

of Jesus Christ...Ephesians 1:17 states...the Father of glory may give unto you THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION in the knowledge of Him...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...

The word "revelation" means: to uncover or unveil, to make manifest that which was previously hidden, secret, or unknown. To see that God's revelation (unveiling of His purpose and plan to the creation) is progressive, we need only to look at the history of the Bible. God created Adam, who existed in innocence until his fall, which brought him into conscience, which led man into human government, and then to the promise to Abraham, and then to the law of Moses, and then to the grace or church age of Jesus Christ, which will culminate with the ages to come (the Millennium and the Age of the Ages), which will bring about the dispensation of the fullness of times, in which ALL will be gathered together in Christ. IS THIS NOT PROGRESSIVE? OF COURSE IT IS!!! God's great and mighty purpose of the ages is being unveiled step by step to the creation in a progressive way. This means that we must not camp out on past and present knowledge of God, but remain open to His progressive revelation, which will always line up with the Holy Scriptures when they are studied. Many people remain as IMMATURE CHRISTIANS because they refuse to keep an open mind to the progressive revelation of God. THEY THINK THEY KNOW IT ALL. Remember...God gives grace to the humble, BUT HE RESISTS THE PROUD. Humble yourself and ask God to open up to you the mysteries of His Kingdom. Ask Him to reveal to you the purpose of the ages. He wants you to understand and to be a part of His...

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION!



February 1

THE 42ND GENERATION

The 42nd Generation! What in the world is it? Get out your Bible and turn to Matthew 1:1-16. Notice that there are 42 generations listed, but that the 41st generation is Jesus, the son of Joseph. So who is the 42nd Generation? The key is to be found in vs. 17, which states...all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto CHRIST are fourteen generations...So the answer to our question is CHRIST. CHRIST is the 42nd Generation. Is there a difference between Jesus and Christ? That is a very good question! Who or what is (the) Christ?

1st Corinthians 12:12 states...for as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: SO ALSO IS CHRIST...Do you see it? Do you grasp what was just said? Christ is to be seen as a many membered body with Jesus as its head. The Christ is made up of more than just one man. IT IS A CORPORATE MAN! IT IS A MANY MEMBERED MAN. It could be said that Jesus is THE CHRIST (Anointed), and that we are HIS CHRIST (Anointed).

According to Bill Britton: “The 42nd Generation referred to as “Christ” in Matthew 1:17 refers to the Christ in 1st Corinthians 12:12,27. The 42nd GENERATION IS NOT JESUS ALONE, BUT IT IS HIS SON, THE OVERCOMER OF REVELATION 21:7.” (The 42nd Generation, Bill Britton)

The 42nd Generation is Jesus and YOU! It speaks of those that are called out of all ages as the true seed of Abraham to rule and reign with Jesus now and in the ages to come. This will culminate in, and bring about what the apostle Paul referred to as the MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD. WHAT A GENERATION! WHAT A PROMISE! WHAT A HOPE! WHAT A DELIVERANCE FOR THE ENTIRE CREATION! Revelation 21:7 states...He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be His God, and he shall be My son...IT IS YOU...#42 (6 X 7...6=MAN, 7=THE PERFECTION OF GOD...HENCE, THE PERFECTION OF GOD MANIFESTED THROUGH MAN).

WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE 42ND GENERATION!



February 2

HEAVEN

According to J. Preston Eby: “The English word “heaven” is derived from the old Anglo-Saxon term “heave-on,” meaning to be lifted up, up-lifted. It means to be “heaved-up” or “heav-en.” In the scriptures, heaven is used to describe three rather distinct and different realms. It refers to the earth’s atmosphere, outer space, and finally, it speaks of where God dwells. Not only is God our Father, but He is our Father in heaven. By saying God is in heaven (as Jesus did say), Jesus did not mean to localize or locate God. He was not telling us of a place where God is and where God lives apart from any other place in the universe. Those who think of heaven as a place, usually think of Him as being very distant. Somehow we have gotten the idea that heaven is a long way off. This error has crept into many songs sung by the church world such as: “When We All Get To Heaven” and “Won’t It Be Wonderful There” (just to name a few). Where did we get this conception of heaven from? Certainly not from Jesus or the apostles! When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, He said, “No man has ascended up into heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man WHICH IS IN HEAVEN” (John 3:13). That is, Jesus claimed that while He was sitting and talking to this rabbi, He Himself was actually in heaven. This means of course, that heaven is here and now. Heaven for the child of God is not a future hope. It is a present reality. Jesus the Christ, when a man on earth, was at the same time in heaven. And so also are we who are “as He is” (1st John 4:17). Our Lord was in heaven; He came down from heaven, and still was in heaven; and this heaven is, in the Greek, OURANOS. It is something a person can be in, can descend from, and still possess. And the meaning of the word is “elevation, height, exaltation.” (Our Father Which Art In Heaven, J. Preston Eby)

Ephesians 2:6 states...God has raised us up together, and made us to sit together IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS...We are here told that the location of heaven, or the heavenly place that we desire is to be found IN CHRIST! This is not a physical location, but a spiritual position of being IN CHRIST! We must STOP thinking of heaven, or the heavenly place of God, as something that is "UP THERE, AND WE ARE DOWN HERE." We must come to the realization that heaven is where we are IN CHRIST!!! We must see heaven as a state of being that is available to us in the here-and-now. It is the very ABUNDANT LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Many remain in hell (Hades, unperception, the carnal mind, separation from God in their mind), thinking that one day in the sweet by-and-by they will finally get their mansion in the sky and be able to experience God. Let us AWAKEN TO THE LIFE OF GOD IN CHRIST that is available to us now. Heaven is available to us now...

IN CHRIST!



February 3

CHRIST IN YOU

What is the hope of creation? Who is the hope of creation? Where is the hope of creation? 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, 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 can now see that the hope of creation is the revealing of the mystery of God, which has been hid for ages. As well, CHRIST IS THAT HOPE, AND CHRIST IS IN US!

With this in mind, we are able to come to these conclusions:

Christ is a mystery that must be revealed by God.

Christ is to be revealed throughout the ages of time.

The mystery of Christ is to be revealed in us.

This unfolding mystery of the ages is the hope of the entire creation.

Christ in us is the blessed hope.

Please take note of this very important point: IT IS NOT CHRIST IN HEAVEN THE HOPE OF GLORY, BUT IT IS CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY!!! The only hope of God ever being glorified in the earth is that Christ would be revealed TO YOU, IN YOU, AND THROUGH YOU for the world to see. The only way that anyone will ever see Jesus, hear about Jesus, or learn about Jesus is THROUGH YOU! You are a vessel of God's glory.

Galatians 4:19 states...My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU...Galatians 1:15,16 states...But when it pleased God, Who separated me from

my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME...The hope of the whole creation is being formed inside of YOU. REJOICE!

WHAT A HOPE!



