

Christ in the Psalms

A Daily Discovery of Jesus Christ in the Psalms

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Jan 1
Learning Christ

***Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the
ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in
the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of
the LORD; and in his law does he meditate day and
night.(Ps. 1:1-2)***

Christ in us, the hope of glory, (Col. 1:27) is the essence of Christianity. Thus, God has given us an infallible counselor in His Son – who dwells in believers through the Spirit. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6) Jesus is the Truth. If you know Him, you will know the will of God.

There can be many deceitful counselors in our lives. But perhaps the most deceitful counselor of all is our own natural man. Natural man does not necessarily offer sinful counsel, in the conventional sense of the word. But natural man may offer religious advice that will side with our own interests, rather than the interests of God.

The OT, of which Psalms is a large part, often uses the law – which was a shadow of Christ – to represent the NT reality of Jesus Christ in us. Such is the case in this Psalm. We are not to live according to natural man. Rather, Jesus Christ is to be our life, and thus our counsel. We ought to seek to meditate day and night upon Him. We need to learn Christ.

It is God’s purpose for this age to form Christ in us. He wants to bring us into an inward realization of Christ. Thus, although Christ might tell us things and give us direction, the primary way in which Jesus is our counselor is by revealing HIMSELF in us. In other words, if we KNOW HIM we will often know the will of God. He is the counselor that God has given us – the very indwelling of His Son by the Holy Spirit.



Jan 2
The True Vine

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper. (Ps. 1:3)

Jesus Christ in us through the Spirit of God is, "the river of living water." It is only by being planted into Jesus Christ as our living river – as our life -- that His life can become our life in a practical way.

It is incorrect to say that Jesus Christ gives us a THING called, "eternal life." No. Jesus Christ gives us HIMSELF – IN HIM there is all life. He said, "I Am THE life." It is only if we are united with Christ through death and resurrection – which is how we are planted into Him – that He IS our life.

Fruit cannot be produced or live without the vine – fruit must have a source of life. Jesus Christ is the source of all spiritual fruit in the Christian. All spiritual fruit – the fruits of the spirit – are of Jesus Christ. There are not two spiritual lives in the Christian – Jesus is THE life – He is our life. (Col. 3:4) Thus, His life BY the Holy Spirit is the life that produces the fruits of the Holy Spirit in the believer. The fruits of the Spirit are the character of the Christ who dwells in us being manifested through us.

The life of Jesus is resurrection life – it cannot wither because it is life born out of victory over death. And all that is of that life will prosper – for the life of Jesus Christ is the only life that will abide forever.



Jan 3
The Need for Revelation

Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? (Ps. 2:1)

Without a true, inward knowledge of Jesus Christ, there is little more than any of us can do except, "imagine a vain

thing.” We will live in the futility of our own mind; the self-assurance of our own mind.

This is certainly true of unbelievers. But sadly, it is true of many who profess Christ. There are many whose supposed knowledge of God is a product of their imagination. They try to walk with a Jesus that they have created from out of themselves. Rather than receive the Truth, they have turned to fables. Rather than receive revelation, they are deceived by their own imagination.

God has another purpose. He wants to reveal Christ IN His people. He wants to form Christ in us -- bring us into an inward realization of Jesus. (Gal. 4:19) This is the only solution to the futility of man's mind -- we must know Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, we are either going to receive the Truth in Christ and allow it to adjust us, or we are going to attempt to adjust the Truth to suit us. The former will set us free to walk with Christ. The latter will bind us all the more under the power of our imagination, as dictated by religious flesh. But in this we are not left to ourselves – Jesus said that God would continually seek to guide us into all Truth.

Jesus Christ IS the Truth. It is only by growing to know Him that we can be set free from what the flesh is able to produce. And it is only by knowing Christ that we can discern. All discernment in the Christian life is the outcome of knowing Jesus Christ.



Jan 4
Inheritance in The Son

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Ps. 2:7-9)

Jesus Christ is four times in the gospel of John called, “the only begotten Son of God.” The phrase could easily

be translated, "the uniquely begotten Son of God" – either rendering is good, for Jesus was the ONLY Son begotten of the Father in that way. The rest of the sons and daughters are begotten in and through Jesus Christ. God's family is The Father, the only begotten Son, and all who are IN the Son.

You will notice that everything that the Father promises the Son in this passage is likewise extended to those who are born from above IN the Son. In short, everything God has to give to humanity is found solely in Christ. We are seated in Christ in heavenly places. In Him we are given the eternal inheritance. We are to sit with Him in His throne, even as He sits with the Father in the Father's throne. There is nothing God has to give that is given outside of the only begotten Son of God.

The fullness of these promises will be realized in the eternal ages yet to come. But the foundation and seeds are being planted now IN believers. Paul says that God, "has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph. 1:3) God has not given us a portion of Christ's inheritance, nor has He given us an inheritance of our own. No. God has given us Christ – and that means He has given us all that He has given Christ Himself. We are co-heirs. We are one with Christ. We receive all that is IN HIM.



Jan 5
The Lifter of My Head

***LORD, how are they increased that trouble me!
Many are they that rise up against me. Many there be
which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God.
Selah. But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory,
and the lifter up of mine head. (Ps. 3:1-2)***

If Christ is in us, then we have two natures -- we are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) This is the new creation in Christ. But there also remains all that is outside of that union with Christ -- natural man. Many of us, even after we are saved, continue to live from out of, and on the basis of, our natural man. We try to live as Christians. And we don't realize what we are doing.

Often, the trial of faith is used by God to set us free from a Christian life based on natural religious man so that we might live by faith from out of Jesus Christ. God will seek to draw us out of ourselves by allowing us to encounter that which is too much for our natural man -- indeed, too much for natural RELIGIOUS man. He wants to expose us as insufficient so that we will turn to faith in His Son.

This is often what is happening, when, despite all of our prayer, we cannot see or sense God. It is NOT that God is indifferent or hiding from us. Rather, He is trying to show us the Truth -- that we have been relying on our natural man -- such as feelings or mere brainpower. But along side of this, He will begin to reveal to us His Son..

God is seeking to bring us into the Truth of Jesus Christ. There are always going to be, "many voices," that say, "There is no help for you in God." Our feelings may say this; our fears; our thinking. And certainly, circumstances may suggest to us that God is indifferent to us. Yet no matter what voice is trying to convince us that there is no help from God, they are lies. The Truth is, there is no help in OURSELVES. But if we are IN CHRIST there is never a time when there is no help for us in God. Jesus Christ in us is our only shield and the only, "lifter of our head."



**Jan 6
Resting in Christ**

***I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD
sustained me. (Ps. 3:5)***

One of the greatest sources of spiritual paralysis in the life of the believer is pre-occupation with SELF. We practice this in two ways -- either we are constantly fussing over our sins and faults and trying to fix ourselves and make ourselves right, or we are continually exalting our value and worth. Both are from the same source and same error. Indeed, they are our only two options if we do not know Jesus Christ.

The Truth of Jesus Christ -- if we really come into an inward realization of Christ -- will not condemn us or exalt

us. Indeed, the Truth will set us free from ourselves. This is a condition only possible if Christ is revealed IN US, and it is completely outside of human capability otherwise. You cannot get free from self by trying to get free from self -- by practicing any religion, even if based in the Bible, nor by human effort of any kind. You must be born from above and given a new capacity in Christ. In Him alone is such freedom realized. The result is that we are able to lose our lives into His hands -- we are able to, by faith in HIM, leave ourselves alone. We can lay down and sleep with regards to ourselves, because we know that it is the Lord who is our sustenance, indeed, it is Christ who is our life.



Jan 7

Salvation Belongs to the Lord

Salvation belongs unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah. (Ps. 3:8)

Don't think of this statement, "Salvation belongs unto the Lord," as a matter of God possessing the right to mete out salvation to whomever He pleases. That is not the point here. Rather, salvation belongs to the Lord in that He alone is LIFE. God has given life in the Son -- indeed, Jesus said, "I AM the life." Thus, salvation belongs to the Lord because Jesus Christ is THE life, the ONLY life, and it is only as we come to Him and receive Him by grace does He become OUR LIFE. (Col. 3:4)

We need to see that God does not simply give us a THING, or a classification, called LIFE. No. Rather, God gives us Jesus Christ; IN WHOM there is all life. Jesus Christ is THE LIFE, and it is only as we are joined to Him in spirit, and abide in Him, that we are alive with His life.

If Jesus Christ is our life, then Jesus Christ is our everything -- for there is NOTHING that is outside of life -- except death. Thus, we are to abide in Christ, and to live from out of Him by faith for ALL. In Christ God has given all that He has to give to humanity. And there is nothing that is outside of Christ that God has to give. God's blessing is upon His people solely in His Son.



Jan 8

Enlargement Through Adversity

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. (Ps. 4:1)

You will note that this is not a cry for help that is made on the basis of the righteousness of the one praying. No. The cry is unto, "God, of my righteousness."

Jesus Christ IS the righteousness of the believer. This means that, yes, if we put our faith in Christ, God does LEGALLY IMPUTE to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ. But more importantly, God IMPARTS to us Christ Himself. Once we are joined to the Lord -- He IS our life and He IS made to be our righteousness. (see I Cor. 1:30)

There is no righteousness that exists except what is found in Jesus Christ. Thus, if Christ is in us, HE IS our righteousness. Indeed, if we are walking in our OWN righteousness, even as professing Christians, we are deceived and living under the lie of a false gospel.

It is upon the righteousness of God, and not himself, that David makes this cry to God. And even while in distress, David acknowledges that God is using it to enlarge him. What does that mean? That David is becoming a bigger person? No. It means that David is becoming a smaller person -- but as a result, God is becoming bigger to David. In short, God now has an enlarged dwelling place with David.

It is when God thoroughly exposes our unrighteousness and our self-righteousness that we become enlarged. As long as we are, "full of ourselves," and pre-occupied with ourselves, that there is a smaller place for Jesus Christ. It is through distress and trials that our emptiness is exposed, and we are given the opportunity to put ourselves aside and to rest all of our faith in Christ, and in His righteousness.



Jan 9
Turning Glory Into Shame

O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah. (Ps. 4:2)

Paul the apostle writes, "They are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." (Phil. 3:17-18)

Paul suggests that an, "enemy of the Cross," is not necessarily someone who preaches directly against the Cross, nor merely someone who tries to legitimize or affirm sin. Rather, an enemy of the Cross is someone who, "minds earthly things." Generally, this is a person who preaches or practices a Christianity that is based on, and is lived out, through the means of natural man.

This is a denial of the personal Cross. If we want to follow Christ we have to LOSE to Him our earthly nature for whatever it takes for Him to get His glory. If we refuse to do this we will live religiously from out of the earthly, and eventually turn the glory of God into shame.

This is contrary to the very core of Christianity. Paul tells us that if Christ is in you, He has joined you to Himself and made you to be one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) This joining is the new creation – it is what it means to be IN CHRIST. But Paul also says, "If any man is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things are PASSED OVER. Behold, all things have become new. And all things are out from God." (II Cor. 5:17-18) What this means is that everything that God is doing is based upon Jesus Christ in us. NOTHING He is doing is based upon the earthly – indeed, the earthly nature is under the Cross.

An enemy of the Cross will refuse the work of the Cross upon the earthly nature, and substitute that earthly nature for Jesus Christ in us. This is the primary way in which religious people turn the glory of God in Christ into shame.



Jan 10
The Provision of God

***There be many that say, Who will show us any good?
LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon
us. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in
the time that their corn and their wine increased. I will
both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD,
only makes me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)***

Jesus taught, "Seek you first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33) To seek first His kingdom means to seek first His Lordship over US -- and then by extension -- to seek first His Lordship over all else. IF we do this, Jesus will be Lord, not only of US personally, but He will be Lord of all of our NEEDS. And the result will be that Christ will add to us all that we need, as it fits into the plan and purpose of God.

Many of us do not understand this. Thus, we seek first, "all of these things" -- including our needs -- and neglect losing everything first into the Lordship hands of Jesus. Or, we try to earn God's blessings by getting under laws such as tithing. Some fall into the nonsense of, "planting a seed," in a ministry so that we can supposedly, "reap a financial harvest." None of these things are the Truth or are of real faith in Jesus Christ.

The Psalmist had it right: By faith we can afford to lay down in peace -- for God is our protector and provider. This is the outcome of surrender.



Jan 11
Looking Unto Jesus

***My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the
morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look
up. (Ps. 5:3)***

The suggestion here is not that we must pray in the morning as a time of day, but rather, that because Jesus Christ is our life -- because Jesus Christ is, "our day" -- the suggestion is that everything we do is governed by our

relationship with Him. Just as prayer in the morning should govern our day, Jesus is our priority. We go to Him before we consider anything else.

This Psalme agrees completely with the exhortation given to us in Hebrews 12: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12:2) As we begin any, "race" – as we begin any, "day" -- indeed, all during the race -- we are to realize that the goal or prize is NOT that which is earthly. We are not running for human interests. The goal or prize is Jesus Christ Himself. Not only are we to live for His glory, but we are to live that we might experience Him; come into an inward realization of Christ. God's purpose for His people in this age is exactly that: The forming of Christ within. All that He wants to do otherwise is based upon Christ – all that is of God is out from Him.

This Psalm is a prophetic exhortation that Jesus Christ govern our day – become our LIFE. We "look up" to where Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God – He is Lord and we belong to Him.



Jan 12 The Righteousness of God

For thou, LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield. (Ps. 5:12)

The OT is a type and shadow of Jesus Christ. But the NT is Christ Himself – "Christ in us, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) The Psalms of the OT often give us a prophetic revelation – in type and shadow – of the Person of Jesus Christ.

In this Psalm, there is reference to, "the righteous." This is a prophetic reference only to Jesus Christ – who is the righteousness of God **in us**. The believer has NO personal righteousness apart from Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote, "in Christ Jesus, who of God is **made unto us** wisdom, and **righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption. That, according as it is written, He that glories, let him glory in the Lord." (I Cor. 1:30-31) Again, Jesus Christ in us is our ONLY righteousness.

The doctrine of justification by faith states that if we put our faith in Christ, God will impute to Christ our sin, and impute to us His righteousness. This is a good way of describing how God LEGALLY justifies and saves the sinner. But God has given us more than a LEGAL salvation. God does legally IMPUTE to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ – but salvation and righteousness is the result of God IMPARTING to us Christ Himself. We are joined to the Lord and become one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) Christ becomes our life – and Christ is made to be unto us righteousness -- that is why we are justified. This is the Truth behind the proclamations of the Psalmist regarding, “the righteous.”



Jan 13
Deliverance In Christ

Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. (Ps. 6:2-4)

When we are brought to the end of our rope, and come to a complete despair over ourselves, it is not because God has forsaken us. Rather, it is because God is showing us the Truth: There is no hope in ourselves.

Left to ourselves, we would indeed have great cause for despair. But central to this Truth that God is showing us is the fact that we are NOT left to ourselves. God has allowed us to come to this place so that, having seen the Truth about ourselves, we will also see and embrace the Truth that Jesus Christ is our only deliverer.

This is the case whether we are talking about initial salvation or the Christian life within salvation. In one of his times of trial, Paul said, “We were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.” (II Cor. 1:8-10)

God can deliver us out of any situation. But often God will deliver us all the while we remain IN a trial. How? By revealing the Jesus Christ who dwells in us. By using the trial so that we might decrease and He might increase. Then, if we will embrace this Truth, we can shift all of our faith from ourselves over to Jesus Christ. To abide in Christ by faith – even while the trial continues – is true deliverance and real overcoming for the believer.



Jan 14
Guided into All Truth

Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly. (Ps. 6:8-10)

“The workers of iniquity,” in the life of the believer are anything that contradicts the Truth of Christ, and contradicts the faith in Him by which we are to live. Here we see a plea that God’s Truth would prevail, and that everything IN US that contradicts it would be exposed – so that we can be set free unto Christ.

In the experience of the believer there are going to be seasons wherein the Truth and faithfulness of God is contradicted and challenged by circumstances and other people – but the greatest challenge to our faith will be our very own nature. The flesh – natural man – is a contradiction to Christ within, and will always be at war against our life in Him. The solution is not so much to turn inward and try to fix the flesh, beat the flesh down, or to try to control the flesh with law. Rather, the solution for the flesh is the Cross of Jesus Christ – we must pick up our Cross daily and, “bear about in our body the dying of the Lord Jesus.” (II Cor. 4:10) Only then will the life of the Lord Jesus be manifested. (II Cor. 4:11) To the degree that this happens, the Truth will be revealed – yes, about ourselves – but the Truth about Christ will be revealed in us.

Believers can boldly proclaim that no matter the trial, and no matter how lacking we are in our present understanding, it is sufficient that the Lord understands. In Christ, God has received us. We can put ourselves into the hands of God for whatever it takes for Him to accomplish His purposes. We can be sure that He will keep His promise to guide us into all Truth.



Jan 15
A Living Sacrifice

O LORD my God, If I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honor in the dust. Selah. (Ps. 7:3-5)

This Psalm points us to Romans 12:1 in the NT. There Paul says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We are to get on the altar and renounce all that we are in Adam -- and ask God to do whatever it takes to deliver us from living upon that basis. We should ask God to do whatever is necessary to teach us to live from out of Christ.

Jesus stated directly, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 16:24-25) How do we LOSE our lives in the way Jesus is describing? We can start by asking God to do WHATEVER IT TAKES to bring us to the end of our self-rule and self-ownership. Making this commitment is, of itself, a losing of our lives to Christ. But then, as Jesus explained, we must pick up our Cross daily – God will bring us into situations wherein our commitment will be worked out. The result will be that we will find – NOT a, "new and improved US" – but we will find Christ as our life.

We do not know our own hearts. But we can, with the Psalmist, commit ourselves to God – that He might bring us into the Truth. Ask God to deal with any secret places in our hearts where we are not open to the Lord. He wants to do this more than we want Him to do it. Such a request is an outworking of losing our lives, but more, it will result in finding and experiencing Jesus Christ.



Jan 16
God is the Judge of All

God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day...I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high. (Ps. 7:11, 17)

“Judgment,” according to the original languages, is not merely a matter of passing sentence. Judgment means to discern according to the Truth. It is then upon that Truth that any sentence is passed.

Judgment begins with LIGHT. It is an exposure of the person or situation being judged – God will call all things exactly what they are. Indeed, God Himself is LIGHT. Jesus Christ said, “I am the Light.” If any of us desire to live and fellowship with God – either now or throughout eternity – we must be exposed for exactly who we are. Note that this isn’t merely a one-time event. Rather, it is an eternal on-going characteristic of being in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ.

Judgment has NOW begun with the household of God. That means that if Jesus Christ is in you and I, we are presently being judged by His very life and presence in us. In short, the presence of Jesus Christ in us will not be compatible with that which is not of God. It must be put under the Cross. In the end, all that will remain, and all that will abide, will be that which is of Christ.

This is certainly true of believers, but it is likewise true of all creation. By the time God is finished judging all things by Jesus Christ, all that will remain is that which is of Jesus Christ. This is not maybe. Through Christ God is restoring all things under Him as Lord. But if we know

Him, this ought to be something for which we sing praise to Him – according to HIS righteousness.



Jan 17
Christ Seated in the Heavenlies

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. (Ps. 8:1)

God has indeed, “set His glory above the heavens.” In the NT, we are told, “...Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet...” (Eph. 1:20-22) Jesus Christ is the glory of God, the One through whom God’s name has been made excellent in all the earth, and He is presently seated at the right hand of God. This is because He is Lord, having won all victory and authority.

For those who are IN CHRIST, we are also seated at the right hand of God – but only IN CHRIST. Paul says that God, “Has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places IN Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 2:6-7)

Herein we see that God has not given us THINGS. Rather, He has given us Christ, in whom are all things. Paul said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” (Eph. 1:3) It is by our union with Him that all that God has to give in Christ becomes possible for us.

Paul agrees with the Psalmist and says, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” God’s glory is indeed above the heavenlies in Christ, and it is through Christ that His name will be exalted.



Jan 18
Like Little Children

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. (Ps. 8:2)

Many Christians have been taught that if we have grown in Christ, and have built Christian character, that we will be, “spiritual giants.” But the Bible tells us that the most mature among us will be as little children. The picture is one of complete dependence upon God as our Heavenly Father.

Strength in Christ is directly related to our weakness in ourselves – but only if, once we are weak, we depend upon Him. And the fact is, we WON'T depend upon God unless we are brought into a complete weakness in ourselves. We won't even KNOW to. It is simply the nature of things.

Paul said, “When I am weak, then I am strong.” (II Cor. 12:10) This is actually the only relationship between God and humanity that will result in humanity manifesting the power of God. Human strength and self-sufficiency must be crucified, that the power of Christ might work through us – to God's glory and purpose. The power of the enemy cannot stand before Christ – He is the power of God in believers.



Jan 19
God's Purpose For Man

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visit him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. (Ps. 8:4-6)

According to the writer of Hebrews, this Psalm is a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. (see Heb. 2:6-8) Jesus Christ – the Last Adam – is THE man of this passage -- indeed, He continually referred to Himself as The Son of Man.

Jesus Christ was The Son of Man -- The Last Adam -- in that He brought to complete fullness everything that God intended when He created the first Adam. He was also the Last Adam because in Christ the Adam race was ended through His death. Through the resurrection, the Adam race is NOT resurrected. Rather, in Christ there is a new race; a new creation.

The purpose of God in humanity was brought to fullness in Jesus Christ. Thus, it is only if we are IN CHRIST that this fullness can be realized for us. We are not given anything except it already be found IN CHRIST. It is only as we come into a realization of Christ that all that is in Him can be realized.

God is forming Christ in His people so that we might be co-heirs with Him; reign and rule with Him. But again – God has freely given ALL in His Son – and it is only as we discover Him that ALL can be experienced and inherited. God's plan of inheritance is this: The Father – the only begotten Son – and all who are IN the Son.



Jan 20
The Lord Shall Endure Forever

But the LORD shall endure forever: he has prepared his throne for judgment. And he shall judge the world in righteousness; he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness. (Ps. 9:7-8)

By the time God is finished judging, only which is of Christ will remain. The Lord shall endure forever – but nothing else can endure forever -- because only that which is of Christ is eternal and of resurrection life.

People often say they desire revival. Many say they want the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit. That is good. But we must realize that the first step in revival is JUDGMENT. God must expose and purge all that is not of

Himself. Are we prepared for that – yes, in our churches, but also in our personal lives? But frankly, we need to be prepared, because in the end, it is going to happen anyways, if not now, then later at the return of Christ.

God has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness. Rather than fear God's judgment, we ought to embrace it. We ought to ask God to break up every unity that is not in Jesus Christ, demolish every house that He has not built, and overturn every table He has not prepared. We ought to ask God to do whatever it takes to have His will, both in our personal lives, and in our churches and fellowship groups. Again – there is no need to wait to ask Him. He is going to do this, if not now, then later at the return of Christ.

The judgment of God has already begun in the household of God – that judgment begins the moment we receive Christ. When we are joined to the Lord so that Christ is in us, all else that is in us that is not of Christ comes under judgment – it is exposed and adjusted to His Lordship. This is not a bad thing, but a good thing. The kingdom of God will be a kingdom of righteousness only if people who have personally been judged in righteousness by Righteousness Himself – Christ in us -- populate it. And that kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom – one that shall endure forever.



Jan 21
Faith Comes by Hearing

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. (Ps. 9:10)

I must KNOW God at least enough to be able to trust Him. Paul the apostle wrote, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:17) Faith has to be based on a revelation that God gives of Himself – and the basic revelation is that God is faithful and trustworthy.

Note that faith must COME – faith must come to be IN ME. This means that faith is not in me as a dimension of my natural life. It must come to be in me. And the only way

in which faith can come to be in me is by, “hearing,” the Word of God.

The Word of God is the Truth. Indeed, the Word of God is a Person, Jesus Christ. This is why the writer of Hebrews is able to say, “Today God is speaking to us in His Son.” (Heb. 1:2) We are being told that it is through an inward revelation of Jesus Christ that God is speaking to us. Christ is the Word God is speaking. And it is by hearing God’s revelation of Jesus Christ that faith comes to be in me.

Note that faith is not something we muster up out of ourselves up to God. No. Real faith is NOT generated from out of ourselves as the source. Rather, faith “comes,” as we embrace or hear the revelation of God.

Many believers struggle to, “have faith,” and often ask God, “to give us more faith.” God knows our heart, but there is a prayer that is more in line with scripture: Instead of asking God for more faith, we ought to ask God for a greater revelation of Jesus Christ. Then faith will come. “For they that KNOW His name will put their trust in Him.”



Jan 22
The Gates of Zion

Sing praises to the LORD, which dwell in Zion: declare among the people his doings...That I may show forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation. (Ps. 9:11, 14)

Zion was a section of the city of Jerusalem. Prophetically, it is a type and a shadow of the fullness of Christ in God’s people. Zion is always representative of God’s mind and heart – of that which He wants to see brought to pass through Christ in the church.

This Psalm declares God’s doings among His people. This is a reference to God’s work in His people of the forming of Christ in us. That work of the forming of Christ IS God’s doings among or IN His people – and He is to be praised for it. The fullness of that purpose being accomplished in Christ – this is Zion.

The daughter of Zion are all of the, “offspring” – or that which is birthed – out of God getting His full purpose in His people, i.e., Zion. The entire creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. This is not because there is anything great about the sons of God. Rather, it is because when the sons of God are manifested, THE SON OF GOD is manifested through His people. And the entire creation will be impacted to God’s glory.

Hebrews tells us that, “You are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” (Heb. 12:22) This speaks to what God wants -- His full purpose in Christ. We are no longer come to the law -- which was a type and shadow of Christ. But we have come to Christ Himself – so that we might dwell in Him, and He in us. This is God’s thought for man, that He gather all things together in Christ – and that Zion might praise Him and rejoice in His salvation.



Jan 23
Our Redemptive God

***The LORD is known by the judgment that he executes:
the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. (Ps.
9:16)***

Despite the tendency for human beings to think of the judgment of God in negative terms, God’s judgment is always intended by Him to be REDEPTIVE in nature. In other words, as it says in this Psalm, God makes Himself known by His judgments – God brings LIGHT to judge all that is in us that is keeping us from knowing Him.

God will judge everything that is contrary to His purpose in Christ – He will judge all that keeps a person in darkness. Sometimes He allows the consequences of our own sins, pride, and blindness to come down upon us. Other times He will allow us to slowly be worn down by life. Pain gets our attention, and God may allow it so that we will begin to turn to Him. You will note that God does not cause sin or poor choices. But He may judge them so that the consequences will wake us up with the hope that we will begin to turn to HIM.

Note also that none of these judgments are yet punishments. They are really the result of God showing us the Truth – the Truth about ourselves in the light of Jesus Christ. If we experience some of the consequences of sin and unbelief, we will begin to see the Truth about them – and the Truth about Jesus Christ.

God always intends redemption and restoration – ALWAYS. There is no sin – no matter how deep and no matter how long – that exceeds the forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ. But the problem is, some people will NOT turn to Christ. Thus, the same grace of God that God intends to redeem and soften our heart will actually harden our hearts – IF WE push God away. In effect, God will NEVER stop offering grace and redemption in Christ. But if a person won't stop pushing God away, they will seal their own fate, for God has nothing else to offer but the Truth and His Son.

In the end, God is always known by His judgments, for God's judgments are nothing more than His bringing in of His Son as Lord of all – and all else will be demolished. But this is a redemptive judgment, and it will exalt God as love, merciful, and redemptive in nature.



Jan 24
The Trial of Faith

Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? (Ps. 10:1)

One of the traits of any trial of faith is that it will seem as if God is indeed, “afar off.” It will often seem like He is indifferent. Perhaps the greatest trauma in any trial of faith is the sense that, for reasons unknown to us, God has forsaken us. We may cry, “Why are you hiding Yourself from me, Lord?”

Of course, God has not forsaken us. Neither is He hiding Himself from us. The problem, therefore, is in US: We cannot see Him. Indeed, the trial of faith may be exposing the fact that we never did see God – at least not as clearly as we supposed. Now, we are seeing we have been blind – our blindness is now evident – the trial has

exposed this fact. Ironically, it is a great freedom, “to SEE that you are blind.”

Even though there are going to be times when we cannot see God, He always sees us, and is as close to us as He has ever been. The trial of faith will bring us to the place where we can see God as never before. We will see Him spiritually – through the eyes of faith.



Jan 25

The Delusion of Self-Righteousness

He has said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity. (Ps. 10:6)

The human race is cursed with the delusion of self-sufficiency, which is equal to self-righteousness. You don't have to be religious to be self-righteous. Self-righteousness is simply the delusion that you are RIGHT – it is thinking that you have a RIGHT-NESS -- that you are sufficient in yourself. The fact that this is often carried over into Christianity is because those who claim to profess Christ have never seen the Truth about themselves. Thus, they continue on in this delusion.

Self-righteousness is deception; it is truly a delusion. But self-righteousness is also SIN. It is unbelief. Although usually in ignorance, it is a denial of not only what Jesus DID, but it is also a denial of who He IS in the believer. There simply is NO righteousness in any human being by nature. The only righteousness that exists, or that God has to give, is a Person. Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God who dwells in each born again believer. Christ is, “made to be unto usrighteousness.” (I Cor. 1:30)

What we see here is that when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, God does IMPUTE to us the righteousness of Christ, and does IMPUTE to Christ our sin. But that is only the legal description of what happens. The reality is that God IMPARTS to us Christ Himself – joins us to Him in spirit – and because Christ is the righteousness of God, when we are joined to Him, He is our righteousness. Thus, to continue under the delusion of self-righteousness means that, “Christ is of no effect,” for us. (see Gal. 5:4)

He may as well not be dwelling in us, for our faith is not in Him, but in our own righteousness.

The solution is that God must expose our self-righteousness for what it is: A delusion. Sin. A lie. He often does this by simply letting us FAIL. Only then will many of us become open enough to see the Truth: We must put our faith in One who is, "other than ourselves," Christ Jesus.



Jan 26
The Way of Escape

In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? (Ps. 11:1)

When we find ourselves in a situation that makes us unhappy, or one in which we are suffering, it is only natural to want to FLEE the situation. And there can be times when it is the will of God to remove oneself from a destructive situation. But there is one thing we cannot escape, no matter where we might flee: Ourselves.

Each believer is joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) We are joined to Christ IN SPIRIT – but there remains our natural man that is NOT joined to Him. God wants our faith in be in Christ. He is to be our life. What this means is that Jesus Christ – the One who dwells in us, but is other than ourselves – Jesus Christ is God's way of escape. Perhaps not physically – but Christ is, "the way of escape," if we are living in and out from Him – rather than from out of our natural man. We can be free from the rule and tyranny of our circumstances, and from our natural man, in Christ by faith.

This doesn't mean we won't FEEL, or we won't REACT, or that we won't CARE. It simply means we won't be governed by those things – but instead, will be governed by faith in HIM. Indeed, if we are wondering why God doesn't change our circumstances, He is likely seeking to change us within those circumstances. We don't need to flee like a bird into a mountain. Christ is our hiding place right where we are today.



Jan 27
The Only Foundation

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Ps. 11:3)

The foundation of Christianity, indeed, of our lives, is the Person of Jesus Christ. But not merely facts or doctrines ABOUT Him. As essential as those are, the foundation is the Living Christ who dwells IN US. Christ in us, the hope of glory, (Col. 1:27) is the essence of Christianity – indeed, Jesus Christ is supposed to BE our very life. (Col. 3:4)

When Peter confessed to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” it was a watershed moment not only in his life, but in the ministry of Christ. Jesus replied to Peter, “Flesh and blood has not revealed this unto you – and it is upon this ROCK that I will build My church.” (Matt. 16:15-18) Jesus Christ, and more specifically, the revelation of the Person of Christ IN HIS PEOPLE – would be the Rock, indeed, the foundation, upon which all else would be built. This would be the foundation for, yes, the Body of Christ, but at the core, Jesus would be the foundation upon which the life of the individual believer would be built.

When Jesus said, “I will build My church,” He was not talking about membership numbers. He was talking about building the people who ARE the church. This is God’s purpose once we are saved. Once we are united with Christ in spirit, God wants to build us up IN HIS SON.

This is exactly what Paul, in Galatians, meant when he said that he TRAVAILED, “until Christ be formed in you.” (Gal. 4:19) The Greek word translated, “formed,” means, “an inward realization and expression.” This is how God builds His church; how He builds Christ in people. This is the true foundation; The Rock.

Paul, in Ephesians, said that he prayed, “that God would give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Himself.” (Eph. 1:17) The greatest need for the Body of Christ is that we be brought back to the PERSON of Jesus Christ – and realize what it means for

Christ to dwell in us. There is no other foundation that can be laid except what is already laid, Jesus Christ. (see I Cor. 3:11) Except the Lord built the house the laborers toil in vain – and the Lord will NOT build His house, except upon the Rock.



Jan 28
God's Chastisement of His Children

The LORD tries the righteous: but the wicked and him that loves violence his soul hates. (Ps. 11:5)

The contrast in this verse is striking. On the one hand we are told what the Lord hates. But this is contrasted over and against those who are righteous in Christ – those whom God loves. God expresses His love for the righteous by, “trying the righteous.”

Hebrews states, “For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.” (Heb. 12:6) The word translated, “receives,” could be rendered, “positions.” God is chastising us – that is, training us – so that we can be positioned in Christ to live with Him forever in eternal inheritance. We must interpret these things in the eternal sense. God is making us, “partakers of his holiness.” (Heb. 12:10) This is certainly for now, but it is more so for the ages yet to come.

When the Bible speaks of, “trying, trials, or testing,” it is NOT talking about God putting people into situation in order to see whether they have faith. Nor is it a matter of God playing a game – sort of like drawing a line and daring us to step over it. No. Rather, the core meaning of a TRIAL of faith is that faith is being refined, purified, and even built. Thus, trials are not a punishment. They are God's love being expressed in that He is bringing us out of our limited relationship with Himself into one of greater freedom.



Jan 29
The End Times

Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbor: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. (Ps. 12:1-2)

In these last days, we are seeing the infiltration of the spirit of the enemy as never before. Among those who are not in Christ there is increasing violence, hatred, and lying. There is little restraint of evil. Indeed, more and more we are seeing the celebration of evil.

We might expect such things of the world. But in this day we are seeing much the same thing in the church. In fact – and the Bible bears this out – the reason that the world is more and more coming under the direct government of the enemy is that much of the church has also come under it. There is no restraint any longer because the church stands for Truth.

Paul the apostle wrote, “Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron...” (I Tim. 4:1-2) You will note the phrase, “depart from the faith.” Paul is not here talking about the world. He is talking about those who profess Christ. Likewise in II Timothy Paul spoke of those who profess Christ. He said, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (II Tim. 4:3-4)

Paul’s prophecies are coming to pass. Many today teach what amounts to fables – fabricated stories intended to make people feel good. They have tossed aside scripture and opted for a fable – opted for a Christ of their religious imagination. Their message celebrates the value of man and diminishes the pricelessness of Jesus Christ. These are flattering lips. They are enemies of the personal Cross. They make people feel good about themselves at the expense of the Truth. They act as if Jesus is our cheerleader, and as if we are of more value to Him than He is to us.

Believers must be brought face to face with Gal. 2:20: "Yet not I, but Christ." Jesus Christ is in us, and God wants to reveal Him in us. That is ALWAYS going to be the path that God takes us by the Holy Spirit. But in these last days of trying to make Jesus, "user friendly," many will not accept the Truth. And we are seeing the consequences: Fables passed off as Truth.



Jan 30
The Proving of the Truth

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. (Ps. 12:6)

Peter writes, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. (I Peter 1:7) We often think of the trial of faith as a trying of US. There is some Truth in that. We do have to choose. But in the end, the trial of faith is the trial of the Truth. Is what I believe about God the Truth? Isn't that often the issue in a trial? Thus, in a trial God is proving the Truth as much as He is proving us. Indeed, God is proving the Truth IN US.

God is building the Truth in us so that the faith that is based on that Truth might become strong. Do you want more faith? Ask God to build in you more Truth. Faith will come alive in us if we hear the Truth that God reveals in us of His Son, Jesus Christ.



Jan 31
The Eternal Word

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Ps. 12:6-7)

It does not matter how the Truth of God is challenged, discredited, and attacked – in the end, the Truth of God will be shown to BE TRUE. This is not only true out here

in the world, but it is true within the believer. That which is of Jesus Christ can endure any fire. That which is NOT of Jesus Christ will perish – and the sooner the better.

God, through Paul, was perfectly clear on this matter. Paul wrote, “For no other foundation can any man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation 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. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (I Cor. 3:11-15)

It certainly ought to be something in which to rejoice, that in the end, all that is of Christ will remain, but all that is NOT of Christ will be gone. Only that which is birthed of God will endure – though all hell comes against Him. That which is not birthed of God, but built by man, or the enemy, is already dead. It will pass into history. Though we ought to rejoice in this Truth, it is also a wake up call – what are we building? Or even more importantly, what is being built in us?

If God is building you and I in His Son, then even if this is tried with fire seven times, what will emerge in Christ will be all the more purified. But that same fire will burn up that which is not of Christ. Paul's exhortation is that we NOW lose all that is of natural man, and let it be, “burnt,” in order to find and live in that which is of Jesus Christ.

We need to see the utter and complete certainty of these words. God is going to be proven true and faithful, and Jesus Christ is going to be Lord of all. Not maybe. But it is certain. All else will be gone. The question is where WE will stand – again, what is being built in us NOW?



Feb 1
The Futility of Natural Man

How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? Forever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I

***take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart
daily? (Ps. 13:1-2)***

This Psalm is the cry of a person who, in the midst of a trial of their faith, is operating out of the natural man. God never forgets us, or hides His face from us. But to natural man, it will sometimes SEEM like it. And what I will have a tendency to do is, “take counsel in my soul,” that is, live in the situation according to my feelings and natural mind.

The new creation in Christ Jesus is the result of Jesus Christ joining us to Himself. (see I Cor. 6:17) But all that is outside of that spiritual union remains natural – it remains the old man in Adam. Thus, if I am in Christ, my spiritual union with Him does not eliminate the possibilities of the flesh or natural man. Rather, Christ in me – received from above; received from the outside of me INTO me from the outside at salvation – exists along side of my natural man.

We must walk with God according to Christ. God wants us to learn to abide in Christ as our life. We cannot walk with God – we cannot fellowship with God – on the basis, or by using, the assets of natural man. We must see the Truth: There is NOTHING in natural man.

While we are in this learning process we may do as this Psalmist did: Take counsel in his own soul – using our own natural mind and natural man to try to figure things out; to try to find God. This won’t work. But even our failure is unto the end that we might learn Christ – and see that through Christ alone we can walk with God and discern His will. Jesus is to be our Light and our Truth – there is no other for us.



**Feb 2
The Means of Discernment**

***How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? Forever? How
long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I
take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart
daily? (Ps. 13:1-2)***

Many believers have been taught to discern the Truth according to how they feel. We have been told that if we turn in upon ourselves, and examine how we feel or sense, that this indicates God's will. We have been told that this is how the Spirit of God makes us to know the will of God.

This is error. We are never told to look at ourselves to determine God's will or the Truth. Never are we told that God makes us FEEL in accordance with His will. Rather, we are to look unto Jesus Christ. We are to walk according to a true knowledge of HIM. Jesus Christ said, "I AM the Truth." Jesus Christ also said, "I AM the Light." This means that for those in whom Christ dwells, HE IS OUR TRUTH, and HE IS OUR LIGHT. God is today, "speaking to us in His Son." (Heb. 1:2) In short, all discernment in the Christian life is supposed to be the outcome of knowing – in an inward way – the Person of Jesus Christ.

It is a sad fact – and this is not a criticism, but a sad fact – that most believers have little frame of reference for the reality of, "Christ in us, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) Christ has not been revealed in us (Gal. 1:16), and He is not being FORMED in us. (Gal. 4:19) God has not had the freedom to give most of us, "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Himself." (see Eph. 1:16 on) Thus, because of this blindness to the Person of Jesus Christ, we have resorted to the substitute that we know the best: Our own natural makeup. We take counsel with our own souls – although we have been taught that it is the Holy Spirit. We don't know the difference between we do not know the living Christ.

These deceptions are so widespread and so well practiced today that if you question them you will be considered to be anti-charismatic, or people will say that you deny the leadings of the Spirit of God. But at some point we all have to decide whether we believe scripture – or believe this other nonsense.

The good news is that rather than continue in the counsel of our own soul, and rather than continue trying to figure things out with our brain, God will reveal His Son in us. God wants Christ alone to become our wisdom, our light, our Truth, and our means of discernment.



Feb 3

God's Definition of a Fool

***The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they have done abominable works,
there is none that does good. (Ps. 14:1)***

The world mocks Christianity and calls us fools because, not only do we believe in God, but we also believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. God's answer is that He calls those who do not believe in God, "fools."

A FOOL is someone who refuses to consider the Truth – and does so to his own hurt. A fool is someone who COULD know the Truth, but refuses to know it because he or she has opted for something else. In short, the fool is someone who has chosen UNBELIEF rather than faith. And they are, and will, pay a horrible price for it.

There is such a thing as real IGNORANCE. Real ignorance is an inability to know or believe – because there is no light given. But UNBELIEF is not the inability to believe. It is a REFUSAL to believe -- yet not necessarily ONLY in the sense of receiving light and rejecting it. No. I am also guilty of unbelief if I refuse to receive light to begin with – if I am so set in my own will, and have so totally shut out God -- that there is no room in my heart for the Truth. Thus, unbelief is not simply a matter of refusing to believe things -- or of believing the wrong things. Rather, unbelief is the refusal to be open to God Himself.

A fool says in his heart, "There is no God." In other words, there is no room for God in his heart. The fool, and not God, has hardened his heart. The shocking truth is, that some of the people who are the biggest fools of all claim to be Christian. They have lots of religion, but little room for God Himself.



Feb 4
Openness to the Truth

***The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they have done abominable works,
there is none that does good. (Ps. 14:1)***

Jesus Christ promised that the work of the Spirit of God would be to guide us into ALL TRUTH. (John 16:13) Likewise, Paul stated that God, "Will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim. 2:4) There is nothing unclear about this: God desires for all of us to know the Truth -- and that means that He desires for all of us to know Christ Jesus.

There is also no question that God Himself must take the initiative to reveal to us, and draw us to, Jesus Christ. (John 6:44) But once God takes that initiative, and convicts a person of the Truth in Christ, we have a choice. The light God has brought has given us that choice, and as a result, has made it possible for us to choose. Those who are truly ignorant have no choice because they have no light. But those who have light are now accountable for what God Himself has given them.

If God has given us light, we are in a process – a process of coming out of darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ. This takes time and experience. It will involve failures and setbacks. But because God is love, and because God has only one purpose from which He will not deviate, He will continue to guide us into all Truth. And we will continue to be accountable.

In the final analysis, there are only two choices we can make with regards to the Truth God brings. We can either open ourselves to God and allow Him to adjust and change us according to Jesus Christ – OR -- we can close ourselves to God and adjust the Truth to fit ourselves and our agenda. Either way, God will not stop seeking to guide us into the Truth. The same Truth that God intends for our freedom, will, in fact, work to harden us against God – if we choose to push it away and shut God out. There is only ONE TRUTH – only one Jesus Christ – and this will never change.

The question is whether we will change; whether we will open to God. People can say, "There is no God," in many ways – not just in those words. We say it when we won't

open to God – we are saying, “There needs to be no God for me.” This need not be the case, for we can always turn and open to God.



Feb 5
Zion as the Fullness of Christ

Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad. (Ps. 14:7)

Zion is a type and shadow of the fullness of Jesus Christ in God's people. This cry of the Psalmist is certainly a cry for Jesus Christ Himself – but secondarily it is a cry for the people of God to be used of God to manifest Christ – unto the edification and good of others.

God can do anything He wants without using any of us. Sometimes He does. But generally speaking, it is the will of God to use His people to minister the life of Jesus. The cry of the Psalmist reflects the heart cry of God unto that end: That life might come out of God's people.

True ministry is LIFE – the life of Jesus Christ. True ministry is Truth – the living Truth of Christ. This will set the captives free. But the life of Jesus cannot minister through people unless Christ is free to live IN people. This is why Paul's travail was, “That Christ might be FORMED in you.” (Gal. 4:19)



Feb 6
Abiding in Christ

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. (Ps. 15:1)

Jesus Christ is the tabernacle of God. Believers are saved by Him, but once saved, believers are to abide in Him. To, “abide in Christ,” means to LIVE FROM OUT OF

HIM for all – to live from out of Him by faith as our life. (see Col. 3:4) He is our tabernacle, and we are HIS.

We are not being told here that we abide in Christ – abide in God's tabernacle – by earning the right to do so through works. God isn't saying that if we obey Him, that He will allow us to abide -- but if we don't obey Him, He will not allow us to abide. No. Rather, we are being told HOW someone who abides in Christ by faith will live from out of Him. If I am abiding in Christ, I will walk uprightly, work righteousness, and speak the Truth in my heart. All obedience in the Christian life is supposed to be the outcome of abiding in Him by faith.

If a person has truly repented and been born from above in Christ – I am not talking about being converted to a religion about Christ, or about any of the various false possibilities – but if a person is TRULY born from above in Christ – they are going to want to obey God. But they will discover they cannot obey God unless they abide in Christ BY FAITH. They will find that as they abide in Christ, the living tabernacle of God, freedom to obey will become all the more possible and real.



Feb 7
The Grace of God

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extends not to thee. (Ps. 16:1)

In this short phrase, “my goodness extends not to thee,” we find the Truth, not only about fallen humanity, but also about the grace of God. There is nothing in us that can reach up to God. There is no light or life in fallen humanity. But thankfully, God has reached down to us. He has done so in a Person, His Son, Jesus Christ.

Despite the fact that most believers know the doctrine of grace, and will easily agree with it completely, we must nevertheless see and learn the Truth on this matter. Most of us spend much time and energy trying to reach up to God with our own goodness. We try to please God with something about ourselves. We try to stay in God's grace, and get Him to bless us, by presenting something

about ourselves to Him. It is usually only through much failure along this line that we will see the Truth.

Now, there are some folks who will refuse to see the Truth about themselves. They will refuse to come to the place where they are shown to be desolate and empty. Every time God brings them there, they simply try harder to extend their so-called goodness up to God.

It is amazing that there is so much error, and so many struggles, over this matter of grace among God's people. After all, the grace of God in Jesus Christ is the gospel – it is the Truth. It ought to be foundational, indeed, elementary. But often it is not. False teachings, and, "other gospels," abound.

We need not try to extend our goodness up to God, for He has already extended Himself down to us through His Son. Learn that one Truth and it will change your life forever.



Feb 8
The Inheritance of the Saints

The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup; thou maintain my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.
(Ps. 16:5-6)

The inheritance of the saints does not merely consist of THINGS. Our inheritance is the Lord Himself – the fullness of Jesus Christ. However, if Jesus Christ is the inheritance of the saints, then certainly as an extension of Christ, this inheritance includes all that is in Christ.

Note what this means: God does not give out, "pieces," or, "portions," of His inheritance. Any interpretation of the parables of Jesus, or of other parts of scripture, along that line, is wrong. No. God has ALL of Christ for EACH believer – and IN Christ is ALL. In Christ God has given each of us ALL that He has to give.

Paul said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." (Eph. 1:3) Paul also stated, "He that spared not his own Son, but

delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us ALL things?" (Rom. 8:32) It ought to make sense – that if the inheritance of the saints is Christ Himself -- then included for each saint is ALL that is in Christ. You cannot divide up Christ. You cannot have parts of Him. God has given each of us ALL of Christ as our inheritance. This Truth of inheritance in Christ constitutes, "the lines that have fallen to the saints in pleasant places." It is a, "goodly heritage."

Now, despite being given ALL of Christ, we can choose to experience LESS of Christ. In other words, it not Christ who is reduced, nor our inheritance that is reduced – rather, it is WE who can be reduced, and thus, limit our capacity to experience the Christ God has given. Much of that is being determined in this age. We are accountable for what we have been given. He that is faithful over little – in the here and now -- is able to be faithful over much – in the eternal ages. That is because it isn't the, "MUCH," or the, "LITTLE," that is at issue – it is the FAITHFULNESS unto God.

The saint needs to be concerned over one primary issue: Abiding in Christ NOW. Giving themselves over to Christ NOW. Being faithful to God NOW. Do that and everything else will fall into place in the eternal ages.



Feb 9
Witnesses of the Risen Christ

I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Ps. 16:8-11)

According to the apostle Peter, this passage from Psalm 16 is a prophecy of Jesus Christ. Peter says of David, who wrote this Psalm, "He (David) seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This

Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”
(Acts 2:31-32)

Peter was speaking to many who were in the same mob that called for the crucifixion of Jesus. But Peter was no longer afraid of the Jews. Thus, he continued and said, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

That was not only the Truth, but it was quite an indictment – but was actually the gospel and an offer of Redemption. The reaction of the crowd was quite amazing: “They were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” Peter answered, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” In this we see the good news – but we also see that if it is preached in Spirit and in Truth, how God can use it to bring conviction to even the most hardened of people.

