

Today is the final portion of *Teachings—Topics* (this is *Part 4*) that we've been going through.

We're up in the alphabet to "s." The first one here is "Second Death." Some of these, this one here is a little longer because to explain something like this, people in the world they have—just like it's going to come out here in what we talk about—you think they have no concept of what happens after death. They have a hope and desire for people whom they love who have died, of what's going to maybe happen to them. But people, it's a horrible thing because absolutely no understanding, no knowledge of those things from scripture and what the scriptures are actually saying in accounts like in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians and so forth, some of the places where you find these things.

But anyway, here is what's stated. And these haven't been fully edited so it'll be a little different than your PDF when you get them from what I'm saying today.

**Second Death:** God has a plan in the creation of mankind that takes 7,100 years to complete.

Just knowing that, that we know that, that God gave to Herbert Armstrong understanding of the period of time it was going to be. Because in the time of the early apostles, they had no idea. They had no idea there'd be two thousand more years almost before Christ was going to come to establish (set up) the Kingdom of God on earth. Awesome!

And yet as time went along and others didn't through other eras as well, until the end here, until the end-time, and God let him know that He was raising up the Church again that had lost nearly every truth except for three, and God began to restore truth to the Church through him over a long period of time. And more and more understanding, things that were... Just to understand that we're in the end-time now, that Christ is coming in this period of time of the end if you will.

We look at time in a unique way because if you talk about... Even in the time of Christ, they talked about the end, "the end is coming," or "the end is here," ever how it's stated. It's not said it that way. But you think, because that was four thousand plus years, just a little bit into four thousand years, and to realize there are two thousand more, that a lot has to happen in the different eras of the Church.

You know, if people knew there were two thousand years ahead of them, I hope we understand human nature to know how hard that would be. When people are looking forward, desiring God's Kingdom to come, people through time, even in the Old Testament, they had that desire, a desire to see something beyond that. They wanted to see God's government, if you would, established. When Christ came you think that's what they were looking for. That's why John the Baptist did what he did, and then God gave to people a sense of a need for something, to repent and change, and that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

And yet, what that means, “it’s at hand,” for those who are being called at that particular time, but two thousand more years? Well, there are some things that were not given because just like in the end-time here we’ve been given different periods to keep plodding forward, looking ahead. But if it’s too far our human nature is such that people can give up, they can let down. If it’s farther away it’s like...

So, I hope we understand our human nature, what it’s like, and how God works with us and gives us encouragement from time to time then to keep pushing forward, to keep plodding forward, if you will. And that’s what the process is about, seven thousand, one hundred year plan, and now we’re toward the end.

So again here, “six thousand years nearly at an end,” the things that God gave to Herbert Armstrong as far as understanding that, awesome! The exact moment in time. Again, our concept of time is so different from God’s and the way some things are stated in scripture.

... Within that plan, the first 6,000 years were given to mankind to rule themselves.

And I think, what an awesome thing today that we have the kind of technology we do with the kind of ability to communicate around the world news (or what’s called news) and people knowing what’s going on and seeing the things that are happening in governments around the world in a way that they didn’t before WWII. There were certain things that would come out but to have a concept of what’s happening in so many places?

This world is an absolute nightmarish mess, and most of it has to do with, in the fact of governments, we cannot rule ourselves. We can’t govern ourselves. And God is making that more and more abundantly clear. “Look what you’re doing! Look at your nations! Look at everything about what you’re doing and accomplishing or not accomplishing for people.” So again:

Within that plan, the first 6,000 years were given to mankind to rule themselves. This is akin to God giving mankind the first six days of the week to people to go about their own business and routines in life, but the seventh day—the weekly Sabbath—is God’s time for those who will receive it.

And that’s the kicker. What a horrible thing to think that so many through time, and even in the Millennium, there are going to be people who aren’t going to want God’s way of life, who aren’t going to want what God is offering. That’s why God says even... To me, I guess there are certain things. I think about the children of Israel often, when they went across the Red Sea. And I mention this over and over again. When they get to the other side you think the last thing they would be doing is griping and complaining. And yet that’s what they did. It didn’t take very many days. Griping and complaining that they were brought through there.

And they saw what they did that was so incredible, the sea to open up, to go through on dry land. And you think about people when they see Joshua the Christ, 144,000, they’re going to be able to see that power. God’s going to manifest it very powerfully so at the end here, especially in what is done at the

very beginning of that process because it's going to be about destroying those who are destroying the earth.

And they're going to see these things, they're going to know these things. There is going to be incredible power that God is going to reveal at this particular time that mankind is not going to be able to deny. And yet there are going to be people, possibly even some areas of nations who will not receive what's there. And God says if they don't come up to the Feast of Tabernacles certain things are going to happen to them as far as their economy, as far as drought and various pestilence and things they go through. And if they still won't repent He says they're going to be destroyed.

Do you think that'll happen during the Millennium? It's why it's written there. It's because it's going to happen.

To comprehend that is kind of mind-boggling, that mankind can be so stubborn, so hard-hearted to refuse, to resist a power that wants to give them freedom, to give them happiness of life, to give them fullness of life, to show them how to have it, to get rid of all the drama and the hurt and the pain and the suffering that exists between peoples.

But there are people who want to hold on to that. They want to hold on to their prejudices. They want to hold on to the feelings that they have, that they're better than others, and they won't let go.

In like manner, at the end of the first 6,000 years, mankind is prophesied to enter into a great war that will work to prove to mankind that it cannot successfully govern itself. Instead, mankind will come to the point of self-annihilation and a third world war if God did not intervene to stop it.

That's why it's not hard to grasp that once nuclear weapons begin to go off, one or two here, and then perhaps a counter to that at some point in time. We know what's going to take place and where. But once it really starts and there is a lot of that going on, who is going to stop it? And that's what it comes down to.

It comes down to a point where finally, China and Russia prophesied to do what they're going to do, to destroy a third of mankind. Hard to grasp. But God's going to allow it because mankind has to learn. It's the only way mankind can learn. If God didn't intervene to save us we would have destroyed ourselves.

