Directing Our Mind To Our God

Johnny Harrell

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When we look at the Church today we find that it is just as God told us about in His book. God told us in His book that it would be a little flock at the end of an age. And that is where you and I find ourselves at, the time of the end, the end of an age. When we understand our calling and what it's about we learn that we have to deal with Satan's world. We have to deal with his influences upon us as God's Church, and we also have our human nature that we have to battle as well.

But knowing these things helps us as the Church of God because we really have to be humbled to really understand what we are and what we are to become a part of. So, in order to do this, those of us in God's Church always have to direct our minds to the things of God.

So, that will be the subject today, *Directing Our Mind to Our God*.

We understand that God has to always be first in our mind; it always has to be our focus, upon Him. So, today let's be turning over to the book of Daniel. Let's look at Daniel 7:21. We want to go back and see what God told us through Daniel. God confirmed what me and you already know.

God said it in His book, and He said it through many in this book, but especially in Daniel. And we find all of this to be so true. We understand that because of the Sabbath day that we keep, and the Holy Days, that it doesn't always mix well in Satan's world. So, we find ourselves with situations in his world, and it puts us at odds with the demon world. I think all of us experience this. We understand about this human nature that all of us have that we have to constantly battle.

So, let's see what Daniel was inspired to write. And in **Daniel 7:21** Daniel said, **I was watching, and the same horn was making war against the saints and prevailing against them.** So, what this is telling you and me, those of us in God's Church, is that we are in a spiritual war. And sometimes I think because we cannot physically see Satan and the demon world (because it is an invisible world to these physical eyes), and we don't always comprehend and realize what type of war we are really in.

The Church of God has always been in a spiritual war, and it does seem like, as Daniel wrote, that it is prevailing. But we know the end of the story. We know who wins at the end.

So, let's look at **verse 22.** This is when it will end, begin to end (better said). **…until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the Kingdom.** So, we can see that it does come to an end, and we are quickly approaching this very time that Daniel speaks about.

So, when we look around at Satan's world that he has created today we can understand and see that that's not very far away before this will take place. We are approaching the time for God's Kingdom to come to this earth. So, as Daniel said there is coming a time when it will take place.

Over a few chapters in Daniel 12:1, and let's notice what God had written through Daniel. God tells us of a time when Michael will stand up, who is one of the archangels. He will stand up. Let's notice what it says: **At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince**—and let's notice what his job is—**who stands watch over the sons and daughters of your people. And** Michael said **there will be a time of trouble since there never was since there was a nation, even to that time.**

Everything that we hear now is about WWIII, and we hear the threats of some of the nations threatening to release nuclear weapons upon each other. So, we can understand what Daniel is telling us about. But it's also twofold because the Church has become under attack through the Apostasy, as we know.

So, let's notice. We understand the order of the resurrections, and the 144,000 are the first to be resurrected. But for now, we understand what is in our very near future. We understand that there is coming a time of trouble upon this earth such as we have never seen. And where you and I find ourselves at in time we live in a time where there are so many nations upon this earth that now have nuclear weapons, and some as we see the news, are ready to use these weapons. All we have to do is just look at the news and we can understand that our time is short before WWIII erupts and what Daniel told us about will take place.

Let's turn over to Revelation 12 and we'll start in verse 15. Some of us lived through the Apostasy, and we understood about the flood that was spoken about in God's book. And we understood that that flood came from Satan, and it was against God's Church and against the truths of God. And that flood was sent out against God's Church, but we understand that God helped the Church, a remnant that would be left.

And as verse 17 tells us, it's about us. It's about that remnant that was left over. And as it is written, we are at war with Satan and the demons. We find that God tells us a lot about the Church and what we can expect as the Church of God, the one that is preparing for the return of His Son to this earth.

And in the times that we find ourselves in it is so imperative that we realize who we are and what we were called to become a part of. I hope everyone begins to realize what they have been offered from the Great God of this universe. Brethren, if we stay close to our God we will find… I know we just went through a fast, and usually after a fast our vision sharpens to some degree and we can begin to understand and see things more clearly. And then we have a better understanding of God's ways and God's truths. So, we always have to direct our minds to the things of God and to His plan.

Revelation 12:17—let's notice—**And the dragon,** speaking about Satan… And let's notice what it says, **he was enraged with the woman.** So, we can see that God warned you and me about what would take place, and He's telling us this being does not really like you and me.