There is no power in the preaching of any man – but great power in the Truth in Christ. Where did Peter get this power? The power was Christ – living in, and now moving through Peter on that day.



Feb 10 The Evidence of God

I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Ps. 16:8-11)

According to the apostle Peter, this passage from Psalm 16 is a prophecy of Jesus Christ. But he is not merely giving a lesson in theology. Rather, Peter tells us: “We are witnesses of the resurrected Christ.” (Acts 2:32) Peter had personally seen and spoken with the Risen Christ – the Person to Whom this prophecy points.

In reading the NT, it is clear that hundreds of people had seen the resurrected Christ. But is our personal faith supposed to be based solely on the testimony of the eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? –EVEN THOUGH they gave A TRUE WITNESS? Believing that someone else saw the Risen Christ is NOT the same as seeing the Risen Christ for myself. Indeed, if we are not careful, we might find ourselves putting our faith in their testimony, instead of in the Living Christ.

According to the Bible, we can also be witnesses to the Risen Christ. How? If Christ comes to dwell in us. John says, “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.” (I Jn. 5:9) Even though the witness of men – even the witness of those who saw the Risen Christ – even though this is a true and right witness, there is a greater witness that God has for us. What is that witness? The witness of God. And what is this witness -- or EVIDENCE -- of God? John says, “For this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son. He that believes on the Son of God **has the witness in himself.**” The witness or evidence of God is this same Risen Christ – “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27)

John goes onto say, “This is the witness that God has given to us -- eternal life -- and this life is in his Son.” (I Jn. 5:11) Jesus Christ is the evidence of God. Not a theology lesson about Christ, nor an emotional reaction to Him – but Christ in us is supposed to be so real that His very presence is the living evidence that He is risen from the dead. It was the Living Christ to Whom Peter pointed.



**Feb 11
Face to Face**

I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. (Ps. 17:15)

The Psalmist is clearly talking about the resurrection from the dead – he is pointing toward his future. This is reminiscent of the words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians: “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.” (I Cor. 13:12)

During this age, we can know Jesus Christ – God wants to bring us into an inward realization of His Son. But nevertheless, on our best day it is like we, “see through a glass darkly” -- our knowing of Christ in this age, will always, to one degree or another, be darkened by our natural makeup. But when we are raised from the dead, free of the natural, we will see Jesus Christ face to face. We will know Him without the hindrance of the flesh, our natural man, and without human limitation.

Of course, God is working towards this now – which is why the work of the Cross is necessary to crucify the flesh and set us free to know Jesus. But Christ is eternal and therefore it is going to take the resurrection to make these things possible in all of God’s fullness. Imagine knowing Jesus Christ as fully as He knows us. This is what God has for His people. It is why Paul said, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (I Cor. 2:9) No wonder the Psalmist says, “I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness.”



Feb 12
All Things Out From Christ

I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. (Ps. 17:15)

The Psalmist is clearly talking about the resurrection from the dead. In similar fashion, John the apostle also spoke of the resurrection of those in Christ: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, what we are shall be out from Him (Greek); for we shall see him as he is.” (I John 3:2)

The Greek in this passage is somewhat skewed in the KJV. John is actually saying that everything that believers are TO BE in the resurrection is OUT FROM CHRIST. This is actually spiritually true NOW – but the full release will be when are mortal bodies are changed.

Notice: We do not become Xerox copies of Christ – neither in this age or in the resurrection. Jesus does not

act upon us to make us into something. No. Our spiritual union with Christ NOW will simply be brought into His fullness THEN – in the resurrection. All that Christ is will be able to be made fully manifest in and through His people once we are raised from the dead.

You and I never become anything apart from our living union with Christ. Our identity is defined, not by something we become, but rather, our identity is defined by the manifestation of Jesus Christ in and through us. Do you want to know who you are? Or what you are to become? It is impossible to know unless Christ is manifested in you.

But note: The Psalmist says, “I will be satisfied with Thy likeness.” He does not say that he is going to be satisfied with his own likeness. The more we go on with Jesus Christ, the more we are going to be delivered from our obsession with ourselves. The more we will become, “obsessed,” with Him. This is fundamental to being a manifestation of Jesus.

All things in the new creation in Christ Jesus, Paul says, “Are OUT FROM GOD.” (II Cor. 5:18, Gk) He is talking about NOW -- but all the more it is going to be so THEN. Everything that we are going to be as redeemed humanity through the bodily resurrection is OUT FROM GOD – what we are shall be OUT FROM CHRIST. We shall be manifestations of the living Christ – what He is will be seen in and through us.



Feb 13
Jesus Christ is Our Strength

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (Ps 18:1-2)

Once again in this Psalm we see that God does not give us power or strength. No. Rather, the Truth behind this is that Jesus Christ IS the power of God. Jesus Christ IS the strength of God. In short, rather than give us the power to overcome, God gives us Christ – and tells us to abide in Him by faith.

This is the key to all freedom and overcoming. We are never told to turn and defeat the enemy. We are never told to try to finish the victory that is already finished in Christ. Rather, we are told to believe and stand by faith in, yes, in the finished victory that Christ has already won, but more so, we are told to stand in Christ Himself. Christ in us IS the power of God.

Paul clearly stated that the key to living from out of Christ -- the power of God -- is faith. But we won't live from out of Christ by faith until we are exposed as utterly weak in ourselves. Paul had, "a thorn in the flesh," which resulted in a great weakness in himself. He asked God to remove it. But God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...for when I am weak, then am I strong." (II Cor. 12:9-10)

Christ in us is the power of God – and in Him is all victory. But we must abide in Him – live from out of Him – by faith. But as noted, we will not normally do this – won't even know to do it – until we are exposed as being utterly weak and empty in our natural man. Then we will – by faith -- turn to Christ and abide in Him AS our strength.



Feb 14
A God-Ordained Darkness

He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. (Ps. 18:11)

There is a DARKNESS and a place of SHADOW that is God-ordained in the life of the believer. But this not a matter of God HIDING, or of God HIDING the Truth. No. Rather, it is a place where we presently cannot see – but necessary if we are to eventually see. This is a darkness that will, if we yield to God, build in us FAITH – a faith that will eventually enable us to see Jesus Christ.

There are times when, fully within the will of God, God will bring us into conditions wherein we cannot see – we cannot see or find HIM. Why? So that we might learn to

walk by faith. I may not be able to see God. But I can believe that God sees me. That takes faith in God – and it is to build this faith that God must put us into a darkness wherein we have nothing by which we can see God -- except faith in the God who sees me.

Often we do not realize how lacking in faith we really are – we do not realize that our faith seems strong as long as we can see, or as long as we think we are blessed by God. But if God removes all of this and we encounter a darkness through which we cannot see – only then will we come into a realization of real faith in God.

The Treasure that we will find in a God-ordained darkness is the Person of Jesus Christ – who is THE LIGHT. Thus, we will learn to no longer walk using anything about ourselves as the guide. But we will walk according to an inward knowledge of Jesus Christ. This is what God has for us, “under His wings,” and in the secret place of His pavilion or spiritual temple.



Feb 15
Pure in Heart

With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward. (Ps. 18:26)

There is a principle given in this verse: Human beings will tend to view God through the, “filter,” of their own heart. This certainly applies to unbelievers. But it can also be true for Christians. This is why in order to truly see Jesus Christ we must have a pure heart.

Without a pure heart, we will be subject to what is wrong in our heart. Our natural mind and earthly nature will be all we will have to work with. We will, in effect, create God in our own image – even if suggested or aided by false teaching. We will muster Him up out of our religious imagination and bias.

We cannot know God except through the inward revelation of Jesus Christ – and that revelation requires a, “pure heart.” A pure heart is one that is open to God for WHATEVER it takes – and will not settle for less than His will. Thus, before we can see Jesus Christ God must

often purify our hearts. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8)



Feb 16
The Heavens Declare God

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handy work. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race. (Ps. 19:1-5)

The NT counterpart passage for the above passage is Romans 1:18-21: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who SUPPRESS the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Passages like these are often used to claim that all men are accountable for knowing God simply because of the witness of creation – and there are many Christian teachers who take it a step further and claim that these passages make every human being accountable for coming to Jesus Christ as their Savior. The assumption is that each human being has not only the witness of creation, but also the witness of conscience, as to the Truth. These witnesses are given to all and it is claimed that they are what make each accountable to God.

There is a HUGE problem with such teaching. First of all, Jesus stated directly, “No man can come to Me EXCEPT THE FAITHER WHO SENT ME DRAW HIM.” (John 6:44) If the witness of creation and of conscience were enough to make us fully accountable to God for coming to Christ,

then what Jesus said would not be true – we could come to Christ on the basis of that witness of creation and conscience. But no. Jesus said the Father must specifically draw people to Christ. Thus, this proves that the witness of creation and conscience are not enough. They are secondary witnesses once God takes the initiative to draw a person to Christ.

Creation and conscience cannot make me accountable to come to Christ because I am spiritually dead in Adam. The heavens DO declare the glory of God – but the problem in people is that they cannot recognize that fact. They are blind and dead to it. In addition, conscience can tell us only to do right. It cannot define right – conscience cannot reveal Truth. That is why many see the heavens and worship IT, or see the earth, and worship IT. There must come a revelation from God of Himself.

The fact is, there is NOTHING in fallen man whereby he can take creation and conscience and morph this into faith in Jesus Christ. For that, God must FIRST take the initiative. Only THEN, can man respond by faith. Paul says, “Faith COMES by hearing the Word of God.” (Rom. 10:17) Note: Faith must COME to be in me by hearing God. Paul does NOT say that faith is in me to begin with, and that all I need to do is use my powers of observation, or listen to my conscience. Again – we are dead in Adam. What do we have to work with?

You will also note that Romans 1 is talking about, not the ignorant that have never had any light from God, but Paul is talking about those, “who SUPPRESS the Truth in unrighteousness.” To SUPPRESS the Truth, you have to have received some Truth. Paul is actually talking about the same unbelief that John described in his gospel, “This is condemnation, that light has come into the world, but men loved darkness RATHER than light.” (John 3:19) Condemnation is always based on the light given.

Paul said on Mars hill: “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now command men everywhere to repent.” (Acts 17:30) “Times of ignorance,” are times wherein there was no light. And because of that, God does not hold people accountable – which is exactly what Paul is saying – he said, “God overlooked those times of ignorance.” God is a just God. When He judges all by Jesus Christ, that judgment will be based solely upon the light given to each of us of His Son.



Feb 17
The Sin of Presumption

***Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be
upright, and I shall be innocent from the great
transgression. (Ps. 19:13)***

“Presumption,” is a belief that something is true even though it has not been proven true. It often leads to action. Presumption may be ignorance. But it may also be more serious sin.

Presumption is sin when it comes from wanting my own way – even, “for God.” I try to push God. I try to make true what is not true. I try to lead God instead of allowing Him to lead me. I may attach any number of justifications for my presumption. But it is from out of myself, rather than from out of knowing Christ.

The problem in presumption is not that I cannot figure out the correct path to choose. No. The problem is in my heart. And until that is solved, NO path can be chosen in faith. God will, “keep us back,” from presumptuous sins by giving us light – not necessarily light as to the right path to choose – but He will give us light that will expose our presumptive hearts so that we can repent and have a right heart. This is the prayer of this Psalm.

If there is presently no place in our hearts for the light God wants to give, God may allow the presumption in our hearts to lead us astray. God never causes presumption, or desires that we begin to walk in error. But most of us will learn in no other way. It is simply the way of flesh to need to learn through mistakes. The important thing is that if God does allow us to presume and err, that we can turn back to the Lord and allow Him to use it to bring us into a greater knowledge of His Son.



Feb 18
The Object of Our Faith

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (Ps 20:7)

Chariots and horses, which are instruments used in battle, are, for us today, anything or anybody that serves as a substitute for Jesus Christ -- as the object of our faith. But for professing Christian people, there is one chariot or horse that substitutes most often for Christ: Self-righteousness.

For example, we may not trust that we can DO things for God. But many of us trust that it is OUR righteousness that moves God to do things FOR US or THROUGH US. We continue to think that there is something IN US, even if it is what we call, "faith" – that entitles us to God's grace and help.

Real faith is never a merit that I contribute to my relationship with God. Rather, real faith is from out of a realization that I have NOTHING to contribute. It is solely in One who is, "other than," ourselves – Jesus Christ.

We need to come to terms with the SIN of self-righteousness. Note: Self-righteousness is SIN. It is an expression of the sin of unbelief. It denies the Truth about Jesus Christ. Self-righteousness is also deception. No human being has a righteousness of his or her own. Not because of works. Not because of religion. There is only ONE righteousness of God – and He is a Person.

God does not give us our own righteousness because of Christ. No. Rather, if we believe, God gives us Christ AS our righteousness. This is truly how God justifies the sinner through faith. If I put my faith in Christ, God imputes to me, yes, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. But more importantly, if I put my faith in Christ, God IMPARTS to me Jesus Christ Himself. I am joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17) And if that is true, then Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God in me – HE is the only righteousness that exists, and the only righteousness that I have. So much begins here – Christ as my righteousness. If we get this settled, "we will remember the Lord," and victory will be ours.



Feb 19
Ask and You Shall Receive

The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. (Ps. 21:1-2)

There are many promises in the Bible that promise the believer that if we ask, we will receive. Indeed, there are people in the church today that are teaching that God will give you whatever you ask – whatever you confess. And yet if you are honest, you know that there are many times when you do ask something of God – something you think is good and right, and even the will of God – but you do NOT receive.

How is this possible? Why would Jesus say, “Ask and you shall receive,” and why would Psalms declare, “You have given him his heart’s desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips,” if it was possible to ask and NOT receive?

First of all, have we yet realized that we do not know what is best for us? Would we like God to do, and to give us, whatever we ask, even if He knows that it will be bad for us? In addition, do we think that when Jesus said, “Ask and you shall receive,” that He was making an UNCONDITIONAL promise? We need to read ALL of scripture. If we do, we will find that God never promises to do anything that is NOT His will – but does desire to do ONLY His will.

Herein we see a key. “To ask,” must be based upon the Truth – must be based on knowing and desiring only God’s will. In other words, we are asking God to do His will. Our asking is the outcome of God having brought us to where we desire His will – we desire it to the point where we are wholeheartedly ASKING Him to do it. There is a fellowship presumed in this. Thus, God will give us our heart’s desire once our heart is one with His heart. Why would we want Him to do otherwise?

God could do anything He wants to do without our asking. But He has ordained to use His people; to bring His

people into a fellowship with Himself so that they can be instruments through which He can do His will. Often we merely join with God and stand with God in spirit for His will. That is ASKING. And God certainly wants to do His will more than we want Him to do it.

God desires for His people to have His heart and His mind – and if we do we will be praying according to the will of God. That is praying that God will answer.



Feb 20
Abandonment to God

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? (Ps. 22:1)

Those words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?,” were, of course, words spoken by Jesus Christ as He was dying on the Cross. What do they express?

First of all, Jesus never once sinned – and so to cry out to God in such a way was NOT sin. This was not an accusation against God by Jesus. Rather, it was simply an honest expression that emerged from the ordeal that Jesus was experiencing.

Jesus cried out at that moment on the Cross -- because He was bearing sin – and because at that moment it seemed to His perception (although not really) that God had forsaken Him – He cried out and expressed that. But it was nevertheless NOT sin -- this was NOT an expression of unbelief. It was simply the honest expression of the Son of Man – He had never before encountered such a sense of aloneness in His relationship with His Father – and He was crying out because of it.

This tells us that it is not sin for us to honestly cry out to God because we cannot seem to find Him. But it is also noteworthy that moments later, despite this cry to the Father, Jesus said, “Into Your hands do I commit My spirit.” To have no sense of God’s presence, but then to nevertheless fully abandon oneself into His hands -- this shows that Jesus believed and trusted God all the way through to the end. He abandoned Himself to His

Father because He knew that His Father was faithful regardless.



Feb 21
Victory Through Death

All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him." (Ps. 22:7-8)

This is a prophecy that was fulfilled when the Pharisees mocked Jesus Christ as He hung on the Cross. But there is a great lesson in it for believers. Many of those who profess Christ have been attacked by the same lie – the lie that states that success and prosperity prove that God has blessed someone -- and the lie that likewise states that failure and lack proves that God has not blessed them – or has cursed them. This lie is the same one believed by the friends of Job.

This lie is based on natural thinking and the interests of humanity. It is based on the notion that God's purpose is going to be achieved on the basis of THIS LIFE – and that the evidence is going to be seen in the earthly realm. It is nothing more than the error of thinking that God is going to establish an outward kingdom NOW – even if that kingdom is expressed only in my personal life.

The Truth is that the kingdom of God is NEVER going to be established in this age in an OUTWARD way. Not even in my personal life. God has begun building His kingdom by building PEOPLE who are in Christ – God is establishing people in His Son in an INWARD way. That is His purpose for this age, and there is NOTHING that God will not sacrifice for that purpose – He did not even spare His own Son.

Jesus Christ clearly stated that if any of us wanted to follow Him that we must take up our Cross and LOSE our lives. Only then could we find true life IN HIM. But natural thinking mocks the suggestion that we ought to lose our lives – indeed, among many Christians today, if a person LOSES their lives they are said to have little faith, or to be cursed of God. Only if people WIN their lives for

themselves are they applauded as having the blessings of God. This false reasoning is applied today to personal lives, and to ministry. And yet it is not only contrary to the Truth, but it is a denial of the personal Cross, and frankly, the, "gospel of Satan."

The enemies of Christ mocked His faith in God. They celebrated His death because to them it proved He was a fraud. Three days later they would be proven wrong. Jesus Christ was accomplishing the greatest victory possible. And despite the death to our lives in this age, He is likewise accomplishing His victory in us.



Feb 22
Strength Through Weakness

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd...and thou hast brought me into the dust of death...they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. (Ps. 22:14-19)

There is much spoken in scripture about Jesus on the Cross -- and many of these words are a spiritual type of the trials and suffering of believers. This passage shows that it is the will of God for His saints to be brought to the end of their natural strength, and to the end of any possible trust in themselves. To us, and maybe to others, this may seem to be a bad thing. But it is a good thing IF we will then turn to God.

Paul had many similar experiences. Of one, he said, "We were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead." (II Cor. 1:8-10) Paul also said, "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest

upon me.” (II Cor. 12:8-9) God must expose the delusion of our own strength so that we might put all of our faith in Christ. But because this is contrary to human thinking, it may, for a time, seem like God has forsaken us. He has not. He is seeking to expose us as weak so that Christ by our faith in Him can BE our strength: “For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (I Cor. 12:10)



Feb 23
The Lord is My Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Ps. 23:1-6)

This Psalm contains promises and assurances that must be understood in the context of relationship with Christ. Paul said, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (II Cor. 1:20) You cannot take the promises of God and separate them from Christ. The promises of God are realized only as we come into a realization of Christ – in Whom all of the promises are found.

This Truth is suggested in this Psalm in the last phrase: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” That is an all-inclusive statement – it governs all else in the Psalm. Jesus Christ IS the house of the Lord in type and shadow. The believer lives IN Christ – and by faith we are to live out from Him. It is upon this relationship by faith with Christ as our dwelling place – that the rest of the Psalm, with all of its assurances -- is based.

For example, the Psalm begins by saying, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Yet even the apostle Paul admitted that he went through times of WANT. Do the

saints of God ever go through seasons of want or lack? You bet they do. But this never negates the fact that we are forever IN CHRIST – and that all of the promises of God find their YES and AMEN in HIM. Seasons of want are only seasons that are used of God so that we might realize that Christ alone IS our Shepherd, and IS our dwelling place forever. God is bringing us to the real meaning of this first phrase of this Psalm: “The Lord is my Shepherd – and He alone can satisfy my every want.” He is showing us that our faith must be in Christ, our true dwelling place, for He will meet every spiritual and physical need.



Feb 24
The Proving of Our Faith

The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. (Ps. 24:1-2)

Most often, the greatest work of God is founded upon what might otherwise seem to be chaos and impossible destruction. That was certainly the case when God recreated the heavens and the earth in Genesis 1. And often, it is the case with His desire to create us in Christ Jesus. God will often build our faith by exposing us to that which contradicts it – He will bring life out of death.

“The trial of faith,” is exactly that – it is an experience that God intends to build, prove, and bring out faith. A trial of faith uses death and contradiction – if we will yield to God – to build in us FAITH.

Peter said the same thing: “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

When gold is tried by fire, all of the impurities are separated from the genuine gold – indeed, the impurities are brought to the surface. So it is with us: When we are

tried by fire, all of our impurities – dimensions of unbelief – are brought out. But God always does this with a redemptive purpose – so that we might be set free from unbelief to walk more deeply with Christ in genuine faith.

There is, however, another aspect of the trial of faith that is often overlooked. It is true that God proves our faith, in the sense of building our faith. But our faith is based upon the TRUTH. Thus, it is a fact that in any trial of faith God is also proving His Truth – He is proving His Truth and His Word IN US. To put it another way, God is proving in us the every Truth around which we have wrapped our faith. As He does, our faith is likewise proven and vindicated.

God establishes the Truth of Jesus in us by exposing us to contradiction and confusion – He establishes all that He wants to create in Jesus Christ upon the floods of trials. But in the end, if we will stand by faith, God will always be proven to be TRUE.



Feb 25
Righteousness From God

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Ps. 24:3-5)

Even in the Old Testament, long before, “grace and Truth came in Jesus Christ,” (John 1:17) we find the Truth of Jesus Christ in prophetic form. For example, this Psalm states, “He shall receive the blessing FROM the Lord, and righteousness FROM the God of his salvation.” Even here in the OT it is clearly stated that a person must receive righteousness FROM God. This is a prophetic reference to the fact that believers have only one righteousness – the Person of Jesus Christ – who dwells in them.

God does not give us a righteousness of our own because of Jesus Christ. Rather, God gives us Jesus Christ Himself -- Who IS our righteousness, indeed, who IS the only righteousness that exists. Paul said, “Of God are ye

in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (I Cor. 1:30) Again – we are not given a righteousness of our own BECAUSE of Jesus Christ. Rather, we are given Christ Himself to dwell in us. And HE IS the righteousness of God.

The doctrine of justification by faith states that if we put our faith in Christ, God will impute to us the righteousness of Christ. But this is merely a legal way of describing how God justifies the sinner through faith. The further Truth is, that yes, legally God IMPUTES to us the righteousness of His Son, but God actually IMPARTS to us Christ Himself. We are joined to the Lord – and HE IS our living righteousness.

Who shall, "stand in His holy place?" – who shall be in such a relationship with Christ so that He is our righteousness and our sanctification -- which is holiness? Not one who is righteous in himself – but one whose faith is in Christ. Faith that is solely in Christ constitutes, "clean hands and a pure heart."

We can do nothing to contribute to our salvation. But that is precisely where true faith comes in. True faith is the outcome of seeing that we can contribute nothing to our salvation – we therefore put our faith solely in Christ and embrace all that He is. This is the attitude of heart that will bring us into this, "holy place," of relationship in Christ.



Feb 26
The King of Glory

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah. (Ps. 24:7-10)

This passage is a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ ascending to heaven and returning to glory. Jesus is thus

proclaimed, "The King of Glory." Certainly, this reminds us of the words of Paul, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

The ascension of Jesus Christ completely finished His redemptive work. Now, that finished work is to be worked out, first, in His people, but then, through His people -- unto the fullness of God's purpose. This is what Jesus Christ has been busy doing for the last two-thousand years: "He must reign unto all of His enemies are put under His feet." (I Cor. 15:25) "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." (Eph. 1:10)

If you gather up everything in the Bible that reveals the purpose of God, it can all be brought to one final statement: Jesus Christ as Lord of all, under the Father. An expanded way of stating the purpose of God is by bringing in the inheritance that God has given to Christ, and then, in Christ, to His people. We might summarize this by saying that there is The Father, and there is The Son, and there is all who are IN the Son. When Jesus ascended into the heavenlies and was seated at the right hand of God, He was celebrated as The King of Glory – as the one in Whom all the purpose of God is gathered and finished.



Feb 27
The Anointed One

The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up forever. (Ps. 28:8-9)

In the Hebrew of the OT, the term, "anointed," comes from the same root as does, "Messiah." In the Greek of the NT, the term, "anointed," comes from the same root as does, "Christ." In other words, Jesus Christ is not a first and last name. Rather, the name is, "Jesus the Christ," or, "Jesus the Messiah," or, "Jesus the Anointed One."

In the final analysis, there is only ONE, "anointed" – and it is Jesus, the Anointed One. Thus, the one way in which

God ever anoints you and me is if Christ is in us. If Christ is in us, the Anointed One is in us – and we become partakers of His anointing, because we are partakers of Christ.

There is much false teaching today about, “the anointing.” People speak as if, “the anointing,” is a thing, or as if it is the Spirit of God – sort of floating around, coming upon people, entering into a service, and then leaving. They speak as if this anointing, if it is present, will work miracles, give power, and impart blessing. Yet you NEVER ONCE read of such a thing in the New Testament.

The indwelling of the Anointed One – Jesus Christ – is the anointing under the New Covenant. John stated this Truth in absolute terms. He said, “But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” (1 John 2:27) The anointed is Christ in us, the hope of glory. (Col. 1:27)

The anointing was also a designation by God unto a special purpose. If Christ is in us, we are apprehended – anointed, if you will – for God’s purpose in Him – that we might be manifestations of Him, and partakers of His inheritance. The specific way in which this anointing is worked out in our lives might vary with the individual, but if Christ is in us, we are anointed in Him – and apprehended for His glory.



Feb 28
Giving to the Lord His Glory

Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:1-2)

The Psalmist is talking about worship – ascribing to the Lord what is due Him: Honor and strength. But it is also possible to, “give unto the Lord...glory and strength,” and for it to be merely lip service. Jesus said so. He said, “This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”

(Matt. 15:8) Much that is called, “worship,” today is not really for God. It is for the one worshipping. It makes us feel better. It may be nothing more than emotionalism. God wants worship from the heart. He wants us to know Him and to love Him.

The fact is, if we actually SEE the Lord – begin to have an inward, spiritual revelation of Him – worship will be virtually automatic. We won't be able to help ourselves. Read in Revelation the descriptions of heaven. Is the worship pictured there forced? No. It is what happens when we see God – when we see Him in Truth. We will ascribe to Him honor and strength -- because doing so is a matter of not only telling the Truth about Him -- but doing so is going to be our heart response to Him. You simply cannot see Jesus Christ and not worship Him. You are seeing the Truth and our response will be the Truth.



Feb 29
The Voice of the Lord

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thunders: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. (Ps. 29:3-4)

When we talk about, “the voice of the Lord,” we are, of course, talking about whatever means the Lord uses to, “speak,” to us. Any of the ways in which God reveals to us His mind and heart can be said to be, “the voice of the Lord.” Hebrews tells us what God is primarily speaking today: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.” (Heb. 1:2) The Greek here means, “spoken to us IN HIS SON.” It could even be translated, “has spoken to us Son-wise.” In other words, God is speaking Jesus Christ, yes, to us, but more so IN US. God is revealing His Son IN HIS PEOPLE. That is what God is primarily speaking.

As God speaks Christ to you and in you, you will find what is described in this Psalm – described here in type and shadow – you will find that happening in you. Truth will begin to break down untruth. Light will begin to expose

what had been in darkness. And it will all be unto freedom.

Hebrews says later, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) This is the spiritual meaning behind Psalm 29. God is speaking Jesus Christ – revealing Christ in us – and as He does, all things will be exposed, divided, and sorted out – so that if we embrace Christ, all that will remain will be of Him.



Mar 1
Joy Comes in the Morning

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Ps. 30:5)

This verse gives a principle that is found all through the Bible. It is the principle of death and resurrection. It is the principle of being exposed as weak in oneself so that the Lord might be our strength. It is, in fact, the same Truth that Jesus spoke to His disciples shortly before His crucifixion: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man takes from you." (Jn. 16:20-22)

It is natural, when in a trial, for your mind to be pre-occupied with the pain and uncertainty – to be intimidated by the darkness of that night season. But we are told that there will be a resolution – it may not be a resolution to a circumstance – that is up to God – but it will be a resolution in the form of a BIRTH. If we yield to God, and keep seeking Him and His purpose by faith, Christ will be formed in us. We will come into a greater realization of Him. And this realization, and the freedom that come from it, will be the morning. All that had previously been dark will no longer matter – for regardless of the outer

darkness, there will be light within. And that will be cause for rejoicing.

Giving birth to a child is painful. But once the child is born, there is always a realization that it was entirely worth it. There is new life.



Mar 2
Freedom from Self-Sufficiency

And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.
(Ps. 30:6)

This verse is certainly a commentary on human nature – for both believer and unbeliever. When we feel safe, and things are going well – especially if we have made our own security -- it is human nature to think that we are invincible. But for a believer there could also be a false sense of security based on our own righteousness. There are Christians who are so full of themselves and deluded by self-righteousness that they cannot imagine that God would allow anything negative in their lives. Others may simply believe that because we are children of God that this means we will never suffer or have seasons of need.

It is because of these possibilities of trust in ourselves that God brings chastisement upon His children – it is why we must be made weak – so that we might learn Christ is our strength. It is why before God can use us to any great degree, He will often put us through great trial. Paul said, “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

Read scripture and you will find that in most cases where God used one of his saints it was either preceded, or ran

parallel to, a time of trial, wherein they were emptied of their self-sufficiency and learned to rely solely upon the Lord: Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Paul, and many others. Thus, even when God restored their prosperity, they had no such attitude out of which they would say, "I will never be moved." Rather, they trusted the Lord – and would not be moved from faith and reliance upon Him.



Mar 3
A Living Sacrifice

Into thine hand I commit my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

These were the last words that Jesus spoke as the Last Adam. What makes them all the more significant is that they follow His cry, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" That is a wonderful picture of unconditional surrender of His life into the hands of God – but also has application for us. Will we, even if it seems as if God has forsaken us, by faith put aside what we think, and what we feel, and trust God to the complete disregard of ourselves – simply because we believe He is faithful? Will we LOSE our lives – relinquish them – into the hands of God and trust Him for the outcome?

We can, of course, do this in specific situations. But there is an overall surrender that ought to govern all. We read of it when Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 16:24) We also read the same Truth in Romans: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." The Truth here is clear: There is one thing we must do: Surrender ourselves to God. Are we willing to get on the altar – which is a type of personal cross – and ask God to do whatever it takes to bring us into the fullness of His purpose in Christ? This is equal to saying to God, "Into Your hands I commit my spirit." And then trust God for resurrection.



Mar 4
For Thy Name's Sake

For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. (Ps. 31:3)

When we read some of these passages in scripture, we often pass right over them and fail to see the significance in even some of the small phrases. Here we find the phrase, "for Thy name's sake." Do we realize that there is a big difference between being led and guided, "for His name's sake," as opposed to something that is not for His name's sake, but rather for our own?

The fact is, God already has a will – He has a will for you and I. He is not confused about it, or making it up as He goes along. And He does not need us to tell Him what His will ought to be. And despite the fact that His will include provision for us, perhaps some form of ministry, and will involve various circumstances that will affect our lives, God's will is to form in us His Son, Jesus Christ. All of God's leadings will be unto this end – this is what He does, "for His name's sake." It is His purpose and His will being executed in and through His people.

There have always been professing Christians who minister in the name of the Lord, but who are really doing it for themselves. Perhaps they are making money using God's name, or maybe they are gaining the admiration of men. Some do what they do because it simply makes them feel good about themselves. This is all religious flesh. It is NOT for, "His name's sake." And in the end, the lack of spiritual life produced by such ventures proves that it was not for God's sake, but to satisfy something in people.

Included in the above verse is a key. "For you are my rock and my fortress," indicates that the one making this request for God's leading has already been brought to the place of personal emptiness – brought to complete reliance upon God. A person who has come to that place will not be motivated by their own name's sake because they know there is nothing in themselves to exalt. They have seen the Truth, and are at God's disposal for whatever pleases Him for HIS name's sake.



March 5
The Forgiveness of God

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile...I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. (Ps. 32:1-2,5)

God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ is forever finished. This means that a believer is as forgiven as He will ever be – and that believer is fully forgiven. God is as finished forgiving sin as is Jesus finished dying for sin. Nothing a person does, or does not do, can add or subtract from the finished work of Jesus Christ. The issue therefore is faith.

God has forgiven every sin ever committed by every human being through Jesus Christ, because Jesus Christ died for every human being. But there is ONE sin that God cannot forgive: God cannot forgive the refusal of His forgiveness – for Jesus could not have died for the refusal of His death. Thus, it is upon whether a person will confess his sin and receive Christ that salvation depends. When God brings the light of Christ to a person, it is then that they will believe or refuse to believe.

Contrary to what many people teach, the God's forgiveness for the believer is not dependent upon our continual confession of sin. No. Rather than confess to GET forgiven, we confess because we ARE forgiven. Confess is nothing more than, "saying the same thing," about sin that God says about it: That it is wrong. And that in Christ it is forever forgiven. In short, confession of sin is a confession of the Truth.

Blessed is the person whose sins are forgiven, and who knows it. That person is able to walk in freedom from condemnation, for the Truth is, "There is NO condemnation for those in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:1)



March 6
Our Hiding Place

Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. (Ps. 32:7)

The Lord is our hiding place because it is IN HIM that we are new creations – it is IN HIM that we escape the death and destruction of the old nature. Indeed, to the extent that we believe and abide in Him, we will not be controlled by the old earthly nature. We will be able to live in victory above it – even while it may rage on.

It is one thing to be delivered from a terrible trial. But it is another to be able to trust God all the while living IN a terrible trial. We are able to do this because the Lord is our hiding place.

God never tells us to surrender to a trial. Rather, He tells us to surrender to Him despite the trial. If we will surrender to Jesus Christ by losing our lives to Him by faith, He will be our hiding place in the midst of the trial. We will be able to walk in victory because we know Him.



March 7
A New Song

Sing unto him a new song. (Ps. 33:3)

To, “sing a new song,” unto the Lord represents a new relationship with Him. It is not necessarily a good relationship as opposed to a bad one, or one that is in the Truth rather than in error – but could simply be the result of having come into a greater realization of Jesus Christ.

There is always infinitely more to the Lord than our present understanding of Him. But Jesus promised that through the spirit of God He would continually guide us into all Truth. As we come to know Him in Truth, a greater freedom and enlargement is possible, and from out of us will come, “a new song.”

A, “new song,” is mentioned nine times in the Bible. Twice it is said to be taught or given of God to the worshipper. As we come into a greater realization of Jesus Christ, the result will be a greater preoccupation of Him. Our lives will reflect who He is to us. Our life will be a, “new song,” that is, “sung,” as a witness to Him, unto His glory.



March 8
I AM the Truth

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. (Ps. 33:4)

Jesus Christ said, “I AM the Truth.” (John 14:6) John, the apostle, also wrote, “God is light.” (I John 1:5) And this Psalm states that all of God’s works, “are done in Truth.” These are absolutes that speak of the nature and character of God.

These statements from the inspired Word of God leave no room for compromise with the Truth – for if you compromise with the Truth you are compromising with God Himself. You are distorting and misrepresenting Him. As John also wrote, “No lie is of the Truth.” (I John 2:21)

Even among believers today, there is a growing notion that there is no such thing as absolute Truth. This is a lie. There is absolute Truth because there is an absolute Being – God. And that God has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ – the One who said, “I AM the Truth.”

This Psalm states that ALL that God does is done in Truth. This means that God NEVER affirms or cooperates with error. He does not, “settle,” for less than Truth. People may claim that Truth is relative but it is not, because God is not relative.

The Truth was the Truth long before God revealed it to any of us. But thankfully, God has promised to, “guide us into all Truth,” (Jn. 16:13) meaning into an inward realization of the Truth Himself, His Son, Jesus Christ.



**March 9
True Deliverance**

I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto Him and were lightened. Their faces were not ashamed. (Ps. 34:4-5)

There is a deliverance from circumstances. But the greatest deliverance of God is from what those circumstance may incite in us: Fear and unbelief. If we allow God to deliver us from fear and unbelief then we are truly delivered – even if the circumstances have not changed – for WE will have changed in our relationship to God.

God will often allow circumstances to give rise to fear in us so that we might have the opportunity to face fear and turn to God by faith. Faith – based in seeing the Truth in Christ Jesus – is the answer to fear. If we look to God we will be, “lightened,” that is, if we see that God unconditionally loves us then fear will be cast out.

Fear is a lie. Fear goes back to somewhere that I have embraced a lie about God. Again – if I know the Truth about God – if I am, “lightened” --I will not fear – my, “face will not be ashamed” --because I will know that despite what might be very real circumstances, the God of love is faithful.

It is possible to FEEL afraid and yet believe God. Emotions do not believe. Emotions react. As we grow to know Jesus Christ, we will more and more be governed, not by feelings, but by the Truth.



**March 10
The Cry of the Righteous**

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the

***righteous: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
(Ps. 34:17-19)***

“The righteous,” are not those who are righteous in themselves. Rather, they are those who have Christ in them – they are those whose only righteousness is Jesus Christ – and whose faith is in Him.

There is great futility in crying out to the Lord on the basis of our own righteousness. It is only because God is merciful that He would deliver us in that case – for we have no righteousness of our own. God may deliver us so that He can bring us on out of our error into the Truth.

If we put our faith in Christ, God does legally IMPUTE to us the righteousness of His Son. But more than that, God actually IMPARTS to us Christ Himself. Christ in us is made to be unto us righteousness. (I Cor. 1:30)

“A broken heart,” and, “a contrite spirit,” is the result of God exposing our self-righteousness as a lie, and as the sin of unbelief. We realize that we are nothing – but that Christ is our ALL. He is our only righteousness, and it is upon the basis of His life in us that we cry out to God.



**March 11
The Strength of the Lord**

***Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me:
fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of
shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. Draw
out also the spear, and stop the way against them that
persecute me: say unto my soul, “I am thy salvation.”
(Ps. 35:1-3)***

The Truth of the New Testament is that the Lord, rather than simply give us a THING called, “salvation” – the Truth of the NT is that, “the Lord IS our salvation.” Indeed, the presence of Jesus Christ in the believer IS ALL. In short, God does not simply give us THINGS because of Christ. Rather, God gives us Christ Himself – in Whom are all things. (Rom. 8:32 and I Cor. 1:30)

This Truth certainly applies to power and strength. God does not give us power. God does not give us strength.

Rather, He gives us Christ – who IS the power of God, and who IS our only strength.

It is only to the degree that we realize our own weakness that we will put our faith in Christ and realize Him as our strength. Thus, it is never the will of God to make US strong. Rather, God desires to expose the Truth of our weakness, that we might, through faith, be strong with the might of the Lord.

The believer is called upon to, “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” (Eph. 6:10) We are to do this by standing in faith IN CHRIST against all that would come against us. God will allow such challenges so that we might be shown as weak – and so that Jesus Christ will be proven to be our only power and strength.



March 12
Judged According to Christ

***Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy
righteousness. (Ps. 35:24)***

It is an immense thing to ask God to judge us, “according to His righteousness.” On the one hand, it leaves us without hope – for who among us can stand before the righteousness of God? But on the other hand, if our faith is in Christ, we are already judged, and because we are, there can be, “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1)

Through the Cross of Jesus Christ, God has already judged the entire human race, “according to His own righteousness.” And through the presence of Righteousness Himself in believers, God continues to judge those believers – not pertaining to their finished salvation – but with regards to the Truth.

Judgment begins with LIGHT. Thus, if Christ is in you, His Light will eventually expose all that is NOT of Christ. All that is not according to Christ must be discarded. The righteousness of God is a Person, and God intends to judge all humanity by His Son.



March 13
The Fear of God

***The transgression of the wicked says within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.
(Ps. 36:1)***

The term, “fear of God,” or, “fear of the Lord,” as commonly used in scripture, carries a positive picture. It is NOT a matter of, “being afraid,” of God. No. There is nothing about God to be afraid of. God IS love – and, “perfect love casts out fear.” Thus, rather than incite fear, the true knowledge of God in Jesus Christ will cast fear OUT.

The positive, “fear of God,” is a reverence for Him – based on knowing Him in Truth. It is actually impossible to know God without revering Him. In turn, we will trust and obey Him.

The wicked, according to this verse, have NO fear of God before their eyes. In other words, they live without any sense of accountability to God, and without any moral compass based in the Truth. Of course, there are many unbelievers who live morally, and often do what is right – but not because they revere God – but rather, because of self-interest. Because this is based in unbelief it is also wicked – even though it might look good.

There are two types of unbelievers who have no reverence for God. The first are those who are truly ignorant. They do have a conscience, but any conscience without the light of Jesus Christ will operate, not on the basis of the knowledge of God, but upon the basis of natural man. The other types are those who had been given light, but have refused it. Their conscience is seared and hardened. These are the truly wicked – they are wicked by choice unless they repent.

The fear of God is, “before our eyes,” when how we live is governed by seeing Jesus Christ in a growing, inward way. He is the light – indeed, He is the light of men. (John 1:4)



March 14
The Light of Life

For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light. (Ps. 36:9)

John tells us, "In Him was LIFE, and that LIFE was the LIGHT of men." (John 1:4) This gives us a key as to how to come to see the Truth; know Jesus; receive light from God. We must lose our lives and find HIM as our life. To the degree that Jesus is our LIFE we will have LIGHT. That is because we are talking about a Person – Jesus is both LIFE and LIGHT.

We tend to chop up Christianity into doctrines and subjects. But Christianity is CHRIST IN US, and then, a growing inward realization of Him. We are born from above when Christ comes to live in us and joins us to Himself. But that is only the beginning – we must then grow to discover Him. Thus, as we decrease – as we lose our lives – and He increases – and we find Him as our life – we will likewise grow to know Him. The light is in His life because He is both.



March 15
Unconditional Faith and Obedience

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. (Ps. 37:1)

There are many unbelievers, indeed, many disobedient and compromising Christians, who prosper. They seem to get everything they want. In fact, they may get what YOU may want. Contrast this over and against the many Christians, who, despite believing and obeying God, find that they are always in the midst of a trial.

This contrast troubles many believers. We read the promises of God in the Bible and expect them to come to pass. But often it seems as if the opposite comes to pass. That can be cause for frustration, and even a temptation into bitterness and unbelief.

We must get it settled: “All of the promises of God find their YES and their AMEN in Him – unto the glory of God by us.” (II Cor. 1:20) What this means is that we cannot divorce any promise of God from His Son. It is only as we discover and live from out of Christ that the promises will unfold – and they will be unto HIS glory and our spiritual benefit.

God never said that an unbeliever who is serving mammon would not be prosperous in this life. And He has never guaranteed that your obedience and faith would earn you earthly prosperity. The question is, will we believe and obey anyways? Will we lose ourselves to Jesus even if it does not pay us – indeed, if it costs us?

The fact is, unless we are willing to give ourselves to God regardless of the results, God CANNOT bless us very much. We have to freely give ourselves to Him if we are going to be able to freely receive what it pleases Him to give unto us.



March 16
God's Promises in Christ

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of your heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. (Ps. 37:3-7)

Trust in, delight in, commit to, and rest in – these are all the outcome of knowing Jesus Christ and putting our faith in Him. And there are results. But those results are not always what we expect or want. If we obey this passage, the results will be what God wants.

Most believers spend lots of time asking God to give them what they want. We ought to ask God to give us what He wants. We also ask God for His help to accomplish our goals. We ought to ask God about His goals, and for the desires to enter into them for His glory. None of these

things will leave us lacking. You cannot receive what God wants you to have and lack – plus it will all be centered in Jesus Christ.

This Psalm promises that God will give us the desires of our heart. Do any of us truly know what that is? We usually confuse it with the desires of the soul life. But that promise is preface by the condition, “delight yourself in the Lord.” If we are actually delighting ourselves in the Lord, then HE will be our desire. And God will be free to add to us all that suits His present purpose.



March 17
God's Ordained Steps

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholds him with his hand. (Ps. 37:23-24)

It is always essential to interpret the OT in the light of the NT. Otherwise we will simply MISINTERPRET it. This passage is a case in point. “The steps of a GOOD man....” Who is, “good,” but the Lord? Jesus Christ IN US is the only righteousness that is for any of us – HIS is our good and righteous life. If we try to interpret this passage along any other line and we are apt to find ourselves trying to be good through our own works.

Of course, when it says that, “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,” it is NOT saying that whatever steps we take are predestined by God, or that we are all puppets merely going through the motions. No. Rather, this passage is equal to that of the apostle Paul who said, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:8-10) God's ordained steps for us constitute a walk by faith in Christ unto good works. And it is always possible to depart from this. Yet even then there is the promise, “Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholds him with his hand.”



March 18
The Chastisements of the Father

O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. (Ps. 38:1)

Hebrews states, "For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives. If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?" (Heb. 12:6-7)

Many people think of God as one who PUNISHES. But if our idea of punishment is that of a punitive, angry, God – then God NEVER punishes. Rather, God CHASTISES -- which means, "to train up a child." And He does so for OUR good – just as any loving parent would do.

There are many believers who are motivated by being AFRAID of God. This wrong kind of fear is based in a errant knowledge of God – and of ourselves. Once we see our great need, and God's great love, we will realize that all that God does is redemptive in nature, under the motive of love.



March 19
Confession of Sin

For I am ready to halt, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare my iniquity. I will be sorrow for my sin. (Ps. 38:17-18)

Repentance from sin, and confession of sin, is all through the Old Testament. John the apostle brings it all forward into Christ and writes, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

John is not putting Christian on probation – he is not saying that we confess to GET forgiven. No. For if that were the case we would forever be stepping in and out of the forgiveness of God based on whether we confess sin.

Rather, John is saying that if we confess our sin it ought to be because we have opened ourselves to the light and SEE that in Christ we are already forgiven. In the light, I am simply confessing the Truth – both about my sin and about God’s forgiveness in Christ.

If I am born again I am forgiven. But I will continue to sin. I will confess my sin because I know that in Christ I am forgiven forever – this is the outcome of walking in the light.



**March 20
Freedom From Self**

LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. Surely every man walks in a vain show. (Ps. 39:4-6)

It is the Truth realized and embraced that sets us free. And if we see the Truth about ourselves we will gladly be set free from ourselves. How so? Because if we see the Truth about ourselves we will see that there is NOTHING in us – indeed, without Christ we are all reprobate. (II Cor. 13:5)

The reason Christians continue to fuss over themselves, and continue to be governed by a preoccupation with themselves, is because we have NOT seen the Truth about ourselves. And the reason we have not seen the Truth about ourselves is that we have not seen the Truth about Jesus Christ. If we would come into a realization of Christ, we would no longer seek to salvage ourselves. We would no longer be deluded by any sense of self-righteousness. Neither would we waste time being miserable over ourselves. Rather, we would realize exactly what Paul stated, “Yet not I, but Christ.” God is not going to make us feel good about ourselves, nor is He going to make us hate ourselves. Rather, He is going to deliver us from ourselves – through an inward realization of Jesus Christ.

Any walk that is NOT in the Truth of Christ is indeed, “a vain show.” It is all an act, based upon deception. Have

we realized that self-righteousness is deception? A lie? And that misery over self is just as big of a lie? If we would allow God to show us, "how frail," we are, we would RUN to the cross and lose ourselves in Christ -- that He might truly be our only life.



March 21
The Only Sure Foundation

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. (Ps. 40:1-2)

There are going to be times and seasons in the Christian walk that seem like a, "horrible pit." There will be no way out. But such conditions could be exactly what God desires. The trial is making it possible for our lives to eventually be established, "upon a rock," Jesus Christ.

The greatest difficulty in any trial is usually not the outward circumstances. Rather, it is the stress, turmoil, upheaval, and contradictions to our faith that are produced WITHIN US. That is where the real suffering occurs, and the real battle is fought. How do we win this battle? Not by finding some, "inner strength." Neither by asking God to make us strong. No. These battles are won only by realizing the Truth that we are weak and without hope – if left to ourselves. Indeed, God allows such trials for the purpose of bringing us to see this very Truth.

God's word to us in such suffering is really a question: "Will you go on with Me even if nothing ever changes? Even if doing so will result in great loss? Will you go on with Me no matter what it takes?" That is the question, isn't it? But if we will go on – by believing and trusting God despite all – we will be eventually established upon THE ROCK. Despite our great weakness, we will learn what it means walk in the strength of Jesus Christ.

The very trials we face that contradict our faith are allowed so that we might refuse those contradictions and go on with God in faith despite them – the very trials that might have destroyed our faith will build our faith if we go

on with God. God knows what He is doing. Will we go on with God?



March 22
Obeying Christ Within

***Blessed is that man that makes the LORD his trust,
and respects not the proud, nor such as turn aside to
lies. (Ps. 40:4)***

There is a very definite, “proud man,” in each of us – the flesh; the soul, or natural man. This wars against Christ in us through the Holy Spirit. The question is, “To which will we give respect or consideration?”

