1,700 years. As we look back on church history we can surely see that it was a disastrous nightmare of killing, bondage, and fear. BUT THANK GOD THAT HE IS REVEALING THE TRUTH TO THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR. The Spirit of God is calling HIS PEOPLE OUT OF BABYLON (CONFUSION), and out of the 1,700-year nightmare. The only way out of a nightmare is to **wake up!** SO...AWAKE!

According to Jim Rutz: “God has called us to stop going with the flow, and decide to actively turn away from the outdated control structures (clerics & laypeople). He wants us to pay the price of being a pioneer, learn to LOVE OTHERS, help carry the burdens of others, not become stagnant, and take small steps forward every day.” (Megashift, Jim Rutz)

THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER! AWAKE!



July 21

THE SPIRITUAL MIGRATION OF THE CHURCH

According to Robert Burgess: “For many years now there has been a slow transition coming upon the minds of believers in Christ, this has been a “Spiritual Migration” as it were; from an earthly perception of a Heaven that is “Up There, and we are Down Here,” to the realization that

“Heaven is where WE ARE IN CHRIST” As new creatures in Christ, we have been “Raised up together with Him, and He has made us sit together in Heavenly Places (Ephesians 2:6)...” (The Kingdom Of God, Robert Burgess)

This transition and migration (a moving from one thing to another) can be summed up and characterized by a moving from the carnal (fleshly) to the spiritual. This spiritual migration is a journey from the carnal mind to the mind of Christ. The migration brings us from a mindset of “having church” to “BEING THE CHURCH”! THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE!

This transition takes place as we begin to look in the mirror at ourselves. We begin to see that the root of our problem is SELF. It is our ADAMIC NATURE (the nature that we inherited from Adam). It then becomes apparent that the man of sin is within us. Our problem is then revealed to us as an internal sin nature that sits in the temple of God, opposing and exalting itself above all that is called God. This is the spirit of antichrist, the mark of the beast, the prince of the power of the air, and the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience. This is our adversary. It is not something “out there”, but rather, it is WITHIN US!

Once this has been revealed to us by the Father, we are then led (by the Spirit) to an...“O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM EXPERIENCE” (Romans 7:24)! This experience then launches us toward the power source that pertains to life and godliness. This power source is God’s DIVINE NATURE. This is the very nature of God at work within us.

We are now leaving the earth (spiritually speaking) and being “caught up” into the heavens, being seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. “Heaven” must be understood as a state of being rather than a physical location that is somewhere off in the “sweet by-and-by”.

Then, and only then, can we begin to understand the Bible, God, and His purpose for the whole creation. As our minds are transformed by the Spirit of God, we are then able to grasp and see (perceive) the Kingdom of God. Until these things take place in our lives, the Kingdom of God remains a mystery to our carnal (hellish) mind, FOR THE CARNAL MIND IS HELL! We can then see that the mind of Christ is HEAVEN! What a joy to be liberated from the bondage that is **within!**

WHAT A MIGRATION!



July 22

1ST CORINTHIANS 13 - PART 1

According to J. Preston Eby: “It is my deep conviction that this opening of Divine Love will melt more hearts for God than any other exercise. A mother may forget her child, but the Word says, “For God SO LOVED THE WORLD that He gave His Son” (Jn. 3:16). How can God ever forget the world, or give up on the world with a love so fierce as that! The scripture declares, “But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). And again, “In this the love of God was made manifest, where we are concerned, in that

God sent His Son, the only begotten or unique Son, into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, *not that we loved God*, but that HE LOVED US and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours alone, but also for the sins of THE WHOLE WORLD” (1 Jn. 4:9-10; 2:2, Amplified).” (God Is Love, J. Preston Eby)

Over the next several days we are going to try to dissect 1st Corinthians chapter 13. This passage of scripture, like no other, goes into great detail in describing the love of God. It portrays the true heart of our loving Father, FOR GOD IS LOVE! It also portrays the hearts and lives of His true disciples, for Jesus said...A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another (John 13:34,35)...

With this in mind, we are now able to see that 1st Corinthians chapter 13 is one of the most important passages in the Bible. It speaks of the very **essence** and **nature** of God. It represents all that God is, including all that He desires for us to be in Him. LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW (Galatians 5:14)!

This is what an overcomer is! HE IS A LOVER AND A FORGIVER! Remember...The fruit of the Spirit is **love**! For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF (Galatians 5:14)...

