

I want to make a comment about preparations for the Feast this year. It's really been amazing to me and it always is; how God leads, guides and directs us and prepares us for different messages and the like. And I thought it's been interesting all this year really, but especially as we've prepared for the Feast here and I've talked about the sermons that had to do with peace and thankfulness and so forth, those things that prepared us for this year's Feast. But I wanted to mention the three evangelists this year as well. Two of them actually prepared sermons that were given before the Feast. They actually gave them pre-recorded. They're going to give them in the different sites; Terry Wrozek in Hawaii; and Johnny Harrell is going to be giving his sermon in Scotland and then later in The Netherlands so they'll be able to hear live speakers a couple of times. Wayne Matthews over in Australia just gave his the other day. For them it was live over there and we had a recorded sermon here. But it's always inspiring to see how things work together; even the Day of Atonement, my wife and I got quite a charge out of some of the things said in the sermon; because if you were to go back after this sermon series and listen to Atonement, it would actually have greater meaning for you. It's amazing how *that* sermon was preparing us for the material to be given during the Feast and of course a great deal of it has to do with Satan and things we're covering right now; but even other things that were stated in there that have to do with things we're going to delve into more deeply.

So it was like a preparation for what we're going to be covering here during the Feast and those things are done by God's spirit because we had no communication with each other as to what the content of all the sermons were about. They didn't know fully what I was covering in any manner whatsoever until I gave them some of the things to read here. Just like with Wayne Matthews, he was able to read it *after* he gave his sermon. I told him he couldn't read it *before* because you can get excited about something and let things slip. But for Johnny and Terry, they'd already given their sermons so I gave them the material to read that we're going to actually put on the website later.

And it's amazing to me how things have really gone together so well, just like when Terry will give his sermon about the Last Great Day. There is more meaning in what is being said and he's gone into some things there as well that have to do with what we're covering; and of course Johnny and some of the things he's covering...the same thing. So to me it's really awesomely inspiring to see how God works with everyone; because God is the one who coordinated it all; and that's inspiring. And so as I looked back at some of these things as a pastor, as a minister, and see what God has given to them and what He's given to me, it's awesomely inspiring because there's no other way such things happen except by God's spirit, and that's inspiring to witness that, to see that.

Well today we are going to continue on with the sermon series; this is the final part, *Part 2 of Satan's Confinement and His End*. We're going to continue with that, to continue focusing on things that pertain to Satan and how he works to hurt and deceive mankind... and obviously leading up to the title of this sermon series.

Today we're going to begin in the New Testament here in **II Corinthians 4:1 - Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not**; so Paul is telling the Corinthians here, he said that they had been given this ministry, and he explains this in different places throughout Corinthians to the Corinthians what had been given to him to give to them, showing how God was working to lead, guide, direct, and work with the Gentiles, specifically in this particular case the Corinthians. He said, **we**

**faint not**, in other words, we don't give up, we continue pushing forward. And that's our life, that's everyone's life. Once we're called, we continue pushing forward. And sadly I've known so many people who give up the fight. When you give up the fight and you don't fight anymore it's over, you can't grow; and growth comes from fighting, it's a matter of a warfare. And that's something people have to understand and comprehend; even as Paul explains it in different places, we are at war! It's a battle! It's a battle having to do with our mind; it's a battle having to do with a spirit world out there that continually attacks. It has to do with the pulls of the world and basically our own human nature that tends to yield to that. And so we have to battle that, we have to battle our thinking in our thoughts so we don't give up, we don't quit, we keep pushing forward.

**Verse 2 - But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty**, whether it be for Paul in the ministry or for everyone, that's the way we live our lives. We have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, **not walking in craftiness**, or trickery, sleight of hand, how people take advantage of one another, how people try to control each other. It's a very common thing that starts out very early in life that people try to manipulate and control others; it's just a way of life in this world, it's the way it is in families, it's the way it is in business. They try to take advantage of individuals by manipulating, by controlling circumstances and situations around them in order to get what? *Their way!* So it's *my way!* And that's the way human beings are and we become expert in those kinds of things as a whole, we truly do. And Paul is making clear here, no, that stops in God's Church, that's when it ends, we have to fight against that because it's wrong! It's wrong to manipulate and try to control people's lives – *especially* once called. You know why? *Because that's GOD'S job to work with individuals*, to mould and fashion them. It's not *our* job!

Now, in the ministry it's a little bit different, we get involved because we are a *part* of helping to mould and fashion people's lives and we have council and so forth and things that do involve that kind of thing; but as a whole... and there are things that we have to address in life with one another, you have to go to your brother alone, things of that nature. Sometimes we do it too much. Sometimes we don't do it at all. There's a balance in life as to how we apply God's way of life.

So again here, so many things we have to battle and work in order to bring things into subjection to God's way of life; **not walking in craftiness/trickery, not handling the word of God deceitfully**; so he's specifically speaking of himself in that regard and the ministry, *but all of us*; it fits *all of us*...**not handling the word of God deceitfully** – not misusing it to our own advantage, that's being deceitful, that's misusing God's word. The world is filled with that, especially because... you know in this time they had no such thing as 'Traditional Christianity', they just had Judaism. And of course the Gentiles didn't have that. So this is all new for the Gentile world, this is all new for the Corinthians; but he's telling them that we **don't handle the word of God deceitfully**, in a wrong way to hurt, to *manipulate*, to *control*... but I've seen that. I've seen that *run rampant* in God's Church within the ministry! I've seen it *run rampant* in people's lives where they try to take advantage of one another, over others, to misuse God's word.

...**but by manifestation of the truth**, that's what it's about; it's about the truth, it's about striving to live what is true, striving to be *truthful*. That's why God hates a lie; when it talks about it in Proverbs, the things that God hates, and those that bear false witness. It talks about that in Proverbs; it mentions, basically, lying twice! Different type, different focus, but bearing false witness is lying; about one another, or someone else. That's why it's so wrong to bear tales about one another and to talk about one another... because it's just wrong. ...**but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God**. God is always there. If we could always see that and understand that and believe that with more of our being. God knows everything that comes out of your

mouth. He knows everything that's in your *mind*. God knows everything! He knows *everything in your mind!* *He knows your thoughts!* That's an awesome thing to understand. God has the power, because of the spirit, because of *His* spirit, because of the *spirit* He put in you He knows your mind! He knows you inside and out! He knows how to mould and fashion us once He calls us. We don't give enough honour and credit and glory to God for His power, we really don't. And we don't grasp it to the magnitude we should as human beings, we really don't. He knows everything; there's nothing hidden from God. He can tell you your motives. He makes it clear in Proverbs we don't even know our own motives, in Isaiah and different places like that... but He says He can show us, He can show us what's in our heart. We don't even know what's in our own heart. We don't understand the motives of why we do the things we do as human beings. Now we start learning it in the Church, which is an awesome thing. What an incredible thing – that by the power of God's spirit He helps us to begin to understand this, our own mind, how we think, why we think the way we do; because this is what has to change.

The body is going to fade. It just gets older and older and gets more run down. Your eyesight, your hearing, your teeth, everything goes in time. We don't get younger, we get older. We start decaying from the time we're born, in a sense. If you think you're getting younger, you're not, you're continually getting older. And we hit life's fullness in the sense around early 30's, somewhere in there, and we talk about going over the hill, some go there earlier than others... but it's the *mind*, it's the *mind* that God is concerned with. Amazing!

Verse 3 - **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them who are lost:** If others can't see it there's a reason for it. God hasn't called them, God hasn't drawn them; and it goes on to say, **In whom the god of this world**, Satan – Satan is the god of this world. He is the one that has deceived mankind. He's the one that keeps mankind deceived. Only God can come along and draw a person out of that and begin to reveal truth to the mind, through the power of His holy spirit so that a person can begin to see things that are true; only God can do that, otherwise, because of sin we're under a different power in a sense, as far as the world is concerned. We don't have the ability to see the truth, to know the truth, to understand God's way; it's impossible, it's a spiritual thing anyway.

And so here he says, **In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them who do not believe**, Satan is the one who has great power because of sin in the world and everyone has sin; Paul makes that clear in Romans over and over again – it's because of sin. Satan has power because of sin, and people's eyes are blinded because of sin and then Satan can come along and play games with human beings and deceive and lead people farther away from things that are true; and the farther he can get them away from... I can't even use the word 'civilized' because there's no such thing with human life until we're in the Church, until we get in the Millennium – and then there's going to be a form of civilization that's right. We in the 'western world' think that our democracy is what is civilized, and it's not civilized at all. It's maybe the best that man can do, but it's not 'civilized' by God's standard, by what is right.

And so Satan has come along... you don't have to look very far and you see perverted weird religious ideas that people have – really strange things, different cultures, different backgrounds; and people begin to think they're better than others... You look at Traditional Christianity – some weird stuff in there, some really weird, perverted, distorted, disgusting things in there. But people don't see that about themselves; they think they're basically 'good'. No, they're not! Amazing how the human mind works.

**In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them who do not believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God**, that's a powerful statement, one that we don't... we

*barely* grasp truly, **should shine unto them.** And so again, Satan strives, works to keep people deceived; and the farther away people are from anything that's true the happier he is, truly.

**For we preach not ourselves,** it's not about individuals, it's not about who people are; it's about God, it's about Jesus Christ, it's about what *God* is doing. **For we don't preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.** So, we understand those things in a very deep way, especially within the Church. We've been around for a long time and God has continued to give us progressive revelation and understanding of His way of life that they didn't... this is a Corinthian Church, a Gentile Church that had no knowledge of such things and so the primary focus of the Church in the very beginning was to talk about Jesus Christ, to talk about what He did and why He came and so forth; and to get that message out there in the very beginning. In time, obviously, that became distorted and twisted by Traditional Christianity, but the name was out there and then as God called people out and began to work with them... so man's gone through so many things and so many different periods of time. And again here, he's showing that the purpose of the ministry is to teach about God, teach about God's plan; and we understand in a very powerful way it all is centered around, focused upon Jesus Christ. It begins with Him and it continues on with Him through life for those who come into God's Family.

