

The Study of

The Gospel of John



By
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Not to be Sold

PREFACE

The Gospel of John was dictated to John, by God the Holy Spirit after the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. There was a specific purpose in this delay, which reveals the mystery age of Grace and of the church. Christ promised to build a church as members of the body of Christ, mentioned in the Epistles. (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12,27; Matthew 16:18.) God the Holy Spirit used the apostle John to establish the foundation of the age of Grace. It was written close to the turn of the century, after Christianity was established as an outgrowth of Judaism, bringing the Gospel to “Whosoever will may come”. Although the Old Testament promised the out pouring of God the Holy Spirit, in these last days, it was something that was vaguely understood by the majority. You will notice that in the three previous Gospels, there is no mention of the new birth by the Holy Spirit. The meeting that Nicodemus had with the Lord at night was absolutely not understood by the disciples until after Pentecost. That is why God the Holy Spirit did not have John write the Gospel of John until after Pentecost.

This Gospel of John is used as the supreme approach, in leading a soul to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. As Daniel 9:24 is the key verse in the Old Testament, so the Gospel of John in the New Testament reveals the Incarnate Son of God's work through the Holy Spirit. (John 20:31.) We will study these 21 chapters, as units within themselves, portraying the Lord Jesus Christ's personality, corresponding to various truths. The Lord has laid it upon my heart to make a simple study of this very important revelation, from God the Holy Spirit. There are several “Firsts” in this Gospel, which I wish to enumerate as we begin this class work. Open your Bible to the Book of the Gospel of John, so that each of you can identify certain characteristics of the Lord. There is that binding thread of truth throughout the Gospel of John, that links the past with the present and declares the future in the present. This is an amazing study of God's precious Word. Every student of God's Word should place special emphasis upon this Gospel of John. The writer was a beloved disciple of Christ, entrusted also with the Book of Revelation through which God's complete plan for all ages is recorded.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

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Foreword

In the Christian life upon this earth, the Lord knows that we need fellow believers, side by side in order to encourage each other and to have spiritual fellowship with one another as we serve the soon coming Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ***“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another:”*** Romans 12:9-10. With those of like faith, this comes so supernatural and becomes a continual blessing and growth in the Christian life. I wish to introduce you to a wonderful couple who are serving the Lord through “The Calvary Hour”, broadcasting the glorious Gospel and building up the saints in the most holy faith. The Rev. Curtis and his precious wife Sallie Carpenter, are very precious fellow servants in the work of the Lord.. I have asked both of them to write the foreword to this very important study in the Book of John.-

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As the honest reader will study this Biblical textbook on the Gospel of John, they will discover our mutual belief in the rich blessings from these messages by the teaching of Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier. These studies of the Gospel of John, as well as other portions of God's Word, are greatly enriched and helpful to the Christian churches, and schools, world wide, through the vast experience of our brother Losier who spent 43 years as a missionary in Africa. This textbook reveals strong convictions and not sensationalism. ***“I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*** Revelation 19:10b.

May you be aware of brother Losier's God given ability for simplicity in the presentation of these profound truths in this Biblical textbook. My prayer is as this book goes forth, world wide, that the Holy Spirit will use these teachings to “The praise of His glory”! The coming of the Lord to rapture home the saints is drawing very near. May each of us be ready to meet the Lord in the air!

Brother Andy and Imogene are among our closest and best friends. We have known both of them through many years. We thank God for the blessings of our rich Christian fellowship with each other.

Evangelist A Curtis and Sallie Carpenter,
Founder and Director of
The Calvary Hour Broadcast.

DEDICATION.

I wish to dedicate the study of the Book of John to ***“The Calvary Hour”*** of our precious brother Curtis and Sister Sallie Carpenter, who mean so much to Imogene and me, as together, we press on toward that eternal prize, in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14.) Brother Curtis has been broadcasting the good news for 53 years, to the praise and glory of God. ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Romans 10:17.*** We praise God for the powerful Word of God, which is being broadcast and sent around the world, in these last days. Our one desire is to speed the Gospel light in every way possible, praying that many may believe. By the grace of God. *We pray that “The Calvary Hour”,* through these broadcasts and tapes, may be heard in many parts of the world. We thank God for the hundreds of these tapes of the Calvary Hour, that we can share with those who receive our Biblical textbooks. May God grant that many precious souls may come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior through our joint efforts. We know that many hungry souls will be established and built up in the teachings of the Bible.

We are living in the latter days, as we approach the turning of the century. We do not know when the Lord will appear in the air, to rapture the saints of all ages to their heavenly home, but we do know that ***“The Great Air Lift”*** is the next glorious event to take place. As God the Holy Spirit revealed to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, those spectacular and terrible events to come upon this sinful world, God will literally bring them to pass. God has pre-televised to John great and marvelous events of the future. God is Omniscient and Sovereign and has planned wonderful things in the future for those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“But as it is written, 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 Corinthians 2:9.*** It will be a glorious day when we see our Savior “Face to Face”, in our glorified bodies. Those things that John saw, as to God's eternity, he could not help but cry out, ***“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly, Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20.*** Our one desire in these last days is to speed the Gospel light, around the world, reaching precious souls from “The Regions Beyond”.

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In Honor & Memorial

It is with great blessings and privilege to honor Imogene's uncle Coyle Savage, whom the Lord wonderfully saved and became an ardent reader of my Biblical textbooks. He and his family have become very precious to us, in sweet Christian fellowship. On March 12, 1997, he suffered the loss of his dear wife who is Imogene's Aunt Edna L. Dover Savage, who went home to be with the Lord. As we honor Coyle through the vast distribution of this Biblical textbook, we also want to send it forth in memory of our precious Aunt Edna, who is absent from the body, but present with the Lord. The passing of our loved one, on to Paradise, only makes us more anxious than ever to look forward to that great re-union, when we shall be together forever and ever, where time will be no more. The short life which we experience upon planet earth, is but to prepare us for eternal life with our Redeemer and in fellowship with each other forever in our glorified bodies where sin will be no more. Aunt Edna has joined with our loved ones who have gone on before, where pain and sickness are "No More"!

I wish to quote the following verses of Scripture for your admonition in honor of Uncle Coyle and in Memory of Aunt Edna. ***"Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is in the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*** 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. ***"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."*** 1 John 3:1-3.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. And Imogene H. Losier

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INTRODUCTION

Before we examine each chapter for our spiritual well being in Christ, it is fitting that we unify some very important truths emphasized in the Gospel of John. God the Holy Spirit always has a purpose in using certain penmen for the revelation which God presents to mankind. God also had a purpose in separating the Gospel of John from the synoptic Gospels, making the revelation of the new birth declared after Pentecost. Before the day of Pentecost , the phrase, being “Born Again” had very little meaning to both Nicodemus as well as the disciples.

God's Firsts in the Gospel of John.

- 1. The Eternal Son of God. (John 1:1-2.) Always existed.**
- 2. The Eternal Son of God the Creator of all. (John 1:3;2:1-12.)
(All things made by the Eternal Son of God.)**
- 3. The Eternal Son of God as the source of all life and light. (John 1:4-5.)
“In Him is life”.**
- 4. The Eternal Son of God, through whom Divine birth is made available.
(John 1:11-12.) But as many as received Him- given power to become
sons of God.**
- 5. The Incarnation of the Eternal Son of God.
(John 1:14; Galatians 4:4-5.) “Made flesh”**
- 6. Grace and Truth made available through Christ Jesus. (John 1:17.)
Grace and truth provided by Christ.**
- 7. The Declaration of God the Father is through Jesus Christ. (John 1:18.)
Christ has declared God the Father.**
- 8. The Eternal Son of God makes possible the baptism by the Holy Spirit.
(John 1:25-27;33; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:4-6.)**

9. **The Eternal Son of God removed the barrier of sin forever. (John 1:29.) The penalty of "Total Sin" paid for by Christ, therefore all of mankind is without excuse.**
10. **God the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ, indicating that He is the Eternal Son of God. (John 1:33-34.) John the Baptist our witness.**
11. **A pre-statement of the coming of the Lord in power. (John 10:17-18; Revelation 19:11-21.) The second Advent.**
12. **The First Passover with the Incarnate Son of God present. (John 2:13,23.) The Lord Himself present.**
13. **The First purification of the Temple by the Incarnate Son of God. (John 2:14-17.) The cleansing of the Temple.**
14. **The declaration of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Incarnate Christ. (John 2:19.) (Destruction and raising up of His body)**
15. **The First declaration of the New Birth by God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-8.) Being born of God the Holy Spirit is required.**
16. **The Gospel in but few words. (John 3:16.) God's great manifestation of love toward mankind.**
17. **The Eternal Incarnate Son of God sent forth this first time to save, rather than to condemn. (John 3:17.)**
18. **Apart from the Incarnate and Eternal Son of God, all are already condemned and will feel the wrath of God forever. (John 3:18,36.)**
19. **John the Baptist sent as a substitute of Elijah because of the rejection of the Son of God by the leaders of Israel. (John 3:22-30.)**
20. **The Incarnate and Eternal Son of God is the source of "Living Water". (John 4:6-14;7:37-38.)**

- 21. The Omniscience of Christ, knowing the affairs of the Samaritan woman at the well. (John 4:15-23.)**
- 22. True Worship of God by a spiritual birth. (John 4:24.)**
- 23. The Incarnate and Eternal Son of God will be the Supreme Judge. (John 5:22; 17:26; 9:39; 12:48-50.)**
- 24. The declaration of two resurrections. (John 5:28-29.)**
- 25. Christ the Living Manna from Heaven. (John 6:1-51.)**
- 26. The eternal existence of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 1:1-5.**
- 27. God the Father has appointed Christ as the final judge. (John 5:22.)**
- 28. The security of our salvation is in God's hands. (John 10:1-18.)**
- 29. The Rapture of the saints is established, to dwell in the Father's mansions. (John 14:1-6.)**
- 30. The giving of the Holy Spirit to dwell within the saints forever, as the Divine spark from God the Father. (John 14:16-26; 15:26-27.)**
- 31. The Great Prayer of the Lord of intercession for the saints. (John 17:1-26.)**
- 32. Christ's death and resurrection, with victory over sin and death. (John 19:1-42; 20:1-31.)**
- 33. Christ's Spiritual flesh and blood must be our life. (John 6:53-63.)**
- 34. Judas Iscariot controlled by the devil. (John 6:70.)**
- 35. Christ declared Himself as "The Messiah". (John 7:28-29.)**
- 36. Christ able to forgive our sins. (John 8:1-11.)**

37. **The Eternal Son of God had been sent forth from God the Father. (John 8:12-59; 10:34-38; 17:25; 12:44-46.)**
38. **The Eternal Incarnate Son is the Light of the World. (John 9:1-41.)**
39. **Christ the Good Shepherd of God's sheep. (John 10:1-18.)**
40. **Christ the security of our salvation. (John 10:25-30.)**
41. **Christ the Resurrection and the Life. (John 11:1-44.)**
42. **Christ anointed for the Day of burial. (John 12:1-9.)**
43. **Christ the King of kings, and Lord of lords, Triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.. (John 12:12-19.)**
44. **The forerunner of the glorification of the Lord. (John 12:23-43.)**
45. **The Last Passover and the First Lord's Supper. (John 13:1-20; Matthew 26:7-30; Mark 14:17-26; Luke 22:14-39.)**
46. **Christ the Betrayed One. (John 13: 21-30.)**
47. **The coming One to Rapture all saint with a great "Air Lift." (John 14:1-6.)**
48. **The Unity in the Godhead. John 14:7-15.)**
49. **The Giving of God the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-26; 15:26-27; 16:1-15.) .)**
50. **Inward peace is given by the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:27 -31.)**
51. **Abiding in the True vine, bearing much fruit. (John 15:1-25.)**
52. **Jesus Christ foretells of His death upon the Cross. (John 16:33.)**

- 53. The Eternal Son of God's great prayer of intercession. (John 17:1-26.)**
- 54. Christ the falsely condemned One. (John 18:1-40.)**
- 55. Christ the crucified one. (John 19:1-42.)**
- 56. Christ the resurrected One. (John 20:1-31.)**
- 57. Christ the Provider of every need. (John 21:1-25.)**

Each one of these statements found in the Book of John is confirmed in other parts of the Bible. It is of grave importance that we establish these truths in our Christian walk, being led by God the Holy Spirit. The eschatology or prophecy found in this precious Book is outstanding and reveals marvelous things to come. Perhaps the most significant revelation is the preparation that the Lord is making in the Father's mansion for His bride to be. (John 14:2-3.) We will study many of these promises and their fulfillment, to the glory and praise of our living God. The Holy Spirit reserved many of these special truths for the dictation to John. The outstanding and complete view of the future has been the Book of Revelation. God has a time and place for everything, past, present and future! Whoever you are and wherever you are, your desire should be to become a continual student of the Word of God. The Bible is the living and powerful message from God to the world, through his messengers. We should be ready to tell the world that there is a heaven and our God is alive and well and is sovereign over all!

In the four Gospels, we have the working of Christ manifested in four distinct ways, but not contradictable. Matthew was used by the Holy Spirit to present Christ in the kingdom aspect, Mark as the humble servant sent forth by God the Father. Dr. Luke was used by the Holy Spirit to emphasize Christ as the 100 % Incarnate man, as well as 100% God. Here in the Book of John we have the presentation of Jesus Christ as the Eternal Son of God. All four of the Gospels give us an excellent understanding of the Eternal Son of God, taking upon Himself the form of man, apart from the sin nature of mankind. In this study of the Book of John, we will merely introduce a vast amount of valuable truth, from which further study must be made, in teaching the living Word of the precious Bible. Be a faithful servant of the Most High God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must share these marvelous truths with others, warning many of the coming judgement day. There is no other escape route apart from the Eternal Son of God,

the Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly, after death, it would be too late to claim redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we are sent forth to declare the only way of salvation through Christ Jesus. The unpardonable sin before God the Father, is the rejection of His Eternal Son, who paid the total debt of all sin. I admonish you to study this important Book very carefully. These important issues will be dealt with as we continue to study this very important revelation from God the Holy Spirit. Look up those important references, as it is important that we make our doctrinal statements based upon the Word of God.

The reason why the Gospel of John is one of the great revelations, not only to the early church, but also we who are waiting for that great "Air Lift" into those mansions of God. No other place in the Scripture do we have reference to Christ preparing a place for his bride to be, in the mansions of God the Father. John was not only given this tremendous insight in this Gospel, but also the Epistles of John for the saints and the Book of Revelation for the complete plan of God. We are dealing with this very important Scripture, chapter by chapter for your admonition and better understanding of the marvelous Trinity of the Godhead.

This introduction presents the foundation of the study of the Gospel of John, so that as we consider the various characteristics and personality of the Eternal Son of God, we might realize the necessity of the incarnation of Christ. This was necessary for our understanding of the doctrine of imputation. "***Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.***" **Romans 4:8.** Had Christ not come in the sinless form of man, we would be judged in our sin cursed condition. Since Christ has fulfilled the law in our stead, we are no longer condemned under the law, but by faith in Christ we are set free from the judgement of the law.

"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." **2 Corinthians 5:17-19.** As God through the Lord Jesus Christ, hath removed and put away our sins, so God has also, through Christ imputed unto us the righteousness of Christ. This would not have been possible if Christ, through his incarnation, did not paid the debt of total sin. "***Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.***" **Romans 4:8.**

With a thorough study of these factual statements from the Bible, may we answer the following questions in preparation for further understanding of the living Word of God. It is a must in the study of the whole Bible. These questions

are preliminary in the study of the Book of John, but include portions of Scripture from other Books as well. All Scripture is given by inspiration from God, dictated by God the Holy Spirit. As National Christian Leaders, your instructions and teachings must come from the Word of God, and not from the word of men.

May we be aware, as we study any portion of the Bible, that God the Holy Spirit must lead and guide us into all these truths. If you are grieving the Holy Spirit in any way, you cannot expect Him to be leading you, but rather to convict you of your shortcomings. Don't allow yourself to become a carnal Christian, which will cause you to be out of fellowship with the Lord. If you quench the power of the Holy Spirit in your Christian life, you are in great danger of the demonic world, causing you much trouble and may even bring an early death, which the Scripture calls, "The Sin unto Death" (1 John 5:16.)

As we study the Gospel of John, spend much time in reading the complete Gospel over and over again. Be familiar with especially the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, as presented by the Apostle John. Thoroughly study this introduction before taking the exam, for it will enable you to understand the supreme purpose that the Holy Spirit had in separating this Gospel from Matthew, Mark and Luke. ***"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."*** John 20:31.

May God richly bless you as you study the Bible and prepare yourself as a faithful servant of God, reaching the lost and dying, before it is too late. May these questions help you to understand the marvelous hand of God, in removing all obstacles, in preparation for the New heavens and the new earth. I have purposely left the writing of this Biblical textbook of the Gospel of John until after the writing of these others, because it is a combination of many doctrinal truths. It contains the personal sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ, spoken during his earthly ministry. It confirms the Lord as the Eternal Son of God as the Alpha and the Omega. It takes us back beyond the beginning of time. It declares the Christ as from everlasting to everlasting. Perhaps one of the most important revelations is the requirement of being born again by God the Holy Spirit. And the 14 th. Chapter of John gives us the first phase of the resurrection, when the saints of all ages will be "Caught Up" into the realm of God.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier
Jeremiah 33:3.

QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION. TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- 1. Give one important issue that God the Holy Spirit revealed in the Book of John.**
- 2. Write an essay on “John's revelation from the Holy Spirit as to the future church”.**
- 3. Explain Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12,27, & Matthew 16:18.**
- 4. Why is the New birth understood after Pentecost?**
- 5. What is the importance of the Book of John in soul winning?**
- 6. Find some important facts in the Book of John as to Christ being the Eternal Son of God. Name at least 25.**
- 7. Why is John 1:1-2; so important?**
- 8. Write an essay on, “The Incarnate Christ”. (John 1:14.)**
- 9. What does John 1:29 reveal to you?**
- 10. What does John 1:33-34; indicate?**
- 11. Explain John 3:22-30.**
- 12. Explain John 5:22; 17:26; 9:39; 12:48-50.**

CHAPTER ONE

THE WORD OF GOD

John 1:1-51.

Now let us study this all important revelation, chapter by chapter and verse by verse. In each chapter we see the Holy Spirit revealing the second Person of the Trinity in a very concise way. Although God the Holy Spirit is equal to God the Father and God the Son in every aspect, yet He never exalts himself, but always glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. THE PERSONALITY OF JESUS CHRIST (John 1:1-14.)

When one refers to the Bible, you are dealing with the concepts and wisdom from the Triune God. God had previously used the prophets and other men of God to write as they were led by the Holy Spirit *“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom He made the worlds. (Ages)”* Hebrews 1:2. The Gospel of John begins with the Lord Jesus Christ as the expression from God the Father. There was never a time that all three personalities in the Godhead, came into existence. They are from everlasting to everlasting, and the Lord Jesus Christ always was and always will be the second person of the Trinity. He is the Great *“I Am”*, the Eternal Son of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ has always existed, and is the Creator of all that exists. God the Father has said, *“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?”* Hebrews 1:5. Jesus Christ is very God with no beginning or ending. Yes, He took upon himself a form of man, becoming the first begotten through this incarnation. God the Father has said, *“But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne O God, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”* Hebrews 1:8. Regardless of what the liberals and critics say about our Lord, we know from God's Word that He is the Eternal Son of God. *“But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name.”* John 20:31. In this Book of John, God the Holy Spirit emphasized some important factors for our admonition. Namely,

1. Belief. 2. Eternal Life. 3. The Son of God 4. The Holy Spirit.
That is why the Gospel of John is a very important Biblical study.

B. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMING OF THE SON OF GOD. (John 1:15,29; Joel 2:28-29.)

Prior to the writing of this Gospel, the new birth by the Holy Spirit was a hidden truth. It took the day of Pentecost to reveal what was promised in Joel 2:28. Christ became the Passover Lamb, and God the Holy Spirit became the Comforter during the age of grace. The prime teaching in this first chapter of John is "The Eternal Son of God", taking upon himself a fleshly body like ours, apart from the sin nature. This was necessary, in order to become the perfect sacrifice, to remove the curse of sin. The Old Testament saints were looking for a deliverer who would set them free from the bondage of Gentile Governments, but God presented us with a deliverer who would set us free from the bondage of sin. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ, in becoming like unto human creatures, apart from sin, made possible the redemption of our souls, through the Cross. That body was prepared before the foundation of the world, but only revealed at the time of the incarnation. Christ as the Son of God has always existed, but He took upon himself a form of man to redeem us from the penalty of sin.

Although the Lord Jesus Christ came peaceably into this world, sent from God the Father, He spoke with authority and exercised all the characteristics of the Godhead. He was always God and He took upon himself a form of man. He is the absolute and perfect expression of God the Father. He came into this world at the right time, and for the purpose of becoming the supreme and only sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, with no exceptions. Regardless of our self righteous religious background, we all need to be born of God the Holy Spirit, if we are to worship the True and Living God. The Bible reminds us, "***God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.***" John 4:24. No matter what deprivation that one can make through fasting and giving, it is all in vain, unless one is born again by God the Holy Spirit. "***Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (the Word) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.***" John 3:5-7.

There is also another reason for being born again by God the Holy Spirit and that is for an understanding of the Bible, which was dictated to over 40 writers by God the Holy Spirit. In order to comprehend the Bible, you must be indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, who is the Author of the Word of God. The wise men of this world system cannot understand these marvelous truths, sent down from heaven

by the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit. One may have knowledge of the Bible, but it takes the wisdom from God the Holy Spirit to meditate and use the Holy Scriptures in one's life. As we are introduced to this very important Book of the Bible, may we examine ourselves in the light of God's Word. Take inventory of every thought word and deed of our way of life, making the necessary corrections, so that we might be well pleasing in the sight of God. This process is necessary to maintain our fellowship with God and with each other, being born of God the Holy Spirit. ***“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*** 1 John 1:6-7.

As we begin this all important study of the Gospel of John, we become aware of the importance of “The Word”, which is the expression of God and He is alive and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12.) God's Word of expression is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the express image of God the Father, who has taken upon himself the form of man, before the foundation of the world. The purpose of God, taking on a form of his creation was to make possible the judgement of “Total Sin” once and forever. This now has made possible the dealing with sin once and forever, removing it from existence for ever and ever! (Daniel 9:24.)

C. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST. (JOHN 1:1-5.)

The important factor for us to consider is the ever existence of the one who provides everlasting life to those who accept him as their personal Savior. ***“But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”*** Galatians 4:4-7. These are tremendous statements by the Holy Spirit, informing us of not only our position in the Royal family of God, but also our possession which we have as “Joint Heirs” with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:17.)

The Bible is very clear as to the eternal existence of Jesus Christ, who has claimed himself to be very God. One of those clear statement which He has made, was when the religious leaders in Judaism questioned Jesus as being the Messiah. ***“Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that He***

is your God: Yet ye have not known Him; but I know Him: and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know Him, and keep His saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM." John 8:53-58. There is no question at all as to this statement of calling Himself "Jehovah" (I AM). Let us also refer to other Scriptures, which declare Jesus Christ as the Eternal Son of God. (John 10:29-30; 12:49-50; 14:7,10-11; 15:26; 17:1-5,18.) However, there is an important issue at stake in order for the very God to provide redemption for the sinners within His creation. Deity had to provide himself through the incarnation to redeem poor lost sinners.

D. THE INCARNATION OF THE SON OF GOD.

(John 1:8-14; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46.)

A perfect and sinless sacrifice could not be found among God's creatures, for they were not impeccable, but would have the possibility of sinning. Therefore, God himself had to step into a human body, incapable of sinning and become the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. This was accomplished at the Cross. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* John 1:14. The second person of the Trinity who was 100% God became 100% man, full of grace and truth. This truth is also confirmed throughout the Scriptures. It was God's way of sharing his Spirit with those who would be born again. (Acts 2:17.) Since the Lord Jesus Christ is very God, that flesh through the incarnation shall never see corruption. (Acts 2:31.) Christ came, taking upon himself a form of man to become both a servant and savior of mankind. *"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."* Philippians 2:6-8.

Apart from Christ, regardless of one's religious affiliations, we all would remain in darkness and walk blindly into eternal condemnation. That is why we are reminded from the Bible, of that eternal light of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was*

made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” John 1:3-5. Christ came into this world as the light, to lead precious souls along the way of life, according to the truth of the Bible. Christ's coming into the world was according to Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:30-35; but that body was prepared before the foundation of the world. (1 Peter 1:20.) That is why we have instances of Christ appearing in the Old Testament times. We have dealt with this in previous writings. Christ as the living word has always been, equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. No creature could accomplish what the second person of the Trinity was able to do, for the remissions of “Total Sin.” During the ministry of Christ upon this earth, the religious leaders were aware of what the Lord claimed to be, and that is why they cried out, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him”! However, they did not realize that it was for that very purpose that the Lord came from heaven to die upon the Cross that we might live.

1. GOD'S WITNESSES OF THE INCARNATION

God the Father Speaks through His Son. Hebrews 1:1-13.

May you be aware of the words spoken from the Father in heaven at the baptismal of Jesus by John the Baptist. *“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God.”* John 1:32-34.

This is a marvelous revelation of the Eternal Son of God, by John the Baptist, who, was sent to prepare Israel for the kingdom of God. John the Baptist is not the reason why we baptize with water, but rather the great commission by the Lord himself. *“Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go Ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I Am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* Matthew 28:18-20. That does secure water baptism for the Christians, as coming directly from the Lord. However the most important baptism that brings salvation is by God the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit comes immediately when one is

born again of God the Holy Spirit. ***“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”*** 1 Corinthians 12:13. This is also indicative as to the importance of this “One Baptism” by the Holy Spirit. ***“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God, and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*** Ephesians 4:4-6. This Scripture is often mis-quoted by the liberals who try to claim that in this world, regardless of our belief, there is a brotherhood of man and a Fatherhood of God. This is of the pit of hell, for there is only one way, one truth and one life, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:6.) There is simply one way to gain our heavenly home and that is through the Lord, The Incarnation of the Eternal Son of God would not have been necessary if there would have been another sinless sacrifice available. That perfect sacrifice had to be of God Himself, who alone is impeccable. We can thank God for His eternal provision, securing us once and forever in His eternal love.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE INCARNATION.

Whatever Almighty God does, it is always with a purpose and for a reason, satisfying the Triune God. God never has to take a chance or test any of His actions for He knows the end from the beginning. Let us examine God the Son taking upon himself a form of man.

A. To become the Savior for those who would believe.

It is very important that we understand the aim and purpose of the Eternal Son of God, taking upon himself a form of man and dwelling among men. We have already indicated that Christ came to save sinners, by the grace of God. However there is also other very important issues to be considered. That is the promise of a kingdom of righteousness to be established upon this earth, by God himself. During Christ's earthly ministry he taught the principles of the kingdom to come. Let us consider these issues in studying the first chapter of the Gospel of John. God had purposely separated the Earth from the heaven, as it was the Earth that became the place for the final judgement of “Total Sin”. God was not merely dealing with those who would believe, but also with the plan to deal with sin once

and forever. Each of us who have believed, have indicated to the Triune God, that we are sinners and need to be saved by Grace.

B. To prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit

In the prayer of the Lord which is recorded in John seventeen, there is a very important statement from the Lord of which we need to be aware.

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:16-17. That is a strong statement from the Lord as He was about to go to the Cross. The world bases all of their beliefs on what they see, but we base our faith upon what God has written and the change that has taken place in our lives. ***“Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit.” 1 John 4:13.***

The Gospel of John was written after the day of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit gave John complete understanding of being born again of the Holy Spirit. He also caused John to remember the conversation that our Lord had with Nicodemus, and it now was understandable. This was prophesied in the Old Testament, but no details were given to the out pouring of God the Holy Spirit in the latter days. (Joel 2:28-29.)