Is the fault God's? No. It's human beings who make the choice. We have free choice. And if people won't accept God, won't accept that government? You think, incredible! Anyway. So anyway, this is what it says:

This is when God sends His Son, Joshua the Christ to become King of kings in order to establish God's government on earth to rule over mankind for the following 1,100 years.

Again, not known until Herbert Armstrong was given that, to understand that when Christ returns there will be one thousand, one hundred years. He's given us so much. The early apostles, again, John, when

he wrote about those things didn't understand them. Chapter 20 of Revelation, you think John understood what was written there? He had no concept of that time, how much time there would be, when it would be, that there would be a hundred years behind that. No concept whatsoever. It wasn't revealed until God raised up Herbert Armstrong. Awesome!

Up to this time, there are billions who have lived and died, and people have not truly known what happens at death. Many believe that upon death people pass on to a new life. They believe that depending on how one lived they will either go to a good place or a bad place, which is most often referred to as either heaven or hell. However, this is not true. Those who have died over the past six millennia are still simply dead.

How many people do you think know that and believe that? Very few. And people who have been a part of God's Church can understand that or can have that knowledge anyway. Whether they believe that? That's up to every individual whether we believe what God gives. Who else knows these things? Who else has the ability to believe such things in such intricacy of an incredible plan that God has?

They have merely returned to the dust (elements) of the earth from which they were created.

It's so simple. Created from elements of the earth and that's what we go back to. That's what God says. Preachers get up and preach some of those things, "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes," but they have no idea what it means. They know a body is going to decompose but to understand that's where they are and that's where they remain and they're not going anywhere? There is no immortality in human beings.

That's why a big church came along finally or began to be raised up in the world because people had to believe in certain aspects of something that wasn't in scripture. That's all they have that's physical, that there's something in us that lives on. And what proof do they have of any of that? What proof? But people are willing to believe that kind of thing. You think, nuts!

Rather than going to someplace after death, as though mankind had some kind of immortal soul dwelling within them, God simply has a plan to resurrect people back to life at a future time.

It's in God's hands, the power to give life again. When it's gone, a physical body dies, animal world, we can understand those things. It's gone. And yet some people even want them to live on. That's not God's purpose. God's purpose is about His Family. God's purpose is about mankind and why mankind was created.

Mankind does not continue living on in some kind of an afterlife once they experience death.

Within His plan for mankind, God does speak of different resurrections. The first great resurrection mentioned is that of Joshua the Christ after he had died and remained dead in the tomb for three days and three nights. Then God resurrected him into everlasting life in His Family, Elohim.

It's why he's referred to as the first of the firstfruits, the very beginning.

Again, I hope when we go through things like this that we are moved by understanding or knowing we know, we are able to know these things. We're able to understand these things. The world around us doesn't. Family members, people you work with they don't grasp, they don't have the ability to know these things. They haven't been given that. But we have and it's so simple, so basic. It's just our choice whether we hold on to what God has given us to believe that is true.

What else is there out there? That's one thing that when we went to Ambassador College, I went to Ambassador College and I didn't like it at the time, but they had one class, Comparative Religion, where they sent us out to different churches. So, we had to choose a team, there were three. Someone had to report on the religious belief itself, where it came from, its history kind of thing, and other the service itself, what it was like, what it consisted of, and another about some of the certain doctrines. So, it was about the history and certain doctrines.

And so, I remember pairing up with a couple of people, we went to a place on a Sunday, and I didn't like it. Because I came out of the world, I came out of those things and I knew what they were, what they were from. And what did we go to? We went to one that "speaks in tongues." Now, I had been around that environment. I had an aunt that did that kind of thing, and I'd heard her do gibberish and numbers and...anyway, babble. It's a good word for it.

But anyway, we went in there, and as soon as we got in past the entrance we were greeted. Most people do if somebody is new in a church and "Oh, come up here," and "Where are you from," all the kinds of things that people want to engage in conversation with somebody new to be added.

And as soon as we get past this one little area all of a sudden this woman just going crazy inside this room, just all this muttering and gibberish and it's like I wanted to go out the door again because you know where it's coming from. It's the spirit world. And people who want to give themselves to those kinds of things, they get it. They want it bad enough those beings have that power to deceive and so forth, and people have an experience of something that they can't explain.

And that's why it's so hard sometimes for people who come along to believe that they're wrong because they have experienced something in their bodies sometimes or in what they have said, and you can't tell them this isn't from God. It's very difficult.

And so, I found that to be a good experience in the sense that I knew that there were others who didn't have a background of being called out of the world and having the experience of what other churches are like out there. I don't recommend that for anyone. But to be aware of it, to know what is taught, to know what happens, to know what their beliefs are, and to be able to compare—that's why it's called Comparative Religion—to realize they are so blind. They have nothing!

Some of the most basic things that are in the Bible they don't grasp and comprehend. They've been twisted and distorted to mean something completely different.

So, how rich are you? That's the question. That's the purpose of what I'm saying here. Do we grasp how richly grasped we are to know such things? Because the world is in ignorance. They don't know what happens to a loved one when they die. And yet we can have a total peace of mind to know what's going to take place. Not a hundred percent in the sense of the first resurrection, depending on what happened, or what happens, or what God's purpose is. But to know it's in God's hands, And God's desire is that when mankind is offered His way of life that we will receive it. But it's still our choice.

The next great resurrection spoken of is the 144,000 who are to return with Christ at his second coming as King of kings. This group of 144,000 have lived and died at some period in time within the span of six thousand years of mankind. Many of these are referenced throughout scripture, like Abel, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David, the prophets and apostles, and others.

So, we understand that. But to grasp it's taken six thousand years to work with different ones God's molded and fashioned up to the time of Christ, and then the Church began and more began to be worked with in the past two thousand years to fulfill a total count.

What an awesome thing to go through Revelation and be able to understand that. 144,000 specifically that God has been planning, and to know that it's exact. Everything is exact in His construction. Everyone has a purpose in that construction of what He's building and creating.

So, going on here about all who have been a part of this:

Ever since these people died they have remained dead. They will be resurrected to a spirit life upon Christ's return.