February 4

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

What about Sodom and Gomorrah? Has God doomed these sinners forever? The story of Sodom and its exceeding wickedness is known to every Bible reader (Genesis 19). Its awful destruction is still remembered and spoken of by many people today. Nevertheless, many people have never noticed the wonderful prophecy of future restoration and blessing for Sodom. FUTURE RESTORATION OF SODOM? BLESSINGS OF GOD UPON SODOM? WHAT?

Ezekiel 16:55 states...When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, SHALL RETURN TO THEIR FORMER ESTATE, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate... Matthew 10:15 states...It shall be MORE TOLERABLE for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city...

Many people are not aware that the Bible declares that Sodom and Gomorrah shall be raised up again in the day of judgment to be corrected and finally restored TO THEIR FORMER ESTATE. WHAT A MERCIFUL AND LOVING GOD!!! Please note that many cities will be dealt with MORE SEVERELY than Sodom and Gomorrah. SO DON'T BE TOO HARD ON SODOM AND GOMORRAH! As far as the destruction of the city is concerned, it was necessary, and part of the purpose of God to bring about His progressive revelation in the earth. But we must keep in mind that just because God pours out judgment and wrath on people, does not mean that He has cast them off forever. His judgments and His wrath do not last forever. They are temporary and for the purpose of correction. OH THAT CHRISTIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS ABOUT THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER!!! God does not condone wickedness of any kind. But God is able to correct the sinner and restore him to his former estate. Remember...GOD IS LOVE! Remember...LOVE NEVER FAILS! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO GIVE UP ON SODOM AND GOMORRAH, FOR HE LOVES THEM, AND HIS LOVE WILL NEVER FAIL THEM!

Isaiah 57:16 states...For I (God) will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth (Old Testament word for wrath): for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made...Lamentations 3:31,32 states...For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitudes of His mercies...Let God show you His GREAT compassion and mercy for all.

GOD LOVES ALL, EVEN SODOM AND GOMORRAH!



February 5

LET THIS CUP PASS

Matthew 26:39 states...and Jesus fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless not as I will, but as You will...As we take into consideration that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, we are then in position to understand this statement that He makes. He was a representation of God and man. He was referred to as the Son of man AND the Son of God. As the Son of man, Jesus was identifying with man (mankind) when He prayed, saying, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME. This “cup” that He spoke of was referring to His death on the cross. This statement seems to be out of character for Jesus. WHY THIS STATEMENT?

As Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane, and did sweat great drops of blood, He made this statement to identify with man in the agony of the death of the self-life. The cup represents the death of self. It is the death of our ways and the life of His ways. This is the cup that Jesus drank for us as a man, and this is the cup that we must also drink of. It is a bitter cup with a bitter taste, but it has a sweet aftertaste, for it results in resurrection life. It initially speaks of death, but after it has done its work it will yield the fruit of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Man is ever trying to get out of drinking the cup of the death of self. When we do not drink of the cup we miss the opportunity to partake of resurrection life, for life can only come out of death. THE DEATH OF SELF IS THE KEY TO THE RESURRECTION LIFE AND POWER OF GOD!

As the Son of God, Jesus identified with God when He also said, YOUR WILL BE DONE! Jesus typified man and God, FOR HIS LIFE WAS A REPRESENTATION OF BOTH. He was the MEDIATOR between man and God. As the Son of man He identified with man (let this cup pass), and as the Son of God He identified with God (Your will be done). JESUS DRANK THE CUP! We are now able, through Jesus, to drink the cup that represents the death of self, and to enter into His resurrection life. THANK YOU LORD FOR DRINKING THE CUP!

YOUR WILL BE DONE!



February 6

WHO, WHAT, WHERE IS SATAN?

Is Satan a literal angelic being with a pitchfork, horns, wings, a tail, and a red suit? With just a little bit of research and some common sense, it will become clear that our understanding of Satan is based primarily on the traditions and doctrines of men, rather than what the Bible actually teaches. As Gary Amirault has stated, we will come to find out that...“FIRE AND TORMENT WITH MUCH SUPERSTITION WAS ADDED TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND FICTION.

THE GODDESS OF HEL FROM NORSE MYTHOLOGY BECAME SATAN, HERO OF MOST ESCHATOLOGY.” To be blunt, the Christian explanation of Satan IS NOT CORRECT!

The word “Satan” means ADVERSARY. This speaks of someone or something that opposes or attacks. This is WHO Satan is. He is the adversary. Ephesians 2:2 sheds a tremendous amount of light on understanding Satan. It states...Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, THE SPIRIT THAT NOW WORKS IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE...So...Satan, who is here referred to as the prince of the power of the air, IS A SPIRIT, AND IS IN US. This spirit is said to be at work in the children of disobedience.

After having stated these things, we are now able to come to these conclusions:

SATAN IS THE ADVERSARY (THIS IS WHO HE IS)

SATAN IS A SPIRIT (THIS IS WHAT HE IS)

SATAN OPERATES IN MAN, ESPECIALLY IN AND
THROUGH THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE (THIS IS WHERE HE IS)

Do you remember when Jesus referred to Peter as Satan (GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN)? Do you remember when the scriptures stated that SATAN ENTERED JUDAS? How can Satan be a literal being if Jesus referred to Peter as Satan, and it is said that Satan ENTERED Judas? When Jesus referred to Peter as Satan, He was recognizing the prince of the power of the air, the satanic spirit that was at work in Peter. This was due to the fact that Peter was being used by that spirit to discourage Jesus from fulfilling His mission, in telling Jesus that He did not have to die for the sin of the world, and be raised again the third day. As far as Judas is concerned, how could a literal being enter him (THINK ABOUT IT)? This is OBVIOUSLY referring to the SPIRIT OF SATAN entering him.

As was previously discussed, this SPIRIT looks to make its home in THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE. WHY IS THIS SO HARD FOR CHRISTIANS TO UNDERSTAND??? GOD IS A SPIRIT, AND LOOKS TO MAKE HIS HOME IN THE CHILDREN OF OBEDIENCE. Why should we find it strange that Satan would be a spirit and operate in the same manner? Once again, many have been SEDUCED BY THE TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN, RATHER THAN STUDYING AND PRAYING FOR THEMSELVES. They would rather have their pastor tell them about God (whether it is right or not) than to know Him for themselves. Let us turn away from the traditions and MYTHS of men to our Heavenly Father’s...

SPIRIT AND TRUTH!



February 7

GOD GIVES THE INCREASE

1ST Corinthians 3:6,7 states...I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants any thing, neither he that waters; but God that gives the increase... This scripture gives us insight into the WAYS of God. It speaks of how we are to minister to people, not getting upset with them when they do not understand what it is that they are being taught. **ONLY GOD CAN AND WILL GIVE THE INCREASE!** This means that it takes the Spirit of God to reveal (unveil) spiritual things to man. You may minister to someone on a certain subject and they will not understand it. Someone else may minister to them on the same subject, and then God will give the increase. **DO NOT BE UPSET WITH THIS!** Remember...**IT TAKES GOD TO GIVE THE INCREASE.** God may use you to plant and someone else to water, or He may use someone else to plant and you to water; but only God can give the increase. We must recognize that it takes people quite a long time to grasp spiritual things.