And let's notice what he's doing. **…and went to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Joshua the Christ.** So, that's you and me. That's this remnant Church that is preparing for God's Son to come back to this earth. That's who this war is against at this time. The scriptures tell us that Satan is like a roaring lion and that it's you and me that he's after at this time, the ones that are preparing, as I said, for the Kingdom of God to be set up upon this earth.

There's been many that have gone before you and me, but it's our time now. Satan knows that God's Church will prevail. Satan knows the end results. God tells us so in this book. We find ourselves at a time of the end when God's Church is persecuted just as it has always been persecuted down through time. And they have been some horrible persecutions down through time for God's people, and we are not an exception.

God tells us of a time that it will be over. And that's the good news. **Revelation 13:7** we find… God tells us that this is about Satan and the power that he has. And he's had power down through time. God granted him to have that power.

So, in **verse 7** we find, we can see some of the power that he has had and still does until his time comes when he will be removed. **It was granted to him,** speaking about Satan, **to make war with the saints**, just like we were told through Daniel. God allowed this war to take place and we understand that is for a purpose. But God allowed them to be overcome. **And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. And all who dwell upon the earth will worship him**—and let's notice what it says because it shows the power he is allowed to have—**whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

We understand that this plan was put in place before time began, before the foundation of this world, this age. And we understand that his power was given for a purpose, for a reason. The purpose is for the building of God's Church. Human nature was given for a reason. And we know that all that will become Elohim have to fight this nature that is in each and every one of us. We have to fight this war just as those who have gone before you and me.

And it is a war. It is a spiritual war for our minds. And it is a war until he is removed for an eternity, except for a thousand years when he will be put in his prison for a thousand years, but then he will be released for a while, as we know.

Verse 9—If anyone has an ear, let him hear. That's you and me. That's speaking to the Church of God. That's who this is written to. It's not written to the world.

And we are the Church of God that has ears to hear, and with these words of warning to you and me, the ones that have those ears to hear, we better always be directing this human mind and this spiritual mind to our God.

Let's turn over to Hebrews 2:1. God tells us that there are some things that we should do, and there are some things that you and me should be aware of, especially now.

God tells us in **Hebrews 2:1—Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard.** Let's notice what it's saying. It's a warning. **If we don't,** keep this mind directed toward our God we **will drift away**. We have seen so many do this very thing. We've lost so many friends, especially since Atlanta, Georgia after the Apostasy took place. So many that we walked side by side with are not here any longer.

But since that apostasy, our understanding in the Church of God has been so magnified, brethren. There are 57 Truths now, and I like to say "57 plus" because there is more attached to those truths. And even today as I think back we've been given so much. But God gives you and me a warning and He tells you and me what to do – to always direct our mind to Him.

Verse 2—For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? God calls it here "a great salvation," and it is. But I know at this time our minds cannot comprehend just how great it is. But I hope all are beginning to understand what they have been called to become a part of. But I do know and understand that there are some that do not fully understand this.

But God tells you and me that we cannot neglect what He has offered you and me. God gives you and me instructions of how we are to live in His Church and how we are to live in Satan's world.

Since Atlanta, Georgia, for those that have been around for a while, we understand that we have been steadily marching at a faster pace, a faster speed toward the end, the end of this age. And I hope everyone begins to understand how gracious our God has been to them, how merciful that He has been to each and every one of us just to be here and understand those 57 plus truths that have been given through God's servant, God's apostle.

God tells us in **verse 3—How will we escape if we neglect that salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the holy spirit, according to His own will?** It's according to God's will not ours, brethren. We just have a front-row seat. We're just along for the ride at this time if we stay close to our God. But it is God's purpose that is being worked out here below and it's through His will, His will to bring about His Family, Elohim.

Hebrews 3:12 God says, **Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.** But we see so many, most have actually left the Church of God. It's a hard thing to understand but that is the case.

And back up in **verse 1** God tells us—and let's notice what He calls it—**Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling.** And that's what it is, that calling is from the Great God of this

universe. We're partakers of that calling. He tells us to **consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Joshua the Christ** because he's the one that forgives our sin through what he did. And he **was faithful to Him who appointed him, as Moses was also…** It goes back and even names Moses that **was faithful in His house also.**

For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. Telling us just what we've been speaking about. **Moses was faithful in His house as a servant, for a testimony of these things**—and let's notice—**which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over his own house, whose house we are if**—and it's always that if—**if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.** Just what we've been speaking about. And so many have not held fast to what was revealed to them.