When a person is saved, they are joined to the Lord and become one spirit with Him. (1 Cor. 6:17) At that moment there is an automatic SEPARATION in each between SOUL – which is our natural man – and SPIRIT – which is Christ in us. Thus, in each believer there is all that is OF CHRIST and there is all that remains of natural man. These are contrary to one another. There is a pull in opposite directions; a battle for our faith and our will, indeed, our lives.

It is primary to God’s purpose to reveal Christ in each believer. He wants to bring us into an inward realization of His Son. But as He does, this separation between soul and spirit will become more and more apparent – we will be able to discern what is of Christ through His spirit, and what is of our natural religious man. Indeed, knowing Christ is the ONLY way we will be able to safely discern. And as we do discern, the question will emerge: To which, “man,” will we pay heed. By which, “man,” will we be governed?

As God teaches us Christ, we will learn to dismiss and disregard the natural man. The natural man will never be eradicated. No. But we will learn to, “walk in the spirit,” by faith in Christ, so that we may not, “obey the lusts of the flesh.” The, “lusts of the flesh,” are ANY hunger of natural man, including religious hunger. God wants to bring us to where we do indeed pay NO respect to the pride in us, and refuse to turn aside and obey the lies of

natural man. Such is the freedom possible through knowing Jesus Christ.



March 23
The Lord Be Magnified

***Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:
let such as love thy salvation say continually, "The
LORD be magnified." (Ps. 40:16)***

Much confusion in the Christian life is the result of being blind to God's purpose, God's goals, and God's way – in the life of the individual believer. Understandably, most of us are occupied with our needs, our trials, and our goals in life. We pray and seek God, not so much for Himself – not so much for His glory – but so that we might avoid trouble and find His blessings. But so often what we receive for all of our trouble is SILENCE. God won't respond. It may even seem as if He is indifferent or has abandoned us.

God has already given us the Truth on this matter. He has told us to, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness," and that if we do, He will add to us all that constitutes HIS WILL for us, including material needs. He has likewise told us to LOSE our lives to Christ – for this is the ONLY way in which we can find Christ as our life. Yet because we do not know God, or perhaps because we don't trust Him, we hesitate or refuse these commands – because we think if we take them seriously that we will lose out. We become blind to the promise that these Truths are not the path to all that we need – indeed, they are the ONLY path – for they will bring us into a realization of THE WAY, Jesus Christ.

Our goal should be that THE LORD be magnified – to us, in us, and through us. Our prayer ought to be that the Lord would do, "whatever it takes," to get His will – and that He might reveal to us any way in which we need to cooperate. God wants to magnify Himself because where God is glorified, all are benefited and set free.



March 24
“Foolish” Enough to Believe

All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt. An evil disease, say they, cleaves fast unto him: and now that he lies he shall rise up no more. (Ps. 41:7-8)

During a time of great trial and suffering, it is as if we are being mocked for continuing to trust God. It is suggested to us, by our own potential for unbelief, and by the enemy, that we are FOOLS to believe God in the fact of such conditions. The conditions are presented to us, “as proof,” that God has forsaken us. If we listen to such lies, they will lead us into despair.

The question in such a situation is really simple, although our emotions, fears, and temperament make it seem much more complicated. The question is this: Do we believe God or don't we? The Bible is filled with examples and direct teaching that tell us that we should not be surprised if everything contradicts God. God will allow that – He is nevertheless faithful. He is working in us the purpose of revealing Christ.

But make no question, we will not progress far in God's purpose until we come to the point where we make up our mind: We are going on with God. We are going to believe HIM – rather than all that would deny Him. We are going to dismiss all the other voices. Turn to God in that definite way – over and against all of your feelings and reactions – and you will find that He is your strength. You WILL RISE UP in Christ Jesus through faith.



March 25
Betraying Jesus

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. (Ps. 41:9)

What does it mean, “to betray Jesus?” It means to desire the interests of man rather than the interests of God – and to take steps to insure this desire. The most common way

in which believers do this is RELIGIOUSLY. We seek to bring God's will to pass FOR HIM – because we have something to gain; because it will serve our interests. Of course, in that case, we are no longer talking about God's will, but our own.

The gospels reveal that Jesus knew from the start who it was that would betray Him. Yet despite all that Jesus knew, He nevertheless loved Judas, and so this Psalm is able to describe Judas as Jesus', "own familiar friend." This ought to serve as a warning to all of us. We may indeed know Jesus Christ. But if it seems as if what we wanted Him to do isn't going to happen, will we force the issue – because of some interest of our own?



**March 26
Made For God**

***As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?
(Ps. 42:1-2)***

Humanity was MADE for God. What that means is that whether we realize it or not, only God can satisfy us.

Since the sin of Adam, humanity is born into this world void of God. There is no life and no Truth in fallen humanity. And in our ignorance and unbelief, we strive to fill that void with THINGS. Some of those THINGS are material in nature. Others are more abstract. Many of them are RELIGIOUS.

In today's church, believers are being told that what they need is to discover themselves – to discover their true identity in Christ. This is legitimized by the claim that if we do discover our true identity in Christ that this will enable us to discover Christ Himself. That is nonsense, and a subtle lie of the enemy. Humanity cannot discover God by discovering ourselves.

The only way in which humanity can come into the fullness of what God intends is NOT by discovering our identity in Christ – but by discovering HIM. We were made for God

and it is only if we come into HIS fullness that we will be fully satisfied.



March 27
Seeking God for Himself

As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?
(Ps. 42:1-2)

Natural man is not constituted such that we will seek God for Himself. Rather, we will seek God for THINGS. And in today's church, false teaching abounds on this matter. Because folks are blind to the Person of Jesus Christ we default to THINGS that we think He has for us.

But it is a fact that to the degree that we truly see and know Jesus Christ we will hunger and thirst after Him all the more. It is impossible to know Jesus Christ in Truth and NOT love Him.

Scripture tells us that the only reason we love God is because He first loved us – meaning that we have experienced a measure of His love for us -- and this has transformed our hearts. The result is that we love Him in return – if we experience the God Who is love we will be transformed into one who cannot get enough of Him.

In this life we will never be satisfied – the more we are drawn to Christ the more dissatisfied we will be – because there is always infinitely more of Christ that we can presently realize. Yet we are promised that in the eternal ages what is impossible to fully experience here, will be possible to experience then: The fullness of God's love, and the full satisfaction of our hunger and thirst for Him.



March 28
The Leadings of God

***O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me;
let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy***

tabernacles. Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God. (Ps. 43:3-4)

Most believers want to be led of God. Much time and prayer is spent asking God to lead us into His will. But if we examine our motives in these matters, we may find that the reason we want God to lead us is because we think that this will insure His blessing and spare us trouble. How many of us want God to lead us because we want HIS will, and only HIS will – regardless of whether it spells blessing or disaster for us in our natural lives?

Will God ever lead us into trials, sufferings, and what might be deemed a disaster? Read the Bible. He did that all the time. But when God did so the disaster was not the final destination. The real purpose was, as the Psalmist says, to lead people to, “His holy hill,” and to, “His tabernacle.” In other words, God wants to bring His people into His purpose – and that purpose cannot be realized unless He brings us into an inward realization of His Son, who is our true tabernacle or dwelling place.

It is not insignificant that the Psalmist says that he will, “then go unto the altar of God.” This is a matter of being crucified with Christ. The purpose of God will do a work in us that will more and more set us free to relinquish even what God has given us back into His hands. A faithful servant is a blessed servant – but even those blessings remain in God’s hands, just as does the servant him or herself.



**March 29
Light and Truth**

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God. (Ps. 43:3-4)

Just as is the case in this Psalm, our prayer ought to be that God would reveal IN US His Son, who is the personification and embodiment of LIGHT and TRUTH.

Unless we come into a realization of Jesus Christ, how can we see?

We often pray for leadings. But we ought to pray for TRUTH. Often we pray for INFORMATION. We ought to pray for REVELATION. It will do us little good to be in the right circumstances if we are in them blind to Christ, walking around in ignorance.

Light and Truth do not merely consist of doctrines, teachings, information, leadings, or clarity about THINGS. Rather, light and Truth are a PERSON. "All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Christ." (Col. 2:3) – and it is only as Christ is revealed and unfolded to us that we can know the Truth about anything that is of God. Knowing HIM – that alone can bring us into the tabernacle of God, that is, into true spiritual communion with Him.



March 30
Speaking the Truth to Ourselves

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. (Ps. 43:5)

When we are saved we are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) This automatically created a separation in each believer between our union with Christ in spirit, and all that is NOT united with Him, namely, our soul (natural man), and body. From that point, all that is of God is out from Christ – with Whom we are joined in spirit. Our natural man, or, "soul man," remains – although outside of our spiritual union with Christ. It is the will of God that this natural man come to be governed by Jesus as Lord, which is sanctification.

The vital thing to see is that the SOURCE of all that is of God is the Christ with Whom we are joined in spirit. God does not by pass Christ and do a work on our natural man to make it look like Jesus. No. Rather, the natural man is put under the Cross so that the life of Christ might be made manifest through it.

Now, all that being said, the soul man is never going to behave like Christ. There will be a progressive impact upon the natural man of the Christ within – as we grow to know and experience Him – but in this age the natural man REMAINS natural and is not yet saved. Thus, we are going to proclaim with Paul, “O wretched man that I am!” The flesh wars against the spirit and despite some sanctification, this remains a fact in this age.

This passage from Psalms pictures this conflict. The soul or natural man – the emotions and temperament – will not behave. They, “feel,” down and depressed. They, “feel,” as if God has abandoned us. But it is to be expected that the natural man would function in a way that is contrary to the Truth in Christ. It is during those times that we can, as does the Psalmist, speak the Truth to ourselves: “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”

Of course, speaking the Truth in our heart is one thing, but may God give us the grace to actually BELIEVE and MEAN it – for those words ARE the Truth of God in Christ Jesus.



March 31
A Personal Experience With God

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. (Ps. 44:1)

It is always a blessing to hear the testimony of how God has worked in the lives of other people. Sometimes He works in miraculous ways, and sometimes He works in what seems to be natural ways. Once in awhile His workings bring great change and upheaval to circumstances. Other times even though the circumstances remain the same, the real miracle is in those who trust Him. But whatever is the case, to hear of God's faithfulness in the lives of others is always a big encouragement.

Now, all of that being said, it is nevertheless a fact that each believer needs to have a personal experience, and a

personal history with Jesus Christ. I cannot walk by YOUR faith, and you cannot walk by MY faith. I can share with you the Jesus Christ that I have known and experienced, and there is a certain ministry in that – but in the end, none of this will be of much value if you do not come to know and experience Christ for yourself. And the fact is, this is exactly what God desires – that EACH one know Him, “from the least to the greatest.”

We can minister life to each other – true ministry that is of God IS LIFE; it is HIS life. But in the final analysis, even what is ministered must be received by faith. May God give us grace to allow Him to PLOW us – to turn us inside out to the light – so that regardless from where Truth comes we might embrace it, and begin or continue our personal experience and history with His Son.



April 1
All Things Freely Given in Christ

For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou had a favor unto them.
(Ps. 44:3)

In the OT, the Promised Land is a type and shadow of the Person of Jesus Christ and all of the inheritance of God that is given in Him. But note that there is NO inheritance apart from Christ, in addition to Christ, or because of Christ. In other words, God has not given us THINGS or an inheritance – God has given us Christ, in WHOM are all things and all inheritance. And as this Psalm affirms, God has given all things free in His Son, solely by His grace.

This is, of course, the very core of the gospel of grace. It is easy to grasp the doctrine. But it would seem to be one of the most difficult things to allow God to do a work in us so that we become constituted to walk in this Truth. For a person to be able to truly embrace and walk in grace, they must be exposed as having NOTHING in themselves – yes, they must see they are a sinner – but they must relinquish all sense of self-righteousness. Only then will we be weak enough and poor in spirit enough, to freely receive what God has freely given.

I cannot freely receive what God has freely given in Christ until I see that FREELY is the only way to receive from God – it is the only way to receive and walk in the Truth of Jesus, solely by grace.



April 2
The Solution to Confusion

My confusion is continually before me. (Ps. 44:15)

Confusion occurs when the facts do not add up to an expected conclusion – but MUST add up to that conclusion. And we don't know why. For a believer, the most common cause of confusion is when the facts, or when our understanding of the facts, do not add up to the conclusion that God is faithful.

When the facts do not prove that God is faithful, the cause is one of several. First, we may not have all of the facts. Second, our interpretation of the facts is in error. Third, we have a wrong understanding of the faithfulness of God.

The solution in each case is never to THINK our way through. Neither is it to FEEL our way through. And even though it is not wrong to ask God to straighten this out, He will likely answer with silence. The only solution to confusion is FAITH. We have to believe and trust God despite the confusion.

To some people, this might seem to equal, “checking our brains at the door.” But it isn't. Believing God even though the facts seem to deny He is faithful is not a mindless exercise. It is based on KNOWING HIM. We believe Him because we realize that there is a gap in our understanding – and we are not going to lean upon our own understanding. We are going to trust Him.

If I will choose to trust God despite my confusion I may be shocked at how quickly the spirit of confusion dissipates. It will dissipate, not because I now understand the facts. It will dissipate because by faith I have broken the spirit of confusion with the spirit of Truth – I have put my confusion aside and trusted the One who is never

confused, and the One who is never the author of confusion, but the solution for it.



April 3
God Knows the Heart

Shall not God search this out? for he knows the secrets of the heart. (Ps. 44:21)

There is an absurdity in human thinking that actually believes that we can hide from God. There are many ways to do this – we can deny outright the Truth about ourselves. Or we can cover our nakedness with the fig leaves of religious self-righteousness. But the fact is, the barriers we put between God and ourselves do not hide us from God. They hide God from us. They blind us from seeing the Truth about Him, and keep us in darkness.

God MUST expose the Truth about us in order to bring us into the fullness of His Son. For if we will not even accept the Truth about ourselves, how can we possibly walk in the Truth of Jesus? But what is ironic when God exposes us is that when we see the Truth about ourselves – and are perhaps shocked by it – God would say to us, “I am not shocked. I’ve always known your heart. But now you know it. Confess the truth and put your faith in Christ.”

Perhaps the greatest shock for believers is when God exposes us as self-righteous. We don’t think of self-righteousness as sin, but it is actually one of the greatest sins of all. It is unbelief and it is deception. Until God exposes this secret of our hearts we will not get far walking with the One Who IS our righteousness.



April 4
Jesus is God

Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. (Ps. 45:6)

The letter to the Hebrews quotes this Psalm. It says, “But unto the Son He says, ‘Thy throne, O God, is for ever and

ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.” Do we realize that we are being told that these are the words of God, the Father, to His Son, Jesus Christ? And that the Father calls the Son, “God?”

There are many today who call themselves by the name, “Christian,” but who deny that Jesus Christ is God. They might accept that He is the SON of God – a redefined Son, of course – but they will not accept that He is actually Divine in nature.

We might ask, “Is it possible to actually know Jesus Christ – to have actually come into an inward realization of Him – but to continue to deny that He is God; to continue to deny the very core of His identity? Likewise, is it possible to be walking in the Truth of Christ while denying the clear words of the Bible?

If salvation is the result of embracing a revelation of Jesus Christ by faith – of embracing a revelation that God Himself gives of His Son – then how could a person receive that revelation and continue to be deceived about the very identity of their Savior? God reveals ONLY the Truth – and the Truth is that Jesus is God; the Son of God. Thus, if a person remains in darkness regardless what is THE most important Truth of all, then it is not possible that they have received the Truth that God reveals.



April 5 A Very Present Help

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. (Ps. 46:1-3)

It is encouraging to know that God is a very PRESENT help in trouble – because it is when we are in trouble that He seems the most distant. When our earth is moved by an earthquake, and we are in turmoil, this is not evidence that God is far away. Rather, if we are a believer, Christ remains IN US – which IS His very presence.

It is important to believe that God is present – always faithful to us. Hebrews says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of (responder to) them that diligently seek him.” (Heb. 11:6) We may not understand much, or be able to do much, but we can believe that God is faithful to be there for us – and we can believe that He is a RESPONDER to those who seek Him.

Note: We are NOT told to wait until God seeks US. No. We must believe He is already present – and if we do, we need to seek HIM. That much we CAN do and MUST do. God isn't going to come down and dig us out of our unbelief. His grace is always present, but at some point, we have to turn FROM ourselves and FROM our trials – in spite of them – and diligently seek God. If we can do nothing else, we must do that by faith. He will prove to be VERY PRESENT.



April 6
Be Still and Know

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. (Ps. 46:10)

The exhortation to BE STILL does not mean, “do nothing,” or, “resign yourself to the situation.” Rather, it is an exhortation to NOT be moved into action or inaction by our natural or soul man – by our emotions or self-interest. No. Rather, “be still,” by resting by faith in Jesus Christ. Then, whether we must act or not act – we are BEING STILL.

It is not sufficient to simply BE STILL. Rather, we must BE STILL and KNOW that God is God. In other words, this isn't some mechanical law that we are being commanded to obey. Rather, the entire motivation is one of faith and reverence for God. Because we know God we realize that nothing of this earthly realm can defeat Him. He is God and that is why we can afford to BE STILL.



April 7
Letting God Decide

He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. (Ps. 47:4)

Most of us spend lots of time asking God to give us what WE want. And usually we do not ask for BAD things. We usually ask for GOOD things. But how many of us ask God to give us what HE wants? Of course, this is nothing more than asking, “Not my will, O God, but Your will.”

There is nothing wrong with asking God for what we desire. The Bible exhorts us to do so: “Ask what you will.....” But despite our will on certain matters, we do not know all things. There are many facts known only to God. And most of all, God has a greater purpose that might make our good and right request impossible – if He is to have His purpose. Mature saints will usually give thanks to God for NOT giving them what they wanted – because now they see what they could not see when they wanted it.

Regardless of whether we actually say the words, all requests that we make to God ought to carry an attitude of faith that truly wants God to do HIS will rather than our own. Indeed, when the Lord gave the, “model prayer; the Lord’s prayer,” He told us to pray, “THY kingdom come, THY will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

If we carry this attitude of faith we will discover that over the course of time that OUR will is going to be conformed to HIS will. Sure. Prayer is more than simply asking God to give us things. Prayer is communion with God. And if our hearts are open to God we will more and more grow to know Christ and have the mind of Christ. Our prayer will begin to reflect it.

It is a great freedom to TRULY WANT God to choose FOR US – to truly trust that He knows best. This doesn’t mean we don’t have wants or needs or desires. But it does mean that we are able to put these aside and say to God, “Lord, I want only what You want. Not one bit more and not one bit less. Choose for me what will give YOU Your purpose and what will benefit me the most in Jesus Christ.”



**April 8
Mount Zion**

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. (Ps. 48:2)

In the OT, Mount Zion is often used as a type and shadow of God's perfected thought for His people -- the body of Christ. Mount Zion is the church experiencing the fullness of Jesus Christ -- as God intended.

The book of Hebrews contrasts the Old Covenant, which was given at Mt. Sinai, to the New Covenant that is experienced in Christ, using Mount Zion as one of its examples:

For you are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire...but you are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. (Heb. 12:18-22)

The Truth being given here is that under the Old Covenant, God was accessible only through physical types and shadows -- none of which could bring people into the reality of Christ. But NOW the people of God have come unto the TRUE Mount Zion -- they have the opportunity to experience the Person of Christ Himself -- to be brought into His fullness. Mount Zion is the fullness of Christ and it is to this that Jesus Christ has brought us through His redemptive work.



**April 9
Our Guide Even Unto Death**

For this God is our God forever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death. (Ps. 48:14)

If you allow God to expose your motives for wanting His will and for wanting Him to lead you, you might be surprised to find out that you merely want to avoid trouble. It isn't so much that we want God for Himself, or

want, "whatever it takes," for Him to get His purpose in us, but we assume that if we find His will and follow His leading, that it will spare us trials and suffering; God will give us what we desire. Surely, we reason, God leads only into blessing.

If we read the Bible, we cannot come to this conclusion. God led every one of His saints into disaster -- some into martyrdom. But does that mean that we should not seek the Lord for His will? No. We must seek Him for HIS will -- no matter what it takes. But as we do, we must realize that God's will may include suffering and trials. He may not lead in a way that avoids trouble, but actually guarantees it.

There are trials that overtake the saints -- simply come upon us -- but then there are others into which God leads us. But even when God leads us into trials, rarely do we realize what we are getting into during our initial steps -- for if that were the case most of us would back off. Most of us cannot imagine such a thing could be a leading of God.

If we have walked by faith, as open to God as we know, and it has resulted in suffering or loss, we will be apt to wonder whether we have erred. Again -- we have trouble imagining that trials could be God's will. But the real issue is whether we are walking with Christ by faith. If we have gotten into a trial by faith, there is no mistake. But even if we have erred somewhere we can nevertheless stop and turn -- and then we are in Truth and not error. The point is, God leads His people even into death -- even to that which constitutes a personal cross. The biggest error is to think that such a thing could not be so.



April 10
Blindness to Mortality

Their inward thought is that their houses shall continue forever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. (Ps. 49:11)

One of the more deceitful dimensions of sin and unbelief is a blindness to our own mortality. It simply does not

occur to some folks that they are vulnerable and mortal. They cannot imagine their own death. Indeed, there have been people on their death bed who seem oblivious to their own mortality -- and certainly callous to their accountability to God.

When a person has not the life of Christ within, they are left with their natural life. The natural life lives for THIS world and THIS age. The entire natural mind and frame of reference is this life. The end of this life, to most, never seems to be a consideration. If the thought occurs to them that they are mortal they simply push it away.

Accountability to God is a fact from which there is NO escape. We must all face Him. But it isn't so much accountability for our works. Rather, it is an accountability as to what we have done with what light we have received -- what have we done with Jesus Christ? Once a person has been convicted of sin and has seen that Christ is the solution, they can never be the same again -- they cannot go back. They will either turn to Christ or step into a greater darkness.

If we are growing to know Christ we will take care of business in this life according to the will of God. But we will not live for this life -- we will know that the day is coming when ALL of it is going to pass into history. And at that point, all that will matter is who Christ is to us, and who we are to Him. Only that which is of Christ is eternal.



April 11
The Two Ultimate Powers

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. (Ps. 49:15)

There is no greater power over this earthly realm than that of DEATH. But there is a power that has authority even over death: Resurrection life in Jesus Christ.

By His resurrection, Jesus Christ did not merely, "reverse death." No. He satisfied death, tasted it for all of us, and then was raised FROM OUT OF death. In effect, rather than reverse death, Jesus passed through it, and in doing so, won victory over it.

There is never victory by side-stepping or avoiding the enemy. You have to meet the enemy head on, on his turf, and completely defeat him. Satan and death were defeated by Jesus Christ. That makes His victory eternal.

Today, believers are not merely given a THING called, "victory." No. Rather, we are given the Person of Jesus Christ to dwell in us -- and IN HIM is all victory. If Christ is in us, then HE IS OUR LIFE -- and His life, by definition, is the, "kind of life," that death cannot touch -- for it is life that is victory from out of death.



April 12
God is a Consuming Fire

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. (Ps. 50:3)

There is everything good and right about praying for the intervention of God, or about praying for a revival among God's people. But we must realize that a revival is only necessary because spiritual conditions have deteriorated. Therefore, if God intervenes or brings revival, then it means He has to deal with what has caused the problem.

Are we prepared for that? Many who pray for revival cannot imagine that THEY are part of the problem. But God is not a respecter of persons. Therefore, if we mean business with God, we must have a, "whatever it takes," faith attitude in what we pray.

Revival always begins with JUDGMENT -- and initially, judgment is LIGHT. God will expose what is not of Christ so that people might repent and turn. But if people will not repent and turn, God will bring a greater chastisement.

When God is finished with this age only that which is of Christ is going to remain. He will be as a, "consuming fire," to the rest. This is not maybe. It is a certainty. Believers would do well to allow God to judge them NOW so that when Christ returns there are not many surprises for them to face. His warning in Hebrews is clear:

Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:26-29)



**April 13
The New Covenant in Christ**

Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. (Ps. 50:5)

Believers have made a covenant -- the NEW Covenant -- with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Indeed, we might say that Jesus Christ IS the New Covenant, because we are, "gathered to God," if we are IN HIM. Believers are joined to Jesus Christ and made one spirit with Him (I Cor. 6:17), and Jesus Christ is one with the Father. That makes us one with the Father IN HIM.

There was no way for humanity to become one with God as members of the Adam race. No. Jesus came to bear the entire Adam race on the Cross down into death, and to make a NEW race -- a new kind of humanity -- a new creation in Himself. Thus, in order to become one with God through Christ, we must take our place in the Cross of Christ and be raised in Him as new creations.

Can we see that the entire Adam race is under the Cross - the entire natural man? Yes. God is completely done with Adam. The New Covenant is with those who have died in Christ TO Adam, and have been raised in spiritual union with Jesus Christ.



April 14
Delivered From Sin

***Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse
me from my sin.***

In this prayer of repentance, David does not merely want to experience the forgiveness of God. Forgiveness for sin -- in and of itself -- cannot change us. If all God did was forgive our sin -- in the sense of lifting the consequences -- the penalty for sin might be lifted, but our sin would remain.

There are also those who believe that when they sin that God gets mad at them. They want forgiveness in the sense that God would no longer be angry. But again, if this was all there was to forgiveness, you might have a God who is now happy with the sinner, but this would do nothing to change the sinner.

Rather than lift the penalty for sin, or lift the supposed anger of God for sin, what Jesus Christ did was provide the means by which humanity could be set free from SIN ITSELF. If we come to Christ, we are planted into His death, and thus are dead to sin, and we are planted into His resurrection, making us alive to God. In other words, if we come to Christ, we are joined TO HIM. He is our life.

This is the ONLY means of change. We must become delivered from the entire nature and creature of sin -- and born from above a new creation in Christ Jesus.



April 15
Confession of Sin

***For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is
ever before me. (Ps. 51:3)***

God does not forgive our sin because we confess. Rather, He forgives our sin because of Jesus Christ. Our confession is a statement of Truth about our sin -- it is wrong and we are guilty -- and it is a statement of Truth about the One who has already died and paid for it in full.

The idea that a saved person must confess sin to be forgiven is a contradiction. You are saved because you are forgiven. You cannot lose your salvation, and you certainly cannot get saved all over again. You cannot keep your salvation, "up to date," by confessing. Such ideas are based on a wrong interpretation of the Greek of I John 1:9, and frankly, a blindness to the finality of the Cross. In short, we don't confess to GET forgiven. Rather, we confess as a proclamation that we ARE forgiven.

So do we NEED to confess sin? It isn't a matter of NEEDING. It is a matter of telling the Truth. A believer who has sinned is going to confess that he has sinned -- he is going to confess that he has sinned because it is the Truth -- and he is walking in the light. Confessing of sin is nothing more than a byproduct of walking in the Truth and light of Jesus Christ. We confess because we believe and know the Truth of His finished forgiveness.



April 16
Truth in the Inward Parts

***Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)***

Christianity is, "Christ in you." And Jesus Christ IS the Truth. Thus, Truth in the INWARD parts is not possible unless we are coming into an INWARD realization of Jesus Christ. Christ must be FORMED in an individual, for He is the source and embodiment of all light and Truth.

But Christ cannot be formed in anyone -- Truth in the inward parts is impossible -- unless we allow God to deal with all of the UNTRUTH that is in each of us. God must do this. It is impossible for any human being, through any religious program or activity, to probe inward and root out the UNTRUTH that is native to natural man. But God never tells us to do this -- indeed, He forbids it. Our part is to simply relinquish ourselves to the Cross -- we must relinquish to the Cross the old life in which all UNTRUTH resides: The old man; the natural man. Thus, only DEATH can resolve what ails us; we must hand ourselves

over to the Cross for, "whatever it takes," for God to do this work in us. Only then can Christ be revealed in us.

Truth in the INWARD parts begins with an unconditional confession and surrender to God for, "whatever it takes," for Him to get His purpose in us. No longer do we try to fix ourselves. No longer do we try to be good enough. No longer are we deluded into thinking we are good enough. Rather, as imperfect as we are, and with all of our present weaknesses and sin, we stand before God in the LIGHT of Jesus Christ. Then, and only then, will Jesus Christ be our life and reign within us.



April 17
God Brings Light

Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)

God wants us to be transparent and honest with Him. Of course, we cannot begin to do that on our own. God must take the initiative to bring LIGHT. At that point, it is our responsibility to confess what He reveals to us. He will reveal our sin and unbelief. But He will also reveal Christ as the only solution.

Because of the sin of Adam, we are all corrupt and spiritually dead. Thus, what God reveals about us is not going to be pretty. But nevertheless it is the TRUTH.

It is possible to refuse the light that God reveals to, "to love darkness rather than light." (see John 3:19-21) The result will be greater darkness.

God will never convict us of sin, or reveal our corrupt condition without revealing Christ – indeed, Christ IS the light that brings revelation. Therefore, all of this is for our redemption and restoration back into a relationship with God.



April 18
The Hidden Parts

Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)

The hidden part of a person's heart is usually hidden also to that person. The heart is deceitful above all things. Part of what it means to be spiritually dead is that we have no Truth or light in us – and that leaves us in the dark even as to our own condition.

Jesus said, "If your eye be single, your whole body will be filled with light." (Matt. 6:22) The Greek word here for SINGLE means, "to be free of folds; to be pure." That is a great picture. God wants to unfold us so that all of us might be filled with light. He wants to get rid of all the hidden pockets of light. Then, as says the apostle John, we can, "walk in the light as HE is in the light." That is freedom.

God does not need to expose us before others. No. This can happen between ourselves and the Lord. Exposure before others is often a more drastic step if we will not listen. But in the end, our openness and honesty must first be unto the Lord. This will then come to govern all of our relationships.



April 19
Christ Made Unto Us Wisdom

Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)

Wisdom is not a THING that God gives us. God does not endow us with an ability called, "wisdom." No. Rather, wisdom is a Person – Christ is made to be unto us WISDOM.

That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us

wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glories, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Cor. 1:29-31)

What this means is that all spiritual discernment is the result of an inward realization of Jesus Christ. To the extent that we know Him, we will know all else. This should not be surprising because Jesus Christ IS the LIGHT and He IS the TRUTH.



**April 20
Made True Unto God**

***Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)***

If we are growing to know Jesus Christ in an inward way, we are being MADE TRUE unto God. But this is not a matter of US being made to LOOK like Jesus. No. It is a matter of us being conformed to Him – formed together with Him -- to where Jesus Christ can be manifested through us.

The inward revelation of Jesus is also going to expose all that is in us that is UNTRUE to God – we must confess these things and discard them. But as we do we will more and more be set free to walk with God in THE TRUE RELATIONSHIP – which is by the faith of Jesus Christ.

The true relationship with God through Christ is one that proclaims, “Yet not I, but Christ.” (Gal. 2:20) All good works, etc., emerge from this true relationship that is based upon faith.



**April 21
Cleansed by the Blood**

***Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow. (Ps. 51:6-7)***

Many believers continually focus upon God's forgiveness FOR sin. That is essential, of course, but it is one thing to be forgiven FOR sin, yet quite another to be delivered FROM sin. Through the redemption of Jesus Christ, we are not only forgiven for sin, but we are delivered from sin itself – we are actually delivered from the, “body of sin,” that is, the Adam race.

Numerous times in the NT we are told that we are cleansed or washed from sin by the Blood of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ shed His blood on the Cross, that Blood was never gathered up and put back in His body – it was forever shed – and this illustrates that His death was the final death of the Adam race. Jesus was the Last Adam – that is, in His death was gathered the Adam race. Then He was raised the first born of a new race for all humanity.

The Blood of Jesus CONTINUALLY cleanses us from all sin. This does not mean that we get forgiven for sin over and over. No. Just as Jesus died once for all for all sin, so we are forgiven once for all of all of our sin. But we DO continue to commit sins and the Blood of Jesus cleanses us from the effects of these sins – as we come out into the light.



April 22
Giving Yourself to God

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Ps. 51:17)

A broken spirit and a contrite heart are characterized by the realization that I am fully guilty and can do nothing to help myself. I know that my only hope is the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Grace is more than a doctrine. Grace and Truth came in a Person, Jesus Christ. Never separate grace from the Person – don't make grace a THING or a FORCE. God is, “the God of all grace.” We cannot receive grace unless we are receiving grace in Jesus Christ.

If a person sees that they are guilty and sees that they cannot help themselves, they are seeing the Truth. But they are seeing the Truth in the Light of the Truth Himself, Jesus Christ. They will therefore see the grace of God.

God always convicts in that way – He convicts with grace and Truth – not with threats and condemnation. Condemnation only comes if a person refuses grace.

God does not desire for us to make sacrifices for Him. He does not want sacrifices; He wants US.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (Rom. 12:1)

According to these verses, the best sacrifice is if we give ourselves unconditionally to God – if we LOSE our lives to Jesus Christ. We must come to Christ as one who is broken in spirit – as one who has nothing to offer, but as one who can only receive what God has freely given in His Son.



April 23
Trusting in His Mercy

Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness. But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. (Ps. 52:7-8)

It is possible for professing Christians to trust in their own strength and in their own, “riches.” We need only to live in our own righteousness.

Self-righteousness is not merely a form of Christianity with, “a little too much law.” No. Self-righteousness is ANOTHER GOSPEL. It is a lie; it is deception. And worst of all, self-righteousness is religious UNBELIEF – it is a denial of Jesus Christ and of our need to put our faith solely in Him.

Now, of course, since self-righteousness is deception, those who are under it will not accept that they are deceived. Rather, they will claim that they are simply living holy lives, obeying God's law, and being a witness to Christ. And they will have an arsenal of Bible verses to back up their claims. But their deception is not found so much in their conduct -- although most who live under the law will eventually practice great destructive legalistic religion. Rather, the error of the self-righteous is found in their blindness to Jesus Christ and in their faith in themselves, rather than in Christ. Self-righteousness is really nothing more than a trust in our own strength and works.

Paul, in his epistle to the Galatians, gave the solution. He said, "I travail until Christ be formed in you." (Gal. 4:19) The Greek word for, "formed," means, "to be inwardly realized and expressed." Believers need to be brought to the end of our self-righteousness through failure and exposure -- and along side of that -- we need an inward revelation and realization of Jesus Christ. Only then will we be those who are like, "a green olive tree in the house of God" -- who trust in the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ for their lives on a daily basis.



April 24
The Words of a Fool

***The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God."
Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity:
there is none that doeth good. (Ps. 53:1)***

As never before, those who belong to this world openly state that those who believe in God are FOOLS. God has been kicked out of our schools, public places, sporting events, and government. God hasn't simply been ignored -- He has been proactively attacked and eliminated. And more and more, if you even mention God, let alone Jesus Christ, people will mock, roll their eyes, and classify you as a fool.

Some people deny God because they cannot reconcile the existence of God with what is happening in this world. Surely, many reason, if God exists, He would not allow evil to prevail. But God DOES exist, and He DOES allow

evil to prevail. He does not intervene and fix what is wrong with this world – and He never will.

What God has done is send His Son, not to fix this world, but to redeem people out of it. Rather than change the world, God is, as it were, making a new world – He is making a new creation in Christ Jesus.

In Christ, God has done everything He can do, or intends to do, to bring redemption and deliverance. But it is ONLY in and through Christ that God will ever work. If folks want to stay part of this evil age, God will allow them to do so – and this age is going to continue to take its course into greater and greater darkness. Thus, the choice is clear: Christ, or this world; the old creation or the new creation in Christ.

Those who blame God for not intervening in this world are many of the same folks who don't want Him IN this world. Indeed, they don't want Him in their personal lives. Anyone who blames God for allowing evil in this world needs to be the first in line to let Him to deal with the evil that is in their OWN heart through Christ.

“There is no God,” is a statement, not made in ignorance, and not made because of a lack of brainpower – but it is the statement of a FOOL who is not willing to come into the LIGHT and be exposed as a sinner. The tragic irony is that those who stay in darkness have separated themselves from God all the while they accuse God of separating Himself from them. God is always open and available through His Son. But in Christ ALONE is God available.



April 25
The Lost Condition of the Adam Race

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Ps. 53:2-3)

When Adam sinned, he ruined the Adam race. Humanity, as God has intended, was no longer constituted for God.

Rather, the Adam race was now constituted for Satan. The Adam race was no longer one with God. Adam was a corrupt, soulish creature – fully turned in upon himself – subject to the god of this world. Adam, and all that would be born IN HIM, were spiritually dead.

Even many believers do not realize that human beings are born into this world completely void of Truth and life. Despite the clear Biblical revelation, many still think that there is some, “spark of life,” or some, “glimmer of light,” that is buried within fallen humanity – and that Jesus came to ignite it; bring it out. To many, salvation is nothing more than Jesus Christ dying to bring out the latent greatness in humanity.

No. There is absolutely NOTHING of value in human beings born in Adam. That is why Paul was able to say, “Except Christ be in you, you are reprobates.” (II Cor. 13:5) Indeed, there is nothing in humanity to motive us to even turn to God for help. Left to ourselves, there are NONE that seek God. Only if God takes the initiative to seek out man and bring light can we turn to Christ.

Make no question – we do have a choice. If God takes the initiative to bring light – to reveal our true condition in the light of Christ – we can refuse. We can also turn to Christ. When God brings light it is THE great pivot point and THE great point of crisis. For the light that God intends to melt our heart and draw us to Christ, will, if we refuse, harden our heart. We must choose whether we love darkness rather than light, or love light rather than darkness. It is upon this choice – and it is a choice that is EVER BEFORE US – that our eternity hangs.



April 26
Freely Received and Freely Given

***I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name,
O LORD; for it is good. (Ps. 54:6)***

To, “freely sacrifice to God,” and to, “praise His name because it is GOOD,” is impossible unless we have received a revelation of Jesus Christ. Otherwise such things will be largely religious. They will be emotional.

They will not be real – will not constitute worship that is, “in spirit and in Truth.” (John 4:24)

“To freely sacrifice,” to God is not merely a matter of giving up THINGS to Him. It is a matter of giving MYSELF to Him. I have to, “present my body, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is my spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)

But note the word, “freely.” FREELY means I do not give myself to God out of DUTY, or out of FEAR, or because I want to get something from Him. To FREELY give myself to God is not a matter of simply keeping a religious principle. No. To FREELY give myself to God is only truly FREE if there are no strings attached – which is a motivation of faith and love.

Jesus said, “Freely you have received – therefore freely give.” (Matt. 10:8) If we have truly RECEIVED FREELY what God has given in Christ Jesus – and God has freely given ALL THINGS to us in Christ (Rom. 8:32) – and if we have come into a realization of Him – we are going to freely give. We just will – there will be no debate – there is no other possible outcome. The grace we embrace in Christ will transform us. We will not only freely give ourselves to God, but also to others. In other words, we will LOVE.

Praise is not supposed to be mere words. Jesus clearly stated that it is possible to honor God with your lips, but for your heart to be far from Him. (see Matt. 15:8) No. Praise ought to be from the heart – an expression that comes from out of an inward realization that God is good and that Christ is ALL.



April 27
The Way of Escape

And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest. (Ps. 55:6-8)

When we are in the midst of a great trial, it is only natural for us to want to escape the suffering. Often we will cry out to God for deliverance. And yet He is usually silent. Why? It is not that He has no deliverance for us. But rather than provide a way of escape from the trial, God has given us a way of escape WITHIN and DESPITE the trial. His way of escape is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Circumstances can be difficult. But isn't it a fact that the greatest difficulty is more along the line of what those circumstances do WITHIN US? A trial of faith is exactly that – a trying of our faith – and that is always an inward issue between God and ourselves. And the solution to a trial of faith is NOT to be removed from it. Rather, the solution and goal of any trial of faith is -- FAITH.

Jesus Christ is our way of escape. This is what Paul was getting at when he wrote about the subject to the Corinthians:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

There is no promise here of deliverance from OUT OF circumstances or suffering. Indeed, note the words, "that you may be able to BEAR IT." That indicates a deliverance, not from circumstances, but from what those circumstances could otherwise DO TO YOU. Paul is simply promising that within each trial of faith, God will bring revelation and grace so that we will be able to BELIEVE and TRUST in Christ. This is what will enable us, "to bear it."

Victory in Christ must become experiential. If every time we encountered trials God delivered us, victory in Christ would, at best, be only theory. No. Only if we live in Christ in His victory in the midst of a trial can God do a work in us and express His victory in us through His Son. Jesus Christ IS our, "way of escape."



April 28
Are We Ready for Jesus Christ?

For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. (Ps. 55:12-13)

This prophetic reference to the betrayal of Jesus by Judas carries a principle that is applicable to the entire church. If you examine the reason why Judas betrayed Jesus, it was not because he hated him, or rejected Him as Messiah. No. Judas betrayed Jesus because Jesus was not acting in accordance with the expectations and demands of Judas. As a zealot, Judas wanted an earthly Messiah who would set us an earthly kingdom – right in his time. Jesus had taken things in a different direction and Judas betrayed Him -- in an attempt to manipulate Him into being the Messiah that Judas demanded.

The same principle applies today. If Jesus Christ were to walk into many churches today, He would not BE as believers expect – He would not do as believers expect. He might, in fact, need to tear the entire thing down in order to build it back up in Himself. And if history is any indication, He would be rejected and betrayed all over again. Indeed, any minister or person who is walking in Christ and preaching the Truth is liable to encounter the same opposition.

People do not want THEIR church, or THEIR ministry, disturbed. This is often the case even if the church or ministry is in apostasy. Some of the most hateful churches got that way because they have already rejected the Truth. They will simply not allow anyone or anything to topple their kingdom.

People pray for revival but most do not realize that revival demands the judgment of God upon all that is not of Christ. That is why God often does not bring revival – there is no room for the Truth of God in Christ. There is only room for the status quo.

But none of this negates the fact that Jesus Christ is one day going to return to this earth. The question is: Will

believers – those who are of God's own household – be READY for Him? Or will Jesus Christ be to us as a stranger – as one who is a trouble-maker; a disturber of OUR programs? We need not push the answer to this question off into the future. We will be READY for Jesus THEN if we are continually READY for Him NOW – if we will NOW settle for nothing less than the Truth and the will of God.



April 29
Praying Always

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. (Ps. 55:17)

Prayer is not only a matter of ASKING God for what we need. Rather, prayer is also a SEEKING of God Himself. One of Paul's prayers for the church was that God would, "give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints." (Eph. 1:17-18) In this we not only see the desire of God for each of us as expressed through Paul, but we see that prayer of Paul – and therefore we ought to be praying to God for the same.

Prayer must go hand in hand with our walk in Christ. There are many issues God cannot resolve simply because we ask. Many times there is a process involved. For example, these requests of Paul – Paul is not praying for mere INFORMATION. He is praying for REVELATION. But in order for us to receive such revelation, there must be an ongoing work of the Cross, and a growing realization of Jesus Christ. At first, there may seem to be NO answer from God. But if we continue, "day and night," seeking God – this prayer will be answered.

There are certain absolutes that are clearly stated in the Bible to be God's will for each believer. This is one of them. God wants us to know Christ, and to know His purpose in Christ. His promise is that if we will seek Him with our whole heart in prayer – and refuse to settle for less – no matter what it takes – that we will come into a knowledge of Jesus Christ.



April 30
The Immovable Rock

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. (Ps. 55:22)

Here again we see that God doesn't promise to remove burdens – but tells us that He will bear them for us in Christ. Neither does God promise that He will prevent forces from trying to move us from faith. But He does promise that if we trust Him that we will not be moved. The bottom line is this: We will be as immovable as our faith in God – for God is the eternally immovable Rock.

The issue here is not works. The issue is FAITH. Indeed, one of the greatest burdens, and that which might move us from faith in Christ the most, is our failure with regards to works. Many a believer has collapsed under the burden of guilt and condemnation because of the sin that does so easily entangle. The only solution is faith in Christ – despite our sin and despite our failures.

God never demands obedience BEFORE we are allowed to believe. No. Rather, we must believe BEFORE there is any hope for obedience. Without faith we cannot please God – indeed, without faith we cannot abide in the Vine and be nourished by His life. We cannot stand immovable unless our faith is first in the Rock.



May 1
The Answer for Fear

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. (Ps. 56:3-4)

According to scripture, fear is not merely an emotion – although we can and do react emotionally TO fear. Rather, fear is a spirit. And God has said, “God has NOT given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.” (II Tim. 1:7)

Fear was the first condition of Adam after his sin. That is because he saw that he was naked, that is, he saw that he was without God. For a believer, fear is a sense that God has abandoned us – for ANY reason. We feel as if everything depends upon US.

Believers often fear what, “flesh can do,” to them – not flesh, as in other people, but their OWN FLESH. Our flesh will not behave. And if we do not understand the Truth, we may feel afraid and condemned.

God is exhorting us to put our trust, not in our flesh, or in our works, but in Him through Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ is completely independent of anything about us. It is based solely in His Person, His love, and in what He has done. This alone will answer fear.



May 2
Tears in His Bottle

Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? (Ps. 55:8)

In an hour of despair, it is easy to allow ourselves to think that if God were REALLY with us, and REALLY loved us, that He would not allow us to suffer. Yet He does. And according to this verse, He is aware, and cares about, every tear we might shed.

This is not merely sentimental poetry. It is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that happens to His people goes unnoticed, or is of no value. If God figuratively gathers up every tear in His bottle, and records every tear in His book, then even though we might not understand WHY – we can be sure that there is a purpose of God is allowing us to shed tears – even if that purpose is nothing more than to bring us to the end of ourselves so that our faith might be solely in Christ.



May 3
Jesus Christ is Our Light

***For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not
thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk
before God in the light of the living? (Ps. 55:13)***

Christians are those who have been delivered from death through Jesus Christ, but who are nevertheless capable of stumbling and falling. But God has promised that this is not necessary – He will always reveal the Truth. But that does not mean we will embrace it.

There are times in the life of a believer where we reach a crossroads. Our flesh and soul life – perhaps our pride -- might try to pull us in one direction. But the other direction is that of the Cross, leading to a greater realization of Jesus Christ. If I TRULY want God's will -- God promises that I will KNOW the path to take.

We must take that attitude – through much prayer and deliberation -- that we want the will of God, “no matter the cost,” and, “no matter what it takes.” Otherwise, we will be caught between two opinions and may stumble. But if we are sold out to God, our heart and our minds will be open – and we WILL see the Truth of God's will.



May 4
The Shadow of His Wings

***Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for
my soul trusts in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings
will I make my refuge, until these calamities be past.
(Ps. 57:1)***

It is one thing to assume that God is going to watch over us and protect us – but it is quite another to actually take our refuge UNDER HIS WINGS. “His wings,” speak of intimacy with Him in Christ by FAITH.

Of course, the Psalmist is here using the picture of a mother bird that protects her young. But imagine if those young chicks, rather than take refuge under her wings, walked around simply assuming that she would protect them from danger. The issue here is responsibility to

believe God and to mean business with Him – rather than to take Him for granted.

Many of us have slipped into a lying sense of invincibility – we think that because we are children of God that we cannot be touched no matter our faith. Some of us actually believe that because of OUR works, or because of OUR supposed faith, that God is somehow required to make sure we do not encounter trouble. We have so little of a sense of our weakness, vulnerability, and barrenness. But if this is our attitude, we are ALREADY in unbelief, and have already fallen. It is only if we realize that Jesus Christ is our ALL that we are truly UNDER HIS WINGS.

A little chick realizes that without the mother bird all is lost. There is no sense of invincibility simply because the mother bird is nearby. Rather, the chicks abide under her wings – they know that their life is entirely dependent upon the mother bird. Believers need to come into the realization that not only is God our refuge and strength, but that if that is to mean anything to us, that we must actually abide under His wings by faith at all times.



May 5
His Finished Work

***I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performs
all things for me. (Ps. 57:2)***

The foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that in Christ, it is finished. We are never told to finish our redemption – indeed, we cannot finish what is already finished – it is unbelief to try.

But God does tell us to TAKE POSSESSION by faith of Jesus Christ and all that is finished in Him. We have to do this, first, by believing that God has freely given us all things in Christ (Rom. 8:32), and second, by realizing that we have nothing to offer in return. Then we have to purposefully and deliberately enter into the fullness of Christ by faith – solely on the basis of HIM; solely on the basis of HIS promise.

To enter into all that Christ is by faith is not presumption. God exhorts us to do so. It is what He wants us to do.

Initially, there will come opposition. It will not seem as if it is finished -- because there will be, "giants in the land." But upon the basis of the same faith we must STAND in what God has given and refuse to be moved. If we will, we will see that what God says is finished for us is indeed finished. God really has done all things for us IN CHRIST.



May 6
Do We Really Want the Truth?

God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. (Ps. 57:3)

One of the biggest questionsthat each believer must ask is this: Do we really want the Truth? Do we want the Truth, even if it exposes and overturns what we have believed? Do we want the Truth if it means that we will be reduced and shown as nothing? Do we want the Truth it if means we must suffer the loss of all things – especially of inward things such as pride, self-righteousness, and spiritual ambition?