The seed of the Word of God must be planted in the heart of a person, then it must be watered, and then it must have time to grow. Finally, God will cause that seed to bring forth the fruit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. He uses man to plant and to water, but He is the only One Who can give the increase (to make something come alive, or be quickened in a person's heart). We must be aware of, recognize, and understand that there is a process to man coming out of his carnality. It is:

1. PLANTING
2. WATERING
3. AND GOD GIVING THE INCREASE

ASK FOR HIS INCREASE TODAY!



February 8

OFF THE DEEP END?

Have you gone off the deep end? I SURE HOPE SO! The next time someone tells you that you have gone off the deep end concerning the things of God, you can tell them...**THANK YOU! OF COURSE I HAVE!**

Psalms 42:7,8 states...**DEEP CALLS UNTO DEEP** at the noise of Your waterspouts...Yet the Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life...Daniel 2:22 states...He reveals **THE DEEP THINGS**; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him...1ST Corinthians 2:10 states...But

God has revealed them (the things that He has prepared for us) unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD...

Many are not aware that there is a DEEP in man that calls out to the DEEP in God. There is a longing in us to know the deep things of God, which includes the MYSTERIES of His Kingdom. WE MUST FIRST RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE DEEP SECRETS AND MYSTERIES THAT ARE HIDDEN BY GOD, AND THEN ASK GOD TO REVEAL THESE DEEP THINGS TO US. It is time to come out of the SHALLOW END of the traditions and doctrines (teachings) of men, and to come into the DEEP RICHES of the knowledge of Christ! Most Christians love to remain in SHALLOW RELIGIOUS WATERS, never maturing in God, and remain as babes on the milk of the Word. They refuse to let go of their spiritual sugar tit.

IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP, O CHILD OF GOD! Ask God to reveal to you His mysteries and secrets. He is the One that placed the DEEP in you that longs for the DEEP in Him.

CALL UNTO THE DEEP IN GOD!



February 9

LOST YOUR MIND?

Have you lost your mind? I SURE HOPE SO! The next time someone tells you that you have lost your mind concerning the things of God, you can tell them...THANK YOU! OF COURSE I HAVE!

Romans 12:2 states...And be not conformed to this world (age): but be TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...2nd Corinthians 3:14 states...But their minds were blinded: for until this day remains the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ...2nd Corinthians 4:4 states...the god of this world (age) has blinded the minds of them which believe not...Philippians 2:5 states...Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...Hebrews 8:10 states...I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...1st Corinthians 2:16 states...But we have the mind of Christ...

Due to the fact that our minds are blinded by the god of this age, our minds need to be transformed and renewed. We are then told that we need the same mind in us that was in Christ, and that the laws of God must be put in our mind, giving us the MIND OF CHRIST. In actuality, WE MUST LOSE OUR MINDS!!! We must lose the carnal mind, which is death, having it transformed and renewed into the mind of Christ, which is life. LOSING YOUR MIND IS A GOOD THING!

WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST!



February 10

KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS

According to Dr. Loyal Hurley: “1ST John 5:21 states...Little children, keep yourselves (guard against) from idols. Amen...The most important thinking in the world is the thinking that men (mankind) do about God. True ideas of God lead to nobility of life; false ideas of God lead to the opposite.” (The Outcome Of Infinite Grace, Dr. Loyal Hurley)

The word “idol” speaks of false gods, or FALSE IDEAS OF THE TRUE GOD. The religions of men have created many idols (false ideas) in our hearts. These idols are preconceived ideas about God that are not true. Two of the most damaging idols that have been produced by the teachings of men are:

1. Eternal Torture
2. Annihilation

We say that God is ALL-POWERFUL, and then turn around and deny it! As well, we say that God is ALL-LOVING, and turn around and deny it! The two most popular thoughts about God’s dealings with the wicked, is that He will either torture them forever, or that He will exterminate (annihilate) them. In neither of these two sets of beliefs could God be ALL-POWERFUL AND ALL-LOVING! According to the teaching of eternal torture and annihilation, God either can not correct the wicked, or He does not want to correct the wicked. EITHER WAY, YOU HAVE A LIMITED GOD!!!

With a little bit of study, prayer, and meditation, we can see that the teachings of eternal torture and annihilation are IDOLS that have been set up in the hearts of men by organized religion. Either God is ALL-POWERFUL, or He is not. Either God is ALL-LOVING, or He is not. KEEP YOURSELVES FROM FALSE IDEAS OF GOD! Anything short of ALL REALMS of intelligence being ultimately brought under the sway of the power and the love of Christ is IDOLATRY!

GUARD AGAINST THESE FALSE IDEAS OF GOD!



February 11

HE SHALL BE SATISFIED

Do you think that God, Who is love, would be satisfied with just a portion of the creation being saved? If you had bought one hundred acres of land, would you be satisfied with receiving only one acre? I DON’T THINK SO! Neither will God be satisfied until THE ENTIRE CREATION IS RESTORED BACK UNTO HIM! It was for this very reason that God was manifested in the flesh and came to this earth. He came to be the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. He did not come to be the

potential savior, that is, He will be your savior if you do everything just right. NO! He came to be the ACTUAL SAVIOR OF THE WORLD! He is the Lamb of God that TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!

Remember...YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN! YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! YOU BELONG TO GOD! The reason that we belong to God is that HE PAID FOR US, AND THAT HE PURCHASED US THROUGH THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! HE HAS (PAST TENSE) FORGIVEN YOU OF ALL YOUR SINS!!! JESUS PAID IT ALL! IN FULL! No matter what organized Christianity says, HE IS GOING TO GO AFTER THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF HIS PURCHASED POSSESSION!

Isaiah 53:11 states...He shall see the travail of His soul, AND SHALL BE SATISFIED...Our Heavenly Father will be satisfied with nothing less than ALL OF HIS PURCHASED POSSESSION! 1ST John 2:2 states...And He (Jesus) is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins: AND NOT FOR OUR SINS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD...

HE SHALL BE SATISFIED!



February 12

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

How fitting it is to talk about Abraham Lincoln today. It is his birthday. Happy Birthday, Abe! Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States of America, was a believer, and accepted the Holy Scriptures as inspired by God Himself. But there is one point that is not often found in popular writings about him. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BELIEVED IN THE ULTIMATE SALVATION OF ALL MEN! (You can research this at www.savior-of-all.com.)

He took the passage, "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive," and followed up with the proposition that Adam's transgression was totally and completely reversed, and was made just and right by the atonement of Christ. Abraham Lincoln understood punishment for sin to be a Bible doctrine, but also understood that it must cease when justice is satisfied. He knew that all that were lost by the fall were made good by the sacrifice of the Son of God, EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER.

Lincoln often referred to 1st Corinthians 15 to support his view of the salvation of all men. He very clearly was a believer, and knew the Bible better than any other President, especially in his understanding of the restitution of all things. What a man! What a President! What a servant of God! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABE! Your message of truth is marching on.

IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE!



February 13

FIRSTFRUITS

James 1:18 states...Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures...The word "firstfruits" speaks of the beginning of something, or the first of the ripe fruits. The word "firstfruits" would then signify to us that that which is considered a firstfruit is not the full harvest, but it does point to the fact that there is more fruit to come. The firstfruits is not the end of the harvest, but it is just the beginning of GOD'S GREAT HARVEST!

The Jewish people of the Old Testament had three great feasts in a one year period. They were:

1. THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
2. THE FEAST OF WEEKS
3. THE FEAST OF INGATHERING

These three great feasts go hand in hand with three harvests:

1. BARLEY HARVEST
2. WHEAT HARVEST
3. GRAPE HARVEST

These three major feasts are also known as:

1. PASSOVER
2. PENTECOST
3. TABERNACLES

They do correspond to our:

1. APRIL
2. JUNE
3. OCTOBER

These three harvests do spiritually represent the way in which God is reconciling all things unto Himself. They represent:

1. REMNANT
2. NATIONS
3. WORLD (THE ENTIRE CREATION)

This great harvest of mankind is being gathered unto God now, and will continue in the ages to come. It is to take place in:

1. THIS PRESENT AGE
2. THE MILLENNIUM
3. THE AGE OF THE AGES (DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF TIMES)

This present age in which we find ourselves is the age in which God is gathering in a REMNANT, or FIRSTFRUITS. This remnant is then to be used in the coming Age to be the very manifested sons of God, which will result in all nations coming to the knowledge of the Lord. (Read Isaiah 2:1-4.) This remnant is to be used as well in the Age of the Ages, playing a part in the final phase of God's great harvest, which will result in the gathering of ALL REMAINING THINGS IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:20). This will be the consummation and completion of God's great harvest, which will result in Him being ALL IN ALL (EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE).

According to Ray Knight: "We must realize that the firstfruits is not the end of God's dealings with man, but just the beginning. According to God's pattern given in the Old Testament, there must come forth a firstfruits company that is separated away first from the whole just as the sheaf of firstfruits was waved as the evidence that the whole harvest would follow (Firstfruits, Ray Knight)." REJOICE! You are the firstfruits of God. Your very salvation GUARANTEES the rest of the harvest to come.

READ EPHESIANS 2:7!



February 14

GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STUBBLE

1st Corinthians 3:12,13 states...Now if any man build upon this foundation (Jesus Christ) gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is...

What an interesting scripture! This scripture passage gives us insight into the ways of God and man, and how that God deals with man. Notice the particulars in these two verses of scripture. They are:

1. THE FOUNDATION
2. BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION
3. GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES
4. WOOD, HAY, STUBBLE
5. FIRE

Are these things to be understood literally or spiritually? Well...SPIRITUALLY OF COURSE! We do so much damage to the scriptures when we literalize things that are to be understood spiritually. There is also much damage done to the scriptures when we spiritualize something that is not to be spiritualized, but that is another issue, and another topic for another day. In this particular case, we are to understand this passage in a spiritual sense.

1. There is only one foundation that can be built on, and that foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ (Who He is, and what He accomplished).

2. We are called upon to recognize this foundation, and then to build upon it.
3. That which man builds upon this foundation, which is to be recognized by God as fruitful, is characterized as gold, silver, and precious stones. (These represent divinity.)
4. That which man builds upon this foundation, which is to be recognized by God as unfruitful, is to be characterized as wood, hay, and stubble. (These represent carnality.)
5. We are to see GOD AS A CONSUMING FIRE! His fire does try the believer's work, which in turn does consume his wood, hay, and stubble (carnality), and does purify his gold, silver, and precious stones (his potential for divinity).

Wood, hay, and stubble represent carnality, self, the sin nature, or the Adamic Nature that we inherited from Adam. Gold, silver, and precious stones represent divinity - and/or the divine nature that is hidden in man, buried under wood, hay, and stubble.

So then the goal of God, WHO IS A CONSUMING FIRE, is to burn up the carnal mind (the corrupt nature within man), and to purify man, depositing His very divine nature within him. This is brought about by the FIERY TRIALS of God in and through our wilderness experiences. As we come to understand this process, we will learn to burn without complaining (Well...At least we will not complain quite as much). Let us boldly enter into the fire of God, NOT FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE, BUT YIELDING TO HIS FIRE WITH SUBMISSION!

GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE!



February 15

THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

Acts 3:20,21 states...Jesus Christ, Which before was preached unto you: Whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began...What an unbelievable statement! What does it mean? Let us find out.

"Restitution" means: the act of restoring something that has been taken away or lost; the act of making good or rendering an equivalent as for loss or injury. It means restoration. Now let us look at the grammatical construction of this sentence and what it declares.

Notice that there is a comma after the word things. This means that what follows the word things refers back to the original statement. With this in mind, it is now easy to see that all the prophets from the beginning of the world had prophesied that there would be a restoration of all things, and that the restoration would indeed be universal, and would include all things. The reason that so many Christians fail to see this great truth is due to the fact that they have little or no knowledge of what the Bible teaches about the AGES TO COME. Not being aware of these ages to come greatly hinders our understanding of the purpose and plan of God, and blocks us from being able to understand the restitution of all things.

Go back to the LAW, the PSALMS, and the PROPHETS. You will see the COUNTLESS prophecies which declare the restitution of all things. IT IS TRUTH! IT IS MARVELOUS! IT IS BIGGER THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE! IT IS UNDENIABLE! There shall be a restitution of all things!

IT SHALL COME TO PASS!



February 16

METAPHORS IN SCRIPTURE

According to Webster, a “metaphor” is: the application of a word or phrase to an object or concept IT DOES NOT LITERALLY DENOTE, suggesting comparison to that object or concept, as in “A mighty fortress is our God.” A metaphor is a comparison to a literal object or concept, but it is actually not the literal thing that it is being compared to. We must realize that the Bible is full of metaphors, symbols, parables, types, and shadows. The most deadly thing you can do is to try to interpret the Bible with your intellect, which is the natural (carnal) mind. God uses metaphors to speak to us, because the ways of the Spirit are so much higher than the ways of man. His use of metaphors helps us to understand the higher ways of the Spirit. A problem arises though, when we take the metaphor or parable literally. It is to be seen as a comparison of something literal, to convey a spiritual concept of God, but not to be taken literally.

Here are a few metaphors to consider:

A mighty FORTRESS is our God...
God is a consuming FIRE...
The LAMB of God that takes away the sin of the world...
I am the DOOR...
If your hand offends you CUT IT OFF...
If your eye offends you PLUCK IT OUT...
My SHEEP hear my voice...
I am the good SHEPHERD...
Behold, He comes with CLOUDS...
Caught up in the CLOUDS to meet the Lord in the AIR...
His eyes were as a FLAME OF FIRE...
His feet like BRASS...His voice as the sound of many WATERS...
THE LAKE OF FIRE...
From your belly shall flow RIVERS OF LIVING WATER...
A Lamb having SEVEN HORNS, SEVEN EYES...THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD...