Verse 7—If you will hear His voice—let's notice, because we know these scriptures—**do not rebel in your heart as in the rebellion.** And that's the history of God's people down through time, rebellion upon rebellion through time. And it's still going on even in God's Church. Because it's actually what it is, it's rebelling against the Great God of this universe and His Son. That's what those do that leave, they harden their hearts, they harden their minds, and now they have become antiChrist.

And in **verse 16—For who, having, rebelled?** It's an example for you and me. God tells us these scriptures, all of them, about rebellion and the things that took place, the examples to you and me whom the end of the ages have come.

Verse 19—We see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. And that's what happens when you do not direct your mind to the things of God.

We can see things coming together that Daniel spoke about. We can see the destruction that is coming upon this earth, and it is going to be a time of trouble such as never was, like a time that has never been before. There has never been such destruction like these nuclear weapons can do. So, Daniel told us about a time of trouble, "Since there was a nation upon this earth, never been a time like this."

But the good news is that's when God's Church will finally be delivered, and God's people, the first resurrection, will take place, and there will be 144,000 in that first resurrection. You and me as the Church of God should be preparing, as our name tells us, because of these events that are coming upon this world, this age. And I don't think we can comprehend just how close we really are.

Let's turn over to **Mark 13:12**. We find where it says, **Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.** We saw what took place when the abomination of desolation stood in Atlanta, Georgia, in the Church of God. And some of us saw it take place. And God's servant, Ron Weinland, God's apostle, God led God's Church through him to understand what was taking place and that it was about a time for God's remnant to be formed.

And he explained to us about what Ezekiel wrote about, a third, a third, and a third. So, some of us lived this and we saw brethren turn on each other. We saw brethren that had walked side by side on God's Sabbath day. We saw this take place, brother against brother, father against child. And some of that is still going on against this remnant Church to this day. And by living through these things we saw the Church of God and the heartaches and the persecutions that that caused. But the good news is we can see where we are in time because of these events, because of that Apostasy that took place.

Daniel told us about Jacob's troubles, and we saw those troubles in the Church of God. We see his troubles today on a daily basis in the news. And we understand that those in God's Church of PKG are enlightened to God's plan, to understand what is coming upon this earth and to understand what is on the other side, the good news, and the good news that it will come to an end, the good news that there is relief in sight for mankind.

Let's turn over to Romans 12 and let's see what was written. It was written to tell us what we are to do and how we are to live. And it says, **Romans 12:1—I beseech you therefore, brethren, through the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice.** And that's what our life is. It is a living sacrifice. God tells us we are to **present our bodies holy, acceptable to God.** And He says that **is our reasonable service.** That is just what is expected from you and me. It is our reasonable service.

And it says, **do not be conformed to this world,** Satan's world. We don't really fit in Satan's world. I've said it before it's like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. We just don't fit in Satan's world. This book also tells us that we are strangers and pilgrims upon this earth. God's laws and man's laws do not work well together, and it's been our history through time.

God tells you and me don't be conformed to Satan's world, don't take part in it. This world has it's own laws. But God tells you and me to focus on His laws and **be transformed through the renewing of your mind.** It's how it's done. It's about this, brethren, and what's taking place here, the battle for your mind. And it is a spiritual war. So, we always have to direct our mind to our God. That's what we always have to stay focused on.

God tells us, let's notice, **that you prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.** By living God's way of life and directing our minds to the things of our God.

God said that we were to count the cost.

God tells us if we don't forsake all we cannot be His disciples. He has to be the most important thing in our mind. God has to always be first in our mind.

So, when we speak bout the mind of man we know that that is a very vast subject. God tells us much about this mind through Paul, and Paul wrote about the transforming of this mind. And he speaks about the renewing of this mind.

God is letting us, those of us in His Church, see through the governments that man has created, that mankind cannot rule himself. We understand that mankind never really wants to know God. It's not even his focus. God is so far from his focus. And I wonder sometimes how God can contain the human mind in such a small package. We understand that this human mind has the capability to swell so beyond its physical size. Man has the ability to think how great he is, how intelligent he is. And like I say, it has the capacity to swell so much beyond its size.

And only God can understand this human mind and bring it into subjection. God created this mind and He created it for a purpose. It was not created for the way that mankind is using it today. So, God has called a few through time, and it is a few in the sea of mankind that has lived upon this earth that God has really called.