Regardless of how we answer, and whether we actually mean it, the fact is that God has only ONE Truth. And even though we will not see it fully in this age, the Truth of God in Jesus Christ is going to be sent forth – it is going to govern all. There will be no places to hide. And just as is the case now, the question will remain: Do we really want the Truth of God?

We might as well ask: Do we want Jesus Christ? For the kingdom of God IS NOW coming, and the Truth of God in Christ Jesus IS NOW being sent forth. And we are RIGHT NOW answering that question.



May 7
A Heart that is Fixed

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. (Ps. 57:7)

“A fixed heart,” is one that has decided for God. It is one that has decided that no matter what, regardless of what it takes, and no matter the cost, I am going to believe and give myself to Jesus Christ.

God has never told us to fix ourselves. He has never told us to go through programs to make ourselves look like Jesus. No. Rather, He has required only one thing: By faith, lose your life to Christ. By faith, come to the Cross. By faith, abandon yourself to Him. By nature we own ourselves – God simply requires that we relinquish that ownership. We can begin by asking God, “to do whatever it takes,” to make it real in us.

Now, you will note that the result of such a conviction is not to be miserable. It is not to mourn over losing my life to Christ. It is not self-occupation or a self-absorbed misery. No. Rather, the result is to sing and to praise God. Misery is always the result of being occupied with ourselves. Singing and rejoicing is always the result of being occupied with Jesus Christ.



May 8

The Reward for the Righteous

***So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judges in the earth.
(Ps. 58:12)***

The moment we begin to talk about REWARDS from God for a Christian – rewards for our works or service – there ought to arise in us a question; there ought to arise in us a discomfort. For how can it be that God would reward us for anything? Such a notion is contrary to everything taught in the New Testament.

For example, Paul states that God has given us ALL things freely in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 8:32) But if that is the case, what does God have left to give as a reward – in addition to Christ?

Another example: Doesn't the Bible say God will reward us according to our works? Well, what works? Every inward thought, inward attitude, outward attitude and work

– these are ALL works – they are all produced by us. But if God is going to gather all of these works up, and weigh the good against the bad, how much of a reward do you think you will receive? Furthermore, what is a GOOD work? How good is good enough? Are any of our works truly pure?

There is obviously some other meaning to those verses that state that God is going to reward us according to our works. And that other meaning is that FAITH is the work of God. (John 6:29) In other words, if we put ourselves aside, and put our faith solely in Jesus Christ, then our reward will BE CHRIST – and through Him we will be able to experience all that God has to give.

If the reward of God was only for the righteous, then how could we stand? But if, by faith, our righteousness is the Person of Jesus Christ who dwells in us, then we are the righteousness of God IN HIM – and God will judge us worthy of all that Christ is worthy. We can be co-heirs in Him.



May 9
God is My Strength

Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy. (Ps. 59:17)

God never promises to GIVE us strength or power. Rather, He gives us Christ – who IS the power of God. (I Cor. 1:24 and II Cor. 4:7)

We must see this Truth. Christians often pray that God would make us strong. But it is God's desire to show us to be weak – so that we might, by faith, abide in Christ as our strength.

Jesus Christ has joined Himself to believers and is one with them in spirit. (I Cor. 6:17) It is only if God shows us to be weak in ourselves – in our natural man – that we will take our place in His cross and abide in HIM as our strength.

Jesus Christ IS the power of God – we are to, “be strong in the power of HIS MIGHT.” We do this by faith against all that would come against us.



**May 10
God Has Spoken**

God has spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice. (Ps. 60:6)

In both the Old and New Testaments, the word for HOLINESS carries the meaning of being, “set apart,” for God – in other words, that which is holy belongs to God. Thus, to say that, “God has spoken in His holiness,” is to affirm that His words, “belong to Him,” that is, His words are from out of Himself. They carry His character.

This affirms what we ought to already know: That God does not reveal anything but TRUTH, and does not lead people in any path other than holiness in Christ. The notion that God will sometimes give visions and words that are contrary to the Truth is absurd. He does not, for example, give visions of Mary, or work miracles by the hand of the wicked. Those, if they are real, are from another source.

Hebrews 1:1 says that God today is speaking in His Son – the Greek says, “Son-wise.” Jesus Christ is the, “language,” that God is speaking – God is speaking through an ongoing revelation of His Son in His people. This is how God primarily speaks in His holiness today – and if we hear Him, we will become holy; become those who belong to God through Jesus Christ. That truly is something in which to rejoice.



**May 11
In Christ Alone is Power**

***Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.
Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that
shall tread down our enemies. (Ps. 60:11-12)***

Man can provide a certain amount of temporal help. But no man can deliver another from the forces of evil, or the forces of our own nature.

The help of man is VAIN when trials come – useless and futile – and, “the help of man,” includes help from the resources found within our own natural man, personality, wits, and will power. One of the purposes of God in allowing trials is to prove to us that there is NOTHING in us that we can call upon. He wants to bring us to the end of ourselves so that in seeing this Truth we might turn to Christ in faith for ALL.

In Christ alone can we tread down the true enemies – the spiritual forces of evil, along with our own nature. But God does not merely give us a power because of Christ – as if power is separate from Christ. Rather, He gives us Christ Himself – and the extent that we abide in Him by faith, Christ, the power of God, is there. (1 Cor. 1:24)



May 12
The Rock that is Higher Than I

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. (Ps. 61:2)

Imagine a great flood coming down upon you. The power and the depth of the waters are going to completely overwhelm you. You have no time to escape. But just a short distance away there is a large ROCK – it is higher than your height; higher than the depth of the waters. Get upon that Rock and you will escape the flood.

This is what is being pictured in this Psalm. You will note that there is no thought here of God removing the waters, or of Him even removing you from the path of the waters. No. Rather, there is only a Rock that is higher than you – a Rock that will lift you above the waters. Jesus Christ is that Rock and He cannot be moved.

This is what God often seeks to do in the life of the believer. God will not spare us trials. But He will reveal to us His Son in a way that will enable us to abide in Christ ABOVE the trials – that is, the trials will not drag us

down under IF we will run to the Rock. Instead of living from out of our soul, we will learn to live from out of Christ by the power of His resurrection.

Believers MUST learn this Truth by experience. We MUST learn to live from out of Christ, Who is the Rock that is higher than ourselves. Only then will the victory of Christ that He won FOR us be worked out IN US.



May 13
The Strong Tower

For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. (Ps. 61:3-4)

One of the most often repeated themes of the Psalms is the faithfulness of God. Again and again we are told that God is our strength, our strong tower, our fortress, etc. Of course, all of this points towards the Truth that Jesus Christ in us is our life and our ALL. He alone is our salvation.

But we do have to believe. God is not going to come down and grab ahold of us and make our fears, hurts, and unbelief to go away. No. We must believe – and if we believe – at some point we must deliberately and proactively put our faith in Christ as our shelter, our tabernacle, and come under, “His wings.” And then, having done that, we must refuse to be moved.

Never think that if you put your faith in Jesus Christ that you will FEEL strong, or FEEL as if God is with you. No. This is not about how you FEEL – it is about HIS faithfulness regardless of how you feel. Once we choose to deliberately put our faith in Christ we need to keep it there through the same resolve. God has promised, and we must decide, despite anything that would suggest otherwise, whether we believe Him.



May 14
Waiting Upon God

Truly my soul waits upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. (Ps. 62:1-2)

One of the most difficult things to do is WAIT UPON GOD. When things are going bad, and we are perhaps suffering loss, it is so easy to want to take action. But despite the temperamental nature of our natural soul – despite the tendency to want to DO something -- we need to wait upon God.

This is not to suggest that life in Christ is a life of passivity – a life of simply waiting for God to do something. Of course, there are seasons just like that – wherein we can do nothing. But even if we are in such a season, we can proactively take possession of all that Christ is by faith – we can be quite active in our faith all the while waiting upon God in the outward.

To WAIT upon God is simply a matter of giving yourself to Him for His will. It is a matter of wanting nothing more, and nothing less, than what He wants – and we can desire this even if we do not know what He wants. We wait upon God in the sense of refusing to act from out of our will, our flesh, and from out of our agenda. No. We want only to move in faith according to His will in Jesus Christ.



May 15
Our Humanity

Truly my soul waits upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. (Ps. 62:1-2)

This phrase, “I shall be GREATLY moved,” is encouraging, because it shows it is possible for a person to be in turmoil emotionally – to be as unstable as can be in their natural man – yet to nevertheless be trusting the Lord.

Do we realize that we cannot believe God with our emotions? Emotions are no indication of Truth or error – and neither do they indicate whether we believe one or

the other. Emotions are REACTORS. They are not the source of Truth, and they are not BELIEVERS.

If we were to believe our emotions we would be greatly moved. But if we believe and trust the Lord, we will not be GREATLY moved because He is the ROCK – He is never moved.

God knows our frame. He knows that emotionally we are usually all over the place. Emotions can move us – but if our faith is truly in Christ, they cannot move us but a little. We cannot be greatly moved if our trust is in Christ.



May 16
The Lord is My Salvation

Truly my soul waits upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. (Ps. 62:1-2)

Through Jesus Christ, God does not merely give us a THING, or a CLASSIFICATION, called, “salvation.” No. Rather, Christ in us IS our salvation.

Jesus said, “I am the LIFE.” Thus, if we are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17), we are alive in Him – indeed, He IS our life. (Col. 3:4) There is no life apart from being joined in spirit to Jesus Christ.

If Jesus Christ is our life; is our salvation – then can we see why Paul is able to say that, “God has given us ALL THINGS freely in His Son?” (Rom. 8:32) For what is not included in LIFE? Nothing, except death. Therefore, if Jesus Christ is our life, then Jesus Christ is our ALL. All that God has for humanity is given in the Person of Jesus Christ with Whom we are made one in spirit.



May 17
Living By Faith

Trust in Him at all times. (Ps. 62:8)

Christians are to walk by faith – that is why they are called BELIEVERS. This means that we believe and trust God continually – not just when things go bad. To trust God at all times is really a matter of having lost our lives to Him – a matter of fully relinquishing ourselves to Him.

Faith is NOT a FORCE. Those who teach that faith is a force are betraying an incredible blindness to the Truth of God. Rather, faith is a RELATIONSHIP. It is a relationship of trust, reliance, and dependence – it is the motivation behind a LIFE that is fully given over to Jesus Christ.

A believer is to trust God at all times – both during the good times and the bad times. We are to trust God at ALL times because regardless, He is our life and Lord.



May 18
The Shadow of His Wings

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. (Ps. 63:7)

There is protection, “under His wings,” but sometimes when we are under His wings we are in a shadow. Things are dark to us; we do not understand the One who protects us. But that is perfectly fine. It is not necessary to fully understand God in order to trust Him. We can trust that HE understands, and will be faithful to us.

Hebrews states, “Without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder (responder) to them that diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6) In order to come under His wings – to draw near to God -- we must believe that He is there for us. We must believe He has invited us to come – and that He will welcome us with open arms. This is faith in not only the Word of God, but in His character as faithful.

We will never come to understand God through brainpower. But the Bible says, “by faith we understand.” (Heb. 11:3) So God will bring understanding – but it can happen only if we first believe and abide under His wings.



May 19
The Wiles of the Devil

Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: (Ps. 64:2)

Regarding Satan, Paul said, "We are not ignorant of his devices." (II Cor. 2:11) The Greek word for, "devices," means, "a calculated method." Satan has a calculated method as to how to cause believers to stumble.

The access point of Satan in the life of the believer is the SOUL nature – the natural man. Satan knows our vulnerable points. And while he cannot touch the new man in Christ, and cannot force even our natural man to do anything, he will attempt to deceive us – he will attempt to play upon our soul in way calculated to getting us to voluntarily choose error.

For example, if we are given to believing our emotions, Satan will incite emotions that will make us FEEL as if God is unfaithful. Or he will seek to make us FEAR – and then get us to act from out of that fear.

These are the, "counsels of the wicked." Our prayer to God is that He might keep us alive and alert to Christ; that He might reveal Christ in us so that regardless of the devices of Satan we will continue in the Truth. The, "hiding place," from deception is Jesus Christ – we need to keep an open heart that will embrace the Truth in Christ as God reveals Him.



May 20
Glad in the Lord

The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory. (Ps. 64:10)

Often when God is working we don't fully understand what He is doing. It may even seem as if He is doing NOTHING, or that He is indifferent to us. The purpose of

God mandates such seasons of silence, perplexity, and struggle, because IF we press on in Christ we will come into a greater realization of Him, and grow in faith. And when we do come into a greater knowledge of Jesus we will be GLAD – we will rejoice in those times that seemed to be so impossible while we were in them.

Many mature saints can testify to the fact that as difficult as some trials have been – they would not trade them for anything. For what there is of Christ that they have seen is priceless – and they could have seen in no other way.

Jesus said, “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man takes from you.” (John 16:21-22) This is a spiritual picture of how this principle works. When we are, “in labor,” our attention is upon the pain. But when, “the child is born,” we no longer focus upon the pain, but upon the child. At that point, we are GLAD for what God has done; GLAD in the Lord.



May 21
A New Humanity in Christ

Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away. (Ps. 65:3)

The fundamental problem with humanity is not found in what we DO. Rather, it is found in what we ARE. And that is precisely why, if left to ourselves, iniquity will always prevail. You cannot solve what you ARE with law. You might alter your outward conduct to a degree, but just about the only impact you will have upon the inward man is that you will make a self-righteous Pharisee out of yourself. And that is also SIN – and in some cases – a worse condition.

The only way in which to solve the problem of what you are is to become something else. But there is no way for us to accomplish this – because we have only the same corrupt US to do the job. Thus, we need ANOTHER – One

who is, “other than ourselves” to do this for us. We need this OTHER to make it possible for us to become a different kind of human being.

Through Jesus Christ, God has not simply fixed what is wrong with the Adam race. Rather, He has brought a final end to the Adam race through the death of Christ. But then through His resurrection there is a NEW race – a different kind of humanity. This, “new man,” is one who is one with God.

This means that God has done more than must fix what we DO. He has, in His Son, fixed what we are. We were born in Adam. But now we have been born from above in Christ Jesus.



May 22
An Awesome Righteousness

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; (Ps. 65:5)

When the English translation of the OT uses the word, “terrible,” it usually misses the mark. The Hebrew word really speaks of that which is AWESOME and IMMENSE. The Psalmist is declaring that, “by AWESOME things in righteousness,” God will answer.”

You will note that everything that God does – and every revelation of Himself that God gives – is in RIGHTEOUSNESS. Sure. God IS righteousness; Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God in a Person. In fact, God has made Jesus to be unto US – righteousness. (I Cor. 1:30) Never say that God will reveal Himself any old way – that He will compromise with Himself in order to approach humanity. No. He never has and never will. God is calling humanity to Jesus Christ. We are to be adjusted to Him – not He to us.

Righteousness is simply a matter of being, yes, “right with God,” but more so, “righteousness,” is a matter of being, “right FOR God.” We are to live at one with God forever in Christ Jesus. This is indeed AWESOME – and all of God’s doings are unto that end.



May 23
He Who Holds Us

O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: Which holds our soul in life, and suffers not our feet to be moved. (Ps. 66:8-9)

Each child of God is in His hand. That means that there is nothing that can come into our lives except it be either permitted, or willed, by our Heavenly Father. That ought to be a great comfort. For in the life of the believer there is going to be suffering, and even loss. Yet the God who holds us neither slumbers nor sleeps. As Jesus said, "Your Heavenly Father knows."

There are believers who think that they are at the mercy of the forces of darkness or at the mercy of men. Sometimes they blame their own sin and unbelief on these forces – as if something came upon them and made them do what they did not want to do. No. If you trust God NOTHING can move you. God will not allow it.

It is possible for us to get out of God's will through unbelief. But in that case, God has not given us over to forces that are beyond us. No. Rather, WE have moved outside of the will of God by our own choice. Yet any consequences that come upon us will be used by God to bring us to repentance and turn us back to Him. They are the chastisements of the Lord.

If we keep our heart open to God and walk with Him in faith as far as we know – and how can do more than, "as far as we know?" – then God will not allow anything beyond us to force our feet to be moved from our stand in Christ by faith. The Lord has us in His hand.



May 24
The Trial of Faith

For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. Thou brought us into the net; thou laid affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to

***ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou brought us out into a wealthy place.
(Ps. 66:10-12)***

In his epistle, Peter states, “the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire.” In this verse he is not referring to gold as precious, although it is. He is saying that the TRIAL itself – the trial of faith is more precious than a trial of gold.

HOW and WHY is gold tried? Gold is tried by fire, but not in order to find out if it IS gold. No. Gold is tried to PURIFY it – to make it pure gold without mixture. And in that process all of the impurities are brought out, come to the surface, and are discarded. This is all typical of the trial of faith – in the process there is a lot of ugliness that is brought to the surface. But if we confess and repent and stand fast by faith in Christ, what will emerge is a more pure faith.

Is this not, “a wealthy place?” When we have passed through the suffering and have a greater realization of Jesus Christ – it is then that we have discovered great wealth – the pearl of great price – the Person of Jesus Christ. And because we have a greater realization of Him, our faith is all the more pure – solely in Him.



**May 25
No Place for Iniquity**

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. (Ps. 66:18-19)

“To regard,” iniquity in my heart would be to make a home for it. It would mean that I want it; that I justify it.

Now, don't misunderstand. Simply because iniquity APPEALS to my flesh, or makes me feel good, does not mean I have made a home for it. The issue here is MY WILL. It is quite possible to be entangled in a sinful habit and yet hate it. In that case, I am not regarding iniquity. I am crying out to God for deliverance.

There are a number of ways to, “regard iniquity.” For example, we could simply try to hide it; or close off a portion of our life from God. Or, we could refuse to cry out to God for deliverance. Another way to regard iniquity would be to, “make provision for the flesh” – in other words, reserve a reservation for sin.

But for a Christian, this cannot go on for long – the conviction of the spirit of God is going to abide upon such a person. If, despite our abiding sin, we turn to God and ask Him, “to do whatever it takes,” to set us free, then we are not regarding iniquity – rather, we are regarding Jesus Christ.



May 26
The Kingdom of God

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. (Ps. 67:4)

The kingdom of God is not merely a PLACE over which God rules. No. Rather, the kingdom of God is God’s rule itself – it is His sovereignty. Places and people are IN the kingdom if God governs them.

This is why Jesus stated that, “the kingdom of God does not come in a way that can be observed with the eyes....the kingdom of God is within you.” (see Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus Christ IN HIS PEOPLE is the kingdom of God at the core – Jesus is the King, and all those over which He rules are IN the kingdom; the kingdom is in them. This is the basis of the kingdom of God: Jesus Christ in us.

It would not be much of a kingdom of God if people in whom there was no kingdom populated it. It would be a hollow shell. No. The kingdom of God is first IN God’s people through Christ. That is being established in this age. But then, in the next age, on the basis of Christ in His people, Jesus Christ will govern all of the nations of the earth.



May 27
Let God Arise

Let God arise. (Ps. 68:1)

God is NOT doing, “a new thing,” today. Rather, He is doing exactly what He has always been doing: Revealing Christ in His people. But rather than be a passive or static purpose, God’s purpose is continually upward. Let God arise – in other words, let God move us on into the fullness of Jesus Christ.

The problem is that most people have not seen what God is doing. Thus, when God arises, we cling to tradition. We cling to our comfort zones. Therefore, we won’t join Him. We cling to the same old religious practices and beliefs – and remain blind to Jesus Christ.

We can always tell when God arises and wants to take us on – our faith will be exposed as having been in dead religion. We will not be able to stay in that place; in that hollow relationship with God. We will arise with God and allow Him to reveal in us His Son.



May 28
Spiritual Gifts

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them. (Ps. 68:18)

Paul, in his epistle to the Ephesians, quotes this Psalm: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he says, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Eph. 4:7-8)

You will note that Paul changes the wording. The Psalm says that Christ RECEIVED gifts for men. Paul quotes it as Christ GIVING gifts unto men. Which is true? Both. Jesus RECEIVED gifts for men so that He could GIVE gifts

to men. And you will also note that the gifts spoken of are ALL of, “the gift of Christ.”

People make the mistake of chopping up what God has given us into two categories: What is in Jesus, and what is in the Spirit of God. Usually, salvation is attributed to Christ, and everything else is attributed to the Holy Spirit. This is never done in the Bible. God has freely given us ALL THINGS in Jesus Christ. But Jesus dwells in us by the means of the Holy Spirit. What this means is that ALL is of Christ – the fruits, the gifts, etc. Sure. Christ is our life, and everything is of His life.

What this means is that even the gifts of the spirit are of Christ Himself – unto the edification of the body. There are not two sources of what God has given. There is ONE: Jesus Christ, but through the spirit of God.



May 29
Victory Over Death

***He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto
GOD the Lord belong the issues from death. (Ps.
68:20)***

This Psalm does not say that death issues from God. No. It says that the issues of death belong to God. It is a prophecy of the full victory of Jesus Christ over death itself.

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, it was not a matter of God simply reversing His death. Rather, it was a matter of Jesus fully tasting death for all humanity, passing through it, and being raised a NEW creation. In other words, Jesus did not walk out of the tomb exactly as He was before He was crucified. No. He arose as the first-born from out of death – a brand new creation; a brand new kind of humanity.

This was a full victory over death: To taste death and be raised; to pass through death and not to be able to be held by it. As Paul says, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the

strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."



May 30
Strength in the Clouds

Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that gives strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God. (Ps. 68:34-35)

God's strength is, "in the clouds." This is a prophetic reference to the fact that God is not only a spirit, but governs all by His spirit. In context, this is why the Psalm says that God's excellency is over Israel and is awesome out of the holy places.

We tend to think of the spiritual as LESS real and even as LESS powerful than the physical. But the opposite is really the Truth. Indeed, the way in which God today, "gives strength and power unto His people," is not physically. God gives power IN CHRIST, Who is the power of God. (I Cor. 1:24)

Before Jesus ascended, He said that He had been given all power and authority. That leaves NONE outside of Him. Thus, God does not give us an amount of power and authority. No. Rather, He gives us Christ – in whom is all power and authority. Therefore, it is only as we are made weak in ourselves, and abide in Christ, that the power of Christ can work in our lives.



May 31
Christ, the Solid Ground

Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. (Ps. 69:1-3)

Here we see a picture of a person who is being tossed to and fro by the trials of life and the forces of the enemy. Pictured by waters, the trials of life not only surround him -- but have gotten inside of him. It is one thing to be IN difficult circumstances, but it is quite another once they get INTO US – and begin to move us from faith in Jesus Christ.

This really IS the battle – to be able to walk through the waters and the flood and to get wet on the outside, but to stand fast by faith on the inside. And yet there isn't any way to grow to be able to do that except by experience.

God may allow us to come to the end of our rope – as is pictured in this Psalm. But that is good because we need a new rope – Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only solid ground upon which a believer can stand against the floodwaters of the enemy.



June 1
The All Knowing God

O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. (Ps. 69:5)

If you have spent any time around little children, you know that one of the things that they do when they don't want you to see them is cover their eyes. Somehow, in their little minds, they think that if they cannot see you that you cannot see them. What really happens, however, is that they cannot see you but you certainly can see them.

People do this with God. In our deceived minds, we think that we can hide our sin from God. We cover it. Often, this is not even deliberate. It is simply what human beings do. Examine Adam after his sin. He covered his nakedness with fig leaves. Human beings have been doing the same thing ever since.

We need to realize that nothing we do can hide us from God. No fig leaf, no wall, no barrier, and no exercise of our imagination, can keep Him from seeing us. But it is a fact that every one of those things can keep us from seeing God. When those little children try to keep us from

seeing them by covering their eyes, all they accomplish is to blind themselves. They cannot see us.

God already knows our sin. He knows everything about us. The conviction that He brings is simply Him showing us what He has always known. And our confession of our sin is not news to God. Confession is simply a matter of us saying the same thing about ourselves as God has always said.

But – all of this is nothing more than what happens when a person is brought into the light and sees the Truth. May God give us the grace to stand before Him in the light – because it is in the light that we shall see Jesus Christ.



June 2
Reproach for the Name of Jesus

***Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame
hath covered my face. (Ps. 69:7)***

It is possible to bring persecution upon yourself, not for the sake of Jesus, but for your own sake. There are people who try to force their beliefs on others and if the reception is hostile, they paint themselves as martyrs for Christ. There have also been thousands who have been literally martyred for error and heresy. They have died, not for Jesus Christ, but for their religion.

Those who truly bear reproach for Jesus Christ usually make no effort to do so -- they are walking with Him and the reproach comes. It may come from the outside; from others. But the greatest reproach a believer can bear is the one that no one knows about; that cannot necessarily be seen. It is the reproach of the Cross. If we carry our Cross and follow Jesus Christ it is going to cost us our ownership over ourselves. It will bring upon us suffering that would otherwise not happen. To natural thinking, this is foolishness. It is a shame and a waste.

The reason such experiences are, "for the sake of Jesus," is that He is receiving IN US that which fulfills His purpose. He is receiving a people in whom He can live and move, and ultimately, govern -- even unto the eternal ages. It is true that we also receive great spiritual riches

in Christ. But in the end, this is all for HIS SAKE and for HIS GLORY.



June 3
Knowing No One After the Flesh

I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. (Ps. 69:8)

It is never God's will to destroy families -- not even if a believer's family is hostile to Christ. If there arises division in such a family, it ought to be because those hostile to Christ cause it. Believers cannot be part of many things, but this does not always mandate a complete separation. Division should never be the result of a believer taking the position of superiority or of self-righteousness. In short, people are going to separate themselves from believers because of Jesus Christ -- but let it be because of Christ, and not because of the believer.

That being said, our relationship with Jesus Christ must take precedent even within the body of Christ and within Christian families. Paul said, "Henceforth we know no one after the flesh." (II Cor. 5:16) Why? Because each believer is a NEW CREATION in Christ Jesus. (II Cor. 5:17) This does not negate natural relationships, but it means that our relationship with Jesus Christ governs all. It means that natural gifts and natural personality are NOT what matter most. What matters is the edification of Jesus Christ in each believer. In short, our natural relationships ought to never govern or distort our relationship with Christ, but rather, our relationship with Christ ought to govern all of our natural relationships.

If you examine this principle, you will see that if our relationship with Christ governs all of our other relationships, those natural relationships will, as far as it depends upon us, be all the more healthy. Christ is the Truth and in Him there is love.



June 4
Zeal for God's House

***For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the
reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen
upon me. (Ps. 69:9)***

Zeal for the house of God, if it is out from the spirit of God, will be a by-product of devotion to Jesus Christ. There is a human zeal -- a dedication to my religion and a desire to force it upon others -- that is the result of religious flesh. But Godly zeal is not only from out of a dedication to Jesus Christ, but it is from out of a love for others who do not know Him.

If we are reproached, let it be because the reproach is really against Christ -- and not because we have operated out of our own flesh.

Zeal FOR the house of God is not zeal AGAINST the house of God. The spirit that governs a Godly zeal is one that is FOR God -- and is not defined by what a person is AGAINST. There are lots of people today who have appointed themselves, "watchdogs," in the house of God; they are here to straighten everyone else out. But there is no such ministry that is of God. Ministry that is of God is FOR Jesus Christ. By definition, that will put it AGAINST many who preach error. But if the spirit of Christ is in such a ministry the Truth will be spoken in love -- the intent behind it will not be to condemn, but to save and restore those who are in error back into the Truth.



June 5
Gall and Vinegar

***They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst
they gave me vinegar to drink. (Ps. 69:21)***

When Jesus hung on the Cross He obviously thirsted. Water would have in a small way relieved His suffering. But instead, they gave Him vinegar. It was like adding, "insult to injury." It was really another way of mocking Him.

There are going to be times in the Christian life just like that – we may be praying for relief from suffering – and what we get is something that taunts our faith; something that makes it worse. During those times it is easy to despair and wonder whether God has forsaken you.

The believer has to get it settled: God cannot forsake you. Even if you are out of God's will or in unbelief, if Christ dwells in you, God cannot forsake you. That doesn't mean that God affirms you or your choices. But it does mean that even if you are out of His way He is with you to convict you and turn you back to the Truth in Christ.

Believers need to follow the example of Jesus Christ. Despite the horrible death He was dying, and the very real physical suffering and mocking that He endured, and despite His cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?", He nevertheless held fast in faith. Despite it all, His life ended with a surrender to His Father: "Into Your hands I commit my spirit." He knew that He was indeed in the hands of the Father.



June 6
When God Gives People Over

Add iniquity unto their iniquity. (Ps. 69:27)

God is never the author of, or cause of, iniquity. But when a person has already been given light, yet refuses it – and continues to refuse it – God will give a person over to the iniquity they have chosen. But even in that there is a redemptive purpose: God will allow them to fully experience the consequences of what they have chosen, so that they might turn back to Him.

Paul explains this same principle in Romans:

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections. (Rom. 1:24,26)

The specific sin that Paul is discussing in Romans 1 is homosexuality, but the principle can apply to ANY sin. What God is saying is that the penalty for choosing

darkness IS darkness – and all that comes with it. The penalty for giving yourself over to the flesh is that you get the flesh – and there is a point at which God gives you over to it.

One of the most terrifying consequences of sin is that you become so callous to it that you no longer even realize what you are doing to your self. That is why people can sin in some terrible ways and yet seem to have no consciousness of sin. That lack of consciousness of sin is often not because they are ignorant. No. It is because they have, “suppressed the Truth in their unrighteousness.” They have BECOME someone in whom there is no place for the light of Jesus Christ.

God wants to redeem all. But make no question, if someone rejects God, they will become someone who is a product of their own rejection –a person who has a darkened mind with no moral conscience because that is what they have reaped from out of the rebellion they have sowed.



June 7
Prisoners of the Lord

For the LORD hears the poor, and despises not his prisoners. (Ps. 69:33)

Paul, the apostle, called himself, “a prisoner of the Lord,” yes, because he was arrested for preaching the gospel – but more than that – he was, “a prisoner of the Lord,” because God had allowed this to happen so that God could do the work of forming Christ within Paul. But this was not merely FOR PAUL – but for the Lord, so that Paul could be used of Him, and glorify Him.

We may not be put in an actual prison because we are a Christian, but it is entirely within the possibility of God’s will that He would shut us up to Himself – isolate us from other believers, or ordain that we pass through long seasons of outward activity. It might seem as if God is wasting us or that we are of no use to Him. But this is not necessarily the case at all. Every saint that God ever used had a long and difficult background and history with

God – wherein God established in them a revelation of Himself in Christ. Sometimes that requires a prison.

Paul probably had no idea that he was writing anything more than a group of inspired letters to churches. John, while imprisoned on Patmos, obeyed God and recorded his vision in a book – and it became The Book of Revelation. It is likely that neither realized their writings would be part of the Bible – read by millions down through two-thousand years. But both wrote much of what they wrote from prison – they wrote it from out of their knowledge of Jesus Christ.



June 8
Possession of Zion

For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. The seed also of his servants shall inherit it: and they that love his name shall dwell therein. (Ps. 69:35-36)

Zion is a type and shadow of the body of Christ having come into the fullness of Christ – the IDEAL, if you will, of God's purpose for His people. Thus, when the Psalmist speaks of God building the cities of Judah, and of people inheriting and dwelling therein, He is talking about the New Testament reality of, "Christ in you," and our experiencing of Christ.

The Promised Land was also a type and a shadow of fullness in Christ. The Promised Land was the inheritance God had given Israel. They were to take possession of it, and dwell therein. This is the same principle.

You will note that God promises to, "build the cities of Judah." This speaks of the building up of believers in Jesus Christ. Christ alone is the Rock upon which the church is built – and it is God's intention and purpose to have a, "Zion," in whom He does this building.



June 9
Let God Be Magnified

***Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:
and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let
God be magnified. (Ps. 70:4)***

Unsaved humanity, as well as Christians who are living under the power of their religious flesh and their natural mind, are, “naturally,” occupied with themselves. This is really ALL that they can be – it is what the natural, or soul man, does; it is ALL that it does. Only if we have come into a degree of realization of Jesus Christ is it possible for us to be less occupied with ourselves and more occupied with HIM. We must decrease that He might increase.

Certainly, a believer ought to grow to WANT to magnify the Lord. But if a believer is actually experiencing Jesus Christ, that believer WILL magnify the Lord. It will happen. But it will not be the product of religious effort. It will simply be the fruit that results from abiding in the Vine.

Someone once said that those who magnify the Lord the most are the least aware of it. That is because such a person is not continually self-focused and putting forth a religious effort to magnify Christ. Rather, then are so focused on Christ that Christ is seen in and through them.

This is, of course, utterly contrary to the thinking of natural man. But it ought to be. For it is not the product of natural man, but of the spirit of Christ magnifying Christ in people.



June 10
The Solution for Confusion

***In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put
to confusion. (Ps. 71:1)***

The cure for confusion is faith in God. We may not yet understand, but if we believe and rest in God it will break the spirit of confusion.

The reason this is the case is because for a Christian, confusion is often the result of being caught in between faith and unbelief. Deliberately decide whether you believe God, and take your stand by faith. Refuse to be moved. If your faith is real -- you may understand no more than before -- but you will no longer be in turmoil.

God is neither the author or source of confusion. No. God is LIGHT, and in Him there is no darkness at all. The cause of confusion is always found in US. And God never says that the solution is INFORMATION. The solution is FAITH -- based on the REVELATION that God is true.



June 11
Deliverance in His Righteousness

Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. (Ps. 71:2)

Sometimes it is easy to skip over the wording in a Bible verse, thinking that perhaps it is a translation issue. But this verse means what it says: God delivers IN His righteousness. Not only does this mean that God never compromises with His righteousness, even when He delivers His people, but it also points to the Truth that God's righteousness, indeed, His, "way of escape," is a Person who is righteousness personified: Jesus Christ.

Real deliverance isn't outward – although outward deliverance may be part of God's will. But real deliverance is inward – it is when I can be in outward circumstances, yet unmoved from my inward life in Jesus Christ, that I am truly delivered and truly free.

When God delivers us in an inward way, He will deliver us INTO His Son – we will be delivered INTO His righteousness. Can we see that this inward deliverance would never be something I would experience if every time I encountered difficult outward circumstances God lifted me out of them? The only way in which the victory of Jesus Christ can be made real in me is if I am subjected to that which is contrary to Him – and I learn to stand fast by faith in Him.

It is easy to talk about untested faith and unchallenged victory. Those must be tested if Christ is to actually become my life and the object of my faith.



June 12
A Strong Habitation

Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. (Ps. 71:3)

Jesus Christ is the habitation of the Christian. Paul said, "If any man be IN CHRIST he is a new creation." (II Cor. 5:17) Indeed, Jesus Christ Himself said, "In My Father's house there are many dwelling places." (see John 14:2-3) He was, in picture form, referring to HIMSELF as, "the Father's house." If we are IN CHRIST, we are in the Father's house – He is our dwelling place.

Jesus also said that He was going, "to prepare a place for us." In other words, during these last two-thousand years, Jesus Christ has been adjusting His people to Himself – making it possible for His people to live in Him forever: "That where I am you may also be."

The more we walk with Christ by faith, the more we will see that He is our Rock, our fortress, and our salvation. Life in Christ is the only protection from the forces of evil.



June 13
The Secret of the Believer

I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. (Ps. 71:7)

Someone who is walking with Jesus Christ is not going to be weird. They are not going to come across as a religious fanatic. Neither will they get in people's faces because of their faith. But there are going to be seasons and situations wherein believers will seem strange,

foolish, and a wonder to those who don't know Jesus Christ.

The secret of the believer is that they are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him. They are living in this world on a basis that is entirely OTHER THAN the way most people live. They are not living for this life, but for Christ. This will not only translate into attitude, but into conduct. Christians will not talk like the world. They will not act, or react, like the world. There will be something about a person who knows Jesus Christ that raises questions in the mind of those who don't know Him.

Of course, it is possible to fake some of this through religion. But the primary reason why believers are wonders to the world is that they are not controlled by the world, but by a life that is in them that is not of this world, but which is a Person.



June 14
Occupied With Jesus Christ

My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. (Ps. 71:15-16)

There are many believers who cannot seem to stop talking about themselves – their faith, their victory, and their accomplishments for God. Others take the negative approach. They are always talking about how much they have suffered for God, their sin, their problems, and their needs. But whether we are talking about ourselves in a positive way or a negative way, it all comes from the same source: Occupation with self.

Now, of course, this is really all any of us can do – be occupied with self – if we are not joined to the Lord. For if we are not joined to the Lord, ourselves is all we have.

But today, occupation with self has become the norm for Christians – there are people teaching that this is good and right; that loving yourself is the key to loving God; that discovering yourself is God's will, and the key to

knowing Him. All of this is the same problem: Occupation with self.

Unless we have seen Jesus Christ, we will have no frame of reference for anything but occupation with self. In that case, we will continue to believe that God wants to deliver us out of low self-esteem into high self-esteem – both of which are SELF-occupation. But no. God wants to deliver us out of SELF altogether into a governing realization of Jesus Christ.

A person who is growing to know Christ will, virtually without forethought, have a mouth that speaks of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, rather than their own. They will speak of the strength of the Lord God, rather than their own strength, or of their lack of strength. This will be their focus, not because of some religious tenet, but because it is the Truth about their relationship with Christ



June 15
Life from Death

***Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles,
shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again
from the depths of the earth. (Ps. 71:20)***

It is easy to talk about the principle of, “life from death,” in the Christian experience, but altogether another thing to actually DIE and be RAISED. For the primary, “death,” that will result from walking with Jesus Christ is the death of self-ownership; death to my right to myself. Included in that will be the death of self-righteousness. It will be necessary for me to have exposed everything about myself in which I have faith – exposed as a lie – so that I may put my faith in Christ.

These death and resurrection experiences are the only way in which we can be brought into the Truth and into an inward realization of Jesus Christ. We must be brought down to the depths. But not because God wants to put us down – but because it is the TRUTH that we are already down in the depths – we need to see it and cry out for help. But then, once we see the Truth about our condition in Adam, we can voluntarily carry our cross – all of which

will lead to a new realization of Jesus Christ. Resurrection in the purpose of God is only incidentally about circumstances in life. Real resurrection is a greater release IN ME of the life of the Son of God.



June 16
Judgment in Righteousness

Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. (Ps. 72:1-2)

Jesus Christ is, "the King's son," into whose hand is given all judgment – all who have ever lived will be judged by Jesus Christ.

But what does that really mean? Does it mean that Jesus will simply BE the judge? Note what Paul preached to the heathen on Mars Hill:

But the times of this ignorance God overlooked, but now commands men everywhere to repent. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (Acts 17:30-31)

These verses make things more clear. Yes, Jesus Christ will BE the judge. But the basis of His judgment will be HIMSELF. The entire human race is going to be judged according to what EACH has done with the light they have received – the basis of judgment will be the light each has received of Jesus Christ.

What have I done in response to the revelation of Jesus Christ? If Christ has been revealed to me, then I have seen my lost condition without Him. How have I responded? That is the question. John affirms this Truth:

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19)

Jesus Christ – THE light of God – is not only the judge, but is the basis of all judgment. If a person has never known about Jesus Christ – has never been given light – Paul says, “the times of this ignorance God has overlooked.” God cannot judge by light never given. But if a person has been given light – if light has come into their world – then Paul says, “NOW God commands repentance.”

The entire human race must be given light – the light of the Son of God – if all are to be judged by that light. This is eternal judgment from which there is no escape, and a promise that God will judge all humanity IN righteousness – that is, His judgments will be absolutely JUST and RIGHT and PERFECT.



June 17
A Clean Heart

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. (Ps. 73:1)

“A clean heart,” is not one that is merely free of immoral impurity. Rather, “a clean heart,” is one that is open, pure, and honest with God Himself. A heart like that gives God access. Works will eventually follow.

Jesus said much the same thing to His disciples. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters.”(Matt. 6:22-24)

In the original languages, “a single eye,” carries the same meaning as, “a clean heart.” The Greek in Matthew 6, “single,” means, “pure; free of folds.” This is a heart that in no part is folded up away from God – but is fully open to Him.

Believers are reprobates without Christ in us. (II Cor. 13:5) We sin and fail everyday. But Jesus Christ does

dwell in the believer, and by faith, we can keep our heart open, and our faith centered in Christ. And if we cannot seem to do that, then we can ask God, “to do whatever it takes,” to show us how. This is a clean heart; a single eye. It gives God access to do in us what we cannot do for ourselves – to bring us on in Jesus Christ.



June 18
Realizing the Purpose of God

But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (Ps. 73:2-3)

God is purifying the heart of each believer. And sooner or later we are going to have to face, and keep facing, a fundamental question: Will we continue walking with Christ even if it does NOT PAY US to do so? Indeed, will we follow Him if it COSTS us? – if it costs us control over our own lives?

There are going to be many times in the Christian life when following Jesus Christ will not seem to pay us at all. It may not be that we have suffered some great loss. Or maybe we have. But perhaps God has not blessed us in some outward, material way. We see that many who deny Christ have greatly prospered. And to us, this not only seems unfair, but it seems contrary to the promises of God.

If you and I are following Christ because we think it will prosper us financially or materially, we are in for a rude awakening. It is not that God never blesses people in that way, but if that is our motive for following Him He is going to have to deal with it. He must do so for our own good – it is part of what it means to be led into all Truth.

The promises of God on this matter are clear. Jesus said, “Seek you first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matt. 6:33) In other words, lose your life to Jesus Christ – to the Christ who lives in you – and abandon yourself to His Lordship – and within His Lordship, God will add all that fits His plan and purpose. That is God’s promise. It is a clear statement of His will for His people.



June 19
Freedom from the Chains of Pride

***Therefore pride compasses them about as a chain.
(Ps. 73:6)***

The mind of natural man ("soulish man," as the Greek states) will usually reason that pride will set a person free. It just won't be called, "pride." More and more today, even in the body of Christ, people are being taught that the key to freedom is to, "discover who you are." Professing Christians are being taught that Jesus Christ died to release and bring out our greatness. There are ministries everywhere that are affirming and feeding the self-esteem of Christians.

It is true that many Christians are suffering from low-self esteem. But there are just as many suffering from high self-esteem. In other words, Christians are suffering from SELF. This is their chain of bondage, regardless of what form it takes.

The solution is NOT to try to get people to stop thinking of self in negative terms, and to start thinking of self in positive terms. Rather, believers need to be set free from self altogether – and the ONLY possible way is through an inward realization of Jesus Christ.

If a person sees Jesus Christ – and begins to experience a life-changing realization of Him – they will begin to leave themselves alone. They will begin to realize the folly of self-occupation. They will be caught up and set free from the chains of self-occupation through an inward knowledge of Jesus Christ.



June 20
The Sanctuary of God

***When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then
understood I their end. (Ps. 73:16-17)***

It is not possible to understand God, or to understand His purposes – either generally or specifically – until we begin to know Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is THE sanctuary of God. ALL discernment in the Christian life is a by-product of realizing HIM. Everything else is either brainpower or emotionalism.

This does not guarantee that we will ever understand many things. But in those cases where we cannot understand, we BELIEVE – “by faith we understand.” (Heb. 11:3) To understand by faith – to believe even if we don’t understand – is not a matter of, “checking our brains at the door.” No. It is a matter of understanding that God is faithful. In other words, there are matters in which we may not understand, but trust that it is sufficient that He understands.



June 21
Retrospection by Faith

So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holdme by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.
(Ps. 73:22-24)

One of the by-products of growing to know Jesus Christ is a realization of how foolish we have been in the past. It is normal to look back at those times in our lives when we thought we KNEW – but now realize we were ignorant, foolish, and arrogant. If we are not able to do that it is probably a sign that we have NOT grown in Christ.

There is great encouragement in this Psalm regarding our arrogance of the past. We are being told that even while we were walking in our ignorance – IF our heart was at least seeking the Lord – He was holding us by the hand. In other words, we may have done, and said, many foolish things; many things that were contrary to the Truth in Christ. But it is possible to do such things – yet by faith to be seeking God. If that was the case, God did not affirm our error, but He did have us by the hand for the purpose of leading us OUT of it into the Truth.

God's dealings with us are ALWAYS unto redemption. He is always seeking to guide us out of error into the Truth. During our times of ignorance, we do not realize how foolish we are, and we do not realize how much we need His faithfulness – but nevertheless He is faithful to us for Jesus' sake.



June 22
The Strength of Our Heart

My flesh and my heart fails: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
(Ps. 73:26)

The strength of one's heart is the strength of one's WILL and resolve. If left to ourselves we would fail. It would only be a matter of encountering something that is too much for us. But if our faith is in Jesus Christ, then we are not left to ourselves. We are left to HIM.

It is a great thing to belong to One who knows all, and with Whom all things are possible. We can have the certainty that if we trust Him, and give ourselves to Him, that He will always do HIS WILL. Note that: His will, not OUR will. God always wants to do HIS WILL – that is why it IS His will. And if we ask Him to do it, "no matter what it takes," it is a certainty that He will do it.

There is not strength in our flesh. Of course, one of the greatest deceptions is to think that there is. But as noted, a big enough trial will expose the flesh for what it is – weak and self-centered. But trials provide the motivation to discover the greatest Truth of all: That God is eternally faithful. That Jesus Christ in us is the power and strength of God. Those who put their trust in God will never be ashamed.



June 23
Defiling the Sanctuary

They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground. (Ps. 74:7)

The sanctuary of God is the body of Christ – it is the Person of Jesus Christ in His people. Thus, there is the corporate sanctuary, the church, but there is also the individual. Each believer is a temple of God. Today as never before, this sanctuary has been defiled.

There are many ways in which the sanctuary of God might be defiled. But generally, it is defiled by living as if we belong to ourselves, rather than to Christ. This always results, at the very least, in MIXTURE – we mix in with Christ that which is contrary to Him. Probably the most common defilement is to mix the natural or soulish with the spiritual. There is also false teaching and immorality. The result is a defiled Christ – “another Jesus.”

Paul spoke to this issue in many of his epistles. But perhaps his strongest comments were made to the Corinthians:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (I Cor. 3:16-17)

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is outside the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (I Cor. 6:17-20)

Here we see that the body of Christ is the temple of God, but that each believer is also the temple of God. Paul is basing his comments on the fact that we do NOT belong to ourselves – we belong to Christ; we are ONE with Christ. Therefore, to live as if we do belong to ourselves IS, in itself defilement, and the actions and choices that arise from this violation of Christ are simply the fruits.



June 24
The Sovereign Hand of God

For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another. (Ps. 75:6-7)

There is a misunderstanding about the sovereignty of God that would suggest that if God is sovereign then everything that happens in this world is His will. But this is not the Truth. God is sovereign. But that means that He is just as able to take His hand OFF of this world as He is to put His hand ON it. The fact is, very little in this world is the will of God. In His sovereignty, He has chosen to take His hand OFF and allow people to do as they please.

God takes His hand OFF of this world – and takes His hand OFF of the lives of people – because of a greater purpose: He must allow evil to be proven to BE evil and destructive. He must allow humanity to come to the end of itself. Only then will some come to Christ. Thus, even when God takes His hand OFF it is unto a redemptive purpose – and as it is generally, so it is in individual lives.

This issue of promotion is a case in point. Did God promote Hitler to do the evil that he did? Was Hitler God's will? Certainly, God allowed Hitler to come to power. We might even say that God allows such evil as a judgment – God takes His hand OFF and allows humanity to bring consequences upon itself – that is one way God judges. But it is not true to say that God ever wills evil. No. He allows it.

The idea that all authority is OF God and must be unconditionally obeyed is not only unbiblical but also dangerous. If that were the case then it was contrary to the will of God to overthrow Hitler. No. We are to obey God rather than men. That applies not only to the civil authority of this world, but to those in the church who occupy leadership positions.

Now, that being said, God certainly HAS seen to it that certain leaders came to power. But never say that because God ordained a leader to come to power that God ordains everything that leader does – or that Christians are commanded to follow the evil deeds of ANY leader – even within the church -- simply because God has allowed

them to come to power. It is possible for God to allow an evil leader to come to power so that His people might refuse to obey such a one -- in favor of obedience to HIM. God is sovereign, but His sovereignty is never a compromise with His character, righteousness, nor His purpose for His people.



June 25
The Sovereignty of God

Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. (Ps. 76:10)

God is utterly sovereign. But just as this means that God is able to put His hand ON a person or situation, it also means that God is able to take His hand OFF – and allow things to run their course outside of His control. This doesn't mean God is indifferent. It simply means He doesn't choose to determine all things. He has given humanity a free will.

The Psalmist says that God can turn even the WRATH of man into that which praises Him. One way is by allowing the wrath and evil of humanity to run its course. This is really in large part what God is doing in this age. He is allowing humanity to do evil so that evil might be shown to be evil –so that the consequences may be apparent to all who want to see the Truth. This is happening on a worldwide scale, but it is also happening in individual lives. Consequences for sin are judgments for sin – and if people will accept the Truth then what had been wrath in them towards God will be turned to praise.