C. To teach the Kingdom principles.

The Lord Jesus Christ only referred to the church on two occasions in His ministry, which is quite significant. (Matthew 16:18; 18:17.) The reason why the silence, concerning the church was the presentation of the kingdom to Israel, which eventually was rejected. Note, even after the resurrection, when the Lord was with His disciples for forty days, that He only spoke of the Kingdom of God. ***“To whom also He showed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking pertaining the kingdom of God:” Acts 1:3.*** It was essential that Christ teach the kingdom principles during His earthly ministry, for this has given us a written record of what will be taught during the Millennium.

D. To offer the Kingdom to Israel.

The Baptism of John the Baptist was provided for all of Israel to identify themselves with the Messiah in preparation for the kingdom. Many

did take their stand, but as we know, the rulers of Israel rejected their Messiah and the kingdom has been postponed. In God's omniscience, He knew that they would reject their king, and Israel would be scattered because of their unbelief, and rejection of Christ. Therefore the Millennium was delayed until after the final judgement of Israel during the Great Tribulation. God substituted John the Baptist, when the kingdom would be delayed, and will send Elijah during the Great Tribulation to herald the coming kingdom. (Malachi 3:1; 4:5; Revelation 11:3-12.) It wasn't that the Triune God changed their plans, but rather God was aware by being omniscience of all things!

E. To establish the Age of Grace

The mystery age, or the age of Grace, started on the Day of Pentecost. This age was hidden from the Old Testament saints, because God, knowing that the Messiah would be rejected, by rebellious Israel, postponed the Kingdom Age. The Old Testament saints were informed about the out pouring of God the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29.), but they took no heed to this. Since mankind could not keep all of the commandments and ordinances of God, the Incarnate Son of God was sent to fulfill the law so that God the Father could manifest His grace, providing salvation to those who would believe. If this were not the case, God's creation would be in jeopardy. Note John 1:16-17.

F. To reveal the Godhead to His Creation.

The Word of God clearly states; ***“No man hath seen God at any time; the only Begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*** John 1:17. The Eternal Son of God must introduce us to the invisible God the Father. The Incarnation of the second person of the Trinity is God's expression of himself to His creatures. ***“Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high;”*** Hebrews 1:3. We shall live eternally because God took on a form like our bodies and redeemed us out from the wrath to come. ***“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.”*** John 14:19. Christ, who is the very image of the Father, hath come

in the flesh so that we might live. ***“And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise Him up at the last day.”*** John 6:40.

G. To become the True Light of the world . (John 1:9-51.)

The Eternal Son of God came into this world, in the form of a man, yet without sin, to become man's source of light. ***“That was the true light , which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”*** John 1:9. We have as a natural man been blinded by the god of this world system and we need Christ who is the light of this world. (John 8:12.) Christ, the Eternal Son of God is the sum total of that light. (John 9:5.) Apart from the Lord, regardless of how religious you may be , you are in total darkness. ***“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”*** John 12:46.

Conclusion.

Our introduction and study of the first chapter of John reveals to us the simple faith that we must have in the Lord Jesus Christ. As John the Baptist was the particular witness of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world, so we also have other particular proofs, as to this effect. He was born of a virgin. (Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:30-35.) ***“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes' which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.”*** 1 John 1:1. Christ is God the Father's expression, revelation, and salvation to all the world, regardless of race or color. ***“Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name. Among whom are ye also called of Jesus Christ”*** Romans 1:3-5.

In the work of Almighty God, one must be born of God the Holy Spirit, established in the Word of God and called according to the will of God. We are not self appointed, but rather God commissioned, to carry the Gospel message to “The Regions Beyond”. The Lord Jesus Christ has called us unto himself so that we may share the love of God with others. As God the Father has sent the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem us out of this world's condemnation, so we are sent to bear fruit unto God. (John 17:18;15:8.)

In the preliminary study of the Book of John, and in this first chapter we are reminded of God's witnesses as well as our responsibility to follow Jesus, as did those early disciples. The Lord Jesus Christ is not a leader as the world knows, but rather the very Eternal Son of God. The Creator of Heaven and Earth presents himself as "The Son of Man" the Incarnate One from God the Father. ***"And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open. And the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."*** **John 1:51.** This is a striking conclusion of this first chapter of John. The Lord prepares the disciples as well as each of us for that great day when the Lord will not only rapture us home to heaven, but come forth from heaven in the mighty power of God the Father. We serve the only true God who is above all and over all, to those who believe, He is in all of us who have taken Him as our personal Savior! There is no one and nothing greater than our God, so then, "To whom shall we fear"? We go forth triumphantly into this world of turmoil and sin, with the victory within! Saturate your life with the Word of God, exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Author and finisher of our Faith! Answer that great commission, as Ambassadors of Christ, taking the Gospel to "The Regions Beyond"! ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel:"*** 2 Timothy 1:7-10.

As you prepare to take each of these tests, do it thoroughly as unto the Lord, rather than to achieve something toward a diploma. ***"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*** 2 Timothy 2:15. As you complete each course in the study of the Bible, you achieve but another stepping stone to greater heights in God's Word. The more you learn, the more you shall be convinced that you know so little of God's exhaustless knowledge. All of our study of the Word of God is in preparation for eternity and for the furthering of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The more we learn of these Biblical truths, the better we will be prepared for the kingdom of God. God's Word will live forever and may God the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth, for God's glory and honor! Whatever one teaches concerning the Triune God, it must always be confirmed by the Holy Scriptures. I

as a teacher of the Bible, have no rights to teach things contrary to the Bible, or to the over all plan of God as set forth in the Bible. Let us launch out into this outstanding Book of John, giving Christ the preeminent position. As we close this preliminary study of this all important Book of the Bible, may we contemplate two aspects of the beginnings as seen in Genesis and the Gospel of John, in contrast as to the Eternal Son of God's entrance into this world.

In The Beginning

As we study the Bible, one can be confused as to the representation of God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. The first statements in the Bible do not express a time element in the existence of God but rather a time element in the creation by God. ***“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”***. **Genesis 1:1**. This beginning refers to God's creation, which was made out of nothing. (*Barah*), and does not refer to the existence of God who never has had a beginning, nor will ever have an ending. That is why we must search the Scriptures for evidence of the ever existence of the Triune God. We can refer to many Scriptures in the Old Testament as to the everlasting existence of the God-head such as the following references. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 41:134; 90:2; 93:2; 103:17; 106:48; 145:13; Isaiah 9:6; 40:28; 63:16; Jeremiah 10:10; Micah 5:2; Habakkuk 1:12; Revelation 22:13.)

One very distinct and concise reference to the Eternal Son of God in both the Old Testament and New Testament is King Melchisedec. This king of righteousness over Salem, which later became Jerusalem is a foreshadow of the Son of God as the Incarnate One. This man Melchizedec had to be truly the Eternal Son of God, our great Eternal High Priest. (Genesis 14:18-19; Hebrews 6:20; 7:2; Isaiah 11:4-9;) This king was ***“The Most High God”*** (Deuteronomy 32:8; Daniel 3:26; 4:17,24, 25,32-35; 5:18,21.) It is of the utmost importance that I conclude this status with one particular reference. ***“To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”*** Hebrews 7:2-3. As we close the study in the first chapter of John, may I make it very clear that this king was not an ordinary king, for he had to be the express image of God the Father without beginning or ending. This is also a picture of our Eternal High Priest, coming down from God the Father. ***“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared***

the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him” John 1:18. Make no mistake about the appearances of God in the Old Testament, for this was the second person in the Trinity. It is clearly stated about the King of Salem, that this Melchisedec was the Eternal Son of God who came in the flesh. He is stated as having no beginning or ending, and that could only be the Son of God. It was also the Eternal Son of God who created Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He also taught them to read and write as he walked and talked with them in the garden of Eden. It was also the Son of God who walked with Enoch, who was the seventh generation from Adam. Finally, we have that all important verse in the Gospel of John ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1-2.***

The Gospel of John begins with the understanding that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God. We must declare this fact, in these last days, for the Lord has declared God the Father to us, through his earthly ministry. As Christ chose out his disciples' he knew exactly their every thought and intent, and knew that Judas Iscariot would betray him. He gave Simon Peter that name of Cephas which means stone. He knew all about Nathanael before he was introduced to him. Who ever you may be, the Lord knows all about you and you cannot hide anything from him. These things have been recorded by the Holy Spirit for our admonition and understanding. As we close the teaching of this chapter, we have an important conclusion to be made, as Christ spoke to Nathanael and the other disciples. ***“Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God, thou art the king of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” John 1:48-51.*** These are strong statements from the Lord of glory and no one can deny this direct witness from the disciples and Christ. It should encourage us greatly, as being born again by the Holy Spirit, to give our all to the service of our soon coming Savior, to rapture us home into heaven. Then those heavens will open and the King of kings and Lord of lords will return to set up his kingdom of righteousness upon this earth, with all the saints. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:11-21.)

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ONE.

- 1. How were the prophets of old, led to be God's witnesses?**
- 2. Describe in your own word “The Personality Of Christ”>**
- 3. Explain Hebrews 1:2 in the Light of the first chapter of John.**
- 4. Give the importance of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 5. According to Hebrews 1:8. What important factors do we learn about Jesus Christ?**
- 6. Why Did God the Holy Spirit have the Gospel of John written?**
- 7. Why was it necessary for the Eternal Son of God to come to earth?**
- 8. Why must one be born of God the Holy Spirit in order to worship God?**
- 9. Explain John 3:5-7 in the light of this First chapter of John.**
- 10. Give some important factors concerning the Holy Spirit.**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ONE CONTINUED.

- 11. Why should Christians desire to walk in the light of God's Word?**
- 12. What do you understand about expression "The Word" In Chapter one of John?**
- 13. Write an essay on, "The Deity of Christ".**
- 14. Explain John 1:8-14.**
- 15. Explain John 1:3-5.**
- 16. How did God show to John the Baptist that Jesus was the Son of God? (John 1:32-34.)**
- 17. Why is The Eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, the only way to heaven?**
- 18. Who were God's witnesses of the coming of the Eternal Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, to earth as the Incarnate One?**
- 19. What are the requirements of God to be called of God to preach the Gospel?**
- 20. What should be the basic principle in teaching the Bible?**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ONE CONTINUED.

- 21. Give evidence from the Scriptures that the Lord Jesus Christ is from everlasting to everlasting.**
- 22. How was Jesus able to know all about Nathanael according to John 1:47-50.**
- 23. What is the importance of John 1:51?**
- 24. Explain 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.**
- 25. Explain Revelation 19:11-21.**
- 26. Write an essay on, "Scriptural Evidence that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God."**
- 27. Give some reasons why the Gospel of John is so important in the teaching of God's**
- 28. Why was it necessary for God the Holy Spirit to have John write the Gospel of John, after the day of Pentecost?**

CHAPTER TWO

THE CREATOR OF ALL.

John 2:1-25.

I. The First Miracle.

As we further our study in the Book of John we see another one of those firsts mentioned by the Apostle John. This marriage feast was a special one, where Mary attended and Jesus and the disciples were called. They lacked a particular type of wine which was unfermented. Why do I say this? Most of you are familiar with tribal or national feast days. Once the guests have drunken strong drink and are drunk, anything can be served with the more alcohol the better! However, in this case they had all drunk the wine to the finish, and an emergency occurred, and no time to purchase more. ***“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.” John 2:5.*** Jesus was called, and by faith the servants filled the six stone water pots, with water to the very brim. (John 2:7.) When Jesus told them to pour out the water to the governor of the feast, they must have done it with great fear. What? Pour this water in place of wine to the governor of the feast? However they did, with great fear, and to their surprise the color of the water was changed. Now had they all been intoxicated, the ruler of the feast would not have said, ***“When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not from where it was (but the servants who drew the water knew), the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, and saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine and, when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now.”*** John 2:9-10. My reason for declaring this wine to be unfermented is that very word from the ruler of the feast. If the wine had been alcoholic, no one would have known whether it was good or bad. But, on the contrary they had full control of their taste and rest assured that Jesus created the best fruit of the vine ever to be made.

II. The First Temple Cleansing. (John 2:14-16.)

The Lord Jesus Christ immediately showed His authority from God the Father in entering the temple for the purpose of purification. As he observed the wickedness and profit making within the area which was designated for the Gentiles, he calmly made a scourge of cords which he no doubt picked up in the temple. The disciples were no doubt astonished at the authority which Christ had.

Christ drove out the animals, scattered the money changers coins, and you can be sure that there was a mob of people picking up those coins. He did not open up the cages of those who sold the doves, but said, *“And said unto them that sold the doves, Take these things from here; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.”* John 2:16. (Psalm 69:9.)

III. The Sign of Christ's Authority.

“Then answered the Jews, and said unto Him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things”? It is of the greatest interest to study the answer which Christ gave to them. He could have declared himself as the Son of God, which would have caused an uproar amongst them, His answer had a double impact for us. *“Jesus answered the Jews and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* John 2:19. The Lord spoke of His body as the temple, which would be crucified and in three days He would rise from the grave. This was not understood by the disciples immediately but they recalled this saying after the resurrection. (John 2:22.) The temple which Christ cleansed did take 46 years in building and in 70 AD The Roman commander Titus destroyed it and every stone was torn down to retrieve the gold from the roof.

IV. The First Resurrection.

The authority that Christ spoke about was the fact that He was the Creator of all and the source of life, making possible the resurrection and the life. Many of the sayings of Christ were not understood immediately and left the multitude with a problem. The multitude of people saw this cleansing, just before He attended the Passover. Little did they know that the Messiah was in their midst as the first resurrection. *“When therefore, He was risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this unto them; and they believed the Scripture, and the Word which Jesus had said.”* John 2:22, This is what makes Christianity different from all the religions in the world. We can point to an empty tomb, whereas religions point to their dead leaders.

V. The Last Passover and First Communion. (John 2:23-25.)

The feast of the Passover was as a remembrance of God's delivering Israel from Egypt, when the first born of every Egyptian was slain. Israel was delivered

by the slain lamb and the blood placed on the door posts of every home of the tribes of Israel.(Exodus 12.) As a memorial feast, the Jews faithfully remember this , even to this present day. Unaware that the Lamb of God had come. As they sit down to their feast of the Passover, they always leave an empty chair in expectation of the coming of the Messiah. How sad it is that all of these years they have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, and have been scattered and persecuted because of their unbelief. Since the Lord remembered the Passover and deliverance from Egypt, the Lord was revealed as that Lamb of God, come down from God the Father to become the sacrifice for all sin. Thus we have the adaptation of the communion, becoming an ordinance of the church from Pentecost until the Rapture.

As the Lord partook of the Passover, He did not reveal himself as the Messiah, for that would have caused turmoil within. However as He showed unto the people many signs and miracles. ***“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which He did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because He knew all men.”*** John 2:23-24. This is an interesting statement and it reminds us again that as the Eternal Son of God, he knows every thought and intent of man. In other wards , his hour had not yet come to declare himself as the Son of God.

This has been a very important chapter in the Book of John, as we have sufficient evidence that only God could accomplish what Christ the Eternal Son of God was able to do. The statement that the Lord made, concerning his death and resurrection has a tremendous impact on all of us Christians. For this cause the Incarnate Son of God came into this world to become the resurrection and the life. Another very significant statement that Christ made at the wedding feast. ***“Jesus saith unto her, Woman what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.”*** John 2:4. This may seem strange to us in the way that he talk to his mother of the Incarnation. What did He mean by such a statement? He merely said to her, this is your concern, and not mine, for the revelation of the Son of God through miracles has not yet arrived. However, Mary understood and was not offended by that statement. ***“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.”*** John 2:5. May we also as Christians listen to the instructions from the Word of God and being led by the Holy Spirit do what God would have us to do. God is waiting to see your faithfulness to Him and wants to reward us accordingly.

Fellowship one with another in the things of the Lord, and also remember to walk in the light of God's Word. (1 John 1:6-7.) Give Christ the preeminant place in your lives, in preparation and great expectation of meeting Him in the air when

the Old and New Testament saints will be caught up together. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.) God richly bless you in your preparatory studies to take the glorious Gospel message to those without hope. May God use each of you to share the light of the Gospel with those who have been blinded by the god of this world system. ***“But if our Gospel be hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*** 2 Corinthians 2:3-7.

May we be reminded from the Scripture that every child born into this world is confronted with the possibility of being brain washed by the evil powers. It is a reminder to us to make sure that every child is thoroughly exposed to the glorious Gospel message. Do not wait until the child grows up, but start praying for each one before being born. This is our responsibility before God to exalt Christ in our family life. We are admonished by the Word of God to; ***“Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*** Proverbs 22:6. Then as the children grow older it will be said of them, as Paul was able to say to Timothy, ***“And from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That a man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*** 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

So far in our studies, we have observed the eternal status of the Lord Jesus Christ, not only, always existing with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, but also given the full authority over all creation. God did not start creation in some small form and let it by chance evolve into various species. All things were created separately and individually and developed “After it's kind”! (Genesis 1:24.) May I also remind you that we as Christians have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17.) May we let the world know that we are made new by the Grace of God, to glorify the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Being new creatures, we now have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, making possible a new way of life above the customs of this world.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWO

- 1. Why is marriage in Cana, of Galilee so important?**
- 2. Why do you think that the wine was non alcoholic?**
- 3. Why do those that serve strong drinks eventually serve a least tasty wine afterwards? (John 2:10.)**
- 4. Name the firsts in John chapter two.**
- 5. What is meant by John 2:4-5.?**
- 6. Write an essay on, "The Beginning of Christ's Earthly Ministry" (John 2:11-12.)**
- 7. Why was it necessary to cleanse the Temple? (John 13-16.)**
- 8. What is the importance of the Passover?**
- 9. Explain Psalm 69:9 in the light of John 2:17.**
- 10. Explain Christ's reason to the Jews of His authority? (John 2:19.)**
- 11. When was the Lord's Temple (body) destroyed?**
- 12. When was the Temple of Jerusalem destroyed?**
- 13. Explain John 2:22. & What does John 2:25 prove?**

CHAPTER THREE THE ONLY TRUE SAVIOR.

John 3:1-36.

I. WHO WAS NICODEMUS?

Regardless of the period of time in the history of mankind, God always has His remnant and witness to His wonder working power. Nicodemus is one of these very important Old Testament saints who became a New Testament saints, being born of God the Holy Spirit. How do we know this? There are two specific places that we verify his evidence as a disciple of Christ. The people of the temple were confused as to who this man Jesus really was. This gave rise among the Scribes and Pharisees to have Christ brought to them for questioning. *“Then came the officers to the chief priests and pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought Him? The Officers answered, Never man spoke like this man. Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the pharisees believed on Him? But this people, who knoweth not the law, are cursed. Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them), Doth the law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered, and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look; for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. And every man went unto his own house.”* John 7:45-53.

This is a very important revelation from God the Holy Spirit, who had revealed this to John as he wrote, and it must have also been confirmed by Nicodemus himself. We also have another reference to Nicodemus, which took place after the death of Christ upon the Cross. *“And there came also Nicodemus, who at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.”* John 19:39. (Psalm 45:6-8; Matthew 2:11.) This was considerable wealth which Nicodemus gave in the burial of Jesus Christ one can draw the conclusion from these statements that Nicodemus believed and became a “Born Again” believer from Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was sent to bring newness of life. (Joel 2:28.)

Perhaps Nicodemus came to Jesus by night for privacy, or when the daily tasks were completed for the day. He was not hiding anything from the rulers, as he himself was also a ruler of the temple and manifested that when he challenged the Pharisees. No doubt, the disciples were also present, but they too did not understand this talk about “Being Born Again”. That is why the Holy Spirit waited

until John was called to write the Gospel of John. What Jesus told to NICODEMUS³ became effective in the life of Nicodemus. He was made ready for the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

II. Anticipation of Pentecost.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come upon various chosen men who were especially anointed by God. They were not given the promise that Old Testament saints would be baptized by the Holy Spirit as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:13. But through Nicodemus, God had to confirm in the latter days a change would be made. God the Holy Spirit used John to write these things after Pentecost. No doubt the disciples secretly question each other as to what this new birth really meant. You may recall the Scriptures concerning this promise given by Jesus before Pentecost. The disciples were interested in the deliverance from Rome, and the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. Jesus then spoke plainly. ***“And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which saith He, ye have heard from me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. When they therefore, were come together, they asked of Him saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*** Acts 1:4-8. These were the last words of Jesus before His ascension on high. ***“And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”*** Acts 1:9.

III. Pentecost Becomes a Reality.

It was exactly 10 days after this that the great event of Pentecost took place, as the disciples and other followers were gathered together in Jerusalem. This was the beginning of a new age, which the Lord had previously said would come to pass. (Matthew 12:47-13:52.) Although Christ did not speak in detail as to the coming church, but He did mention it. (Matthew 16:18; 18:15-19.) It would become a new era which became the mystery age of Grace. Here we are faced with a very important out pouring of God the Holy Spirit. You remember that great commission of the Lord when He spoke of taking the Gospel, they were to begin

at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8.) However on the day of Pentecost only 120 Jews gather together. Where are the Samaritans and Gentiles partakers of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit? God the Holy Spirit has taken good care of this issue as we search the Scriptures. There are three phases of Pentecost, which is often forgotten by many theologians, which we desire to explain. This will help us to understand the inclusion with Israel, namely, the Samaritans and the Gentiles.

A. The Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4.)

When Jesus ascended into heaven and was seated on the right hand of God the Father, there remained ten days before the Jubilee of Pentecost would take place. That was why Jesus wanted His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until the fulfillment of Joel 2:28; would take place. There were 120 believers from among the Jews, gathered in that upper room, fulfilling the command of Jesus. *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* Acts 2:1-4. As you keep this portion “In Context” you will discover that these were Known Languages which did not need to be interpreted, but as they went forth among the people, the various people who spoke these languages could understand, without the need of an interpreter.

Here is the fulfillment of Joel 2:28-29. To the amazement of many, including those 120 who were present in the upper room. This very introduction of God the Holy Spirit into the believers life, provided them with a new birth, as spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ in John chapter three. Here to fore, this was not understood and that is why the Holy Spirit refrained John from writing the Gospel of John until after the Day of Pentecost. This brings us to a very important question. Was the out pouring of the Holy Spirit only limited to Israel? Again we must search the Scriptures for our answer.

B. God the Holy Spirit Among the Samaritans. (Acts 8:12-17.)

God sent the Apostle Philip among the Samaritans to prepare the way for the outpouring of God the Holy Spirit. They were even baptized prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit. *“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were*

baptized, both men and women.” Acts 2:12. Since the manifestation of the Holy Spirit had taken place among the Hebrew people, we now are faced with the Gospel being taken to the Samaritans. This news came back to Jerusalem and it was then to be confirmed by the church in Jerusalem that the Samaritans were also to be included in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter and John were sent to verify this. ***“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”*** Acts 2:14-17. What do we learn about this? Does that mean that in order that we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit that it is necessary for someone to lay their hands upon us? No, for at least three reasons. 1. There were and are but 12 Apostles, and they are present with the Lord. 2. God the Holy Spirit had to demonstrate that the Samaritans were, as separate from Israel, to be verified and included in the act of Pentecost. 3. Then finally, the Scripture clearly teaches us that as we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are immediately given new birth by the Holy Spirit who also baptizeth us into Himself. (1 Corinthians 12:13.)

C. God the Holy Spirit Among the Gentiles. (Acts 10:23-44.)

Now in this case we see a little different procedure in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It was beyond the dignity of Israel to associate with the Samaritans, and now the Gentiles have entered into Christianity. Peter was chosen by the Holy Spirit to go not only to the Gentiles but of all things to enter into their homes. The Holy Spirit had to put Peter into a deep sleep as you read in Acts 10:1-33. The Holy Spirit chose a very special Gentile by the name of Cornelius to approach Peter after Peter had that vision of clean and unclean meat, according to the Levitical law. Cornelius sent two of his servants, plus a guard to Joppa, and by them approached Peter. The Holy Spirit prepared Peter for this meeting of these three men. Peter got the message and prepared to go with these men to Caesarea, but also took others of the Jews with him as witnesses. ***“As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshiped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without***

gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for whom I was sent for me? And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this noon; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in the sight of God..... Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him..... While Peter yet spake these words, The Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the Word.” Acts 10:25-44. This is an outstanding revelation as to how the Holy Spirit baptized the Gentiles, without the laying on of hands. How can anyone deny these Scriptures as to the third phase of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, making Him available to all. “Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts 11:16. (Acts 1:5.) Certainly, all Bible believers will have to acknowledge these three phases of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as final. From then on, as individuals accepted Christ as their personal Savior, the Holy Spirit not only gives them a new birth but also baptizes them into Himself and dwells within them forever. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13. May we also add. “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called into one hope of your calling; One Lord, One faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:4-6.

As it speaks about baptism being one, it is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and not referring to water baptism. This does not exclude water baptism, as the Lord himself gave us the great commission to go and baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The water baptism is our witness to the world that our sins have been washed away by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and we symbolically have the privilege of identifying ourselves with Christ in water baptism. “Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4. Water baptism can be a tremendous testimony before the unbelievers, where an out-ward testimony is necessary, as the believer separates from the old customs and declares, publicly allegiance to Christ. Usually taking a Christian name. In the process, of baptism, each candidate gives his or her testimony that they have accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

IV. Prediction of the New Birth, The Cross, and the Gospel (John 3:1-16.)

As we study the Word, we also consider certain aspects, related to salvation which we wish to ponder upon. The new birth, the purpose of the Cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the witness of John the Baptist..

A. The New Birth, (John 3:1-8.)

The message that the Lord gave to Nicodemus is the first that we read about the necessity of a “New Birth”. This requirement was not understood by the disciples or by Nicodemus. It took the day of Pentecost for the disciples to understand this requirement , for that is exactly what happened to those 120 followers of the Lord Jesus Christ in the upper room. Since the Book of John was written after Pentecost, that is why the issue of the New Birth was dealt with. No other age prior to this age of Grace do we have record of anyone being born again by the Holy Spirit. Why is it necessary for this church age? The simple answer to this question is, We are members of the Body of Christ, being prepared for the marriage of the Lamb of God. To be a member of the Body of Christ, we must have a Divine origin, and that is why we are born of the Holy Spirit. This provides us with the “Divine Life” for the marriage to the Lamb. It was Christ's prayer to His Father that we would be given the Holy Spirit. ***“And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.”*** John 17:16-17. This is something new for our day and generation, as the Body and Church of Christ. We base all of our beliefs upon the Word of God rather than the word of men. ***“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water(God's Word) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*** John 3:5-7. All that worship under man made religion is all in vain for God's Word clearly states. ***“God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”*** John 4:24. That is why the new birth by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary if we are to communicate with God. Since God is Spirit, those that wish to talk to him and worship him must do so in the spiritual realm. Otherwise all of our shouting and crying and wailing and even

torturing one's self is all in vain, for God is not interested in such things. He looks for those who will worship in spirit and according to the Biblical teaching.

Why Was The New Birth Necessary?

This is a very important question for all people to answer, if they can. Religions have their methods of attempting to reach God, but they all fail, and only Christianity has the requirements for not only worship but also the necessary communication with God. Christ is the only Mediator between God and mankind. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24.) Why the new birth by God the Holy Spirit?