**Verse 6 - For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** *Before* Him, the truth, God's way of life, light; and using the examples of light and dark. And when I think of something like this I think of how even Mr. Armstrong... you know, there wasn't much truth when he came long. 3 Truths. 3 basic truths because of what happened to Sardis; and God began to bring him out of the darkness of Traditional Christianity, of a Quaker background, of Pentecostalism, and He began to bring him out of those things and to *show* him things that were true. And so even in his Autobiography you can see these changes, this transition of how he had to address some of these things, and some of the tent meetings they had, still a very Protestant environment.

Some people in the Church go back and read some of those things and they think, "Oh! How could that have ever been God's servant?!" And, "He came from a Pentecostal background and he had tent meetings and revivals and it was very Protestant!" Duh!? That was what God was bringing him out of and continuing to give him more and more truth. That's how God began to revive the Church and give truth to the Church. There wasn't much truth by that time; but as time went on Mr. Armstrong began to learn. He learned things about government... I remember when we first had the first phase of things that began to happen when the scattering took place after the apostasy and a publication started flying around a lot of the scattered churches and they went all the way back to, I believe, 1934 when Mr. Armstrong wrote a thing on government. And it was like, "See! He *understood* back then what government was supposed to be..." Because it wasn't what the government was like later on. But it was still filled with this Protestant kind of governing system that so many churches in the world had. And what Mr. Armstrong came to see is that it doesn't work!

*One* must be in charge! *One!* It doesn't work to have a board. It doesn't work to have a lot of different people saying what can be done. God doesn't *work* that way. And some of us had to go back, including me, and realize and learn God works in a very specific way. That's why God made Peter the chief apostle amongst the twelve and those who went to the Jews, as a whole. Paul was made the chief apostle to the Gentiles. There was a split in the sense of how they had to work because they didn't have technology and the kind of communication we have today; so God called Paul to do a specific job in a

Gentile world where Peter and the apostles were *primarily*... primarily were working with the Jews, some to the scattered... but anyway...

Incredible how God works. You just have confusion otherwise. That's why there is *one* God! That's why there is *one* High Priest! And you see that oneness that God gives through time and how He works in matters of order.

So anyway, Satan has confused and confounded those things, even within the environment of the Church. And so our lives, even when God calls us, let alone what Mr. Armstrong had to go through and what all of us have to go through...we begin to come out of darkness into light. We begin to see some light. And today's it's a very accelerated thing because of technology and the ability to go to the computer; but yet it takes a lifetime to grow in experience. It's just like maturing. When you're twenty you can't have the experiences that someone who is fifty has in life, by having had children and family and learning a lot of lessons in life just from that – just on a physical plane, not even within the Church! How much more *within the Church*? See, it takes time to grow and it's just the way it is.

And so it took time for Mr. Armstrong, it took time for me, it took time for you, or is taking time for you, and it's taking time for all of us, isn't it? It's a process we go through from darkness to light... from the darkness to the light, closer and closer; it's just another way of saying getting closer and closer to God, God's way of life, God's truth. We're ever learning more and more, brighter and brighter along the way.

**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, that's a theme that kind of runs into this Feast even. We have this treasure... God's light, the truth in and through Jesus Christ that we are able to have. It's in an earthen vessel, a temporary dwelling, as we heard yesterday, a temporary dwelling that this Feast of Tabernacles is to remind us of, of how God works in our lives. And so we have this treasure, God's word, God's truth in this – in a physical body that is filled with corruption, that is filled with things that are wrong, that is filled with selfishness!

...**that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us**. So that no one ever, ever, *ever* is able to say, "Look what I did." No pride! There is absolutely *no room for pride* in the Church of God, in human beings – never! Never! I am *sick* of it! I've had my *fill* of it in the Church! Truly! Because that's what led everyone to destruction... pride, pride, pride. And where does that come from? Who started that one? This same being! He is the author of it! He's the author of confusion! He's the author of pride and selfishness, and that's what God is letting us learn in this temporary dwelling, in this temporary body – how wrong, how bad, how sick, how perverted, how much pain, how much suffering such things cause! And again... so that the glory and the excellency is of God, that He can work with something like us to give us something so glorious, so awesome that's just in front of all of us that are being called.

**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed**; Do you have troubles? Do you have difficulties you battle because of this way of life when you've been cut off from the world as it talks about in Revelation? ...uses the word 'beheaded' there, for God's way of life? Because you're not a part of the world anymore and you're cut off from it. They write you off, truly, as a whole; they don't want anything to do with what you believe. They may like you, but they just can't stand what you believe.

**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we're perplexed, but not in despair**; This morning I went down by the lake out here walking around a little bit and thinking about the future here and what we're getting ready to go into and what God's Church is getting ready to go into...and thinking how

blessed we are that we haven't had to have 'troubled' times yet; but that we're getting close. And once we're thrown into that how blessed we are that we are going to be so focused on the positive that comes through it; because it's through this very process that people are brought to humility by the thousands, by the hundreds of thousands, and by the millions.... and *that* will be your focus. You're going to be inspired and moved by it. Although you see hardship and pain and suffering all around you you're going to be moved by the fruit, by the product that comes out of this. Truly, it's going to be your focus and it's going to consume a lot of your time... which helps a great deal for time to go by and be there when Christ returns.

**Verse 9 - Persecuted, but not forsaken;** people hate us, people take advantage of us, people mock us. It's like I was talking about yesterday, there are those that get on the internet and it's hard to comprehend, (and you can't), that kind of a disturbed mind; that their life is to tear apart everything about *this* Church... *this* Church: me, and you and everyone in it to the nth degree that they can. And they only hurt themselves! They don't understand what they're doing to their mind and their conscience and their thinking. And it's just hard to imagine! **Persecuted but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed;** we have great hope, we have great purpose – we know that, we see that, we're moved by that.

**Always bearing about the Body the dying of the Lord Jesus;** in other words, we get there through suffering, because you know what? There's no other way you can change. There is absolutely *no other way that your mind can change except through human suffering – that's why you are human, mortal, physical. That's the exact reason for it!* Okay? It's good to get that deeply cemented in your mind; that if you don't suffer, something's wrong with you! That if you're not going through *hardship* and if you're not addressing hard things in your mind by battling those things something is wrong with you! If you get out the violin and start weeping and moaning and crying, "Oh this is just too *hard* for me!" Then you're just telling God... "*Oh, I don't want to go through this! I don't want to be in Your Family!*" *Because there is NO OTHER WAY you can be in God's Family except that you go through this and have some suffering!!* And *understand* what it's like to be carnal and physical and selfish and *filled* with pride to where you learn to *hate it* with all of your being! And that's exciting! Like Wayne was saying yesterday... you go and you learn how evil our nature is. "*I'm excited!*" Like he said, "I go home and you can't tell people how excited you are that you heard for eight days how bad you are!" They don't get that! But we are and we're *inspired* by it because we see the end product, we see what God is doing!

**Persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed. Always bearing about the Body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Christ might be made manifest in our body.** Suffering! It's through suffering! **For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake,** sometimes literally, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

And again, it's about this being who's behind all this, it's about this being who stirs up the pot, it's about this being who likes to make it *harder* on you... and yet he has no comprehension that he's helping God. He's *helping* God! It's an awesome thing! And he doesn't get it. He's helping God and God's creation... that's another sermon.

**I Corinthians 15:20 - But now is Christ risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of them who have slept. For since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead.** The need for life to continue on. **For as in Adam all die,** we're all made physical, we're all made temporary. **For as in Adam all die,** created to die. Mankind was not created to live; mankind's created mortal so he could die, so he could feel *pain* and *suffering*! And sometime we just don't get it – how beautiful God's

creation is...that there is no other way. There is *absolutely no other way* for Elohim to come into existence except through this manner. It is awesomely inspiring when you understand it in its depth. And the more you come to see it, the more awesome it becomes.

**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man/everyone in their own order:** his or her own order, **Christ the firstfruits;** in other words the first of the firstfruits, **afterward they who are Christ's at His coming.** And so Jesus Christ is first; and then we have the firstfruits, the 144,000, the next phase of God's plan, or the early harvest, if you will, which is the next phase of God's plan that's coming in order here when Jesus Christ returns.

**But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom of God, even the Father; when He shall have put down,** in other words unto the Father; **when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.** In other words, in the context here, *that is not fully subject to God.* That is not fully subject...*Everything* is going to be subject to God before this is over with...especially that about Satan, because Satan right now is one one who is the god of this world, he has the power, and God purposed it so. And that's something that is difficult for people to sometimes comprehend and understand. By the end of the Feast here, you're going to appreciate (I believe) that far more.

**Verse 25 - For He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet.** So Jesus Christ is going to continue on, continue reigning; and the purpose of it is to bring everything into subjection to God Almighty. And so it comes under/in subjection to Jesus Christ first. **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He has put all things under His,** under Christ's, **feet.** So God Almighty has put everything to be under Christ's feet; **But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is manifest that He is excepted,** in other words, that He does not. In other words this does not mean that God the Father is going to be under Him in any fashion or form. That's why it states it this way, kind of awkward English here, but it is better stated as: **it is manifest that this is all things except Himself;** that's a better rendering even of the Greek language here. So it's manifest that this is all things except Himself, **who did put all things under Him.** In other word, God put all things under Christ and in time they'll come under the Father. So again, it's just a little awkward English here.

**And when all things shall be subdued/subjected unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject to Him,** in other words, everything is under God Almighty, **who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.**

Dropping on down to **verse 50** here in the same chapter - **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.** We are made in corruption. That's the way God made us.

**Verse 51 - 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.** Their focus was what? The first resurrection – for them... in other words the 144,000, the next resurrection that was coming in God's plan and order – not for later on after the thousand years; because everyone being drawn and called, the Gentiles and everyone that Paul was speaking to and all that the apostles were working with in the beginning of the Church was about the next couple of thousand years – which they didn't know how much time it was at that time; but it was all about preparing for the firstfruits that would be in a great resurrection, and so things are written in that context. So the things that Paul writes here, they have everything to do with

that particular focus in mind, yet everyone has to go through the same process of conversion and they go through something different once they get to the Millennium, and then the Great White Throne... but everyone has to go through the same process of conversion and so forth; but different resurrections to become a part of God's Family.