Another way in which God turns the wrath of man to praise is by using even the evil efforts of the enemy as a tool to press his people to Christ. Victory must be experienced, and God will allow the wrath of man so that believers might, through faith, praise God all the more in Christ.

The Psalmist also says that God will RESTRAIN whatever He sees will not further His purpose. God allows evil so that the consequences may prove what is evil and what is righteous, and He uses it to press people to Christ. But He will not allow any evil that has no potential for turning wrath to praise. God is always redemptive.



June 26
A Common Infirmary

Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. (Ps. 77:9-10)

The Psalmist says, "THIS is my infirmity." What is he referring to as, "his infirmity?"

He is referring to his sense, and his fear, that God has forsaken Him. He is questioning the grace and mercy of God. Overwhelming circumstances have brought him to a place of despair and doubt. THIS is his infirmity.

There are trials in the life of the believer wherein we become emotionally overwhelmed. We get under a sense of fear. Not only do circumstances suggest that God has forsaken us, but those circumstances have gotten inside of us, and have choked off the Word of God. We now seem to be trapped within a spiritual environment where we cannot see God, and we cannot sense Him, and we don't know what to do next. This is an infirmity; a spiritual affliction from which there seems to be no escape.

The Psalmist answers, "I will remember...the Most High." When we are trapped in such an environment, there is absolutely NOTHING that is going to deliver us and break this spirit of fear except FAITH. We have to deliberately and willfully remember the TRUTH about God – despite all that is around us and within us – and BELIEVE. God is not going to come down and lift us OUT. Rather, He would say to us, "You have enough of a history with Me to believe Me – in spite of all that is contrary to it; despite of how you feel."

The Truth in these cases is OTHER THAN what we presently feel or can see. The Truth is in HIM. We have to stop outside of ourselves, and stop putting faith in what we feel. We must choose believe and refuse to be moved. And God has already commanded us to do so. If we will do this, and mean it, we will find the infirmity that besets

us dissipating. That is because we have connected to Jesus Christ by faith.



June 27
God's Way is in the Sea

***Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters,
and thy footsteps are not known. (Ps. 77:19)***

In the Christian life, God is not going to draw us a map of what lies ahead. He simply tells us His overall purpose in Christ and His means of achieving it. Then He tells us to walk with Him. We will rarely know the specifics of where we are going in Christ – but we can trust the One leading.

It has become common for believers to expect God to give them directions, leadings, and information, as to how to walk with Christ. Many have been taught to examine how they FEEL in order to determine the will of God. But there is very little in the Word of God to affirm such teaching. Rather than INFORMATION, God wants to give us REVELATION – of His Son. Christians are to walk, not according to emotions and feelings, not because they have, “marching orders” – but according to an inward realization of Jesus Christ.

If we know Christ, we will usually know what is OF HIM. If we know Jesus, we will discern His will – this is really the ONLY way to truly discern His will. As the believer comes into an inward knowledge of Jesus, the will of God that is IN HIM will likewise be unfolded.

This doesn't mean God will never specifically lead His people. But primarily God leads by a knowledge of Himself, which will always harmonize with the written Word. And much of the time, God will lead us even if we don't know He is leading. His footsteps may not be specifically know to us. His way might be, as it were, in the sea. But Jesus Christ is THE WAY of God, and ultimately all of God's will and purpose will lead us into a greater knowledge of HIM.



June 28
God's Use of Parables

I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: (Ps. 78:2)

Throughout the entire Bible, God uses parables. He uses type and shadow. He gives visions using events and objects to reveal Truth; to reveal His will. He ordains physical objects, such as the tabernacle in the wilderness, to express spiritual Truth. And He tells actual parabolic stories to illustrate spiritual Truth. Why?

Well, first of all, for every parable, or type and shadow, there is always much direct teaching in the Bible. The type and shadow always points to the reality of Jesus Christ. And every parable of Jesus – if not directly explained by Jesus – is found in the direct teaching of the epistles. So none of these parabolic methods stands as a mysterious substitute for the Truth. Rather, they all point to the Person of Jesus Christ and the Truth in Him.

But God uses these pictures because in them there is a great deal of detail that can be brought out in a very simple form. Consider that tabernacle in the wilderness. In the OT God gives specific instructions as to its construction and contents. But that is not God's point. The tabernacle is a type and shadow of Jesus Christ – and of God's full purpose for His people through Him. Study the tabernacle and you will discover incredible detail of the Truth in Christ that parallels the Truth in the NT.

God has given us a multitude of witnesses to the Truth in Christ. The parabolic method is one way He uses, direct teaching is another. But all of these point directly to the greatest witness of all: Christ in us, the hope of glory.



June 29
The Consequence of Getting Our Way

And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spoke against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? (Ps. 78:18-19)

God had provided for Israel in the wilderness with MANNA. They grew tired of the same old manna, and demanded that God give them meat to eat. There are times in the Christian life when we will have a, “wilderness experience.” We will be shut up unto the Lord. There will be nothing provided in our lives that will feed our flesh or soul life – our diet will solely consist of that which is of Jesus Christ, who is the true bread from heaven.

It is during those times of discipline – wherein we will have only that which feeds the spirit – that our flesh or soul life will cry out the most for satisfaction. We may repeat the error of Israel, and in fact, of Esau, in demanding that our natural man be fed. And if we persist in this enough, it may be that God will allow exact that to happen.

People who have stepped aside from the will of God into what satisfies their religious flesh are generally people who, at first, are happy and at peace. That is because they have gotten what they want. They are satisfied. They may even convince themselves that God has fed them. But there will be a day of reckoning down the road. It is not necessarily that God is going to punish them. Rather, what they chose will punish them. There may be outward consequences or there may not – but the greatest consequences will be a LEANNESS to their soul. (see Psalm 106:15)

When we forfeit spiritual riches in Christ for soul food the end result will be emptiness in the very soul that we sought to satisfy. This is not only the case much of the time in this life. But it certainly will prove to be true on the eternal level. God will bid us to repent and turn to Him so that we might be restored and come into the fullness of Christ – for He alone can satisfy eternally.



**June 30
For His Glory**

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. (Ps. 79:9)

It is good and right to talk about everything that God has done for US. But there is also a greater purpose for which God has saved humanity: For His own name's sake. God has a plan and purpose. Yes, it is to be worked out through humanity. But it is the plan and purpose of God – it is unto His glory and to exalt His own name.

Of course, when God is glorified, and His name is exalted, everyone else benefits. God wants to glorify His name in all of creation – but wants to do this THROUGH humanity. Humanity is therefore the recipient – through Jesus Christ – of all that God intends to do. But humanity is never going to be, “little gods.” We will never be glorified as such. Rather, we will be vehicles who will experience God's glory, and manifest it.

Paul says, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27) Our hope is not to have OUR glory. No. Our hope is HIS glory. Our hope is that we might realize, experience, and express the glory of God throughout eternity.



July 1
The Man of God's Right Hand

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou made strong for thyself. So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.
(Ps. 80:17-19)

Jesus Christ is The Son of Man. He is also called by an equivalent name, “The Last Adam.” Jesus is, “THE MAN of God's right hand.”

This description of Jesus as, “the man of God's right hand,” not only shows that He was the revelation of the Father in human form – the Son of God Incarnate -- and that all of the power and authority of God was vested in Him – but it likewise points to the fact that Jesus Christ is, right now, seated at the right hand of the Father. He is THE MAN – and the ONLY MAN – through Whom God is revealed and through Whom God is working.

You will note that there are NOT others who are called, "THE MAN of God's right hand." No. There is only ONE MAN – only ONE Son of Man; ONE Son of God – there is only ONE Savior. The point is that God has worked and will continue to work SOLELY through Christ. The believer has access to God SOLELY through Christ. God has given us all things freely SOLELY in Christ. There is nothing that God has to give outside of Christ, but has given us ALL things in Him.

Jesus is THE MAN – He is the Incarnate Son of God. And it is only IN HIM and THROUGH HIM that believers can experience what is of God. God causes His face to shine upon us through His Son.



July 2
In Spirit and in Truth

There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. (Ps. 81:9)

When we read the phrase, "strange gods," we are apt to think of little statues of pagan gods, or maybe about some demonic power. But a, "strange god," is ANY god other than the true God. Included in that would be a distorted version of the true God – this too, would be a false god, and a, "strange god."

Jesus told the woman at the well, "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." If we are not worshipping God IN SPIRIT and IN TRUTH, then we are worshipping Him with religious flesh, and in error. That might be shocking, but it is what Jesus is getting at in this conversation with the woman.

Many professing Christian people are not worshipping God in spirit and Truth, but are worshipping a god that they have created in their own image. If we think this is not possible for believers to do, we need to read Galatians – they were under, "another gospel" – and we need to read I Corinthians – they easily accepted, "another Jesus." We

also need to read I John 4, where John warns about the possibility of spirits that are not of God within the church – a possibility that was so real that he exhorts us to, “test the spirits to see whether they are of God.”

We can be thankful that Jesus Christ promised that one of the primary purposes for which His spirit would be given was to, “guide us into all Truth.” God SEEKS for people to worship Him in spirit and in Truth. He is continually speaking to us Jesus Christ, and desire to reveal Christ IN US. The question for us is: Are we hearing what God is speaking?



July 3
God's Love for All

***Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel
had walked in my ways! (Ps. 81:13)***

There are many warnings in the Bible against those who would disobey God. God promises judgment upon such ones. And there is the history of God's judgments upon His own people. There is also the possibility and reality of eternal separation from God. For much of Christian history, these facts have been used to keep people IN LINE – and frankly, they have been used to keep people IN CHURCH. It is possible to get a lot of mileage out of fear. You can scare people into obeying the laws of God. You can convince folks to do almost anything if you promise them a reward for doing it, even if that reward is a, “free get out of jail card.”

But despite the reality of the judgment of God, and the reality of His chastisements, God is NOT a God who delights in the death of anyone. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, much less His people. In fact, God grieves when people suffer the necessary consequences for their sin and unbelief – as is illustrated by this Psalm.

Jesus openly wept over Jerusalem. He knew that about forty years after His ascension the temple and that entire culture would be destroyed. Israel was God's chosen but had forsaken the Lord. So now the judgment had to come.

Can we see something here? Can we see that God, on the one hand, weeps over the judgment that must come, but on the other, be the One who brings that judgment? Can we discern that this is the heart of a loving God and Heavenly Father, who **MUST** bring chastisement and judgment if there is to be Truth and righteousness and salvation for those who will come to Christ?

God love every human being who has ever lived. And He has done all that He can do – within His will and purpose – to save all through Christ. But make no question about it; it is only thorough Christ that God has provided salvation. And He will, once each of us is given light, absolutely allow us to reject Him. And He will judge us if we do. But He loves even those whom He condemns eternally – in other words, He loves those who have eternally chosen not to love Him.



July 4
God's Offer of Redemption

How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. (Ps. 82:2)

To, “accept the persons of the wicked,” means to affirm them exactly as they are. We need to love them exactly as they are – but if a person is perishing we must love them enough to be a vehicle of God unto their freedom. There are few things more wicked and contrary to the gospel than to tell someone who is perishing that they are just fine. To do so is really partaking in their sin and unbelief.

In today's church, it is commonplace to accept wickedness and open sin – let alone to accept false teaching. The church has been infected with the mind of the world. It is considered to be, “intolerant and mean-spirited,” to call SIN by its name. Rather, it is, “anything goes.”

Certainly one of the primary examples of this is same sex marriage. Many denominations have now defined the prohibition of same sex marriages as HATE. They are calling the affirmation of homosexuality, and the affirmation of same sex marriage, INCLUSION and LOVE. This should surprise no one because heterosexual

immorality has been running rampant in the church for decades. This is the logical next step in the downward progression.

Of course, there are those who DO preach hate – they do so towards actual sin as well as toward anyone who happens to disagree with them. But this is never the solution. Frankly, some of those folks are worse in the eyes of God than those against whom they preach.

The answer is the gospel of grace. The Truth of the gospel calls SIN by its name. It reveals that God will never accept wickedness. He will never affirm wickedness in any human being. But instead of hating the sinner, God offers a way OUT of sin through Jesus Christ. That is redemptive, and it is what His people ought to be doing. Then it is on the sinner, having heard the Truth, to make his or her choice.



July 5
The Poor and Fatherless

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. (Ps. 82:3)

The Bible is quite clear as to God's will regarding the poor, the fatherless, and widows: The church needs to take care of these people. And certainly, as an extension of this, Christian individuals should give to these needy people as they can afford to do so.

But sadly, the church largely ignores God's exhortations on this matter today. Instead, the church uses its money to build bigger buildings, more beautiful parsonages, and even worse; many ministries use their money to raise more money. The poor, orphans, and widows are usually either ignored, or allotted such a small portion of the financial resources of the church that it hardly makes a difference.

Christian by the millions pay tithes – which is not required under the New Covenant – and give offerings – because they expect that doing so will win them something from God. They give thousands upon thousands of dollars to churches to support ministries, and yet there are people

within that church who cannot afford basics for their children. There are widows and the elderly in every church that are ignored.

This is not a matter of violating some law that God has laid down. Rather, how we use our money is evidence of where our heart is – Jesus said so. If our hearts were right with God and we saw the Truth this would not be a problem that even needed to be discussed. Caring for the needy among us – first in the church, and then outsiders – would come as natural as breathing air.



July 6
Are Christians, “Little gods?”

I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. (Ps. 82:6-7)

To take this one phrase, “ye are gods,” out of context, and make it mean that Christians are, “little gods,” is so totally absurd that if it were not tragic, it would be humorous. If we read the entire Psalm, it is easily affirmed that what God states in this verse is the meaning: “Ye are gods,” is figurative language for, “children of the Most High.” And, “children of the Most High,” is clearly defined in the NT. “Children of the Most High,” are NEVER, “little gods.” Rather, than are REDEEMED HUMANITY – they are those who are born from above in the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

We are not even CHILDREN of God separate from, or in addition to, Jesus Christ. No. We are sons and daughters IN THE SON. Everything that the believer IS, and everything that the believer HAS, is the result of being IN Jesus Christ – and the result of then experiencing Him. How much less are we little gods in addition to Jesus Christ.

The modern teaching that we are LITTLE GODS betrays an appalling ignorance of Jesus Christ, and a blindness to His plan and purpose in Him. Anyone who actually thinks they are a little god ought to look in the mirror.



July 7
The Meaning of Holiness

Who said, "Let us take the houses of God to ourselves for possession."...Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth. (Ps. 83:12,17-18)

In both Biblical Hebrew and Greek, the words translated HOLY actually means, "set apart for God's use." In more modern terms, "holy," means to BELONG TO GOD. A related term in the NT is the term, "saint." That English translation comes from the same root word as does HOLY. A saint is, "a holy one." And then there is the term, "sanctification." It comes from that same Greek root. All of these words speak of belonging to God.

This is why to use your self – any part of yourself – for your own purposes is UNHOLY. How much more this applies to the body of Christ! To use the church, or the people who comprise the church, to serve your own ends – to take the house of God as your own possession – is an UNHOLY thing. It is a violation of the holiness of God Himself.

Paul writes much about the church, and about the individuals in the church, as being HOLY – "God's temple is holy, which temple YOU ARE." (I Cor. 3:16-17) None of us have the right to use others, make merchandise of others, to lord it over others, to use others to bolster our pride or ministry. This is sin against the body of Christ and against Christ Himself.

Can we see that this is more than just a matter of doing or not doing the right things? It is a matter of REVERENCE for God Himself – a matter of treating what belongs to God as if it does. And WE belong to God – as does our Christian brethren.



July 8
A Heart Cry For God

***How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the
LORD: my heart and my flesh cries out for the living
God. (Ps. 84:1-2)***

It is good and right for a believer to cry out to the Lord for help. But there is something deeper here – there is a heart cry for GOD HIMSELF. This is a desire to know and experience God through Jesus Christ.

No one is going to cry out for God until they become dissatisfied with themselves – or even sick of themselves. God has to bring us to the point where we truly desire, indeed, LONG for Himself. Can we see that some law could not mandate this? It cannot be commanded. It is a matter of BEING – if we are in Christ we will eventually cry out FOR GOD. It will be in our, “spiritual DNA,” to do so.

Jesus Christ is the true tabernacle of God. He is the, “court of the Lord.” As the believer loses himself to Jesus Christ, this desire will come along. And the fact is, it will never, in this age, be truly satisfied. For the more we experience Jesus Christ in this age, the more we will desire Him. That is not because of who we are, but because of Who He IS.



July 9
Be Still and Praise God

***Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be
still praising thee. Selah. (Ps. 84:4)***

“To be still,” is not passivity in the mind of God. Rather, it is abandonment to God Himself. There may be much activity, or there may be no activity, but to BE STILL suggests that my faith and rest are in Jesus Christ.

The phrase, “be still praising God,” is reminiscent of the conquering of Jericho by Israel. Israel was commanded by God to encompass that city once for each of six days, and seven times on the seventh day. They were to

encompass that city following the ARK – all the while praising God. For all thirteen of those laps around Jericho, Israel was STILL by faith – they were not attacking Jericho. But they were praising God for the victory that they knew was already, in God’s mind, completely finished. Then after thirteen laps around Jericho, the walls fell. Jericho was conquered without a shot being fired. Israel had one NOTHING to contribute to this victory. They simply believed and by faith praised.

For praise to be real, it must be BY FAITH. We must KNOW God is worthy. For those who, “dwell in the house of God,” that is, dwell in Jesus Christ, praise should be more than words. It ought to be an expression of faith in our attitude towards God.



July 10
The Valley of Baca

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also fills the pools. (Ps. 84:5-6)

The valley of Baca was like an arid dessert. There was no water there. The Psalmist is saying that if God is our strength, the valley of Baca will be as a well – that is, in Christ, there are resources that are not in our earthly nature. WE are the valley of Baca. He is the eternal well.

All through scripture we read phrases like, “God IS our strength,” and, “our strength is IN Thee,” and many other similar Truths. In the NT, we read that God does not merely give us strength or give us things, but that Jesus Christ IS our strength, and that God has given us Christ Himself, in Whom are all things. In short, God has wrapped up ALL that He has to give in His Son, and it is only in Christ that we can experience what God has to give.

This matter of strength is a case in point. God does not give us a THING called, “strength,” or, “power.” No. He gives us Christ – Who IS the power of God. (I Cor. 1:24) Thus, in order to be strong IN the Lord, we must first be

shown as weak in ourselves, so that we will, by faith abide in Him.

There are eternal resources in Christ that will enable us to exist as a flesh and blood human being during this age – although our natural man is as spiritually arid as Baca – and yet we will not hunger or thirst because we can eat and drink of Christ. In Christ are all the resources of God.



July 11
Losing to Find

***I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Ps. 84:10)***

According to Jesus Christ, it is not possible to follow Him unless we deny ourselves, pick up our Cross, and LOSE our lives into His hands. (Matt. 16:24) Yet He also said that if we will do this, we would FIND life – really, we will find HIM AS OUR LIFE. Thus, if we know the Truth, we are going to echo the words of this Psalm – there is NOTHING of this life that can compare to the riches in Christ Jesus.

Paul not only taught the same thing, but actually experienced it. He said, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things lost for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have, suffered the loss of all things, and do count them as dung, that I may win Christ.” (Phil. 3:7-8) Paul lost many material things, but above all, Paul lose his own righteousness. But by doing so, He found Christ as his righteousness – he was found IN CHRIST.

The, “tents of wickedness,” stand for any life outside of Christ – including a religious life like Paul had before his conversion. Christ is OUR DWELLING place. It is better to be a, “door keeper,” in Christ – to have nothing in ourselves in which to boast – than it is to live for this life according to religious flesh. Those who know Jesus Christ will want nothing more and nothing less than His perfect will for now, and for the eternal ages.



July 12
Freely Received and Freely Given

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trust in thee. (Ps. 84:11-12)

People can make the Bible mean what they please, and this passage is one that often been made to mean something God never intended. When God says that He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly, He was not saying that it is possible to earn from God through our works. Rather, He was speaking of the walk by faith – those who walk by faith in Christ will be safe for good things. God will be free to give them HIS WILL – God will be able to bless them with whatever suits His purpose.

You will note that this promise that God will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly is prefaced by the phrase, “the Lord will give grace and glory.” God gives all things solely by His grace in Jesus Christ -- and nothing is given upon any other basis. And what God gives by His grace must be received freely by grace. If a person is indeed freely receiving what is freely given, then that person will be safe for the blessings of God. The fact that they are freely receiving what God freely gives in Christ testifies to that fact.

The Psalmist says, “Blessed is the man that trusts in You.” There it is – it is only as we trust the Lord – trust Him instead of ourselves – that we are freely receiving by grace. Then we are not only blessed because we know God, but God can bless us according to His purpose in our lives.



July 13
The Taking Away of Sin

Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah. (Ps. 85:2)

Under the Old Covenant, there was provision for the COVERING of sin. This goes all the way back to where God, “covered,” the nakedness of Adam and Eve after they sinned with animal skins. That was a type and shadow. But in Jesus Christ, there is more than just a covering for sin. There is an actual TAKING AWAY of sin.

John the Baptist announced Jesus Christ to the world by proclaiming, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who TAKES AWAY the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) Jesus Christ actually bore the sin of the human race in His body (I Peter 2:24) -- and then He died. Jesus BECAME our sin for us. (II Cor. 5:21) When He died He made it possible for us to die in Him, and thus, live unto God. (see Romans 6:-10) All of this speaks of the fact that in Jesus Christ sin is taken away.

Forgiveness does not take away sin – forgiveness takes away only the penalty FOR sin. Jesus won forgiveness for all of us, but more than this, Jesus Christ died and was raised so that we could die and be raised in Him as new creations who have been delivered from the Adam race. As new creations our sin is taken away – or to put it another way – we have been taken away from our sin -- through the new birth in Christ. Actual freedom from sin depends on the reality that Jesus took away our sin.



July 14 True Revival

***Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may
rejoice in thee? (Ps. 85:6)***

In one sense of the world, it is nonsense to cry out to God for revival. If there is a need for revival the answer is not that God must come down and act upon us. Rather, if people know enough to cry out for revival, they need to revive themselves – for they already have the life of Christ within. They can start believing and obeying God.

Revival means, “to make alive again.” But today’s definition of REVIVAL has been modified to mean signs, wonders, miracles, and in most cases, a bunch of emotionalism. These THINGS make no one to come alive.

Jesus Christ is THE LIFE and if revival is to happen, people must encounter Him.

Real revival must begin with light upon that which has caused people to need life in Christ – and that means JUDGMENT. God must judge sin and unbelief if revival is to take place. Thus, revival will involve repentance and a return to Jesus Christ as our life. As the Psalmist says, “Revive us that we may rejoice in THEE.”



July 15
Reverence for God

Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him. (Ps. 85:9)

When scripture speaks of, “the fear of the Lord,” it does not mean, “to be afraid of God.” No. “The fear of the Lord,” is REVERENCE for God. It means to ascribe to Him His value. It means that we realize who He is and what He has done. Reverence for God is really an attitude of worship.

The Bible tells us that, “God is love,” and adds, “There is no fear in love, for perfect love cast out fear.” (I John 4:16-18) Well, if God IS love, and perfect love casts OUT fear, then this is proof that knowing God will not incite fear, but will cast it out. If we know God through Jesus Christ, we will NOT be afraid of Him, but we will revere Him.

Another way to contrast reverence and being afraid is to realize that to the degree that I revere God I will want to draw near to Him. But to the degree that I am afraid of God I will want to hide from Him.

Reverence for God and being afraid of God are opposites. To the degree that we know God, we will receive His love, and revere Him. We will NOT be afraid of Him.



July 16
The Alpha and Omega

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (Ps. 85:10)

The gospel of John states, "Grace and Truth came in Jesus Christ." (John 1:17) Paul tells us that Jesus Christ, "is made to be unto us....righteousness." (I Cor. 1:30) This Psalm is therefore a parabolic declaration that in the Person of Jesus Christ, mercy and Truth meet together. In the Person of Jesus, righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Jesus Christ said, "I AM the Alpha and the Omega; the first and the last." (Rev. 1:11) This means He is ALL. This might not make much sense if we try to think about it physically. But spiritually, it means that the Person of Jesus Christ is the embodiment of ALL.



July 17
Set In the Way of His Steps

Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps. (Ps. 85:13)

Believers are told that we are to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ. Peter states, "For unto this have you been called, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps." (I Peter 2:21) Paul says, "By grace are you saved through faith...we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has ordained that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:8-10) To be SET IN THE WAY OF HIS STEPS is the way of the Cross. It is the way of, "by grace through faith unto good works." It is the way of righteousness by faith.

Righteousness by faith is always the way of God. We may be quite flawed in our obedience. We may sin every day. But rather than trust in our own righteousness, we can trust in Christ as our righteousness. And doing so IS the way of His steps. It is really what needs to be behind our obedience.



July 18
Truth Comes by Revelation

***Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth:
unite my heart to fear thy name. (Ps. 86:11)***

Humanity born in Adam is born completely void of Truth. There is NO life, NO light, and NO Truth in natural man. Consequently, we must up Truth or revelation from out of ourselves. There is nothing in us to muster up. Neither can we LEARN CHRIST by human effort. But our condition in Adam is actually much worse. We do not stand on neutral ground. Rather, we are born at enmity against God. We are, as creatures, constituted contrary to Him. This is the damage done by the sin of Adam.

The Psalmist cries, "Teach me Thy Way, O Lord." To cry out thusly is our only option. All Truth comes by revelation, and God must take the initiative to reveal to us His Son.

Jesus made this clear to His disciples. When Peter confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," Jesus did not commend him for figuring this out. No. What He did say was, "Flesh and blood has no revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven." (Matt. 16:17) Humanity is never the source of Truth. Jesus is the Truth and it is the Father who must REVEAL Him.

It is the will of God that we cry out to Him for a revelation of His Son. That is a prayer that God will always answer. Indeed, He has promised that He will guide those who hunger for Truth into all Truth. (John 16:13)

Seeing the Truth in Christ has an impact. That impact is that we will REVERE God – we will voluntarily reverse and love Him. That is not because of us. It is because we have seen HIM.



July 19
The Gates of Zion

The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. (Ps. 87:2)

The, “gates of Zion,” represents a people in a full realization of Jesus Christ. The, “dwellings of Jacob,” represents a people who are not yet to that point. They are still growing out of religious flesh. Note that the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than ALL the dwellings of Jacob – it isn’t that He doesn’t love the dwellings of Jacob. But He loves the gates of Zion more – because it is the fullness of His Son expressed in a people.

God has a purpose for His people. It is that we might come into the fullness of Jesus Christ. But of course, it takes time and experience. One of the OT examples of this is the wilderness experience of Israel. In the wilderness, Israel, that is, Jacob, dwelt in tents. God did love them. But He loved them unto a greater purpose than the wilderness. He wanted them in The Promised Land. It was in The Promised Land where the gates of Zion became a reality.

God wants all believers to dwell, not in the tent of Jacob, but in the gates of Zion. Hebrews says, “You are come to Mount Zion....” (Heb. 12:22) The fullness of Christ is His will for all.



July 20
God Will Establish Zion

And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. (Ps. 87:5)

To be, “born in Zion,” means that we have been born from above in Jesus Christ – and are coming into a full realization of Him. Zion represents God’s full thought for His people in Christ.

It is only His Son that God Himself will establish. Consequently, it is only people who are walking in Christ by faith, and who have given themselves to Him, that God

will commit Himself to with regards to Christian service. In short, if God will commit Himself only to Christ, then He will commit Himself only to people who are at one with His purpose in Christ.

This is the key to Christian ministry. People think that they can form a church, hand it to God, and that He is obligated to bless it. They think if they do something in the name of Jesus that God will commit Himself to it. No. God's purpose is the fullness of Christ. There is no other purpose that He has for His people. Consequently He will establish only that which is establishing His Son in people.



July 21
Isolated Unto Christ

Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness. (Ps. 88:18)

God has ordained that there be ministry in the body of Christ. One purpose is to hold each other up; to edify each other in Christ. But never make the mistake of thinking that this means that it is God's will for Christians to put their faith in each other – or to depend upon each other for their relationship with God. No. The purpose of the Body is to encourage each other to rely upon Christ and to personally and individually come into a realization of Him.

I cannot walk by YOUR faith, and you cannot walk by MINE. I cannot know Jesus Christ FOR you. But what I can do is walk by my faith, and know Christ for myself, and then, because I do, I can edify you in Christ, and help you to walk by your faith, and help you to realize Him for yourself. This is the ministry of the Body.

There are numerous reasons why God might isolate a person from brethren. Perhaps He knows that if they were in a church, or with brethren, that they would rely upon them instead of Himself. Perhaps they would substitute the church as at THING for Christ. Or even though the person does not have any of those vulnerabilities, perhaps God wants to shut them up to Himself as a part of a greater purpose. Being shut up to Christ is NOT a sign

that something is wrong. It may be a sign that everything is absolutely right.



July 22
The Seed of David

I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. (Ps. 89:3-4)

The seed of David is the same Person as is the seed of Abraham: Jesus Christ. Indeed, Jesus is, “the seed of the woman,” going all the way back to the first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15. This Psalm is a promise that Jesus Christ will reign forever in the kingdom of God.

Right from Genesis 3:15, and reaffirmed many times throughout God’s dealings with His people, God had promised a SEED. But not just any seed. He promised a Savior who would be the seed of woman. In other words, God has always promised a God-man.

A God-man – God Incarnate – was essential for the salvation of humanity. Only if God became man could man be brought back into oneness with God. Only if God became man could God later dwell in man.

God promised a seed of woman would destroy the works of the Devil. Jesus Christ accomplished this victory and because He did, not only will He reign forever as King of kings, but those who are in Him will likewise reign with Him.



July 23
Reverence for God in the Church

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. (Ps. 89:7)

Reverence for God ought to be the outcome of coming into a realization of Jesus Christ. You cannot know God –

truly know Him in spirit and in Truth – except that the impact upon you is a reverence for Him. And once a person reveres God, they are going to reflect that towards their Christian brethren.

One way that reverence for God is lived towards Christian brethren is by realizing that none of us belongs to another – but that each believer belongs to God. I do not have the right to violate God's purpose in another. Rather, I need to be an instrument unto God's purpose – even if that means to simply keep my hands off and let God work.

“Holiness,” means, “to belong to God.” EACH believer belongs to God. Thus, in order to revere God, it is vital that each of us treat as holy God's interests in others.

All believers must allow God to have His proper place in the lives of others. We must never usurp that. And we must allow God to have His place over the congregation. If we revere God we will be glad to do so.



July 24
Justice and Judgment

***Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne:
mercy and truth shall go before thy face. (Ps. 89:14)***

The throne of God speaks of His sovereignty – God is just and He is the eternal judge. But God's justice and judgment are always preceded by God's mercy and Truth.

This is a Truth repeated all through the Bible. God must have a just basis for judgment. That just basis for judgment is that He first sends forth mercy and Truth.

The mercy of God is manifested through His freely given grace in Jesus Christ. The Truth will reveal the mercy of God to us – the Truth will expose our sin and unbelief, and will reveal to us Christ as the solution. But once mercy and Truth have been given and received, then we are accountable to God. We will then be judged according to how we have responded to Jesus Christ.

The same Truth that God intends to set us free will judge us for our unbelief if we refuse. Once God brings light we

are accountable; we cannot go back. But this is not bad news. It is the good news of God's mercy and Truth in Christ.



July 25
The Glory of Our Strength

For thou art the glory of their strength: (Ps. 89:17)

One definition of Christianity is, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) But is our hope for our OWN glory? No. Our hope is that He might manifest HIS glory in and through us. In short, our hope is that we might experience the fullness of His glory, and manifest Him to others.

Our course, the word, "hope," points toward the future. "Christ in us," is our present hope of realizing His full glory in the eternal ages. In other words, presently we hope – which in the Greek means, "expect" – to experience His glory in the eternal ages. But once the eternal ages arrival, Christ will no longer be our HOPE of glory. He will be the realization of His glory in us. Humanity has no glory; humanity will never have glory. Jesus Christ IS the glory of our strength – in other words, rather than be given glory, or being made to look like Jesus, the believer is to manifest Christ Himself. His glory will be seen in us – He is the glory of our strength.



July 26
The Firstborn of God

I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. (Ps. 89:27)

Jesus Christ is the ONLY begotten Son of God. There are NOT other, "son of Gods," in addition to Jesus. Jesus is the ONLY -- and UNIQUELY born -- Son of God.

Jesus was the only begotten Son of God BEFORE His human birth. We know this because John states, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that

God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (I John 4:9). But once He was born, and died and was raised, Jesus was also called, "the firstborn from the dead." (see Col. 1:18) So the only begotten Son of God became a human being, but then as a human being died. He was raised as the firstborn out from the dead.

Now what does that term, "firstborn out from the dead," mean? Well, obviously, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a BIRTH – unto LIFE. But since Jesus is called the FIRSTBORN then it means that He was raised out of death into a life that had never existed before – He was the FIRSTBORN of this life; a life that emerged from out of death.

Here we see that the resurrection of Jesus was not merely a, "reversal of dead," back again to the life He possessed before He died. No. His resurrection was until a brand NEW LIFE – He was the FIRSTBORN of that life.

The resurrection life that Jesus possessed through His resurrection is a DIFFERENT KIND of life than had ever existed through natural birth. But it is a, "higher life than any of the kings of the earth." It is eternal, indestructible, and incorruptible. It is life that is not only born from out of death – but which has complete victory OVER death.



July 27
Children of God in THE Son

I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. (Ps. 89:27-29)

Jesus Christ is the ONLY begotten Son of God, and through His death and resurrection, is the God's firstborn from the dead. But if we come to Christ and are born from above IN HIM – we too become sons and daughters of God.

It is essential that we understand that we are not sons and daughters of God, "in addition," to Jesus – as if He is

the BIG Son of God, and we are additional, “little,” sons of God. No. We are sons and daughters of God only IN HIM.

When we are saved, we are joined to the Lord and become one spirit with Him. Thus, God does not give us a THING called, “eternal life.” No. He gives us His Son, WHO IS THE LIFE – and HE becomes OUR life. Indeed, God has given us ALL things freely in His Son – and has given nothing outside of Jesus. Thus, we are children of God only because we are joined to Him. Our very life and relationship with the Father is based upon the fact that we are joined to Christ and He is our life.

We are all children of God IN Christ Jesus. There is the Father, and there is His ONLY begotten Son, and there are the sons and daughters who are IN the Son. That is the family of God – it is because of God’s purpose in The Son that we too have an inheritance and will be made to live and endure forever.



July 28
The Throne of The Son

I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. (Ps. 89:27-29)

There is only ONE throne that God has to give – and He has given it to His only Son. This throne was not merely a gift. It was obtained through victory over death and the enemy. Jesus conquered all and so now under the Father, rules all as King of kings.

What this means is that God does not have other thrones to give His people. You and I will never have our own throne UNDER Jesus. No. Indeed, Jesus promised, “To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in MY throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with MY Father in HIS throne.” (Rev. 3:21) Rather than be given separate thrones, the believer is to sit with Christ in HIS THRONE.

This only makes sense because we are sons and daughters of God only IN the Son. We have an inheritance only IN the Son. Everything that God has for the believer is IN CHRIST.

To sit with Jesus Christ IN His throne does not mean we are equal to Him. No. It means that we are EXTENSIONS of Him. Because He governs us, and only if He governs us, can He govern THROUGH us – forever, as, “the days of heaven.”



July 29
The Need to See Jesus

How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? (Ps. 89:46)

In the midst of a season of trial, perhaps the most common cry of our heart is this one, “How long, Lord? Will You hide yourself forever?” But is it possible that God is not really hiding Himself at all? But that the problem is with US – that the problem is with our ability to see Him?

God doesn’t hide Himself – not in the sense of making Himself inaccessible to His people. Hardly, since the very definition a Christian is one in whom Christ dwells. But that being said, the Christian life is a matter of Christ being unfolded to the believer, and the believer coming into an inward realization of Christ. This is where the problem arises: When we don’t know Jesus; when we do not have ears to hear nor eyes to see. It is then that it seems that God is hiding. But He isn’t. We just don’t have eyes to see.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8) All through the NT we are told that to the extent that we open ourselves to God – for whatever it takes and no matter the cost – that we will see God. Of course, this make take some time and experience. But God promises that if our eye is single to Him that our entire body will be full of light – we will see Him. (see Matt. 6:22)

Our great need is not so much that God gives us facts or information. What we need is revelation – of the Person of Jesus Christ. It is then that we will realize that Jesus was never hiding from us. We simply needed to be brought to where we could see Him.



July 30
Our Eternal Dwelling Place

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. (Ps. 90:1)

Jesus Christ is the dwelling place of the believer. Christianity is, “Christ in you,” (Col. 1:27) or, as it is suggested in this Psalm, “the believer in Christ.” Both expressions point to the fact that a believer is, “joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him.” (I Cor. 6:17)

“Our dwelling place,” is the place from which we live. Christ is also the LIFE of the believer. He is our ALL.

Jesus said, “In My Father’s house there are many dwelling places.....I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am you may also be.” (John 14:2-3) In this age, Jesus Christ is our spiritual dwelling place. But because Christ is in us, He is preparing us in Himself for a dwelling place that is to be for the eternal ages. That will happen when He returns for His people.



July 31
Numbering Our Days

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

To, “number our days,” means to make the most of them. In other words, it means, “to make our days count.” The prayer in this Psalm is that God would teach us to do this; give us the wisdom to do this.

It is possible to make the most of your days in this life – as natural thinking would suggest – and to do so completely out of the will of God. It is possible to live for yourself, become highly successful – even in Christian ministry – become rich, popular, and to have what you would say is a happy fulfilling life. It is possible to do all of that and to be an unbeliever. Indeed, it is possible to do this in rebellion to Christ – because you want to possess your life for yourself.

The only way in which, “to number our days,” according to the will of God is to make them count for Christ. That does not begin by doing things for Him. No. It begins by giving YOURSELF to Him. We must live IN Christ and belong to Him. Only then will our doing amount to much.

Once we realize the essential of losing our lives to Christ, we will know that even if we are isolated, inactive, and even bored – that we can still, “number our days.” If God is doing a real work of forming Christ in us, and getting His will in us, then this is what counts for Christ.



Aug 1
Realizing God's Full Purpose

***Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.
(Ps. 90:15)***

If we are earthly minded, we will tend to live for ourselves, and for this life. We may not necessarily do this in open rebellion against God. We may actually be so deceived as to think that it is God's will to live for ourselves – we may call that, “blessing.” But if life turns bad and we are plunged into a great trial, the same natural thinking by which we are living will fail us. We will not understand how God could allow such a thing, let alone come thorough to God's full purpose.

But if we know Jesus Christ, or are at least willing to allow God to reveal to us His purpose in Christ, God will be able to set us free from earthly thinking. We will get a glimpse of what He seeks to do through, “the days wherein we are afflicted,” and through, “the years wherein we have seen evil.” We will know that He is setting us free from this age

by bringing us into an inward realization of Jesus Christ. At that point, we will BE GLAD for those sufferings.

All through scripture we read phrases such as, “rejoice in sufferings.” The only way in which that makes sense – the only way in which it is possible – is if we see this Truth. While we are IN a trial, it may be difficult to rejoice, but the knowledge that there will come a day when we will rejoice and be glad is always an encouragement, and based in having seen the full purpose of God.



Aug 2
The Affirmation of God

***And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us:
and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea,
the work of our hands establish thou it. (Ps. 90:17)***

What is necessary for God to affirm what we are doing – especially in ministry? To what will God commit Himself? God will commit Himself ONLY to Christ. Only where Christ is being revealed, built up in believers, and manifested. Or, as suggested in this Psalm, God will establish only what, “the beauty of the Lord,” is upon. Jesus Christ is the beauty of the Lord – He is the manifestation of God’s glory.

Now, this is not to suggest that it is possible for us to decide to manifest Christ. No. Manifesting Christ is not a THING to do. Rather, it is the result of belonging to Christ. It is the outcome of the work of the Cross whereby WE are crucified, such that our life is hid with Christ in God. What this means is that God commits Himself to only that which He Himself has begun in us through us.

Christians by the millions think that God is with them – that He is committed to what they are doing. They usually base this upon an assumption that any work done in the name of Christ is of God – and God is in it. But even cults and heretics boldly make these claims. In fact, it is entirely possible to have a hugely successful ministry but for God to have nothing to do with it. Religious flesh is a great power over people and it can build quite a large house upon the sand.

God wants to do His work IN His people – to form Christ within us – so that He can work THROUGH His people. There is no longer priority. It is the only way in which, “the beauty of the Lord,” can be upon anything.



Aug 3
The Secret Place of the Most High

***He that dwells in the secret place of the most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Ps.
91:1)***

The Person of Jesus Christ is, “the secret place of the Most High.” God uses the term, “secret place,” because life in Christ, and all of the dynamics therein, is a spiritual reality. It is not something that is seen with the eye, let alone understood with the natural mind.

If a believer dwells in Christ – in the secret place of the Most High – that believer will likewise be living, “under the shadow of the Almighty.” Again, much of what God is doing in the life of the believer happens WITHIN the believer – not outside of the believer. In addition, the believer will often be in the dark as to what God is doing WITHIN. It takes time for God to crucify the flesh and bring us into a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

But the secret place of the Most High, and the shadow of the Almighty, are wonderful experiences in the Lord. These terms speaks of being shut up to God – of being personally dealt with in Christ Jesus. No one else can fully understand, and even the believer may not grasp it fully. But God understands, for we are in HIS secret place and under HIS shadow – we are in personal fellowship with God.



Aug 4
Covered Under His Wings

***He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his
wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield
and buckler. (Ps. 91:4)***

This picture of being, “under His wings,” speaks of a personal relationship with God, wherein NOTHING can come into the life of the believer except it first come to God. This is, of course, something that is fundamental to the faithfulness of God as our Heavenly Father.

We usually tend to understand these things in more negative terms – that God is our protector from evil. But if you read this passage, the message is positive: We belong to God, and He promises to continually, under His wings, guide us into all Truth.

Have we recognized what it means for God to be our Heavenly FATHER? Or what it means for us to be, “the children of God,” in Jesus Christ? If we are joined to the Lord Jesus and one spirit with Him, then these are facts for us. And then, by definition, we are UNDER HIS WINGS.



Aug 5
Protected by the Truth

His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. (Ps. 91:4)

The greatest protection of the believer from error and heresy is the TRUTH. That ought to be obvious. But the Truth is not merely a list of biblical doctrine. The Truth is a Person, Jesus Christ. Thus, our shield and buckler is an inward knowledge and realization of Jesus Christ.

In order for the Truth in Christ to actually be our shield and buckler, we must be MADE TRUE UNTO GOD. True doctrine cannot do this. True doctrine cannot deal with the UNTRUTH in us – our unbelief, our bias, our pride, our self-righteousness, and our self-ownership. True doctrine can only tell us the Truth about ourselves and point us to Christ. But if we know the TRUTH – experience the Person of Jesus Christ – we will be made true unto God – that is, we will experience what it means to be, “crucified with Christ,” such that our life will proclaim, “Yet not I, but Christ.” (Gal. 2:20)

The Truth as INFORMATION can only protect is from false information. But knowing the Person who is the Truth will protect us from, “another Jesus,” and from all that is contrary to the real Christ – including even our own religious flesh. Jesus Christ in us, if we abide in Him, is our shield and buckler against all.



Aug 6
The Goal of Satan

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. (Ps. 91:11-12)

If you examine Satan's temptations of Christ during His ministry, they all come back to trying to get Jesus to establish the kingdom of God NOW. Satan quoted the above Psalm to Jesus to try to get Him to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple. The suggest was that when Jesus survived – this Psalm promises that He would – this would serve to proclaim Him as Messiah and win all of Israel behind His cause. Jesus' answer was, “You shall not tempt the Lord God.”

The goal of Satan has ALWAYS been a kingdom of God without the necessity of the Cross. If Jesus would proclaim Himself as Messiah without the Cross Satan would have Him – and would have a kingdom populated by people who were born in Adam, rather than by those who had been born from above in Christ. And Satan even quoted scripture to try to affirm his lie.

If you examine this purpose of Satan – a kingdom, and really a Christianity, that is without the Cross – what you have is Adam (and all who are in him) as God's MAN. You do not have a NEW MAN in Christ – but the old man and all who are in Him in the kingdom. This would Satan's man, and Satan's kingdom.

Today, the Cross is being ignored, denied, or distorted as never before. But this is the same, “gospel of Satan” – one that not only denied the necessity of the Cross of Christ, but one that likewise denies the necessity of the personal Cross in the life of the believer.



Aug 7

God's Promise of Deliverance

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. (Ps. 91:14)

The promise of God's deliverance in this Psalm is conditional. It is based on whether a person has, "set his love," upon God. In other words, a person must surrender into God's hands and ask God to do whatever it takes to get God's full purpose. A person must truly desire, or love, God.

Jesus spoke of the danger of being delivered OUT of evil – but of not going on to come into the Truth. He said the danger is that something worse would come in and fill the void. This is why God will often NOT deliver folks from what binds them. The bondage they are in might at least be keeping them from something worse – God knows that once they are delivered they are not ready in heart to embrace Jesus Christ – they will get into something much more destructive.

But if a person's love is set upon God – that is – God has brought that person to the place where they truly want God – God will deliver them. Because God has done a work in their heart, once He does deliver them, they will embrace Christ because that issue is already settled.



Aug 8

Created in Christ Jesus

For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. (Ps. 92:4)

Once we are saved by being joined to the Lord and becoming one spirit with Him, it is the purpose of God to bring us into an inward realization of Christ. Everything that God does is based upon Christ – based upon Jesus Christ in us. As Christ is revealed in the believer, and the

believer embraces the Truth, the believer is, “formed together WITH Christ.” (Rom. 8:29, Greek) The believer becomes a person who manifests Christ.

But in order for God to bring us to where we can know Christ and manifest Him, He must set us free from, yes, sin, but He must set us free from ourselves. The flesh, especially religious flesh, must be crucified. We must, “bear in our body the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of the Lord Jesus might be manifested our body.” (II Cor. 4:10) This will not make our FLESH glad. But if we will trust God, and ask Him to do whatever it takes, and settle for nothing less than the full purpose of God, God will create us in Christ Jesus, and we WILL be glad.

Paul summed all of this up with the phrase, “Not because of (our) works; we are HIS workmanship, created in Christ Jesus....” (Eph. 2:9-10) We do not create ourselves in Christ Jesus. But if we will give ourselves to God, we will be HIS workmanship, and HE will create US in Jesus Christ. And as noted, we will then be glad for all that God allowed and all that God did.



Aug 9
Planted in the House of the Lord

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 92:13)

There are many pictures and phrases in the OT, especially in the Psalms, that are types and shadows of the Truth found in Jesus Christ. For example, this phrase, “planted in the house of the Lord.” This is only secondarily a matter of being planted in the church. Primarily, this is speaking of the fact that by faith a believer is planted into the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul says, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection.” (Rom. 6:6) When we come to Christ we are joined to Him in spirit – we become one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) These are the same Truth. The believer is made one with Christ in His death and in His resurrection. We are crucified IN HIM, and raised IN HIM. Thus, all of the power and dynamics of His death and

resurrection begin to work in us – to reveal Him in us, and form us together with Him.

“To flourish,” is not about US prospering in ourselves. It is about bearing the fruit of Christ to the glory of Christ. Being planted into Christ – into Him as the house of God – is how we come to flourish in the courts of the Lord. We will flourish IN CHRIST, and flourish in His church, if we have been planted into Christ and are coming into His full purpose.



**Aug 10
God's Eternal Throne**

Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. (Ps. 93:2)

One way to describe the purpose of Redemption is that it is the restoration of all of creation back under the throne of God. Note that God did not need to be restored OVER anything or anyone. But all of creation needed to be restored BACK to God. This is not for God's benefit – although it is His desire. It is for the benefit of the human race and all of creation.

God's throne always WAS. Neither God nor His throne has ever changed. But because of the sin of Satan, and then Adam, the creation, including humanity – ALL that was under the sovereignty and grace of the throne of God -- became corrupted and subject to death. Rather than simply discard humanity, or leave humanity without hope, God set out to REDEEM – through His Son.

Often we focus upon what God has done for humanity through the redemption of Jesus Christ. There is everything good, right, and necessary, about doing that. But there is another dimension of the redemption that is purely from God's side of things. God has RIGHTS. God is sovereign. And through the Redemption of Jesus Christ God intends to subject all things under Himself through Christ. This will not only satisfy the fact that God is sovereign, but it will restore all things to the condition God intends, unto the benefits of all who come under the redemption and Lordship of His Son.