- 1. Man is totally depraved and needs the spiritual birth. (Romans 3:23.)**
- 2. It is impossible for this old nature of ours to enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5.)**
- 3. The natural man is blinded to spiritual things and must require a new nature. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:9.)**
- 4. Christian's glorification, when the Rapture takes place, necessitates a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17.)**
- 5. It is impossible to worship God as a natural man, without being born of God the Holy Spirit. (John 4:24.)**
- 6. It is impossible to be led by the Holy Spirit until one is born again of God the Holy Spirit. Our communication depends upon the spiritual understanding of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14.)**
- 7. In the natural and earthly realm, we are already dead spiritually and are in need of a spiritual birth which only comes through God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:6.)**
- 8. In our preparation for Eternity with God, who is Spirit, it is essential that our new glorified bodies have the Divine life from God and that is why the new birth of the Holy Spirit is necessary, to be made like the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 3:1-3.)**

9. Our salvation, being born of the Holy Spirit brings us into the spiritual realm of God. (John 3:7-8.)
10. Apart from the new birth by the Holy Spirit we cannot comprehend the light of God or even behold that eternal light. (John 9:4-5,39.)
11. All good works are as wood, hay, or stubble, apart from the good works accomplished through the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15.)
12. The new birth and the inward dwelling of God the Holy Spirit is necessary to overcome **the evil forces.** (1 John 4:4.)

B. The Cross. (John 3:14-15.)

The Eternal Son of God came into this world in His Incarnate body to become both Sacrificer and “The Sacrifice”. The prophecy in the Old Testament both verifies the Eternal Son of God coming into this world to go to the Cross as well as to establish the Kingdom of righteousness. This was confusing to the disciples as well as the rulers of Israel. The very words which Christ had uttered upon the Cross were recorded in the Old Testament. ***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Psalm 22:1a.*** Study that whole chapter thoroughly to understand what the Lord suffered upon the Cross. Our Good Shepherd gave His life for His sheep. (John 10:11.) ***“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*** John 3:14-15. What is the significance of this comparison of Moses and the serpent and the Cross and Christ? God used the sign of the serpent as sin, which Christ became in order for us to be set free from the penalty of sin, which is death. ***“And if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This He said signifying what death He should die.”*** John 12:32-33.

In crucifixion we have one of the most painful ways of dying, and God so timed the death of His Son at such a time, to relate to us, the terribleness of sin. Christ took upon himself a form of man to redeem man from the slave market of sin. Since the Son of God is eternal and never had a beginning or will never have an ending, it was necessary for the incarnation to deal with the sin question. Christ died upon the Cross in the physical realm and committed His Spirit unto the

Father. *“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, I commend my Spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the spirit.”* (Luke 23:46)

C. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you thoroughly study the Word of God, you will discover that there is a change in the Gospel approach. During the whole earthly ministry of Christ, we become aware that Christ preached the Gospel of the Kingdom, in preparation for kingdom teachings which shall take place during the Millennium. This was necessary as Christ presented himself as the King and Messiah to Israel, whom he knew would reject him and cause God to scatter them throughout the world.

The Lord in his omniscience, knowing that they would reject him, made himself ready for the Cross as the kingdom was postponed. During the entire earthly ministry of Christ, he preached the Gospel of the kingdom, even after his resurrection. (Acts 1:3-4.) We also wish to refer you to two different methods by which Christ sent his disciples to evangelize. (Matthew 10:1-23; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6; as to -Luke 22:35-38.) Why the contrast in these statements coming directly from the Lord? It is simply that Christ sent forth his disciples the first time to only Israel, but the second time to the whole world. The second commission has been given to all believers to take forth the Gospel of Grace unto the ends of the world. (Matthew 28:16-20.)

D. The Testimony and Witness of John the Baptist. (John 3:22-36.)

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, the Gospel of the Kingdom was being preached through the Sermons on the Mount as well as the teachings of the Beatitudes. Consequently the Baptism of John was being observed. (John 3:22-26; 4:2.) This was not believer's baptism, but Kingdom baptism under John the Baptist. Believer's baptism began from Pentecost onward until the Rapture takes place. The disciples of John the Baptist were concerned about the disciples of Jesus who were also baptizing. Here is what John told them, *“John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

John 3:27-30. This is a tremendous statement and will declare-

- 1. There is a difference between John and The Christ.**
- 2. John is the friend of the bridegroom, and not a member of the bride.**
- 3. John the Baptist represents the Old Testament saints who will attend the marriage of the Lamb.**
- 4. The declaration that Jesus is the Messiah who has come from heaven. (John 3:31-36.)**

Conclusion.

As we conclude this brief study of chapter three, we realize that we could spend much time on this all important study of the new birth. We will deal with this more thoroughly as we progress in our studies. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in new birth is significant of this age of Grace. God the Holy Spirit has been sent to us for the following reasons.

- 1. He is our Comforter. (John 16:7.)**
- 2. He gives us the new birth. (John 3:5-7.)**
- 3. He indwells us forever. (John 14:16-17.)**
- 4. He teaches us all truth. (John 16:13.)**
- 5. He provides us with special gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:11.)**
- 6. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14.)**
- 7. He keeps on filling believers with himself. (Ephesians 5:18.)**
- 8. He convicts of sin. (John 16:8.)**
- 9. We are as believers baptized in His name. (1 Corinthians 12:13.)**

**10. He provides power in our Christian walk.
(Zechariah 4:6; Galatians 3:1-5; 1 John 4:4.)**

Without God the Holy Spirit dwelling within the believers, we would be easy targets for Satan and his billions of demons. That is why the Lord breathed upon the Disciples when he was about to ascend to heaven, to keep them from the evil one until the day of Pentecost which occurred 10 days afterward. (John 20:22.) From the day of Pentecost until the Rapture of the saints takes place, we have the formation of “The Bride of Christ”, which is also known as “The Body of Christ”. This truth is very important for us to understand, for many false doctrines have gone forth, dissolving God's dealings with Israel. May I make it very clear to all who study the Bible that the church did not begin until the day of Pentecost.

In the Bible, we have God's dealing with various groups of people, according to conditions and ages, from the innocence of Adam and Eve to the Kingdom age. However, there is only one form of salvation and that is by the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us just list God's dealing with mankind, during different time periods.

- 1. The antediluvian as Enoch and Noah .
(Genesis 5:24; 6:4-9; Luke 17:27.)**
- 2. The Old Testament Saints. (Genesis 12:1 to Pentecost.)**
- 3. New Testament Saints (Pentecost to the Rapture.)**
- 4. Tribulation Saints (During the 7 years of the Great Tribulation.)**
- 5. Kingdom Saints (During the thousand year reign of righteousness of the Lord.)**

This third chapter of the Book of John gives us the clue as to the wonder working power of God. The revelation is unique and marvelous, as God Almighty poured out the Holy Spirit upon those who would put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a very important study for all who are not only Christians, but also those who are seeking to get right with Almighty God. The latter, as seekers, must be finders of the Lord Jesus Christ, for he alone is the way, the truth and the life. There is no other name or way for the forgiveness of sin and attaining heaven above!

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER 10

- 1. Who was Nicodemus?**
- 2. What is the importance of Christ's message to Nicodemus?**
- 3. Give evidence that Nicodemus became a believer.**
- 4. What is the importance of Acts 1:4-8?**
- 5. What new era began with Pentecost?**
- 6. Write an essay on- "The Three Phases of Pentecost".
(Acts 2:4; 8:17; and 10:43-44.)**
- 7. How do Christians differ from the Old Testament saints?**
- 8. Why was Pentecost in three phases?**
- 9. What is the importance of the New Birth?**
- 10. Why did not the disciples understand the new birth until after Pentecost?**
- 11. Explain the meaning in comparing Moses and the Serpent and Christ on the Cross.**
- 12. Explain John 3:27-36.**
- 13. Give at least seven things that take place with the New birth by God the Holy Spirit.**

CHAPTER FOUR

THE WATER OF ETERNAL LIFE

John 4:1-54.

During the transitional period, the Lord kept on preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and the disciples continued to exercise “Kingdom Baptism”. (John 4:1-2.) The Lord Jesus Christ knew that He would be rejected as the Messiah of Israel, and made all preparations for declaring that great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20.) Jesus' first “World Wide Commission”, for his disciples was among the Samaritans, and of all people, through a sinful Samaritan woman, who needed salvation. It was high noon when he arrived at Jacob's well, and could have easily drawn water from the heavens above, if He had so wished. But he had a very important witness for the Samaritan people. ***“There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.” John 4:7.*** This was forbidden by the Jews to even speak to the Samaritans, let alone ask something from them. This puzzled the woman, ***“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. John 4:9.*** Jesus used this as an excuse to tell the woman about the living water that He could give her in exchange. The woman was puzzled by the answer that the Lord gave to her. (John 4:10.) She then further questioned the Lord as to how He was going to draw this water. ***“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give to him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13-14.*** This caused the woman to be very curious and desired to attain such water, and this gave the clue to Jesus to tell her about herself, by calling her husband, causing her to admit that she didn't have a husband. It gave the Lord the opportunity to give her the exact number of husbands which she had, and her sixth man was not her husband. The woman then recognized that this man must be a prophet, so ask the simple question as to where one should worship.

The Place and Mode of Worshipping God.

(John 4:23-24.)

Here we have one of the most important statements from the Lord as to worship. ***“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and***

in truth.” John 4:23-24. By this statement all religions apart from Christianity are false systems of worship, for as we previously studied, we must be born again of God the Holy Spirit. The amazing thing about this woman is, she believed that the Messiah would come, and the Lord identified himself as the Messiah. The Jews rejected their Messiah and now all of Samaria was opened to the truth, through this woman of Samaria. This caused a great stir among the disciples as they approached the Lord, having spoken to the woman of Samaria.

Many Samaritans believed in the Messiah and were hungry for the Word. (John 4:39-42.)

This woman of Samaria became a great witness among the people of Samaria. They knew her well for her wicked way of life, and now they saw a change that flooded her soul! However, they came and checked it out for themselves and Jesus and the disciples taught them for two days, with many believing. This message and Jesus' miracles spread throughout Galilee.

The Ruling Nobleman of Capernaum's Son Healed. (John 4:46-54.)

This is the beginning of great manifestations of the miracles which Christ performed, as the Word spread throughout the Middle East. The nobleman was an outstanding example of faith that his son would be healed. *“The nobleman saith unto Him, Sir, come down ere my child die. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the Word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.” John 4:49-51.* It was that same time in which Jesus told the nobleman that his son liveth. (John 4:52-53.) It is therefore very imperative that we accept God's promises in the Bible by faith and never doubting.

Conclusion

As we complete our study of another important chapter in the Gospel of John, what have we derived from the teaching of the Holy Spirit? The Word of God is that living water that springs up within us, satisfying the hunger and those thirsting after God's righteousness. *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the World, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in*

heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.” 1 John 5:4-8. The three in one provide those who believe with everlasting life, to the praise and glory of God. The Triune God in the heavenlies, and on earth , The Holy Spirit, The Word and the redemptive blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord had great compassion for the multitudes because he saw them as sheep without a shepherd. That is why He tried to demonstrate to his disciples, to be willing to be servants rather than masters. God the Father had sent His Eternal Son in order to restore mankind into true worship and praise to himself. ***“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest, and he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are enter into their labored. “ John 4:34-38.***

There is no one who can take all the credit in the harvest of precious souls for the Lord. We are to be “Laborers Together”, for the glory of God. I thank God for those who have spent their life, preparing the way of this Bible teaching, as I attempt to build up the saints in the most holy faith. We must always be careful to give all glory and honor to the Lord, for He has sent God the Holy Spirit to do the inward work, convicting of sin and the need of a Savior. ***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7.***

Witnessing to the Saving Grace.

As we consider the Triune God as the three witnesses in heaven, and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Bible and the redemptive blood of the Lord Jesus Christ upon this earth, we are more than conquerors, by Almighty God. As ambassadors, sent forth with the Gospel message, we need not fear the evil forces. As born again believers, we have been entrusted with the most powerful message of all ages. All authority has been granted unto the Lord Jesus Christ, and we go forth in His precious name. The Lord has also promised us that He would never leave us nor forsake us and is our ever present help. May each of us be faithful to the Lord, as His witnesses to His saving grace.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FOUR.

- 1. What is the important issue in Jesus' visit to Samaria?**
- 2. What type of water was Jesus speaking about to the woman at the well? (John 4:13-14.)**
- 3. Explain John 4:9.**
- 4. What is the important requirement for all who attempt to worship God? (John 4:23-24.)**
- 5. Explain John 4:39-42.**
- 6. How did the nobleman show great faith?(John 4:50.)**
- 7. Write an Essay on- "The Water of Life".**
- 8. Explain 1 John 5:4-8.**
- 9. What are God's requirements to have permission to worship Him? (John 4:23-24.)**
- 10. What is the source of the indwelling of water within a Christian's life?**
- 11. Write an essay on , "The Compassion of The Lord Jesus Christ". (John 4:34-38.)**
- 12. What does John 4:44 mean?**

CHAPTER FIVE . THE FINAL JUDGE.

John 5:1-47.

The key verse of this chapter five is, ***“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son. That all men should honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent Him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but is passed from death unto life.”*** John 5:22-24. These are statements direct from the Eternal Son of God and require special attention to those that are religious but following the wrong religion. All mankind as well as the angels must be aware of the great authority that God the Father has given to His Son. Please note, ***“And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All authority is give unto me in heaven and in earth.”*** Matthew 28:18. There are two final judgements to take place in the latter days, and the Lord Jesus Christ will be the one sitting upon the throne to bring the final verdict.

There are specific reasons why God the Father gave all authority unto His Eternal Son. May I list a few obvious reasons why Christ was given all authority.

- a. Christ became the supreme sacrifice giving those who believe pardon from their sins. (Hebrews 9:26.)**
- b. Christ became the Supreme authority as Judge, having paid the debt in behalf of the sinners. (John 5:22; Matthew 28:18-20.)**
- c. God the Father cannot be seen and is represented in His Incarnate Son. (John 1:18; 6:46;)**
- d. Christ will reign in righteousness with a rod of iron, therefore He will need complete authority in this world. (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 19:15.)**
- e. The Father is well pleased with the Son and He is the only one who can remove “Total Sin”. (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11.)**

- f. **Christ with complete authority will have the honor of giving rewards to those who were faithful in this present world.**
(1 Corinthians 3:12-15. 2 Corinthians 5:10.)
- g. **The ungodly will have to face Christ before the Great White Throne.**
(Revelation 20:11-15.)

Christ Supreme
Colossians 1:15-19.

1. **Christ is the exact image of God the Father.**
2. **Christ is the Incarnate one.**
3. **Christ is the Creator of all things.**
4. **Christ is the Alpha and the Omega.**
5. **Christ is the Head of the church body.**
6. **Christ is preeminent to all creation.**
7. **God the Father is well pleased with Christ, the eternal Son of God.**

The Judgements to Come.

Since Christ has been given all authority, it is reasonable that He then would sit with all authority in the seat of judgement. Since we who are Christians have accepted Christ who died on the Cross as our personal Savior, judgement for our sins has been completed. However, we will stand at the Judgement seat of Christ to receive our rewards , according to our faithfulness.

1. **Believer's Self Judgement- (1 John 1:7-9.)**

This is an all important judgement which must come to Christians who desire a continual fellowship with Almighty God as we wait for that triumphant

day. The purpose of this self judgement is to avoid having such “Wood, Hay, and Stubble” burned at the Judgement seat of Christ. It consists of outward sin as well as the sin of doing good works for personal glorification, to be seen of men. As we walk in the light of God's Word, we become aware of these short comings, which should cause us to confess them before the Lord, before we come to the judgement seat of Christ. If this is done while in these earthen vessels, they will not be brought up when we stand before Christ to receive our rewards of faithfulness.

2. The Judgement Seat of Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:9-23; 2 Corinthians 5:10.)

When the Rapture of all the saints takes place and we receive our glorified bodies, our identification will be made sure. We who have received the gift of eternal life will be gathered before the Judgement seat of Christ to receive the gift of being faithful. Only believers of all ages will be present before the Lord and our works shall be made manifested. The issue will not be for salvation but rather for God's declaration of our position in eternity according to our high calling during our lifetime upon this present earth. All of our works will be tried by fire and the Wood, Hay and Stubble will be burned and the Gold, Silver and Precious Stones will be purified and remain forever before the Lord. ***“If any man's works 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.”*** 1 Corinthians 3:14-15. That is the issue and the choice is ours as we work and witness to either glorify Christ or glorify self. This warning is given to all believers, who have the choice of being dedicated to the Lord or filled with self pride, desiring personal glory. May all of us remember, ***Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*** 1 Corinthians 3:16. As we read and study the remainder of this chapter, we are reminded of this great responsibility that we have in remaining faithful to the Lord. We must not defile this temple of the Holy Spirit by evil works. The ministry of the Lord is not for personal gain or prestige but to glorify God. I am aware that many to whom I send my Biblical textbooks have made a business out of my generosity and have been selling my books for profit, when they are clearly printed, “Not to be sold”. This will become as Wood, Hay and Stubble before the Judgement Seat of Christ. We do not sell the gospel for it is a gift directly from God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The Great Tribulation (Revelation 6-18.)

This will be the out pouring of the wrath of God against all ungodliness, which is also known as “Jacob's Trouble” or the “70 th. Week of Daniel”. This will be a combination of God's wrath upon this old world system , including the wrath against Israel for rejecting their Messiah. At the close of this Great Tribulation, we have that great event, when the Lord himself will return to fight the battle of Armageddon, The beast and the false prophet will be taken and immediately cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 19:20.) This coming of the Lord will also place Satan and his demons under arrest and be cast for the thousand years into the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20:1-3.)

4. The Separation of the Sheep from the Goats. (Matthew 25:31-46.)

Very little is taught as to this coming judgement after the Great Tribulation. The Word of God does not mention much about this judgement, but it will take place as the thousand years of righteousness begins. The sheep will be those who will enter the Millennium, and the goats will be those that will be destroyed because of their wickedness. The goats will get their final judgement when they stand before the Great White Throne. (Revelation 20:11-15.)

5. The Great White Throne Judgement.(Revelation 20:11-15.)

Since Satan and his billions of demons have been judged at the Cross, along with “Total Sin”, their doom takes place after the Millennium, when they are released from the bottomless pit, set free for a short while. (Revelation 20:10.) The two beasts of the Great Tribulation will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire with no further court case. The Great White Throne judgement will include all the ungodly and unbelievers from Cain right down through to the destruction of the old heaven and earth. It will be the Lord himself who will sit upon the judgement seat as all the ungodly and unbelievers of all generations shall be raised from the dead. This is what the Bible calls “The Second Death”. But, all believers will take part in the first resurrection. But, the ungodly and unbeliever's names will not appear in the Lamb's Book of Life. Then there will be volumes of books with a record of the unbeliever's works during their life time. Some will have more good works than others, but all will be condemned because their good works do not measure up to the Divine righteousness of God. These will be those who spent their life,

lifetime establishing their own self righteousness or their desire to work evil deeds all of their life. The teeming billions will all be condemned to the Lake of Fire.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15.) However, before they will be cast into the Lake of Fire and remain there forever and ever under the wrath of God, they will have to make a final confession before the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“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.”*** Philippians 2:9-11.

It is of great interest to also realize that Christ being the final Judge in all affairs, that during his earthly ministry that he always attended the ordinances and feast days as of the tribe of Judah. It was a special occasion for Christ to manifest his power and authority to a segment of the Jewish people throughout the Middle East. In such a manner, the people were without excuse. This Great White Throne Judgement will be the final judgement that Christ will ever have to make. From that day onward, sin will never be an issue in the New Heavens and the New Earth. (Daniel 9:24.)

Conclusion.

Having dealt with the judgements of God in previous Biblical textbooks, may this be sufficient during our study of the Gospel of John. Each of you as students must make a personal effort to search out the Scriptures for evidence to establish yourselves in the deep things of God's Word. Each of you must make a specific effort in all of your studies to be prepared to build up the saints in the most holy Word of God. We have at least four witnesses as to Jesus being the Eternal Son of God, apart from his own declaration. May we just list these four witnesses for your admonition.

- 1. John the Baptist. (John 1:15-18.)**
- 2. The Mighty Miracles which Christ did during His earthly ministry.**
- 3. God the Father declared Christ as His Beloved Son. (Matthew 3:17.)**

4. The Scripture declares Christ as the Son of God. (John 20:31.)

Conclusion

As we conclude this study on Christ the Supreme Judge, it is imperative that we follow the leading power of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives, as Christians. One day we shall stand before the Lord of all glory to give an account of how we lived our lives upon this earth. We are God's witnesses to the saving grace through our loving Lord Jesus Christ. May we manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. ***“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (lustful), Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations (pride), wrath, strife, seditions (Rebellious), heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. “ Galatians 5:17-23.***

May I remind you that the most important judgement at this very moment of your life and mine as Christians is to make full use of a continual self judgement according to 1 John 1:7-9. This is essential in our fellowship with each other as Christians and above all, in fellowship with the Triune God. We are to keep short accounts with God, who knows all about us, but wants each of us as Christians to acknowledge our sin and shortcomings, as children of God. God has promised to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, restoring us back in the sweet fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ. This confession should always take place, before the partaking of Communion. Note (1 Corinthians 11:26-32.) May we constantly manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives, which is well pleasing in the sight of God. ***May I repeat that special fruit from God the Holy Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23.*** Do not misunderstand that last statement, for it does not permit us to be lawless, but rather under the Holy Spirit which is greater than all law.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FIVE.

- 1. Who will be the final Judge of all affairs? Give Scripture please.**
- 2. What are the key verses of Scripture in John chapter Five?**
- 3. Why did God the Father give all authority unto His Son in all judgements?**
- 4. Write an essay on,- “The pool of Bethesda”**
- 5. Explain John 5:17-18.**
- 6. What are the greater works than physical healing, which are made possible through Christ. (John 5:20-21.)**
- 7. Explain the “Two Resurrections”. (John 5:28-29.)**
- 8. Give the four that bear witness to Jesus being the Eternal Son of God.**
- 9. What are the purposes of “The Judgement Seat of Christ” and “The Great White Throne”?**
- 10. Give seven reasons why Christ has been declared the Judge of all things by God the Father.**

CHAPTER SIX

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

John 6:1-70.

This chapter is supreme in the teaching of Christ as “The Bread of Life”. Christ being very God can create whatsoever is needed immediately. We start off in this chapter with the feeding of the 5,000, which is also recorded in Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; and Luke 9:10-17. God who created the heavens and earth out of absolutely nothing, certainly it is not a problem to feed 5,000 hungry people, and still have some left. No one was left out during this great feast, prepared by the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of the feeding of the 5,000, many believed that Jesus was the Messiah and would have declared Him Israel's deliverer from the heel of Rome. But the Lord swiftly departed, alone into the mountain. (John 6:15.) According to God's time table, that day will come, when the great battle of Armageddon will be fought and the kingdoms of this world will be come the Kingdoms of our Lord; (Revelation 11:15.) One day we shall sit around the table in heaven and enjoy the feast of God as the bride of Christ in our glorified bodies. (Revelation 19:7-9.)

I think that it is very significant that the Holy Spirit had John record the following statement. *“When they were filled, He said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.”* John 6:12. Isn't this an amazing command from the Lord, who can create all things out of nothing? To me, it proves that God does not waste anything worth while, and was teaching his disciples not to be wasteful with whatever has been entrusted to them. They had enough left over to fill twelve baskets of food, enough for each of the disciples to have a picnic basket of their very own.

A Great Multitude Followed Jesus.

John 6:5, 15, 22-30.

This great multitude of people followed Jesus for several reasons, which we will enumerate for a better understanding. However, this was God the Father's way of manifesting His Eternal Son to this world for the purpose of dealing with “Total Sin” once and forever. This Gospel of John was written as a further proof that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal Son of God, sent forth as the Incarnate One as the Redeemer of the world. (John 1:29; 20:31.) You may ask, this great multitude wanted to make Christ their deliverer from Rome and would have gladly

taken him and made him their leader. It was an opportunity of Christ to have declared himself the King of kings and Lord of lords and to have called forth the armies of heaven to have set up his earthly kingdom. Why did Christ hide himself from the multitude? The following reasons will answer such a question.

1. **It was not God's timing or the place for such a deliverance, (John 14:1- 6; Galatians 4:4-5.)**
2. **Christ will be coming directly from Heaven with a great multitude to deliver the saints from the evil powers. (Revelation 19:11-21.)**
3. **The enemy was not merely Rome but the evil powers of the demonic world. (Genesis 3:15.)**
4. **The Bridegroom would not have called together his Bride, which had to be from the time of Pentecost onward until the Rapture. (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:1-21; Revelation 19:7-10.)**
5. **The 70th.. week of Daniel had to be fulfilled, before the Millennial Kingdom could begin. (Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24:15-21.)**
6. **The Church of Christ must be delivered out from the wrath to come before the Great Tribulation can begin. (1 Thessalonians 1:10.)**
7. **The Triumphant entrance into Jerusalem had to take place to provide for the Messiah to descend from heaven, having entered into Jerusalem through the Golden gate. (Ezekiel 44:1-3; John 12:12-19.)**
8. **The freedom of choice of man is involved under the Sovereignty and Omniscience of God. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10.)**
9. **The Millennium will be the final test, placed upon mankind, under perfect conditions, with a freedom of choice offered to all, as the Gospel of the kingdom will be preached, "world wide" by the saints of all ages. (Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4.)**
10. **Before the Kingdom can begin, we as the saints of God must be caught up to celebrate the Lord's table, the Bridal Feast, and seven years in the**

Bridal chambers, in the mansions of God the Father, as the bride of Christ and the friends of the Bridegroom, who are the Old Testament saints.

(Matthew 26:28-29; These are the outstanding reasons why the Lord did not allow the multitude to make him their deliverer, at a time when he came to earth as the Redeemer. The Lord has limited these various events to the element of time, and only reserving the glorious future, where time will be no more. God gives us limitation now so that we might appreciate the exaltations of the timeless eternity.

Jesus In Command of the Sea.

Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:45-56; John 6:15-21.

We have these three accounts of Jesus walking on the sea, which we must consider together for there are certain lessons to be learned from this. As Christ was being pressured by the multitude to become their leader against the Roman rule, He did a disappearing act into the mountains. However, before he went, he commanded the disciples to get into their fishing vessel and go to the other side of the lake. The Eternal Son of God departed alone to spend time in prayer and communication with the Father as well as to escape from the crowd. Christ waited until it got dark to join the disciples who were rowing their boat and crossing over to Capernaum. The disciples were familiar with being in the dark upon the waters, but there arose an unusual storm. ***“And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew” John 6:18.*** This was terrifying to the disciples who experience many a storm. There was also a strange strong wind, and suddenly they beheld the Lord walking on the sea with all his shikinah glory and they cried out in desperation and fear. However, they saw him walking as though he would pass them by, leaving them struggling with the waves and wind. It was impetuous Peter who challenged as to whether this was Jesus or not, when he spoke, ***“But straight-way Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped him, saying Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”*** Matthew 14:27-33. There are several lessons to be learned from these three portions of God's Word. May we take special notice of them.

1. **The Lord Jesus Christ, being very God is in control of all creation.**
2. **The Lord allows certain trials to come into our lives to test our faith.**
3. **This particular miracle of walking on the water by the Lord, prepared the disciples for what followed. (Matthew 14:35-36.)**
4. **This should give us great confidence as we prepare ourselves and are made ready for the Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.)**

Now the disciples were also ready to understand the lesson of the true bread of life that we gain as we feast upon God's Word. The world knows nothing about the blessings of God through His Word, until they are born again of God the Holy Spirit. The people who followed Jesus to the other side, had enjoyed the food provided for them and the Lord made use of this illustration to teach the Word.

“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat that endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you: For Him hath God the Father sealed. Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.” John 6:26-29.

The multitude of people were now confused and attempted to exalt Moses in the wilderness who provided manna during their journey, but the Lord now takes the opportunity to tell them that He was that true bread of life that has come down from heaven. (John 6:32-35.) This was a hard saying when Jesus placed himself above the manna in the wilderness. (John 6:41-42.) Christ in his omniscience was aware of their every thought and nothing is hidden from him.