So when he talks about this, 'at the last Trump:' that's very specific. It's very specific talking about a specific resurrection; at the last Trump. And we talked about that on the Feast of Trumpets.

What an awesome thing! I was thinking about that yesterday again, thinking about the Feast of Trumpets and the things we've come to see in that Feast of Trumpets in 2008 and a process that began then when God began to reveal more to us. And then the next Feast of Trumpets and God giving to us an understanding of 980 days and 'Time, times and a Half a Time' and how that count was really for God's people and for the Church. And it just goes on and on, the things that God gives to us and inspires us to understand and see. So again here, talking about the last Trump: **for the Trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.** So again, speaking of the 144,000 in that specific resurrection.

**For this corruptible**, all of us – corruptible, and having to do...and a great deal too obviously here with a mortal dying body, that which... but it goes beyond that too as far as the way human beings live their life, **must put on incorruption**, in the way we think and so forth, **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 your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin;** that's Satan's power. That *is* Satan's power in life; and it's not just about that which is physical death to all human beings that we all experience as a whole, but it's that which continues on – because of the need for the forgiveness of sins. So it's about sin, it's about the need to conquer sin and God has blessed us so that we can do that...we can go through a process of conquering sin and being forgiven of sin and being washed and cleansed and then in time to be given immortality, given life, age-lasting life.

**So, the sting of death is sin;** and that's why, again, it talks about this in different sermons at times because this has constituted Satan's power over mankind, it truly has. But through Jesus Christ it takes that power away. It's an awesome process and an awesome thing that God has given; and the entire plan is so absolutely incredible. ...**and the strength of sin is the law.** So again here, because there is only one way of life to live and everyone has to make that choice.

**But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** So, we have that hope living within us, truly. **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord,** fight! You just continue to fight, you continue to move forward, striving to live by what God gives you; **forasmuch as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.** Powerful, powerful verses.

Let's go back to some of the writings of John back in the book of **I John 2:15 - Love not the world**, it's the same kind of term that's used when speaking of Satan being the god of this world. **Love not the world**, in other words, the way the world is, the way of this age, the way of mankind in the past 6,000 years; **neither the things that are in the world.** Because it's talking about that which is based on selfishness and pride and so forth. **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** And that's a battle! We're so highly influenced by things around us in society. We addressed some things about clothing even before the Feast, about swimming and going to a beach and on and on it goes. And



those are just small things that affect how people think. We are so moved by what other people think and what other people desire when it comes to fashion or things of that nature. And then it goes into music and we don't want to be different, people want to fit it, they want to blend in and they want to be in the 'in' or whatever it is, whatever that means. And so much of that has to do with loving this world, being overly influenced by this world. We're to be different. We represent a different world, we truly do – all of us do. And in a very short time we're going to help establish the standards in a new world in everything, as a way of life that will affect things like music and dress and entertainment and on and on it goes.

**If any man love the world, if you're drawn to the world and you still have that within you God says the love of the Father is not in him.** Now, that's a constant battle. So it's showing here that either we have a love toward God and we're fighting those things or we don't and we love the world and we ignore what God has offered to us.

**Verse 16 - For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.** And what is that world? Satan's. That's the way of Satan – lust, in his case not the lust of the flesh; but he knows about lust, he knows about wrong desire, he knows about pride – it's his thinking. It's what he thinks is right; and he knows how to move others to follow the same. Mankind easily, easily succumbs to that because that's the way we are. From the time we're born we fit right into that package, physical human beings, babies, children learn very quickly selfishness – how to get attention; and it's not always pleasant how we get attention.

**The pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world.** It's the way of Satan, **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life** is not of God, obviously. But He made us to be subject to such things. He made us to be subject to such things. It's an awesome thing to understand. God designed us and made us to be subject to such things – incredible. We'll talk about that through the Feast here.

**And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he who does the will of God abides forever.** That's our strength, that's our hope, that's what we want to do; we want to do God's will, we choose it, we see that it's right, we see that it produces the right kind of fruit, the right kind of results. That's what family is about – God's way. It's what gives the right kind of family and the right *fruit* within family.

**Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that anti-Christ shall come, even now there are many anti-Christ's;** even within the scattered church people don't understand what this means – anti-Christ. They think there's one person who is going to be the anti-Christ. And you think, "This is so simple, how can there be many anti-Christ's if there's just one in the last time?" It's all about those who have opportunity for God's way of life who turn against God, who reject God's spirit, who don't *desire* God's spirit to live within them, or because of sin they choose a different path or whatever... but obviously not yielding themselves and desiring and hungering for God's spirit. And this has happened to *thousands of people* who once had God's spirit who are now cut off from the flow of God's spirit. They become anti-Christ, actually working against Christ. People in the world...they've never had this way of life, they can't become anti – against Christ, because they've never known Him, they're ignorant, in other words of Christ, of God, of the truth. They just don't know it! Only people who've been drawn to the truth can come to a point where they become against Christ and work against Him. It's a *given* the rest of the world is against Christ and against God because that's the way it's always been through time. This is a different context. John is speaking to the Church.

**Whereby we know it's the last time. They went out from us**, it's talking about those who were a part of us, those who walked to God's house side by side and council blended sweet as the Psalm says, and the song we have sung at times past. **They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us:** people make different choices and at the end-time things prophetically fit into it that thousands and thousands and thousands, multiple thousands would make such choice, falling asleep, becoming lethargic, the love of many waxing cold and all the things that are involved with what happened to us in the Church. And only because of God's grace, and only because of God's plan, and only because there's a purpose of having a Remnant and the Church continuing on – thank God – were so many of us that are a part of the past able to be brought back together; but there aren't very many. And then to continue on working toward the time of Christ's return here, preparing for God's Kingdom. It says, **they would have no doubt continued with us, but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not of us.** Whatever period of time this has been in. It's happened in smaller ways through time and in the past 2,000 years, but this is prophetic for the very end in a very powerful way that we've already lived through.

So again, a constant battle against a being, the way of Satan, the way of this world that's always out there that we must fight and must choose to fight and must *want* to fight and apply ourselves accordingly... and not just let life happen to us, not just live life. It's a battle, it's a fight; and if we don't address it that way day by day something is *deeply* wrong with us spiritually.

Let's go to Acts 26. In this particular account here we're going to be looking at Paul as he is telling King Agrippa about his conversion, because behind the scenes, all the time there is that being, that being who has constantly swayed this world, swayed mankind, tried to move mankind farther and farther away from anything that's true, anything that resembles the light, trying to distort, trying to confound God's way. That's why you think about what he did with Judaism. By the time Jesus Christ came along, Judaism was totally off base. Christ condemned them all! They were all wrong! What they were doing was wrong, the leaders were wrong, they had wrong motives – everything that they were doing in life was based on things that were wrong. They were not striving to serve God faithfully and honestly and truthfully. Not a one! ...as a religion, as religions or as the leaders of those religions. And then we come to a point in time where... look at Christianity, what Satan did with Christianity. Incredible! A deception here, a deception there – totally twisting and distorting things about God and God's purpose and God's plan. As God progressively revealed more to man Satan was in there to twist and distort it all! Incredible!

**Acts 26:12 - Whereupon as I went to Damascus**, again, he's telling this story, **with authority and commission from the chief priests**, he's telling about his time of conversion, he's talking about the authority he had – he was there giving his nod and his approval when Stephen was martyred, when Stephen was killed, when Stephen was put to death. He's the one that said, "Yes, go ahead, kill him!" ...basically is what it amounted to. He was persecuting the Church; he was seeking to destroy the Church! He was out to destroy any remnant; that was the authority given to him by the chief priests.

**At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining around me and them who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking to me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? Is it hard for you to kick against the goads?** It's something that was used; it was a long stick primarily to drive cattle, oxen and so forth. And it's an expression used to describe someone who's resisting something here, "Are you resisting God?" ...in this particular case here, "Why are you resisting God? Why are you resisting Me as you are?" **And I said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus whom you are**

**persecuting.** What an incredible event! Can you imagine? The very one you're trying to wipe away any knowledge of? The one who these stories going around about someone who'd been dead and He's resurrected and you're trying to wipe this out because you don't believe in it whatsoever because you're so steeped in Judaism? You don't believe there's a person that came along that could possibly be The Messiah... who died! That isn't Judaism's picture of who the Messiah is – because they didn't grasp He had to be the Passover first. So it doesn't fit into their idea of what fits into their obvious beliefs here.

And so here you have the very one speaking to you. “What are you doing? ...and it's Me, the one you're fighting against, the one you're seeking to destroy the remnants of, everything that's behind here, that's left behind, you're seeking to destroy it!” **I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, But rise and stand on your feet: for I have appeared unto you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of these things which you have seen, and of those things in which I will appear unto you;** give to you, in other words. What an incredible event that Paul experienced here and the things he went through! And the shock! And how God gave him then, like He does to us, the truth. He began to understand the truth; and now all of his teaching... He was steeped in Judaism! He had been taught by the best of teachers and he was an incredible candidate to do an incredible job. God had moulded and fashioned him a long time ago. To understand that he could go from being a teacher, being one who was so well taught in Judaism, one who was so steeped in his beliefs and his convictions to come to understand something about... Jesus Christ was the Passover, and to see how all this fit into all of his beliefs. Man, his mind was opened and God was able to use him as an apostle right away! Powerful! Awesome!

When God is working and moulding and fashioning someone, it's just like so many of us when we were asleep, and different ones that sleep at different times and all of a sudden when God opened the mind and helped us to understand everything that had transpired. And people who come along at any phase in time here, whatever that period of time is – 5 years, 10 years after the apostasy...and all of a sudden their mind is opened up to see what had happened, what they did, and what has transpired and what God has given to the Church – they come back stronger than ever. And because of what they went through and what they learned, all of us, we can be *far stronger, far more deeply convicted, and far more powerful tools in God's hands* to do a job. It's incredible to understand how God can work in our lives.