Aug 11
The Futility of the Human Mind

The LORD knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. (Ps. 94:11)

A parallel verse to this one from Psalm 94 that is found in the NT is from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians:

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the VANITY of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ. (Eph. 4:17-20)

The Greek word or VANITY in this passage means FUTILITY. Paul is stating that the mind of natural man is FUTILE – it cannot think or reason itself into the Truth. In fact, Paul elsewhere states that the natural or SOUL MAN cannot receive the things of God – they are folly to him. (I Cor. 2:14)

Have we realized this? That there is NO TRUTH in us by natural birth? That there is no LIFE in us? No. The only source of Truth and life is Christ Himself in us. Otherwise, as Paul also states, "Except Christ is in you, you are reprobate." (II Cor. 13:5)

Paul also tells us that we must LEARN CHRIST – in other words, we must come into an inward realization and knowledge of Him – and this only will enlighten us; brings us out of the darkness.

It ought to be encouraging to know that it is NOT brain power that is the key to knowing God. Rather, it is the knowing of Jesus Christ – and God has promised that if we will hear Him, that He is always speaking to us in Christ (Heb. 1:1-2), and desires to bring us into all Truth.



Aug 12
The Chastisements of the Father

***Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD, and
teach him out of thy law. (Ps. 94:12)***

“Chastisement,” in the Bible, means, “to train a child.” God is our Heavenly Father, and He chastises us in order to teach us of Himself. Contrast that over and against how many people view God: As one who PUNISHES his people out of anger and ego. That is not God.

When a believer gets out of God’s will, whether through unbelief or ignorance, God is faithful to chastise such a one, so that they might wake up and seek Him for the Truth. The chastisements of God take many forms. Often, God will allow us to fail and bring consequences upon ourselves. Other times, He will bring correction into our lives. There is also the direct conviction of God by His spirit. God may chastise us by showing us the Truth of Christ in a way that brings conviction. But the chastisements of God are always for our restoration and redemption.

Note that being taught out of God’s law goes hand in hand with the chastisements of God. God does not chastise as a thing unto itself. Rather, as God corrects us of our wrong, He shows us the Truth in Christ. In the OT, the law is a type and shadow of the reality of the Person of Jesus Christ. Thus, when the Psalmist asks to be taught out of God’s law, the NT equivalent is that we might LEARN Jesus Christ. And if we do learn Christ, just as this Psalm declares, we are chastised – and blessed.



Aug 13
The Finished Work of God in Christ

***When I said, My foot slipped; thy mercy, O LORD, held
me up. (Ps. 94:18)***

There is no sin that is so deep that the Redemption of Jesus Christ cannot reach. Jesus Christ descended to the lower parts of the earthly realm – to the absolute depths of all death and all evil – but then in victory over death was raised from the dead. The power of the last enemy,

death, was forever broken for those who would become one with Him. He then ascended on high, having taken captivity captive, making it possible for humanity to be joined to Him by the means of the spirit of God.

Likewise, it is never too late to turn to Christ. Even those who have previously rejected Christ, even cursed His name, can turn to Christ. God never closes the door. He never sews back together the veil in the temple that was rent from top to bottom at His death.

No sin can ever CLOSE what Jesus Christ has OPENED by His finished work. It IS finished forever, and the new and living way has been forever opened to God. THE SIN, therefore, is that we will not believe and enter through the eternally opened Way to God. THE SIN is that we continually refuse to enter in through Jesus Christ. Note that no sin can close THE DOOR. But THE SIN is that we won't enter in through THE DOOR.

God has never promised to keep us from sinning. But He has promised – IF WE TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANCE – to hold us up in Christ. God's forgiveness is finished for all of the sin of every human being who has ever lived. But it is finished ONLY IN CHRIST. He bids us to come to Him.



Aug 14
God of the Depths and the Heights

In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. (Ps. 95:4)

There is a tendency even among Christian people to think that when we are in a trial – in a valley or deep place – that God has forsaken us. But when we are upon a hill or mountain, and being blessed, that God is with us. And yet nothing could be more contrary to the Truth. God is with His people unto His purpose in Christ whether we are in a deep place or sitting upon a hill.

Not only is God with His people at all times -- but some of the DEEPEST work of God in His people is done while they are in the DEEPEST places.

A, “deep place of the earth,” is where God wants to do a DEEP WORK in our earthly nature – not a work that will change our earthly nature to look like Jesus – but a work of the Cross that will crucify our earthly nature so that Christ might be made manifest through us. Indeed, it is the journey through the deep place that will lead to the hilltop of spiritual blessings in Christ.

Each believer is joined to the Lord IN SPIRIT and is one spirit with Him. But our earthly nature is not joined to the Lord. It remains outside of our spiritual union with Him – and thus, within each believer there is the separation between soul (the earthly) and spirit (Jesus Christ in us). The deep place is where we learn to, “bear about in our body (the earthly) the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life also of the Lord Jesus (by the spirit) might be made manifest in our body.” (II Cor. 4:10) Yet this work in the deep place is just as much the purpose of God – indeed, it is necessary if we are to reign in victory in Christ on the mountaintop.



Aug 15
God is Speaking Son-Wise

***Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart,
as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation
in the wilderness: (Ps. 95:7-8)***

Christian people usually talk about hearing God’s voice in terms of God LEADING them. Many believers say that God has spoken to them, and LED them to do this or that, or to go to this or that place, or to do a certain thing. Some say that God has revealed a certain THING to them. But even though God can and sometimes does LEAD His people in those ways, what we normally describe as God’s voice – His leadings – is NOT the primary way in which God speaks to His people today.

God has stated directly in His Word as to HOW He speaks to His people today:

***God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke
in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in
these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he***

has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds. (Heb. 1:1-2)

A closer look at the Greek language in this passage brings out a great Truth. The verse says, "God is speaking to us SON-WISE." In other words, the, "language," in which God is speaking today is the revelation of Jesus Christ. God is revealing Christ IN HIS PEOPLE. That is more than words – it is more than the words Jesus spoke. It is more than, "leadings." God is bringing His people into an inward realization of His Son – Jesus Christ IS the Living Word of God.

This is exactly what Paul meant when he said, "I travail unto Christ be FORMED in you." (Gal. 4:19) The word, "formed," here means, "to be inwardly realized and expressed." God wants to speak CHRIST to us – and in doing so – bring us into an inward realization of Him.

My Christian life would not amount to much if it consisted of merely getting saved and then being given a series of directions by God. But no. God is speaking to His people SON-WISE. And it is upon this inner revelation of Jesus Christ that God will build His people, and His church.



**Aug 16
Upon This Rock**

Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (Ps. 95:7-8)

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do YOU say that I am," it opened the way for a dialog with them that contains a great revelation. (see Matt. 16:13-19) Peter answered, "You are the Christ the Son of the Living God." At this point, the disciples had not yet been born from above – this would happen in Acts 2, after Jesus ascended. But it was a pivotal moment for them. They had received a revelation of the Person of Jesus – Who He is. That was a great foundation upon which Jesus Christ could build.

When Peter confessed what he had seen about Jesus, Jesus said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,

but My Father in heaven.” In other words, Peter did not muster up this revelation out of himself. Neither did some other human being give it to him. No. This was a revelation received from the Father into Peter – from the outside of Peter into Peter from the outside from God. And Jesus stated that it is upon THIS ROCK – upon the revelation of Himself in people – that the people of God would be built.

This was the first recorded instance where God had spoken to the disciples, not merely ABOUT Jesus Christ, but that God had spoken INTO the disciples the revelation of His Son. In other words, God had spoken to them SON-WISE. (see Heb. 1:1-2) God is today speaking to us through the on-going revelation of Jesus Christ – He is speaking to us SON-WISE in an inward way.

Paul proclaimed to the Galatians, “I travail until Christ be formed in you,” – “I travail until you are brought into an inward realization of Jesus Christ.” This is how God is primarily speaking today. And He exhorts us, indeed, He warns us, not to harden our hearts. For God has nothing else to speak to His people except His Son, Jesus Christ.



Aug 17
Harden Not Your Heart

***Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart,
as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation
in the wilderness: (Ps. 95:7-8)***

“Hardness of heart,” towards God is not necessarily a proactive rebellion against Him. There are people who shake their fist in God’s face, but this warning is for God’s own people – and most Christians are not so overtly defiant of God. “Hardness of heart,” can be quite subtle, and among the people of God, it is usually VERY religious.

This passage defines for us the meaning of, “hardness of heart.” It is a heart that is set on it’s own way – rather than a heart that is open to God for His will. But one of the most common ways in which believers harden their heart is not so much by openly refusing God’s will – no. Believers harden their heart by deciding FOR GOD what

His will must be. In other words, instead of hearing God, some believers subtly demand that God hear THEM.

This is, of course, a matter of UNBELIEF. It is what happens when a person professes Christ, but remains unbroken; has refused the work of the personal Cross. A hard heart is an uncrucified heart. This is a person who is living from out of their earthly nature – and expects that God will help them to do so.



Aug 18
Faith vs. Unbelief

Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation. (Ps. 95:7-10)

In the final analysis, once God brings LIGHT, all of us have only two choices: We will either be open and allow God to adjust us to Christ, or we will harden our hearts and try to adjust Christ to fit ourselves. Of course, neither of these outcomes will necessarily happen immediately. But they are the only two possible outcomes once God reveals Truth in Christ.

If a person refuses Truth, there is always a REASON – and that reason boils down to not being willing to pay the cost of Truth. The cost of Truth is that we must allow God to deal with the error IN US – unbelief, disobedience, and ignorance. We must say to God, and mean it, “Lord, do whatever it takes to set me free and bring me into the fullness of Christ.” This is openness to God by faith. This is the basis of LOSING your life to Jesus Christ.

Israel had to wander in the wilderness for forty years so that God could bring them to the place where they would settle for nothing less than God’s purpose. Each of us will have our time in our wilderness unto that same end. God is telling us that we must not harden our heart, for there is simply no other purpose that God has to offer than that of His purpose in Christ Jesus.



Aug 19
God's Command to Enter His Rest

It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest. (Ps. 95:10-11)

If you read the OT account of God's dealings with Israel to bring them into The Promised Land, you will see that over and over again God COMMANDED them to enter the land – He commanded them to ENTER HIS REST. In other words, there was no other option provided for them if they wanted to be in God's full purpose. From the beginning, God had only one destiny and purpose for Israel – going all the way back to His covenant with Abraham: They were to enter and take possession of the land.

Jesus Christ is our Promised Land; He is our inheritance. God has freely given us all things IN His Son. God is commanded us to enter and take possession of what He has given – to enter in, “by grace through faith.”

Hebrews tells us that Israel would not enter the land because of UNBELIEF. The land can be entered ONLY by faith. And in this Psalm, affirmed by Hebrews, Christians are warned, lest we commit the same sin of unbelief.

Many Christian people seem to think that we must become, “good enough,” to enter His rest in Christ. Or we think that we must wait until God comes down and picks us up and deposits us into our inheritance in Christ. But none of this is the Truth. God tells us that we must enter into the fullness of Christ NOW – by faith. He tells us to enter – not upon the basis of anything about ourselves – but to put ourselves aside; to lose ourselves to Christ. He tells us to enter solely upon the basis of Jesus Christ – and upon the basis of His promise and command to enter. God has given us all things freely in Christ. He is telling us to believe and take possession.

The reason we will NOT enter is almost always because of something about ourselves. Either we don't think we are worthy, or we don't want to pay the cost of entering the land – which is the relinquishment of ourselves, and of our old life into the hands of Christ. This is our error of heart.

It is unbelief. But there are no other options that God has for us. We have been called and redeemed for the purpose of living in, and experiencing The Promised Land, Jesus Christ. God says, "Enter by faith."



Aug 20
A New Song Unto the Lord

O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. (Ps. 96:1)

The, "new song," is what a believer sings to the Lord from out of Jesus Christ. If a person is born from above in Christ Jesus, they are a new creation. The old has been passed over, and all things have become new. And all of those new things are, "out from God." (II Cor. 5:17-18) The, "new song," of the believer is from out of the revelation of Jesus Christ they have received – the believer, as it were, sings Jesus Christ. He is their new song.

We have an expression, "He has changed his tune; he is singing another tune." We say this when someone has changed their attitude or point of view. It is in that sense that the believer sings a new song unto the Lord. If we are born from above and have begun to see Jesus Christ in Truth, He will alter how we view everything else. ALL discernment in the Christian life is supposed to be the byproduct of knowing Jesus Christ. We will indeed change our tune. We will sing a new song to the Lord, and knowing Him will alter our perspective on everything else we encounter.



Aug 21
Declaring His Glory Among the Heathen

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. (Ps. 96:3)

Here we find a call to preach the gospel. But what is the gospel? Paul says, "The gospel concerning HIS SON." (Rom. 1:3) The gospel is Jesus Christ. It is by preaching

the Person of Jesus Christ that the church truly declares the glory of God among the unsaved.

Now, of course, the gospel absolutely includes what Jesus did to redeem humanity. Any gospel that denies or distorts that Jesus was God the Son become man is not the gospel of God. Any gospel that denies or distorts the Cross of Jesus Christ is not the gospel – it is, “another gospel.” Any gospel that denies or in any way misrepresents the resurrection of Christ is a false gospel. And any gospel that corrupts the present work, purpose, and means of God in His people through Christ within is likewise a false gospel. The gospel is the ENTIRE Truth of the Person of Jesus Christ, included in which is His redemptive work.

Now note: The gospel is not merely what Jesus DID. No. The gospel is concerning the Person who did it. We are not to put our faith in the Cross. We are not merely to believe Jesus rose from the dead. No. Our faith is to be in the ONE who died on the Cross and who rose from the dead. If we put our faith in the Person of Jesus Christ, we will come into an understanding of what He did. Put your faith in the Person of Jesus, and you ARE putting your faith in what He did – He IS Christ crucified and Christ raised.

There is no redemption without the historical events that Jesus performed to save us. We must KNOW that Jesus performed those historical acts, and we must know what He accomplished through them. But Jesus IS the savior and the object of our faith, rather than the historical events. We cannot have a living relationship with an historical event, but only with the One who finished them. Our faith is to be in the ONE in whom there is life eternal, and in the ONE with whom we are joined forever.



Aug 22
When Jesus Christ Returns

For he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. (Ps. 96:13)

It is a fact that Jesus Christ is already here by His spirit in His people. But this does not negate the literal Second Coming.

Peter tells us that, “judgment has begun with the household of God.” (I Peter 4:17) If Christ is in us, then automatically, His presence in us will judge us – as we grow to know HIM, everything else in us will be brought into the light; we will be exposed for who we are before God. God is right now judging His people with His Truth in Christ.

This is a foretaste of the judgment yet to come – a final judgment that will begin when Jesus returns and extend until God is satisfied that it is finished. Have we grasped what it will mean if Jesus Christ judges His own people with HIS TRUTH? Do we realize that such a judgment begins with LIGHT – and that when God is finished, only that which is of His Son will remain? God is going to SHAKE the heavenlies and by the time He is finished only that which is of Christ will remain. That is how the kingdom of God will be established. As it is in the believer NOW, so it will be in much greater way when Jesus returns.



Aug 23
Judging the World With Righteousness

For he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. (Ps. 96:13)

If God were merely to judge the world, indeed, even His own people, in RIGHTEOUSNESS, no one would be saved. This is really the outcome of being judged by the law, which is the written righteousness of God. But God has promised to judge all humanity, not merely by His law, but by HIS SON. Paul said:

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent: Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto

***all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
(Acts 17:30-31)***

Just as is the case during this age – the law will expose us as sinners, and condemn us, but God offers His Son as the answer to the law unto salvation – so it will be when God judges all humanity by Jesus Christ. The judgment of God is not merely God passing sentence – judgment is never just that – the judgment of God begins with LIGHT and exposure. If God is to judge, light must be given – God must expose the Truth about the sinner, but He promises to do so in the light of His Son as Savior.

It is not possible for God to judge anyone unless there is a basis for His judgment – and that basis for all humanity is Jesus Christ. Yet this mandates that all whom God judges be given enough light to at least turn to Christ. Only then is judgment possible and finished – only then is it judgment IN righteousness.



**Aug 24
Seeing Jesus Christ**

Clouds and darkness are round about him. (Ps. 97:2)

This passage is a picture of how God looks from the perspective of natural man. Often, God seems to be hidden by clouds and darkness. But the problem here is not with God – “God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5) The problem is with humanity. We cannot even begin to see God until we are born from above: “Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see.....” (John 3:3) But even if we are born from above, we must be brought into an inward realization of Christ.

Each of us are born blind to God. We cannot see Him. There is nothing in us by which we can know Him, or want to know Him. But there is something that can compound our blindness: We can be deceived into thinking we do see. This is religious deception. We think we see and know God. But the god we know is a product of our own nature.

It is one thing to be blind and not realize you are blind. But it is worse to be blind and be filled with religious pride to where you demand that you see. The only solution is for God to convince us that we are, in fact, blind.

It is a wonderful revelation for a person to, “see that they are blind.” They can then cry for help. This is the first step to being able to see Jesus Christ – God shows us we are blind and that what we thought we saw was error. Then, once we begin to realize our blindness, God can open our eyes to see Jesus. Then, the clouds and darkness of our nature can begin to be cleared, and our blindness will be replaced with a revelation of Jesus Christ.



Aug 25
Our God is a Consuming Fire

***A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies
round about. (Ps. 97:3)***

Several places in the NT, God is pictured as being, “a consuming fire:”

***Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath
promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth
only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more,
signifies the removing of those things that are shaken,
as of things that are made, that those things which
cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving
a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us have grace,
whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence
and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.
(Heb. 12:26-29)***

***If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon,
he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be
burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be
saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the
temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in
you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall
God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,
which temple ye are. (1 Cor. 3:14-17)***

As scary as some of these passages might be, they are actually great news: By the time God is finished with His purpose for this age, ONLY that which is of Christ is going to remain.

God is beginning that purpose NOW. If we will open ourselves to Him, He will be as a consuming fire in us. The flesh will come under the Cross and we will be set free to experience the fullness of Jesus Christ. There is nothing that will perish in this, "fire," that is of value. But what will remain is that which is eternal in Jesus Christ.



Aug 26
Walking in His Light

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. (Ps. 97:11)

God continually desires to reveal His Son TO us, and IN us. But the revelation of Jesus Christ is not merely INFORMATION. It is REVELATION – and can only be received according to the Truth if we are unconditionally open and surrendered to God. Otherwise we will take the Truth God reveals and either interpret it according to our own mind, or we will go as far as to use the Truth of God for our own interests.

Even in human communication this happens all the time. A person says one thing, and it is taken the wrong way. We interpret life in accordance with the person we are. It is so much more with God. My heart attitude towards God – whether I am truly open to Him – will determine how I hear Him.

Jesus said, "If your eye is single to God, your whole body will be filled with light. But if your eye be evil, you will be filled with darkness." (see Matt. 6:22-23) In fact, if our eye is not single to the Lord, "the light in us will be darkness," that is, we may actually think we see the Truth but be totally deceived.

The key is our EYE, which is equal to our HEART. Do we really want the Truth? Are we willing to let God do whatever it takes to make us receptive to the Truth? Are we unwilling to settle for less? If I can answer YES to

these questions then God will SOW LIGHT into me. I will eventually see the Truth in Christ.



Aug 27

God is No Respector of Persons

Before the LORD; for he comes to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity. (Ps. 98:9)

Many people are under the delusion that that are, “God’s favorite.” Because we are occupied with ourselves we think that God is likewise occupied with us to the exclusion of all others. We might base this on our works, our service, or because of all we think we have suffered for Christ. But it is a lie. God is no respector of persons. (Rom. 2:11 and I Peter 1:17)

This is not bad news. It is good news. If God is no respector of persons, it is true that He does not love you, or value you, anymore than He loves or values any other human being. But neither does He love or value you LESS. And God IS love. So what this means is that God loves each human being the same – with the FULLNESS of His love.

There is no human being who has access to God through Christ anymore than another. God’s purpose is the same for all, although the means by which He accomplishes it may vary. Each person has an equal opportunity to know Jesus Christ for themselves.

Now, what this ought to mean is that if God is no respector of persons – and loves all the same – that we ought to be no respector of persons. We ought to love all the same in the Lord. This does not mean we don’t have friends or preferences. It simply means that we realize that we are all ONE in Christ Jesus.



Aug 28
God's Inevitable Judgment

***The LORD reigns; let the people tremble: he sits
between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. (Ps.
99:1)***

In the Word of God, God openly states that in this age it is going to seem as if God is indifferent. He is going to allow evil – He is going to allow the cup of iniquity to be filled. It may seem as if the wicked prosper and that those who follow Jesus Christ are fools.

It is always encouraging to discover that what seems to be evidence that God is indifferent is already discussed in scripture and explained – it is always encouraging to discover that what is going on is to be expected. This helps us to realize that God really is in charge – He has told us these things would be the case ahead of time.

But God also makes something else perfectly clear: He is going to judge ALL. Each of us are accountable to HIM. From this there will be NO escape. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ.

God is sovereign – God reigns. And it is the earth, and all of humanity that ought to revere Him. The earth may move, but God is always the same.

There is going to come a day of reckoning. It is The Day of the Lord – that point at which God has His day. He will judge ALL humanity by His Son Jesus Christ. In other words, He will ask, “If you heard the Truth of Jesus Christ, what did you do with Him? What did you allow Him to do for you?” These are questions that will determine our eternal fate.



Aug 29
God's Workmanship in Christ

***Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath
made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and
the sheep of his pasture. (Ps. 100:3)***

More and more today, believers are being taught that they must MAKE THEMSELVES – they are have been given in themselves what is necessary to be a Christian – and that Jesus simply came to release their potential; that Jesus is the power of God that will enable us to realize our full value, identity, and potential. Unwittingly, many have bought into these errors, not realizing that at the core, they are Gnosticism.

To many believers today, the fact that without Christ we are reprobates (II Cor. 13:5), and that there is no good in our flesh (Rom. 7:18), are outdated religious teaching. Rather, we want to be told how valuable we are to God, and we want to discover our true identity. Much teaching today is nothing more than a ploy of Satan to harden God's people in their already natural tendency to be occupied with themselves.

These teachings gain traction because believers are blind to the Person of Jesus Christ. If we have received an inward realization of Jesus Christ, we will no longer be occupied with ourselves – we will be occupied with HIM. We will no longer speak of our value to God, but of the value of Christ to us. And rather than be obsessed with our true identity in Christ, we will be obsessed with His true identity in us.

Jesus Christ is not OUR workmanship, created in our own image. Rather, we are HIS workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. This complete and utter change of mind and heart is the impact of seeing Jesus Christ – it is the freedom that comes from knowing Him.



Aug 30
Praise in the House of God

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. (Ps. 100:4)

There are many descriptions in scripture of a believer's response to God. Thanksgiving is one of them. Blessing and praising His name is another. But if we think about these things, we will realize that in order for such responses to be REAL – they cannot merely be the result

of obeying some law or command to respond in such a way. If I give God thanks only because I am commanded to do so, how thankful am I? If I praise God because I must, am I really praising Him?

About forty or so years ago, there began a movement, inspired by a book, that promoted the idea that if you praised God while in any difficult circumstance that God would set you free from that circumstance. Praise became a gimmick. It became, "something we could DO," that would move God. And of course, when that is the case, it is not praise at all.

Jesus stated, "These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. In VAIN do they worship Me." (see Matt. 15:8-9) It is possible to go through the motions of worshipping God – to speak praise and to jump up and down and to even shed tears – but for all of it to amount to NOTHING in the eyes of God. Rather, He wants our hearts; He wants us.

In order for praise and thanksgiving to be real, they must be from the heart – out of some realization that God is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. If I truly see Jesus Christ these are the kinds of reactions I will have as a matter of course – because I will be seeing the One who IS worthy.



Aug 31
Conduct in the House of God

I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. (Ps. 101:2)

According to the NT, there are a number of specific matters that cannot be tolerated in the house of God – in our congregations. At the top of the list, heresy and immorality cannot be tolerated. Under those, division and conduct that speaks of an irreverence for God are unacceptable. But in today's church, these things are almost universally tolerated. Or, when they are taken seriously, people are put under the law. There is no love or spirit of redemption. Both of these kinds of reactions are not supposed to be found in the house of God.

Sometimes the reaction that people in the church have to sin and unbelief is worse than the problem to which they are reacting.

The solution to these things is not to find a better law or standard for conduct. No. Rather, the solution is to teach and know Jesus Christ. If the Truth of Jesus Christ was boldly proclaimed in a congregation, it would solve many problems before they begin. The people who truly desire Christ would stay and be edified. Those who do not want Christ will, for the most part, leave of their own accord. And if anyone stays and causes trouble – they will, “stick out like a sore thumb,” in an environment where Christ is the center and Christ is the life. They will not be able to hide and do much damage.

The responsibility under God for keeping Jesus Christ as the life of the church falls to the pastor – and then upon the mature in Christ. When the core people of the church know the Truth and are manifesting Christ, those who are babes in Christ can grow and prosper spiritually in that church.



Sept 1
Truth in the House of God

***He that works deceit shall not dwell within my house:
he that tells lies shall not tarry in my sight. (Ps.
101:7)***

It is the responsibility of church leadership to see to it that the Truth is proclaimed in His house. But this will not be real unless those proclaiming the Truth have been made TRUE TO GOD – by faith in Jesus Christ.

God desires, “Truth in the inward parts.” (Ps. 51:6) He wants us to have an eye that is single to Him. (Matt. 6:22) He wants us to, “walk in the light as He is in the Light.” (1 John 1:7) These all describe, not merely what we are, but what we are in relationship to God Himself.

There are many believers who think that the way to be honest with God is to first be honest with each other: This kind of thinking has led many into destructive heresies. For example, some Christians do not believe that they can

be free of sin until they confess it to someone; anyone. They do not believe they can be right with God unless they are FIRST right with everyone else. So a system of LAW is created – which brings death. It replaces faith in Christ.

The fact is, confessing your sin to another believer might make you feel good for a short time, but it cannot set you free from that sin. In order to get free from any sin, you have to come to the end of your efforts, and be honest and open to God. You have to BELIEVE and rest in Christ.

As for confessing your sins to other believers, if your sin is between God and yourself, it is not necessary to confess it to another believer – in fact, you should not. It does not edify or profit anyone. But if your sin is against them personally you can confess it to them personally -- as God leads. Again – we must not turn this into LAW. The general rule of thumb is that confession of sin ought to include only those against whom the sin was committed – and then only as God leads.

You cannot create Truth within yourself by DOING. Truth is already in you if Christ is in you. Thus, we need to come to know HIM. And if we are growing to know Him, we will begin to not only KNOW the Truth, but we will speak it and live it in the house of God.



Sept 2 The New Man in Christ

***My days are like a shadow that declines; and I am withered like grass. But thou, O LORD, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.
(Ps. 102:11-12)***

When a person come to Jesus Christ, the Lord joins us to Himself and we become one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) But even though we are one SPIRIT with Christ, we are not physically joined to Him, nor are we joined to him with our human SOUL. The body and the psychic dimension remain outside of our union in spirit with Jesus Christ.

This means that in this age your body and your, “soul man,” are NOT saved. You are getting older. You get sick. You have emotional problems; you react strangely. Sometimes your thinking is not Godly. In this age, you are saved only in your spirit.

The union of the human spirit with Jesus Christ IS the new creation in Christ Jesus. This is what the bible calls, “the new man,” or, “the inner man.” But there remains that OLD man, or, “outer man.” And in this age, it is perishing; wasting away.

Paul wrote:

***For we know that if our earthly house
of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building
of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the
heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to
be clothed upon with our house that is from heaven.
(II Cor. 5:1-2)***

The natural man is not only going to die physically, but in this age, it is to be put under the Cross so that it might not govern us. Despite the fact that this passage is describing what is going to happen when our body is resurrected, there is an application NOW – our earthly house is dissolving and we are putting on Jesus Christ – not physically now, but spiritually.

When we are resurrected at His Coming, then all that God says will be proven true. We will see that this life, and all this is in it, is like grass that withers and perishes. Hopefully, in Christ, we are already beginning to realize this is a fact.



Sept 3 God's Glory in Zion

***When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in
his glory. (Ps. 102:16)***

Mount Zion is a type and a shadow of the fullness of Jesus Christ expressed in and through His people. It is always spoken of as the core of where God is working, and the centerpiece of His purpose. Consequently, Zion

is where God shall appear in His glory – it is the people through whom Christ will be manifested.

Peter writes, “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” (1 Peter 2:6) Jesus Christ is the cornerstone – the ROCK upon which the people of God are to be built. And Zion are those people in whom God is able to establish Christ.

Zion is not, “special ones,” that are given opportunity in Christ that is not afforded to others. No. God is not respecter of persons. Rather, Zion is comprised of anyone who means business with God and are willing to come into the fullness of Christ – regardless of cost.



Sep 4 Jesus Christ Never Changes

But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. (Ps. 102:27)

God cannot change because God is already perfect. A perfect being cannot improve, and a perfect being cannot be diminished. And what applies to God also applies to Jesus Christ. That is why Hebrews states:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. (Heb. 13:8)

But most of us do not read on. We fail to see why Paul is making this statement. He is making it to assure believers that since Jesus Christ, the Living Truth, never changes, then the true doctrines that speak of Him never change.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (Heb. 13:8-9)

This is especially important to understand in this day and age. Today many are teaching that God, “is doing a new thing” – and that what He is doing is not necessarily found in scripture. Some are teaching that the NT is distorted by the culture and thinking of the time, and that as the centuries have passed, and our thinking has become enlightened, that we are free to discard the Bible, and replace it with new ideas. Of course, the agenda in this is to create a Christianity that makes room for sin, and really, for anything that is right in our own eyes.

But even though the mind of man continues to become more and more corrupt, Jesus Christ is the same. He is eternal, and He is the Truth.



Sept 5
Does God Heal Today?

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases. (Ps. 103:2-3)

The book of Isaiah reads:

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Is. 53:5)

This passage from Isaiah, and this one from Psalm 103, are the two most often used to try to prove that it is ALWAYS God's will to heal. The teaching is that healing is a guarantee in the Atonement – meaning that if you are saved, you need not ever be sick. Your healing is as certain as is your salvation.

Is that the Truth? Well, first of all, how many believers do you know that are actually healed? There are some believers that receive healing. But relatively speaking, there are simply NOT that many healings – which if it were guaranteed in the Atonement should not be the case. Indeed, if healing is guaranteed in the Atonement, then if you are NOT healed, you should question your salvation.

Of course, those who teach that healing is guaranteed in the Atonement say that you must believe to be healed. Really? In other words, you had enough faith to be saved, but not enough to be healed? I think the flaw in this thinking out to be obvious.

The Truth is, healing is NOT guaranteed in the Atonement. Why? Because your body is not saved. When you are saved you are joined to the Lord and become one SPIRIT with Him. You are not joined to Him physically. In this age, your body remains outside of union with Christ. The only way your body will become saved is through death and resurrection – which is yet to come when Christ returns.

Now, this does not mean that God cannot or will not heal. It does not mean that if we are alive spiritually in Christ that there will not be physical benefits. But all healing is subject to the will of God. These passages, rather than guarantee healing, are simply saying that you are free to ask God for healing, and if you are healed, it is God who has done it.



Sept 6
The God of All Grace

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Ps. 103:10-12)

This Psalm is certainly a proclamation of God's eternal grace and mercy through Christ. Through Christ God has not only forgiven us for all sin, but has removed or taken away our sin – as far as the east is removed from the west.

Most Christians will say they believe this. But when we sin, and we will sin, do we walk in that faith? For if God has in fact removed our sin, then He has removed the basis for any condemnation. Do we give place to condemnation? Paul says, "There is therefore NO

condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1) But does he mean that there is no condemnation EXCEPT when we sin? If so, then there IS condemnation, because when else would there be condemnation EXCEPT when we sin. Or does Paul means that there is no condemnation EVEN when we sin. Yes. There is no condemnation EVEN when we sin because in Jesus Christ it is finished once and for all and forever.

Of course, we can hardly believe this is possible – that we are forgiven forever and that there is no condemnation EVEN when we sin. But either this is the Truth or it is not. And it is the Truth – it is fundamental to the gospel of grace.



Sept 7 The Kingdom of God

***The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens;
and his kingdom rules over all. (Ps. 103:19)***

The kingdom of God is not a place over which God rules. Rather, the kingdom of God is God's rule over any place or any person. The kingdom of God is the sovereignty and authority of God.

Christ in us IS the kingdom of God in us. Christ is the King and if He dwells in us then His sovereignty and authority resides in us. All who give themselves to Jesus Christ and choose to lose their lives to Him are surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord, and consequently, are entering into the kingdom or rule of Christ in God.

Jesus preached, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel.” Jesus was saying that whether anyone likes it or not, and whether even one person believes it or not, God's kingdom is alive and is going to invade this earth. Nothing is going to stop it. Therefore REPENT so that you can enter INTO that kingdom through death and resurrection in Christ. In other words, God's throne is settled and established. The question for us is whether we will choose to come under His kingdom.



**Sept 8
Angels and Ministers**

Who makes his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire. (Ps. 104:4)

Hebrews 1:7 quotes this verse from Psalm 104 as one of the proofs that Jesus Christ was greater than any angel. Hebrews says of Jesus:

Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? (Heb. 1:4-5)

In other words, Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. We are so used to hearing this, that to us it may have lost significance. Jesus is the Son of God. That sets Him apart as infinitely superior to all others— and He became human.

Perhaps in this day and age, we don't need to be convinced that the Son of God is infinitely above all others. But Hebrews emphasizes this Truth – because everything that God has done through Christ depends upon the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God BECOME MAN. This epistle goes on to say:

For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings... Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Heb. 2:10-14)

God the Son had to become flesh and blood in order for flesh and blood to become joined to God in Him. This was made possible by His sinless life, death, and resurrection.

Angels are, “ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” (Heb. 1:14) But Jesus is the one who IS the salvation of the redeemed.



Sept 9
God IS Our Strength

***Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face
evermore. (Ps. 105:4)***

God never gives the believer strength. God never makes the believer strong. Rather, He exposes us as weak so that by faith we might abide in Him AS our strength.

If you are a believer, you have Christ in you. Christ IS the power of God. (I Cor. 1:24) But this will do you no good unless you have been broken of your own strength and are abiding in Christ.

We are not left to ourselves to figure this out. God will see to it that we are brought into the experience of this Truth. He gave Paul, "a thorn in the flesh." This is the work of the Cross and it is likewise a necessity in our lives. God will bring the work of the personal Cross into our lives that we might lose our lives (and our strength) and find Christ as our life (and strength). He will say to us, as He did to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." We will hopefully echo the words of Paul: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

It is one thing to proclaim that the Lord is our strength. But it is quite another to be made utter weak in ourselves, and then to put our faith in Jesus Christ who IS the power of God.



Sept 10
God's Only Anointed

***Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets
no harm. (Ps. 105:15)***

This verse is often made to mean that if someone is a minister that you dare not question them. You dare not speak against them. You dare not interfere with them or oppose them. To do so, it is claimed, you will be opposing God. Such ridiculous interpretations have been used to control people, and bring them under the authority of heretics. This is the stuff of which cults and cult groups are made.

Of course, even if this interpretation of this verse were correct, the question would remain as to whether a person claiming to be God's anointed is actually anointed of God. There have always been self-appointed gurus in the body of Christ. God has not anointed them, indeed, He is against them. In that case, if God is against them, it acceptable for US to oppose THEM? You bet it is.

Those familiar with NT Greek will tell you that the name, "Christ," as well as the Hebrew equivalent, "Messiah," mean, "anointed one." Jesus Christ is God's only anointed. And as far as ministers are concerned, there is no anointing except that it be an extension of the life of THE anointed one.

John writes, "These [*things*] have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (1 John 2:26-27)

There is no authority given by Christ to anyone. The only authority that exists in the will of God is the life of Jesus Christ Himself in an individual. Thus, it is only to the extent that a person is living out from Christ and doing His will that there is ANY authority. But it is not authority to tell people what to do. It is the authority of Truth and resurrection life in Jesus Christ. ALL other supposed authority is not of God and can be discarded or opposed by the believer.



Sept 11
Humiliation And Exaltation

He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance. (Ps. 105:17-21)

If you examine God's dealings with His saints, every one of them that God used had basically the same history. All of them were brought down to zero. But then, if they had faith in God, they were exalted. They were now, "safe," to be exalted because they would live in it for God's glory.

It is always necessary for God to do a work of the Cross in a person before they can walk in the power of His resurrection. We must lose our lives to Jesus Christ in an unconditional surrender. Only then Jesus can be our life.

God allowed Joseph to be sold as a slave. He spent years in prison. At times it must have seemed as if God had forsaken him. But rather than forsake Joseph, God was doing a work IN Him so that He could eventually do a work THROUGH Him. Joseph had been made a slave in preparation for the day when he would be made a ruler.

This mirrors God work in our lives. We have to be brought down to nothing so that Christ might be our everything. This cannot happen on paper. It has to happen by experience.



Sept 12
The Danger of Mixture

They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. (Ps. 106:34-36)

In the OT, God teaches much through the use of actual historical events – but many of those actual events,

people, and nations, are types and shadows of NT Truth. There are spiritual counterparts in the life of the church and individual believer. This is the case regarding God's command to Israel that they destroy or drive out the nations that had been inhabiting The Promised Land. The Promised Land is a type and shadow of fullness in Christ for the believer, and God's command to give those heathen tribes no place is for us today in the body of Christ – we are not to allow any mixture of Truth and error; of the flesh and the spirit; of that which is OF Christ and that which is NOT of Christ. To allow mixture is a recipe for disaster.

First of all, to allow mixture in the body of Christ is evidence that there is already mixture in our personal lives. It is evidence that our personal heart is divided and that our relationship with God is a mixture. Why else would we allow a mixture into our personal lives, or into the body of Christ? But secondly, to allow mixture is to completely misrepresent Jesus Christ. It is to present, “another Christ,” and, “another gospel.” As Paul told the Galatians, “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” (Gal. 5:9) ALL that is of the flesh, of natural man, and of this world, must be purged out, so that only that which is of Christ will constitute the life of the believer and of the church. (1 Cor. 5:7)

Of course, this command of God is almost universally ignored today. And most of the people who take it seriously often purge out one form of leaven only to replace it with another. Look that the body of Christ today – it is utter and completely defined by mixture.

If we wanted to find a major cause for the lack of power in the church against the forces of evil and the world, we would find it here. God will never commit Himself to any mixture – mixture is not Truth and life that, “falls a little short.” No. Mixture isn't Truth at all – it is heresy and error. The church has generally compromised with Jesus Christ.

Today the church has NO answer for the forces of evil. Thus, believers and the body of Christ are looking more and more like the world. The church has accepted great evil and immorality, all, “in the name of love and tolerance.” Compromise with Christ in the hearts of believers, especially leaders, has caused many, “to serve idols.” It has become the NEW NORMAL to do so. And

the only thing that will change it is a great shaking – which is yet to come.



Sept 13
Blessed Be the Lord, Amen

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD. (Ps. 106:48)

A number of times in the book of Revelation, God gives us a glimpse into heaven. A few other times, Jesus or God appears to a person or a multitude. In all of those cases, the reaction of people is to fall down and worship. They are utterly overcome by the glory that is revealed to them.

Is this kind of a reaction to God the result of some command by God to fall down before Him? It is a mandated worship? No. It is completely spontaneous. In other words, if you see Jesus Christ you are going to be overwhelmed by the greatness, the glory, and the holiness.

We see an indication of this in the OT. Moses was told that anyone who looks upon the Lord would die. Is this because God forbids anyone to look at Him, and if they do, He will kill them? No. Is it because God is so terrible that to look upon Him will kill you? Humanity cannot look upon God and live because humanity cannot stand before such greatness, beauty, and glory.

If the people of God actually begin to come into an inward realization of Jesus Christ, the result will never be law, fear, or a mandated worship. No. Neither will the response be purely emotional. No. Rather, they will spontaneously and from the heart fall down and worship Him – we will bless the Lord and praise His name. There will be a resounding AMEN to all that He is. And it will translate into a life lived to His glory. That is what happens to humanity when we see God – it is because of Who He is and because of the impact He has upon us.



Sept 14
Delivered From the Enemy

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (Ps. 107:1-2)

All of the ancient civilizations that have been discovered have one thing in common: Religion that worshipped false gods. And in each case, behind that worship were demons. This is reflected, not only in some of the horrible sacrifices that were offered to such demons, but was even reflected in the art and statues. The images of most of those gods are generally ugly and demonic. Even in some of the more, "civilized," cultures like Greece and Rome, false gods were worshipped, indeed, millions of people were controlled by their fear of these demonic gods.

Likewise, if you examine history, you will find that even though Christianity was not generally taught and practiced according to the Truth, that nevertheless where the God of the Bible was acknowledged, and Jesus Christ was preached, there was a general sanity and prosperity that came to those nations. There are exceptions, of course, but you cannot deny the overall effect.

After the sin of Adam, Satan had possession of this world as it's god, and he likewise had access to humanity. Demonism was rampant – and we see that taking hold rather quickly after Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden of Eden. This is one of the reasons why God had to destroy the world with a flood – it was, in part, His deliverance of humanity from such a terrible state. And during the time of Israel, and up to the time of Jesus, only God's people had any knowledge of the true God.

The name of the true God, in itself, carried great power – there was LIGHT that came in that name. But then THE LIGHT Himself came and worked His finished redemption. Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of the Devil. And IN HIM is not only deliverance from Satan, but deliverance from the very realm over which Satan is god. The Lord has truly delivered all of humanity from the hand of the enemy – but not by removing the enemy from humanity. No. Rather, He has IN HIMSELF removed humanity from the enemy – through a new birth as a new creation IN CHRIST.



Sept 15
The True Bread

For he satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness. (Ps. 107:9)

God created humanity to be one with Himself – to live from out of Himself unto His glory. This purpose absolutely defines what a human being IS. And consequently, there is no possibility that a human being can find satisfaction and purpose any other way. Indeed, to the extent that we try we will corrupt ourselves and become morally and spiritually twisted.

Jesus Christ said, “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35) Jesus Christ is the One who restores us back to God – by being joined to Him in spirit we are joined to God. Likewise, experiencing Jesus Christ restores us back to the original design and purpose that God intended for humanity. He is to be our food – our life – and in Him alone can humanity be satisfied.

Of course, to the extent that we refuse or neglect to come to Him and partake of Him, this reality will remain hidden from us. Just as a steady diet of junk food can blind people to the benefits of healthy food, so it is that if we live outside of Christ through unbelief we will not realize what we are missing. Christ bids us to come to Him and find full satisfaction in all that He is.



Sept 16
Jesus Christ is THE LIFE

He turns rivers into a wilderness, and the water springs into dry ground; A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turns the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water springs. And there he makes the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation. (Ps. 107:33-36)

This Psalm provides a wonderful picture of the impact of Jesus Christ as THE LIFE. Wherever He is present there is LIFE – indeed, the wilderness comes alive. But wherever He is absent, there is death – indeed, where there was false life, that of the flesh, there comes death. Jesus Christ is THE LIFE – the only LIFE – and in the end that is going to be proven.

There are many forms of fake life in this age. One of the most deceptive forms is religious flesh. Religious flesh can prop up dead bodies. It can introduce emotionalism and intellectualism. It can get people occupied with themselves. Religious flesh produces religion that pleases the flesh. It will seem as if there is water and fruitfulness. But that which is OF the flesh IS flesh – and can only give birth to more flesh.

When Jesus Christ is introduced into a personal life, or into a congregation, one of the first things that happens is judgment and light. What seemed like a fruitful land is exposed as barren. But what was barren can now spring into fruitfulness.

Of course, this will not necessarily please those who desire to feed their flesh. But when God is done with this age, only that which is of Christ is going to remain. The resurrection life that is found in Christ Jesus is the only REAL life, and the only life that has eternal victory.



Sept 17
Jesus Christ is God's Only Help

Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.
(Ps. 108:12)

When we hear that phrase, “the help of man,” we usually think of it in terms of other people trying to cure what ails us. But it means more than that. “The help of man,” is the help of natural man – including our personal natural man or soul life.

When we are in trouble, it is easy to turn to the resources found in ourselves – our wits, our emotions, and our will power. But perhaps the biggest source of help to which

we turn is our RELIGIOUS FLESH. Many of us think that God has given us a power in ourselves to overcome – that we simply need to believe and confess it. Some of us rely upon our own righteousness as our means of earning God's help and favor in our time of trouble. But all of these things are of the flesh – they are, "the help of man," and are futile.

Rather than give our flesh strength to overcome, God desires to bring us to the end of these things – God desires to show us as being utterly weak. Only then will we lose ourselves to Jesus Christ and put our faith SOLELY IN HIM.

Christ alone is the power of God. (I Cor. 1:24) Thus, rather than call upon that which is in our SOUL MAN, by faith God wants us to abide in Christ, and draw from Him all that we need to overcome and live.



**Sept 18
For His Name's Sake**

But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. (Ps. 109:21-22)

If you allow God to expose your motives in prayer and in seeking God's help, you might be shocked to discover that you want God to act, not for HIS name's sake, but for your own. Although it is natural for believers to want God to deliver us and help us because of our own interests, God wants us to pray that He would do HIS WILL for HIS name's sake.

Do we realize that God's faithfulness TO US mandates that He act in our lives for HIS NAME'S SAKE? For the sake of Jesus Christ in us? When God acts for His own name's sake we benefit. It may not seem like it at first, but in the long run it is the only path to freedom and spiritual life.

God must often bring us to the point where we recognize that we are poor and needy; God must often allow our heart to be wounded. Only then will we abandon

ourselves to Jesus Christ; lose our life to Him. Only then will we say, "Lord, do whatever it takes to get YOUR WILL in me; do whatever it takes for YOUR name's sake." And if God does that we will never regret it.



Sept 19
Christ is Seated in Heavenly Places

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Ps. 110:1)

Once Jesus finished His redemptive work, He ascended, where He sits at the right hand of God. This is the place of authority as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus Christ was not merely given power and authority by His Father – just for the giving – but He obtained power and authority through experience and victory -- because He surrendered Himself to His Father in death, and was raised as the personification of resurrection of all life and power:

The working of His (God's) mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. (Eph. 1:19-22)

All the power of God is eternally VESTED in Christ. This age is the time wherein He is at the right hand of God calling unto Himself a people, and thus, building His kingdom, beginning with His life in the saints.



Sept 20
Seated With Christ in Heavenly Places

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Ps. 110:1)

Jesus Christ is presently seated in heavenly places, at the right hand of the Father. But if we are IN Christ, we are likewise seated in heavenly places, yet not in addition to Him – but IN HIM.

If we are saved, we are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him. We are IN HIM. Thus, just as Jesus promised, “where I am, there you will also be.” And He is seated in heavenly place at God’s right hand – and thus, so are we. Paul emphasizes this great Truth to the Ephesians:

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

The fact that we are seated IN Christ Jesus, rather than seated merely beside Him, points to the Truth that ALL that God has to give to humanity is given IN HIS SON. And NOTHING God has to give is given any other way. The believer is eternally united with Christ in spirit, and all that God has to give is experienced only as we experience Christ.



Sept 21
All Spiritual Blessings in Christ

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Ps. 110:1)

Because believers are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him (I Cor. 6:17) it is a fact that if Christ is seated in heavenly place at God’s right hand, then we are likewise seated IN HIM. Paul states this Truth outright in Eph. 2:5-6. But what this means is that God has given us

ALL things freely in Christ. It means that IN CHRIST God has blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ. (Eph. 1:3)

What this means is that God has given all that He has to give IN HIS SON – and God will give NOTHING that He has to give apart from His Son. Thus, it is only as we come into an inward realization of Christ, and experience Him, that we can experience what God has given in Him.

Many believers try to experience the things of God – but in ignorance of Jesus Christ. Thus, unwittingly, they tap into the soul realm, thinking it is of Christ. But no. God has given us all things freely, but ONLY in Christ. Or, to put it another way, God has not given us THINGS – He has given us Christ in Whom are all things He has to give.

Do you want to experience all that God has to give? Then seek Christ – seek to know Him and experience Him. IN HIM is all that God has to give.



**Sept 22
The Building of His Kingdom**

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Ps. 110:1)

If we wonder what Jesus Christ has been doing for the last two-thousand years – He is calling a people unto Himself. He is building a kingdom. ALL things, and ALL people, who will receive Him, are being PUT UNDER HIM. That is the kingdom of God.

Paul writes:

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority

and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (I Cor. 15:22-28)

The foundation of the kingdom of God is Jesus Christ IN His people. God's people must lose their lives to Jesus Christ in order to find Christ as their life. THAT is the kingdom of God WITHIN US. Then as His people manifest Him, and become vehicles for His name, all else is brought in under His rule and authority; His kingdom.

Jesus Christ has worked a finished redemption, yes, for humanity, but to accomplish His Father's purpose. And that purpose is that, through Christ, all things would be restored back under the Father.