I think of this at different times, and I think about how exciting this has to be to God of where we are in time and to know that all those He worked with personally in the first four thousand years – because that's how they were worked with, molded and fashioned personally by God Almighty. Then the last two thousand years it's been through Christ to the Church and through the structure that's in the Church that God's molded and fashioned – still by His great power – but Christ more directly in that respect with larger groups of people. And to realize how exciting this has to be to God.

I think of when a child is born, how exciting it is in a family for parents. And you think this is one. But 144,000 over such an incredible long period of time, it's hard to grasp the patience, the love, the mercy, and the excitement God has to see His plan coming together. Just like when He saw His Son. After four thousand years the excitement He expressed about His Son, His only begotten Son. That's awesome! Speaking of His Son, Joshua the Christ when he was born, and then the things he went through in his life and that relationship they had in such a powerful way of something that is so far beyond what we're able to experience in our life just by the begettal and God's spirit dwelling in us.

And so, we're almost there...almost there. 144,000 almost complete. Awesome!

And then scriptures like this, it says, **Revelation 20:4-5**:

Concerning the 144,000 it states, “*And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...*”

If you were to look into the beliefs of different groups out here, I don't care who they are, calling themselves Christian in the protestant world or the Catholic Church, they don't understand what this means.

“They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” What is that all about? They don't have any idea. They don't have any inkling. What is that thousand years? Why just a thousand years? They have no idea it's the end of six thousand, it's added on to it, there's another thousand coming, and they don't know what that means. What is God doing? No concept.

“But the rest of the dead...” What is this? To them that's gobbledegook! That's why they don't go there.

“*...but the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.*”

Who are the rest of the dead? That's a good question even in God's Church so that we can have this totally cemented into our mind. This is basic stuff. This is simple.

If you're talking about 144,000 over six thousand years, who are the rest of the dead? Well, that's the trouble with the rest of that, is you can't tell that to the rest of the world because they don't believe that people just died and they're still dead. They think they went somewhere.

And so, until you get rid of this concept that the Catholic church started of a trinity, that mankind does have an immortal soul, he either does go to heaven or down to hell or wherever that is – because now we pretty much know things of the earth that they didn't know back then. We think we do. It's hot and molten and so is hell I guess. Whatever, I'm just...

“But the rest of the dead didn't live until it was finished.” What an awesome thing. So, what does that mean? They're going to remain dead for the next thousand years.

“*The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished*” (**Revelation 20:4-5**). It doesn't say anyone is alive or that they were in heaven. The “rest of the dead” spoken of here are all the rest of mankind who lived and died within that first 6,000 years.

Now, to us, that should be or seen or known – very simple. It's so simple, so easy. “the rest of the dead.” All those over six thousand years. Basically, because we believe that the 144,000 came out of that period of time. Not more, not less, but exact.

They have simply remained dead and will not be resurrected until that 1,000-year reign of Christ and the entire count of all 144,000 is completed. Then all the rest of mankind who died during that first 6,000 will be resurrected back to life once again just as it states, “*...But the rest of the dead did not live*

*again until the thousand years were finished,”* which is at the end of the millennial reign of Joshua the Christ.

Now, reading this all again here in context:

But there is more that is revealed here in Revelation 20. Concerning a second death. **Revelation 20:4-6** *“Then I saw thrones, and they...”*

So again, it’s in the context of what’s been described in the previous chapters there leading up to it, the 144,000.

*“...and they [the 144,000] sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them . . . and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

That’s the context.

*“But the rest of the dead [all others who died over the previous 6,000 years] did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection [speaking of the 144,000].”*

The 144,000, those who are resurrected with Christ, the first great resurrection.

*“Blessed and holy are they who have part in the first resurrection because the second death has no power over them...”*

What an awesome thing, a second death. The protestant world doesn’t teach about a second death. That doesn’t make any sense to them. “How can anyone die twice?” Well, the natural thing there, just logic alone, how can someone die twice? They have to live twice, and not just that, they have to live in a physical body twice. If you’re able to die a physical death, die period, in that regard, you have to live again. Incredible!

*“...because the second death has no power over them, but they [144,000, the first resurrection] shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”*

So easy to take these things for granted, things that God has given us to know. But we’re to build upon those things with understanding of all of God’s plan.

One of the things that has always inspired me, has always been dumbfounding and exciting to me is that everything – there is no contradiction in what is written in scripture. Not one. The only time that it seems like there is, is when something has been mistranslated. That’s the only time something might be off base or whatever when they’ve used different words. Like I mentioned I think even last Sabbath where Easter is translated once in the King James, and they know it was the word for Passover in the Greek language. So, it’s like, give me a break!



But everything fits like a hand in a glove. It just fits perfect. Everything does in God's plan. Beautiful. No contradictions in the plan of God.

So again here:

It is stated here of the 144,000 that the second death has no power over them. That is because they have been resurrected to everlasting spirit life—not physical life.

Not going to die after that. Once you are in God's Family, once you are in Elohim, there will be no more death. Not in God's Family. Not in Elohim. Because that's what it's all about, it's about becoming a part of His Family, the God Family. Try to tell that to—don't—family members or people who don't know or people in the world or whatever, people you work with, that we're called to be a part of God's Family, to live forever, everlasting life. They'll think you're nuttier than a fruitcake. They probably already do anyway.

However, the contrast is made here that the “rest of the dead” will still have the power of a second death over them. A second death means that they live once again in physical life in order for that to be possible.

A second death is only possible for those who will be resurrected to physical life a second time.

You know, and really, to know these things, to see these things, to be able to really begin to believe what it says in scripture and say, “That's what that means,” it takes God's spirit.

There are some things by logic that should be able to see portions of or understand just on physical human knowledge or logic if you will. But as far as really seeing it and understanding it and grasping it when it's given this is true it has to come from God, God's spirit. He gives that to individuals to see and then it's up to them to choose it once He offers that to them. So again:

A second death is only possible for those who will be resurrected to physical life a second time. They will be the only human beings who can die a second death. This physical resurrection will occur directly after the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

Because it says they don't live again until the thousand years are finished.

It will be during the last one hundred years...

That's what the Last Great Day is all about, the Last Great Day of the Feast, to understand what it's all about, the last great day of mankind. Because, candidly, up to that point of that seven thousand years to know that there is no more new human life, that God has a plan in a space of time, that those who are of mankind will only be born during that period of seven thousand years, and then after that there will be no more birth of human beings. Not during the Hundred Years.