So it goes on to say... **I will appear unto you delivering you from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send you, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.** That's what God does when He calls us! And so He's going to use Paul to help the Gentiles to be removed from the power of Satan to serve God. And especially in the Gentile world even more so in some of the things that had to take place there because there's *no* knowledge of God. Judaism, they have some knowledge about God. Christianity, they have some knowledge and then when God begins to put it all together in that background, people can begin to learn far more easily than someone who's a Buddhist or Hindu or whatever it might be; as far as their past is concerned because they have never heard or read about such things, as a whole. So there's a lot more work involved in working with them, just like there will be with those of Islam. It's not an easy job because they left in the time of Abraham, and so they don't have the benefit of what God gave in the Old Testament, they don't have the benefit of what God gave in the New Testament – they ignore it all.

And that's why it's *harder* to work with them, that's why it's going to be more difficult, that's why some of them aren't going to want to come up to the Feast, because of that and prejudices they have already so deeply imbedded within them. They're not going to be excited about coming up to the Feast of Tabernacles; to that which smacks of Judaism. “*To Jerusalem? Send representatives to Jerusalem?*”

You've got to be kidding!" It's going to be hard for them; it's not going to be easy. It's going to be easier for some of the Hindu and some of those to send representatives than it will be for those of Islam, truly. Because the others don't have to work with the prejudices and so forth; they're going to be able to learn quickly that their gods were carved in stone and *nothing*... nothing! It's going to be easy for them to realize, "I believed in nothing!" It's a little bit different for Islam. Got a tough job in front of them, they really do; those things that are so deeply embedded in them.

Going on here; he's explaining this story, again, to King Agrippa and talking about how that God had called him to work with him to change. And what an abrupt thing. When you're sitting there listening to a story like this and you're someone of this nature, like King Agrippa listening to Paul tell about a process of conversion he went through and here he was trying to kill, to destroy, to wipe out any remnant of any knowledge about Christ, about Jesus and His followers, and putting them to death; and then all of a sudden you're telling a king that I had this... there was this light, we all fell to the ground, this voice was telling me, "You're persecuting Me and I'm sending you to the Gentiles to open their minds and take them away from the power of Satan unto God..." **...that they may receive the forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in Me.** ...so he's continuing the story of what Jesus Christ said.

**Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:** You better believe it! He had the king's attention; he was moved by the story, he really was. **But first showed this unto them in Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.** Proof of repentance. That's why within the Church; there are certain things within the ministry we want to make sure of, to show... if someone's not convicted to keeping the seventh day Sabbath and they're still working on that day or going to work on Friday at sunset – *they're not ready for God's Church* because they haven't done the first thing that they need to show conviction, to show fruit of repentance. They're not *deserving* yet of coming to God's appointment, appointed time, like we heard yesterday again.

And the same thing with tithing; if we're not willing to recognize that God owns everything, that everything belongs to God and He's let me live on this earth... it's God's! By all means I want to give to God what is God's because I believe this, I believe this is true, I want to repent, I want to change my life. And so that's where it begins! That's why those two things are so important; the Holy Days, the Sabbath, because it's not just the weekly Sabbath, it's the annual Sabbaths. If we're not willing to do them then we're ignoring what God is telling us.

And so he went on to say here **that to do words meet for repentance. For these reasons the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.** Nothing new! People don't like you, they don't believe what you have, they'd really like to see you dead. They may not put their own hand to you in this 'civilized' world; there are still some that would... but he's showing here what they went about to do. He says he was so moved by this, convicted by this he was going to do it even if it meant his death. **Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day,** I'm still out here, still doing what God gave me to do and I'm going to do it because... well, anyway; **witnessing both to small and great,** whomever God brings me before, that's what he's saying, I'm witnessing, I'm telling them what happened and what took place and what I've experienced; and then the truth that's here, **saying none other things than those things which the prophets and Moses said should come: That Christ should suffer, and that He should be the first who should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.** So again, incredible story here talking about those things and the process here of what he was called to do, moved to turn people, the Gentiles, away from Satan, the power of

Satan unto God; and doing it before a king in this particular case. And the king was mightily moved by his story; he couldn't help but be seeing someone of his stature, his magnitude in that respect of his past making such a change in his life.

The point being, again of all this, Satan's always there, he's always behind the scenes, he's always been seeking to thwart, to hurt, to hurt mankind and keep anyone from receiving this way of life, receiving the truth. And then of course, there's this modern example today of the destructive influence of Satan that we, so many of us... I can't say we all witnessed it; but so many of us right here in this room and different ones at different Feast sites around the world today, those small in number, have been witness of this incredible event: II Thessalonians 2. That's why I think, what a dumbfounding thing to see this man's son in an airport on the way to this Feast site, who himself is at this area this time of year, and to share that story with you of what happened. Those things don't happen by coincidence; there's a purpose behind it, if nothing more than for the purpose of driving a point home and other things that are going on in the spirit world around you.

**II Thessalonians 2:8 - And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming:** I'm not going to take time to go through these verses, we've talked about them so often; but this was to the Church of God, this was to the Church of God to reveal that we are now at the end; the end has begun. This was it! This event, to God's Church! It's awesome, it's powerful, it truly is! ***Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan***, that's the power that was behind him – not *in* him. It doesn't mean that someone has to be possessed. We get these things out of Hollywood and these things that people have these big buggy eyes and they're doing weird things and have these weird powers. Hollywood... the spirit world wants you to fear them and be afraid of them. We're not to be afraid of anything. But we, some of us in God's Church, sometimes we carry that baggage with us because we watch these *stupid* shows on TV; because they want you to fear them. You don't have to fear them! They're nothing to fear! They're just disturbed beings that have no power over your life because 'greater is He that's in you than he that's in the world!'

They have no power over God's people. That's why sometimes when we have situations happen, which happen from time to time and these beings try to influence people and play with their minds and screw up their minds – which we have on a regular basis of individuals with that kind of background. Because those beings want to influence the Church and they mess with people in their lives. I feel sorry for people that have gone through those things; that lose control of their ability to think and conduct themselves properly. It's a horrible thing! ...because they do have tremendous power and influence if, if because of sin, and because of other things, it's allowed to be so.

But I'll tell you what! *Anybody* in God's Church who is drawn to the truth and you continue to *yield* to that truth – those beings will not stay around you. They're always going to be broadcasting toward you, but you become stronger and stronger and that influence goes away. And they come to a point in time where they don't want to be around, they don't want to be around *you*! They can't stand God! ...and they can't stand God in you; and they *know* where God is. They know where every person who's begotten of His spirit, that has a flow of God's spirit in their life – so once you're baptized and you have that flow of God's spirit living in you, *they know who you are; they know that power and they don't like to be around it*. Now, they want to *broadcast* to you and try to cause you to be pulled away by different things and they know your weaknesses and they try to broadcast; but they don't stick around too long and every time you keep resisting and you grow stronger they get farther away.

That's why I've told some people in the beginning... even if you listen to the music on the site, you know what? They can't stand it!! They *can't stand* hymns being sung to God that have the truth in it! They can't stand being around that environment – they don't like to hear it! They don't want it! They flee! And the closer you draw to God the less impact they can have in anyone's life. Because we've had situations sometimes where some talk about how they're having influence in their life. And then I think, "Well, what's wrong with you? What are you not doing right? If God has called you and you're yielding to God and *your obeying God in your life...*" cause I'm not with you every moment of the day and I don't know what your weaknesses are and I don't know if you're lying or what. But I do know the power of God's spirit and I know that if there's that kind of influence in your life – you're doing something wrong! You're not yielding to God like you should be! *THAT* I know! And that I've told the ministry as well. So if you have anyone like that you're dealing with – *they're lying to you!* Surprise, surprise! Those beings lie; and if they influence others that are around anybody's presence...anything that lies, anyone that lies – something is desperately wrong in their life! Incredible! I hope we understand that.

The closer you draw to God the less influence they have of even broadcasting to you, truly. But if you become weak, and you become filled with sin and you won't repent and you won't change – they can broadcast and they can influence your life and you are no match for them...because you're the ones they want. They've already got the world deceived. Some of this is about to change, and the sermon today has a change in that that's going to start taking place.

This individual in God's Church that was the head of the apostasy, that created the apostasy, that was responsible, in essence, the individual that was the 1<sup>st</sup> Seal being opened in the book of Revelation; it was this individual who committed this great sin to God's Church. It's absolutely incredible to think someone came along and said, "You no longer have to keep the Sabbath day, it is not a sign of God's people, that Jesus Christ is the sign." No He's not. He's our Passover, He's our High Priest; but God didn't establish Him as a sign. *He's our High Priest! He's our Passover!* ...but the Sabbath... the Sabbath is a sign of God's people, it's a beginning. That means the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbaths – that's a beginning that identifies who God's people are. Because anyone not keeping the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbaths are not God's so that just wipes off a whole bunch of people out there in the world; and only those who are scattered can, as a whole, resemble any of that even. Then in time we understand other things we can judge and discern there.

But again, it says here that this individual who came along and said that you no longer have to keep the Sabbath...and they even said, "You don't have to tithe anymore." But they revisited that doctrine after a while. I don't think it was too many months. I think it was just a few months up the road. If my memory serves me right it was a few months up the road when they kind of revisited that doctrine because, oh my, they didn't have to tithe? "Whoa Whee!! I'll just give every once in a while and give whatever I want to give!" And you know what? They didn't want to really give 10% to God, so they did revisit that doctrine. But Holy Days and so forth, it was like you can worship God on any day of the week and then they continued worshiping on Saturday because so many people were so filled in with that one there... I don't want to get into that. But it's incredible what happened! Astounding that people who could have such conviction in one thing at one time could change so drastically and so quickly.