**Sept 23
Melchizedek**

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 110:4)

The OT character of Melchizedek is a type and shadow of Jesus Christ as our high priest. In the Genesis account, he suddenly appears and then vanishes. But even that account, written the way it was written, was inspired by God. Paul brings out this very fact in his letter to the Hebrews. He says of Melchizedek:

Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abides a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. (Hebrews 7:3-4)

There has always been much speculation as to the identity of Melchizedek. But there is no need to speculate over

what God has not revealed. According to Hebrews, God inspired the absence of information about Melchizedek – the fact that his history is not given is precisely what makes him a type and a shadow of Jesus Christ. He is, in type and shadow, without father or mother, without descent, neither has a beginning or end – he is without those things in the Genesis narrative by the inspiration of God. This, according to Hebrews, makes him a type and shadow of Jesus Christ as our eternal high priest who abides forever.

It is noteworthy that God inspired even the ABSENCE of information in scripture. It is always wise to note what God does NOT say. These are, by omission, also indicative of the Truth.



**Sept 24
Christ, Our High Priest**

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 110:4)

Under the Old Covenant, the high priest was the, “stand in,” before God, or the entire nation. Thus, the high priest, and all of his functions and duties, was a type and a shadow of Jesus Christ, not only as our substitute in His death, but as our Mediator unto God through His resurrection.

Primary to the duties of the high priest was that he entered into the Holy of Holies once a year on the day of Atonement. The Holy of Holies represented the presence of God – to enter into the Holy of Holies signified being one with God. Hebrews explains how this was a type and shadow of the reality in Jesus Christ:

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the

profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised. (Heb. 10:19-23)

Because Jesus is one with the Father, and we are one with Jesus, we are one with the Father IN HIM. This is how Jesus Christ is our high priest – yes, based upon what He has done, but presently, He is our high priest by WHO HE IS, indeed, by WHO HE IS in God and in us.



Sept 25
The Only Mediator Unto God

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Ps. 110:4)

In the OT, the high priest was the mediator unto God for the entire nation. Accordingly, Jesus Christ as our living high priest, is our ONLY Mediator unto God. Paul states:

There is ONE Mediator between God and man, that man Christ Jesus. (1 Tim. 2:5)

Jesus is our Mediator, not only by what He has done, but by his very presence IN US. Jesus is ONE with the Father, and we are ONE with Him – and thus, we are ONE with the Father IN HIM.

From a practical standpoint, this Truth means that the believer has personal, individual, one-on-one access to God solely through Jesus Christ. No human being, no matter how spiritual, and no matter his or her position in the body of Christ, is an additional mediator unto God, or a mediator unto Christ. You do not have to, “go through,” any person to reach God. You do not have to belong to the right group or church. You do not have to SUBMIT to any person or group to be right with God. Jesus Christ is the ONLY Mediator between God and man. This is a foundational Truth of Christianity.



Sep 26
The Beginning of Wisdom

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endures forever. (Ps. 111:10)

The fear of God is not a matter of being afraid of God. The fear of the Lord is REVERENCE for God. It is a reverence that is supposed to govern our lives.

Reverence for God is the BEGINNING of wisdom. This means that we cannot even begin to see the Truth of God unless we have at least some reverence for Him. Reverence for God will motivate us to seek Him for the Truth. And reverence for God will be an openness to the Truth – no matter what it takes, and no matter what that Truth is.

In the final analysis, we are either going to embrace the Truth and allow God to use it to bring us into a realization of His Son, or we are going to try to change the Truth so that it fits us. If we have a reverence for God we will gladly do the former, rather than the latter.

Ultimately, if I revere God, I will lose my life in a complete abandonment to Him. This will not be out of duty, or because I am afraid of Him. It will be because I desire to do so. I will love God – which goes hand in hand with reverence for Him.



Sept 27
Light in the Darkness

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. (Ps. 112:4)

All who are born in Adam are born in darkness. There is NO light and NO life in natural man. And there is no way for him to get it. But when a person comes to Jesus Christ he or she gets more than a THING called, "light." That person receives Christ Himself. God then begins to reveal Christ in that person.

This is how LIGHT arises in darkness – it is through an inward revelation of Jesus Christ. Unless Christ is being revealed IN US we will not get far. Information, doctrines, facts, and religion cannot open our eyes or penetrate our darkness. He must be our light.

Natural man is blind. But worse, he doesn't know he is blind. Thus, the first thing that happens if God is at work is that a person realizes they are blind – and is able to cry out to God. Then God will reveal Christ. And only then will that person be able to see. Only the Person who said, "I AM the Light," can make that possible.



Sept 28
Trust in God

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. (Ps. 112:7)

Many people in this world, including many professing Christians, walk through life in FEAR. They are afraid of what MIGHT happen. They fear the future. Indeed, their heart is continually tossed to and fro by circumstances and by their fear.

All FEAR in the Christian life is the result of something I have embraced a LIE about God. For to the extent that I believe the Truth about God I cannot be afraid – because I will know He is faithful, and that He loves me.

It is true that bad things can happen to Christian people. God never said that we would be spared trials or even tragedy. But He does promise that we will be spared what is NOT His will. He does promise to be faithful to us, and will allow only into our lives that which serves His purpose. Our heart can therefore be fixed upon HIM, rather than circumstances. For He cannot be moved.



Sept 29
The Humility of God

Who humbles himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! (Ps. 113:6)

This is a remarkable statement. It is one thing to say that God humbles Himself to behold the things of the earth. But it is another to say He humbles Himself to behold the things of heaven.

Of course, Jesus Christ humbled Himself to become a man. I would submit that we know very little of this – we have only a glimpse of what Jesus gave up to take upon Himself the human frame. Paul gives us a few hints:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:5-11)

God in His Son truly did humble Himself not only to look upon the things of the earth, but actually became part of the human race. Then He died for us all. No wonder God has highly exalted Him above all as Lord.



Sept 30
The Great Shaking

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob; Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters. (Ps. 114:7-8)

One of the great promises of scripture, and a desire that we all ought to share, is that before all is said and done, God Himself is going to shake, not only the earth, but also the heavenly or spirit realm. The result will be that only that which is of Christ – only the will of God – will remain. That is a glorious thing to expect.

The writer of Hebrews records that promise:

See that ye refuse not him that speaks. For if they escaped not who refused him that spoke on earth, much more *shall not we escape*, if we turn away from him that *speaks* from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this *word*, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God *is a consuming fire*. (Heb. 12:25-29)

This, “great shaking,” has already begun – on an individual level in God’s own people. “For the time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God.” (1 Peter 4:17) If Jesus Christ is in a person, then the presence of Christ IS judgment. All that is not of Him will be exposed and shaken so that we might lose it under the work of the Cross and be set free unto His fullness. But is yet coming a greater, universal shaking. It is going to shake both heaven and earth. God has promised it.



Oct 1 The Prayer God Always Answers

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. (Ps. 115:1)

God has a will. And because it IS His will, he wants to bring it to pass. This is why if we pray, “according to His will,” He promised through Christ to answer us.

When we pray, “according to the will of God,” we are asking Him to give glory to HIS name. We are asking Him

do answer us, “for Your mercy, and for Your Truth’s sake.” We are asking Him, “to do whatever it takes to bring His will to pass for His glory.” God will always answer that prayer.

Now, God cannot always answer such a prayer immediately. That is because despite always wanting to do His will, He loves people too much to do it if He knows that the present ramifications will not work towards His greater end.

For example, God would like to bring down heretical ministries. He would like to sweep His house clean. But He knows that most of the people who are deceived by those ministries are blind to Christ – and so they would not turn to the Truth. Rather, they would just start things all over again, or turn to something worse. A house swept clean of evil, but left void, will become inhabited by worse evil. If you try to separate the wheat from the tares you will uproot some of the wheat. So God WILL answer our prayers for His will. But He must answer in His time according to His wisdom. And we can trust Him to do that.



Oct 2
God Created in Man’s Image

They that make them (idols) are like unto them; so is every one that trusts in them. (Ps. 115:8)

If we will not allow God to create us in Christ Jesus, then we are going to create Christ Jesus in our own image. In the end, it will be one or the other.

There are always REASONS why people are deceived into doing such things. People usually create a god in their own image because the true Jesus Christ does not appeal to them. He does not give them what they want. So they are easily deceived into creating or accepting a Christ that will religiously give them what appeals to their religious nature.

False Christianity is the result of professing Christians making for themselves, or accepting from another, a religiously created idol –a god and a Jesus that is like

themselves, that is, that is the product of themselves; one that appeals to something in their, “soul man.” And when they begin to trust in what they have created, it will govern them. This is deception.

There are millions today who are absolutely convinced that they have found Christ and are walking in the Truth – they will tell you that they are happy, at peace, and have seen God work miracles in their lives to confirm their beliefs. But they are deceived. They are at peace because they are at one with the deception that binds them. And the fact is, if you have created a false god for yourself, and a false Christianity, and are living in it by giving it your faith, you will begin to feel and to see AS the Truth what you have created to be the Truth.

The solution for this kind of deception is the work of the Cross. The work of the Cross will come in and deal with the religious flesh and pride that motivates us to try to create a Christ in our own image. But may no mistake about it, at some point, we must forsake our idol, repent, and give ourselves to Jesus Christ – this is the only path back to God in Truth.



Oct 3

God's Purpose for Humanity

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)

One of God's first commands to Adam was, “have dominion.” With that command, God was actually GIVING humanity dominion over this earth. (Gen. 1:28) Indeed, to, “have dominion,” was one of the purposes for which God created man. (Gen. 1:26)

Adam's dominion was always to be rooted in God's dominion over HIM. Adam was first created FOR GOD, and then by extension, he was to have dominion under God over this earth. This was not merely an outward, “chain of command.” Adam had been created ONE with God in spirit, and it was from out of that relationship that Adam was to be an extension of God's dominion over this earth.

But Adam sinned and broke his spiritual union with God. When that happened he also forfeited his dominion over this earth – because that dominion was rooted in God’s dominion over Adam. Worse, he forfeited his dominion TO SATAN. Satan became, “the god of this world.” Indeed, Satan became the god of the entire earthly realm. His point of access in humanity remains the earthly nature; the soul realm. This is now Satan’s dominion.

God sent His Son to become a man, to live a sinless life as a man, and then to die and be raised. Through all of this, Jesus remained divine, but never discarded His humanity. No. Jesus accomplished this so that IN CHRIST humanity can be restored back to oneness with God. And in that same Christ, God’s original intention for humanity to have dominion is likewise restored. Revelation states, “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

God intends for humanity to have dominion over all of this earth – in and through Jesus Christ. But this will not merely be a dominion that Christ gives to us. It will be a dominion that is found only IN CHRIST – and can be exercised only as an extension of Him, as His people live at one with Him.



Oct 4
The Truth of His Grace

What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:12-13)

Here we see that even in Old Covenant times that people knew that it was only by the grace of God that they could be saved. God’s purpose was ALWAYS salvation by grace through Christ – regardless of the methods and covenant under which it was revealed and ministered.

It is simply impossible to come to see the Truth of God without realizing that you are nothing and He is everything. The Truth of God will always carry the Truth of grace through Jesus Christ. But this realization will not

be morbid or depressing. It will be joyous and lead to freedom. For you will likewise see that Christ has done all and is all – and that God gives all things freely in His Son. (Rom. 8:32)

The Psalmist realizes that there is nothing he can earn from God, or offer to God in exchange for what God freely gives. Therefore, what can he render to God? He says, “This is the one thing I can do in response to the free grace of God. I can believe and receive what He freely gives.” That is faith that is based solely upon Jesus Christ.



Oct 5
The Death of His Saints

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. (Ps. 116:15)

God is never indifferent to the suffering of His people. He is not indifferent to the death of His saints. It may sometimes seem as if He is indifferent. But that is a limited human perspective. God is thoroughly in charge, and He never takes these things lightly.

It is certainly possible that people can bring upon themselves death through disobedience and unbelief, and by living an unhealthy life style. And God will allow this. But it still does NOT mean He is indifferent. He cares even though He allows people to make their choices.

God allows both suffering and blessings in the life of His people so that we may learn Christ. We can expect both. It is comforting to know that if you are walking with the Lord, and Christ is your life, you are not going to die one second before God wills it. And you are not going to live one second longer than God desires. Although God does not cause every single event in the life of His people, it is nevertheless a fact that nothing gets through to His saints without God knowing about it or permitting it.



Oct 6
Should a Christian Make Vows to God?

**I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence
of all his people. (Ps. 116:18)**

There is Christian teaching today that not only tells believers that it is right that they make vows to God, but tells them that they are unconditionally required to keep those vows. Is this the Truth of the Bible?

Jesus directly spoke to this matter of swearing oaths or making vows to God:

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matt. 5:33-37)

As He does numerous times on other subjects, Jesus acknowledges what it says about vows in the law of God. But He points to a higher Truth, and directly commands God's people to NOT make vows to God. Why? Because a vow can be trust in yourself – trust that you are able to bring your promise to pass. Furthermore, most vows to the Lord are made as a bargain with God. In Christ, there are no bargains – only grace and Truth – and unconditional surrender. Bargains with God, as Jesus noted, come from an evil motive of trying to get God to do what we want.

“Marriage vows,” are not wrong because you are entering into a relationship that already demands exactly what you are vowing. The vows are simply giving voice to the definition of marriage. Indeed, your faithfulness to your spouse is not based on your vows – it is based on your love. Swearing to tell the Truth in court is likewise not wrong

because it is simply a public declaration that you are capable of keeping. Jesus is forbidding the practice of

promising God you will do such and such – and binding yourself to it – to the disregard of knowing God’s will for the future. Doing so is a subtle way of trying to control God. He says, “Walk with God with an open heart by faith and you won’t need to make vows.”



Oct 7
The Truth of God

The truth of the LORD endures forever. (Ps. 117:2)

The Truth of God in Jesus Christ never changes. Rather, we discover the Truth in Christ, and are changed so that we can walk with God and manifest Christ.

The Truth is not merely a list of doctrines or teachings about Christ. No. Jesus Christ IS the Truth.

What this means is that when we receive Jesus Christ and He joins us to Himself; He dwells in us – it means that in Christ we receive ALL Truth. In Christ, God gives us everything that He has to give – God has given us ALL things freely in Christ. The Christian life is therefore not a matter of receiving MORE of Christ or MORE of the Truth. Rather, it is a matter of discovering the Christ with Whom we are one in spirit. And as God reveals to us Christ, then we likewise discover the Truth that is IN HIM.

Paul wrote: All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ (Col. 2:3) Thus, it is only as Christ is unfolded and revealed in us that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge – the Truth – is unfolded to us. The Truth of the Lord endures forever because the Truth is a Person, Jesus Christ.



Oct 8
The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Ps. 118:22-23)

Any builders of the body of Christ who continue to refuse or neglect Jesus Christ – whether willfully or in ignorance -- are NOT building the house of God. They are building their own house – and God will never commit Himself to them. It also says in Psalms, “Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” (Ps. 127:1)

Don't apply this only to the church as a congregation, or to the actual buildings and organization. The church – or ekklesia – are PEOPLE in whom Christ dwells. If a person is built upon a, “stone,” other than the Lord Jesus -- then that person's Christianity is error. It is a façade. And when the test comes, it will come crashing down.

Jesus Christ never gave anyone authority to build His church FOR HIM. Rather, He said, “I will build My church.” Thus, despite the fact the ministry is used of Christ to edify believers, unless it is Christ doing it through that ministry, it is not being built upon THE ROCK or Cornerstone, and will not endure eternally.



Oct 9
Rejoicing in Today

***This is the day that the LORD hath made; we will
rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)***

God has made each day as a vehicle wherein He desires to accomplish His purpose in Christ. That is why we ought to rejoice and be glad in it. There is no suggestion in the Psalm that whatever happens during each day is ordained by God. No. Plenty happens that is outside of the will of God, which is orchestrated by Satan, and that is the product of the unbelief and sin of man. God has NOT made those things – although He may choose to use them.

There is also the overall application that if we have been called to Christ, then THIS is the day of our salvation. Indeed, Christ is God's day of rest – Christ is God's spiritual Sabbath rest. We can cease from our labors and enter into Christ by faith.



Oct 10
A Clean Heart

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. (Ps. 119:9)

When most of us think of a way of life that is, “clean,” we think of a life that is free of immorality and other vices. But according to God’s Word, a clean life is the product of a clean heart towards God. It is the outcome of having seen and embraced the Truth of Jesus Christ.

A, “clean way,” is a Christianity that is free of mixture. I seek to worship God in spirit and in Truth – rather than through my religious soul man. Neither do I try to live in Christ on the basis of my own righteousness. Religious corruption and uncleanness are the most subtle and deceptive because they seem so holy and good. But whatever is not of Christ is unclean – religious or not.

A pure heart is one that has unfolded itself to God and has allowed all of His light in Christ to come in. Our part is to open ourselves. We can ask God to do, “whatever it takes to bring us into the fullness of Christ, and that desire alone constitutes an openness to God from a pure and clean heart.



Oct 11
Eyes That Have Been Opened

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. (Ps. 119:18)

Jesus Christ is the Living Righteousness of God – and the type and shadow of Christ as God’s righteousness is the law of God. Thus, the many references in Psalms to the law of God are intended by God to act as a schoolmaster to point us to Christ. In HIM are all of the wondrous things of God.

The problem with most of humanity is not merely the fact that we are blind. The greater problem is that we don’t know we are blind, in fact, we think we see. That is

deception. This is even the case with many professing Christians.

One of the first things God must do to open a person's eyes to Christ is to show them they ARE blind. Often this will require that He show them that they do NOT see – but that what they think they see is error. This is a crisis point in a person's life – and often it is religious pride and self-righteousness that motivates a person to refuse to admit that have been in error; have been blind. But now they are in a worse condition – for they have refused to confess their blindness, and therefore their blindness is self-imposed. They are no longer merely IN the dark. They have closed their eyes to the light and in doing so chosen darkness rather than light.

But when God shows a person they are blind He is actually making the, “to see” – He is making them, “to see,” that they are blind. They can then confess it and cry out to God, “Lord, that I may see.” This is a heart cry out of a realized need. And God will answer them by bringing them to where they can begin to see Jesus Christ. Only if we see and realize Jesus Christ do we have spiritual sight, for He is the Light of God.



Oct 12
The Quickening of The Word

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (Ps. 119:50)

Jesus said, “It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not.” Jesus was referring to His own teaching to the crowds and to his disciples. He stated directly that His words were spirit and life. But because at that point in time, there was no place in their heart for His words, they interpreted them according to the flesh – in earthly terms with their earthly minds. The words of Jesus Christ did not profit them; indeed, many rejected Him.

The Word of God is the Truth of God. But just as was the case that day, we will never grasp the meaning of the Word of God if there is no place in us for the Truth. Oh,

we might have a certain academic or theological understanding. But we will not see Jesus Christ Himself in the Word.

The spirit of God can quicken the Word of God to us – which means that we can then see Christ; see the Truth; discern what God means; and apply it to ourselves. God will often do this for us in our affliction. And as was the case for the Psalmist, that is a great comfort.

God has given us His Word – not so that we might merely understand His Word. No. God has given us His Word so that we might understand God Himself. The Word of God is a spiritual revelation of God through Jesus Christ. God exhorts us to do more than search the scriptures for answers and doctrines. He wants us to seek His Son -- Who is the Living counterpart to the written word – Jesus is the Living Word.



Oct 13
The Spirit Quickens Unto Life

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (Ps. 119:50)

The apostle Paul wrote, "Who also has made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. (II Cor. 3:6) Anyone can read, and even memorize the Bible. It is possible for us to become Bible experts and Bible teachers. But none of that, in and of itself, can make us alive in Christ.

The Pharisees were the Bible experts of Jesus' time. Because there were no printed Bibles – only some hand copied portions of the OT in synagogues -- and no other media – they had to practically memorize the OT. The scribes and Pharisees had dedicated their lives to knowing, preserving, and teaching God's Word. But when the Living Word Himself – the very Messiah promised by the OT – stood before them, they called him a devil. They knew the Bible, but had become so hard of heart towards God in their own righteousness, that they did not know God Himself in His Son.

As Jesus said to them, “And you have not his word abiding in you: for whom he has sent, him you believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think you have eternal life: and they are they that testify of me. And you will not come to me, that you might have life.” (John 5:38-40) This could not be clearer. The letter of the Word will not give us life. But if we would actually obey what the Word says, we would come to Jesus for life. Jesus Christ alone is LIFE.



Oct 14
Why God Chastises His Children

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. (Ps. 119:67)

God never punishes, and we generally understand the term – He doesn’t get mad and vindictively may us pay for what we have done. But God does CHASTISE His sons and daughters. And this Psalm states why: To correct us from going astray from Christ, and bring us back into the Truth.

Now, of course the chastisements of the Lord will do us no good unless we take heed to Him. Just as a rebellious child might disobey their parent, and then add to that rebellion against the chastisement of that parent that is intended to correct them, so believers may do the same towards God.

God will chastise us if we begin to go astray, but He will also chastise us if we are completely within His will. The word, “chastise,” means, “to train up a child.” Thus, even if we are in the will of God we all need to learn Christ. In fact, if we are in the will of God we are probably more apt to be, “trained up like a child,” than if we are not.

Hebrews describes the reasons why God chastises His people:

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of

***righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby.
(Heb. 12:10-11)***

The chastisements of the Lord are often some form of the work of the Cross, and the outcome is that we might know His Son, Jesus Christ. God does this because He loves us.



**Oct 15
Formed Together With Christ**

***Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.
(Ps. 119:73)***

Many believers have been taught that it is the purpose of God, “to make them look like Jesus.” But this is error. Rather than, “make us look like Jesus,” it is God’s purpose to manifest Christ through us.

We see this Truth in a number of places in the NT. For example, in Romans, Paul writes, “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to beconformed* to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom. 8:29) The word, “conformed,” in this verse means, “to be formed together with.” In other words, as Christ is formed in us (Gal. 4:19) – IF we give ourselves to Him – we will be set free to be adjusted to Him. We won’t be changed so that we LOOK like Jesus – we will, as Paul says in Ephesians, be, “created IN Christ Jesus.” We will be changed so that Christ will be free to be manifested THROUGH us.

Paul teaches exactly the same Truth in I Corinthians: Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (II Cor. 10:4) God wants to crucify US – put us out of the way – so that Christ might be seen. The result will never be that our lives proclaim, “Look at ME. Look at how much I look like Jesus!” No. Our lives will proclaim, “Yet NOT I, but Christ!” (Gal. 2:20)



Oct 16
It is Finished

Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (Ps. 119:89)

When God says that His Word is forever settled in heaven, it not only means that Truth never changes, but it means that what God has ordained is as good as done. And it certainly means that what Jesus Christ has finished cannot be subtracted from or added to. It is eternally settled and finished.

From the Cross Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished!" What was finished? First of all, the Adam race was finished – because the Adam race died in Christ. "Died," doesn't mean, "cease to exist." It means that there is no resurrection in Adam.

Secondly, it means that IN CHRIST deliverance for all sin is finished – because IN CHRIST we are born a NEW creation. In other words, yes, God does forgive all sin in Christ. But He delivers us from sin through death and resurrection – delivers us out of Adam in to Christ.

Thirdly, all forgiveness for sin is finished. In other words, God is as finished forgiving as Jesus is done dying – which was ONCE FOR ALL. And God's forgiveness for sin is as universal as is sin. ALL have sinned, and ALL are forgiven in Christ. Now, ALL must come to Christ. Jesus has finished redemption for the entire Adam race, but only those who come to Him will be saved.

None of us can finish, or must try to finish, what Christ has already finished. No. That is settled forever. But when God reveals what Christ has finished, then we must believe.



Oct 17
The Light of Life

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Ps. 119:105)

Jesus Christ is The Light of the World. Not only does this mean that when you see Jesus you see God Himself, but it also means that ALL discernment of the Truth is possible only as a byproduct of knowing Jesus Christ. He is the Light and we can see nothing else clearly unless it is in Him as The Light.

Herein we see the primary way in which God guides us. Yes, He can speak directions to us. But primarily, God leads us by revealing Christ. Jesus Christ is THE LIGHT, and if we are walking with Him, then our knowledge of HIM is God's lamp to our feet and light for our path.

John writes, "In Him was LIFE, and that LIFE was the LIGHT of men. (John 1:4) Jesus Christ IS our life. (Col. 3:4) But in His LIFE – that is, in His Person – is Light, for He is the LIGHT of men. To the degree that we lose our lives under the work of the Cross to Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:24-25), we will find Him as our LIFE – and within His life is LIGHT – the light that illuminates all for His people.



Oct 18
Deliverance from Ourselves

***In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.
Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a
deceitful tongue. (Ps. 120:1)***

Here we read of a cry for deliverance. But not for deliverance from an outward enemy. The Psalmist is seeking deliverance from himself – and more specifically from lying lips and a deceitful tongue.

There is a principle here that applies to ALL of our sin and flaws. Once we receive Jesus Christ within, and are joined to the Lord in spirit, there is going to come in us a separation between our union with Christ and what is outside of that union, namely our physical body and natural soul. And along with that, because Jesus Christ is light and Truth, will come a continual exposing of what is outside of our union with Christ. We will see it for what it is, and like the Psalmist, ought to want to be delivered from it.

But God will never come down and eradicate the sin nature. He will never remove it from us. Rather, He will reveal to us that through death and resurrection in Christ, we are removed from it – in the sense that we are dead to it. There remains the presence of the sin nature, and the possibility of our yielding to it. But in Christ the power of it is broken.

Now, all of that is eternal Truth. But God has to make it real in us. Thus, He will subject our natural man – that which is outside of our union with Christ – to the continual work of the Cross. We must pick up our Cross daily and LOSE ourselves to Jesus Christ. We will then FIND Christ as our new life. Only then will it be proven that we are dead to the power of that old life in Adam and alive to Christ.

Do you want deliverance from a specific sin? Then you must repent of the sin of self-ownership and lose or surrender to Christ the life in which all sin is rooted: The Adam, natural life. And you must live from out of a new in which sin has no power. You must lose your life in Adam to find your life in Christ. Freedom from specific sins will come along with this.



Oct 19
From Whence Comes My Help?

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:1-2)

This passage pictures a person who is in trouble and looking for help. He considers help from sources other than the Lord. He looks to the hills to see whether there is help on the horizon. But he catches himself and realizes the folly of such thinking. He knows that real help comes only from God.

When we are in a trial and need help – and especially when God has been silent to us – it is easy to assume that God wants us to look elsewhere. We won't tell ourselves that we are looking for help in sources OTHER THAN the Lord, but we might tell ourselves that God's help is

wrapped up in other sources. And if we are not careful, we might slip into unbelief.

If there is one repeated error in the Bible of the saints of God it is that they tried to take God's promises into their own hands and bring them to pass through human effort. Most of them did not do this in direct rebellion against God. Rather, they did it because they were in distress and assumed that God wanted them to take action and bring to pass His promises for them.

There is a time to take action and there is a time to do nothing. God will have to let us know. But the issue here is FAITH – where is our faith? Is it in our own wits? Are we looking to the hills for help? Or have we settled it once and for all: The Lord is our only help?

It is one thing to resign ourselves in a spirit of depression that God is our only hope. But it is another to rejoice in the fact that He is because we believe and trust Him.



Oct 20
God is Never Asleep

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keeps thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. (Ps. 121:3-4)

There is much encouragement in the Word of God to the effect that God will never forsake us, be indifferent to us, or be asleep to us. We need that encouragement because it is often going to seem like it He is asleep.

Even believers tend to look for signs that God is present. We do not normally think of doing this to be a seeking after signs, but that is exactly what it is. We easily believe God if we can pray and see immediate results -- or if we can see God move and work miracles. But if despite all prayer and crying out God seems silent and indifferent, then it is easy to either doubt our worthiness to reach God, or to doubt God Himself.

We may not presently discern God or see Him doing much. In fact, things may be going bad. But this is never because God is asleep. It is all within His purpose – to

establish us in Christ; to keep our foot from being moved. In short, God will allow our faith to be challenged and contradicted because if we stand faith this will actually BUILD our faith.

This Psalm is basically telling us that because God never sleeps that we can put aside all fear and worry and REST IN HIM. We can be like those who get in bed and take their rest at night even if danger is near – because God, who is our protector, never sleeps. He is always on the job.



Oct 21
The Lord is Your Keeper

The LORD is thy keeper. (Ps. 121:5)

The Hebrew word for, “keeper,” in this verse means, “guard; doorkeeper; watchman.” From this believers can accept the encouragement that God Himself, as our Heavenly Father, is watching over us.

Now, of course, this does not mean that nothing bad is ever going to happen to us. Believers DO experience trials and sometimes tragedy. But nothing happens in the life of the believer without God’s notice. It has to FIRST get through Him to get to us. This doesn’t mean GOD approves of evil. But sometimes for purposes that are bigger than what we can presently see, He permits it.

The primary way in which God is our KEEPER today is through the indwelling of Christ. If Christ is in us, our body might suffer and will eventually die. But Christ in us remains untouched and incorruptible. And through all of these things our spirit in union with Him will remain as untouched and incorruptible as He is. He is our KEEPER by His very presence in us.



Oct 22
Incorruptible Life In Christ

The LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. (Ps. 121:5-8)

How does God preserve His saints? By keeping them out of all trouble? No. By never allowing anything bad to happen to them? No. He preserves His saints – which means to keep them from corruption – by revealing in them Jesus Christ. To the extent that we abide in Christ by faith, there may be distress all around us, but not IN US. The real damage that evil does, and the spiritual corruption that it brings, cannot touch the life of Christ. And the saints are united with Him IN HIS LIFE.

Death brings corruption. We see that everywhere in the natural world. But if we are Christ, we are risen with Him from out of death – which means that in Him there is victory OVER death. Death cannot touch the new creation in Christ Jesus.

We see this Truth pictured in this Psalm. We can walk through days or nights spiritually – but regardless of what is going on, death cannot touch us in Christ. We can go out and come in, but death cannot touch us in Christ. The victory that is in Christ over death spans the entire creation.



Oct 23
The House of the Lord

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. (Ps. 122:1)

The meaning of, “the house of the Lord,” is much deeper than simply, “the church,” or, “the temple.” “The house of the Lord,” or the equivalent term, “the Father’s house,” is representative of the inheritance in Jesus Christ. In the OT, this term, “the father’s house,” always referred to the

father's family or tribe, and the inheritance that belonged to it. The term is also indicative of God's blessing.

If you examine the meaning of this term, you can see how it does tie into THE CHURCH. For those who are in Jesus Christ are the church, and those in Christ are those who God intends to be coheirs with Christ in His eternal inheritance.

There are other related meanings and uses of the term, "the house of the Lord." The believer is called, "the temple of God," because Christ dwells in us. And Christ Himself is, "the Father's house," in that the believer likewise dwells IN HIM – and in Him is all inheritance and blessing.

This Psalmist rejoiced at going into the house of the Lord.
A

and once we see the meanings, we can see that he was rejoicing in far more than just entering into a church or temple.



Oct 24
The Mercy of God

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwell in the heavens. Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us. (Ps. 123:1-2)

The Bible reveals God as a God of MERCY. In other words, it is in the nature of God to be merciful, indeed, God desires to be merciful to all. All of this, of course, goes back to the fact that, "God is love." (I John 4:16) Love and mercy go hand in hand.

The mercy of God is always unto redemption and restoration. It is never unto an affirmation of sin. In other words, if God, by His mercy forgives our sin, then it is so that we might forsake our sin. God never forgives sin as a license for us to keep sinning.

The Psalmist speaks of WAITING upon God UNTIL He has mercy. In other words, we can be sure that God WILL have mercy. There is no sin we can commit that will make God shut the door to Himself. Jesus Christ has forever opened the door. We can walk through it no matter how many times we have previously refused. THE SIN is when we will not.

Because of Jesus Christ, we can LIFT UP our eyes, rather than look down in despair. God is the God of love, mercy, and Truth – and desires for us to know Him more than we desire it.



Oct 25
God is Love

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Ps. 124:6-8)

Humanity that is born in Adam is born a prey to the enemy and the forces of evil. We are born into a snare – it is just a matter of what form it takes. Our own nature will seal our doom even if no one harms us.

When Adam sinned, God would have been justified in simply walking away. He was under no obligation to make a way of deliverance for the human race. But LOVE creates its own obligations -- and because God is love He did not leave humanity to die in its sin. Rather, God has taken responsibility for the Adam race upon HIMSELF in Jesus Christ.

Paul said that God DEMONSTRATES His love for us in that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. (Rom. 5:8) And of course, John writes that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him should NOT perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) This is the gospel.



Oct 26
Faith in the Rock

They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abides forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever. (Ps. 125:1-2)

Our faith does not save us – Jesus Christ saves us – but we believe and trust in HIM. Neither does our faith make us those who cannot be removed. It is God who cannot be removed – our faith is to be IN HIM. Faith is not a THING and faith is not a FORCE – faith is not a FORCE that acts upon God, or does anything in creation. Faith is a relationship word. By faith, we rest our entire selves and our lives upon The Rock. And because He cannot be moved, if we believe, neither will we be moved.

Now, faith must be based on Truth: “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Our faith cannot be real unless it is at least based on the Truth that God is faithful. It may be no more complicated than that. But the point is, if we believe that God is true and faithful, and will surround us as the mountains surround Jerusalem, then we will believe and trust Him. And we will discover that the Truth IS the Truth – that those that trust in the Lord cannot be removed. They cannot be removed from Christ, nor from the will of God.

Mount Zion is representative of the fullness of Christ in His people. Thus, those who have faith that is in The Rock are those who are as Mount Zion, and coming into His fullness.



Oct 27
God's Promise Regarding Trials

For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity. (Ps. 125:3)

The New Testament passage that corresponds to this one from Psalms is found in I Corinthians:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

God knows our needs and our weakness. He also knows our ignorance. He knows that if He allowed trials that we could not handle – do to our present lack of faith or spiritual maturity – that we might react by taking matters into our own hands or by sinning. He knows that if we are under enough pressure that we might crack. So He promises that He will not allow the rod of the wicked to be too severe, or that we will ever face something in which we cannot turn to Christ.

Of course, it is never right to sin – even under pressure – or to slip into unbelief. But according to these passages, if we are facing something difficult -- we DO have enough to turn to Christ – God would not allow it otherwise. Thus, this is both a promise and a call to take responsibility before God to believe and trust Him.



Oct 28
Almost Like a Dream

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. (Ps. 126:1-2)

It is possible to be under such pressure, duress, and suffering in the Christian life for SO LONG – that if God delivers you it may seem like a dream. It may seem, “too good to be true.”

God will often put a believer on a personal, “Patmos.” You may have prayed for years to be released – to have a change. Perhaps you have experienced every possible emotion and choice of faith before the Lord. But He has NOT delivered you. In fact, what He has done is brought you to the place where you have begun to realize Jesus Christ. And because you are now growing in Christ, you have surrendered your will in the matter. You now pray,

“Not my will, Lord, but Your will,” and you mean it. It isn’t that you don’t want to be delivered, but you have caught a glimpse of Jesus Christ to the point where what matters is HIS will and HIS purpose and HIS glory.

God will often – although not always -- bring a person to that point, and THEN deliver them. And when He does, it is like a dream – a dream you once had that evaporated. But now it is real. Not only do you rejoice, but you say, “The Lord has done great and wonderful things.”



Oct 29
The Other Side of Travail

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Ps. 126:5-6)

What is stated here must be taken in the intended context, because obviously, not everyone who sows in tears reaps in joy. Only those who, “bring precious seed” – meaning the life of Jesus Christ – only those who sow to the spirit of God in Christ will reap in joy when what they sow comes to fruition.

Hours before His betrayal, Jesus said something similar to His disciples:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man takes from you. (John 16:20-22)

Jesus is pointing out that when a believer is suffering within the will of God, they will tend to be occupied with that suffering – there may be lots of tears. The believer will be like a woman who is giving birth. She is occupied with her pain. But when the child is born her suffering

turns to joy; when the believer finally comes to realize Christ through the suffering – the suffering turns to rejoicing; the tears turn to joy.

You will note that the joy comes, not simply because the suffering is over. No. It comes because of what is BIRTHED. When God brings us into a realization of what has been brought to fruition in us through our faith while suffering, we will know that it was worth it. We will rejoice with God and praise His name for what He has done.



Oct 30
Except the Lord Build the House

***Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain
that build it. (Ps. 127:1)***

Jesus told His disciples, "I will build my church -- upon The Rock – upon the Rock of God's revelation of Christ in you." (Matt. 10:18) He was not talking about members or size or buildings. "The church," or EKKESIA, are people in whom Christ dwells. The church is nothing more or less. As people are edified in Christ, those people are BUILT UP in Him, and thus, the entire church is built up.

Not only is Jesus going to build His church, but when everything is said and done, ONLY what Jesus builds will remain – and pass through into the eternal ages. Or, to put it another way, only that which is built of eternal materials; only what is of Christ Himself, will abide. Paul writes:

***For no other foundation can any man lay than that is
laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon
this foundation 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. If any man's work abide which
he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If
any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:
but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (I Cor.
3:11-15)***

The picture given here is that of materials used in building being tested through fire. Eternal materials will pass through the fire and abide. Earthly materials will be burned. The teaching is that only that which is OF CHRIST can be built UPON the foundation of Christ and survive the fire.

This testing by fire is already happening – and it will continue to happen. But in the end, ALL that people have built in the name of Christ is going to be shaken. Only that which is of Christ will pass through into the eternal ages. The rest will be burnt; will be proven to be without value and to have been built in vain.



**Oct 31
Living for the Lord**

***Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain
that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the
watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to
rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of
sorrows: for he gives his beloved sleep. (Ps. 127:1-2)***

All through scripture, God promises to provide for His people. But He never promises to provide unless people seek Him for MORE than provision – His promises are contingent upon people seeking HIM. ALL of the provision and blessings of God are found IN HIM – IN His Son. “ALL of the promises of are IN HIM, yes, and IN HIM, amen.” (II Cor. 1:20) The point being that you cannot separate the provision and promises of God from the One in whom they are found – it is only as we belong to Him, and live from out of Him, that we can experience His promises.

People, including many believers, assume that if God wants to provide that all they need to do is sit and wait and provision will come. But Jesus plainly stated, “Seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matt. 6:33) That is a conditional promise. To the extent that we FIRST seek the kingdom of God – which is the rule of Christ over us as Lord – and seek FIRST His righteousness – which is the righteous life of Christ within

– God will then add to us all provision that fits His present purpose in us. But if we do not do so there is NO promise.

The fact is, God wants us to look to Him for all provision. And if we do, He will provide. But if we don't look to Him, and live for this life, He is not going to provide. He will allow us to fend for ourselves. And in the end, all that we do will prove to be in vain. For if I am serving this life, and fending for myself, I may make myself rich. But I will be spiritually bankrupt of Christ. And when my life ends, there will be nothing of value that I can carry with me into the eternal ages.



Nov 1
The Futility of this Age

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for he gives his beloved sleep.
(Ps. 127:2)

What is life in this age all about? Are we supposed to drift through life, striving to make a living, doing the best we can, trying to make ourselves happy, only to then die, leaving everything behind? Or, as a Christian, are we to do all of the same – except to trust the Lord to help us? Or, if we are deceived by the Word of Faith heresies, are we to expect God to make us wealthy and happy – are we to confess that and bring it to pass – only to then likewise die and leave everything behind?

For a person who has been born from above, there is a far greater purpose in Christ than simply making it through this age. In Christ, God is preparing us for the next age – where believers are to live with God forever; reign and rule with Christ throughout the eternal ages. The preparation for this great purpose of God begins when we are born from above and are joined to Christ Jesus in spirit. It continues as we come under the work of the Cross, and into an inward realization of Christ. This does translate into a Christian life and various forms of ministry. But the central core of what God is doing in this age is to make Jesus Christ OUR LIFE – not merely in fact, but in actual experience. He is creating us in Christ

Jesus, so that Christ might live through us unto the glory of God and the benefit of His creation.

If I am living for any other purpose, I am deceived - and my living is in vain - it is going to amount to nothing that is of Christ. Indeed, even that which I am supposedly doing FOR GOD is all going to pass away if it is not of Christ. When Christ returns there is going to be a great deal that is exposed as useless to God.



Nov 2
Be Anxious For Nothing

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for he gives his beloved sleep.
(Ps. 127:1-2)

Humanity speaking, fear and worry are the outcome of believing that everything depends upon YOU - and that you are insufficient. In that case, there is no firm foundation. There is only a shaky one at best; that will collapse if a big enough storm comes - and so people live in fear that such a storm will come.

But for a believer, fear and worry are the outcome, at best, of being blind to the faithfulness of God. At worse, for a believer fear and worry are the outcome of somewhere I have embraced a lie about God. I don't believe He is faithful. But Jesus said that it is foolish to be afraid - it is foolish to be afraid that you will not have provision. The reason is that God IS faithful to His people. (see Matt. 6:25-34)

The answer to fear and anxiousness is FAITH. This does not mean that we have to fight fear or try to make it go away. Rather, what we have to do is ignore that spirit of fear and the emotionalism that goes with it - step around it and outside of it - and rest in Christ. If we truly believe and rest in Christ we cannot fear. We might FEEL afraid; the flesh may react. But we will not be afraid, for God has NOT given us the spirit of fear - He has given us the spirit of TRUTH.



Nov 3
God's Blessing of Children

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate. (Ps. 127:3-5)

It would seem that no matter what subject we are talking about from scripture, Christian people have a pension for taking the subject and turning it into a law. People fail to take into account ALL verses on a matter, or fail to discern God's mind and character. What emerges is some form of law, and often an entire religious system that is built around, not the Truth of Jesus Christ, but a Christian philosophy based on ignorance.

Over the last fifty years or so, there has arisen among some professing Christians what is almost a, "cult-like attitude," that is based upon this passage from Psalms – an attitude that insists that each Christian marriage ought to produce as many children that is human possible. One name for this philosophy or movement is, "The Quiver Full Movement." Christian girls get married and have ten or more children. They believe this is COMMANDED of God, and as is the case with all forms of law, they believe that God will bless them because they have had children, not only by providing for them, but simply because they have HAD the children. Of course, if this actually were a command or law from God, that would mean that the blessing of God upon a family would be proportional to the number of children born in that family – leaving those with few or no children diminished.

Read this passage. There is NO command to have children. There is NO blessing promised by God for having children. It simply says that the children themselves ARE the blessing. There is everything good and right about having children. But having children, as is the case with everything else in the life of the believer, ought to be the outcome of walking with Jesus Christ – NOT turned into some religious system that earns blessing from God.



Nov 4
The Blessing Out of Zion

The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. (Ps. 128:5)

In the OT, Zion is always a type and shadow of the fullness of Christ in His people. It always represents what satisfies God in His church through Christ. Thus, when we are prophetically promised, "The Lord shall bless you out of Zion," God is really telling us that if the body of Christ actually came into the fullness of Christ, that there would be great blessing that would emerge for ALL of the Body. In other words, this is a prophetic suggestion of the fellowship that is found in the body of Christ.

This same Truth is found many places in the NT. For example, Paul says, "And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation." (II Cor. 1:7) This speaks of the fellowship of the saints in Christ – the blessings of Christ that flows out of Zion to all who are in Christ. Paul also said, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." Likewise, he wrote, "So then death works in us, but life in you....For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." (II Cor. 4:12-15) The Truth here is that when God gets His fullness in Christ in any member of the body of Christ, there is a blessing of life that flows – "out of Zion" – to ALL the body. This is a fact because all believers are ONE in Jesus Christ.



Nov 5
Going On With God

Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me. (Ps. 129:1-2)

During each Christian life, there are going to be crisis points – there will come multiple crisis points of faith – and it is during these times that one question will need to be answered: Will I go on with God?

To go on with God during such a crisis will require faith. It will require faith because it will seem as if God is not present. It will COST you to go on with Him, perhaps not materially, but it will cost you the fake comfort of walking in your own understanding. It will cost you the delusion of walking in your own righteousness. It will cost you the government of your natural soul life. You will have to deliberately choose whether to pick up your Cross and experience the crucifixion of all of those things – you will have to choose whether to go on with God by faith.

Many believers can echo the words of the Psalmist – and testify that they ALWAYS seem to be in a trial; they ALWAYS seem to be dealing with some affliction. But these afflictions that seem never-ending are all ploys of the enemy to try to get you to resign your faith; to give up on God and take possession of your own life. May God give us the grace to also say, with the Psalmist, “They have NOT prevailed against me.”



Nov 6

The Purpose of the Cross

The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows. The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. (Ps. 129:3-4)

Not only is there a personal Cross in the life of the believer – it is the outworking of being crucified WITH Christ – but Jesus clearly stated that unless we pick up that personal Cross it is impossible to follow Him:

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matt. 16:24-25)

It is one thing to believe that Jesus died FOR us. But it is another to actually be crucified WITH Him – the personal

Cross is likened to the work of the plowers, who “make long furrows upon a believer’s back.” God has provided the means whereby we might experientially LOSE our lives to Jesus Christ – relinquish all self-ownership, and thus, come to experience Jesus Christ AS our life. It is the personal Cross.

As noted, Jesus said, “If anyone wants to follow Me....” To follow Jesus and come into His full purpose, it is essential that we be crucified with Him. Of course, we ARE crucified with Him at salvation – but this must be worked out. All of the natural man must go the way of the Cross, so that the life of Jesus might be released and experienced in us:

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live – yet not I – but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Gal. 2:20)

God has cut asunder the cords of the wicked – the flesh and the enemy – by the death of Jesus Christ. But now, we must experience the fullness of Christ. We must lose our lives through the personal Cross in order to fully experience Him as our life.



**Nov 7
Out of the Depths**

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. (Ps. 130:1)

It is possible to cry to God from out of the depths of a trial. But in a greater sense, the real depths out of which we cry to God, whether it be while we are in a trial or not, are the depths of our own fallen nature.

The fallen nature of humanity is deeper than we can possibly imagine. The potential evil in the human race is evidenced in the worst humanity has produced, and in the evil deeds that such ones have performed. When Adam sinned, he walked away from God and gave himself to the powers of darkness. From that point, he was no longer constituted for God. He was then constituted for the enemy. And once that happened, the powers of darkness

had access, and were able to do their evil through willing members of the human race. In Adam, humanity was ruined, indeed, spiritually dead.

We are all born into the Adam race; into this condition. From it there is no escape except through a new birth in Jesus Christ. But in order to show us the Truth about ourselves, and the offer of God's grace through Christ, God must often bring us down into the depths – He must often expose us to utter reprobation of our own nature. Only then will we truly cry out to God from the depths – and realize that it is solely by the grace of God in Jesus Christ that He will answer that cry and restore us back to Himself.



Nov 8

The Open Door of God's Forgiveness

If thou, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou may be feared. (Ps. 130:3-4)

In Jesus Christ – and solely because of Him – God has forgiven ALL who have ever lived or will live. There are no exceptions – ALL humanity is forgiven in Christ. However, we must add that there is ONE SIN that God cannot forgive: God cannot forgive the refusal of His forgiveness. Jesus did NOT die for the sin of refusing His death. It ought to be obvious why God cannot forgive this ONE sin: To do so would be a moral contradiction and denial of His own Son. It would afford salvation to those who refuse salvation in the only Savior, Jesus Christ.

Now, what we see here was wonderfully illustrated when the veil in the temple was torn at the death of Jesus. Hebrews says that this revealed that ALL that separated humanity from God was torn – in the body of Jesus. Thus, the way into the presence of God is OPEN FOREVER – howbeit only in Jesus Christ.

What this means is that God will never shut the door to Himself to anyone – no matter what sin they have committed. Even if we have refused to walk through the open door in Christ a thousand times previously, He will never close the door. No. The way into the Holiest is

forever opened to ALL -- forever. But THE SIN – the sin that will condemn us – is that we will not walk through that eternally opened door in Christ by faith.

Can we see the Truth here? God will exclude no one from eternal life based on even the worst sins imaginable – for the death of Christ reached down even to the depths of the evil in us all – and the door to forgiveness and deliverance remains eternally open for even the worst human who has ever lived. BUT – just as anyone can freely enter in Christ, so might anyone refuse to enter. God will judge all of us based solely upon that question – based solely upon Jesus Christ. What have we done with the LIGHT of Christ that God has personally given us? Enter through the open door, or walk away from the open door?

The same grace that God intends to soften our heart, bring us to repentance, and save us, will – if we refuse it and keep refusing it – harden our heart towards God. That is the sin that God cannot forgive; the, “unpardonable sin.” God has ONE Truth and ONE Savior. Nothing will change Him. Once light is given, however, the choice is ours. He calls us to come to Christ, “by grace through faith.”



Nov 9
A Finished Forgiveness

If thou, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou may be feared. (Ps. 130:3-4)

Most Christians believe the doctrine that rightly states that in Christ we are forgiven for all sin, solely by the grace of God. But then when it comes to the Christian walk, many switch gears. They live as if they are on probation. They think that God is, “keeping score.” Some believe that the same salvation that they received solely by grace, can later be lost by works – and therefore they live as if they must MAINTAIN their salvation. With some others, the issue is not salvation, but it is God’s favor NOW. They live trying to earn or maintain God’s favor and blessing through works – or they live trying to avoid His disfavor and punishments. And still yet others, push

all of this into the ages yet to come – they live as if God is, “keeping score” – and that at the end of the age He will tally our good works over and against our sins and the final score will determine the amount of our eternal reward in heaven. Folks really DO believe that God is continually marking our iniquities.