O FATHER...TEACH US TO LOVE!



July 23

1ST CORINTHIANS 13 - PART 2

1st Corinthians 13:1-3 states...Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profits me nothing...

The word “charity” (“love”) comes from the Greek word “agape”, which means: spontaneous, unconditional love that always seeks what is best for the recipient, not expecting anything in return, and having not been given on the basis of merit. “**Agape**”, being the highest and most mature form of love, speaks of the love that comes from God. In essence, it tells us of the very nature and character of God, FOR GOD IS LOVE (“AGAPE”)! This love is possessed only by God and those whom He has revealed it to. It is to be distinguished from the other forms of love, which are: “storge”, “philia”, and “eros”. “**Agape**” is all giving, not getting.

The other forms of love are as follows:

1. storge - affection between members of a family.
2. philia - friendship.
3. eros - sexual and romantic love between people “in love”.

It is important and necessary to bring out that “**agape**” (God’s love) is not something that we can *work up*, for “**agape**” is in total contrast with our Adamic Nature. “**Agape**” must first be revealed to us from our Heavenly Father, then being realized, received, experienced, and distributed to others. Our nature is void of this type of love. This love is only to be found in partaking of God’s divine nature (2nd Peter 1:4).

With this in mind, we can now see what is being said in verses 1-3 of 1st Corinthians. If we do any or all of the things mentioned in these verses, not being motivated by “**agape**”, then we are:

1. A noisy gong or a clanging cymbal...
2. A useless nobody...
3. Gaining nothing...

This tells us that the most important thing that we are to derive from the Bible is...**GOD IS LOVE!** If we do not see this as the heart and message of the Bible, then we have missed the very essence and meaning of the Holy Scriptures! Without “**agape**”, there is nothing in our treasure chest but wood, hay, and stubble. Let us lay down our lives that we might become partakers of this life-changing power, for **GOD IS...**

“**AGAPE**”!



July 24

1ST CORINTHIANS 13 - PART 3

1ST Corinthians 13:4-7 states...Charity (love) suffers long, and is kind; charity (love) envies not; charity (love) vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, Does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...

This detailed description of “love” (“agape”) shows and tells us of the fruit of the Spirit in action. Remember...This love is **all giving**, not getting! This love is not just in word, but it is also in deed as well. 1st John 4:9 tells us that God’s love was manifested toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In essence, we could say that Jesus, the Word made flesh, was a manifestation of 1st Corinthians chapter 13. He was the perfect revelation and manifestation of the love of God that we have to look at. Jesus told us that

His commandment was for us to love one another, AS HE HAD LOVED US! He then told us that there is NO GREATER LOVE THAN THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS (John 15:12,13). Jesus showed us true love in the laying down of His life for the sin of the world, then asking us to learn of, partake of, and to distribute this same love to all.

1st Corinthians 13:4-7 speaks of a person who is DEAD TO SELF. It then goes on to list the fruit of the Spirit that is to flow from such a person. This can be seen in verses 4-7. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. (The Amplified Bible)

God's love is the only thing that will melt the hearts and lives of people, causing them to turn from their carnal (fleshly) ways, including the carnal ideas that they have about their Heavenly Father. As His love melts our hearts, we will discover that He is a loving Father to a degree that we never imagined possible. HIS LOVE INCLUDES ALL, CORRECTS ALL, RESTORES ALL, AND SAVES ALL, UNTIL HE IS **ALL IN ALL!**

O LOVE OF GOD, HOW RICH AND PURE!



July 25

1ST CORINTHIANS 13 - PART 4

1st Corinthians 13:8 states...Charity (love) never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away...

LOVE NEVER FAILS! What a statement! These words should give us reason to greatly rejoice! Unfortunately, most do not believe or understand this statement. Most that say they believe that love never fails, in essence, really do not believe this is the case, for they preach and teach that God's love will fail most of humanity. They (Christians) claim that the vast majority of God's creation will be tortured for ever and ever in a burning hell. This comes from the simple fact that most have never done a word study on the words "hell", "fire", and "for ever" ("eternal", "everlasting"). If a proper study is done of these three words, then the truth will rise to the top, causing the traditions and doctrines of men to crumble before your very eyes. You must do a word study on the Hebrew word "Sheol" and the Greek words "Hades", "Gehenna", and "Tartaroo". These are the words that have been translated into the English word "hell". As well, you must do a word study on the Greek word "pur". This is the Greek word for "fire". Finally, you must do a word study on the Hebrew word "olam" and the Greek words "aion" and "aionios". These words pertain to the "ages", **but many have misunderstood and mistranslated these words, causing much confusion.**