The Bread and Resurrection of Life

There are many lessons that we can learn from using the natural elements to teach the eternal life through Christ who came down from heaven to bring us resurrection and life eternal through his sacrifice upon the Cross. From the open air meetings that the Lord had with the multitude, he now enters into the real purpose of His teaching ministry. Since the Lord said that He is the bread of life coming down from heaven, does that mean that we must literally eat his flesh and drink his blood? (John 6:48-58.) Some denominations in the Christian faith try to adapt these sayings to the partaking of the Lord's supper, not understanding the complete context of Christ's teachings..

The Emblems of the Lord's Table

1. One group declares that when taking the emblems of the Lord's supper that the body and blood of the Lord “comes along side” the unleaven bread and the fruit of the vine.
2. Another very large group declare that the actual wafer and the fruit of the vine “Becomes flesh and blood” of the Savior, and they literally eat his flesh and drink his blood.
3. The correct Scriptural use of these verses is, they are merely “Emblems of Christ's body and blood”, with a spiritual application. (John 6:63.)

What Christ was teaching the disciples and the multitude was a comparison of the Mosaic manna from heaven to himself. May we be reminded that Christ's Incarnate body was given as a sacrifice upon the Cross, and His Blood was shed upon the Cross. Neither one of these were given to eat and drink. How do we know this? Turn with me to John 6, keeping these sayings in context. *“When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, He said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see The Son of Man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; The flesh profiteth nothing ; The words that I speak unto you they are spirit, and they are life.”* John 6:61-63. This certainly should clarify what the Lord said concerning his flesh and blood. What the Lord said to the multitude and recorded here in the Gospel of John are of a spiritual nature, rather than in the natural realm. The disciples did see the Lord ascending back into heaven, after he was with them 40 days after the resurrection from the tomb. Those that believed not (John 6:64-65.) Were among that crowd which cried out, *“Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”*

The twelve disciples were then challenged by Christ, as many left the Lord, because of these hard sayings. They could be classified as having a form of godliness, but denying the power. Jesus then asked his disciples, *“Then said Jesus unto the twelve. Will ye also go away?”* John 6:67. It was Peter that spoke up so boldly, *“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* John 6:68-69. What a clear statement Peter made, as to Jesus being the Eternal Son of God!

Conclusion

May this brief study of John chapter 6 be of help to you in understanding this difficult truth which Christ spoke to the multitudes. God the Holy Spirit has given us the answer to this problem with the simple statement that the Lord was using the natural to teach the supernatural with a spiritual application. It also became an occasion with the Lord's foreknowledge to declare that Judas Iscariot was not one of the twelve. It was Paul the apostle who eventually made up the twelve eternal apostles, when he met the Lord on the way to Damascus and was taught by the Lord in the Arabian dessert. (Acts 9:1-31; Galatians 1:15-24.) As there are twelve tribes from among the Hebrew people, so there are only 12 Apostles, representing the Christian churches. This is also verified in Revelation 21:9-21; being twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve foundations with the names of the twelve Apostles. If any of you are considered as Apostles, you must understand that this title that you are given is merely of a denomination and not identified with the original twelve Apostles. We may act as Ministers, Deacons, Elders and Bishops, but we should never be classified as Apostles. The reason why the Apostles were limited to twelve was to stand as twelve pillars of the church, who had seen the Lord face to face. Paul replaced Judas Iscariot, who was not a true Apostle. There have been many false prophets and anti-Christ's down through these many years according to God's Word. (Matthew 24:23-26; 1 John 2:18,22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7.) This is happening today as well as it will be during the Great Tribulation. God the Holy Spirit has included this warning in the Bible for our understanding of what we can expect, especially in these last days.

The earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in His Incarnate body has made possible the reclaiming of God's creation , as the Eternal Son of God took upon himself a form of man apart from sin. Christ came that we might have the fullness of life, in the presence of God. Christ is the only true "Bread of Life" who sent forth God the Holy Spirit to make new creatures out of all who believe. It was Jesus who said, "***All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.***" John 6:37-40. The Eternal Son of God has made this promise, giving us the freedom of choice.

Christ, The Bread of Life.

Christ is that bread of life which has come down from heaven. The manna and the water and food in the wilderness were but shadows and examples and types prior to the coming of the Lord. ***“As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: So he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”*** John 6:57-58. You and I, who have been born again by the Holy Spirit are partakers of that Divine life by faith. We have the living bread of life, through the Eternal Son of God. This is our guarantee and seal that we will exist forever with Almighty God. It is our Divine Spark of life which makes us eligible to become the bride of Christ. The mysteries of God are beyond our comprehension and continue to be marvelous as we study the Bible. Praise God, we have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus in preparation for eternity to come! ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*** 2 Corinthians 5:17. *We as Christians are the first of the new creation, being born again by God the Holy Spirit. We haven't attained that glorified body, but we are new creatures in Christ Jesus. Those glorified bodies are waiting for us, when the Rapture takes place, and they will usher us into the glorious kingdom of God, with all of our sins washed away and stand blameless in Christ Jesus, living in our heavenly mansions. Oh what a day of rejoicing that will be!”* ***And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”***

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. Our perfection is completely in the Lord Jesus Christ who has imputed to us his perfect righteousness. God is purposely allowing sin to run it's wicked course, even though “Total Sin” was judged at the Cross. It was in God's unchanging plans to deal with sin in every phase of it, including the demonic force as well as with mankind. The reason for allowing sin to run its course, is to remove all future possibilities of sin intruding into the New Creation which God will bring into existence. When we receive those glorified bodies when the Rapture takes place, we will never have the least inclination to sin. When God makes all things new, there will be absolute perfection and impeccability. God has a “Utopia” promised for the holy angels and all the saints of all ages. We shall be in sweet fellowship with the Triune God as well as with the holy angels and the saints. What a day of rejoicing that will be! That is why we need to give of our very best now, as our way of appreciating what God has provided for us then.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SIX.

- 1. What have you learned from Christ feeding of the 5,000?**
- 2. Explain John 6:12.**
- 3. Why do you think that Jesus appeared to his disciples at night, walking on the water?**
- 4. Give four lessons that we learn from this great miracle, of feeding the 5,000..**
- 5. Compare the manna given in the wilderness by Moses, with Christ as the Manna of everlasting life. (John 6:32-35.)**
- 6. Write an essay on, “The Bread and Resurrection of Life”.**
- 7. Give and explain the two errors, that some denominations hold, concerning the Lord's supper.**
- 8. Find the one Scripture verse in John chapter six that explains John 6:53-58.**
- 9. Give the various Biblical titles given to Church Leaders today. Why are there only twelve Apostles?**
- 10. How did Christ know that Judas Iscariot would betray Him? Are there many antichrists today? Scripture please.**
- 11. Give reasons why Christ waited for His kingdom.**

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE MESSIAH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN.

John 7:1-53.

God the Holy Spirit uses this particular chapter along with Luke 9:51-62. to present Jesus as the Messiah sent down from God the Father. The Lord knew that as he presented himself before the multitudes, that he had a particular time when He would lay down His life as a ransom for many. Although God is not limited to time, he uses the fulness of time to accomplish his purposes. The Lord used these feast days, as the Jews gathered together, to teach specific truths, reaching great crowds with the Word of God. God the Father has sent forth His Eternal Son to declare his will to mankind. The rulers of the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus and that is why he sent his disciples on before. Many in Jerusalem knew that the rulers were planning to take the life of Jesus. However when Christ did appear and spoke out boldly, the power of His word stopped the rulers from apprehending Jesus.

“Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? “ John 7:25-26. The Lord plainly taught that he was sent by God the Father, declaring himself to be the Messiah. “Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I Am: and I Am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know Him: for I Am from Him, and He hath sent me.” John 7:28-29.

These verses are the key to this chapter, declaring Jesus as the Messiah, coming down from God the Father.

God's Power manifested.

(John 7:30-53.)

There was perfect understanding among the religious leaders that Jesus set himself up as the promised messiah, come down from God the Father. This was but another time when the multitude wanted to declare Christ as their leader against Rome, and the religious leaders wanted to kill him. But no man could lay hands on Him for His hour had not yet come. (John 7:30.) God's timing for everything is exactly on time, to a set date and never late. That is why we are admonished to be ready for that great “Air Lift”, which will take place in the fulness of time. Are you ready to meet the Lord, face to face and stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ”? (2 Corinthians 5:10.) Each of us who has been born again must give an account of how we have spent our Christian life. May the good Lord find each of us faithful to the end!

The Importance of The Feast of the Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:34.

According to Leviticus 23:33-44, these feasts for seven days were to remind Israel of their journey through the wilderness as God delivered them from the Egyptian slavery. They were to dwell in booths as a temporary conditions, traveling to the promised land. Even the Tabernacle was temporary as they waited for the building of the Temple. Israel forgot about these feast days and had to be reminded, according to Nehemiah 8:14-18. As with Israel, so with Christians, we must remember the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34.) May we as Christians realize that this world is not our dwelling place, but we look for the return of the Lord to "Air Lift" us to our heavenly abode.

Israel had to be reminded through the reading of the Word of God that they were to make temporary booths , as a symbol of patiently waiting for the true temple to be built in Jerusalem. Praise God, we as Christians have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit forever and have been declared as the "Temple of God." (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:11,19.)

The Deception of Satan.

There is sufficient proof as to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and we look into God's Word for evidence. The Lord Jesus Christ entered this world at the right time and the right place. (Micah 5:2.) And was of the seed of David. (Matthew 1:1-17.) However, the deception of Satan was always prevalent and the birth place of Jesus was denied and his later abode in Nazareth was wrongly declared as his birth place, rather than Bethlehem of Judea. (Luke 2:4.)

The Promise of God the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39.

It is significant that the Lord should mention the out pouring of the Holy Spirit during the feasts of the Tabernacle. How well this prophetic ministry of the Holy Spirit fits into this occasion. We as Christians do already possess the Holy Spirit according to God's Word. (John 4:14; 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:2-4.)

As the feast days were drawing to a close and the Jews were planning to return to their own villages, Christ used that final opportunity to introduce an inward work which was about to take place after His earthly ministry. ***"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying. If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath***

said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this space He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” John 7:37-39. The Apostle John was able to understand the out pouring of God the Holy Spirit, when this was written, because the Holy Spirit had him write after the day of Pentecost. That is why this Gospel is very important for all believers to thoroughly understand, the wonder working power of God.

The great throngs that attended the feast days were divided as to whether this was really the Messiah, come down from heaven. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent officers to arrest Jesus and bring Him into their counsel, but they returned empty handed. **“Then came the officers to the Chief Priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man space like this man.” John 7:45-46.** This was an amazing revelation to all of the religious leaders, except one, by the name of Nicodemus. **“Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?” John 7:51.** Praise God for Nicodemus who became a believer and was baptized by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

God's Timing of the Coming Kingdom.

In regard to the coming of the kingdom of righteousness, it was one phase and purpose that Christ came into this world. In this chapter, Christ is offering himself to Israel as their Messiah, and they rejected him, even though the Lord sent his disciples forth to declare the kingdom to Israel. We have this recorded in Matthew 10:1-42. Why only to the house of Israel? Because they were given the freedom of choice, according to the justice of God. The Lord knew that they would reject him, and that was why John the Baptist was sent to herald the King, rather than Elijah. (Malachi 3:1 as compared with Malachi 4:5-6.) In regard of the coming of the Lord for his kingdom at a future date, Peter, James and John were allowed to see the transfiguration of the Lord. We must turn to God's Word. **“Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.” Matthew 16:28.** This took place after six days. **“And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart. And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.” Matthew 17:1-3.** This was one occasion that these disciples saw the Lord in his glory. Other references are (Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36; and John on the Isle of Patmos.)

There are these two very important commissions that the Lord gave to his disciples, and the first is found in Matthew chapter ten, the disciples were sent forth to declare the kingdom to Israel, but note what is said. ***“These twelve Jesus sent forth and commanded them, saying, Go not in the way of the Gentiles, and into the city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 10:5-7.*** (Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6.) To us in this day and generation we are amazed at such a statement from the Lord. The reason for this limited evangelism was for the purpose of having Israel make her choice, which Christ knew that they would reject him, and the kingdom was postponed. After the disciples had gone and returned from their evangelism the Lord then questioned them. ***“And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. “ Luke 22:35-36.*** This seemed like a strange commandment, but the King having been rejected, the new era of the Gospel of Grace came into existence. Now the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20 became the order of the day. Israel was not forced one way or another, but had their own free choice, and have been suffering the consequences ever since, with great persecution.

For some two thousand years from Pentecost until now, the Gospel has been preached around the world, to the saving grace of our loving Lord. God is using every method possible in evangelism and building up the saints in the most holy faith. This very method of teaching through these Biblical textbooks is of great importance, to be used by the National Christian leaders throughout the world. Time is running out and we need to be alerted to that great commission by the Lord.

Conclusion.

As we conclude another precious chapter in the Gospel of John we have again been confronted with the truth of Christ as the Eternal Son of God. The religious rulers have refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah and have led their people astray, and will be eventually cast into the Lake of Fire, when the Great White Throne judgement takes place. (Revelation 20:11-15.) This is also the reason why the Jews have been scattered and persecuted throughout the whole world. ***“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth***

not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:18. The Scripture gives us all of the evidence necessary for each of us to acknowledge Jesus Christ, as the Eternal Son of God, the second person in the Trinity. Perhaps we should mention the declaration of the Lord Jesus Christ, while He taught in the temple. ***“Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I Am: and I Am not come of myself, but He that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know Him: for I Am from Him, and He hath sent me.” John 7:28-29.*** The rulers of the Jews understood perfectly well that Jesus declared himself the Eternal Son of God, the great I Am! That is why they tried to take him and kill him, because he made himself equal with God the Father. It was also then that many of the people believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah. (John 7:31.) They wanted to take him as their leader against Rome, and that is why the Lord had to avoid this, as his time for total deliverance from sin was not yet come. The plan of God cannot be altered in any way.

The Living Water of the Holy Spirit Promised.

Acts 2:2-4; John 4:14; 7:37-53.

As the feast of the Passover came to a close, the Lord Jesus stood before that great multitude and shouted out before them, ***“If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” John 7:37b-38.*** This was spoken concerning the promise of God the Holy Spirit, who would be given on the day of Pentecost, after Christ would ascend into the heavens and be glorified by God the Father. The religious leaders had planned to take Jesus after the Passover and had sent their temple guards to take him. As I mentioned before, these officers were so amazed by which Jesus spoke that they could not lay hands upon him to bring him to the Scribes and Pharisees. (*John 7:45-46.*)

Nicodemus' testimony

Although the Lord Jesus Christ dwelt in Nazareth, but was born according to the fulfillment of the Scripture in Bethlehem of Judea, (Luke 2:1-7.) May I also mention that the Scribes and Pharisees, could have checked the genealogy of Christ of the seed of David, but they were under the power of the deception of Satan. But it was then that Nicodemus spoke out, giving us the understanding that he became a believer. ***“Nicodemus saith unto them. (He that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of***

Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.” They completely avoided Nicodemus' question, and tried to prove that Christ was of Galilee, rather than born in Bethlehem of Judea, as the Scripture says. These specific things are recorded for our admonition so that we might also be aware of the deceit of Satan and avoid the wiles of the devil, as well as the unbelief of many religions in this world. Satan is always ready to deceive and take a grain of truth from the Bible and build a religious order of deception, which would deny the Christ of the living God. Some of these false leaders even lead their groups to mass suicide as with the Jones and Applewhite cults where their followers took their very own life. **“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you , and keep you from evil.” 2 Thessalonians 3:3.**

The Lord is not slack as to his promises and is always ready to hear the requests from the depths of our hearts. If you have the desire to glorify the Lord through your dedicated life, you can rest assured that your prayers will be answered. Sometimes the Lord says, “No” and other times it may be “Yes”. Remember that God is always aware of our every motive, whether they are selfish motives for personal gain, or for the glorification of the Lord. **“He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” John 7:18.** The Lord himself was sent by the Father to pay the debt of “Total Sin”, purchasing us out from the slave market of sin. The Lord also came into this world of his creation to tell us about God the Father. Those that reject the Lord have no hope what so ever. **“Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you and then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I Am, thither ye cannot come.” John 7:33-34.** As the feast days came to a close the Lord made his final appeal to the multitude, declaring the mighty work that God the Holy Spirit would do within the believers. **“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: For the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)” John 7:37-39.** Here you have another indication that before the day of Pentecost the Old Testament saints were not yet given God the Holy Spirit to dwell within them, as we who are Christians. Their salvation depended upon their faith just like ours, but they looked forward to Christ as the Lamb of God, while we look back to the finished work on Calvary's Cross.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SEVEN.

- 1. Why did the religious leaders of the Jews want to kill Jesus?**
- 2. Why is this chapter seven of John so important to us as Christians? (See Also Luke 9:51-62.)**
- 3. During Jesus' earthly ministry, why were the feast days so important in his teachings?**
- 4. Why was it that the rulers of the Jews could not take Jesus in public when they did not like his teachings?**
- 5. Explain John 7:28-29.**
- 6. Why did the rulers of the Jews want to kill Jesus?**
- 7. When was Christ to be glorified during his earthly ministry, according to John 7:9?**
- 8. Why did John know about the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, when this Gospel was written?**
- 9. What proof do we have that Nicodemus became a believer? (Refer also to John 19:39.)**
- 10. What is God the Holy Spirit emphasizing in this chapter 7?**
- 11. Explain Luke 2:1-4; Micah 5:2; and Isaiah 7:14.**

CHAPTER EIGHT

CHRIST THE FORGIVER OF SIN.

John 8:1-50.

In the Gospel of John we have the only report of the woman taken in adultery. Since the Lord is omniscient, He knew that the rulers of Israel tried to get him to pass judgement upon the woman, thus taking the Roman rule into his own hands, and consequently, they could bring him before the Roman Government. The rulers of Israel kept trying their very best to trap Jesus, so that the Roman Government would have reason to condemn him to death. The Roman coin is but another example. (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17;& Luke 20:25.) Christ had complete authority over all governments in this world, but He willingly subjected himself to the rule of the land as well as to the Judaistic religious rule.

During Christ's Temple Teaching Tested as to Breaking Roman Rule. The Forgiver of Sin.

The Lord reminds us not to forsake the assembling together (Hebrews 10:25.) And here the Lord is early in the morning at the Temple in Jerusalem. The religious rulers must have known that Jesus spent much time teaching near the Temple and they tried to trap him in every way possible, so that he could be condemned. This particular morning they brought the woman taken in adultery. May we ask, Why only did they bring the woman and not the man? However, the Lord was prepared for them, knowing their every thought and action. ***“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, they say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what saith thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. John 8:3-6.*** It would be interesting to know what Jesus wrote in the sand, as a great hush came over all that were in his presence. The scribes and pharisees thought for sure that they could accuse him and have him judged by the Roman Government, or of breaking the law of Moses. They must have ask this question over and over again, wanting an answer. ***“So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he***

stooped down, and wrote on the ground.” John 8:7. This must have been a tense moment in the lives of all of the people as they waited to see if there was one who would dare to say that he or she was perfect, and without sin. The Holy Spirit was busy revealing to all, that all of mankind is “Totally Depraved” and dead in trespasses and sin. The Lord in His Sovereignty would not allow one to unjustly throw a stone at this trembling woman. He didn't have to even look them in the face, but calmly again wrote on the ground, knowing that all of her accusers would leave, under great convictions. (John 16:8.) This they slowly did, one by one until all had left, but Christ and the woman. ***“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” John 8:10-11.*** Jesus was the only one who could have cast the first stone as he is very God and impeccable. It wasn't that Christ approved of her adultery, as he called it a sin. In his omniscience, he knew that the religious rulers were trying to trap him, for if he had agreed to stone her, he would have been taken before the Roman Government for taking the law in his own hands. If he had said not to stone her, he would have broken the Old Testament Mosaic law.

May we also be reminded of the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry concerning sin, that he used every opportunity to teach the righteousness of God. I have often been questioned, “What is Sin”? Before God Sin can be anything contrary to God. The very evil thoughts that one has is sin before God.. ***“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:” Proverbs 23:7a.*** Then we also are reminded, by the Word of God ***“For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23b.*** The Lord never condoned sin in thought, word or deed and had much to say about it, during his earthly ministry. That was His purpose in coming into this world, to pay the total debt of “Total Sin”. However the sin of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer is unpardonable before God. So would be the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32) God the Holy Spirit wants to do a mighty work within every soul, and lead us into all truth. However the ungodly, under the influence of Satan attribute to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit. (Mark 3:29-30.) ***“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 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. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say.” 1 Corinthians 10:12-15.*** God never overlooks sin, for that

was the purpose of God in sending His Eternal Son to this world to condemn sin in the flesh by dying on the Cross. The following references should be carefully studied. (John 8:34; 16:8-9; Romans 3:20; 5:12-21; 6:1-12,23; 1 Corinthians 15:34, 56; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Timothy 5:20; Hebrews 3:13; James 2:9; 4:17; 1 John 1:7-8; 2:1; 3:4,8; 5:17.)

Christ, the Light of the World.

John 8:12-59.

Regardless of our religious background, apart from Christ, we all come into this world “Brain Washed” by Satan. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4.) No question about this for he is the god of this world system and no light is in him whatsoever. He appears as an angel of light but that is part of his deception. Christ is the light of this world and in Him is no darkness whatsoever. (John 1:9.) ***“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*** John 8:12. The Lord Jesus Christ made it absolutely clear that all that come and follow Him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have eternal life. God the Father is that perfect witness to His Eternal Son. (John 8:16-18.) Since these religious leaders were blinded by Satan they neither knew God the Father nor the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 8:19-26.) Although Christ died for the sins of the whole world, yet those who reject him as their Savior die in their sins and will be condemned before the Great White Throne because of their unbelief. In the betrayal by Judas, the Lord spoke to the multitude who came to take him and reminded them, in their very act that it was the power of darkness. (Luke 22:53.)

As the Lord, during his earthly ministry, spoke these truths to the multitude, at various places, but especially in the temple of Jerusalem, many believed. The Eternal Son of God, who is truth, also taught the truth. ***“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*** John 8:32. This puzzled many of the Jews for they considered themselves free from bondage in Abraham, but at that very time, they were in bondage under the Roman rule. The freedom which Christ was offering to the multitude was the freedom from the bondage of sin. ***“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed, but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.”*** John 8:36-38. The Lord plainly revealed their thoughts to kill him and then told them that they were listening to their father, which is the devil. Although they were of the seed of Abraham, they were listening to the deception

of the devil. Christ clearly identified them, being in the clutches of the Devil. (John 8:44.) The climax of this teaching may be found; in such a statement. ***“He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.” John 8:47.***

Christ Brings Life.

It was for this very purpose that Christ came into this world, to set all men free from the bondage of sin and give them life, as their Redeemer. The Lord had submitted himself to the Father and was ready to go to the Cross for the sins of the world. ***“Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I Am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus unto those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:28-32.*** Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ we are all servants and slaves to sin, and Christ alone can set one free, giving the perfect and newness of life that will be in you forever and ever!

As these false religious leaders continued to accuse Christ of having a devil within him, Christ was then able to demonstrate the honor that he gave to the Father, as they dishonored him, and offered them the truth. When they accused Christ of having a devil as well as not being a full blooded Jew of the seed of Abraham, then ***“Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.” John 8:49-51.*** This declaration was impossible for them to accept as they reminded Christ of the death of Abraham and all of the prophets, so how could this be? Christ did not say that the physical body would not die, but what he did say was those that accept Christ as their personal Savior will live on forever. The reason he could say this is because he is the Eternal Son of God the Father and has always existed as ***“The way, the truth, and the life”.*** (John 14:6.) The Lord's final statement to all of the temple worshipers was, ***“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I Am.” John 8:58.*** They would have stoned him to death because he declared himself as ever existing before Abraham. But, being very God, he disappeared among them, because his time had not yet come to become the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. God

always has a fulness of time for everything and then those that accept the Lord Jesus Christ will enter into the new creation of God, where time will be no more. There is no life created apart from Christ the Creator, regardless of those prying with life, trying to claim the act of creation. God alone is the source of all life.

Conclusion

As we have studied this portion of Scripture, we have considered the great power, manifested in Jesus who is 100 % God and 100% man, with the power to forgive sins, based upon His substitutionary atonement, as our Redeemer, and also the power to give life through his name. The Triune God is the source of all life. The liberal theologians of every generation try to claim that Jesus never declared himself as the very God. But just in this chapter alone we have sufficient evidence of Jesus Christ being very God. That is why the false religious leaders of his day took up stones to kill him, because he declared himself as God. But in the omnipotence of Christ he had the power to disappear from their presence.

May we always remember that Jesus loved us in spite of our sin, but hated sin regardless of where he encountered it. Never forget that it cost God His very own son to pay the penalty of sin, removing it forever from those who would believe. ***“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”*** Romans 5:8-11.

God has made all of these truths very clear in the Bible and all of mankind is without excuse before him. As the Lord forgave the woman taken in adultery, so he has provided forgiveness for us all by his death upon the Cross. The Eternal Son of God became, in the likeness of mankind, apart from sin, in order that we should become the likeness of God through a glorified body. He became our “Sin Bearer”, casting our sins as far as the East is from the West, never to remember our sins throughout eternity to come. *(Psalm 103:11-12.)* ***“Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*** 1 Peter 1:3-5. ***“For as much as***

ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the Precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” 1 Peter 1:18-19.

There are several truths that we should learn in the study of this chapter and may we just enumerate some of these for you admonition and encouragement.

- 1. The Lord Jesus Christ always was and always will be the Eternal Son of God with all the characteristics of God the Father.**
- 2. The devil used those religious leaders as instruments of darkness through his life of deception.**
- 3. Christ did not condone the adultery of the woman, but proclaimed his power to forgive, based upon his future sacrificial death upon the Cross of Calvary.**
- 4. The Eternal Son of God was sent into this world to remove all darkness by his eternal light.**
- 5. Christ came into this world to reveal the way, the truth and the life.**
- 6. Christ bore witness of himself, sent by the witness of God the Father.**
- 7. Christ being the Eternal Son of God was without sin and impeccable to sin.**
- 8. Christ declared himself to be everlasting, always existing before Abraham.**
- 9. The devil was in charge of those self righteous religious leaders.**
- 10. Christ is the victor over sin and death.**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1. What was the purpose of the rulers of Israel in bringing the woman of adultery to Jesus?**
- 2. Explain Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25.**
- 3. Why does Christ have authority to forgive sin? (John 8:10-11.)**
- 4. Who only could have cast the first stone at the woman?**
- 5. Who convicted the accusers of their personal sin? Script.**
- 6. What is sin? Give Scripture.**
- 7. Who is the source of all light? Scripture.**
- 8. Who has the power to “Blind the Minds” of every child coming into this world?**
- 9. How is the blindness of minds overcome?**
- 10. Explain John 8:19-26; 47; 49-51. Romans 5:8-11.**
- 11. Where do we find the source of all truth?**
- 12. How do we get freedom within our lives?**
- 13. Name 7 important truths gained from John 8.**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER EIGHT CONTINUED.

- 14. Write an Essay on , “Christ's Existence Before Abraham. (John 8:56-58.)**
- 15. Why do we worship and assemble together on the first day of the week, rather than on the Sabbath day? Give Scriptures to prove your point of view.**
- 16. What did Christ mean by saying, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I Am.*” ? John 8:58.**
- 17. Explain John 8:54-56.**
- 18. In the study of this chapter, have you seen the submission of Christ to His heavenly Father?**
- 19. What should our attitude be toward God our heavenly Father?**
- 20. Write briefly on “Christ has set me free from the Penalty of Sin and Death”**
- 21. On what basic facts are Christians to enjoy mercy and peace with God the Father?**

CHAPTER NINE

CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

John 9:1-41

It is of the most unique way in which Christ would always introduce some marvelous truth from the Word of God, through examples. As we consider Christ as the light of the world in more ways than one, we have the miracle performed on the man born blind whom the Lord met at just the right time for his lesson of the day. There was nothing in the earthly ministry of Christ that was a coincident or just happening. All was in the providence of God. Note that Jesus was aware that ~~this blind man, was blind from birth. How did Jesus know this? The simple~~ fact that Jesus Christ is God and is omniscient in everything. Here we have the lesson of the miracle of sight and light, but also the lesson on , who caused this man to be born blind? ***“Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day : the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*** John 9:3-5.