As well, the entire book of revelation is a metaphor, which gives to us the unveiling of Jesus Christ.

There are obviously many other metaphors in the Bible, many of which are not understood by the casual reader of scripture. If a person is willing to HUMBLE HIMSELF, diligently read, study, and pray, the mysterious metaphors of the Bible will become very simple, and easy to understand. Understanding metaphors in the Bible, and God's use of them, will enable you to grasp the SPIRIT OF THE WORD, rather than just the letter of the Word. Remember...The letter kills...

BUT THE SPIRIT BRINGS LIFE!



February 17

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

Acts 11:26 states...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch...The word "Christian" means: one who believes in, follows, and demonstrates the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Without the Lord Jesus Christ there would be no such thing as a Christian or Christianity. In essence then, Christianity revolves around a person, and in fact IS A PERSON. This person, is of course, the Lord Himself. Christianity is NOT:

A SET OF DOCTRINAL BELIEFS...

A DENOMINATION...

A RELIGION...

A BUILDING MADE WITH HANDS...

A knowledge of the scriptures alone does not a Christian make. It is WHO the scriptures speak of that makes Christianity what it is. Remember...Eternal life (the life of the ages) is to know God, and Jesus Christ Whom He has sent (John 17:3)...Being a true Christian is not so much what we do, as much as it is Who we know. The doing of Christianity will become a byproduct of the One that we are in relationship with. The One that we speak of, is of course, THE RISEN CHRIST!

According to William Barclay: "There was one mistake into which the early church was never in any danger of falling. In those early days men never thought of Jesus Christ as a figure in a book. They never thought of Him as someone Who had lived and died, and Whose story was told and passed down in history, as the story of someone Who had lived and Whose life had ended. They did not think of Him as someone Who had been but as someone Who is. They did not think of Jesus Christ as someone Whose teaching must be discussed and debated and argued about; they thought of Him as someone Whose presence could be enjoyed and Whose constant fellowship could be experienced. Their faith was not founded on a book; their faith was founded on a person." (William Barclay)

LOOK UNTO JESUS!

February 18

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Romans 14:10 states...But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you set at nought your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...As well, 1st Peter 4:17 states...For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...The word “judgment” means a separating. This judgment must begin AT THE HOUSE OF GOD. So where is the house of God? Is it in the sweet by-and-by? Is it a mansion in the sky? NO! YOU ARE THE HOUSE OF GOD (1st Peter 2:5)!

As a believer, judgment has already begun in our lives, for we are the house of God. In essence, WE ARE AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST NOW! In addition to seeing this, we must also come to realize that JUDGMENT IS NOT A BAD THING, BUT A GOOD THING. IT IS A VERY GOOD THING! Isaiah 26:9 states...WHEN GOD’S JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH, THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS...

Our life, our ways, our thoughts, and our deeds are being judged and separated by God NOW! We are being separated FROM SELF, AND UNTO OUR FATHER. We are being transformed into the image of God. God is bringing us through His judgments. For what purpose?

1st Corinthians 6:2 states...Do you not know that the SAINTS SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD...THE WORLD SHALL BE JUDGED BY YOU...We are being judged now that we might judge the world in the ages to come. We must allow God to correct us now that we might be instruments of His correction to the remainder of the creation. God’s dealings with us at His judgment seat are to qualify us to be judges now and in the ages to come.

WE SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD! (Read Obadiah 1:21)



February 19

THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD

(Hebrews 12:5-11)

Hebrews 12:5,6 states...My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives...The word “chastening” means: tutorage, education, training, correction, instruction, and nurture. We must see that God chastens us to tutor us, educate us, train us, correct us, instruct us, and to nurture us. We must grasp this great truth about God, for those who fail to understand the chastening of the Lord will have a miserable Christian experience. They will always be under the impression that God is mad at them, not understanding His ways, and not understanding the nature of their Father.

All of God's dealings with man are for the purpose of CORRECTION. Just as a natural father would chasten his son to correct him, in the same sense, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER CHASTENS US TO CORRECT US. As well, all judgment, punishment, wrath, vengeance, and chastening from the Lord is for our good, and is for the purpose of correction, and does result in our being reconciled unto Him. We must STOP thinking of God as some angry monster that is foaming at the mouth, just waiting to vindictively, senselessly, and endlessly torment and torture all who do not get right. HE KNOWS THAT WE ARE NOT RIGHT (RIGHTEOUS)! THIS IS THE VERY REASON THAT HE CHASTENS US!!! So what is the outcome of His chastening?

God's chastening brings about the peaceable fruit of righteousness. So whether it be His judgment, punishment, wrath, vengeance, or His chastening, the end result will be a person in love with and loved by God, having been corrected by their Heavenly Father. OUR GOD IS ABLE AND WILLING TO...

CHASTEN US ALL!



February 20

TOP 25

Here is a list of what I consider to be twenty-five of the most powerful passages of scripture in the Bible. These are key verses that UNLOCK the mysteries and secrets of the purpose and plan of God. Ask God to give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him concerning these scriptures. ENJOY YOUR SEARCH!

1. Colossians 1:16...Jesus Christ created ALL THINGS (including principalities and powers)...
2. Isaiah 45:7...God created good AND EVIL...
3. Isaiah 14:12 & Ezekiel 28:13,15...These passages of scripture describe who Lucifer is. Here are some hints: Who was the Garden of Eden made for? Who was in the Garden, and was perfect UNTIL iniquity was found in him? You also need to do a word study on the name Lucifer.
4. Isaiah 54:16...God created the waster to destroy...
5. Psalm 90:1-3...We were with the Lord before the earth was formed...God put us in destruction...He says return...
6. Romans 8:20...The creation was made subject to vanity (futility or failure), not willingly (not of its own choice, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it)...

7. Ephesians 1:17-19...The spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...
8. Proverbs 25:2...God conceals or hides the truth...We are to search it out...
9. Colossians 1:26,27...God is a mystery that has been hid for ages...It is now made manifest...IT IS CHRIST IN YOU...
10. 1st Corinthians 12:12...CHRIST is a many membered body (man)...
11. Luke 17:20,21...The kingdom of God is WITHIN YOU...(AWESOME)...
12. Hebrews 1:2...God made the AGES (worlds is a mistranslation)...
13. Genesis 12:3...ALL families of the earth shall be blessed...
14. Psalm 22:27...ALL the ends of the world shall REMEMBER and turn unto the Lord (WOW!)...
15. Psalm 65:2...ALL flesh will come to God...
16. Psalm 72:11...ALL kings and nations shall serve Him...
17. Acts 3:21...The restitution (restoration) of ALL things...
18. 1st Corinthians 15:22-28...This is probably one of the most powerful portions of scripture in the entire Bible. It outlines the entire purpose of God. It starts with Adam and ends with God being ALL IN ALL...
19. Ephesians 1:9-11...The dispensation of the fullness of times...ALL THINGS gathered into Christ...This is referred to as God's SACRED SECRET...
20. Colossians 1:20...God will reconcile ALL THINGS unto Himself...
21. Philippians 2:10,11...EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW (this refers to a worshipful bow)...EVERY TONGUE CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS LORD (as well, read Romans 10:9,10 and 1st Corinthians 12:3)...
22. Philippians 3:21...God will subdue ALL THINGS unto Himself...
23. 1st Timothy 2:4-6...God will have ALL MEN to be saved...A ransom for ALL...Testified in DUE TIME...
24. 1ST Timothy 4:10...GOD IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN...
25. Romans 11:36...OF Him, THROUGH Him, and TO Him are ALL things...