If any of the above is the Truth, not only does God mark iniquities, but He does not really forgive sin. Rather, He keeps tabs on it. Some try to say that God forgives only if we confess it – but if that is the case, then before we confess we are NOT forgiven. If we are only forgiven once we confess, it means that we are not forgiven solely because of Christ – but because we add a confession TO Christ.

The Truth is, we should confess sin, not to GET forgiven, but because we believe we already are. Our confession is simply a declaration of the Truth – about our sin and about Christ.

Paul said:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath 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 hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (II Cor. 5:17-19)

Note: Because of the death of Jesus Christ, all that is necessary for reconciliation is in place. Forgiveness is finished. And God is NOT IMPUTING SIN to, “the world,” let alone to the saved. That means that there is nothing that can separate man from God. The veil is open. Therefore, the only question is whether each of us will enter in by His grace through The Way, Jesus Christ.



Nov 10
Waiting Upon God

***I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word
do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than they
that watch for the morning. (Ps. 130:6)***

“Waiting upon God,” can include waiting upon Him regarding circumstances, but as this Psalm suggests, we really need to wait upon the Lord for LIGHT – as one who is presently in darkness, but knows that the light of morning will eventually dawn.

Waiting on the Lord can be a very taxing and trying experience – it is possible to wait upon the Lord for years, or even decades. We see this in both the OT and NT. But if we simply focus on difficult circumstances and are waiting upon God to change THEM – we are probably going to become very frustrated. God will not normally come down and lift us out of difficulties, nor will He usually act upon us and make us feel better. Rather, He tells us to believe Him DESPITE the night, and to allow Him to reveal Christ in us DESPITE, and even because of, our present trial. In short, God wants the light to dawn IN US through an inward revelation of Christ – and then He might change our circumstances. But it won't matter to us because the true light that lightens every person will have dawned, and we, not the circumstances, will be changed.



Nov 11
Yet Not I, But Christ

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

There has always been false teaching in the church that would exalt man – exalt man religiously -- BECAUSE of our relationship with God. This is a potential in each of us. Because we have a SELF -- it is possible to exalt self. It is possible to choose SELF over Christ, and also possible to choose Christ over SELF. Adam did the former. Christ did the latter -- and the same choice is before us all on a continual basis.

God has promised to guide us into all Truth. And one of the greatest Truths of God is expressed in the word of the apostle Paul: "I am crucified with Christ...Yet NOT I, but Christ." If we pick up our Cross and follow Jesus, which is the ONLY way we can follow Him, then our lives will proclaim, "Yet NOT I, but Christ." But if we, even as saved people, sidestep the Cross that God brings, then our lives will eventually proclaim, "Yet NOT Christ, but I." These are the two possible outcomes of those same two choices before God – Christ or SELF.



Nov 12
God's Protection Against Pride

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

Paul the apostle received great revelation from Jesus Christ. But the pride of man has a tendency to take revelation and calling from God, and use it to exalt SELF. Spiritual pride because of the things of God is not only evil, but it is utter and complete deception.

If seeing Jesus Christ results in the exaltation of self, then either our heart is not right, we have misapprehended Him, or we have not received such a revelation from God. For it is simply not possible to see Jesus with a crucified heart and for us to use it to exalt ourselves.

Paul said that God provided the means by which he could keep from exalting self. He called it, "a thorn in the flesh." But the Greek suggests a, "stake driven," and so this thorn, regardless of the actual form it took, was God's work of the Cross in Paul. Paul said of this thorn:

***And lest I should be exalted above measure through
the abundance of the revelations, there was given to
me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to
buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For
this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might
depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is
sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in
weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in***

my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...for when I am weak, then am I strong. (II Cor. 12:7-10)

God did not make Paul strong. He made him weak so that the power of Christ could work in and through him. And he did so through the work of the Cross. That is how God guides us into the Truth and keeps us focused in Christ.



Nov 13

The Plague of Personal Ambition

LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)

Paul wrote, “Knowledge puffs us, but love builds up.’ It is possible for a Christian person to have much theological knowledge of the bible, Christian history, Christian doctrine. It is possible to acquire multiple degrees. But none of this means that we know Jesus Christ in the way the Bible means by the phrase, “knowledge of God.” In fact, it is possible to become a very arrogant Christian – because of our knowledge. We might have much knowledge, but very little of the love of God.

There are Christians everywhere, who, out of a personal ambition to BE SOMEONE in the body of Christ, who are destroying themselves spiritually, let alone tearing down the work of Christ in others. There are folks who want the favor of men, and who fancy themselves as teachers, who want power and position over others, who have much theological knowledge, but little knowledge of God. And there are also some who operate fully within the psychic realm – and encourage others in the same. Paul wrote regarding such ones:

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

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into

those things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. (Col. 2:18)

Spiritual pride in those who are blind will motivate them to insist that they do SEE. And what comes out of that will be only what is of THEM – their pride and imagination. They will speak of Christ as if they know Him – but they do not.

The declaration of this Psalm ought to be our declaration and desire – that Christ might be our life, and that our Christianity might express, “Yet not I, but Christ.” (Gal. 2:20)



Nov 14

God's Righteousness in Christ

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

Self-righteousness is PRIDE – in religious garb. It is a delusion and a lie – for we have no righteousness. It is also the sin of unbelief – we are trying to establish our own righteousness as a substitute for Christ. Self-righteousness is faith in ourselves – which means we actually believe that there is something in us for God to value.

Self-righteousness is not merely, “Christianity with a little too much law.” No. Self-righteousness is the fruit of ANOTHER GOSPEL. It is just that serious.

All humanity is cursed with self-righteousness by birth – we could perhaps call it SELF-RIGHTNESS. But when God begins to deal with our religious, “haughtiness,” and, “lofty eyes,” He will expose our true condition. He will expose us as Unrighteous – by allowing us to fail; by opening our eyes. This is a necessary part of God leading us into all Truth.

If we will repent of the sin of self-righteousness, God will begin to reveal Christ in us – and we will see that Christ in us IS our only righteousness. We will see that, yes, God does legally IMPUT to us the righteousness of His

Son. But more than that, God IMPARTS to us Christ Himself. The only righteousness of the believer is the Person of Jesus Christ, who, “is made to be unto us righteousness.” (I Cor. 1:30) And His righteousness IN US cannot be added to or subtracted from by anything we do or anything we are.



Nov 15
Brought to Our Knees by the Law

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

There have always been groups of Christians who believe that Christianity is a religious system of LAW – even though they might not call it that. But they essentially believe that God has given us His law as a standard of life that we must meet through obedience – and that God’s blessings depend on it.

But this is not the teaching of the Bible – despite the fact that the law is not abolished, and despite the fact that the law of God is holy, just, and good. (Rom. 7:12) Indeed, the Bible teaches that the moment we stand before the law we will be condemned without hope. The holy, just, and good law will expose us as unholy, unjust, and bad.

Paul states the purpose of God’s law:

***Now we know that whatever things the law says, it
says to them who are under the law: that every mouth
may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty
before God...But now the righteousness of God without
the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and
the prophets; Even the righteousness of God by faith
of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.
(Rom. 3:19-22)***

God’s intended purpose of the law is to, “shut every mouth,” about any possibility of our own righteousness. But having done that, if we will embrace this Truth, the law will drive us to our knees, so that by faith we might embrace, “the righteousness of God that is completely independent of any law (actual Greek).” That

righteousness of God is entered by faith – and it is a Person – the righteousness of God is CHRIST IN US.

Christ is, “made to be unto us righteousness.” (I Cor. 1:30) When we are saved, we are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him. In other words, we are joined to the Righteousness of God Himself – and He is our only righteousness.

It takes a miracle of God to open our eyes to this reality. But if our eyes are open, we will echo the words of the Psalmist – our eyes will no longer be lofty, and our heart will no longer be haughty. Christ will be our ALL.



Nov 16
Naked Before God

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

God originally created Adam NAKED, but one in spirit with Himself. This means that, yes, Adam was naked, but He was unashamed – he had NOTHING in himself for life, but because he was one with God, he had all he needed by virtue of his spiritual union with God.

Note that Adam was created NAKED – he was created to be dependent upon God for all. God had not simply given him life – God was his life – because Adam was one with God.

But Adam sinned and walked away from God, thus, breaking His union with God. Thus, he spiritually died. And even though Adam was still naked after his sin, now he WAS ashamed; he was afraid. He had lost his union with God and was left to himself – naked and barren of all value.

Now, what did Adam do immediately after his sin? Well, upon realizing he was naked, he tried to FIX IT; he tried to cover his nakedness; his true condition. He covered himself with FIG LEAVES.

Our motive for covering our nakedness is FEAR. Our fig leaves are ANYTHING we use to cover our true condition of nakedness. But this is exactly a description of self-righteousness. We try to cover our true condition of nakedness with whatever will make us to appear righteous. It is unbelief because we are using fig leaves instead of turning to Christ.

God wants to peel off our fig leaves and expose our nakedness. He wants to reveal Christ as our only righteousness. But to do so, He must bring us to where our declaration is that of the Psalmist – a realization of our true condition unto faith in Jesus Christ.



Nov 17
Losing Our Righteousness

***LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in
things too high for me. (Ps. 131:1)***

By his own admission, Saul the Pharisee had been the most self-righteous person imaginable. He had been the antithesis of what is declared by this Psalmist. But as is the case with most of us, Saul actually thought that his condition was Godly; he thought he was in God's will.

Once Paul met Jesus Christ, he could no longer continue living in, and out from, his own righteousness, based on law-keeping. In fact, Paul had to LOSE everything about himself that he had used to establish his own righteousness. He describes to the Philippians how he LOST his life – in which was included his own righteousness -- to Jesus Christ.

***Yea doubtless, and I count all things loss for the
excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:
for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do
count them as dung, that I may win Christ, And be
found in him, not having mine own righteousness,
which is of the law, but that which is through the faith
of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.
(Phil. 3:8-9)***

Paul lost his self-righteousness because he lost HIMSELF to Jesus Christ. And because he did – he FOUND Christ; he was FOUND IN CHRIST. But note his description of being found in Christ: “I was found, not having a righteousness of my own, but I was found having a righteousness which is of God by faith.” Paul found Christ as his only righteousness.

The fact is, if we want to WIN CHRIST and BE FOUND in Him, we must lose our own righteousness, and discover Christ as our only righteousness. This is the outcome of being led into the Truth, and the only result possible if Christ is revealed in us.



Nov 18
Like Little Children

***Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child
that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a
weaned child. (Ps. 131:2)***

Many Christians are under the assumption that God wants us to become spiritual giants. Many think that God wants to make us strong. But in reality, God wants us to become as little children. And rather than make us strong, God wants to expose us as weak, so that by faith, HE can be our strength.

When we were saved, we were joined to the Lord Jesus and became one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) We are planted into His death and resurrection. From that point all that He is began to impact us. And that impact, if we embrace it, is going to REDUCE us – is going to expose us as NOTHING. What else would we expect to be the outcome of being one with God; of coming into a realization of Jesus Christ? The Truth is, we ARE nothing – and Christ is everything. And God wants Him to become OUR everything.

This means that if I am walking with Jesus Christ, picking up the Cross daily, and coming into an inner realization of Jesus – it means that the ONLY possible impact and outcome is that I will become a little child. I will become as a little child unto God because that is always the

outcome of spiritual growth. Spiritual growth and maturity is unto a childlike attitude of heart towards God.



Nov 19
The Interests of God

***Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house,
nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine
eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a
place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty
God of Jacob. (Ps. 132:3-5)***

One of the impacts of having Jesus Christ revealed in us is that we will begin to seek HIS WILL for HIS GLORY – and all else, including our own interests, will become subject to Him. And the fact is, if we put the interests of God FIRST, God will be with us – because we are committed to God's interests.

Of course, this is nothing more than, “seeking first the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 6:33) If we seek first God's kingdom, God's interests, and God's glory, God will add to us all that fits within the will of God and kingdom that we are seeking.

It is certainly possible to fake all of this in a religious way, because we know we are supposed to seek first the interests of God. But this is not merely something we decide to do. The fact is, if we will seek God Himself, and begin to know and love Jesus Christ, we will be changed by the Truth – and we will voluntarily seek first the interests of God.



Nov 20
A Habitation for the Lord

***Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house,
nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine
eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a
place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty
God of Jacob. (Ps. 132:3-5)***

Prophetically, this verse is what might be called, “the scary prayer.” It is an unconditional commitment to God, “for whatever it takes,” for Him to reveal Christ in me, and bring me into His fullness. I am committing myself to be a habitation for Jesus Christ – unto His glory, will, and purpose.

We usually think such a commitment to God is, “scary,” because we are afraid of what God might have to do to get His will. But really, we ought to be afraid of NOT giving ourselves to Jesus Christ. There is no future at all in that. But that aside, we are talking here about actually experiencing Jesus Christ. There is nothing bad, and everything good, about that commitment.

Jesus Christ stated that if anyone wanted to follow Him, that we must deny ourselves, pick up our Cross daily, and LOSE our lives to Him. The initial way to do this is by asking God, “to do whatever it takes,” to bring us to lose our lives. And God will answer. But then we will FIND Christ as our life – we will actually experience what it means to be a habitation for the Lord.

Rather than be afraid of making this commitment to God, we should, as the Psalm says, make it our focus and goal. It is God’s purpose.



Nov 21
Seated With Christ

The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne. If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore. (Ps. 132:11-12)

This is a prophetic promise to David that, “the fruit of his body,” that is, “his seed,” will sit on the throne. The promise is extended also to all of the descendents of David.

Of course, this promise is spiritual – it is intended for Jesus Christ, the true seed of David. And, “the children,” are those who come to Christ, and are born from above IN HIM.

Often, when we read of THRONES, we think of reigning and ruling with Christ during a thousand year reign of Christ. But RIGHT NOW Jesus Christ is seated in heavenly places at the right hand of God. (Eph.1:20) RIGHT NOW believers are, "seated with Christ in heavenly places." (Eph, 2:5) Indeed, when Jesus promised, "To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21), He was not merely referring to the ages yet to come. He was talking about NOW. If we overcome in Christ we DO reign with Him.

Note that believers are not given their OWN thrones. No. We are promised to sit with Christ in HIS throne – and Christ is already sitting with the Father in the Father's throne.

All that God has for the believer is found in Christ. God has promised that the descendents of David would forever sit on a throne. Jesus Christ is that seed of David, and all who are in Him are seated with Him in His throne.



Nov 22

The Desire of God to Inhabit His People

For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. (Ps. 132:13-14)

This is a remarkable verse because rather than speak of the desire of the believer to be a dwelling place for God, it reveals God's desire to dwell in His people. In the OT, Zion is always representative of the fullness of Jesus Christ in His people. Here we see God's desire to give Himself to us; to dwell in us -- and that He is pleased to do so.

God is love. So when God says that He desires to inhabit His people, it is not that God profits from it, or that it adds to Him in any way. No. Because God is love, God desires Zion for His habitation, and says that it is His rest, because He is able to pour out His love and grace upon those in whom He dwells. Again, since Zion is the

fullness of Christ in His people, Zion would indeed be those upon whom God's gives all in Christ.

Zion is not a few specially called people. Anyone can be of Zion. But you must LOSE yourself to Christ so that you can FIND Christ as your life – and come into His fullness. In this we see that, “losing to find,” is not a negative thing. It is an eternally positive thing.



Nov 23
The Rest of God

For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it. (Ps. 132:13-14)

When God was finished creating the heavens and the earth, Genesis records that He RESTED on the seventh day. God rested, not because He was tired. No. He rested because He was finished. The seventh day was therefore a celebration that God was finished creating and that He was pleased with it as very good.

When Adam sinned, all that God created in that first week was ruined. It fell into the hands of the enemy. But God immediately began a redemptive plan, promising Adam that, “the seed of woman,” would be the Redeemer. (Gen. 3:15) That, “seed of woman,” was Jesus Christ. But Christ did not fix or repair humanity, or the rest of what God had created. Rather, it all died IN HIM, and through His resurrection, there came a NEW creation.

The seventh day Sabbath was a celebration of the old creation; that which was ruined. But once Christ ushered in the NEW creation in Himself, the Sabbath day was fulfilled in HIM; the Sabbath rest is now a PERSON. When we enter into Christ, we are entering into God's true rest – and we must cease from all of our labors. The new creation is finished in Christ. We must not try to finish it.

Now, having said all of that, God states that Zion is HIS rest. Zion is His rest, because as the fullness of Christ in His people, Zion is fully at rest with God in Christ. God does not have to do additional work in Zion -- Zion is the finished work of God.



Nov 24
Unity in Christ

***Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity! (Ps. 133:1)***

Unity in the body of Christ is not a matter of organization, policy, or even the result of everyone agreeing on a statement of faith. Unity in Christ is the result of each member sharing His common LIFE – and a matter of living from out of His life by faith for His interests and glory.

The reason there is NOT unity is when people put their interests before God's interests. Of course, this happens automatically where people are ignorant of God's interests. And it happens when people are so deceived that they think that God's interests ARE their interests. But God's interests center in Jesus Christ – His life and presence in His people. Jesus Christ is the Rock upon which the church must be built, and the basis for all unity.

Unity in Christ – or COMMUNION in Christ – is, according to the Greek meaning, a matter of having Christ in common. But not simply as a topic, or merely by name. Christian are supposed to be united with each other because they are first united with HIM – and have His mind and His purpose.



Nov 25
Keeping Unity in Christ

***Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity! (Ps. 133:1)***

We are never commanded to CREATE unity in Christ. Neither are we ever commanded to create or maintain unity by imposing a system of LAW. Rather, we are told to KEEP the unity of the faith. In other words, by definition, all believers are joined to the Lord and one spirit with Him. (I Cor. 6:17) That automatically means that all believers are one spirit with each other – HIS

spirit. We are told to KEEP this unity in Christ by KEEPING Christ as the center for all.

One of the most often repeated errors of the church age is to try to create or maintain unity through LAW. Today there are various, “accountability groups,” principles of, “submission to authority,” and cult-like teachings on this matter everywhere. But no law can create unity in Christ. Rather, it creates unity around the law, or the group. This is never of God.

Unity in Christ among believers is based upon the personal faith of each believer in Christ. In other words, we are not united with Christ because we are first united with each other. Rather, we are united with each other only if we are first united with Christ on a personal basis – living in the Truth. Get this backwards and you will have a system of law that tries to glue Christians together. It will be destructive.

Jesus said, “I am the Vine and you are the branches. Abide in ME.” This is the basis for true unity. True unity is never the produce of the branches first abiding in each other. The, “having in common,” of the branches is Christ.



Nov 26
Standing by Night

Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD.
(Ps. 134:1)

“To stand by night in the house of the Lord,” is the antithesis of falling asleep; of slipping into error. This phrase is a prophetic description of those whose spiritual discernment is the outcome of knowing Jesus Christ.

NIGHT is representative of the time when it is dark – a time when people are not alert. It is a time of danger; a time when the enemy works the most. But if a person knows Jesus Christ they know THE LIGHT – and will be able to discern with His mind. These are those who STAND by night in the church.

Now, of course, there have always been folks who are self-appointed apologists and watchdogs for the church. Their ministry consists of pointing out everything that is wrong. But nowhere in scripture do we find a description of such a ministry. What we do find are those individuals who have come into an inward knowledge of Jesus Christ – and thus, they recognize both error and Truth. They are those who stand by night in the house of the Lord.



Nov 27
God's Peculiar Treasure

***For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto
Himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure. (Ps.
135:1)***

The New Testament also calls believers, “a peculiar people.” (1 Peter 2:9 and Titus 2:14) The English word does not convey the meaning of the original language. The word translated, “peculiar,” means, “possessed.” In other words, “a peculiar people,” means, “a people possessed by God.” The word, “peculiar,” would include that believers are unique in that sense – they have been purchased by God through the Blood of His Son, and belong to Him.

This Truth is revealed in other terms in the NT. For example, the most common terms used to refer to believers in the NT is, “saints.” The word, “saint,” comes from the same root word that is usually translated, “holy.” But HOLY means, “to belong to God.” So there it is again – believers belong to God.

Paul writes, “But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit with Him.....Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Because we are joined to Christ by the means of the spirit of God, we are members of Christ – we belong to Him. Indeed, the term, “Holy Spirit,” means, “the spirit that sets aside for God; the spirit that makes you God's possession.” Thus, the fact that a believer belongs to

God is rooted in the very definition of Christianity itself: Christ in us.



Nov 28
Eternal Security

EO give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endures forever. (Ps. 136:1)

We read and hear phrases like, “His mercy endures forever,” so often that it is easy to pass right over them and not realize the Truth behind them. This phrase suggests the great Truth of eternal security.

If you have been born from above in Jesus Christ, you are a new creation in Him. Jesus said that those who believe upon Him have, “passed from death to life.” Eternal security is therefore based upon the nature of salvation itself. We cannot pass from life in Christ back into death, if we, in Christ, have actually passed from death into His life. You cannot, as it could be said, be born again backwards. The new birth cannot be lost.

Paul said, “For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of.” Repentance, which is a change of moral mind towards God, cannot be repented of. In other words, once we truly repent, we will not, “repent of repenting,” and lose salvation.

Likewise, John wrote, “Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (I John 3:9) This is the same John, who in this same epistle stated, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.” (I John 1:8) Is John contradicting himself? On the one hand he says that believers DO sin, and on the other hand, he says that we do not sin. The answer is found in what John means by sin. In I John 1, John is referring to the various acts of sin we might commit. But in I John 3, he is referring to THE SIN of rejecting Christ and coming into condemnation. He is saying that anyone born of God does not commit THE SIN of rejecting Christ – because the seed of Christ remains in him – in other words, that person will never turn from Christ because they passed

from death to life by repenting of turning from Christ – with a repentance that will never be repented of.

It ought to be a great comfort to know that God's mercy – love and forgiveness in Christ – endures forever. And that even though we will sin everyday, if we are truly born again we will never want to turn from Jesus Christ. We cannot lose salvation.



Nov 29
Repentance

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. (Ps. 137:1)

God judged Israel for their idolatry and He allowed them to be taken captive into Babylon. While they were in Babylon, many of them began to realize their foolishness. It was only when they lost fellowship with God in His purpose did they begin to fully appreciate it.

“Repentance,” according to the original languages, means, “a change of mind.” But it doesn’t mean a change of mind as a thing unto itself. Rather, real repentance is a Godly sorrow that leads to a change of moral mind towards God. I become convicted by God Himself of my sin against Him. I see the gravity of it – and there comes a Godly sorrow. My moral mind and heart is changed towards God. This is repentance.

True repentance is impossible for any one of us to initiate. That is why the Bible speaks of the need for God to GRANT repentance. Only God can penetrate the darkness of the human heart with a conviction that will make it possible for a person to repent. Of course, people can always refuse. But God must open the way for repentance by revealing all things in Christ.

The Bible says that the GOODNESS of God leads us to repentance. God does judge and chastise. But even those are His goodness. For He intends to bring us back to ZION – to His purpose of fullness in Christ.



Nov 30
A Strange Land

For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land? (Ps. 137:4)

Israel had been carried away captive into a strange land – in this case Babylon. The Psalmist is expressing an attitude possible for any believer. In his despair, he is lamenting that it is not possible to worship God in THAT situation. There is a very subtle accusation of God in this statement – an accusation that God is unfair to expect them to, “sing a song of Zion,” under such terrible circumstances.

This is one of the challenges to faith when we are in a trial. It is possible that our natural man will begin to react in such a way that it will seem impossible to believe God, or to rejoice in our suffering. We may be tempted to think that God has been unfair to expect us to function as a child of God under these conditions. We are in turmoil both from outside of us and from within. How can we sing a song of Zion?

If we want to go on with God, we are eventually going to find ourselves in such a strange land. But rather than lament over our inabilities, the whole purpose of God in allowing this situation is so that we will stop looking at our inability and believe God regardless. If we are to overcome, we have to face the impossible in ourselves and realize that this is an opportunity to experience the victory that is in Christ Jesus.

Paul confessed, “But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead.” (II Cor. 1:9) If God has brought us into a strange land, we can be certain of several things. First, it may be too much for us to bear in our natural man. But it will not be too much for us in Christ – faith in Christ as, “the way of escape,” will enable us to bear the trial. Secondly, if we will put ourselves aside and believe at all costs, we will eventually come, “to sing one of the songs of Zion,” while we are still in this

strange land. For we may presently remain IN this strange land, but in Christ we will be free.



Dec 1
Freedom From Babylon

***O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed;
happy shall he be, that rewards thee as thou hast
served us. (Ps. 137:8)***

Babylon is representative of religious confusion and error. Since Adam sinned, Babylon was been reigning and ruling on the earth. But more specifically, Babylon has invaded and taken captive the church.

Babylon cannot be conquered and God's people cannot be set free by theology or even a list of sound doctrine. The only way in which people can be set free from the spirit of error is through an inward realization of Jesus Christ. It is the Truth that sets us free, and Jesus Christ IS the Truth. It is by knowing HIM that freedom from Babylon comes.

Christians by the thousands today are seeking some religious method for freedom from various bondages. Many think that if they get the right person to pray for their deliverance from sin and bondage that they will be delivered. But this will not work. We do need prayer for deliverance – but we need prayer for deliverance from UNBELIEF. Jesus Christ has already done all there is to do for our deliverance. We cannot add to that or subtract from it. We need to see and believe Him. The greatest prayer of all is that God would open our eyes to see Jesus Christ – that we may come into an inward realization of Jesus – this will set us free and bring our Babylon to the ground.



Dec 2
The Truth of the Word of God

***I will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy
name for they loving kindness and for Thy Truth. For***

Thou has magnified Thy word above all Thy name. (Ps. 138:2)

What does it mean that God, “has magnified His word above His name?” Well, it cannot mean that God’s Word is more important than His name. No. But it does mean that God’s Word is the framework within which He will always reveal Himself and work. God will do nothing except that it agree completely with His written Word.

There are those today who would suggest that, “God is doing a new thing.” But this is nothing more than a justification to attribute anything imaginable to God – whether it be in scripture or not. Some will even concede that God will do nothing directly contrary to His Word -- but then they will add that it is possible that God will do things that are not mentioned in His Word. But again, such thinking opens the door for great deception – people can attribute anything they please to God, saying that, “God is doing a new thing.” Ask them how they can know whether something is of God if they He will do things outside of His Word, and their answer is, “We can discern by His spirit.”

God did not inspire His written Word only to then work outside of it. Indeed, God’s written Word is the written counterpart of the Living Word, Jesus Christ. God will never work in any fashion that is not at least IN PRINCIPLE in His written Word. He will not seem to, “magnify His name above His Word” – but rather, He will always, “magnify His Word above His name” -- that is, His Word will always be the framework within which God will reveal Himself.

God is NOT, “doing a new thing,” today. Rather, God is doing exactly the SAME thing HE has always done – in Jesus Christ. Have we exhausted Christ – such that now we must move on? Those who demand that, “God is doing a new thing,” are, in fact, forsaking the Truth – they are forsaking Christ for something else. It is amazing how people can even attribute to God their own unbelief.



Dec 3
Living From Out of Above

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: (Ps. 138:7)

God is not normally going to come down and lift us out of trouble. Rather, He will often leave us in trouble, so that through Christ, we might live above it. This is the power of resurrection life. It is the believer living from out of above – from out of Christ by the spirit – despite all of the trouble that this world provides.

There is also a more personal application. When we were saved, Christ joined us to Himself in spirit. (I Cor. 6:17) But our physical body and our soul nature is not joined to Him. They remain outside of that spiritual union. This automatically creates the conflict of spirit vs. soul in each believer. But through Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, those in Christ can live from out of Christ – by abiding in Him by faith – despite the fact that we must deal with our earthly nature each day.

Our earthly nature provides us with much trouble, because it is contrary to Jesus Christ. But if we abide in Christ by faith, He will, so to speak, revive us, or raise us up above that earthly nature, so that we can walk in the spirit of God, which is the spirit of victory.



Dec 4
God's Will Finish What He Begins

The LORD will perfect that which concerns me: thy mercy, O LORD, endures forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands. (Ps. 138:8)

God will not force Himself on anyone, including believers. But if we will go on with God despite the cost, God has committed Himself to finish what He has started. He will bring us into the fullness of Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6)

We cannot do this for ourselves. But there is one thing we CAN do: Pick up our Cross – when God brings it -- and lose our lives to Him. We can say to God, “Do whatever it takes to finish the work of your hands – to finish forming Christ in me.” That is a prayer that God will always answer.



Dec 5
Naked Before God

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

Even though we might be shocked, disappointed, or even afraid, because of the sin or evil that we are capable of producing out of ourselves, God is never surprised at all. Indeed, He may allow circumstances in our life that will bring out our sin – so that we might see it, confess it, and seek Him for freedom. God has searched us. He knows us far more than we know ourselves. There is nothing that is not naked before Him.

But if that is the case, then what is the point of trying to hide from God; of being less than completely naked before Him? He sees all regardless. And wants to bring us to where we are open to Him.

Hebrews records, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:12-13)

Rather than be afraid because God knows us, we ought to invite Him all the more to search us out and set us free from anything that is contrary to His Son. This is what we will do if we truly come to know and love Him.



Dec 6
Seeing God

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. (Ps. 139:6)

The words of this Psalm are similar to the words of Job at the conclusion of his great trial:

I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withheld from thee.... I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not...I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. (Job 42:2-6)

Job had accumulated much information and teaching about God. But then he was plunged into a great trial with no explanation. And in his trial, nothing worked. He could not find God. So through most of Job's suffering he wanted to see the reason why he was suffering. But instead of seeing his the reason why he was suffering, Job saw GOD HIMSELF.

When we see Jesus Christ we will be struck with awe. We will not even care WHY. And the fact is, seeing Jesus as the outcome of a trial IS THE WHY – it is why God has allowed the suffering. If we will – by faith -- give ourselves to God through our trial, we will eventually come to see God Himself.



Dec 7
The Omnipresent God

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (Ps. 139:7)

The fact that God is everywhere at the same time should never be confused with pantheism – the false idea that God is IN everything. God is not IN everything. But He is nevertheless everywhere all at once.

When Adam sinned, God remained omnipresent. He did not leave this world. But the world left Him – neither this world nor the human race was any longer constituted for

God. For the most part, God took His hands off of this world. Most of what happens in this age is NOT the will of God. But God does use some of it for His purpose, because the fact is, His people do live in this age.

Rather than be IN everything of this world, God is calling His people OUT of this world into His Son. In Christ, God has not fixed the old creation. Rather, He has made a new creation in Christ Jesus.



Dec 8
In the Hands of God

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. (Ps. 139:10)

Natural thinking even in a Christian will tend to interpret God through events. When things go bad, we think that God is with us. When things go good, we think that God is not with us. In reality, we ought to interpret events through God.

A Christian is one who is, "in Christ." That means that, by definition, it is impossible for Jesus Christ not to be WITH us. He is IN us. And He is always faithful unto His purpose.

Even though we may not see God, we can know that He sees us. Even though we may not know where He is leading, we can trust that He knows, and that He has our hand. Faith in God is based, not on what WE see, or upon what WE feel. It is based upon HIM – that He is faithful regardless of whether we are presently in a hell or in a heaven. He will use all for His purpose.



Dec 9
Light and Darkness

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hides not from thee; but the night shines as the day: the

***darkness and the light are both alike to thee. (Ps.
139:11-12)***

When a believer is in the dark, they cannot see God. When a believer is in the light, they are able to see God. But regardless of whether we are in the darkness or the light, and regardless of whether we can see God – He sees us. In fact, darkness and light are alike to Him. Neither has any effect on Him. He sees ALL.

We have a tendency to pray to God as if we need to inform Him – we see this tendency in the Psalms. We sometimes think that He is unaware or doesn't realize certain things. Doing that is not wrong – but it is MORE for us – because God already knows. Darkness and light are alike to Him.

It is encouraging to know that God knows what we don't know – even about what concerns us. That is why it is good and wise to pray, “Not my will, but Yours, Lord.” He has an eternal perspective and is always faithful.



**Dec 10
God Knows Us**

***Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and
know my thoughts. (Ps. 139:23)***

The Psalmist cries, “O God, KNOW me.” This cry of the heart to God is really a cry that WE might know God. How so? Because the only way to know God is to open ourselves and ask Him to know US.

God already knows us. There is nothing that He can discover about us that He does not already know. Thus, it is folly to try to hide from Him. But if I want to know God I must open myself to Him.

To the extent that I put up walls to God, I will not be able to see Him. To the extent that I am open to God, I will discern Him. The barriers I put between myself and God do not keep Him from knowing me. But they will keep me from knowing Him.



Dec 11
The Wiles of the Devil

Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man; Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war. (Ps. 140:1-2) Devices and wiles

Often when the Psalms mention enemies, and contain prayers that God would bring curses upon enemies, these stand as types and shadows of what we can pray regarding Satan or even our own flesh. Satan and our flesh are the real enemies – not flesh and blood.

The NT reveals that Satan has a calculated plan to destroy God's purpose in each believer. That is meaning behind the phrases, "We are ignorant of the devices of Satan" (I Cor. 2:11), and, "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." The forces of evil always imagine, "mischief" – they are always gathered for war.

Satan always tries to accomplish his purpose through DECEPTION – very often religious deception. He will try to deceive us by playing upon some vulnerability in our natural man or flesh. Our prayer ought to be that God would deliver us through a knowing of His Son, Jesus Christ.



Dec 12
Abiding in Christ

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence. (Ps. 140:13)

When we are saved, we are joined to the Lord and made one spirit with Him. That is a reality for everything who is a Christian – a Christ is IN CHRIST, or if you prefer, a Christian is one in whom Christ dwells. But nevertheless we must learn to abide, or dwell, in Christ; in His presence.

By faith, we are supposed to abide in Christ and learn to draw from Him all that we need for life – both spiritually and materially. He is the Vine and we are His branches – that means that He is our ALL. No branch draws from out of itself. The branches live from out of the Vine.

As we walk through life, we are going to encounter many things that give us a choice: Draw upon ourselves, our wits, our emotions, our resources – or forsake ourselves and abide in Christ for all. Christ will either BE our life, or we will resort back to our natural lives. These things must become a reality in our practical experience.



Dec 13
Prayer as Incense

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (Ps. 141:2)

The word for PRAYER in the original language is a picture of standing before the Lord with raised, open arms. And although this might make us think in terms of receiving from God – and rightly so – it is likewise a picture of offering up to God. Actually, the two are one and the same. We give ourselves to God – because only if we do can we receive what He has in Jesus Christ.

One of the gifts brought to Jesus at His birth was incense. Incense is often used to picture prayers offered to God that please Him.

Jesus said that we must lose ourselves to Him in order to find Him as our life. (Matt. 16:24-25) It isn't that we are to bargain with God. But we are to lose ourselves to Him freely so that we can freely receive from Him all that He is, and all that He has.



Dec 14
Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

But mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord. (Ps. 141:8)

To fix your eyes upon Jesus means many things. First of all, it means that we must take our eyes OFF of all else. We cannot be looking to ourselves for help. We cannot accept that circumstances, or other people, are going to determine our lives. We won't live ignoring our circumstances, but our eyes will be on Christ despite being in the midst of them.

To fix your eyes upon Jesus obviously means to trust Him. But because Jesus Christ IS the Truth, if we fix our eyes upon Him we will see the Truth – and we will see all else in the light of Him. All spiritual discernment is the byproduct of seeing Jesus Christ; of fixing our eyes upon Him. Finally, if we fix our eyes upon Jesus, we will see Him as our hope and example:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2)



Dec 15
Trusting God in Despair

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knew my path. (Ps. 142:3)

Because we are born with a sin nature – and are all the more hindered by a blinded natural mind – God must take us right where we are. He has to take human beings who are at enmity against Him and make them one with His Son – and bring them into His eternal purposes. That means that if God is going to make Christ our life; our new dwelling place, He must tear down all that we have built upon ourselves. As He does, we will naturally seek to

hold on; seek to continue to own ourselves. As we fail, we may despair over what is happening to us.

Now, of course, there will be many times along the way on our path that we can refuse to go on with God. But if we, despite our despair, and lack of understanding, will commit to go on with God, no matter what it takes, God will get His purpose.

Our spirit may, at times, overwhelm us – but God knows our path. And at the end of that path, despite all of the ups and downs along the way, will be an inward realization of Jesus Christ and all of the purposes of God that are found in Him.



Dec 16
Trust Solely in Christ

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living. (Ps. 142:4-5)

Jesus Christ is the source of all spiritual blessings in the church. (Eph. 1:3) In Him are all the gifts, and all of the fruits of the spirit – He is the Vine and we are the branches. He is our LIFE – and within His life is all that God has to give humanity.

But God wants to use the gifts of Christ to minister to His people, and often He will use those gifts through members of His body. Thus, it isn't that God gives us a spiritual gift and tells us to use it FOR Him. No. Rather, God tells us to abide in Christ by faith, and as we do, His gifts and ministry will emerge to minister to others.

However, all of that being said, no ministry that is of Jesus Christ is ever going to make people reliant upon others. Even if the gift of Christ is coming THROUGH others, it will nevertheless teach them to solely depend upon Christ. All true ministry will edify people to abide in Christ as their sole source of life, and sole object of their faith.

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 Jn. 2:26-27)



**Dec 17
God's Answers to Prayer**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. (Ps. 143:1)

So often, in our ignorance and unbrokenness, we plead for God to give us what we desire. We pray, "in the name of Jesus," for all kinds of things – some good, and some foolish. But God is not going to answer any prayer in the name of Jesus unless Jesus would pray it. He is not going to answer prayer according to our will, but according to HIS. And that is something for which we ought to be thankful.

God is faithful and God is righteous. Therefore, when God answers prayer, and moves in our lives, His answers will always be IN His faithfulness, and IN His righteousness. For example, God is not going to stroke your ego. He is not going to hurt other people to please you. He is not going to help you save your life – because He tells you to lose it. Examples could go on. But if you gather all of this up, God is going to answer prayer according to Christ, and not according to us. But again, for this we should be thankful.



**Dec 18
Justification Through Christ**

And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. (Ps. 143:2)

If I am a person who walks under the law, seeking to establish my own righteousness before God, I may not

realize it, but I am actually asking God to enter into judgment with me. By virtue of the fact that I am living under the law, I already AM putting myself under His judgment – and my life is geared to passing that judgment.

Paul wrote, “No man is justified by the law in the sight of God.” (Gal. 3:11) Much of what God must do in the life of someone who tries to be justified by the law is to bring them into a total failure, collapse, and loss of their self-righteousness. Then if we are open to God, He will show us the answer in Jesus Christ:

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe. (Rom. 3:21-22)

God will legally IMPUTE to us the righteousness of His Son if we believe: This is, “justification by faith.” But more, God will IMPART to us Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus will be, “made unto us righteousness.” Christ in us will be the only righteousness we have, and the only we need.



Dec 19 The Work of God's Hands

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. (Ps. 143:5)

The work of God's hands are always are reflection of God Himself. “The heavens declare the glory of God.” (Ps. 19:1) Indeed, we are told, “All your ways are Truth.”

What this means is that God is not the author of confusion; He is not the creator of evil or tragedy in this world. God is a redeemer. He is love.

At the forefront of the work of God's hands is that He is creating His people in Christ Jesus. Paul says, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 2:10) This means that all that we are in our natural man is NOT God's workmanship. But once we are united with Christ, God does being a work in us. He seeks, not to make us

LOOK like Jesus, but He creates us IN Christ Jesus, that is, He seeks to manifest Christ through us.



Dec 20
Our Life is Hid With Christ in God

Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. (Ps. 143:9)

Trials are often the place we learn to live in Christ. But we are learning that for a reason – God wants us to live in Christ at all times, not just when we are in trouble. Indeed, our life is supposed to be buried, hidden with Christ in God.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life hid with Christ in God. When Christ our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Col. 3:1-4)

Note: We are dead. We are crucified with Christ. Our life is Christ Himself. But in this present age, it does not yet appear what all of that will mean. It does not yet fully appear what it means to be in Christ. (1 John 3:2) Our life is HID with Christ in God. When Christ comes back – when He appears – then all that it means to be in Christ will also be revealed.

In this age, we ought to flee unto God – embrace His deliverance in Christ through the work of the Cross – so that our life can be hid with Christ in God. That is our only refuge from the enemy.



Dec 21
Spiritual Warfare

Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. (Ps. 144:1)

Spiritual warfare is never a matter of us trying to defeat the enemy. There is no possibility of that. But in fact, the enemy has ALREADY been defeated – the victory of Jesus Christ is finished. Thus, victory or defeat for the believer is based solely on FAITH – in the One who is the embodiment of victory.

This is why all spiritual warfare in the NT is described as a STAND BY FAITH. We do not fight to WIN. No. We fight to STAND by faith – in the victory that Jesus has already won. We don't fight to win ground; we fight to hold ground in Christ Jesus.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore. (Eph. 6:10-14)

God must TEACH us how to stand by faith. But this is not a technique or method. God teaches us how to stand by bringing us into an inward knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ.



Dec 22 What is Man?

LORD, what is man, that thou take knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou make account of him! (Ps. 144:3)

God made man to be ONE with Himself, and to live as an, “extension,” of Him – as a product of, and a vehicle unto, His purpose for all creation. But Adam sinned, and that made it impossible for the Adam race to come into the purpose of God.

This Psalm is quoted in the book of Hebrews and applied to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God, who became a man, that is, the God-man. This

was necessary for the redemption of humanity. It was necessary to make it possible for man to become one in Jesus Christ.

The immense purpose of God through His Son depends on the Truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And that He, as the Son of God, became the Son of Man. For it is through The Son – through the God-man, that the Father restored His purpose in humanity. God intends to birth many sons and daughters IN the Son – to not only use humanity for His purpose – but to give humanity His eternal inheritance in Christ.



Dec 23
Only Christ Will Abide

Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passes away.

Many times throughout scripture, God warns against the folly of living for this life; for living for ourselves. This age, and all that is in it, is going to pass away. And all that will remain is that which is of Jesus Christ.

Even many Christians do not really grasp this. But it is a fact. It is a fact, not only materially, but spiritually. Professing Christians are building many things in the name of Christ. They are building IN THEMSELVES much that they think is spiritual. But it is earthly. What is being built is not of Christ, but is built of the materials of natural man. That which is built of natural man is not necessarily evil – but it can appear quite religious. But it is not eternal.

If what we are building is of natural man, then the reason is that we have at some point sidestepped the work of the Cross – for it is the desire of God to crucify that which is natural. But by the time that God is finished, ALL that is of this age, and ALL that we have built – inwardly and outwardly – that is not of Christ is going to be burnt up. The result will be that only that which is of Christ will remain. That is not bad news. It is good news, and something over which to rejoice.



Dec 24
The Greatness of God

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. (Ps. 145:3)

Passages like this one from Psalm 145 reveal the folly of trying to reduce God down into a theological formula. Indeed, even TRUE doctrines cannot search Him out – they can only correctly scratch the surface. God not only lives eternally, but He is eternal.

But despite the unsearchable greatness and glory of God, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born into this world – born into this world from the outside – and walked among us. He was a human being, but as a human manifested the Father to the degree possible as a human. We sometimes get a glimpse of what was in Him during moments like the transfiguration.

During this age, if we come into an inward realization of Jesus Christ, we will catch a glimpse of the greatness of God, and the unsearchable riches in Jesus Christ. But even then, the best will still be in the next age. As Paul writes:

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. (1 Cor. 2:9)



Dec 25
The Everlasting Kingdom

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. (Ps. 145:13)

The kingdom of God is not merely a place or a people over which God rules. Rather, the kingdom of God is God's rule itself – over any people or place. Since the New Covenant began, CHRIST IN US is the kingdom of God in us. The kingdom of God is the King Himself, and

then all that is in Him. THIS kingdom is eternal and cannot be defeated.

God intends to begin His kingdom during this age IN HIS PEOPLE through the indwelling of Jesus Christ. Jesus is to be made LORD of each of us personally. It would be a shallow kingdom if it were populated by people in whom Christ did NOT dwell. But once God established Christ in His people, He can then use them IN CHRIST as those who reign and rule with Christ in the eternal reign of God over all creation.



Dec 26
In Spirit and Truth

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. (Ps. 145:18)

It is impossible to call upon God IN ERROR and expect that he will answer us IN ERROR. He will not. God will never affirm error in any of us. Jesus Christ is the Truth. Those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in TRUTH.

These are the facts because God wants to redeem us. He wants to bring us to Christ, and once we are there, to bring us into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He cannot do that if He cooperates with error, or if He promotes any way that is contrary to Christ.

The Lord is near to them that call upon Him – if those that call upon them are asking to be brought into the Truth. We may not presently know much Truth or know much about God. But if we ask Him to deliver us in Christ, we are, in fact, calling upon Him in Truth.



Dec 27
Spiritual Sight in Christ

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. (Ps. 146:8)

In Adam, man is born blind to God; man is born spiritually blind. Natural man may convince himself that he DOES see, by using religion, or by using the psychic realm. But Jesus directly stated, "Unless you are born from above, you CANNOT see." (John 3:3) It isn't a matter of God allowing you to see. You CANNOT see. There is no capacity for spiritual sight in natural man.

The only way in which the eyes of those born in Adam can be opened is if they first die to Adam through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Then they will be raised IN CHRIST. And HE will be their LIGHT. Once someone is born from above they do have the capacity to SEE – to see God. But they must learn the Truth; they must learn WHAT they are seeing.

It is one thing to be blind. But it is quite another to NOT KNOW you are blind – in fact, to think that you SEE. That is deception. But God can open the eyes of the blind. Thus, one of the first things God does is to show us that we ARE blind. Then we can begin to seek God for sight. And it is not possible for us to want to see more than God wants to open our eyes.



Dec 28
Faith That Pleases God

The LORD takes pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. (Ps. 147:11)

Despite the fact that none of us can muster up out of ourselves the faith necessary to seek God – faith comes by hearing God – it is nevertheless a fact that God will speak to us in a way that will birth a measure of faith – enough for us to know to turn to God. And if we turn to God by faith, this pleases Go. Hebrews records:

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

God would not require that anyone turn to Him if they could not turn to Him. Thus, once we know enough to turn to God we must do so. We must deliberately choose to

believe that God is faithful and that He is a RESPONDER – which is the proper translation – to those who do turn to Him and seek Him.

This is the most basic description of faith. We must believe that God exists – that He is accessible. And we must believe that He will respond to us – maybe not the way we expect or desire – but He is not indifferent to those who seek to draw near to Him.



Dec 29
The Name of the Lord

Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

“The name of the Lord,” is representative of all that He IS. To do something, “in the name of the Lord” is to do what He would do. To ask God something, “in the name of the Lord,” is to ask what He would ask. To praise, “the name of the Lord,” is to praise the Lord Himself.

The third commandment states, “Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.” Once we understand the meaning of, “the name of the Lord,” we should see that this commandment forbids more than just what we would call, “swearing.” It forbids using, “the name of the Lord,” unto that which is not for HIS glory. I take, “the name of the Lord in vain,” if I attribute to God what is NOT of God. I misuse His name if I misrepresent Him in teaching, practice, or in personal conduct. I take His name in vain if I call myself by the name of Christ – but do not believe and trust Him.

If we honor God only with our lips, but our heart is far from Him, Jesus said, “In vain do they worship me.” (Matt. 15:8-9) It is possible to praise God with your lips, but in doing so, to be guilty of taking His name in vain – because your heart is far from Him. True praise is from the heart – based in faith and worship in spirit and in Truth.



Dec 30
Praise God in the Congregation

Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. (Ps. 149:1)

There are many congregations today that spend much time in their weekly services singing and praising the Lord. There are others that spend much less time doing these things. But if we read the NT, and grasp the Truth being revealed there, God looks completely past both possibilities into the hearts of all of these people.

Jesus said, "This people draws nigh unto me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:8-9)

Jesus also said, "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [*him*] in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

From these passages, we see that, "to praise the Lord in the congregation," means more than just having a worship time. It means to belong to Him, and to live for Him – and to edify each other in the Truth of Christ. That is true praise and it is true worship – regardless of whether we spend much time, or little time, praising God with our lips.



Dec 31
The Restoration of All Things

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Ps. 150:6)

Jesus Christ has finished all that is necessary for the redemption of the human race. But even the redemption is unto an even greater purpose: The restitution of all things under God through Jesus Christ, His Son. The full purpose of God through Christ is expressed in this verse: It will be fulfilled when all of creation – not just in words, but because it manifests God – will praise the Lord.

Regarding Jesus, Peter preached, "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:21)

When everything that has breath praises the Lord, it means that there is NOTHING contrary to Him. And that is the fullness of His purpose in Christ.



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