The ability to create (procreate), God doesn't allow that when they're resurrected. They're not going to have that ability. God is not going to allow a human being to be born during that hundred years. It's the end of human life. What an awesome thing to understand, that God has a plan for a family, and there has to be a certain size of that because God's known what mankind would do over time, to know how many would choose. We don't know. But when it's all said and done we're going to be in awe of what God brings together and how He brings together and how meticulous that's going to end up being. Just like the 144,000.

... Any who choose God's way, live it and conquer their own human nature through the power of God's spirit available to them will be resurrected (changed) to immortal spirit life as members of the God Family in the Kingdom of God—as God beings. God's plan beyond this point, and on into everlasting life, is far beyond human comprehension.

God has to reveal it a little bit at a time. He gave a little bit more during the time of the apostles, but nothing compared to what He gave to Herbert Armstrong because it was nearing the end and preparing for at that time, candidly, Christ's coming. More knowledge being restored to the Church once again, and more than what the apostles had as well began to be given to him.

There is good news beyond the suffering of human self-rule. Thankfully we are almost there!

After the 1,000-year reign of Joshua the Christ and the 144,000 God beings with him, the seven-thousand-year plan of God will come to a close. The allotted time for man to populate the earth will have come to an end. At this time a most awesome event will occur. Mankind has remained blind and ignorant of this great phase of God's plan.

Because it hasn't been God's purpose to reveal it to them. He's allowed people to believe what they want to believe, what they choose to believe in a carnal, physical world. Because His purpose is to call a very few out of that during the first six thousand years. Otherwise, if it were given to them they would be judged according to that, and that's not God's purpose. And it's not His purpose to have more than 144,000 who are going to be given the opportunity to return with Christ. It's going to be exact.

That's why we can have a confidence and a thankfulness to know our size. We're small all for a purpose. There aren't very many left. We're down to the wire of what God is molding and fashioning. We're almost there.

All who have ever lived and died will be resurrected to physical life once more. There will no longer be reproduction of human life. Yet there will be a one-hundred-year period of time for mankind to live and be judged by God's way of life. Everyone will learn of God and be ruled by the same government which ruled during the previous one thousand years under Joshua the Christ. There will be only one religion on earth and there will be only one government.

What an incredible thing. Everyone who is resurrected during that time period are going to know that they are dead. They're going to know how they died. They're going to remember their last thoughts as a whole unless the mind has begun to go and they can't remember things of that nature. But whatever extent God has there are going to be things that they know, and God is going to make it very clear that when they're resurrected "You were dead." Awesome!

Every baby who died after birth and every child who ever died will be resurrected to live a full life. All who are resurrected will know the great Eternal God and His ruling Family.

And that's what's so dumbfounding about some of this when you read it, to think the stupidity of the Israelites to get on the other side of the sea when they have seen something that no human being has ever experienced and not to acknowledge and say, "There is a God!" "There has to be a God that did this. This wasn't just a fluke in time, that it just opened up and we were all gathered there, and we were able to go to the other side." I mean, really.

How much more when you know you've been dead, and you see beings of the God Family. You're going to be able to know they are God. And no harm can come to them. They don't get sick. They're able to appear and disappear. I mean...? And then to reject that, to hold on to what you believed when you lived during those six thousand years?

And to know there are going to be not a few but billions who could fit into that category, who will not change, who will not receive the truth, who don't want to live by the standards that God gives to human beings to say, "You are selfish and you've got to conquer yourself with My help, with My power, with My life, to transform the way you think from being a selfish individual getting your own way to learning to love others."

Because until you want that, until you desire that, to love others, to treat them right, to get rid of the stinking prejudices in life, to not be harsh in judgment upon others, to not be lifted up in pride and looked down upon by others but to get rid of that kind of thinking? Because that's what destroys. It's the mind of Satan.

That's why God created us the way He did. Awesome to understand these things. And yet to know that people aren't going to want it because they want something else more? Okay. "Got ninety more years to live. Going to live how I want." Do you think there are going to be people like that? Absolutely!

At this time, God will work to save mankind and offer him eternal life in His Family. Traditional Christianity teaches that God has been trying desperately to save the world.

You know, they send out missionaries to different parts of the world. Different people think they've got to do things because "We've got to save them! they've got to know Christ. They've got to say the name of Christ, that they accept Christ. That's all they have to do, just accept Christ." What does that mean? So shallow.

But this concept that God is desperately trying to save the world. Well, if he's God, he's doing a lousy job of it. Let's call a spade a spade.

But the reality is God is almighty and all-powerful and He's not trying to save the world. And that should tell them something. God is almighty and all-powerful! Incredible!

So, God has not been trying to save the world. That's not His purpose. He's letting it go its own way for six thousand years. And it's the only way we can learn. What an awesome thing to understand God's creation. It's the only way to create Elohim. Awesome!

... This is not the time for judgment and salvation to be offered to mankind. God intended to offer salvation only to the 144,000 so that they could reign in His new government at the end of mankind's self-rule.

In this great resurrection, everyone will be given life in a healthy, whole, physical body. Those who were young when they died will be given the same young body (but whole and healthy) as they had previously.

Or if they had other things that were wrong with them, they'll be made whole.

All those who were old when they died will be given a whole and healthy body of middle age.

God is going to give them a body that will live in a healthy manner for the next hundred years. I'd hate to be resurrected at eighty-five if I died at eighty-five. Seventy-five... Well, still seventy-five. I don't want to hit that one right quick. Whatever age it is, and you're resurrected and you're back in that same body with all the aches and pains? That's not God's way. His way is that you live a healthy, vibrant life for the next hundred years. He's going to make it possible.

If He can have human beings, create such a world that they can live nearly a thousand years, it's a no-brainer. He can easily do this. That's what He's going to do. Awesome!

People will be given the same features (but whole and healthy) as they had at death or middle age. They will recognize one another.