And those of you who are new? Put yourself in those shoes and think about... What if someone came along and said something like that? What would you do? Well, I can tell you with absolute authority and truth and experience that if it happened over a few years you would have done *exactly* what happened to everyone in the Church; because see, you would have fallen asleep so that when that happened you would have been scattered! A third of you would have chosen Protestantism again, going

back to Sunday. A third of you would be so disillusioned because you believed that this was the truth and you hung everything on it; and now you're so disillusioned because you can't believe, "How can this happen to God's Church?! If this is God's Church... how could this have happened to God's Church?!" And you would have panicked and you would have left and just quit. You'd become so disillusioned you wouldn't believe in any religion. You'd almost become atheist in some cases – truly! Because you're so disillusioned, because there's nothing else that comes close to what I believed the truth was! And then a third of you would be trying to hold onto some fashion or form of something in the past. That's exactly what would have happened; but you would be dead asleep and you'd be out here trying to do something of the past, but not having God's spirit because you already fell asleep.

*Don't ever think that what happened to God's Church can't happen to you! ...because it will, and it will happen in the Millennium as well.* There are going to be people who fall asleep during the Millennium and will have to be resurrected at the end of the thousand years to live it again because they didn't take what God offered them and use it with all of their might and with all of their being. It's going to happen. Some are going to fit into that category in life and I hope and pray that it's nobody that's with us today, truly... but it can happen. So it's something to learn from and to understand that power that exists, even when *this being* won't even be around anymore. How much more when he's around?

So anyway, we have experienced this, the power of that individual and what he did; and it makes it very clear here that his power, his strength, his ability to do this throughout the Church came from Satan, from that being with **power, signs and lying wonders**, lying wonders... and if you understand how these words are used in the Greek language, it was a dumbfounding thing because you think, the lies... and yet it's a wonder because look at how many people embraced it and they were excited by it. It was by this power, by this being; **and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them who perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** It's a powerful thing that happened and what took place and thank God He had mercy and had a purpose of a Remnant, and has a purpose in so many of those being awakened one day when they're given life again, because they'll have an opportunity in the hundred year period to be resurrected and to see what they did and come to grips with it then, and deal with it then and repent then.

**And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned,** the word means 'judged' or 'condemned' **who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.** And that's what it boils down to; human beings have pleasure in unrighteousness – that's the way we are; and we stumble and fall then if we don't keep spiritually alert and awake.

So Satan's always been around, always been there behind the scenes, in front of the scenes, all around the scenes trying to confuse, to confound, to distort, to destroy God's plan and purpose; and yet he has only aided it. It's awesome when you come to understand that in a deeper way; he's only aided it. It's like Haman. That is such a profound example of something that happened physically; with Queen Esther and Mordecai. You go back and read the story of Haman and how everything came back against Haman and it's exactly the same way but on a greater plane of what's happening to Satan – exactly! *Exactly!*

So again here, seeing this influence that Satan has, even *within* the Church is incredible, that's why we have to constantly be on guard and be alert because it happened to an entire era, Laodicea, and throughout all the eras things have happened in people's lives where that being has been there; because his greater concern is to get at those whom God has called and is working with because he wants to destroy and fight against God.

**James 4:1 - Where do wars and fighting's come from among you?** I think of times past in Worldwide before we ever had an apostasy; and scriptures like this were very, very hard for people in God's Church to comprehend, to understand this is about the Church; because God calls things what they are. And so James is not talking to the world. He's not saying, "Where do wars and fighting's come from among you?" James was talking to God's Church through the inspiration of God's spirit. **Where do wars and fighting's among you come from? Do they not come from your lusts that war in your members?** There are things we want and primarily how do we want them? We want them our way. Everything's always better when it goes 'my' way isn't it? Isn't that how we think as human beings? As a whole! If you don't understand that about your nature then something's wrong, see? Things always go smoother when people agree with you in how things should be done; whether it be your mate, whether it be your children, whether it be your parents, or whether it be your boss, or whether it be your employees... and that's the way it should be with employees... they should want to do things... anyway, another story. But that's how human beings are.

**You lust and have not:** we desire to have something in a wrong way, in a wrong manner that's not right or not healthy for us, **and have not;** and this is talking, again, to God's people in the Church. This is how we think as human beings. That's why in my notes I put in parenthesis ("Do you believe that this is a part of your nature that you have to fight?") ...**you lust and have not;** because if you don't realize that's a part of your nature and that you have to fight it, then you've got a problem, you don't see something here - truly!

...**you kill**, same thing – you think that's a part of your nature? ...**you kill**, see... you don't. As a whole, *we do not believe that about ourselves in God's Church! We don't believe that! We don't believe we kill!* But every time you hurt, you wrong someone else, you say something wrong to or about someone else – you are **KILLING**, you are a **MURDERER!** That's what God calls it; but we don't like to call it that; but God calls it what it is. He calls it what it is so we can understand the *evil*, and where *evil* comes from. We've got to *hate the evil to quit it*, and that's why the book of 1<sup>st</sup> John makes it very clear here: If we fail to love, (and that's what the word...) if you hate someone... We say, "Oh, I don't hate anyone. I don't hate anyone!" ...and basically we really don't feel like we hate anyone; but God calls it what it is. See, hatred is murder.

If you treat someone in a wrong way for a wrong purpose, to have your way; if you say things that are wrong to other people, if you hurt, if you tear down, if you think/say things that are cutting, things that are not right in conversation, God says you're a murderer. He says you hate because you fail to love them. If we fail to love each other God says that's hatred. If we know how to love... that's what 1<sup>st</sup> John says; If we know how to love someone and we *don't* do it, God' says you're a murderer. But we don't tend to believe that in God's Church about ourselves as human beings. You better believe it about yourself, you better see how *evil* that is, you better see how *wrong* it is and ask God to help you to fight...for that very reason, to fight such battles, so that *nothing... nothing, nothing, NOTHING* is ever said *wrong* about anybody else in God's Church or to your advantage to have an advantage over someone else...because it's the *same spirit*; in order to get your way. It's just *wrong!* And God wants us to see how wrong that is, because until we do we won't repent and we can't have the peace that God wants us to have, that so many have sacrificed for through time, that God has fought for, worked for, planned for through millions of years, possibly billions upon billions.

That's why we need to embrace things like this with all of our being; ask God to help us to see it, learn to *hate evil*, learn to *hate anything* that comes out of us that's *evil*, anything that would *hurt* someone else, that would be cutting, that would be hurtful... a failure to love; a failure to exercise God's love and we



know how to do something right to someone else and we won't do it?! God says you kill! And we do. And we have to acknowledge that and see that and see when we do it so that we can repent of it.

**...and desire to have, and cannot obtain:** we desire to have all right! That's the problem; we desire to have our own way. Why? Because you know your way is right. I know 'my' way is right! That's the way we tend to be. That's why somebody else is always wrong, because I'm right. That's the way the scattered churches out here are. They're right! No, only God is right and whomever God has brought with Him has what is right – everybody else is wrong. But everybody believes they're right! And some of them out there believe that "Well, I believe that we're all," kind of like the Protestant world, "we're kind of all working in the same direction. What a joke! We don't agree with each other's government, we don't agree with each other about how you're doing things and we believe your totally wrong in some of your doctrines...but we're all... we're all working in the same direction, kind of this universal type of thing where we're all going in the same way toward God. Isn't that sweet?" No it isn't. There's only *one way* to the truth. But that's crept into the scattered churches now, that's how some think; that someone over here is doing okay and they'll get there too. Yeah, when they come to repentance, when God brings them to repentance in the Great White Throne...and not until, except for those who are going to come along here at the very end.

**...you ask and you do not receive because you ask amiss,** we ask for the wrong reasons. So many things in life we try to get because we want our way...because we think it's right. And then sometimes when God doesn't answer us we wonder... "Why is He not answering me?" It's like God's at fault here because I'm right. Again, amazing how we can think?!

**You adulterers and adulteresses,** now, we don't like to... "That's not me, I'm not an adulterer, an adulteress?!" or either one of those...

**Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** On and on it goes here; and so it's hard for us to say, "Yes, that nature's within me and I'm fighting it, I'm repenting of it when I see it. I don't want it to be in me, I loathe it, I hate it. And so whenever it raises its ugly head I want to put my foot down there and shove it right back under the water. When you were baptized... you shove it right back under the water – "Go glug, glug, glug – stay under! You don't raise your ugly head!" That's the way we should *see* that part of our nature – loathe it, hate it... *hate evil!* If you don't you won't quit it, you *sure* won't repent of it, you *SURE* won't accept the responsibility of what comes out of you that's wrong. You just do it; you just foolishly, ignorantly continue to let things spew out of your mouth, or out of your being, to hurt others. That's what we do! I see it all the time in God's Church. Don't think it's not in our lives. It is! That's what we have to repent of, that's what repentance is all about; acknowledgement, accepting personal responsibility before God for what we are, for who we are. That's the part we want to conquer and overcome. We don't want to be like that! We *won't want* to say harsh words to one another. I *don't like* to hear people raise their voice at each other. I *don't like* things like that. I *don't like* when things are said that cut and hurt. I don't like *it!* I *don't like* that environment! ...and you shouldn't either. And until you feel that way you won't fight against it and you won't stop.

**Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.** You do things like the world and you don't change it – then we're just fighting against God. God says you're just an enemy then. Who wants to be that?

**Do you think that the scripture says in vain, that the spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?** That's what's in us! That's the battle we're fighting! **But He gives more grace. Wherefore He says, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** Pride, pride pride! It's an enemy! It started *so long ago* in that being who led a third of the angelic realm with him, who themselves became lifted up with pride and *turned against God!* And *all human beings* have been the same way! ...except one whose father was God.

**Wherefore He says, God resists the proud.** God will not work with pride! It's against His spirit, it's against His way. His spirit can't work with that, that's the reality of it. He won't, it can't work, it doesn't work! We have to repent of pride first and seek to be of a humble spirit. And that means we have to see ourselves for what we are. Humility has to do with seeing ourselves realistically; and then we see God realistically and we know who we are, we know what we are – how small, how puny. We are in *awe* that God would work with us. We love God because He will work with us; we love God because of His great mercy. We are in *awe* of His mercy because we've seen it so often in our lives, because we know we haven't deserved it, but He continues to give it to us because of His great plan, because of His great mercy. Just like we saw about David when he said, "I'd rather put myself in God's hands than in the hands of man."