After an unbiased study is done concerning these words, the truth of the salvation of all men will become quite clear. You will then see (perceive) your Heavenly Father for Who He truly is...THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!!! Then, and only then, will you understand the statement...LOVE

NEVER FAILS! This means that God's love never fades out, or becomes obsolete, or comes to an end! Remember...Nothing can separate us from the love of God, NOT EVEN DEATH (Romans 8:35-39)!

Romans 8:38,39 states...For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord...(DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?)

The love of God could be summed up best by the old song that states:

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to **the lowest hell.**

LOVE NEVER FAILS!



July 26

1ST CORINTHIANS 13 - PART 5

1ST Corinthians 13:9-13 states...For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abides faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)...

As we run the race of life, marching toward a deeper relationship with our Lord, we are accompanied by **three great friends**. Their names are FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE. These three friends help us as we walk through the wilderness of this Christian journey. They guide us through the seasons of this life, helping us to be able to see through a glass, darkly. Sometimes it appears that these three friends have abandoned us, but they are always watching us. Many times they are closer to us than we realize. They work behind the scenes, helping, strengthening, and encouraging us in ways that we do not realize until later down the road. These three friends are bringing us from being able to see in part, to being able to see our Father in all His fullness. They are bringing us to a grand, glorious, and climactic conclusion, in which we will see our Heavenly Father as ALL IN ALL!

There is coming a day when two of these friends will leave us. These two are FAITH and HOPE. They are not leaving us to desert us, but rather, they are leaving simply because we will not need them any more. They will have finally brought us to the desired end of the journey. This "end of the journey," as we will call it, is to know our Father even as we are known of our Father.

Our third and greatest friend of all, Who is LOVE, **WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US!** He will never fail us! NEVER, NEVER, NEVER! He goes by the name of love, but He is also known as the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is God, AND GOD IS LOVE!

If at the end of time there remains just one person who is estranged from the love of God, then that person has defeated the love of God, and God's love will have failed. ***BUT GOD WILL NOT FAIL! HE CAN NOT FAIL! HIS LOVE GOES BEYOND THE HIGHEST STAR, AND REACHES TO THE LOWEST HELL!!!*** He has promised that He will draw (drag) all men unto Himself. What a promise! What a God!

HIS LOVE IS INESCAPABLE!



July 27

GO IN TO POSSESS THE LAND

Joshua 1:10,11 states...Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals (provisions); for within three days you shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God gives you to possess it...

"Joshua", which means **Jehovah The Savior**, was about to lead the children of Israel into the promised land of Canaan. The Lord spoke unto Joshua in reference to Moses, saying...Moses My servant is dead...The Lord also encouraged Joshua by telling him to be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go...Joshua sent officers to command and to prepare the people to be ready to pass over the Jordan river. God would miraculously part the waters of the Jordan, causing the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord to stand firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. What an awesome miracle this was! Let us now look at what this story represents for the followers of Christ today.

The key words or phrases that we will take note of are: "Joshua", "Moses", "Be strong and of a good courage", "Within three days", and "Pass over this Jordan". We must understand that the Old Covenant (Moses, the letter of the law) is dead (fulfilled in Christ). The One Who has accomplished this is Jesus (Joshua). We are now called to be overcomers (strong and of a good courage) through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ (Joshua). In addition to this, we are coming out of death (Jordan), which is the carnal mind. This is all made possible by the death (cross) and resurrection (represented by the statement...within three days) of the Lord Jesus Christ (Joshua). As well, we shall also be resurrected according to the same pattern in which the Lord Jesus was resurrected. **THIS IS OUR FULL SALVATION, WHICH IS THE PROMISED LAND OF CANAAN THAT FLOWS WITH MILK AND HONEY!** This spiritual promised land is to be found **IN CHRIST, FOR HE IS THE TRUE PROMISED LAND!** **In Him** we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)...