This should give us the clue of each activity in the earthly ministry of Christ. He came as being sent by God the Father, specifically to become the sacrifice for “Total Sin”, but also to reveal the “Total Character” of the Triune God. Christ's teaching ministry, through the Word, was of great importance and therefore we need to use the Scriptures to teach others, “Thus saith the Lord”! There is yet another lesson that we have in this teaching and that is to do good regardless of what day it may be. ~~The Jews are very careful as to their observance of the Sabbath day and often will call in Gentiles to even do some manual job on the Sabbath. They are careful as to the “Letter of the Law” rather than the “Letter of the Freedom within the Law”!~~ Christ could have spoken and the sight of the blind man would have been restored, but he chose to place a form of clay over the blind man's eyes., and send him to wash in the pool of Siloam. (John 9:7,) This took an act of faith of both the blind man and those who, no doubt led him to the water. This also had a far reaching results to all, as this man had been a beggar and all the people knew him. The Pharisees learned about it and they were not interested in the miracle, but condemned Christ because he made the clay on the Sabbath day. Therefore they declared that Jesus was not of God, with such deception coming from Satan. May we keep in mind that these false religious leaders, during Jesus' earthly ministry, were continually trying to find fault with the Eternal Son of God. Their purpose was, out of jealousy, to find an excuse to

condemn him to death.

The Jealousy of Doubt”

As you read the sequence of this miracle of sight, may you be aware of how jealousy can easily be used by Satan to destroy every segment of truth in the mind of the ungodly. ***“Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. John 9:16-17.*** Satan causes such doubts in their minds, out of jealousy, and now they attempted to declare that this man never was blind, so they called the parents to testify. ***“His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake the parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.” John 9:20-22.***

The Blind man's Witness.

Now we get a better understanding of these false religious leaders, who also threatened the worshipers in the synagogue, if they dared say that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Messiah sent from God the Father. Since these rulers of the synagogue were in a trap and could not acknowledge Jesus as being sent from God. So, they were forced to call the blind man, for their final comment. ***“Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise : We know that this man is a sinner. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.” John 9:24-25.***

This was not sufficient for these jealous false leaders, but had to ask him again as to how he was healed in order to condemn Jesus for healing on the Sabbath day. ***“He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? Will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou are his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and***

doeth His will, him He heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. “**John 9:27-33.** This was absolutely too much for these false leaders, and they cast him out of the synagogue, declaring him to have been born in sin. (John 9:34.) God used this blind man to be a tremendous witness, not only in his day, but down through the centuries of time.

Christ's Well Done.

Christ, being the Eternal Son of God was aware of all this in his omniscience, but no doubt allowed the word to come to him, concerning the blind man. This was an outstanding witness and testimony from the blind man, whom God the Holy Spirit used to condemn these false leaders. Here is now another great lesson to be shared by the Lord Jesus Christ. “*Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe, And he worshiped him.*” **John 9:35-38.** Here again we have another evidence that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God, the Messiah sent forth from God the Father.

May we so live and work for our soon coming Lord, that we will be found well pleasing in His sight, when we stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ for the issuing of the rewards for faithfulness. We all have times in our Christian walk where we have failed the Lord, and our good works become as “Wood, Hay, or Stubble”. Confess these to the Lord now, so that they may not have to be burned before the Judgement of Christ. Are you satisfied to be saved with all of your good works burned with God's consuming fire? If you do not want this to happen to you, confess your sins before God, now and your good works will not be burned before the Judgement seat of Christ. (1 John 1:7-9.)

The Righteous Judgement of Christ.

There are many very important statement made in the Bible, spoken with just a few words but involving a multitude of truth. “*And Jesus said, For judgement I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin re-maineth.*” **John 9:39-41.** As we close this portion of God's Word, we are confronted with a very profound statement by the Lord himself. What could he

have possibly meant by such a statement? As we understand the ultimate plan of God, comparing truth with truth, we can only conclude the following.

Why Christ Came Into This World.

- 1. Christ entered this world to judge "Total Sin" once and forever. (John 16:8-9.)**
- 2. Christ Came into this world to enlighten mankind of the truth of God. (John 14:6.)**
- 3. Christ came into this world to reveal the will of God. (Matthew 26:39.)**
- 4. Christ came to reveal the plan of God. (Matthew 24:1-31.)**
- 5. Christ came into the world to declare the righteousness of God. (Matthew 6:33.)**
- 6. Christ came into this world to fulfill prophecy. (Revelation 1:10-19.)**
- 7. Christ came into this world to save sinners. (Matthew 18:11.)**
- 8. Christ came into this world to manifest His incarnation. (Galatians 4:4-5; (Hebrews 4:15.)**
- 9. Christ came into this world to make possible a new birth through God the Holy Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29; John 3:5-7.)**
- 10. Christ came into this world to establish "Kingdom Teachings". (Matthew 12:28; 13:11-52.)**
- 11. Christ came into this world to reveal the righteousness of God. (Matthew 6:33; John 16:8-10.)**
- 12. Christ came into this world to defeat the works of Satan. (Matthew 4:1-10.)**
- 13. Christ came into this world to manifest God's love. (John 3:16-17.)**

14. **Christ came into this world to proclaim the Grace of God. (Romans 5:20.)**
15. **Christ came into this world to Establish the Word of God. (Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:12.)**
16. **Christ came into this world to reclaim the ownership of the world. (Revelation 10:1-11; John 5:22,28,29; Matthew 4:1-11.)**
17. **Christ came into this world to judge the world of sin, righteousness and judgement. (John 16:7-11.)**
18. **Christ's earthly ministry was in preparation for the Millennial kingdom. (Matthew 5:1-7:6; Luke 6:20-49.)**
19. **Christ came into this world to show His subjection to God the Father.**

Conclusion

As the ungodly of this world, bi-pass the teaching of the Bible, seeking for some other solution as to where life came from, they think that they are enlightening their minds, but on the contrary they are walking blindly, being deceived by Satan. They reject God as the source of all life and seek to establish their theories of how life began. The Bible reminds us *"The Way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."* Proverbs 12:15. *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they were altogether become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* Psalm 14:1-3.

(Psalm 53:1-3.) This is a terrible indictment against all human beings of all time. Yes, in our natural being, we are all condemned as totally depraved, in comparison to the requirements of God. That is why the Eternal Son of God had to come and provide redemption for all who would believe. The barrier of sin had to be removed by God himself for nothing or none other but God himself could enlighten the poor lost sinner. *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of*

the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (That is to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (That is to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” Romans 10:4-11.

As we conclude this study on John chapter nine, may we be aware of the wiles of the devil, who attempts to keep us in darkness. He is powerful and we cannot fight this battle alone, but we need the constant and continual help from God the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. God has provided us with the Divine Spark, within us and we must be led by the Holy Spirit, who alone can defeat the power of Satan as we confront him in our every day life. God the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to establish us and building us up in the most holy faith. He is our seal and security, regardless of the circumstance which we face. ***“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7.*** It matters to God concerning you, therefore He has made every provision for our safety for time and eternity. ***“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:7-8.***

Our Christian life must be filled with Christ like life, to be well pleasing in the sight of God. As long as we are in this present life, we will never arrive to perfection. In this world, we as Christians, will always have trials and difficulties, but praise God we have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit to not only be our comfort, but also to be our protection against the world, the flesh and the devil. God has provided us with the whole armor of God, to fight the good fight of faith, overcoming all evil forces which confront us. (Ephesians 6:10-18.) May we always remember that we are children of light and are meant to let that light shine before men that they may glorify the Lord. We are to live, with every activity in and through our lives, exalting the Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of God.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER NINE.

- 1. What lessons do we learn from the man born blind?**
- 2. What was the importance of the Sabbath day for the Jews?**
- 3. Explain John 9:7.**
- 4. Why did the Pharisees condemn Jesus for healing the blind man on the Sabbath?**
- 5. How did God use the blind man as a great witness then, and for the many years that followed?**
- 6. Explain John 10:35-38.**
- 7. Give as many reasons why Christ came into this world and quote the Scriptures as well.**
- 8. Give Scriptures that reveals that the blind man became a believer.**
- 9. Write an essay on “The Total Depravity of All Mankind”. (Psalm 14:1-3.)**
- 10. Explain John 10:41.**
- 11. Where do we find the source of all light and life? Give Scripture.**

CHAPTER TEN

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-42

The disciples and the people of Jerusalem were familiar with the duties of a shepherd, and so the Lord uses this example to explain the security that the sheep have by the presence of the owner of the sheepfold in contrast to one who is hired. As we study this all important chapter may we be aware of the Lord as not only the great shepherd, but also the good shepherd. We start off with a warning from the Lord as to false shepherds of the sheep who are thieves and robbers. Beware of such who enter the ministry for their own benefits rather than for the furthering of the Gospel. May each of us examine our reasons for entering the ministry of the Lord. Is it for personal prestige, or personal gain? Has God called you into this marvelous ministry, or are you one who is but an hireling, climbing into the fold “some other way”? I am sorry to say, that there are many in the ministry who become Satan's tools, desiring to rule over others, as lords and dictators. Some will even quote the Scripture to prove their “self appointed” position. ***“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*** Hebrews 13:17. This verse does not teach the dictatorial rights of the minister, but rather the great responsibility that they have over the sheep of the flock. You have to drive goats, but sheep must be led! Those that have the authority in the church must give an account before the Great Shepherd of the sheep. This rule is to be practiced with joy, manifesting the fruit of God the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.) A hireling will be a ruthless ruler with the desire of personal gain and dominion over others. The “Under Shepherd” of the flock will manifest “Divine Love”, knowing that he will have to answer to Almighty God, concerning his care over the sheep of the Lord.

The Shepherd Leads His Flock.

John 10:3-5.

The Governments of this present world system do not recognize its subjects by name but rather an identification number, but God gives each one of his sheep a particular name. ***“The sheep hear His voice : and he calleth His own sheep by name and leadeth them out.”*** John 10:3b. We serve the true and living God and he knows our every need, better than we ourselves do! Within the fold of the

Almighty God we are fully protected, and He never will leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5.) What more can we ask for? ***“And when He putteth forth His own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice.”*** John 10:4. These sayings were hard for the disciples to understand, but after the day of Pentecost all these precious truths became alive, and God the Holy Spirit had John relate them to all of us.

Christ is the Door to Heaven.

John 10:7-18.

Now we enter into another aspect of heavenly truth, concerning God's wonderful provision over us. We may classify it in the following categories.

1. **The Good Shepherd Lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11; Matthew 27:26; Luke 23:33; John 19:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2.)**
2. **Christ, is also the door through which salvation is granted. (John 10:9.)**
3. **Christ the Great Shepherd, the resurrection and the life. (Hebrews 13:20; Psalm 23; John 11:25-26.)**
4. **Christ the Chief Shepherd who will Rapture the saints to the Mansions on high, and come again to establish His kingdom. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1:10; 3:13; Revelation 19:11-21.)**
5. **Christ, under the command of God the Father, has all power. (John 10:17-18.)**
6. **Christ the Eternal Son of God has authority to gather and unify all His sheep- “World Wide”. (John 10:15-16.)**
7. **Jesus Christ asserts His Deity, and eternal salvation for his sheep. (John 10:25-30; 14:9; 20:28-30; John 3:16.)**

May we also realize that we are as sheep in need of the Good Shepherd, and in need of constant care by our Great Shepherd. ***“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep,***

through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21.

The Son of God Comes as the Messiah.

John 10:32-42.

As we conclude this another important chapter, depicting Jesus Christ as the Great Shepherd of the sheep, may we understand the loving care that our heavenly Father has over the sheep of his coming kingdom. Without a shadow of doubt, Jesus declared himself as the Eternal Son of God, coming down from his eternal glory with the Father. God the Father sent forth His Son to save us as being dead in trespasses and sins. God the Father was not condemning us, but rather constraining us to accept His provision and redemption through his Son, in whom he is well pleased. ***“The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name 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.” Psalm 23:1-6.***

Many of you who are studying the sheep and the shepherd have sheep and goats and know the difference between the two. A sheep is completely dependant upon the shepherd for everything. Even though we are believers, we must realize that we can easily go astray and that is why God the Father hath laid upon His Son, the iniquity of the whole world. ***“ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows: and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God , and afflicted. 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. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgement: and who***

shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.” Isaiah 53:3-11.

Christ Again Declares His Deity.

John 10:22-39; John 14:9; 20:28-29.

The Lord Jesus Christ was constantly being attacked by the self righteous religious leaders. They saw all of these marvelous miracles which Christ did, but they believed not. Christ plainly told them that they were not of his sheep and this made them very angry. When Christ said that he and God the Father were one, (John 10:30) they wanted to stone him. This should have convinced them that he did declare himself as the Messiah. Note what the Lord said, *“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I Am the Son of God? If I do not the work of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.”* John 10:36-38. This again cause those self righteous religious leaders to try and take him, but Christ disappeared from their midst. The fact that Christ could escape from them should have convinced them that Jesus is the Messiah.

The conclusion of this wonderful chapter leaves us with the thrilling fact that many believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. For you who are studying this marvelous Book of the Gospel of John, may there be no doubt whatsoever in your minds about Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God. Once you become a sheep of the Good Shepherd, you never become anything else but a sheep of his flock. You become secure in the hand of God the Father and God the Son and sealed eternally by God the Holy Spirit. *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* John 3:36.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TEN.

- 1. What are some of the characteristics of a hireling within the sheep fold?**
- 2. How do sheep differ from goats?**
- 3. How are God's sheep known?**
- 4. Who are the thieves and robbers who come before the Lord?**
- 5. How do we get to be in the sheep fold as sheep of God?**
- 6. How do you hear the voice of the shepherd when you become a sheep of his fold?**
- 7. How long is "Abundant Life" which the Lord gives to his sheep?**
- 8. Who are these "Other Sheep" which the Lord mentioned? (John 10:16.)**
- 9. Give some evidence that Jesus is the Messiah sent forth from God the Father. (Scripture please.)**
- 10. Write an essay on the prophecy from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53: 3-11.**
- 11. Explain the differences of Good Shepherd; Great Shepherd and Chief Shepherd.**

CHAPTER ELEVEN

CHRIST THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE.

John 11:1-57.

The Lord times his teaching according to circumstances and we have the raising of Lazarus as the ideal time to teach on the resurrection and the life. Lazarus was well known and deeply loved by Christ. This miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus in this present life, serves the purpose of the coming resurrection and the life of eternity. The Lord, when he first heard of the sickness of Lazarus, could have gone immediately and healed him. In fact, it was not necessary for one of the sister's of Lazarus to send news to Jesus, that Lazarus was dead, for being very God he always is Omniscient. Jesus purposely tarried until Lazarus died, so that he could demonstrate his omnipotence and giver of life.

The Sleep of Death.

As Christ spoke to his disciples about entering Judea again, after being threatened by the Jews, they were fearful for the Lord, not realizing that he could say the word and all of his adversaries would be destroyed. His answer was very significant. *“Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.”* John 11:9-10. What is the importance of such a statement? The Lord was pointing out that if a man does not have light within his very soul, he cannot know the will of God nor the way of the Lord. It is the Lord who has the source of light and life and in him is no darkness whatsoever, whether it be day or night. Lazarus was dead, but to those who have the light of God's Word, as with Lazarus, they are alive within their souls, though, at death, the body merely sleeps. *“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.”* 2 Corinthians 5:6-9. Our light is from within, having God the Holy Spirit dwelling in us forever!

As far as Christ the Creator of all things , was concerned, Lazarus was asleep, awaiting to be awakened by the Lord himself. This gives us a great insight to the mighty power of our Redeemer, which no religion in this whole world can

claim for their leader. God's Eternal Son, our Savior, Lord and Master, ever lives!. It should have convinced the disciples of the mighty power of the Son of God, but they feared the rulers of Israel, with their intent to kill Jesus. We often think of doubting Thomas, but listen to what he had to say. ***“Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.” John 11:16.*** This became an act of faith, willing to die with the Lord as the rulers of the temple sought to slay Jesus. Here again was the perfect timing of Jesus, waiting four days before he went to Bethany. There was no doubt whatsoever that Lazarus was dead and should have become corrupt of body. No one could say that Lazarus was in a coma, but the evidence was as Christ said, ***“Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I Am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.” John 11:14-15.*** I am sure that the disciples were amazed at the Lord, as he waited those four days. For now it was too late to heal him of his sickness. But God, had another lesson for the disciples to learn, ***“I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his Word do I hope.” Psalm 130:5.*** There will be many difficult situations come across our paths, to make us anxious, as Christians, but we must learn to wait upon the Lord who will sustain us and be our ever present help. ***“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7.*** As the disciples went to Bethany with the Lord, they went in fear and bewilderment as to the results of this visit. There was a great gathering of mourners who came to comfort Mary and Martha, concerning their brother. This was an ideal moment for the mighty power of God to be manifested. This miracle that was about to take place by the Eternal Son of God, was but another extraordinary evidence of God's command and control over all things. Martha the sister of Lazarus manifested tremendous faith when she said, ***“Then said Martha unto Jesus, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.” John 11:21-22.*** Martha and the great gathering were about to see the Lord, being very God, cause life to return into that dead body. Jesus reminded Martha that Lazarus would rise again. But Martha was thinking of the final resurrection, at the last days.

Christ the Resurrection and the Life.

All theories from man made religions cannot cope with this following statement from the Son of God. ***“Jesus said unto her, I Am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And***

whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" John 11:25-26. This was a hard question for Martha to answer, but she made that great statement declaring Christ to be the Son of God. ***"She saith unto Him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."*** John 11:27. There is no question about it that all evidence points to the Lord Jesus Christ, being the Eternal Son of God. The Lord then called for Mary to come, and she came quickly and rest assured, she was comforted by the Lord, in her sorrow. With Mary and others weeping in the grief of the loss of Lazarus, it caused the Creator of all things to weep with them. This is an outstanding expression of love manifested by the Son of God for Martha and Mary. The throng of people thought everything was lost, for who can bring to life a corps that has already decayed?

We have dealt partially with the issue of Resurrection in John chapter 5, concerning the two future resurrections. ***"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of Man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*** John 5:25-29. Regardless of what these liberal religious false leaders say about a general resurrection, we have God's Word that there will be two resurrections. ***"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*** Revelation 20:6. The first resurrection will take place when the Rapture of the saints occurs, and the second resurrection will take place when the Lord Jesus Christ calls forth all of the ungodly of all ages. Why? They must all stand and bow their knee before the Lord at The Great White Throne. (Revelation 20:11-15; Philippians 2:9-11.)

Lazarus, Come Forth!

Jesus went to the grave and commanded them to take away the stone from the tomb. Martha being the older of the two sisters could not understand why the Lord would want the stone removed from the tomb of her dead brother, there was no doubt in her mind that Lazarus had been dead for four days, and it had decayed. It was then that Christ had to remind her, ***"Jesus said unto her, Said I not unto***

thee, that, If thou wouldst believe , thou shouldst see the glory of God?" John 11:40. After they took away the stone from the tomb, there must have been a great hush come over all of those present. Those present were about to behold the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, who declared himself as the resurrection and the life. It would not have been necessary to have the by standers roll away the stone, but it was another indication of the Lord testing their faith.

Lazarus Raised from the Dead.

The Lord now turns directly to God the Father with thanksgiving and prayer, not because of any need that he had, but for the people to hear him talking directly with the Father. His purpose in this was for the people to realize that God the Father hath sent him into this world. ***"And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father I thank thee that thou has heard me. And I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." John 11:41b-42.*** Now the Lord had the attention of the crowd, waiting to see what would happen. Then he cried with a loud voice, calling forth ***"Lazarus come forth."*** Christ could have called forth all the dead if he had so wished, and that is why he called Lazarus by name, otherwise others could have come forth as well.

Lazarus did come forth with all of his grave clothes, including the napkin over his face. That must have been a glorious sight to behold, as Lazarus came forth through the air completely bound. This was real and the Lord had those standing by to unravel the grave clothes, so that he could walk freely. You would have thought that all who saw such a miracle would believe that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God, but some went and reported this to the Pharisees, (John 11:46.) There was division among the religious leaders, some were jealous of his popularity through this great miracle. Caiaphas the high priest spoke up and assured them that Jesus would die for the people and this would be a safe guard for all the people. This was the turning point among the religious leaders as they took counsel to put him to death. (John 11:49-53.) As the Lord's hour was approaching to be crucified, he no longer walked freely in Jerusalem and Bethany but secluded himself in Ephraim with his disciples. No doubt these pharisees were waiting for Christ to come to Jerusalem so that they could bring him to counsel. Their scheme was well known to the Lord, being omniscient, knowing all things. God's plans never have to be changed, or altered, for he knows the end from the beginning. Nothing is hidden from our Almighty God. It is glorious to know that you and I are part of God's eternal plans.

Preparation for Christ's burial.

John 12:1-11.

There were so many of the Jews leaving the temple worship and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ because of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, that the religious rulers were making plans to kill Lazarus as well. (John 12:10-11.) No man could take the life of the Lord Jesus Christ before the time allotted by God the Father. Therefore, Christ returned to Bethany to be with Lazarus and his sisters. During those days when an important person died, they were anointed with very costly ointment. When Jesus came to feast with them, Mary went and poured the bottle of spikenard ointment over the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. Judas Iscariot who was a lover of money could not stand to see this "so-called" waste. He was not interested in the poor, but would have liked to have had that money in his purse. (John 12:4-6.) The Lord called him a thief. This is amazing that the disciples did not understand the Lord calling Judas a thief, at that present time. But they only realized the wickedness of Judas, when Christ was betrayed with a kiss. (Luke 22:47-48.) The act of Mary, pouring this costly ointment on Jesus feet, was in preparation for the crucifixion. The Lord himself reveals that he would die and be buried. ***"Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you, but me ye have not always."*** John 12:7-8.

Conclusion

As we bring to a close this portion of the Book of John, may I conclude by reminding all of us that Christ alone is the resurrection and the life and apart from him there is no hope in this world or the life to come. The unpardonable sin in our day is the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. There is no other name given in heaven or earth in which we can trust for the redemption of our souls. Religions of this world point to their leader who is buried, we declare to the world that we have the only Savior who died, was buried, and rose the third day, victory over sin, death and hell. ***"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*** Romans 10:13. ***"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*** Romans 10:17.

Faith is the Victory In Christ Jesus.

All the religions in this world, point to a grave or tomb, where their religious heroes lay buried. But as Christians, we point to an empty tomb, for our Savior has defeated the power of death, being raised from the dead. Christ is our

assurance that we too shall rise from the grave, or to be “Caught Up” alive to meet him in the air, when the Rapture takes place. ***“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when, this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, (Isaiah 25:8.) 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 in the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*** 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

Jesus Sentenced to Death Without a Trial.

John 11:47-57.

The raising of Lazarus from the grave had caused quite a fame throughout the middle East and many believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The religious council was losing its authority through the mighty miracles that Jesus performed. Here are their reasons they wanted to slay Jesus.

- 1. Jesus was becoming very popular. (vs..48a.)**
- 2. The Roman Government will take away their place and nation. (Vs..48b.) They were already subject to Rome.**
- 3. In order that we perish not, Jesus must die. (Vs..49-53.)**

This last statement came from Caiaphas, being their high priest, which made a tremendous prophetic statement, that Jesus would gather together believers from all over the world. They were unaware as to the power of that statement. This was all known to the Lord who is omniscient, and his hour of sacrifice could not take place until the fulness of time. Many Jews looked for Jesus during the Passover ceremony. Please note that before the Passover feast, those faithful Jews sought cleansing and purification so

that they may partake of it with blessings from God. So, we also as we gather around the communion table, in remembrance of the Lord's death and resurrection, may we too seek a cleansing from God, becoming fit for the Master's use. (1 John 1:7-9.)

It is true that we are saved by the Grace of God, but this does not give us liberty to sin. God is using the honor system in our lives to test us, as to our being faithful to the Lord and his commandments. ***“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”***

Ephesians 4:7. As National Christian leaders you have a great responsibility to remain faithful to the Lord who has called you out of dark heathenism into this marvelous light. As you become established in the Word of God, so it is your duty to relate this to others. ***“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”***

Ephesians 4:11-16.

We have been given that great commission as Ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God the Father sent the Eternal Son of God into this world to provide the Gospel, so we have been sent by the Lord to share the Gospel. As National Christian leaders, you have a great responsibility as well as a great honor to share the grace of God with your fellow man. May each of you be well established in the Word of God, as you impart a living hope with precious souls!

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ELEVEN.

- 1. Why is this chapter so important to us? Give your personal reasons.**
- 2. Why were the disciples afraid to return to Judea and Jerusalem?**
- 3. Explain John 11:9-10.**
- 4. What was Jesus' purpose in going to Bethany?**
- 5. How did Christ know that Lazarus was dead?**
- 6. When one dies what part of one sleeps in death and what part is still alive?**
- 7. Give your comments on 2 Corinthians 5:6-9.**
- 8. Write an essay on, "Waiting For the Lord". (Psalm 130:5.)**
- 9. Does the Triune God possess life or is the source of all life? Scripture please.**
- 10. Explain John 11:40.**
- 11. Why was it necessary to call Lazarus by name when he came forth from the tomb?**
- 12. What is the purpose of your high calling in Christ Jesus?**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ELEVEN CONTINUED.

- 13. By what power did Lazarus come forth from the grave if his feet were bound and his eyes covered with a napkin?**
- 14. What is significant about Mary anointing the feet of Jesus?**
- 15. What is the unpardonable sin of today?**
- 16. What were some of the reasons why the religious leaders wanted to kill both Jesus and Lazarus?**
- 17. Write a brief essay on John 11:49-53.**
- 18. Why was Jesus aware of what these religious leaders were planning to do?**
- 19. Explain 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. In the light of the two resurrections which will take place in the latter days.**
- 20. When do the saints of God of all ages get their glorified bodies?**
- 21. When will the ungodly and unbelievers stand before the judgement of God and confess that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God? Give Scriptures. What is their final judgement?**

CHAPTER TWELVE

CHRIST THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. John 12:12-50.

Each chapter of the Gospel of John has a particular emphasis on the character of Christ as the Eternal Son of God. The fulfillment within this chapter of the prophecy in Ezekiel 44:1-3; is outstanding. We shall deal with this in our study of Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. In view of Jesus being rejected as the Messiah, and the kingdom to be set up according to God's plan, this chapter is very important in our Christian studies of the Bible. Regardless of what the religious rulers decided, God had prepared for the mystery age of the church as well as the setting up of the millennial kingdom. Since God knows the end from the beginning and every choice that man makes, he knows in advance and never has to change his eternal plans.

That Final Supper at Bethany.

John 12:1-11.