Those of us in God's Church can see that mankind thinks he has the answers, regardless of the government that you live under. But we understand that the Great God of this universe is really in charge. You and me understand this. And we are moving so swiftly through His plan at this time.

God is preparing His Church, and it's through God's spirit that He is doing it, through the holy spirit. Therefore, our name, the one that is preparing for the Kingdom of God to come to this earth.

God's word tells you and me that we should "love the Eternal with all our heart and with all our mind." Our minds are susceptible to our human nature, and these influences upon this mind are so powerful, brethren, and you and me should not take those pulls lightly. So, we have to be alert to the influences of Satan upon our minds, and also the pulls of this human nature that we all have.

Let's turn over to 1 Peter 1. We're facing the most awesome times in the history of mankind with what's on our horizon, and it's this mind that we have to guard, our spiritual mind. All of us understand that God's Church has to be fully clean, so it is the time that we live in that this has to take place. It has to be fully clean.

And in **1 Peter 1:13** God tells us through Peter, let's notice, and it's written in a unique way, a unique fashion, and he says, **Therefore gird up the loins of your mind.** So the way this is written, what is it really saying to you and me? How would you "gird up the loins of your mind?" So, when we think about this I guess the best way to say this, or another way to say it, means to prepare our mind and stay focused on the Great God of this universe and His plan. I think that's the best way to say this.

So, God tells us through Peter to gird up the loins of this mind, this spiritual mind, and let's notice what else he said, **and be sober,** sober-minded. Not talking about drinking just liquid, it's talking about this, brethren. So, in other words, it simply means to look and weigh where we are spiritually, how are we living our lives.

And it tells us to **rest our hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Joshua the Christ.** So, we understand about Christ and what he did, and it is a sobering thing that he did,

brethren. And so, God tells you and me to gird up the loins of this mind to prepare our minds like we are running a race. And we are. We are running a race for our spiritual lives at this time.

Let's turn over to **1 Corinthians 2:14.** This is where Paul tells us about the natural man and woman and their minds. **That the natural man and woman does not receive the things of the spirit.** And we already know this. And God says exactly what it is. **It's foolishness to them**. **Nor can they know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** It's only if you have God's calling and God's spirit that you can understand these scriptures. That's what's being said.

Here, God tells us through Paul about the mind and how it thinks without God. And so, what we call our human nature takes over for them. And that natural mind thinks it needs nothing from God. Their mind has it's own power to do great things. And that's the influence of that human nature that man has. So, those of us that have been called, we need God's help to let this swelling out up here.

If we want to see what mankind's human nature is turn on the TV. Watch the politicians; see what their minds look like. We can see that their minds have so swelled that they don't even need an airplane to fly in, brethren.

Verse 16—For who has known the mind of the Lord that they may instruct Him? And it's a question. We know how God dealt with Job and the questions that were asked of Job. And it's a good thing to go back and read about. But it is a question about "Who knows the mind of the Eternal, that he may instruct Him?" And we know that. We know that answer. But God has shown mercy on you and me because we have the mind of Christ, and we understand what Paul is saying. And Paul wrote so much about our minds in God's book.

And back up in **verse 15** God told us **One who is spiritual judges all things.** Better said for the word that is used for "judges," I think it's better to say, it's better "to discern," or "examine" or "search out," or even "sift," like in a sifting so that we don't let our mind swell.

So, Paul is speaking about the mind and how we should do it once we have God's spirit. Once we have God's spirit we have that ability to examine, to sow it out, to sift so that we will know how to direct our things of the mind to God. God tells us to bring all of our thoughts into subjection, all of them. Not part of them. So, that is what this is speaking about.

So, when we are focused on God and His plan that focus will keep us close to God. And when we are hit with trials… And we are, we're hit with trials over and over in this physical life, but the end with this spiritual mind we can see through with God's spirit to bring all those thoughts into subjection and to live the way that God said to live. Because we understand that trials won't last forever. It's like Daniel said, they're coming to an end when peace will be here forever.

Let's turn over to Ephesians 4. God instructs us in the way that we should go. God has His government upon this earth. God has His apostle upon this earth, and through that He gives instructions to God's

Church and He tells us how to use this spiritual mind that He has given us through the holy spirit, the mind that is enlightened to the ways of God.

Ephesians 4:17—This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the gentiles walk—let's notice—**in the futility of their minds.** Because the reason it's futility, they're using this physical mind with all those lusts of the flesh. That's the mind that they are using, the mind that can so swell.