**But He gives more grace...Wherefore He says, God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** So there's a resisting there that has to take place. You have to fight a fight! You have to decide to enter into that battle to resist and that means you're striving to draw closer to God; and by doing so you're resisting that being and the pulls of that being and the broadcasts of that being...resist him and he'll flee from you. Why? Because the more you resist, the more you yield to God, the more you seek God's help and the more you grow stronger in the power of God's spirit. They can't stand being around that – they will flee! Amazing! The more you strive to live by God's way.

**I Peter 5:8** - A great admonition! **Be sober**, sober-minded, spiritually, **be vigilant**; we put effort and work into it consistently, being alert, being watchful, **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour:** That's been his life around God's Church for the past 2,000 years! He has the world deceived and he continues to deceive in the world and that's not a big thing for him because human beings so easily yield to that. But within the Church... he goes after those in God's Church – he works to deceive. He wants to tear you away from what is true and right, from God. Indeed! And he seeks... you know, when it says **he seeks like a roaring lion**, he's looking for someone who's weak, in a weakened state, someone who's been pulled down, perhaps on the job, and they feel stressed out and they've just become weak, someone who is not fighting a battle in their life maybe against drugs or alcohol or other things of that nature, or smoking, or wrong relationships with people, or sex, perversion and misuse of sex, or whatever it is. And he goes around... because when you are in those things you're cut off from God! *You're cut off from God's spirit!*

And so he looks for you... he looks around to see whom he can lead away – just **like a roaring lion** it says, just like what they do. They look for the weak one in the herd, the one that's getting slower, the one that's falling behind; and that's what sin is like. It consumes people's lives to where you become weaker and weaker and weaker... and then people wonder, "Why is this happening to me? Why isn't God intervening? Why? Why am I having this battle? Why am I having this trial?" Well, when did you quit fighting? When did you quit repenting? When did you quit....? What happened? We all have battles, we all have trials, we all have hardships; but when they start conquering *you*, when they start getting the best of you... We can't afford to be in a weakened state spiritually! We must be watchful

and alert and on guard, fighting against our nature, fighting against sin, repenting constantly! I don't care how many times a day it is that you have to repent of sin; you repent, you fight... and the more you will fight it, the more you'll repent, the less it has control in your life; and in time you will conquer. And in time you become weak and some things you go back to and repeat and have to fight it again; and the next time you can become stronger because you're fighting it quicker, more quickly and you know the battles, the weaknesses and what you have to address. And it's a constant process that *every person* has to go through because every one of us has human nature.

So he goes around **like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour**: if we don't believe this we're not going to be on guard, we're not going to recognize the danger of what can happen because of unrepented sin and what can take place. And yet we lived in an era and a time where we see this by the tens of thousands or people who've fallen by the wayside because of this very thing. He devoured a lot at that time, spiritually! Their life isn't over with; some it is, some have chosen to go the wrong course, some have committed the unpardonable sin, some are never going to have an opportunity for life – period. Amazing! So, that being, Satan, is after us still. He's not after the scattered group out here. He'll work to keep them deceived, he has done that; but he wants you...that's who he wants. It's the way it's always been and will continue to be to a point.

Some of that's going to change a little bit because at some point here, and maybe soon, maybe real soon, he's going to change his objective from you to this world. It's like the account of the swine and demons and Christ. These demons didn't want to be cast out and they said, "Let us go into the swine..." because they still had a pleasure in destruction; and they were cast into the swine and what was it? Close to 2,000 or whatever swine went and plunged themselves over a cliff and they all died. It's a good way to get rid of pork. But anyway, the point being is that it's such a perverted, distorted mind. And when it finally hits him even more so that he's fighting a futile battle and that he is aiding God by what he's doing... that he changes his objective to do what he is going to do, what he's going to do in Europe and Asia and some of the places. And he's going to make that his full project – just like those that cast themselves into the swine – just to destroy as much as he can destroy because this is his last big hurrah; and that's what he's going to do when he turns his wrath on the world. 'Woe, Woe, Woe...' -but he starts doing some of those things ahead of time; but when it comes to that point in time it's even more so.

So anyway, that's why it tells us to **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, he's like a roaring lion ...Whom resist steadfast in the faith**, the truth, the way that God has given to us, striving to stay close to God in everything we do.

So you don't want to give Satan that advantage. Sin gives him advantage, gives him opportunity in your life – you don't want that! You want to fight, you want to resist him, you want to continue to repent of sin and draw closer to God. And God is giving us that opportunity now in a stronger way. He's pouring out more of His spirit upon the Church if we'll receive it. He's giving us more; He's offering us more because of where we're headed and because of what we're going to go through now.

**1 John 3:8 - He who commits**, and this word has to do with 'practices', 'lives' in other words, 'does'. It's a word that's often translated that way, 'does or practices' **sin is of the devil; for the devil sinned/has been sinning from the beginning**. And so again; it's that mind. And that's what we have to come to hate, we have to come to hate evil, we have to come to hate pride. That's why when I hear the word 'pride' I think of Mr. Armstrong giving sermons where he would go through and talk about government, he'd go through and talk about from the beginning of time and he would go back to the time when the angelic

realm was created and then this being and the *pride* that came into him. And that's what it's all about. That which turns away from God, that which lifts itself up. That's why idolatry and lifting up an obelisk or lifting up some idol and bowing down to it – it's anything that is against God's way, that teaches anything different from what God gives to us.

Anything that's different is idolatry, spiritual idolatry. It's just like lifting up a great big obelisk and bowing down before it, making it your God; anything that disagrees with what is true. That's why so many of the messages since the Feast in Colorado Springs – God has blessed us very powerfully so with a stronger message that *we need to be at one within God's ministry*. We tell them that what's on the EMC, which is the Elder's Management Console – that every individual that's ordained understands and knows – you'd better be at one with everything that's on there; but you better *as well* make sure that anything you teach or pass along to anyone else *COMES* from the website – *ONLY!* PERIOD! You don't advise anyone to read any other books, not even from our past unless it's on the website!

And people don't understand that sometimes why that's so important – because there are things that can hurt or slow down the growth and development of people; and God wants us at a point where we can be at an *accelerated mode to learn as much as we can*, to be as *strong* as we can and *solid* as we can with what is *absolutely essential* to build upon right now... and *not* to delve in the past or go in things where some things need more teaching and more explanation. We need to be *at one!* God wants us to be at one more than ever before and it's *so important*. And really, that's just the way it is. God wants us to be at one with Him. The truth is the truth and the truth has been progressive. And He's given us much in this era, in this period of the Church since the apostasy. He's given us so much!

That's why I talk about a double portion of God's spirit, a double portion of the truths that God has given to us. That's not a small thing, it's awesome! It's dumbfounding! It's exciting and inspiring too! But *we must be at one* with it; and where we're not, it gives that being a foothold because it can be absolute strong sin in your life to *not listen* to what God says we should do and to think you can do something different, that you can bring something else along at a time when God says, "Don't do it!" ... because this is from God! It's God telling us to do these things! It's not from me telling us how we should do certain things – it's from God! And hopefully we're all at one with that. And God has been blessing us with that – I see that within the Church more and more and more – we're becoming more at one and that's so important in the time we're getting ready to go through.

So, **He who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning.** He's been sinning from the beginning. God wants us to hate pride, He wants us to hate that way, He wants us to strive to be at one with Him. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** And that's the same way the more we yield our self to Christ living in our life and our dwelling in Him...then the works of Satan are being destroyed. That's what it's all about – his power, his influence, that pride, that stubbornness, that selfishness, all those things that are being destroyed and that we're conquering in our minds and becoming more at one with God in.

**Whosoever is born of God doesn't commit,** in other words, doesn't practice. It doesn't mean you can't sin, or you don't sin – yes you do! It's this same word having to do with 'practice'. You don't *practice* it as a way of life; on the contrary, as soon as you sin you seek to repent and you ask God for forgiveness. That's what should become our norm because we're acknowledging our wrong, our responsibility for sin and we're agreeing with God that His way is right, that His *one way* is right, and we're actually growing in character when you repent and do those things and accept personal responsibility. ...**for His seed remains/dwells/lives/abides in Him: and He cannot practice sin,** in other words, if God's dwelling in

you, you can't practice sin. Will you sin? Yes you do, but you repent immediately so God will continue to dwell in you. That's what this is all about; so He'll continue to live in you. And if He's dwelling in you and living in you, that being, Satan, doesn't have the power in your life.

**Verse 10 - In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil:** that's why I said what I did yesterday commenting about this: there is no middle ground. We are either of God or we're of the devil. And that's a toughie... you don't want to tell that one to the world. They can't accept that; and you don't want to tell that to friends and others – "You're either with us or you're..." But that's the truth; it's a spiritual thing - because there's no middle ground. We're either of the get way or the give way; we're either conquering sin or we're not conquering at all. We're either a part of what God is doing or we're not a part of it – there's no middle ground, there's no scattered middle ground out here; it's one or the other.

And that's why it goes on to say; **whosoever does/practices not righteousness is not of God**, so we strive to practice righteousness, we want... That's our life. And a part of that means that we repent when we're *not* doing what is right because we're striving to practice righteous, we want God to dwell in us, we're striving to live what is right.

...neither he who loves not his brother. We could only get that more deeply embedded in our lives and in our minds. Whenever we fail to love we are not of God and we must repent of that quickly. And sadly, sometimes people don't repent as quickly as they should; and because of that they become weaker and don't grow like they need to.

**Verse 11 - For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.**

Let's go on to Revelation 2:8. This area talks to the Church eras here in the very beginning as we continue to see Satan has always been there, always around the world, always seeking to hurt and distort and cause mankind to suffer. And even within the environment of the Church, over and over again Satan is there and we have to be on guard, we have to be alert and we see that power that's working out there constantly. And this is talking to a particular era of time, Smyrna.