This supper with Mary, Martha and Lazarus preceded the Triumphant entry into Jerusalem through the Golden Gate, by the King of kings and Lord of lords. The final hour of the crucifixion was near at hand and the farewells were manifested by the Lord, the Lamb of God that takes away the penalty of total sin. . Unknown to Mary as she poured that precious spikenard ointment upon Jesus Feet, that it was in preparation for the burial of the Incarnate Christ. It was Mary's way of thanking the Lord for the great love that he had for their family and friends. The news of the raising of Lazarus was spread far and wide and many were there to behold this marvelous miracle. Because of this terrific testimony that Lazarus was before the whole nation Israel, these religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus. A man may be very religious apart from Christ, but we must always remember; *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”* Jeremiah 17:9-10. These wicked leaders were so jealous of Jesus that they were ready not only to murder Jesus but also Lazarus. They could have started a great revival among the Jews, but their selfish desires took control of their lives. May this be a warning to all of us! When another brother in the Lord is doing a great ministry of fruit bearing, apart from you, praise God for the

furthering of the Gospel. May we remind ourselves, *:I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*” 1 Corinthians 3:6-8.

The Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem.

John 12:12-19.

(Matthew 21:4-9; Mark 11:7-10; Luke 19:35-38.)

God chose the feast days for this all important event of entering into Jerusalem via the golden gate. The multitude of Jews which were scattered were now gathered, and would behold this glorious event. Why was it so important? Because it was predicted in the Bible and was necessary to herald both the Messiah, and preparations for the kingdom of righteousness. When the Messiah comes to judge the world and fight that great battle of Armageddon, he will be coming with all of the saints, directly from heaven and will not be coming through the golden gate of Jerusalem. That gate is at present shut because the Lord of glory has entered through it, as prophesied that it would happen. In the vision which Ezekiel saw surrounding the temple and the gates of Jerusalem, it had direct bearing on this very event. *“Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with His glory.”* Ezekiel 43:1-2. *Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the Lord unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut.”* Ezekiel 44:1-2.

This prophecy of the golden gate which was given to Ezekiel was not fully understood by him, but God used him to write it for our admonition, establishing us in the prophetic words of the Bible, as given by God the Holy Spirit. Matthew, Mark and Luke give us that special account of that prepared colt, which has never been ridden, which was brought to Jesus, who peacefully rode it into Jerusalem through the golden gate. It was John's account, written after Pentecost that this great event was understood and prophesied by Ezekiel. *“These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto*

him.” John 12:16. It was a triumphant entry into Jerusalem with such great enthusiasm that the Pharisees were troubled and jealous that they said, **“Behold, the world is gone after him.” John 12:19b.**

To those who travel to Jerusalem and see the golden gate entirely shut and sealed over completely, witness the marvelous fulfillment of this prophecy. The rulers of Jerusalem did not close that gate because they wanted to fulfill prophecy, but they had other reasons for doing so. But God, who is omnipotent, had this gate shut because His Eternal Son had entered through that gate! The next entry of the Son of God, will be from the heavens! That event is recorded in Revelation 19:11-20:6. You and I as believers will come with him in great glory as we behold that great battle to be fought and the Kingdom of righteousness to be established. Those that witnessed the raising of Lazarus, had another evidence of Jesus being the Messiah, who had come down from God. (John 12:17-18.)

Service to the Lord.

May each of us be aware that the present time is to be in the service of the soon coming king from the heavenlies. **“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7.** Our purpose as Christians is not to be looking for pleasures in this world, but be willing to lay down our lives for the glory of God. **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I Am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. John 12:24-26.** What a glorious expression from the Eternal Son of God! To hear the voice of God the Father at that judgement seat of Christ, should honor our efforts during our lifetime, and will be reward enough for me. Don't be an hireling by the will of men, but rather a called one by the will of God. **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercy of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, accept-able unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 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 12:1-3.**

The Glorification of the Lord.

John 12:20-50.

The fame of the Lord was spreading abroad and the Gospel was reaching to the Gentiles. Certain Greeks wanted to see Jesus and spoke to Philip who talked with Andrew and both of the disciples told Jesus. It was then that Christ called himself "The Son of Man", which refers to his incarnation. I repeat that all important Scripture. *"And Jesus answered them saying, The hour is come, that the Son of Man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."* John 12:23-26. This is that personal cross that we as Christians must be willing to take and follow the Lord, not being conformed to this world system.

The World has been condemned and Judged.

John 12:27-36.

The conversation which follows in these next few verses, was for the benefit of those both for his immediate disciples and also for all believers, including you and me, as we study God's Word. This prayer which Christ offered was prior to that great prayer of the Lord's in John 17, which we will consider later. The Incarnate Son of God knew exactly the torture and death that he was about to face, but he also reminded himself and each of us, *"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."* John 12:27. No matter what the world considers as to the crucifixion, it was all in the plan of God for such a terrible death, in order to remove sin once and forever from God's future creation. God the Father did not need to thunder his voice, as he spoke to his Son from heaven, but it was a mighty voice for the sake of those who heard it and witnessed of it. (John 12:28-30.)

No doubt as God the Father continued to speak unto His Eternal Son, the issue of this world system and the satanic influence was judged. *"Now is the judgement of this world: Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die."* John 12:31-33. Yes, all men will be drawn unto Christ, some to everlasting life and many to everlasting living death.

Who is the Son of Man?

John 12: 34-50.

May I again remind you that this title given to the Eternal Son of God refers to his Incarnation. Christ mentions that he, as the Son of Man would only be in this present world for a little while, bringing the eternal light and life to those who would believe. All who have and will ever be born into this world are considered as “children of darkness”. It is the glorious Gospel message that expels that darkness and brings light and life to our souls. We are told from the Scriptures that many left the Lord in unbelief. (John 12:37-40.) However, many of the religious rulers believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, including Nicodemus. (John 12:43.) They were as secret believers, without a testimony. Many in heathen lands are secret believers for fear of the persecution of their own people. A true believer will stand upon the promises of God, regardless of the circumstances or persecution. ***“Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on Him that sent me. And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”*** John 12:44-50.

As we conclude another wonderful revelation from the Gospel of John, may we personally take heed to these living truths and humbly allow God the Holy Spirit to mold and make us after the will of God the Father. The Eternal Son of God, who is equal in power with God the Father, willingly allowed the will of the Father to be accomplished in and through his submissive will. If the Eternal Son of God, the Creator of all things submitted himself to God the Father, how much more should we constantly say in our life, our prayers and service to the Lord, ***“Let it be according to your will, my Lord and Savior.”*** As the Lord faced that terrible crucifixion, he cried out to the Father. ***“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”*** Luke 22:42.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWELVE.

- 1. What was so wonderful about that last visit that Christ had in Lazarus' home?**
- 2. What was the significance of Mary pouring this expensive ointment upon Jesus feet?**
- 3. Why did the religious leaders want to also kill Lazarus along with Christ?**
- 4. Explain Jeremiah 17:9-10.**
- 5. What should our attitude be toward others who may have a more successful ministry for our Lord?
(1 Corinthians 3:6-8.)**
- 6. What are some of the important issues in the “Triumphant Entry” of the Lord into Jerusalem? (John 12:12-19; Matthew 21:4-9; Mark 11:7-10; Luke 19:35-38.)**
- 7. Explain Ezekiel 43:1-2; and Ezekiel 44:1-2.**
- 8. Explain John 12:16.**
- 9. What can be learned as Jesus rode a colt instead of a trained donkey?**
- 10. Explain 2 Corinthians 4:7.**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWELVE CONTINUED.

- 11. Explain John 12:24-26.**
- 12. What is your aim and desire in being a minister or evangelist for the Lord?**
- 13. How do you consider that Christ was glorified through his death upon the Cross?**
- 14. Explain John 12:27-36.**
- 15. Explain the difference between Christ the Eternal Son of God and Christ as "The Son of Man."**
- 16. Where do we find the condemning and final judgement of this world system? (John 12:44-50.)**
- 17. Why do some believers want to be Christians secretly?**
- 18. What are some of the characteristics of "True Believers" in Christ Jesus?**
- 19. Write a short essay on , "The King is Coming"**
- 20. How can we make ourselves .as Christians, ready to meet the Lord in the air?**

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD BETRAYED.

The timing of God on particular events is beyond all of our comprehension. The Lord knew exactly when He would lay down his life as a ransom for many, being at the time of the last Passover. *“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.”* John 13:1. It is no great problem to set particular times for every situation, because He himself is from the timeless past and knows the timeless future. God is omniscient of every thing that will take place, regardless of circumstances. The Love of the Lord Jesus Christ toward his own was manifested until the very last breath that he breathed upon the Cross. You may also remember that Jesus breathed upon his disciples just before he ascended up to the Father. They were covered and protected from Satan during those days until the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came within them. All things then were committed unto the Father who sent the Holy Spirit to indwell the believers with God the Holy Spirit.

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES FEET.

JOHN 13:2-20.

In those days there was open sewage and each household would have provision for the washing of the feet of their guests, as they entered, because of the filth along the way. The disciples should have provided for this, prior to the feast of the Passover. However, there was no provision made for this. The Lord waited until after the feast to teach them a lesson of humility, by washing their feet. This lesson is also to be learned by you and me, in our service for the Lord. There are some believers who practice feet washing as a sign of humility in their Christian life, because of this example. The one difference is, in the day of Christ it was necessary. Today, as they practice this ceremony, rest assured they make sure that their feet are clean before hand. However, the lesson that we are to learn is set forth by the Lord himself. *“For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”* John 13:15-17. The example which Christ gave to his disciples, and all of us, should have a deep impact upon

each of us. The Lord not only is teaching humility in this example but also obedience to the one who has sent us into the world to preach the Gospel. The Lord Jesus Christ was obedient to the Father, so we should be obedient to both the Lord and God the Father. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”* John 13:20.

The Devil Takes Control of Judas Iscariot.

“And, supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.” John 13:2. God the Holy Spirit was aware of all of this, as the sovereignty of God is always present, nothing being hidden from God. The Lord Jesus Christ also wanted his disciples to know that he too was aware of Judas Iscariot's intentions to betray him. *“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I AM he.”* John 13:18-19. The Lord wanted to make sure to his disciples that the betrayal and the crucifixion was not an error, but was according to the sovereignty and the omniscience of God.

Jesus' Foreknowledge of His Betrayal

John 13:21-30; Matthew 26:20-25;

Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-22.

The disciples became very alarmed as to who among them would betray him. This brought on a clear statement from the Lord. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.”* John 13:21b. The writer of this Gospel who was always very close to Jesus, being the younger of the disciples, asked Jesus just “Who is it”? (John 13:25.) The timing was exact and Judas Iscariot was identified. Immediately Satan took possession of Judas, *“He then having received the sop went immediately out and it was night.”* John 13:30. Yes, it was not only darkness on the outside of Judas, but it was also darkness within Judas Iscariot. Having a greed for money, Judas betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver to those wicked self righteous religious leaders. God in his omniscience knew exactly what would happen through the greed of this one false disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver

Matthew 26:15.

The price of thirty pieces of silver, which was paid to Judas Iscariot was predicted exactly in the Old Testament. (Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 18:1-4; 19:1-3.) The price was declared in prophecy as well as to the Potters field purchased with that amount. (Matthew 27:3-10.) Please also note the change made in Judas' life, but all too late. *“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood, And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.”* Matthew 27:3-5. These statements which Judas made approached toward salvation, but lack the initial step of accepting Christ as the Son of God and savior of his soul. He not only hung himself but will have to stand before the Great White Throne and be cast forever into the Lake of Fire! Friend it is not enough just to repent and be sorry for your sin, but it is also necessary to take the Lord Jesus Christ personally, as Redeemer, Lord and Master. The thief on the cross did what Judas should have done.

The Glorification of God.

John 13:31-35

We often say, “To God be the glory, great things he has done!” Little do we realize, through that great price that God the Father paid in the crucifixion of his Eternal Son, that an eternal price was paid to deal with “Total Sin” once and forever. God knew that in his perfection and holy character that through creation that there would be the possibility of sin. He could have created everything under his command, giving both the angels and mankind an “Instinct” to only be able to do what God desired. That would make us all as robots and tools in God's hand and control. Any opposition to God would never be dealt with, and the sin question would always be a threat to the Sovereignty of God. The Triune God, in their Omniscience, made a plan to deal with sin, once and forever. That meant that sin would be allowed to run its course and be judged at the Cross. All creation has been placed on an alert, with a freedom of choice of both angels and mankind. Individual decisions have been made among the angels in times past, and now mankind is being separated, by the issue of faith in Christ the Redeemer, or rejection of Christ the unpardonable sin. Total sin was judged at the Cross, and

Satan and his demons have already been judged and their sentence will come according to God's Word. (Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 20:11-15.) The glorification of the Triune God will come to pass when the New Heavens and the New Earth will be created, where sin will never show its ugly head again! That is why the Lord could say, ***“Now is the Son of Man (the Incarnate One) glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God be glorified in him, (And He is) God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.”*** John 13:31b-32.) Since the Lord had God the Father send God the Holy Spirit, making new creatures out of us, we will share with the glory of God forever and ever! What the Eternal Living God has prepared for those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ is beyond anything that we could imagine! There should be no jealousy, envy or strife among us as believers, since God in his great love has made all of this available to those who believe. Having God the Holy Spirit within us, that makes possible the fruit of the Spirit within our daily living. (Galatians 5:22-23;) ***“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”*** Galatians 5:25-26. That is why the Lord pronounces a New Commandment unto all Christians, regardless of race, color, or earthly fame.

Christians - Love One Another

John 13:34-35.

This love which Christ desires that we have, as his followers is not that natural love which can be found in this world, but it is a Divine Love which can only come through God the Holy Spirit. It is the love which is found in God's Word, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. This love is part and parcel of the love of God the Father, who sent Christ to Calvary's Cross. It is the love manifested in Christ that he should die in payment for your sins and mine. ***“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. 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.”*** Ephesians 2:4-9. ***“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall***

see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:1-3. As Christians and especially National Christian leaders, may we seek to give these unseen things the priority in our earthly ministry. For as the Word of God says, *“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but things which are not seen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 3:18* The choice is ours and the loss or gain throughout eternity, according to our faithfulness, will be determined by God.

Peter's Denial and Restoration.

John 13:36-38; Matthew 26:33-35; Mark 14:29-31; Luke 22:33-34.

Matthew 26:69-75; John 18:15-18,25-27;

Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62.

Impetuous Peter was always quick with his decisions, and he did not hesitate to declare Christ the Son of the living God. Upon such a statement the Lord has been building his true church. (Matthew 16:13-19; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21; John 6:68-69.) May this remind each of us not to think too highly of one's self and what the Lord has already done through our lives. *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”.* 1 Corinthians 10:12. A Christian can fall from the grace of God and he can grieve the Holy Spirit until he quenches the power of the Holy Spirit in his life's ministry. Read and take heed to (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19.)

Let us return to Peter and his stand and denial. The Lord reminded his disciples that where he was going they could not go at that particular time. It was Peter who spoke up and said, *“Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. Jesus answered him, wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.” John 13:37-38.* It is true that Peter was ready to protect Christ in the Garden of Gethsemene. (John 18:10-11; Matthew 26:51-52.) The crowing of the cock, as Peter followed the Lord caused Peter to realize what he had done. The final denial that Peter made was with a curse. *“Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.....And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, surely thou also art one of them, for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus,*

*which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly." Matthew 26:69-75. This situation is entirely different from Judas, who was a thief and a liar from the beginning. Peter was a true disciple but weak in the flesh, like all of us, before being born again by God the Holy Spirit. Peter thought all was lost, but let us look what the Word of God says about Peter and the Lord. When the news came that the tomb was empty and Peter and John came and witness the same, Peter was very sad and no doubt thought that the Lord certainly would regard him as an outcast. As the women went to the tomb, and saw this young man sitting within the tomb, and here is what he said to them. "*And he saith to them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."**

Mark 16:6-7. The Lord knew that Peter thought that his discipleship with Jesus Christ was finished, but Peter was specifically named in order that he might realize that Jesus still loved him. Now also note a very special appearance that the Lord had with Peter. Peter went a fishing, thinking all was lost, (John 21:3.) But they caught nothing. "*But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him No."* John 21:4-5. This answer must have been in unison, with discouragement, that any one should ask such a question, for they were unaware who it was that spoke to them. "*And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea."* John 21:6-7. This was a tense moment for Peter and I am sure that he wanted to make things right with the Lord. He then saw the Lord by the fire with food already prepared for them. (John 21:9.) "*Jesus said unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, (Single handed) and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken."* John 21:10-11. Now Peter was willing to listen to the Lord, more than ever before, after denying him three times. The disciples had their morning breakfast all prepared for them by the Lord himself. (John 21:12-14.) This again shows us Christ as the Creator, who didn't have to cast a net into the sea for those fish which he had made ready for his disciples.

The Motive Necessary in Service for the Lord.

John 21:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15;

As we think of the denial of Peter, during the trial, he did this out of fear, not being possessed of the devil as was Judas Iscariot. *“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter , Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (Divine love) thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (like) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith unto him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas lovest (Divine love) thou me? He saith unto him, Yea Lord; thou knowest that I love (like) thee. He saith unto him Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (like) thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love (like) thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”* John 21:15-17. This questioning of Peter by the Lord was in pure Divine love, but the Lord stepped down to the word which Peter kept using. The Lord knew that Peter Divinely loved him and that he would be faithful unto death as the Lord concluded. *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.”* John 21:18-19.

History reveals that Peter was crucified up side down, as he did not want to be crucified as his Lord and Master was. Yes, Peter followed the Lord until the end, with great bravery, not fearing what the ungodly could do to him. God the Holy Spirit used Peter in a great way, through those inspiring messages. Peter not only followed the Lord, but laid down his life for the cause of Christ. The change in the life of Peter took place after the day of Pentecost, when God the Holy Spirit made his abode within the very body of Peter. May each of us take heed to God's wonderful revelation. *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth 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. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; “* 1 Corinthians 3:16-21.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER THIRTEEN.

- 1. Why is it that nothing happens that God does not know about?**
- 2. Why was it necessary for Christ to breathe upon his disciples before the cross?**
- 3. During the earthly ministry of Christ, why was it necessary for the host of the house to appoint servants to wash the guest's feet as they entered the house?**
- 4. What was Jesus' purpose in washing the disciples feet?**
- 5. What is the difference between Judas Iscariot's and Peter's denials?**
- 6. Write briefly on John 13:30.**
- 7. What is the importance of the 30 pieces of silver by which Jesus was betrayed? (Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 18:1-4; 19:1-3; and Matthew 27:3-10.)**
- 8. What did Judas Iscariot lack in his confession?**
- 9. Explain the glorification of God in John 13:31-35.**
- 10. Explain Galatians 5:22-23.**
- 11. In 1 Corinthians 13 what kind of love is referred to?**

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER 13 CONTINUED.

- 12. Why is 1 Corinthians 10:12 so important in our Christian life?**
- 13. What made the difference in Peter's life before and after Pentecost as to his bravery?**
- 14. What is the importance of John 21:4-5; and John 21:6-7?**
- 15. Explain the two words for “love” as mentioned in John 21:15-17.**
- 16. Explain John 21:18-19.**
- 17. Explain 1 Corinthians 3:16-21.**
- 18. What important part does God the Holy Spirit make in the Christian's life?**
- 19. Explain John 13:3.**
- 20. Why do you think that Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?**

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

CHRIST THE COMING ONE.

This chapter 14 is an outstanding chapter as to the pre-tribulation truth of the saints of God, being "Caught Up" out from the wrath to come, as the Word of God clearly reminds us. (1 Thessalonians 1:10.) In this chapter, Christ is seen as the coming one "In the Clouds", before he comes to set up his Millennial kingdom of righteousness in this present world. The Lord Jesus Christ is preparing a place for his future bride in the "Heavenly Mansions" of God the Father. The place being prepared for us will be our "Bridal Chamber" which will be the most gorgeous mansion that we have ever seen. Right now all the saints of God who have gone to glory, are enjoying "Paradise", where the Lord said the believing thief on the cross would be, that very day. (Luke 23:43.) Paul had a glimpse of that present Paradise, (2 Corinthians 12:3-4.) There is no stopping off place like purgatory in the Bible or in existence. The ungodly go to Sheol and the believers go directly to Paradise, in the presence of the Lord. ***"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit, Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:5-10.***

The Existence of Heaven.

The unbelieving world, being blinded by the god of this world system, has no hope other than the present existence, and consider themselves merely of the animal world, or as the grass, or the lily of the field, which are here one day and then gone forever. They have turned their back on the existence of God the Creator and his manifestation of Divine love toward mankind. They cannot understand the Bible, nor do they want to apply the principles found in the Bible, to their way of life. I am often reminded of heathenism which cannot understand "Total Existence" as individuals. The Masai in particular only have hope in eternal existence, through having children to carry on their life. It is often very difficult to explain to them that they will always exist as an individual, either in the presence of God or the living death of the Lake of Fire.

The Comforter Given

The Lord Jesus Christ knew that the disciples as well as the saints down through the ages would need, not only comfort but also protection from the wiles of the devil and the demons. This chapter requires very much study as well as comparing with other Scriptures, to confirm our great expectations in these latter days. We are reminded that it is not enough to believe that there is a God, but to also realize there are three personalities in the Godhead. In God the Father's heavens there are no shortage of beautiful mansions, which are being newly furnished for the saints, by the Creator of heaven and earth. (John 14:1-3.) The Lord has included all believers in those marvelous plans for eternity, where time will never be an issue. The Lord could have planned to send his angels to direct us to our heavenly home, but on the contrary, he is coming in person, as the Bridegroom to bring us into that prepared bridal chamber. Thomas wanted to know more about how we would get to that heavenly abode. ***“Jesus saith unto him, I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me.” John 14:6.*** One day we shall see our Savior face to face, when he returns in the clouds to lead us home, as that Great Shepherd! When we see the Eternal Son of God, he will be exactly like God the Father, which will satisfy our desire to see God the Father, who cannot be seen. Philip wanted to see God the Father. ***“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I AM in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” John 14:9-10.*** This is hard for us to understand, the great inter life that God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have with each other.

Greater Works to Be Done For the Lord.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:12-13. That is certainly a strong statement from the Lord, but we must understand the implications in such a statement. Whatever the Lord has for us to do, it is not who we are, but rather whom we serve. The greater things can only be done in the power of God the Holy Spirit who has been given to us, for not only the new birth, but also that the mighty

Divine power may be manifested in our lives. Until the day of Pentecost there couldn't be a new birth, and the Holy Spirit could not be indwelling each Christian until the Eternal Son of God sent him forth. Listen to what the Lord promised to his disciples and all believers after Pentecost. ***“And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”*** John 14:16-17. This will be an eternal indwelling of God the Holy Spirit in the future bride of Christ. These things were not only recorded for the sake of the disciples, during Christ's earthly ministry, but also for all of the New Testament saints. It was that final peace that the Lord gave to the disciples, before he ascended into the heavenlies. Because of God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we should also manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit, as Christ's witnesses upon this earth. (Galatians 5:22-23.)

The giving of God the Holy Spirit immediately to those who believe and become Christians is a Divine security that will keep us forever in the Lord. We as the future bride of Christ are being prepared for that eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God. That is why we need to have the Lord keep on cleansing us from all sin. As long as we are in these earthly bodies we need to talk to our heavenly Father, confessing our short comings and sins. If you neglect to do this, you will be judged for all your unfaithfulness, before the Judgement seat of Christ. All of the selfish things that you have thought of and done in this life, will be destroyed. (2 Corinthians 5:10.) Yes, you will be saved as by fire, without rewards before his throne. (1 Corinthians 3:13.) God knows your every thought and intention and nothing is hidden from him. Don't neglect to stay in that wonderful fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (1 John 1:7-9.)

The Lord has sent the Comforter to us and that is why we should have perfect peace within our Christian lives. ***“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*** John 14:27. May I ask you, Do you have that peace of God that is greater than anything that this world could offer to you? I do hope that the Lord has granted to you such a peace as well as joy, as you live by faith in the power of God the Holy Spirit. If you are lacking in this satisfaction in your Christian life, as a servant of the Lord, do not wait, but settle that question once and forever immediately. Your ministry will not be blessed without that daily walk in the light of God's Word. (1 John 1:6-10.)

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FOURTEEN.

- 1. What is so important and outstanding in John 14?**
- 2. Where will we meet the Lord when the Rapture takes place?**
- 3. What will our destination be when the Rapture takes place?**
- 4. What does 1 Thessalonians 1:10. Mean to you?**
- 5. What kind of a body will we get when the Rapture takes place?**
- 6. Explain 2 Corinthians 5:5-10.**
- 7. How do you know that heaven exists?**
- 8. Why was the Comforter given to Christians?**
- 9. Why is John 14:6 so important?**
- 10. How is possible that we can do greater things since Pentecost? (John 14:12-13.)**
- 11. How long will God the Holy Spirit dwell within Christians? (John 14:16-17.)**
- 12. When does a believer receive God the Holy Spirit in their life?**
- 13. Do you have God's peace within you?**
- 14. Where will we go when we meet the Lord in the air?**

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

CHRIST THE DIVINE VINE.

Some of the most delicious grapes are raised in the Middle East and this gave Christ the opportunity to present himself as the true vine, giving life to the branches. We are considered as the branches, which bear fruit, through the life which is in the vine. All fruit bearing branches need a constant pruning that the vine may bring forth fruit, rather than branches. So in the Christian life, we must realize what the Word of God has to say. ***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be in God, and not in us.”*** 2 **Corinthians 4:7.** The pruning process is not a pleasant situation, for it leaves a great deal of short branches on the vine. The grape vines are not meant to be beautiful shade trees, but rather fruitful vines. Our eternal life comes from God the Father through God the Son, by the Holy Spirit who provides our new birth. It is just as simple as that! Whether God calls you to become a Pastor, teacher or evangelist, the fruit bearing comes through the Divine vine. These earthen vessels must be under the abiding power and fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To God Be the Glory!

It is so easy for Pastors, Evangelists and teachers of God's Word, to fall into that “Self Glory” attitude, which is not of the will of God but the deceit of Satan. We all are given a variety of gifts and we are not all alike. We must faithfully Study carefully 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 14. It is by the grace of God that we are what we are under the leading of God the Holy Spirit. In the Book of James, we are reminded, ***“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:”*** James 1:5-9.

It is very easy for one to glorify themselves in the work of the Lord, but may it not be so in your life and my life as we serve the Lord. “To God be the glory, Great things He keeps on doing”! ***“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*** John 15:7-8. There are many false prophets and teachers and preachers gone forth into this world, as tools of Satan. The Lord has warned us of this, - ***“Beware of false***

prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.” Matthew 7:15-18. When each of us were born into mankind, we were “Totally Depraved”, having received the sin nature through Adam and Eve, in the garden of Eden. The fruit of our life as a natural man is corrupt and wicked. Through the new birth, by God the Holy Spirit, we are grafted into the life of Christ, who becomes our source of Divine life, making possible good fruit for eternity. This also enables us to recognize these false teachers with spiritual discernment. (1 John 4:1-3.)

As we continue the study of this chapter, we find the necessity of being grafted within the “Divine Vine of God”, so that we can also produce “Divine Love”. This requires the New Birth” by God the Holy Spirit. This kind of love cannot be manufactured by the individual, apart from God the Holy Spirit. This love is the results and fruit of God the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.) Through our act of faith, we have been chosen in the Beloved and have been “Set Apart” by the Lord to bring forth “Eternal Fruit.” *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.” John 15:16-17.* From this we gather the necessity of abiding in Christ as essential in the Christian life.

Separation From Worldliness.

During Christ's earthly ministry, the self righteous religious leaders hated Christ because, in his omniscience, he saw their wicked deeds. The wicked world does not like the faithful Christians who follow the Lord. We are reminded from the Scriptures, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 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 12:2-3.* The world hated Christ the Creator of heaven and earth, without a cause. So also, we as Christians, will be hated, because of Christ. We are God's ambassadors, sent forth with the message of salvation to a lost and dying world. We are to take up our cross and follow the Lord, bearing much fruit for His glory.

The Triune God - The Hope of Glory.

John 15:26-27.