This is just a drop in the bucket of key verses in the Bible that UNLOCK His purpose and plan for the entire creation. For over 600 key verses, read: Read And Search God's Plan, by Dr. Harold Lovelace.

ENJOY YOUR SEARCH!

February 21

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

According to George Addair: “By the sovereignty of God, we mean the supremacy of God. We mean His Kingship and Headship. It literally means , “the Godhood of God.” To declare that God is sovereign is to declare that He is God. It is to declare “that He is the most high, doing according to His will IN THE ARMY OF HEAVEN AND AMONG THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him, What have You done?” Daniel 4:35.” (The Absolute Sovereignty Of God, George Addair)

Either God is sovereign or He is not. If He is not sovereign, then He is limited in some way, and that makes Him like us. If God is sovereign, then that means He is responsible for all of the creation. He is the author and finisher of everything. HE IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING!

God is responsible for:

CREATING EVERYTHING
GOOD AND EVIL
THE FALL OF MAN
THE CREATION MADE SUBJECT TO VANITY
PUTTING MAN INTO DESTRUCTION
THE CRUCIFYING OF THE LORD JESUS
ULTIMATELY RESTORING EVERYTHING BACK TO HIMSELF

Understanding the sovereignty of God will SET YOU FREE from the silly things that people preach and teach about God, claiming that He is fighting against the Devil and the powers of darkness, trying to do the best He can, but will ultimately lose the vast majority of His creation. THAT IS SILLY AND OUTRIGHT RIDICULOUS! Here are some scriptures that clearly declare the ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD:

Isaiah 46:10
Daniel 4:35
Psalm 37:23
Psalm 33:15
Psalm 115:3
Acts 15:18
Romans 9:11-24
Romans 11:25-36
Ephesians 1:11
1st Timothy 6:15
Revelation 4:11

RELAX!!! GOD IS IN TOTAL AND COMPLETE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING! HE IS...

SOVEREIGN ALMIGHTY GOD!

February 22

THE "SECOND" COMING "?"

According to J. Preston Eby: "It may surprise many people to learn that the Bible nowhere speaks of the "second coming" of Christ. We must purge our conversation, purify our terminology, and remove from our consciousness the multitude of non-scriptural and extra biblical expressions carried over from Mystery Babylon." (Looking For His Appearing, J. Preston Eby)

We have been taught by man to think in terms of the first and second coming of Christ, rather than looking to the Bible which speaks of the progressive revelation of Jesus Christ, and of His progressive comings. This thought is brought out in Micah 5:2.

Micah 5:2 states...Who is to be ruler in Israel, Whose GOINGS FORTH have been of old, from everlasting...(Notice GOINGS is plural) Let us now arrive at the mature understanding of the GOINGS FORTH of the Lord, for the Bible speaks of many comings of the Lord.

The Lord comes:

WITH CLOUDS
AS LIGHTNING
AS A THIEF
AS THE BRIDEGROOM
AS THE MORNING STAR
AS THE SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARISING
IN RESURRECTION POWER
IN FLAMING FIRE
AS REFINER'S FIRE AND FULLERS' SOAP
IN THE AIR
AS THE RAIN
ON A WHITE HORSE
AS KING
AS THE CHIEF SHEPHERD
WITH HIS ANGELS
WITH HIS SAINTS
TO HIS SAINTS
IN HIS SAINTS
IN JUDGMENT
WITH REWARDS
WITH A SHOUT
WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL
WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD
TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
TO HIS TEMPLE
IN GLORY
AS LORD

IN HIS KINGDOM
AS SEASONS OF REFRESHING
ETC.
ETC.

Are you getting the point yet? We have limited Jesus Christ to a first and second coming (which words are not even found in the Bible), and we have totally missed the point of HIS PROGRESSIVE REVELATION TO MANKIND. THESE COMINGS OF THE LORD ARE TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS HIS GOINGS FORTH.

The Greek word “parousia”, which occurs twenty-four times in the New Testament, comes from the verb “paremi”, which means at hand, or to be present. “Parousia” denotes the presence of one who has already arrived. THE COMING OF THE LORD IS ACTUALLY HIS PRESENCE. James 5:7 states...Be patient unto the coming (presence) of the Lord...

HIS GOINGS FORTH HAVE BEEN OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING!



February 23

AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT

Proverbs 17:27,28 states...He that has knowledge spares his words: And a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: And he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. ...If there were ever a scripture verse that needed to be applied to our lives, this is definitely one of them. A sure sign of a fool is one who has diarrhea of the mouth. Let us now notice a few of the words in this passage and their meanings.

The word “understanding” in verse 27 means discerning. The word “excellent” in verse 27 means quiet, and the word “understanding” in verse 28 means wisdom, or a wise man. We can now conclude that a discerning person is of a quiet spirit, and he that shuts his lips is a wise man.

Remember the story of Joseph? Joseph proved in the end to be a man with a quiet spirit, one who was discerning, and one who was wise. What was it that he discerned? GOD’S WAYS! Joseph came to realize that what his brothers meant for evil, God meant it unto good, to save much people alive. Joseph told his brothers to...be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me: for God did send me before you to preserve your life. WHAT AN EXAMPLE OF A DISCERNING WISE MAN WITH AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT! Joseph entered into Egypt as a slave, and then became the most powerful man in all of Egypt under Pharaoh! Joseph understood that YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR ALTITUDE!!! If you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, He will exalt you in due season. May we learn to discern GOD’S WAYS, having an excellent spirit, and may we grow into men and women of wisdom.

BE OF AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT!

February 24

GOING BACK TO THE BASICS “?”

Have you ever heard someone tell you that they were “going back to the basics”? It is quite a common statement among Christians. It sounds really holy, doesn’t it? It has a good ring to it, don’t you think? The question is then, should we go back to the basics? NO!

That has got to be the biggest “cop out” statement of all time!!! The words “cop out” mean to avoid a responsibility. What is it that we are avoiding by going back to the basics in God? We are avoiding and refusing to GROW UP IN GOD.

God never told us to go back to the basics. He did however tell us to BUILD UPON THE BASICS. We must have the basic (elementary) knowledge of the gospel written on our hearts, and then we are to GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD. When people are challenged to learn something about God that is new to them, they throw up their hands and say...I am going back to the basics. What they are really saying is this: “I do not want to be moved out of my comfort zone. I already have all my ducks in a row. Please do not trouble me with any other knowledge about God. I would rather camp out and remain as a babe in Christ.” In essence, THEY ARE SCARED TO GROW UP IN GOD!