Let us go in to possess THIS LAND at once! After continually putting our faith in Christ, we will see the giants (our flesh and carnal mind) fall, causing us to totally and completely inherit the land (our glorified bodies). The taking of this land is a process. It is called SALVATION! It involves the salvation of our spirit, soul, and body. This is the promised land!

Thank God for our Heavenly Joshua (Jesus), Who is the PATTERN SON, and Who has already paved the way for us, becoming the firstborn of every creature (Colossians 1:15).

GO IN TO POSSESS THE LAND!



July 28

REFORMATION

According to Bob Evelyn: “We need Reformation within the church today as badly as in Luther’s day. We need to understand that “orthodoxy” is not truth as compared with falsehood ... it is simply the majority opinion, and it can be wrong. We cannot cling to a set of beliefs or interpretations simply because the majority that preceded us has worked through these issues and developed what they have passed down to us as orthodoxy ... the “majority opinion.” “Orthodoxy” is widely viewed as a safeguard against heresy. But what if the “majority opinion” is wrong, and what if orthodoxy now prevents us from rooting error out of the teachings of the church? Consider this ... ***When in scripture was the majority opinion correct?*** Were the Jewish leaders (the majority) correct, when God’s prophets (the minority ... like Jeremiah) were proclaiming things that were “unorthodox” in their day? Were the Pharisees (the majority) correct when Jesus and later His apostles were proclaiming things that were “unorthodox” in their day? Were the majority of believers correct as they clung to legalism, as Paul spoke of things that were “unorthodox?” (See Acts 21:20-21 when the majority of believers in Jerusalem opposed Paul when he returned to Jerusalem .)” ([How Can You Be Right, And The Whole Church Wrong?](#), Bob Evelyn)

The word “reform” means: the improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, or unsatisfactory. This is what is now taking place in the body of Christ. Those who have EARS TO HEAR are coming out of Babylon (confusion)! They are hearing the call of the Spirit to come out of deception and STRONG DELUSION, for most of the established visible church is to be found in this state. Remember...If it were possible, the **very elect** (God’s own people) would be deceived (Matthew 24:24)...

There is only one road that leads to REFORMATION. This road is revelation truth! The words “revelation truth” mean: unveiled reality. This combination of Spirit and truth is essential to be a true worshipper of God. It takes the Spirit to reveal truth to a person. In essence, they (Spirit and truth) go hand in hand. The teachings of Evangelical Christianity are **pitiful**, for most of what they teach is nothing more than the traditions and doctrines of men. We must admit that...

IT IS TIME FOR A REFORMATION!

July 29

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

Why is this life full of emotional and physical pain? Why is there so much evil? What is the purpose of pain, evil, and suffering? The Bible gives us concrete answers to these questions.

The problem of pain is obviously a tough thing for the human race to come to terms with. It is difficult to understand and comprehend all the reasons why certain things happen to certain people. It would seem that there is no logical reason for much of the pain, evil, and suffering that we are subjected to. But the Bible does not leave us in the dark on this subject. As a matter of fact, it is very clear in its explanation concerning the reasons for the creation having been subjected to pain, evil, and suffering.

Psalms 119:71 is a KEY VERSE that unlocks the problem of pain, evil, and suffering. It states... **IT IS GOOD FOR ME THAT I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED; THAT I MIGHT LEARN YOUR STATUTES...** It is not that we welcome or enjoy pain, evil, and suffering, for we certainly do not! But the Bible gives us hope in stating that there is a *purpose* for everything that we go through. The purpose for our affliction is that we might LEARN! This concept is also to be seen in the story of Job.

All of Job's friends bemoaned him and comforted him over all the **EVIL THAT THE LORD HAD BROUGHT UPON HIM**: (Job 42:11)...Why did God afflict Job and bring pain into his life? It is important that we see why, for Job represents the entire creation and its afflictions. Job was afflicted that he might LEARN. What did he learn? He said...I have heard of You (God) by the hearing of the ear: But now my eye sees (understands) You (God). Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5,6)...What was the result of what Job learned? The Lord **BLESSED THE LATTER END OF JOB MORE THAN HIS BEGINNING** (Job 42:12)...

This is where we are headed. Unfortunately, there will be some pain, evil, and suffering along the way. We must see as Job eventually did, that all of God's methods are corrective in nature. He afflicts us not to be vindictive, but corrective.

The key that causes us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord is this: We must see (as Job did) that everything that happens to us, whether good or evil, is under the control of the **SOVEREIGN HAND OF ALMIGHTY GOD!** God either causes or allows EVERYTHING! We are afflicted that we might ...