These two Scripture verses relate to us a tremendous truth as to the Triune God. Each of the three personalities are involved in "So Great Salvation. It is fitting that we have such a clear indication of the God whom we serve. It was God the Father who planned to remove sin forever, it was Christ who provide the sacrifice for the removal of sin, and it was God the Holy Spirit who proved salvation in our lives, sealing us with himself for eternity. The Comforter did come on the day of Pentecost , bringing new life to all who believe. ***"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."*** **John 15:26-27.** This is very significant and concise, with the total Triune God, having a part in dealing with "Total Sin" once and forever!

Conclusion

As we draw to a close this another brief teaching from the Word of God, may we be mindful of the importance of depending upon the life in the True Vine in order to bear good fruit to the glory and praise of God. We can do nothing in ourselves apart from the Divine power, regardless of all of our accomplishments for the Lord. The disciples have testified to these marvelous truths and by the power of the Holy Spirit have written as they were led. ***"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*** 1 John 1:1-7.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FIFTEEN.

- 1. As Christians, what important truth do we learn from this chapter as to the True Vine and the branches.**
- 2. Why is purging and pruning necessary in fruit bearing?**
- 3. How does one become a branch of this True Vine of God?**
- 4. Explain 2 Corinthians 4:7.**
- 5. What precautions must Christians take in order to bear fruit for God?**
- 6. Where is our main source of spiritual wisdom as National Christian leaders? (James 1:5-8.)**
- 7. Explain John 15:7-8; and 15:16-17..**
- 8. How does a Christian detect false teachers? (Matthew 7:15-18.**
- 9. How is this “Divine Love” obtained?**
- 10. Why is it necessary for us as Christians to be separated from worldliness?**
- 11. Give the importance of John 15:26-27.**
- 12. Name the important witnesses that we have in Christianity.**

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE HOLY SPIRIT SENT FORTH.

As we have dealt with God the Holy Spirit in Chapter 14, and 15, so we have a continuation of the study of the Holy Spirit in this chapter. The writing of the Gospel of John came after Pentecost and could be better understood as to the new birth and the working of God the Holy Spirit. During Christ's earthly ministry, he could not teach much on God the Holy Spirit, but did give the disciples an understanding that he was going to have the Father send God the Holy Spirit to them. This was not understood by them, until after the day of Pentecost. That is why John could write these things, because his writings followed the day of Pentecost. The Lord also prepared the disciples that the synagogues and temples would be no longer their meeting places. (John 16:2.) While Christ was with his disciples, he became their complete protection. (John 16:4.) The disciples did not understand why the Lord was about to leave them, and send God the Holy Spirit to them. The work of the Holy Spirit was to begin a new era in this world, indwelling Christians, through the new birth and giving them a special protection against the demonic world.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7-15.

Although the disciples heard all of these new principles, they were still thinking in terms of the kingdom age and deliverance from Rome. When the day of Pentecost took place there was a division as to the working of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Work of the Holy Spirit toward the world.

a. The sin Question.

This became a new era for the Holy Spirit, who was given the work of authority to reveal the sin of the world because they did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Redeemer.

b. The Righteousness of God.

The Eternal Son of God had declared the righteousness which God the Father requires to be accepted. Man could not keep all ten commandments for that was part of the ministry of the Son. Christ came to fulfill the law for those who would believe. We are reminded from the Scriptures, ***“But we all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like a wind, have taken us away.”*** Isaiah 64:6.

c. The Judgements to Come.

Since Christ has paid the debt of "Total Sin" upon the Cross of Calvary, and the evil forces have received their total condemnation, God the Holy Spirit has come to claim his own through the new birth and will deliver them from the judgements to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10.)

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit for the Believers.

a. They are led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (Romans 8:14.)

The Lord prepared the disciples for this great out pouring of the Holy Spirit and reminded them that he would lead them and guide them into this new life as members of the body of Christ. (John 16:13.) We are also reminded from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit teach us the eternal Word of God. (John 16:13.)

b. The Holy Spirit gives special gifts for the ministry.

We are given the Holy Spirit to witness throughout this world, having been given that great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20.) Some of God's witnesses need certain special gifts and these are provided by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:11.)

C. The Holy Spirit Prays for the Believers.

This is a very important working of the Holy Spirit toward the Believers, for often we ourselves do not know how to pray, not always knowing the circumstances. (Romans 8:26.)

d. The Holy Spirit provides Power and protection from the Evil Forces.

If it were not for God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we would be easy prey for the demonic world. Praise God, *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* 1 John 4:4. We have much to thank God for as Christians, and witchcraft, black magic and the devil himself have no power over our lives, because of the indwelling of the Spirit of God.

e. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

God the Holy Spirit is called "Comforter" by the Lord himself, and certainly, as we pass through trials and tribulations, we can depend upon

him to comfort us. However, may I remind you that we must keep on being filled by him who needs full control in our lives. We must not grieve him, for this will bring the quenching of his power in one's Christian life upon this earth. (Ephesians 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19.)

f. The Holy Spirit brings convictions of sins.

As the world is convicted of their sins, through the Holy Spirit, so carnal Christians are convicted of their short comings. This is an indication that God the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We must always remember that we are not our own but have been bought with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23.)

The Lord Foretells of His Sacrificial Death and Resurrection.

John 16:16-33.

Have you noticed that John is the only one recording many of these prophetic sayings of Christ? The reason is, that these things were recalled to John by the Holy Spirit after Pentecost. The disciples had great expectations that Christ would restore the kingdom to Israel, as we have recorded in Acts 1:6. They did not realize some of the deep sayings of Christ until the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. It puzzled the disciples when the Lord said "*A little while*" (John 16:16-19. This time element referred to the crucifixion and the resurrection. The reason why the Lord spoke these things before the death and resurrection was to bring peace unto the disciples. It was for this purpose that Christ came into this world and it was not an accident in any way. When the disciples were scattered, it certainly looked like all was lost, except, they were warned that they would be scattered, bringing to pass what the Lord had said. "*Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I AM not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" John 16:32-33.

Conclusion

Again we have seen the wonder working power of God in the sending of God the Holy Spirit to sustain Christians down through the centuries. As we have seen the fulfillment of many of these truths, so we can be assured of every truth

that was spoken would come to pass. God is in no hurry and will bring to pass what he has spoken, "On Time"! We are drawing to the end of another 2,000 year period, and although we do not set dates as to the Rapture of the saints, we know, according to the signs that the coming of the Lord in the clouds is not too far away. The Holy Spirit is here with us and will remain within us throughout eternity to come. We can only say, "Marvelous Grace of our Loving Lord"! That trumpet will sound and all the saints of all ages will come forth in their glorified bodies. We who will be alive and remain shall have a change made into the likeness of the Lord, with a new glorified body, to meet the Lord in the air. May we as Christians rejoice in the Lord and be ready to meet the Lord in the air! We will be delivered out from the wrath to come, by the grace of God.

(1 Thessalonians 1:10.)

There will be seven wonderful years in the Father's mansions, where all comfort and beauty will be enjoyed as all the saints fellowship together with the Lord. Paul the Apostle could verify of these great things to come, as he was caught up into a heavenly realm, as the Lord prepared him for the ministry. ***"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the Word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you the hope of glory. Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."*** Colossians 1:25-29.

— May the Lord guide and direct each of you as National Christian leaders to labor more abundantly as you seek lost souls for Christ. Christ is the only way, the truth and the life by which we may come unto God the Father in the heavenly realm. There is no other name given among men by which we can be saved! Christ is the answer to the sin problem, for he paid the debt in full. All of mankind must face that question, "What will I do with Jesus"? Those that leave this life without Jesus Christ and the new birth by God the Holy Spirit, face eternity with the wrath of God, spending forever in the Lake of Fire. God has provided grace through his Eternal Son of God who has paid the debt of "Total Sin". God wants to give this gift of eternal life in the heavenlies to all who will believe. (John 3:16-36; 5:24; Romans 5:1-2; 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 51-58.)

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SIXTEEN

- 1. Give as many as possible of the important truths of God the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. What made it so difficult for the disciples to understand the teaching of the Holy Spirit?**
- 3. Why would the disciples not be worshiping in the synagogues?**
- 4. Give three works of the Holy Spirit against this world.**
- 5. Give at least six ways in which the Holy Spirit works in the Believer's lives.**
- 6. Why did Christ use the expression, "A Little While"?**
- 7. What was the disciples desire for Christ to do?**
- 8. Explain John 16:32-33.**
- 9. Explain Colossians 1:25-29.**
- 10. What is our ministry today?**
- 11. Explain 1 John 1:5-7.**

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

CHRIST THE INTERCESSOR.

The most precious prayer is recorded here, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the true "Lord's Prayer, with the outpouring of God's love by the Eternal Son of God. Try to visualize the Eternal Son of God who is entirely subjected to God the Father in every thought word and deed. The unity within the Triune God is clearly manifested in this marvelous prayer of our loving Lord. It is the most intimate prayer and complete submission to the Father, in being willing to go to the Cross for the remission of our sins. By Christ going to the Cross, the complete evil force was dealt with, once and forever. Yes, it cost God his very own beloved Son, to deal with "Total Sin " once and forever. Because of the unity within the Godhead, God has dealt with all opposition possible to the Triune God and there will never be any evil in the new creation which has been planned. Sin will never be an issue throughout eternity to come.(Daniel 9:24.)

The Glorification of the Godhead.

The very first words in the prayer of Christ was looking into the future to the perfect glorification of the Trinity. Through the "Freedom of Choice" both the angels and mankind have been tested as to right and wrong. One third of the angels fell into sin and all of mankind fell short of the glory of God. There is no redemption for the fallen angels, but God has provided redemption for mankind, to whosoever will believe. ***"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent."*** John 17:1b-3. The Lord was willing to face that cruel death in order to glorify his Father, through the results that it would bring. Christ's complete earthly ministry was under the will of the Father. We also must remember that each person in the Godhead was equal in power and glory as to the other. But God the Son and God the Holy Spirit follow the exact will of God the Father in perfect agreement.

It is unique as to this portion of Christ's prayer to the Father. ***"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."*** John 17:4-5. To me this is outstanding, as to total submission to God the Father, and as far as Christ was concerned, the cruel

Cross was accomplished, knowing the terrible agony that would occur. Although God the Father turned away from his Son when he bore our sins upon the Cross, it was necessary for the Father to do so. Christ alone became our sin bearer, casting it as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:12.)

Called and Kept By the Power of God.

As the Lord prayed to the Father he was mindful of not only the disciples, but all the saints past present and future, who would claim eternal life because of the finished work upon the Cross of Calvary. *“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”* John 10:16. God is calling out to all-“Whoever will may come”. This process has been in progress ever since man had fallen into sin. Let us examine this process, set forth by God.

- 1. The word of God has been given. (John 17:14a.)**
- 2. Separated from the world which hates the believers. (John 17:14b.)**
- 3. Kept from the evil one through God the Holy Spirit. (John 17:15.)**
- 4. Sent forth into this world by the Lord. (John 17:18.)**
- 5. Sanctified through the truth of God. (John 17:19.)**
- 6. Other sheep through the preaching of the Gospel. (John 17:20.)**
- 7. The unification of all true believers. (John 17:21.)**
- 8. The sharing in the eternal glory of God. (John 17:22.)**
- 9. God's perfection given to believers. (John 17:23.)**
- 10. To be in the presence of God forever. (John 17:24.)**
- 11. The Divine Love, manifested in the saints of God, which is by the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. (John 17:25-26.)**

Conclusion

This prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ has especially been recorded for our admonishment and understanding. It reveals the marvelous relationship within the Godhead, which we also shall have when we receive our glorified bodies. God the Holy Spirit will not depart from us, but will indwell us forever. I know this as a fact, based upon God's own word. (John 14:16-17.) To think that God is not only indwelling the believers, but sharing the eternal glory of the Triune God with us, as human beings. "Oh the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh the grace of God that brought it down to man."! God has prepared a glorious future for all who will put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given a freedom of choice, allowing us to choose as to whether we will accept the provision which God has made for us, or go our own way, to eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire. ***"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*** Joshua 24:14-15.

God has made every provision for each of us for eternity, but will not hinder us from going our evil way. The choice is ours, and as your humble teacher of the Word of God, I have made the decision to follow the Lord. The Lord has and is sustaining me, and meets my every need, doing exceeding abundantly above all that I could ask or think. As National Christian leaders of now and on into the future, be faithful servants of God, leading the flock into green pastures of God's precious Word. As the sheep of your flock feast upon the lush manna of God's Word, rest assured that you all will bear much fruit unto the Lord. ***"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*** Galatians 6:9-10.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

- 1. Why is John 17 the Lord's prayer rather than Matthew 6:9-13?**
- 2. Give your opinion of the prayer that Christ taught to the disciples in Matthew 6:9-13.**
- 3. How was Almighty God glorified through the Cross? John 17:1b-3.**
- 4. Give your opinion as to the importance of the prayer in John chapter 17.**
- 5. Give the eleven points in John chapter 17, revealing the Lord's requests to God the Father. Give the Scripture proof as well.**
- 6. What relationship exists between Christ the Eternal Son and God the Father?**
- 7. As you study God's Word, are there ever problems or any disagreements in the Triune God?**
- 8. Since God has given us freedom of choice in this life, does that make us responsible for our future? Explain.**
- 9. Write an essay on the subject, "I choose to Serve God".**

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD CONDEMNED.

JESUS BETRAYED

The Lord Jesus Christ was never late to meet His appointed time and so with Christ arriving at the garden of Gethsemene. (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; & Luke 22:39-46.) He was at the right spot at the right time for his arrest and false trial. (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53.) The religious leaders thought that they were secretly planning Christ's arrest, but they were under the sovereignty of God. Christ knew exactly when the hour of betrayal would take place. The place where Jesus went was where he had often gone, which gave Judas the direction into which he led the guards. But note, the Lord himself "went forth" to meet his enemies. ***"And Judas also, which betrayed him knew the place: for Jesus often resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? John 18:2-4.*** This must have surprised Judas that the Lord came to meet his enemies, and ask them the direct question. From the other records of this betrayal we learn a little more about the scheming of Judas Iscariot. ***"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him." Matthew 26:14-16.*** This was well planned by Judas in advance, and he received the exact amount that was predicted by God and recorded in Zechariah 11:12-13. Judas also told the chief priests just exactly how they would be able to identify Jesus. ***"And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, the same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him. And they laid their hands on him and took him.*** Mark 14:44-46.

For more details on this betrayal let us also compare other Scriptures. "But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss? When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with a sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high

priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief, with sword and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” Luke 22:48-53. The healing of the chief priest's servant on the spot should have convinced all of them that this is the very Messiah, but for their damnation they rejected their Messiah.

When Jesus Asked the question, Whom seek ye? “They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said unto them, I AM He. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I AM HE, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered , I have told you that I AM HE: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servants name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him. And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.” John 18:5-14.

As we consider these important factors in the betrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ we have the following important evidence as to Jesus being the Eternal Son of God ..

1. **Jesus was aware of the exact place that Judas would come.**
2. **Jesus went to meet the enemy, rather than escape.**
3. **All of the multitude fell backward at the name “I AM”, when Jesus spoke**
4. **Jesus performed a miracle by replacing another ear on the servant of the high priest.**
5. **It was prophesied that Jesus would be sold for 30 pieces of silver.**

6. **God kept all of the disciples safely as prayed by Christ. (John 17:12; 1 Corinthians 10:13.)**

The False Trial Before Pilate John 18:28-40.

Jesus was led from the leaders of Israel to the hall of judgement under Pilate. These religious accusers would not enter the hall for fear of being defiled and could not eat the Passover. (John 18:28.) This act of condemning Christ shows how terrible was their blindness by Satan, when the true Lamb of the Passover was in their midst. Pilate had to go to them without the hall of judgement and find out what accusation that they had against this man. (John 18:29.) Pilate wanted the Jews to judge him, thinking that there were only a minor evils that he had done. However, that was not the issue, for they already condemned Christ to death, not giving him a fair trial. (John 18:31-32.)

Pilate Finds No Fault In Christ.

John 18:33-38; Matthew 27:1-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-16.

If you will check these other references, concerning this false trial you will discover the following amazing related events, in this trial. It all reveals the great influence that Satan had over natural man, thoroughly brain washing those men in authority. Here are nine false actions in condemning Christ.

1. **Pilate found no fault in Jesus Christ. (John 18:38; 19:4-6; Matthew :27:1-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-7,13,16.)**
2. **Pilate tried to release Jesus from Judgement by offering the choice of that very wicked man Barabbas. (Matthew 27:15-21; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:38-40.)**
3. **Pilate's wife warned him not to condemn this man. (Matthew 27:19.)**
4. **Pilate washed his hands, trying to make himself innocent of this condemnation of Christ. (Matthew 27:24.)**
5. **The Religious leaders took the responsibility of his shed blood to be upon them and their children. History reveals the plight of the Jewish nation because of this. (Matthew 27:25.)**

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6. **Jesus was scourged as the innocent Son of God without a cause. (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:25-25; John 19:1-3.)**
 7. **Jesus was shamefully stripped of his clothes, placing a crown of thorns upon his head, putting a scarlet robe upon him, making a mockery of him by falsely bowing before him, and spitting upon him. (Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-23; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:16,17.)**
 8. **Jesus brought before the multitude without a fault, but falsely accused and judged without a trial. (John 19:4-6.)**
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9. **The Jewish leaders condemned themselves and rejected the kingly throne of David, denying Christ as the Son of God. (John 19:6-15.)**

Conclusion

As we conclude this brief study on Christ the Eternal Son of God, being condemned by sinful man, any court of justice should declare every act which they did against Christ as illegal and wicked beyond any reason. What the rulers of Israel allowed to happen to the Messiah has brought on, not only the past persecution, but also the condemnation of the seven years of the Great Tribulation. Which will follow the Rapture of the saints of God. (Revelation 6-18.) It will be during that Great Tribulation that many of the Jews will have their blinded eyes opened and realize that the Lord Jesus Christ really is the Eternal Son of God. The hundred and forty four thousand youth of the Jews will become God's great witnesses during those terrible years, in spite of their great persecution.. (Revelation 7:1-8.) The following verses reveal a great revival during those terrible years, to the glory and praise of God. (Revelation 7:9-17.)

The condemnation which the Eternal Son of God endured with that great humiliation, may you and I realize that he suffered gladly for you and me that we might be delivered from the penalty of sin, which is death. He also endured this condemnation so that he could condemn all the evil forces and remove them forever from the new heavens and new earth which will be created, where sin will never, ever appear again. (Daniel 9:24.) Christ took our place as the condemned one that all who believe in him might share a place with him in the eternal glory to come. "To God be the glory, great things he keeps on doing"!

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER EIGHTEEN.

- 1. How was it possible that Christ knew that he would be betrayed by Judas Iscariot?**
- 2. If Christ knew that his enemies were coming to Gethsemene, why didn't he hide himself?**
- 3. Compare Matthew 26:14-16 with Zechariah 11:12-13.**
- 4. When Jesus ask those guard, "Who seek Ye"? He answered "I AM HE", Why did they all fall backward?**
- 5. Peter was very brave and was ready to fight for the Lord, What happened to a man called Malchus?**
- 6. What miracle did Christ do just before they took him as a prisoner?**
- 7. What do you understand as to the saying of Caiaphas? (Matthew 26:3; John 18:14.**
- 8. Write an essay on "Christ Falsely Accused."**
- 9. Give at least six evidences in John Chapter eighteen that Jesus is the Eternal Son of God.**
- 10. Give us the nine false judgements against Christ.**
- 11. Why have the Jews been suffering persecution during these past 2,000 years? What will their final judgement be?**

CHAPTER NINETEEN

CHRIST THE CRUCIFIED ONE.

Christ the crucified one, came to fulfill the prophecy spoken by the prophets. Israel's rejection of the Messiah, resulted in the scattering of Israel and the continual persecution of Jews amongst all the nations. This all has continued down through these many years, because Israel has rejected their Messiah. Also, regardless of Pilate's desire to release the Lord Jesus Christ, he was held responsible for crucifying the Lord. He was warned by his wife, and declared that he found no fault in him, and even tried to remove his own guilt by washing his hands publicly. (Matthew 27:24.) The final turning point in Pilate's decision occurred when they cried out, ***“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgement seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.”*** John 19:12-13.

In spite of all of these attempts to release Jesus from this terrible judgement, we have Christ's very own words, when Pilate attempted to remind Christ that he had power to release him or crucify him. ***“Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”*** John 19:11. Before God the Father, Pilate was still guilty, but the leaders of the Jews had the greater condemnation, which has been evident, down through the centuries, and will continue, during that Great Tribulation.

The Final Rejection of Christ as King.

By the Jewish nation.

John 19:14-15.

We have that final denial of Christ as King of the Jews, when they cried, ***“We have no king but Caesar.”*** John 19:15b. That was a terrible statement for the Jews to make, knowing that they were slaves under the Roman rule. It again shows the mighty power that the evil forces had over them, denying the very Lamb of God, his rightful place as they were about to celebrate the Passover. The majority of the Jews to this very day are blinded and brain washed, rejecting their Messiah. This was the turning point in the great plan of God!

The Crucifixion of Our Lord
John 19:16-37; Matthew 27:33-54;
Mark 15:16-39; Luke 23:26-47.

In the history of punishments by the Governments of this world, there was never a punishment worse than crucifixion, past, present or in the future. The suffocation was so terrible and the pain was so great and lasted so long. The band of soldiers made fun of the Lord with terrible mockery, and unless they eventually accepted Christ as their personal Savior, they are in terrible torment and will eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire. The Lord was made to carry his own Cross but finally collapsed under the terrible treatment that he received. A man by the name of Simon the Cyrene was compelled to carry the Cross for the Lord. (Matthew 27:32.) The submission by the Lord to all of this torture by his own creation, is beyond anything imaginable.

As the Lord was dragging himself along the road to Golgotha, the place of skulls, and also the place called Mount Moriah, where Abraham took Isaac, under the command of God, he had concern for those weeping women. *And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall they do in the dry?" Luke 23:27-31.* Now let us turn to the prophetic Word, concerning what the Lord predicted. This will take place during that Great Tribulation when the sixth seal will be opened and there will be earthquakes and explosions in the heavens. *"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17.* In all of the pain and agony which the Lord was going through, he still had a great concern for his brethren in the flesh. That is why as he was entering Jerusalem for the last time during his earthly ministry he cried out, *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children*

together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Matthew 23:37-39. (Luke 13:34-35.)

The Lord who is the Eternal Son of God is aware of everything and nothing escapes his attention, even when a sparrow falls, if he so desired to see it, and the very hairs of your head could be numbered. (Matthew 10:29-31.) The Lord Jesus Christ was deeply concerned over the Jews, knowing that they would suffer much because of their rejection of him as the Messiah. *“And when he came near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hidden from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” Luke 19:41-44.* Make no mistake about the fulfillment of this prediction by the Lord as he wept over Jerusalem. Israel, at present is completely surrounded by her enemies and they will not have their eyes opened until the Rapture takes place. Israel's final judgement will be during the seven years of the Great Tribulation, just before the kingdom of righteousness is established.

The Christ of the Cross.

The Events of the Cross Predicted.

Before we consider other details of the Cross, may we consider additional prophetic events in connection with the crucifixion.

- 1. The dividing out of the garments of Christ.**
(Psalms 22:18; Matthew 27:35;)
- 2. The crucifixion predicted. (Psalm 22.)**
- 3. Not a bone shall be broken.**
(John 19:31-36; Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20.)
- 4. They shall look upon the one which they pierced.**
(John 19:37; Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7.)
- 5. The veil in the Temple rent from Top to bottom. (Matthew 27:51.)**

6. **Many graves of the saints were opened and the saints were seen as great evidence and shadow of the coming resurrection. (Matthew 27:52-53.)**
7. **As the soldiers were told to break the legs of the crucified, they came to Jesus and he was already dead. *“But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”* John 19:33-34.** Yes, the Scripture was fulfilled to perfection, as God so declared. When Jesus side was pieced there was no question whatsoever that he was dead. The water and blood that came forth was an indication that he died of a broken heart, with Divine love for lost sinners.

The Seven Last Sayings Upon the Cross.

As the Lord endured the Cross , paying the debt for “Total Sin”, the seven last sayings upon the Cross were very important. Why was this so? They were very significant because they represented some very important issues, along with those six special events that took place at the same time. The Lord has given this evidence to us so that we might be at peace as to the future, knowing that God is sovereign over all! Let us comment on these seven last says as to their value then and now.

1. ***“Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* Luke 23:34.**
 After all that Jesus suffered at the hands of these evil men, he knew that the multitude were blinded and ignorant as to what they were doing. The Lord ask his Father to forgive them, praying that some might come to the knowledge of Christ as their savior. Remember that God does not wish that one soul should perish. (2 Peter 3:9.)
2. ***“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”* John 19:27-28.**
 The Mighty God, as he hung upon the Cross was in complete control of all things and could bear the torture and at the same time consider his mother of the incarnation, commending her to the care of John his disciple. What tender care the Lord had for Mary as he hung, dying for our sins!.

3. ***“And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said to Jesus. Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:39-43.*** This has become a wonderful testimony and witness, as the repentant thief, cries out to the Lord and is promised to be with Christ in Paradise that very day.

4. ***“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled saith, I thirst, Now there was a set vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.” John 19:28-29.*** The Son of God who could offer the living water to those who thirsted, had subjected himself to human feelings as he hung upon the Cross.

5. ***“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying Eli, Eli, Lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matthew 27:45-46.***

This was the only time that God the Father ever left his Son. Why was it necessary for the Father to turn his back upon his Son, in whom he is well pleased? Since God the Father cannot be seen nor look upon sin, it was imperative that the Father turn away from his Son, who became the “sin bearer” for “Total Sin”. Jesus bore it all alone, so that the barrier of sin might be removed forever.

6. ***“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the Spirit.” Luke 23:46.***

Since the Spirit of God cannot die, it was necessary for the Eternal Son of God to entrust his Spirit to God the Father, while he became the sacrifice for “Total Sin”. There are some that teach in error that Christ died spiritually, but this is not so, as we have Christ's own words of commending his Spirit into the hands of God the Father.

7. ***“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the Spirit.” John 19:30.***

We have these two last statements from Christ which no doubt were spoken just before the Lord physically died upon the Cross. The Holy Spirit revealed the writing of these two sayings to Luke and to John specifically. We might also add what the Holy Spirit also revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos. ***“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*** “Revelation 21:5-7. The Lord who suffered, bled and died on Calvary has made possible that marvelous relationship that all who believe may have, becoming royal members of the family of God.

They laid His body in a Borrowed Tomb

John 19:38-42.

(Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-47; Luke 23:50-56.

The body of Jesus was carefully prepared for burial and laid in a tomb that belongs to Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus', and was wealthy. (Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54.) The burial was well taken care of and the dead body was safely laid within the tomb.

God was mindful as to what the Jewish leaders would say when the tomb became empty, saying that someone stole the body. ***“Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together to Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.”*** Matthew 27:62-66. This was exactly what God wanted those wicked religious rulers to do, so that there would be no question whatsoever as to the true resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did rise from the grave the third day and never saw corruption as the Bible predicted. (Psalm 16:10.) The method that God used to proclaim the resurrection of the Lord was

spectacular. Let us read concerning this thrilling victory over death and the grave. "And behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." Matthew 28:2-4. This was God's way of keeping these false religious leaders from deceiving the people, for they made the guard as sure as they could, but God had his own way of bringing forth his Son from the grave, victory over death. It was not necessary for the stone to have been rolled away for the Lord Jesus Christ to come forth, but was proof that Christ was not there, but was risen. It became evidence that the Living Lord was not to be found among the dead.

Conclusion.