You can assure yourself of this: TO GO BACK TO THE BASICS IN GOD IS TO GO BACKWARDS IN GOD! We must understand that God’s revelation to man is a PROGRESSIVE REVELATION. We must always be ready to move in God, having our spiritual ear tuned in to His voice. Listen to the apostle Paul’s frustration in dealing with people who wanted to stay as babes, or go back to the basics. 1st Corinthians 3:1-3 states...And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able. For you are yet carnal...Hebrews 5:13 states...For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age...

Please understand that the basics (the milk of the word) are very important. We should spend time drinking of the milk of the word, for there is nothing wrong with being a babe in Christ. But there comes a day that every baby must GROW UP! As we begin to grow in God, we are then able to take the solid foundation (the basics) of simple faith in Jesus Christ, and begin to build on top of it. DO NOT continually go back to the basics. To go back to the basics in God would be the same as a grown man continually seeking to lay in his mother’s arms and drink a bottle. The church is full of people who do not want to grow up in God.

We must go forward in God, not backward in fear and pride. It is time to graduate to the strong meat of the word, becoming teachers, rather than having to be taught over and over again, while remaining as a bottle-fed babe in Christ.

MAY WE GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD!



February 25

THERE SHALL BE A RESURRECTION

Acts 24:14-16 records the apostle Paul giving an explanation of his hope toward God. He states...THERE SHALL BE A RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, BOTH OF THE JUST AND UNJUST...This statement was also made by Jesus in John 5:28,29, which states...Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in 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)...These passages do speak of the general or second resurrection, in which ALL THOSE THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES SHALL COME FORTH. This resurrection does include just and unjust people. As well, Daniel spoke of this in Daniel 12:2, which states...And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (the correct translation actually speaks of age-abiding life and age-abiding abhorrence...The Emphasized Bible).

In the book of Revelation, John spoke of a FIRST RESURRECTION that would include only overcomers (those that did overcome the beast nature and the carnal mind...Revelation 20:4-6). It then goes on to state that THE REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED...This is obviously a BETTER RESURRECTION. The apostle Paul referred to this resurrection in Hebrews 11:35, which states...Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION...Those that are privileged to be a part of the BETTER RESURRECTION will be those that do play a part in ruling the nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26,27). THEY SHALL HAVE POWER OVER THE NATIONS! THESE ARE THE OVERCOMERS!!! This company shall consist of overcomers from all ages that did qualify to be a part of the first resurrection. They shall be the very extension of the manifestation of God to all the earth. They shall be used of God to bring ALL NATIONS UNTO THE FATHER (Read Psalm 2:8-10).

It is very important that we understand, recognize, and teach the resurrection of the dead. There are some that say that the resurrection has already taken place. This is error, and is a result of not rightly dividing the Word of truth. The apostle Paul dealt with this in 2nd Timothy 2:17,18, which states...Who concerning the truth have ERRED, SAYING THAT THE RESURRECTION IS PAST ALREADY; AND OVERTHROW THE FAITH OF SOME (this was spoken in reference to Hymenaeus and Philetus)...As well, there are those that deny bodily resurrection altogether. This is a result of spiritualizing scriptures that are not to be spiritualized. The people that teach this, whether they realize it or not, are following in the footsteps of the Sadducees. Matthew 22:23 states...The same day came to Him the SADDUCEES, WHICH SAY THAT THERE IS NO RESURRECTION...Jesus rebuked them for their incorrect teaching, and told them that THEY DID ERR, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES, NOR THE POWER OF GOD (Matthew 22:29)...In addition to all of this evidence, the apostle Paul covered the topic of resurrection in 1st Corinthians chapter 15. The entire chapter is devoted to this topic. This is how a portion of it reads from The New Testament In Modern Speech:

15:1 But let me recall to you, brethren, the Good News which I brought you, which you accepted, and on which you are standing,

15:2 through which also you are obtaining salvation, if you bear in mind the words in which I proclaimed it--unless indeed your faith has been unreal from the very first.

15:3 For I repeated to you the all-important fact which also I had been taught, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;

15:4 that He was buried; that He rose to life again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

15:5 and was seen by Peter, and then by the Twelve.

15:6 Afterwards He was seen by more than five hundred brethren at once, most of whom are still alive, although some of them have now fallen asleep.

15:7 Afterwards He was seen by James, and then by all the Apostles.

15:8 And last of all, as to one of untimely birth, He appeared to me also.

15:9 For I am the least of the Apostles, and am not fit to be called an Apostle--because I persecuted the Church of God.

15:10 But what I am I am by the grace of God, and His grace bestowed upon me did not prove ineffectual. But I labored more strenuously than all the rest--yet it was not I, but God's grace working with me.

15:11 But whether it is I or they, this is the way we preach and the way that you came to believe.

15:12 But if Christ is preached as having risen from the dead, how is it that some of you say that there is no such thing as a resurrection of the dead?

15:13 If there is no such thing as a resurrection of the dead, then Christ Himself has not risen to life.

15:14 And if Christ has not risen, it follows that what we preach is a delusion, and that your faith also is a delusion.

15:15 Nay more, we are actually being discovered to be bearing false witness about God, because we have testified that God raised Christ to life, whom He did not raise, if in reality none of the dead are raised.

15:16 For if none of the dead are raised to life, then Christ has not risen;

15:17 and if Christ has not risen, your faith is a vain thing--you are still in your sins.

15:18 It follows also that those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

15:19 If in this present life we have a *hope* resting on Christ, and nothing more, we are more to be pitied than all the rest of the world.

15:20 But, in reality, Christ *has* risen from among the dead, being the first to do so of those who are asleep.

15:21 For seeing that death came through man, through man comes also the resurrection of the dead.

15:22 For just as through Adam all die, so also through Christ all will be made alive again.

15:23 But this will happen to each in the right order--Christ having been the first to rise, and afterwards Christ's people rising at His return.

15:24 Later on, comes the End, when He is to surrender the Kingship to God, the Father, when He shall have overthrown all other government and all other authority and power.

15:25 For He must continue King until He shall have put all His enemies under His feet.

15:26 The last enemy that is to be overthrown is Death;

15:27 for He will have put all things in subjection under His feet. And when He shall have declared that “All things are in subjection,” it will be with the manifest exception of Him who has reduced them all to subjection to Him.

15:28 But when the whole universe has been made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also become subject to Him who has made the universe subject to Him, in order that GOD may be all in all.

Here are some more thoughts on the resurrection from 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.