What an incredible thing. I can't comprehend this, to know that people are going to know others who died before them or after them. People that people have known, you're still going to know them. Incredible! And people are going to learn family lineage. You're not going to have to take that little test and find out that you have more of this particular blood of one nationality than what you thought. No, you're going to know the lineage of people all the way back. How much people can learn in a hundred years, I don't know, but there's a lot there. I don't think you're actually going to be able to do it.

Everyone's memories will be the same as if they had simply fallen asleep and were awakened, regardless of the time that has passed.

That's why it's called... It's a sleep. It's like being asleep and God awakens you. He puts that spirit essence back into your being, into a new body, and everything that was there new, vibrant, healthy, a sharp mind. Because as you get older that kind of wanes too. "...regardless of the time that has passed." Awesome to know God's plan!

The next one here is tithing. We've just gone through a series on that, so go through this quickly.

**Tithing:** A tithe is that which involves a person's obedience to God in giving God His tithe...

It's one of the primary ways that we begin being judged. It's a primary way that shows where our heart and our mind is in the attitude we give to God and so forth, the truthfulness of it as well. All those things.

This is a tithe of one's net income (after taxes). Tithing is not required for those who are full-time students...

Again, that's in a normal four years, I'll have to say, not a lifetime of being a student. But a normal four years of going through a university if that be the case, or going to a lo-tech, if that be the case, or some kind of training program, whatever it might be.

...those receiving government assistance, receiving insurance disability...

I have to go back over those things again, but I felt like I wanted to plug those in again.

...receiving unemployment, retirement social security, etc.

Taxes are not in our control but belong to the government to which we are all subject. We have no power over that portion of our income that is taken as taxes, and as Joshua the Christ said to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

There is a little bit more here but there is no point in going through it, but it's for those who receive some of these things that they, if they want to begin to tithe they can begin to do so. Telling where to send it and the like.

Trinity, next one here. This is a long one. What an incredible deception that was done to mankind, the trinity, the power of Satan to influence human beings in a perverted, distorted way. Really, really messed up, twisted, and distorted God's entire purpose and plan. And that's what Satan's loved to do. He wants to do that to human beings. And God let him. And there are people who willingly choose it.

Because the Romans, they believed pretty much... They'd go conquer different people and then they'd try to bring them together in with what they were doing, and sometimes they would get attracted to certain ideas of what their gods were like and incorporate some of those beliefs.

That's what they were known for. That's how they had the power they did, because they did these things in the Roman world. Incredible, what took place. And so did that church that was a part of that.

**Trinity:** The origin of the belief in a Trinity had its beginning in today's modern traditional Christianity back in 325 AD.

And just this alone. Anyone who has ever been a part of God's Church this should be so basic. Either there is a God or there is no God. What...? I don't get it sometimes. It blows my mind. Do we believe, does everyone believe in God, that there is a God? There's a God who had to create life, that we didn't start from some big bang out here. And some of those things, the more that we're learning the more those things are being disproved anyway, how stupid, I mean utterly stupid some of those things really are. No soundness of thinking in it whatsoever.

And yet because people want to reject God or knowledge of God, God says He let them over to a reprobate mind to do those things, to believe in crazy things like that. And that's what people have done. But to not believe there is a God? To me, it's just as... And I hope these things upset you, stir you up.

Just as stupid as standing on the other side when you've made it across the Red Sea; you come through the sea and you see an army destroyed, a nation destroyed, Pharaoh destroyed, and you're not moved to believe there is a Great God that did this, and you want to hold on to something else? That's why it didn't take them that long to put together a molten calf, because they'd rather worship that! "Let's build this calf, the god that led us out of Egypt." Think, give me a break!

The Roman Catholic Church became established at that time. [325 AD] It was the only other established organization calling itself Christian that was able to continue through the centuries that followed, other than the Church of God that became established in 31 AD.

I think, does everyone in God's Church, has everyone always believed that? Somewhere, something has to happen. For someone to go off on a different tangent what on earth is in the mind? What is believed? Because if you believe there is a God then where on earth is He? And what Church is His? Or is there no God and no Church that's God's? And if it's in the world, then which one is it?

And you know, once you prove this one here, it's every protestant church took beliefs out of the Catholic Church and went in the same direction. And it's not hard to prove in a physical way by knowledge that's out there that they're full of it, that they twisted and distorted so many things that are so untrue, absolute lies. I don't care what you look at. Christmas, it's easily tracked now exactly how it began and who started a lot of these different things and who gave it recognition within the church, and on and on it goes. Easter, its origins, the knowledge is out there now. And on and on it goes. It's out there. It's not hidden as much as it used to be as much in the world. It's out there.

Because people have been totally ignorant in times past because they didn't have access. They didn't have access to literature, books, history. They had to listen to people that talked to them in a language oftentimes that they didn't understand anyway. Here they're up there... Why do you think they spoke in Latin and they made it seem mystical to everybody? It's so nobody can understand. But it looks so

religious and so pious. And all the little things they went through, and people swinging these things back and forth as they go down the aisle with the smoke coming out, the incense.

And all the ceremony and all the garb, it's all for a purpose. Because people were in awe of the wealth and the garb, the things they wore. And people are willing to believe it then, what they had to say.

And here they're up there speaking Latin, and nobody understands a word you're saying. That's "intelligent." You speak of, supposedly, God and the things you say, the words you use when you use this, what's that creed, the Nicene creed that's quoted regularly then in the Catholic Church and they're doing that in Latin. That's doing a lot of good to everybody. And they learn how to say the same words. They don't even know what it means!

So, that's why I have a little bit of difficulty sometimes when people are no longer a part of God's Church. What on earth do you believe? Don't you realize you're held accountable? Every human being is held accountable for what they believe. And if you had the opportunity to believe the truth and you could see this great church and all the protestant world that followed them? Billions in time? It's nuts!

And you had the opportunity to know the truth? It's a whole lot worse than the Israelites who got on the other side and started murmuring and complaining. And look what happened to them. Got so bad God let them die in the wilderness.

I don't even know where I lost track here. I lost track of where I was. It's all here, everything is out there. It's been there for a long time, especially in the last forty years, fifty years. With the internet and everything that's come along things are so simple for people to find compared to what they used to be. Anyway, some of the history here.