**Revelation 2:8 - And to the angel of the Church in Smyrna**, it was the second era of the Church, **write; These things says the first**, in other words 'the beginning' or 'the chief' is what the word means, of God's plan for salvation, **and the last**, meaning 'the end' or 'the completion' of it, in other words His entire process, **who was dead, and who is alive**; Not Alpha and Omega – different phrase that's used there. This is speaking in this particular case here of how our process begins. It begins with the Passover and it continues on until we're there.

It says, **I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, spiritually, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan.** Now this is a period of time when some of those things began, things that were built into the Catholic church. And so this era here began to live through this period of time and some of those dealings of things that were going on and they were claiming to be of God, claiming to be of Christ, and they weren't, they were **of the synagogue of Satan.** Isn't that amazing? Show's who is the charge of it, who's the head of it... Satan. And all the counterfeit of things that were there and that statue that they say is Peter and the toe is almost worn off because they've kissed it so much. Stone! And it's just worn... because so many people's lips have been on it kissing it! Amazing!

**Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: and behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison,** he's always there trying to cause problems. And you know God allows some of those things at times. Whatever God allows – so be it! ...because there's always, always a purpose in whatever takes place; **that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation,** says here, talking about **ten days: be you faithful unto death,** because everyone in Smyrna died; everyone in Ephesus died; everyone in Pergamus, Thyatira, Sardis...and not everyone in Philadelphia is died, who lived through that period of time, but all the other era's, they all died out in time.

...**be faithful to death,** that's the way our life is. When you commit to this way of life, it is until it's over; **and I will give you a crown of life. He that has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the Churches; He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.** What an incredible thing! That there are some through history who never have to live a second time; and yet there are many who do – almost all have to live twice. And then, obviously, the desire then at that time will be to not have a second death, but that's what I'm talking about – there's going to be another resurrection. But there are even those who don't even have to have a second physical life like that, so a second death is not even a question.

**Revelation 3:7 – And to the angel of the Church of Philadelphia write:** so again here, this is the era before the one we're in right now. We're not in it now, we ended that one here when we came to the very end; I've already explained some of those things here, but that's the one most of us have lived in. **And to the angel of the Church of Philadelphia write: these things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no man shuts, and shuts and no man can open,** that's an amazing scripture because what happened after the apostasy? People thought that, hey, they're going to open up these doors, do the same things Mr. Armstrong did and no, his work was done. When it was done, it was done and no one can do the same thing and no one can copy the same thing and repeat the same thing.

**I know your works. Behold I have set before you an open door and no man can shut it for you have a little strength and have kept My word and have not denied My name.** Amazing what happened through the entire period of Philadelphia – incredible blessings! And there was a measure of peace throughout that period of time like there wasn't in any other era of the Church in that respect, except Ephesus, and that was unique in itself in the beginning, the Ephesian era. But again here, showing that there was strength. And you think of all the doors and things that God opened up and... you know, television, the printed press and all the technology that came on the world scene and Mr. Armstrong was always so dumbfounded by that, moved by that because he saw that other things would come along in order to enable an ability to reach out of the world in a very profound way; and it was given to them, powerfully so.

**Verse 9 – behold I will make them of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews and are not, but do lie, behold I will make them to come and worship before your feet;** amazing! Because it's talking about times and things that will happen later on in a resurrection and Great White Throne, things that everybody's going to have to come to see what God did in the first 6,000 years and 144,000 who became a part of the God Family, became part of Elohim. ...**and to know that I have loved you.** They're going to come to repentance and finally see what they did and who they were fighting against.

**Because you have kept the word of My patience I also will keep you from the hour of temptation and trial which shall come upon all the world to try them.** Philadelphia – when it was over with and those who lived in that period of time and died through that period of time...Mr. Armstrong being the epitome

of it all; didn't have to see what happened to the Church, didn't have to see what took place at the end-time. Incredible some of the things they were spared from.

So anyway, Satan is always there, talking about 'the synagogue of Satan', that power that's always been out there, that power that's always been there working against God's Church and so forth...that being who's always worked against God's Church.

Let's go on to **Revelation 20:1 – And I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key of the bottomless pit**, it's an abyss – that's what it's talking about – a place of endless restraint, no end of it, that's what it's talking about here in that respect, unless or until God does certain things here. So it's talking about an abyss, literally here even talking about a 'place of end', 'no end of restraint' as long as it's there until God ends it. **...and a great chain in his hand and he laid hold of the dragon, the old serpent which is the devil and Satan and bound him a thousand years.** So that is absolute, that entire period of time... God put Him there and God removed him then at the end of the thousand years. We're going ahead in time here and looking at those things that are going to take place. We know that this being is getting really, really close. He's getting really, really close to not being able to have influence over mankind anymore – year and a half away, in that area. May 2012, it's coming fast! What an awesome thing!

I loved Atonement this year, it had a profound impact on me because of the sermon series we're going through and realizing that being and all he's done, all the hurt and pain and suffering he's caused mankind. He's getting ready to be put away for a thousand years! Thank God! That's a time to rejoice! The Feast is a time to rejoice, to be so excited to realize a Millennial period he's not going to be around! Satan confined finally! **...and cast him into the abyss**, which is what the word is here, **and shut him up and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years should be fulfilled, and after that he must be released for a little season.** So we understand those things. He's going to be let loose for a little while.

**And I saw thrones and they who sat upon them and judgement was given to them, and I saw the souls of them that were**, that word I mentioned earlier, **cut off**, doesn't mean people were beheaded, all of them, **for the witness of Jesus, for the word of God and who had not worshipped the beast neither his image**, in other words Satan and all the deceit he has out there, **neither had received his mark upon their forehead**, speaking of 'sun'-day, Sunday worship and so forth and those things that are their mark as the Sabbath is our sign – that's theirs, the world, deception, Satan's, **or in their hand**, the sun god, Baal worship, all those things that Satan used to deceive mankind. Amazing! **...or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** So talking about the 144,000.

**Verse 5 – But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished;** and then it's referring back, **this is the first resurrection.** It's leading up to a time in the Great White Throne at the end of a thousand years when a great resurrection is going to take place, and then there's that first resurrection that takes place just at the beginning of the thousand years. **Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; of such the second death has no power**, because they don't live a second time in a physical body. They're raised, given immortal life, they're given spirit bodies, and that's what it's talking about, that particular resurrection.

**But they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years; and when the thousand years has expired Satan shall be released out of his prison**, out of his restraint, **and shall go to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, and gather them**

**together to battle; the number of whom is the sand of the sea.** It's a tough one to grasp, but it will come to pass even though they all know it. They're going to be taught this, just like we were in God's Church that there was going to be an apostasy, a *great* falling away; and *we didn't get it!* We couldn't see what was coming. And so it will be here. They will be taught it. Incredible! And there are going to be those, **as the sand of the sea**, who follow the influence of that being who've never experienced his persuasion, his power, who are going to follow him.

**Verse 9 – And they went up on the breadth of the earth and encompassed the camp of the saints, the beloved city, and fire came down out of heaven from God and devoured them; and the devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet, it says 'are', but that means where they were earlier cast. So it's giving an example here of something that's going to take place...and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Now, the question comes up then, what does this mean? Can Satan be tormented in a lake of fire and brimstone? Be tormented...? Duh! Spirit: must be some spiritual flames lapping and it's kind of like this 'hell' thing; that somehow there's going to be this flame that's always tormenting people for all eternity. That's not what this is about. It's not what it's about at all and it might be good just to go back and read about some of these things.

Let's go back to Revelation 14. And so if he were to be cast into, in that respect, talking about a lake of fire where the beast and false prophet that had earlier been cast as physical human beings and they were burned up...what does this mean for Satan when a physical fire can't bother him?

**Revelation 14:6 – And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach to them who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred and tongue and people; saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgement has come, and worship Him who made heaven, earth and sea and all the fountains and the waters. And there followed another angel saying, Babylon has fallen, has fallen, that great city; because she made all the nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.** Fuelled and led by Satan; that's what it's talking about. Confusion! Babylon is about *confusion!* And this whole world's system today is about *confusion!* The stock market, the economies of the world... its *confusion!* Government! It's confusion! It's not of God! It's what it's about here, fuelled by, led by Satan; that's what it is, it's a wrong system. Everything is wrong out there, there's nothing right! There's *nothing worth saving!* And some people in some nations sometimes; I've known of different ones who've had battles there because they think that their particular nation is a 'good democracy', it's a 'good nation', or 'good' whatever it might be. No it isn't! It's not worth saving! God's going to destroy it all because there's only one Government that is right and works.

**Verse 9 – And the third angel followed saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath, in other words, 'of', or 'from', God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone, in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever and they have no rest day or night who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receives the mark of his name.** So, what's happening here? The wrath, the judgement with punishment from God to torment the mind once it's been pronounced. It's what it's about. It's not like this concept that people have of 'hell' and people are dancing around there tormented forever and ever. It's about when something happens and something is pronounced – there's torment in that. When it comes to a point



where people know, or someone knows, a being knows, or whatever it is – there’s torment in that when you know what your end is and *you know it* because it comes from God. But the torment doesn’t continue endlessly, it does end when life ends.

It states that, **they have no rest day or night**; that’s an expression that reveals that to whomsoever the pronouncement of final judgement is given, that the results will be precisely carried out in their timing without delay and there is no rest or cessation of torment until the final judgement is finally carried out with a certain end. That’s what it is about God’s judgement. And when someone is there, and they know it’s inevitable... Can you imagine? Yes, there’s torment. You know it’s all come to an end. You know when a judgement is given by *God* and you know that it’s from God and Jesus Christ and they’re standing there and you see that power... you know it and there’s torment in it; just like anyone who’s taken to a gas chamber, or taken to be hung, or whatever it is, or taken to a firing squad. Not a lot of rejoicing going on, not a lot of skipping and singing along the way. It’s torment because you know that it’s about to end.