So, when we apply this to the world that you and me live in at the time this was written it was applied to the gentile in his time. But in the times that you and me live in we apply it to our time. We have to recognize our human nature. And this nature "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life," those lusts have taken so many out of God's Church. And all of us are witnesses of this thing. So, we understand that most that God has called have succumbed to those very lusts.

So, God had Paul write so much about this nature that is in mankind, and the Church of God has to be on guard against the demonic world and also that nature that is in man. And that's what we're being warned about, our human nature and a demonic world that is out there, that wants to take you out of God's Church.

So, you and I have to keep our focus on God and always direct our minds to the things of God. So, God gives us instructions in this book. And in verse 18… And let's remember, these things are written about God's Church.

So, when it speaks about being blinded, we understand this world is blinded. We have seen so many become blind that walked side by side with you and me. So, this is a warning that God is cleaning His Church up. If God does not give His spirit you will stay blind. And it says that **they were given over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greed.**

We can look at our time in Satan's world, and it is a sick, sick world. Seems that everywhere you turn all you see is all this lewdness – sex, drugs, and you name it, and greed everywhere, brethren. We have so passed Sodom and Gomorrah.

Verse 20. We have Christ teaching us his way of life, and we have to come out of Satan's world. And as we are reading it's like we are reading we are to learn a different way of life, God's ways of life, God's way of life. And as verse 21 tells us we are in the truth. That's where we are, in God's truth. And God's Church is the only place that you can find it.

And it says here **the truth is in Joshua**. He is our High Priest, and he is our Passover. So, it's where you and me are to direct our minds to. We are to let God prepare our minds, brethren, and it's through the truths from our Great God. And it's where our focus should always be. And it has to be.

Verse 22 tells us that **we put off our former conduct**, that human nature that we all have. We have to bring it into subjection. And we are told to get rid of it. And that's what we pictured at baptism when that body went under. We are to come up with a new way of life.

And as it says, **the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.** And they are that, brethren. It's exactly what they are. Those lusts have caused the downfall of so many.

Verse 23. It's what we said at baptism, we would **be renewed in the spirit of our mind, and that you put on the new man.** It's what we were to do at baptism, **which is being created,** better said, **according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

2 Corinthians 4:3. This world has been so blinded to the truths. They have no idea what truth is. And we understand how that took place, and we will address that. And many live in the deceptions of Satan's world, which are many, the religious deception being the strongest. Most of mankind does not understand what they are worshipping. We understand that there's a being that's put a veil upon mankind, upon their mind, and he has blinded all of mankind except for those that God has called.

God tells us that the whole mind is deceived in this book, so we are told of the influences of Satan on this world. And I don't think we understand the magnitude of the power that he has had upon mankind. But that influence is coming to an end. It will come to an end for a thousand years during the Millennium, and then we know about his end at the end, the very end for him.

2 Corinthians 4:3—Even if our gospel is veiled—let's notice, just what we're speaking about—**it is veiled to those that are perishing.** It's not their time, brethren. They don't understand that they are blinded at this time. But there is good news for them coming too, the ones that will want what God will offer them.

Verse 4 tells us who has blinded them—**whose mind the god of this age has blinded.** It's Satan's time, brethren. It's not God's time yet. He is the god of this earth at this time. Those of us in God's Church, we understand that this veil will be taken away in just a short while, and God will pour out His spirit upon mankind. And then the mind of those that live into the Millennium, and those that are born during the Millennium will have the ability to accept God's offer to them. And now, they can have the ability to become Elohim.

And if they choose real life, to become Elohim, they can have that life, real life, without pain, without suffering for all of eternity.

Verse 6, let's notice what is written, **For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone our minds** (better said). God's influence on our mind to give us knowledge that we have. It's how it's done. That's how God does it. And it's done to direct the mind to the things of God. That's why it's done. To become as the Day of Atonement so teaches, to become at one with Him, at one with God. That's what it means, Atonement. And that's the way we stay focused on God, as long as we don't suppress that spirit that is up here.

2 Corinthians 10. And it's like I said earlier, and it's like we read, we are in a war, a spiritual war against wicked spirits in high places. And the apostle Paul spoke of this war, and he spoke about the weapons that you and me are to use in fighting this war. We always have to be alert with this nature that is in all of us. We have to bring all those lusts into subjection, those lusts of the flesh that can so jump out and blindside us.