Indeed, the ancient Romans were noted for the great number of deities they honored, and they attributed their success as a world power to their collective piety or pietas (their religious devotion, duty, and loyalty) through their efforts of keeping good relations with the gods.

"Don't know which one is God, if they're all God, so let's just get along with all of them because there must be a lot of them out there." So, they brought all these different ones in.

The Romans conquered many nations and used the practice of assimilating many of those conquered people's religious beliefs and practices into their own. This is simply a matter of written history.

Ancient Roman religion was centered more upon knowledge of the correct practice of prayer and ritual...

To me sometimes it's even dumbfounding reading some of this and realizing this is what they were like, and people gravitated to it. Sometimes we don't grasp the power of a demonic world that was a part of this. There is power there. There is tremendous power to deceive people if that's what they want. If

they're impressed by such things that are physical in nature that they are in awe of then those beings can work within them to influence them even more, or with the mind.

When God's Church began after 31 AD and the teaching of Christianity began to spread, the priests and teachers of the Roman deities found it easy to assimilate those practices and teachings about God and Christ into their own. This practice and movement proved so successful that they too adopted the name "Christian" to identify themselves.

Just to think of the history of what happened, you know, it's kind of mind-boggling.

By 325 AD, this movement among these priests of the Roman Empire, who were calling themselves Christian, had grown in such influence and power that Emperor Constantine himself stepped in to consolidate the teachings of this new kind of Christianity. History records that he did this because there were divisive influences among these widely scattered priests...

Because different ones were going off on their own tangents doing various things.

...who had organized into different groups. He set out to unify them and create a new state religion.

Incredible to understand what he did.

Constantine wanted to bring the priests into agreement with a newly established and unified set of beliefs. Not only that, but he also set out to eradicate and outlaw a sect of Christianity, which to most Romans was too closely associated with Judaism.

Not a new thing. People have hated Jews for a long time, hated Judaism back then. And so, anything that seemed close to them—the true Church—took a beating over it.

Jews had long been hated within the Roman world.

You know, they were used to build the Colosseum in Rome. Was it a hundred thousand slaves, Jewish slaves (I think that's what the history is, isn't it), hundred thousand Jewish slaves were brought up there to build the Colosseum in Rome.

Jews had long been hated within the Roman world. They were even used as slaves to build the great Colosseum in Rome.

I guess I had it here; didn't read far enough.

The Roman Emperor Constantine called for a conference in which all matters about Christendom were to become established and united within the Roman Empire. He called together what became known as the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD...

You know what? In some ways, I hate to keep going over some of these things over a time, over a period of time. But you know, they need to be deeply embedded in every person's mind, this is where it started,



325 AD, the Council of Nicaea. If we don't know that history and where Christianity went off base in a very powerful way and the power that was there and how hard it's been on God's Church when God opens up the mind to come out of that kind of garbage, to fight against that kind of thing.

Because what happened in the Roman world, we don't have to even read it. It's here. I'm not going to spend the time going through the rest of it. We know what happened, the influence, and what they had within the Roman world.

And the fact that he outlawed Passover, it started there with Constantine. They messed up things having to do... They adopted Easter and because of that sunrise service thing that gave them grounds in their minds that Sunday is a day of worship, "That's the day Christ was resurrected, Sunday morning." And you think, no, when you learn the truth it's not even close. He was resurrected the evening before at sundown on the Sabbath day. But again, the world has been ignorant of all those things.

But to realize what took place because of what they did, people were put to death. People in God's Church. God allowed some, His own Church, His own people to be killed, to be put to death because of the things that the Romans did. The Sabbath was outlawed. And a lot of that was directed toward the Jews but a lot of it had to do with as well a lot of these different groups, and with truth, the Church. That's why Paul, and different ones, he was taken to prison there for a purpose and a reason, and how these things spread as well. And there was a hatred then for that particular "sect" they called it, or Church as well. They kept the same as the Jews did, Saturday, the seventh day, what they called it back then, the seventh day.

And you think people were put to death because of it. They were put to death that they kept Passover instead of Easter. Amazing. That was Roman law! I think of Paul himself, not a Roman but influenced by the Romans and pleasing to the Romans, and he was given power and authority, known as Saul at that particular time. And it talks about him being there present when Stephen was put to death. He was the one who gave his nod of approval, "Yes, kill him."

That's why... God sent him on up into the gentile world. Because Peter and different ones had some problems with him in the beginning. Understandably so, because of human nature, "He was the one out there trying to kill us because of our beliefs." So, this started pretty early, and look how much it grew by the time Constantine came along in 325, that hatred that grew among people. It still exists to this day.

I'm going to jump into the next one. You can go through it in your own time, your own speed in some of those things. But again, all these have things that we should all be in agreement with, at one with. And if we're not then there are problems.

And I'm going to tell you that within God's Church, within the environment of God's Church, there are still those who don't believe everything I've gone through in this series, who aren't totally convicted of it up here. Either we believe those things, we see those things and we embrace those things, and we want

to build upon those things, and we want to be at one with what God gives to us or not. And that's the simplicity of it.

We are down to the wire as a matter of judgment within the Body. You know, I don't... I hate to repeat some of these things in that regard but it's exactly like when the Apostasy came. And I've given this example before. When I sat down with two elders in God's Church in Toledo and told them "This is what's coming down. This is what's being taught out there, and this is what we have had to this point in time. And you have to choose." And they didn't like me telling them that. They went out later on and said how hard I was on them. No, I just told them the truth.

And I told them because I felt that they would choose the right thing. Hadn't known them that long. We'd just gotten transferred to Toledo in June or whatever it was, and here some of this stuff is starting, you know in August and September and getting worse and worse. And then by the time you get up to December when Joe Tkach did what he did, we were dealing with things we didn't realize were coming from that group through Detroit.

But anyway, the point being is when it finally hit sat down with them and told them, "This is it. I am resigning and people here that you have known all the time you have are going to be looking to you, of what you're going to choose and what you're going to do. And you're going to be able to do one of two things," I told them, "receive what is new that's come down to you, opposite in essence to what we've always believed, totally opposite of what we believed as God's people. We were called out of those things. So, I'm telling you," I told them, "the same thing that Joe Sr. or Joe Jr. would tell you. He expects you to follow them. And I feel and believe," in essence, "you should follow what we have always been given." Choices. And they chose the other.