LEARN!



July 30

THE THREE GREAT TRAPS

After much reading and studying of the Bible, I think you will agree that there are things that we are to guard against. There are "traps", if you will, that we are to avoid falling into. These are

things that the Bible warns us to stay away from. I am convinced that the three most dangerous things that the Bible speaks of are:

1. PRIDE
2. BITTERNESS
3. ISOLATION

These three traps will ruin a life, a relationship, and our witness for God. They are to be viewed as a spiritual cancer that eats away at the very essence of God's life within us. "Pride", "isolation", and "bitterness" will surely cause us to be a clogged vessel, leaving us in a condition that will always frustrate the grace of God.

The Bible continually urges us to humble ourselves, not being lifted up in "pride". Proverbs 6:16,17 tells us that GOD HATES "PRIDE"! The words "proud look" in verse 17 speak of "pride", referring to one who is lifted up and exalted in and of themselves. The Bible is very clear on this issue. Everyone who exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted (Read Luke 18:9-14).

Ephesians 4:31 and Hebrews 12:15 tell us to guard against a "root of bitterness". The word "bitterness" speaks of being harsh and disagreeable, showing intense hostility, being resentful or cynical. Psalm 1:1 calls it the "SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL". "Bitterness" is a result of "pride", being a more harsh form of "pride". "Bitterness" then leads to "isolation".

Matthew 5:13-17 tells us that a believer is salt and light to the world, and that we are to let our light shine before men. "Isolation" is the final and **most deadly** form of "pride", for it says...I NEED NO ONE BUT MYSELF! It is a celebration of self, which leads to spiritual death! It is a recipe for disaster!

"Pride", "bitterness", and "isolation" are, without a doubt, the three greatest stumbling blocks that stop people from entering into the Kingdom of God. Not only do they hinder the one whom they have attached themselves to, but they hinder others as well. Let us be on guard for these three deadly traps. We must...

HUMBLE OURSELVES!



July 31

GROW

2ND Peter 3:18 states...But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever (to the day of the age). Amen...

The Bible is full of passages that tell us to mature, progress, and to grow up into a mature son of God. The growth that is being spoken of is a spiritual growth. It is a growing up into the fullness of God that must take place in our lives. We must see ourselves as individually and corporately coming into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,

unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may GROW UP INTO HIM in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: (Ephesians 4:13-15)...

This is what is taking place within the true members of the body of Christ. WE ARE GROWING UP INTO HIM! We are not to remain as children (spiritual infants) in our understanding and knowledge of God, but we are to learn how to access the VERY GRACE OF GOD in our Christian walk. Our knowledge of God and His purpose for the creation should also increase. This should take place to where we are beginning to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

Why is it that **so many** of God's people are afraid, even scared to death, to learn, progress, and grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord? We must understand this about man and his fallen condition: Carnal man is eager to remain stagnant in his comfort zone. Anything that seems to be unorthodox or challenging to man is immediately discarded and thrown to the side. It is regarded as "off the deep end".

We ought to guard against believing everything we hear, but we must also guard against discarding everything new that we hear. Many times we may be discarding revelation truth. WE MUST STRIVE TO HAVE A **TEACHABLE SPIRIT**, being led by the Spirit, testing everything we hear and experience by the Holy Scriptures. Let us not be afraid to learn, consider, study, and...

GROW!



August 1

LAY NOT THIS SIN TO THEIR CHARGE

Acts 7:57-60 states...Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep...

The beautiful secret to understanding this passage of scripture is to be found in the name STEPHEN. The name "Stephen" means crown. The word "crown" means: a headdress symbolizing royalty, achievement, or victory, a reigning monarch, pertaining to royal status and reward.

Revelation 2:26 tells us that the overcomers will be given power over the nations: And they shall rule them with a rod of iron...The next logical question would be, what causes one to qualify and be classified as an overcomer? The answer to this is found in the meaning of Stephen's name.

"Stephen", whose name means crown, symbolizing royalty, ruling, and reigning, dealt with his persecutors in LOVE AND FORGIVENESS. **THIS IS AN OVERCOMER!** He cried to the Lord with a loud voice, saying...Lord, LAY NOT THIS SIN TO THEIR CHARGE...THOSE ARE