2 Corinthians 10:3 we find, **though we walk in the flesh**—let's notice—**we do not war against the flesh.** It's a spiritual war.

Verse 4 tells us **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal.** It's not what it's about. They are spiritual and we are in a spiritual war. **…but mighty in God**—let's notice—**for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.** And let's notice what we are to do. We are to **bring every thought into subjection.** That's what it's about. It's about the mind and the spiritual war that we find our self in. And it's a war against this mind. And we are told that we are to bring every thought into captivity, and we have to focus on God. That's what we have to do.

And God tells us how. It's about casting down those arguments in everything that exalts itself. God says, "high things that exalt itself against Him, against the knowledge of Him." So, we understand that, that we have to bring all of our thoughts into captivity. Before they turn into sin, grab them in the mind and bring the mind into obedience to our God.

Let's turn over to Romans 8 and let's look at what Paul wrote to the Romans. **Romans 8:5.** This tells us just what we already know. **Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the flesh.** Turn on the TV and that's what you see. **Those who live according to the spirit, the things of the spirit.** We can look around here on the Sabbath day so we can see exactly what this is speaking about.

If you want to live life in Satan's world and take part of his world, this is what will happen. Let's notice. **To be carnally minded is death.** That's what'll happen. But if you want what God is offering you, this is what will happen: **To be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

Verse 7—The carnal mind is hostile, it's enmity toward God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. It's not possible. Only one that can change that is the Great God of this universe, by God calling them and offering His holy spirit to them.

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. It's about this and what's being created. Let's notice: **You are not in the flesh but in the spirit**—let's notice—**if… if, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not His.** It's pretty straightforward speaking. It's not hard to understand. It's just the plain truth, brethren.

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin… But because of what our Savior did, and he paid the price we could be forgiven of our sins. **But if the spirit of Him who raised Joshua from the dead**

dwells in you—let's notice—**He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life**—let's notice—**to your mortal bodies through His spirit which dwells in you.**

Therefore, brethren—let's notice—**we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.**

Verse 13—If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the spirit or through the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. And **For as many as are led by the spirit of God, these are the sons and daughters of God.** We are the ones now in God's Church. We are the sons and daughters of God that are now preparing for the Kingdom of God to come to this earth. God is telling us to prepare our minds. He's telling us to direct our minds to the things of our God. And it's only by the spiritual mind that it can be done. You have to have God's spirit in order to direct the mind to God.

We're told to come out of Satan's world and not to partake of those things in his world. It's Satan's world. That's not our world. We are looking for our world and we are to stay focused on our God and His world that is coming. That's our world, brethren.

Romans 7:21. The apostle, Paul, recognized something about himself and he wrote it in God's book. **Romans 7:21.** Let's see what he wrote about himself. **I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.** I think all of us can understand this. So, he understood after so many years the importance of preparing the mind and directing the mind to the things of God, to let God mold and fashion his mind.

Paul understood that he always had to focus on God, and he did until his end. And that's what God said through Paul for you and me, that it takes focus upon God to make it into God's Kingdom. It takes focus upon God because of all the influences that Paul told us about in this book. And he wrote so much about the mind.

And he said **I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.** I understand what he's speaking about, and you do too. It's about the inward mind that we have here. But let's notice what else he saw. He saw **another law in his members, warring against the law of his mind.** Let's notice what he did… **bringing me into the captivity to the law of sin which is in his members.**

And he said, **O wretched man that I am!** And he said this after twenty-five years in the ministry, brethren. **Who will deliver me from this body of death?** It's a question he asked. It's written for you and me. **I thank God—through Joshua the Christ.** And that was the focus upon God and His Passover, Joshua the Christ, who made it possible to be forgiven of all of his sins. And he understood it.

Let's notice what he said: **Though then, with the mind,** talking about the spiritual mind, **I myself serve the law of God.** In other words, he knew he had to prepare that mind, to always keep this mind in focus on God, to direct the mind to the things of God always. And he said that was what was always in his mind and that was his focus upon the end, upon his end as we know. And he endured a horrible death at his end as all of them did except John.

"I thank God – through Joshua Christ our Lord with the mind I myself serve the law of God." And that's what he said over and over. We cannot direct the mind to our God without prayer, brethren. And fasting and prayer help us to stay focused upon our God and it sharpens the vision with that fasting and prayer.