Incredible, some of the history of things we've gone through. Chose to go the other direction.

And so, to think that there still exists within God's Church that are not in full unity and oneness with God? Because that's what it comes down to. We either believe the same things, we're in unity with those things, or we're not. And something along the line will test us. That was their time. They were a little upset because it was like, "Why are you pushing this on us?"

Because we didn't know it was an apostasy then. We didn't call it that. So, it was like, "Because now is the time for a choice. I'm resigning as a minister here; they're going to look to you. What are you going to do? Are you going to be there to hold on to what we've been given and let them see that? Or accept what's being taught from Pasadena?" Choices, choices, choices.

The point is there was no more time for them to choose. They had to make a decision then and there, and they did that night. They had their minds made up in part before that, but they were cemented after that moment in time. They had decided what they were going to do, and it wasn't to hold on to the truth that God gave through His apostle, Herbert Armstrong.

We are very similar to that in the sense we're almost to the end, almost to the end. And time is not on our side, as it wasn't on theirs even though there'd been a few weeks pass until I came to that point in time of saying I'm going to resign. We know that we're close. We see things in the world. We see things between nations right now and the rattling of nuclear sabers, if you will, threats that continue to go on week after week after week. And they're not diminishing, they're not getting less.

And because of the turmoil in politics in the world, the world doesn't feel stable. Within Europe, they don't feel stable. They're not united.

That's why I love the example of iron and clay, if you will. It's not stable. There's a lot of power there. But how to unite that, how to bring it together, they don't know how. And so, they're being forced into a point in time where they're going to make that decision and that choice.

Things going on in Ukraine, things going on with Russia, and things going on in this country in elections that are coming up. The world is watching in a manner that it never has before. Some in the world. Others don't give a flip. They don't care. (Some people don't like that expression. I'm sorry about that. But that's a tough cookie. It is what it is.) We are almost there, and I wouldn't be surprised at anything that happens now as far as elections are concerned. People have gone ding-dong. Where is the mind?

And to think that over half the population or half a population is choosing something that is so weird and out of bounds and dangerous and totally opposite of what this nation was built upon? I mean, let's be serious. That's where the world is and people have to make those decisions out there. Regardless of which one they make it's going to be a part of what fits into the scenario of it all. It's going to come to an end.

But it also pushes Europe into a position of doing things that otherwise they might not do. And pushing Russia into doing things that they otherwise might wait a little longer to do but they're (Can I say that?) hellbent on doing it. They are! There are so many people pushing right now to blow up a part of Ukraine with a nuclear weapon it's not even funny.

And I'm not going to be shocked one of these days if that's exactly what starts the ball rolling. Something is going to shake this world in a way that rattles people. And when that happens then choices and decisions have to be made quickly.

And I think, what about God's Church? The majority doing better than ever before. But it's a fight and you can't let down; you can't give up. And only you can know where you are and where you stand. My desire will be that everyone is standing firm and strong in God's way of life. This is it! I believe it with all my being. I believe everything I've ever been given.

Are we a hundred percent in everything? No! Because God reveals things at times, and it becomes new truth as we build upon something we didn't fully grasp before. But the pieces are there and they're closer together than they've ever been in the puzzle, if you will, as Herbert Armstrong used to explain it.

We see it more clearly now than we've ever seen it. Perfect? No. Because we're not there yet until Christ comes. But quantum leaps ahead of the world because it's God's truth and God's way of life.

It all boils down to choices. What do we believe? Is this it?

**Underaged Teens:** There have been young people who have chosen to obey God...

Just so everybody is aware here of what's said here and why.

...have chosen to obey God as a result of the truth they have learned from the Church of God. It is a good thing that they have such desire.

For teens who are legally underage, we encourage you to inform your parents of your desire to live God's way of life that you are beginning to learn.

This has happened at different times within the Church, within the environment of the Church. And some young minds are opened up, have been opened up, and some of this is to prepare us for things in the future as well. But again, this is the right thing to do, that they should tell their parents.

Nothing should be hidden from them, and especially in a matter like this, since there are many weird religions available on the Internet, as well as others who seek to take advantage of young people.

And that should be understandable. If someone began to believe something totally different and they tell their parents about what they believe that they see, to them it's going to seem way out there. It really is. That's just the way it is. But that's what they have to do.

It is right and proper before God that you be open and honest with your parents. A young person is to honor their father and mother (Ex. 20), and this means being truthful to them as well. Your parents may not agree with your newfound beliefs about God, especially since most parents have always believed such things as Sunday, Christmas, and Easter observances. Although you may feel or even know that they will not agree with you, you still owe it to them to be truthful.

When you share your beliefs with them, such as wanting to be obedient to the Sabbaths of God, and they disagree, then you will have to decide how you are going to honor God the best way you can under such circumstances, until the time you are legally of age and able to pursue your own faith and beliefs in God. Without permission from your parents, you will not be able to receive more help from the Church than what is offered on the website.

We have had to do this. It's hard but you have to do the right thing.

All people with Internet service have access to the Church website and have much information they can read and study, as well as to have the ability to listen to sermons Sabbath-to-Sabbath and on the Holy Days. We encourage you to continue learning all that you can and to hold fast to what is true through the difficult times that are in front of us over the next few years.

To the best of your ability, you should follow the instructions given in the “Contact” section...

Anyway... And talking here about accountability being 18 in that respect as far as governments are concerned and a person being of age to then step out and do what they desire to do.

Anyway, just wanted to share that with everybody, to see what ... There are things you have to go through to know how to... How do you present this to the world? What’s the balance in this? What is the right way? And that’s what this is about, it’s about an exercise of determining what is the best way to present God’s truth to different people at different times in life. And this is a good example of this, of the process you have to go through.

Another one here:

**Understanding Scripture:** Only God can give a person the ability to see the truth and to correctly understand a scripture spiritually. The way God reveals truth to the mind is by the power of His holy spirit. God’s spirit begins to be given to a person when God chooses to begin working with them for His own purpose and time.