In this chapter and other references we have beheld Christ as the Crucified One. The injustice which was manifested had gone down in history as to the wickedness of the natural man, and the need for a new birth. In Psalm 22 we have the prophetic record of the crucifixion, even though at the time of this revelation, that method of punishment by death was not known. It was under the Roman Empire that crucifixion was instated. This same wickedness under the revived Roman Empire will be manifested during the Great Tribulation. The question may be asked, Who killed the Lord Jesus Christ? Was it Rome or was it the Jewish nation? It was Christ who said to Pilate who condemned him to death. *"Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."* John 19:11. From this statement of Christ we become aware that Israel had the greater sin, but Rome was also guilty as to the crucifixion of Christ.

We know that the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world, which he created, to become both the Sacrificer and the sacrifice in order to deal with "Total Sin" once and forever. The Lord was always sovereign and always will be, regardless of the evil forces. All sin and evil has been dealt with at the Cross and the final eternal punishments will be accomplished in God's own time. God has promised everlasting righteousness, and it will come about in the fulness of time. *"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 giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER NINETEEN

- 1. What was the purpose of Christ coming into this world as the Incarnate one?**
- 2. Explain John 19:11; & 19:15; & Matthew 27:62-66.**
- 3. What was God the Father's purpose in having his Son die by crucifixion which is the most terrible way to die?**
- 5. Write a brief essay on the difference between Abraham offering Isaac on Mt Moriah and God offering his Son?**
- 6. Compare Luke 23:27-31 with the future fulfillment of Revelation 6:15-17.**
- 7. Why did Christ weep for Jerusalem? (Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-44; 19:41-44.)**
- 8. Name as many as possible of the predictions related to the Cross, with Scriptures.**
- 9. Give the seven last sayings of Christ upon the Cross with comments and Scriptures.**
- 10. Name two important believers who had a part in the burial of Christ**
- 11. Why was the stone rolled away from Christ's tomb?**
- 12. Who killed Jesus, Israel or Roman Government?**

CHAPTER TWENTY

CHRIST THE RESURRECTED REDEEMER.

What Christ had declared in John chapter eleven has now come to light, for all power is given unto the Lord in heaven and earth and death could not hold him! The Jewish leaders knew exactly what Christ said, concerning the resurrection of his body for that was why they got permission to put a guard by the tomb of Christ. Of course they did not believe that Christ would rise the third day, and made all the precautionary measures, in case the disciples would steal the body and lie. (Matthew 27:62-66.) You may recall that the Jews asked Christ for a sign of authority when he cleansed the temple from the merchants. ***“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.”*** John 2:19-22. As a matter of fact, the Lord who made heaven and earth out of nothing, had no problem if he wished to build the most beautiful temple by just saying the word!

The First Day of the Week

This chapter twenty of the Gospel of John begins with those very words, which became the day of worship, replacing the Sabbath day of the law. This became the special day in the assembling together of the Christians. It also was set aside for the breaking of bread, in remembrance of the Lord's death and resurrection. ***“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,”*** Acts 20:7a. It was also the day when the Christians were to set aside an offering for the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 16:2.)

It was this first day of the week after Christ was crucified, that Mary Magdalene went early in the morning to discover that the stone was rolled away. Of course, she thought that the body was stolen and it wasn't until Peter and John came that they discovered the grave clothes were neatly laying there. No doubt this puzzled them. It was Mary who remained and met the risen Savior. Her first experience was to see these two angels within the tomb. It still did not cause her to realize that the body of Jesus was not taken, but risen from the dead. Mary continued to weep and it was then that the Lord spoke to her. ***“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She supposing him to be***

the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.” John 20:15-16. This was an important occasion for Mary for the Lord had not yet gone to His Father in heaven. (John 20:17.) The message that Christ was alive, now went forth, but could not be believed. The appearance in the upper room where the disciples secretly met became the turning point. The first words that they heard from Jesus was, *“Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side, Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit:”* John 20:19b-22. Why was it necessary for the Lord to breath upon them before the day of Pentecost? The answer is simple, They needed protection from the evil one, until the day of Pentecost, and it was that special personal commission that the Lord gave to the disciples. Thomas was not present with the disciples, but by the grace of the Lord, he appeared the second time, to all of the disciples, when Thomas was present. (John 20:24-29. There are many doubting Thomases today and the Lord has included this encounter with Thomas so that he might be a testimony to such that we serve a “Risen Savior”, who is alive forevermore and at the right hand of God the Father, interceding before the Father, in behalf of all believers.

The |Forgiveness of Sins

We have been given the message of the forgiveness of sins, based upon the finished work of Calvary. Note these important words, *“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”* John 20:23. We also have another occasion when the Lord spoke to the disciples and asked as to their opinion of who he was. Peter spoke up quickly and said, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God”.* Matthew 16:16b. Note what Jesus said, concerning the building of the Christian church and the power of Peter's statement and authority. *“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona (Son of Jonas): for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (a little rock), and upon this rock (this statement) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.”* Matthew 16:17-19. What is the meaning of

these statements from the Lord? As we study the Epistles for "Church Doctrine" concerning the church which the Lord is building, we can understand the basic rules and regulations within the church, started by the apostles and especially Peter's statement. The cleansing from sin comes only through the shed blood of the Lord upon the Cross. But the authority to teach and administer these marvelous truths are entrusted to the church leaders, under the leading of God the Holy Spirit. God has given Church leaders the responsibility to establish the Word among the believers. Paul and Peter are good examples in teaching church principles, being led by the Holy Spirit. You as National Christian leaders will have that responsibility to teach what the Word of God says.

The Resurrection and The Life.

The dead religions of the world cannot compare with Christianity, as they can only point you to dead bones and corruption. Christianity points to the "Living Savior", and the promise of new life that will never end! Christ has established that very fact in his victory over death. Christ proved his power over death as he demonstrated during his earthly ministry. ***"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*** John 11:25-26. That is the question that each person must answer. You will not be partaker of this newness of life without accepting the one who makes this possible. The key verse in this Gospel of John bears repeating for Jesus was not just a religious leader, but he was the "Very God" come in the flesh. ***"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*** John 20:31. Through the use of God's word and upon the finished work of Christ we present "So Great Salvation" to a world dead in trespasses and sin.

Conclusion

Having studied the Gospel of John, briefly, may it be but a stepping stone, to the many precious promises in the Bible that we can claim as our own. As the Holy Spirit works in each of your lives as National Christian leaders, it is essential that God the Holy Spirit is in control of your life. Constantly consider yourselves as instruments in God's hands that the glory and honor might be for God through your submissive lives. You serve a Living God who wants to use your brief life upon this earth as his witness and testimony through the saving grace of our loving Lord. Through God the Holy Spirit you have been born into a new life, bought by God with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions on Chapter Twenty.

- 1. What proof do we have that the Jewish leaders knew that Jesus declared himself as God?**
- 2. Why did the Jewish rulers demand from Pilate that the tomb should be guarded for three days?**
- 3. Explain John 2:19-22.**
- 4. Why do we especially assemble together on the First day of the week instead of the seventh day?.**
- 5. What did Mary Magdalene want to do on that 3rd day after the crucifixion?**
- 6. Why were the disciples in the “Upper Room” after the crucifixion? (John 20:19-22.)**
- 7. Why did the Lord breathe upon the disciples God the Holy Spirit before Pentecost?**
- 8. How do you explain John 20:23?**
- 9. Is Christ building his church upon Peter, or upon the statement which Peter made? (Matthew 16:17-19.)**
- 10. Name several ways in which Christianity differs from all the religions in the world.**
- 11. Write an essay on, “The Resurrection Life”.**

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE CHRIST THE PROVIDER.

John 21:1-25.

The Lord Jesus Christ is now seen in his glorified body, preparing a meal for his discouraged disciples after they toiled all night and caught nothing. Just a word from the Lord, just off the shore and they had fish in abundance. The Lord didn't need to take of their fish, for breakfast was ready in preparation for some hungry and discouraged disciples. We are also reminded from the Word of God, ***“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9.*** This was but another lesson that the disciples had to learn as well as each of us. God wants each of us to be faithful to him, in spite of the circumstances or the results. Yes, the disciples thought that all was lost as to their new life with Christ, so they were reverting back to their old life pattern. They toiled all night long trying to get at least a few fish, but to no avail. The Lord was waiting for the disciples and knew exactly where they would arrive and had their breakfast all prepared. Oh the great love of God, manifested in and through His eternal Son! As students of God's Word, we need constantly to be alerted to God's commands through his Word. As you go forth to minister the Word of God to hungry souls, listen to that still small voice, rather than any cheap method of trying to become a fisherman of men.

That Special Breakfast.

There were seven of the disciples together, having returned to their old trade, fishing for fish rather than for men as they were commanded to do. Yes, they were very discouraged that the kingdom of God was not to be established at that particular time. Night fishing should have produced some fish, but the Lord made sure that they caught nothing on their own. It is a lesson for all of God's Christian leaders to learn! The Lord knew exactly where these disciples were and where they would return to the shore. They no doubt were cold from the night's fishing for nought, and were coming ashore disappointed. The Lord Jesus Christ knew all about their disappointments and had a nice fire built, with bread and fish ready to be served. As they approached shore, ***“Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.”. John 21:5.*** I am sure that they were not too pleased that someone should ask such a question. ***“And he said unto***

them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.”

John 21:6. This caught the attention of John immediately, as he told Peter who was busy with the great amount of fish, that it was the Lord. (John 21:7) Peter knew that he had denied the Lord three times and was anxious to make things right with his Lord. The ship was only 100 yards from the shore. When the Lord told them to bring the fish that they caught, Peter was first to respond to this command of the Lord, and placed every effort to draw the net with 153 fish in it. The Lord didn't need what they caught but had their breakfast all ready for them.

A Special Provision.

Philippians 4:19.

As we study the Word of God, we become aware of God's provision for every need that we have in this life and we can rest assured, in the life to come. Those tender words of the Lord to his disciples who were both down hearted and hungry, have not only been given the largest catch but the most delicious breakfast. ***“Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? Knowing that it was the Lord”*** John 21:12. The Lord didn't tell them to help themselves, but rather he served them as a humble servant. ***“Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth to them, and fish likewise.”*** John 21:13. This was the third time that the Lord appeared to his disciples and now they are more aware of his actual presence than ever before. They could not help to see the wounds in his hands as he passed the bread and fish to each of them.

This should be a reminder to each of us of the tender care that God wishes to express to each of us. The Lord God is more ready to give than receive, for after all, everything belongs to God. God is in the teaching of us to - ***“Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you.”*** 1 Peter 5:7. It does matter to God concerning those that belong to him, and he wants us to learn to trust in him, regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. We should never get so depending upon what we have or what we don't have for the Word of God reminds us that- ***“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.”*** Psalm 46:1-2. The Lord wants us to depend upon him, above all the personal provisions that you might have. Sometimes the Lord has to remove what we are trusting in, in order to remind us

that in him alone we must put our trust. I have had many an experience like this, where the Lord allowed what I had to disappear, in order for me to surrender everything to him. These very Biblical textbooks are but another evidence that God wanted me to make them entirely as free as the Gospel, promising me that He would provide all my needs. ***“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*** Philippians 4:19. *Our God is our ever present help and is available at all times.* We are special to our God and Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”*** Matthew 6:7-8.

The Love of God, Shed Abroad in Our Hearts.

John 21:15-25.

In order to bear lasting fruit unto the Lord, it must be produced through God the Holy Spirit. Without him, your fruit bearing would be corrupt and perishable. As I have mentioned before, this love must be a “Divine Love” from God himself through the Holy Spirit. We have previously dealt with Peter concerning this, but as we not only conclude this chapter, but also conclude our brief study of the Gospel of John, may we differentiate between the natural love which we possess as human beings and the Divine love provided for us through God the Holy Spirit.

That Special Love From God.

After the disciples were well fed with that special food created and prepared by the Creator himself, the Lord turned to Peter as his illustration on true love. ***“Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (Divine love) thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea Lord; thou knowest that I love thee (I am fond of you). Feed my lambs. He saith unto him again the second time, Simon son of Jonas, lovest (Divine love) thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (I am fond of) thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (Are you fond) thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things ; thou knowest that I love (am fond) thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”*** John 21:15-17.

This question which the Lord put to Peter, applies to all of us as National Christian leaders. We do not have to be told to collect the wool from the sheep, but we need to be admonished to feed the lambs and the sheep of God's fold with

the green pastures of God's living Word. May we not be satisfied merely to show our fondness of the Lord Jesus Christ, but may we allow the Holy Spirit to let that Divine love, flow through our lives to a lost and dying world. Let our lives tell for Jesus in this evil world! As I have witnessed in Africa for some 43 years, I have learned to know and to love some members of the body of Christ, who laid down their life for the cause of Christ. I think especially of one of our distributors in Uganda who went by train to Sudan for the last time and was killed by the Moslems in that land. His reward before God will be great!

That Special Sevice unto the Lord until Death.

John 21:18-19.

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou was young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.” **John 21:18.** Peter was told as to what sort of death he would die, by those false religious leaders. He was also told that in that terrible death of hanging upon a cross up side down that God would be glorified through a Divine love rather than just being fond of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those alive and Remain

John 21:20-25.

There will be many in these latter days, who will not taste of death, when the Rapture takes place. I personally would like to be among those caught up alive and changed in a moment to that glorified body. The Lord has given me good health in my late eighties, and a great out reach with these “Paper Missionaries”. I do not know whether the Lord will keep me in this battle ground, fighting the good fight of faith, or whether he will soon call me home to glory. As the Lord told the disciples to “Follow Him”, so I want to be found faithful to the Lord until he calls me home. May each of us, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16. As new creatures in Christ Jesus we need to constantly allow God to use our lives as “Living Sacrifices” holy acceptable in His sight, not being controlled by this world system but entirely given over to the will of God. *“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.”* **Philippians 2:5-8.**

The Supremacy of Christ in All Things. Colossians 1:15-19.

As we draw to a close this all important Gospel of John, may I remind you that the Invisible God the Father has placed His Eternal Son in the supreme position, giving him the preeminence over all, because of his willingness to deal with "Total Sin" once and forever. The ultimate plan of God has been made possible through the obedience of His Son to become the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the whole world. He endured the suffering and shame of the Cross in order to remove the barrier of sin, and bring in everlasting righteousness. Let us sum up some of the most important accomplishments made possible through the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHY CHRIST CAME INTO THIS WORLD

- 1. Christ entered this world of his creation to judge "Total Sin" once and forever. (John 16:6.)**

This is the most important undertaking of the Triune God, in the removing of all possible opposition to their perfect character forever. At the same time, allowing the angels and mankind to exercise a freedom of choice, as to their final destination.

- 2. Christ came into this world to provide the way, the truth and the life. (John 1:4-5;14:6.)**

Having judged "Total Sin" on the Cross, he removed the barrier of sin, making available the way, the truth and the life, through belief in God's provision, by paying the penalty of sin which was death. (Romans 6:23.)

- 3. Christ came into this world to reveal the will of God the Father. (John 17:1-26; Matthew. 26:39.)**

In eternity past, the Triune God had the perfect plan to deal with all evil forces once and forever, and since the Father will always be invisible one of the Godhead had to be chosen to reveal themselves to their creation. The Lord Jesus Christ was chosen to take upon himself a form of man apart from sin, to accomplish so great salvation, doing the Father's perfect will of all ages. This act of God the Son has also made possible the "Utopia of the future. (Daniel 9:24.)

4. Christ came into this world to reveal the plan of God. (Matthew 24:1-31.)

There is no reason whatsoever that we, as dwellers upon this earth, cannot know the plan of God, for it is very clearly recorded in the Bible. All of mankind is without excuse, and will be judged accordingly. We as Christians and believers are responsible to God, to be students of the Bible, so that we can be true witnesses of God, to all unbelievers and also to teach those who do not know the Word of God.

5. The Eternal Son of God came into this world to declare the righteousness of God,. (Matthew 6:33.)

All of mankind comes into this world "Totally Depraved" and the natural man's code of righteousness falls short of God's righteous requirements. Therefore God himself had to demonstrate the Divine righteousness which is necessary, to meet the standards of Almighty God. These standards cannot be attained by the natural man but must be given as a Divine gift through God the Holy Spirit.

6. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to fulfill prophecy. (Revelation 1:10-19; Hebrews 1:1-3; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Psalm 22; Isaiah 61:1-2a; Luke 4:16-21.)

These are but a few references concerning the Lord coming into this world to fulfill prophesy as well as to reveal the things to come. He came to be our redeemer, as prophesied, as well as to reveal things to come. He told of "The Latter Days" as well as events leading up to those terrible days during the Great Tribulation.(Matthew 24:1-:26; Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6.

7. Christ came into this world to pay the debt of "Total Sin" and save sinners. (Matthew 18:11.)

Christ's entrance into this world, which he created had a two fold purpose, to remove the barrier of sin and to save whosoever will believe. We, as human beings have been given the freedom of choice, and as free moral agents, we must choose to accept God's provision for redemption or refuse God's provision and suffer eternal damnation. God has declared that Christ is the only way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6.)

8. Christ came into this world to manifest His incarnation. (Galatians 4:4-5; Hebrews 4:15.)

It was imperative that the Triune God find someone who could not sin among those whom they created, but this was impossible, so God himself, who is impeccable, had to take upon himself a form of man, apart from sin, to purchase those who would believe, buying them out from the slave market of sin.

9. Christ came into this world to make possible a new birth through God the Holy Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29; John 3:5-7.)

We who have become Christians have all been baptized by God the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13.) God the Holy Spirit has provided us with a new birth, and sealed that new birth by the eternal indwelling of himself in every Christian. (John 10:28-30; 14:16-17.)

10. Christ came into this world, during his earthly ministry to present himself as the Messiah and to establish "Kingdom Teachings." (Matthew 12:28; 13:11-52.)

The religious leaders of Israel had to make a choice as to their acceptance or rejection of Jesus as their Messiah. The Lord presented himself, as sent from God the Father and taught kingdom teachings in preparation for the kingdom of righteousness. In God's omniscience, the kingdom would be postponed, making way for the age of grace and the new birth of the body of Christ.

11. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to reveal the perfect righteousness of the Godhead. (Matthew 6:33; John 16:8-10.)

Man's standards of righteousness all fall short of the requirements of God. Our natural evaluation of righteousness cannot compare with what God's requirements demand. Therefore, it was necessary for God's own Eternal Son to come to earth in the form of man to demonstrate Divine perfection, and make it available to all who would believe. (John 3:16-36.) It is not that we can develop perfect righteousness in our own efforts, but rather that through our belief in the Eternal Son of God that we are covered by his righteousness. (Colossians 3:1-4.)

12. Christ came into this world to defeat the evil works of Satan.
(Matthew 4:1-10.)

The conflict of evil forces began in heaven when Lucifer rebelled against God, taking with him one third of God's angels.(Isaiah 14:12-17; Revelation 12:3-4.) That evil conflict was extended to this earth through the sin of Adam and Eve, and the spiritual battle goes on. (Genesis 3:15.) However, God's victory was won at the Cross of Calvary and will be declared at the final battle before all things will become new where sin will be no more!. (Revelation 20:9; Daniel 9:24.)

13. Christ came into this world to manifest God's love. (John 3:16-17.)

As God has dealt with "Total Sin" once and forever at the Cross, his grace was provided toward mankind, demonstrating Divine love toward all who would believe. (1 John 3:1-3.) The eternal glory of God will be shared with the saints of all ages as they have placed their trust in their loving God.

14. Christ came into this world to proclaim the Grace of God.
(Romans 5:20.)

Since we could not earn salvation or purchase it, God made it available by grace and grace alone. It was made possible by a great sacrifice by God the Father, who was willing to send his very own eternal Son to die that we might live. (1 Peter 1:18-23.)

15. Christ came into this world to establish the Word of God.
(Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:12.)

The Lord Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's Word. He is the expression of God's love toward his creatures. This eternal plan was established and sealed by the Triune God. God's Word is from everlasting to everlasting and never needs to be altered or changed. Christ came into this world to prove this to those who would believe.

16. Christ came into this world to reclaim the ownership of this world.
(Revelation 10:1-11; John 5:22, 28-29; Matthew 4:1-11.)

When Lucifer was created, he was perfect in all of his ways, being the greatest among the angels, with great authority. (Ezekiel 28:12-19.) But after he sinned, he became an enemy of God and we read that he became the

god of this world system. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4.) Satan has claimed the ownership of this world, and even had promised to Christ the kingdoms of this world, if he would bow down and worship him. (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13.) Under the sovereignty of God, these evil conditions will continue upon this earth, until the Lord will reclaim the title deed to the world. (Revelation 10:1-11.)

17. Christ came into this world to prepare the way for the Holy Spirit to convict this world of sin, righteousness and judgement.

(John 16:7-11)

Christ had to prepare the way of the Holy Spirit to enter this world with a special mission, especially toward those who would believe. He made possible the new birth and indwelling the believers forever. But he also has the constraining and restraining power over this world. He has also set up a special protection over the saints of all ages, bringing comfort and peace to God's children. The evil in this world can go so far and no further as long as the Holy Spirit remains here with the believers. Once the Rapture takes place, that Great Tribulation will begin, and the restraining power of God the Holy Spirit will be removed. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12.)

18. Christ's earthly ministry was in preparation for the Millennial kingdom. (Matthew 5:1-7:6; Luke 6:20-49.)

As we have mentioned previously to this final summary of the Gospel of John, Christ's earthly ministry was for kingdom teachings, even though he knew that he would be rejected. He came as a babe in a manger, identifying himself with mankind through his incarnation. This was all as preliminary and in preparation for the thousand year reign of perfect righteousness. Christ has also enter Jerusalem through the golden gate, and it was closed. (Ezekiel 44:1-2.) Christ entered Jerusalem through this gate during the Triumphal entry. (Matthew 21:4-9; Mark 11:7-10; Luke 19:35-38; John 12:12-19.) The next time that the Lord will come to establish his kingdom will be from the air. (Revelation 19:11-21.)

19. Christ came into this world in obedience and subjection to God the Father. (John 8:14-19.)

This is but another example of the perfect submission of the Eternal Son of God to God the Father. As the Lord face that terrible Crucifixion, he

was willing to suffer, bleed and die, as God the Father so willed. (Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1.) As the Eternal Son of God was willing to do the will of God the Father, how much more, we should be willing to do the will of God the Father, in our lives.

My Closing Words.

As I bring to a close the teaching of this marvelous Gospel according to John, I must emphasize the mighty power of the Lord Jesus Christ because of his willingness to do the Father's will. We need to remember that all power is given unto the Lord Jesus Christ, as we wait patiently for our deliverance out from the wrath to come. The Lord Jesus Christ is abiding his time and will show his mighty power during the coming Great Tribulation. You remember that he told us in the Bible, that he was the light of this world? There will be a time during the Great Tribulation that all light will be denied to the Revived Roman empire. There will be total darkness. (Revelation 16:10-11.) This will allow the hordes from the East to cross the Euphrates river causing great anticipation in the Middle East, as never before in all the history of that land. (Revelation 16:12; Daniel 11:40-44.) Combine this with the movement of great armies of the north, as they secretly enter the Middle East. (Ezekiel 38:14-18.) We are told that the slaughter will be so great that it will take 7 months to bury the dead, and seven years supply of fire wood.. (Ezekiel 39:7-13; also Zechariah 12:2-4.)

We have studied the various characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ and as the Lord came humbly into this world the first time, His next entrance will be with mighty power and none shall stand in his path. His final appearance before the wicked, will be when they shall be raised from hell and appear before that "Great White Throne". (Revelation 20:11-15.) All the ungodly and unbelievers will have to arise and give honor to him, bending their knees before him and acknowledge that He is the Eternal Son of God. (Philippians 2:9-11.)

The Holy Spirit has revealed the wonder working power of the Eternal Son of God in this outstanding revelation. God the Father has exalted His Son above all and will be glorified throughout eternity to come by all creation. ***"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power," Ephesians 1:15-19.***

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWENTY ONE.

- 1. What should our attitude be as Christians toward Galatians 6:9?**
- 2. What do we learn from John 21: 12-14?**
- 3. Why did the disciples return to their old trade of fishing?**
- 4. How did the disciples finally know that it was the Lord speaking to them?**
- 5. Why is Philippians 4:19 so important to Christian leaders?**
- 6. Why is God the Holy Spirit so important as we seek to bear fruit for the Lord?**
- 7. Explain John 21:15-17.**
- 8. How does history relate as to the method of death of Peter? Refer also to Christ's prediction. (John 21:18.**
- 9. Give your opinion as to the soon coming of the Lord to rapture us home to glory.**
- 10. Give at least 15 reasons why Christ came into this world in an a body like ours apart from sin.**
- 11. Write an essay on
"Giving Christ the Preeminence in Our Lives"**

Publications

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Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

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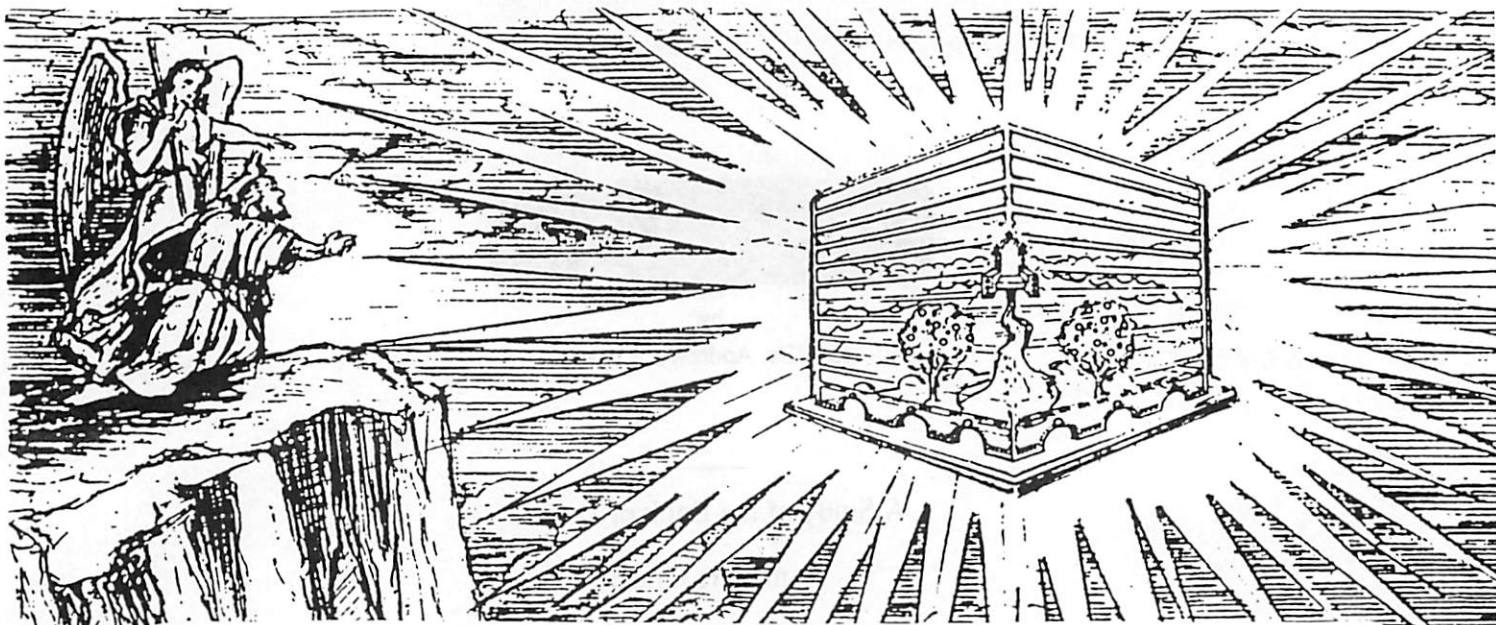
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The Holy Spirit

The Glory of God

Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems

What Does the Future Hold?



"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21 : 10

Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.

JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"

Revelation 1:8