Most Christians today do not hold the Sadducee position which denies the resurrection of the dead. Yet there are teachers today, claiming to be Christians, who do deny this. Like the Sadducees, they do not comprehend the importance of “*the redemption of our body*” (Rom. 8:23). Paul calls it “the adoption” and the great “hope” of the Christian (Rom. 8:24). Without this “hope,” death is the end, and we are of all men most to be pitied. Some believe that the first resurrection is merely the life that a Christian receives when he is justified by faith. To support this view, they cite scriptures exhorting us to “die daily” and be raised in newness of life. This view attempts to deny the bodily resurrection of the dead in favor of a more spiritualized view. This was the view of the Sadducees who denied the resurrection altogether (Matt. 22:23; Acts 4:1, 2).

A variation of this view teaches that the first resurrection is spiritual, but the second is physical. This variation does not actually deny the resurrection of the dead, but these do not understand that there are two bodily resurrections that are yet future. I believe that when the full picture is known, as revealed in the rest of this booklet, it will be apparent that neither of the spiritualized views above are accurate. On the individual, personal level we are indeed to “die daily” and be raised with Christ daily. But this is only a type and shadow of resurrection. Our justification by faith is not resurrection itself.

The spiritualizing of resurrection has its roots in the Greek world view; the idea of the bodily resurrection has its roots in the Hebrew world view. I believe that if we go back to the beginning and study the foundations of these views, we can come to the truth of the matter.” (The Purpose Of Resurrection, Dr. Stephen Jones <http://www.gods-kingdom.org/Resurrection/PurposeResurrection.html>)

IN LIGHT OF ALL THIS, WE HAVE HOPE TOWARD GOD!



February 26

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

What is the purpose of God? Does God have a purpose? Why do we serve God? What is this Christian walk all about? These are questions that you must ask yourself. Most people spend a lifetime of “going to church” and never stop once to ponder these thoughts.

Most people are content to know that:

They are a sinner...

They need Jesus...

They have believed on Him...

They will die one day and go to be with the Lord...

If this is all that God wanted us to know about His purpose, then why did He go to such great lengths to send His only begotten Son to lay down His life for the world, and to be a pattern for us to follow after? Surely there is a purpose for all the things that we go through in this life!

According to Bill Britton, “The life of Jesus, in His humanity here on this earth, was a DIVINE PATTERN FOR THE PERFECT END-TIME BODY OF CHRIST.” In essence, we are to be patterned after the very life of the Son of God. Jesus is the PATTERN SON!

Romans 8:28,29 states...them who are called according to His PURPOSE. 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 word “purpose” means: a setting forth, setting up, resolve, and design. God has set forth, set up, resolved, and designed for us to be made in the image of His Son. This has always been His purpose, for He did state this from the very beginning...LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE (Genesis 1:26)...THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF GOD! We are to be made in His image, that we might have dominion over all things (except God Himself). Once again, God’s purpose in man is that he (man) should have dominion over all of God’s creation. We need only to look at the life of Jesus to see a picture of this dominion. Jesus demonstrated GOD’S DIVINE NATURE, AND MANIFESTED GOD’S DIVINE POWER. As we submit to the process of sonship, we too shall be partakers of His divine nature, and shall become a vessel for His divine power. We are in the process of being made in His image.

WE ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE!



February 27

THE WORD OF GOD

What is the Word of God? More importantly, WHO is the Word of God? Is the Bible the Word of God? If it is, which one (Bible) is correct, for there are many translations? Is the King James Version the Word of God, or is it another version or translation that is the Word of God? Sounds confusing...Huh? Let us see if there are some statements in the Bible that answer this all-important question. What or Who is the Word of God?

John 1:1 states...In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God...John 1:14 states...And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelled among us... Revelation 19:3 states...And He (Jesus) was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood: AND HIS NAME IS CALLED THE WORD OF GOD... Well... There you have it! The WORD of God is a person. It is the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Amplified Bible reads as follows (John 1:1)...In the beginning (before all time) was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself...The Word of God that is spoken of in this passage is the Logos (the spoken Word of God). No wonder that Jesus said...I come (in the volume of the book it is written of ME,) to do Your will, O God...The Lord Jesus Christ is the personification, and manifestation in the flesh, of the SPOKEN WORD (Logos) of God. He is the living Word of God! We must understand that the Bible is very important, but what is more important, is WHO the Bible speaks of. It speaks of...

JESUS, THE CHRIST (ANOINTED), THE WORD OF GOD!



February 28

SPIRIT, SOUL, BODY

1st Thessalonians 5:23 states...And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... What an informative scripture! This verse tells us that man is a three-part being.

He is made up of:

1. SPIRIT
2. SOUL
3. BODY

The word "spirit" comes from the Greek word "pneuma", which refers to the breath of God. This breath (Spirit) of God is what enables man to become a living soul. The word "soul" comes

from the Greek word “psuche”, which refers to our mind, will, and emotions. We obviously know what our body is. It is the physical part of man that houses his spirit and soul. With this in mind, let us now attempt to understand the PROCESS of our salvation.

Our spirit is saved as we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is referred to as JUSTIFICATION. Our soul is being saved through the transforming power of God’s divine nature. This is referred to as SANCTIFICATION. Our bodies are yet to be saved at the last trump. This is referred to as GLORIFICATION. In essence, WE ARE SAVED, WE ARE BEING SAVED, AND WE SHALL BE SAVED! The next time someone asks you if you are saved, tell them NO! Tell them that you are in the process of God’s salvation, which is the salvation of your spirit, soul, and body.

This is to be seen as well in symbolic form in the Old Testament. As we study the three main feasts of the Jewish people (PASSOVER, PENTECOST, AND TABERNACLES), WE WILL FIND THAT THEY DO REPRESENT THE SALVATION OF OUR SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY. Can we be honest enough to admit that we are God’s workmanship? Can we be honest enough to admit that we are a work in progress? We have not yet attained to our FULL SALVATION, but we are in the PROCESS of being made in His image. Thank God for the cross and the blood of Jesus Christ, which is saving us...

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY!



March 1

THE CORRECTIVE JUDGMENTS OF GOD

According to Ray Prinzing: “Man has long viewed God’s judgments as a vindictive action prompted by a motive for revenge and supported by a tumultuous wrath that must be pacified. NOT SO! Such is a gross caricature of our God! His mercy and grace are superabundant, and though He finds it necessary to chasten, His wisdom and righteousness produce a just and pure chastisement conditioned to correct the situation, and thus bring forth a creature improved by the process.” (Redemption, Ray Prinzing)

We must understand that all of God’s judgments ARE CORRECTIVE IN NATURE! Hear it again! GOD’S JUDGMENTS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTION! Jeremiah 10:24 states...O Lord, CORRECT ME, BUT WITH JUDGMENT; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing (lest You diminish me)...As you can see, judgment brings about correction, and correction is the result of judgment. They go hand in hand. The Hebrew word for correct is “yasar”, and has also been translated as - to instruct, to chasten, be taught, and be reformed. The Greek word is “paideuo”, and includes the thought of child-training, involving the whole process of discipline which girds us up to the right way.

The purpose of God’s judgments, which are corrective, must always be seen in this light. If they were corrective in the past, and are corrective now, then they will be corrective in the ages