As God’s spirit reveals truth to a person, then as such a person responds and is able to grow to a point of making a personal choice to repent of their own way and choose God’s way...

What an awesome process to go through when offered to make those choices of life when it has to do with the truth. Anyway, all the way to the end here:

... At the time of baptism, a person is able to receive the very impregnation of God’s spirit in their mind. From this point forward, a person can then continue to grow in understanding of God as He reveals far more truth to them.

Just important to understand that we can’t know and perceive things that are true just by knowledge. It has to be a matter that God has to open the mind to begin understanding them.

One last one. I’m going to go through one last one. It’s entitled “The Unpardonable Sin.” There is another one here, “US and BC in Prophecy,” but this one here the last one here.

**Unpardonable Sin:** Scripture states that blasphemy against the holy spirit is an unpardonable sin (Mat. 12:31-32). This scripture must be read with the understanding that the holy spirit is not a person in the Godhead, but it is the very power of the one true God. It is by this power that a person can become impregnated with (begotten of God [in the spirit essence that’s in mankind, that God gives of His spirit]) after baptism and the laying on of hands. Once one is begotten of God’s spirit, God reveals that He and His Son then begin to dwell in (abide in/ live in) that person. This is the very reason Joshua the Christ died.

You know, to understand these things to this degree is awesome. That God's desire and purpose in preparing for Elohim is to dwell in the temple. And it starts in physical human beings. And we have that opportunity that God can begin to dwell in us for the purpose of changing the way we think if that's what we want. Because we have to yield ourselves to it, we have to cry out about it and ask God for that power and for His mind to be in us, for Him to continue in... and to repent of sin all along the way. Because God won't dwell in us otherwise.

So, such basic things to understand.

This is the very reason Joshua the Christ died. He died in order for mankind to be forgiven of sin, so that He and His Father could begin to spiritually dwell in those who are begotten of God.

After someone has been begotten of God, and He and His Son begin to dwell in him or her, then that person can begin to grow spiritually. If that person sins, then because of that new covenant agreement that was made at baptism, they are to repent quickly, as God cannot dwell in/with sin. That is why Christ died as our Passover, so that sin can be forgiven and then God can dwell in us.

If a person comes to the point that they refuse to repent...

And to understand this has happened to far more in God's Church than not. The majority have fit into this by choice.

"If a person comes to the point where they refuse to repent." Sometimes just becoming complacent with living sin or living ever how they want and not being in full agreement with certain things, whatever it might be, and holding on to something that is more valuable to them.

...then they become in danger of the unpardonable sin (sin not repented of and therefore cannot be forgiven).

If not forgiven then it's the unpardonable sin. God can't forgive if we don't repent. And in sincerity and truth. It has to be something we really want to change; we want that help.

If that person cannot be brought to repentance through the grace and mercy of God at work in his or her life, then they have committed the unpardonable sin and will suffer the penalty of eternal death (never to be resurrected to life, spirit life). This is the final penalty for all who refuse to repent of sin, which is an eternal punishment (not being eternally punished).

Isn't that an amazing thing how the world or Satan, if you will, flip-flopped that and distorted it? When it talks about such things as punishment and being forever and they take it as being "You're going to be eternally punished because you have this immortal soul in you, you live on, and so..." You think, what kind of a perverted God would that be, to take some kind of satisfaction or judgment or feeling that that's right, that someone be just going through punishment from here on out? That's absolute insanity.

God's desire for all is that every person repents of sin. As long as a person responds to the mercy, patience, and love of God to be able to repent of sin, then such a person will want God to dwell in them so that he or she can grow spiritually and eventually become part of God's Kingdom.

Either we want it and it's real to us or it gets to the point where we begin to lose that and it's not as real to us anymore. Why? What happened?

**Hebrews 6:4-6** *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the holy spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away...”*

If they turn away from it. It's what it's about. I think of what God gave at the last Feast. And I don't know to what degree each of us grasps and sees and believes the importance of what was stated. Because God gave us new things in understanding things about judgment and personal responsibility to a degree that we have not grasped before.

*“...and if they have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away {Or have fallen away}, to renew them again to repentance, since they nail to a pole again for themselves the Son of God and put him to an open shame.”*

It's pretty powerful what it has to say here and should cause every individual to think about it, to ponder it, and to realize this is not for God's people. This is not the way it should be obviously, and to reject any such thing. That instead we want to repent, we want to grow, we want to be a part of God's Kingdom, we want to fight this until the end. And to realize that that's not a normal inclination of most who have come and gone through time. What will happen, that's in God's hands. Can they be brought to repentance? There will be plenty who won't.

There are going to be plenty of people who tasted the way of God, the truth of God, and by choice neglected in time, refuse to repent when they could have. And those things are in God's judgment. But I hope we understand within the Church this is far more serious than what we've ever grasped. It truly is. Because that's within us. And in God's time when people are resurrected, it'll tell. We'll know.

These verses in Hebrews refer to a converted person (someone who has been called, repented, been baptized, and received the holy spirit by the laying of hands) who knowingly and intentionally rejects the truth...

You don't just leave without choices. There are choices as to what we do and why we do them. Incredible responsibility to be begotten of God, to receive of His holy spirit from the Great God of the universe, and then to begin to let that truth go and not hold on to it, to begin to want something else in the world more than you want this. It's what it comes down to.

And the truth is the truth. And we can only work at saving this. That's every person's choice. You can't make anyone else hold on to God no matter how much we wish they would, desired that they would. You can't do it for anyone else. It is a personal decision and personal choice. And sometimes it's gut-wrenching to watch some of those things take place.

... who knowingly and intentionally rejects the truth that once had been delivered to them and thereby denies God and Joshua the Christ to live (dwell/abide) in them.

That's why he died, so they could dwell in us. And if we get to a point where these things aren't that important to us and it's not that important that God dwells in us, God will let us make those choices.

This does not include a person who through neglect or deception went to sleep spiritually, which was prophesied to happen to the Church.

So again, that isn't the whole story. In some of this, there is more to be given to us in some of this. But to this point in time, that's what's written there. But it does happen to too many, far too many.

With that, we're going to close. There is one more but we're going to save that for a sermon. Probably be next Sabbath.