**Revelation 14:9 - And the third angel followed them saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, so we’re reading part of this here again, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wrath of the wine from God which is poured out without mixture, meaning ‘in full strength’. That’s what this means ‘without mixture’, meaning ‘in full strength’ of the cup of His indignation; and shall be tormented with fire and brimstone, in the presence of the holy angels, and it says in here then, And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever, again, not meaning being tormented forever into eternity; this is not what this is about, but that the punishment is final and lasts forever. It’s about the *punishment*; and they have no rest, in other words there is torment from the passing of the judgement unto it’s carried out; day nor night who worship the beast and his image and whosoever receives the mark of his hand.**

I’m forced to go a little bit faster here in some of this sermon here today, but you’re going to be able to read through all of these things even with more scriptures and so forth that are there that I don’t have time in this particular series; and purposely wrote it that way as well.

Let’s turn over to Revelation 19. So the first that’s mentioned to fall under this judgement, because this is the judgement that was given, that’s told about ‘Babylon, Babylon has fallen’ and it talks about some of those things that are going to take place and this wrath, and this indignation, and this torment and so forth that’s going to take place, fire and brimstone, which does mean death, does mean the end, it is a punishment, it is a judgement.

**Revelation 19:20 – And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who worked miracles before him, so this is speaking of the ones who had the power as far as government and as far as religious, and physical as far as the nations were concerned, over the system that’s coming up. It says, and the false prophet who worked miracles before him, that helped to deceive those ten nations that came together – but one is over it – as a whole as far as a leader’s concerned.**

**...with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These both were cast alive, physical human beings, into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** It’s one simple end; but before it happens there is torment. When you know that you have a pronouncement, this is what’s going to take place – indeed, torment. So that which totally consumes until there is no more, that which is unquenchable as even time’s past we’ve understood what these things have meant for so long talking about something that’s totally consumed. It shows here that

something is going to be burned up until it's totally consumed and there's nothing else – it's unquenchable, in other words the judgement is final until it's fully gone and carried out.

Revelation 20 – need to see what it says about Satan here. So this is the account here we're going to read beginning in verse 9 where it talks about these hordes of people who have been gathered together by Satan once he's been released from his confinement. So tying this all together here where this thing of 'fire and brimstone' is used. **Revelation 20:9 – and they went up on the breadth of the earth and encompassed the camp of the saints and the beloved city and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are,** or in other words, were earlier cast. So it's talking about a period of time here a thousand years later, but it's using the same symbolism, the same language having to do with punishment. *And the punishment does mean exactly the same thing! Satan cannot be destroyed with a physical fire,* it isn't about a physical fire, it's about judgement, and the torment is still the same.

When someone knows that their judgement is such there is torment day and night until it ends, until it happens. *Satan is going to have torment for one thousand years because he has an end...a cessation of life; a cessation, if you will, of existence and that's what God is giving to the Church and revealing. We have had the concept in times past because something is created of spirit it cannot cease to exist. That is wrong! That is in great error! God sustains everything He has ever created! All power comes from God Almighty! He sustains EVERYTHING by His power...indeed.*

So what is the difference in the punishment pronounced on human life for those who receive a final punishment from God and the punishment pronounced upon Satan after this final time of his deception and evil upon mankind once again at the end?

That which is spirit cannot be destroyed by that which is physical in nature. So a physical fire has no influence, no power. No physical burning can hurt or destroy a spirit composed being, yet the expression being used about judgement upon Satan is one of *destruction* and the ending of life...which we will talk about in some other sermons here at the Feast.

When it says that 'the devil will be cast into the lake of fire', it goes on to say that 'he will be tormented day and night forever'. It's easy to read the wrong meaning into this. It does not say that he will be tormented in fire forever, however it does say that he will be tormented forever which simply means that he will be tormented, the word means, *without end*. In other words he will be tormented ceaselessly until the time the punishment is completed; and this is all that expression means. From the moment Satan *knows* that the judgement upon him is to cease to exist he is mentally tormented. The more he becomes convicted of that and knows that the more he becomes tormented by the knowledge...and that's on a continuing basis for him, ceaselessly without end, until the end. That's what this expression is all about.

There is no purpose to torture, to punish Satan for eternity any more than unrepentant man should be tormented for all eternity. It isn't God's purpose. Satan has fulfilled his purpose when this final thing takes place. There's no purpose for Satan's existence any longer. He will not change, he cannot change, he has no desire to change – he is what he is; which we will talk about more in the sermons here.

The second death for man is destruction, or death, for all eternity. That's what the second death is about, the lake of fire, fire and brimstone. It's a matter of a punishment, it's a matter of a judgement

that God passes, which means the cessation of life no matter how it comes, no matter how it's accomplished; and that is what God is revealing and making clear. It's an end of existence, never to exist again. Satan is coming to a time when he will never exist again.

So Satan is cast into a (like) a lake of fire and brimstone and the expression is one of final judgement, about an end – that's what it means – of life with no more existence. It's the same as what happened to the beast and the false prophet – a punishment that ends life with no... That's why the analogy is given; the example is given of both, because it means the same thing. The result is the same. It's a punishment that ends life with no more existence forever.

So again, the punishment upon Satan is absolute and it is sure. His end is near! That's the good news, even at this Feast of Tabernacles in a very powerful way, even more so added to the gospel, that God is making clear the good news about God's Kingdom coming, and the good news of a hundred years and what happens beyond that. Satan will never be around, never exist again... (What's the purpose?) ...into eternity. There's no purpose.

Do you think that God doesn't sustain everything that exists? All power is from God Almighty and what God sustains He can *cease* to sustain. We are *so foolish*, and Satan has been so foolish to limit God...and he has. He has for billions of years. He has limited God and never grasped the might and the power of his Creator...and *his* Sustainer. But God is letting him know more now, just like He did at one point in time. God let him know at one time that, "I have a plan for a God Family. I have a plan for beings who are going to be in Elohim." Satan's mind snapped upon that revelation about a God Family. He couldn't take it! ...became envious, became jealous, hated God, turned against God, he wanted to be like the Most High, wanted to be over the angelic realm, wanted to be over everything, wanted to get rid of God. What kind of a mind...? It's one that doesn't grasp God, one that doesn't know God, doesn't know the power of God, doesn't understand his existence, just as much as mankind.

Mankind has believed distorted and perverted things about God – indeed. We'd rather worship and serve the creation more than the Creator. That's a perverted mind. Satan's mind is perverted. He believed a lot of wrong things, but God Almighty (you know what?) as time has gone on there are things he believes when it comes from God...and this will begin to torment him. And just like the swine and the demons that ran into them, that got into them, he's going to do much of this. That's why he does what he does at the end... it's one last hurrah; and he goes out to deceive the nations again, he goes out to do the only thing he knows how to do – to wreak havoc, to see people hurt, to see people suffer, to get a joy, a perverted enjoyment out of seeing *millions* suffer. And he does at the end of a thousand years... and it's *part of God's righteous plan!* Because what comes from such things is Elohim.

People come to greater conviction by the things they experience and see and as they go on through life they come to that which they grasp and want to hold onto about God and God's way of life and God's truth. Very powerful, very exciting, very *inspiring* when you understand what God is giving and what God is revealing and how God reveals it, and so forth; and what is going to take place and understanding the mind of those beings and why they do the things that they do.

So again, to me it's an exciting thing to understand and we'll talk about some more of these things throughout the Feast here as well; and it really fits into a greater picture of what God is doing even in our lives and within Elohim and so forth.

I want to make sure I read everything I have here before we finish. I want to read this again: the pronouncement upon Satan is absolute and it is sure, his end is near, he has very little time left to be in the presence of mankind to deceive and torment mankind. He's now entering a time of torment upon himself which is a result of his own doing.

It is to be abundantly clear that Satan will be made to cease from existence when God's punishment is carried out, and the fire that destroys him may well be speaking in terms of that which God has not yet revealed within the spirit world that can destroy a specific portion of a spirit creation that He sustains. He can cease to sustain what He sustains and He sustains *all* that is in the physical realm and all that's in a spirit realm. God Almighty does! Satan doesn't have life inherent in himself, *only God Almighty does! Only God has the power to sustain life!* What an awesome thing to understand about God! That just because something is made of spirit doesn't mean it's immortal, or has eternal life! *Nothing has eternal life inherent in it* except Yahweh Elohim, period! Incredible to understand how awesome that is!

So God can do as He wills. He has certainly left us with two possibilities that we can know, either one can be true. We don't know which because God hasn't given it; it's a matter of His purpose and will. God can create that which can be seen in the spirit world which appears as fire... we're going to talk about some things in the next couple of sermons here, about a spirit realm and angelic realm and so forth.

God can create that which can be seen in a spirit world that appears as fire which can consume what He has been sustaining...*IF* that's the way He is going to do it. I don't know.

God can also make that which is composed of spirit become physical; and all that is physical can be destroyed and made ashes in a physical realm. There are beings who can appear physical – that God has given them that ability at times; and if God so desires, they can remain that way and their spirit essence taken away. God can do whatever God wants to do, and if you think otherwise, you're a fool! Satan's been foolish for a long time and he has not understood the power of his Creator and his Sustainer.

Those who limit God are foolish indeed; and that has been the failure of any who never understood God or never honoured God and worshipped God. Satan has always limited God and refused to magnify – just like we saw that attitude – he didn't honour God when he came before Him discussing Job. So Satan has always limited God and refused to magnify the unsearchable and unknowable power and majesty of God Almighty and of *his* Creator...and of *our* Creator and Sustainer. That's awesome to understand, it really is. To me this is *awesome*; incredible to comprehend, to understand!

New Truth #1 given this Feast – There is an end to Satan's existence. His punishment is that of eternal *death* never to have life again. Some have believed that since angelic beings are composed of spirit that they cannot cease to exist and are therefore eternal beings. No they are not! Angelic beings can cease to exist. The only angelic being who has been formally judged by God through scripture, is the one who was created in the beginning as Lucifer but who now carries the names of Satan and the Devil.

Thank God Satan has a final end of existence for *all eternity*.

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