Brethren, every emotion that we have in this flesh will be tested in our near future if we live until the Millennium. So, we should heed these words from our God upon the Church of God, the one that is preparing for His Son to return. God has set up a way in His Church to help prepare the mind and to help direct the mind to the things of God.

Romans 13:1, this is speaking to the Church. **Romans 13:1—Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.** It's just how it's done. And let's notice what this says about those that resist Christ. **Therefore whoever resists the authority**—let's notice—**resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment upon themselves.**

God has His apostle upon this earth at this time to guide and direct the Church of God that is preparing for His Son's return back to this earth to set up God's government upon this earth. God works through His government in His Church, and it's for the good of the whole Church.

Let's read about in **verse 3** and let's realize about…let's notice what God had written about His apostle and His government in His Church. **For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?** Let's notice. **Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is**—let's notice—**God's minister to you for good.**

God's apostle is here to help prepare the mind. That's why he's here. He's here to help direct your mind to the things of God, to keep everyone focused upon God, and he is God's minister to you and me for good.

Verse 11 gives us a warning and he says, **Do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep.** This is not a time to be sleeping in God's Church, brethren. It's a time to stay focused upon God. We will face some horrific things in our future if we live until the Millennium.

And God says, **our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.** We can see that this world is on the verge of WWIII, so this is very true for you and me at this time. We can see time running out for this age very fast.

Let's see what else was written. But it is really true for you and me. **The night is far spent.** It is! We're at the end of six thousand years, brethren, and it says, **the day is at hand.** What day? We know what day. We're on a countdown now. It's not long before our salvation will be a reality. And we can see the day and we can see how near it is upon you and me.

Therefore—let's notice—**let us cast off the works of darkness; let us put on the armor of light.** In other words, stay focused on God, direct your mind to God. Put on the armor of God that Paul tells us about.

Verse 13, let's notice, **Let us walk properly.** In other words, let God direct our minds on how to walk. And He does so through His government upon this earth. And it's through His apostle to direct the mind to take the steps necessary for you and me to come out of this world and come into God's government and keep directing our minds to our God.

So, we're given instructions how we are to live in this flesh in Satan's world. We have pictured putting to death the body at baptism, and we need to remember what we said at baptism. We are to walk in newness of life. We are to **walk properly**, as it says here (and we understand what's being said), **not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.**

Let's notice **verse 14.** We are to **put on the Lord Joshua the Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.** Stay focused on our spiritual lives, brethren. This body is dead. This flesh is of no use. It's our spiritual minds that are important. You and me are to let God prepare our minds, to prepare for that kingdom that is coming to this earth in just a short while.

We are told about redeeming the time because the days are evil. And the days are getting shorter for the return of God's Son. We live at the end of an age when the demons will be released to do some horrible things upon this earth. And I think most of us that live into the Millennium will see some horrific evil as Satan's end comes to an end and he's put in his prison.

Some of us will have eyes to see some of this evil take place, and we do have to redeem the time that God speaks about. Like I said, we can see world war is about to erupt. And in war there is much death, as we know.

God tells us in this book about much death that has to take place, and we are on the verge of that taking place. We have to put on our spiritual armor and stay focused on our God. These scriptures we read through many, many times, but they are going to take on a more awesome meaning in the near future when that demon world is unleashed upon this earth and do what they will do upon this earth.

In the end, we will really realize what we have been wrestling against, those spiritual powers in very high places. We will have to put on all the armor of God. I don't think we can get by with part of it. God has so much mercy upon you and me. He's opened our minds through His holy spirit. God has begotten you and me through this mind that is in us, and He's opened that mind through that spirit that is here so that we can see His plan.

God tells us that the god of this age has blinded all of mankind except those who have His spirit, the ones that He shows mercy upon. We're on the threshold of God putting Satan and the demons in a place of restraint for a thousand years, and now mankind will be able to see by God pouring out His spirit upon

mankind. And they will not be blinded anymore, and they will have the ability to see the truths of God. That ability will be given. They don't have to accept it, but it will be given at the beginning.

And God says, let's notice, **2 Corinthians 5:1 … if our earthly tent is destroyed,** speaking to you and me, **we have a building from God.** So, death is not a problem for those with God's spirit. We understand what God is doing. We understand that He is building His spiritual temple. We understand that He's called some to be a part of the 144,000, and He has called some to live on into the Millennial reign of His Son upon this earth. And we understand that all, all those that become Elohim will have that building from God.

We can see that we are on the threshold of this. This world is dying, brethren, and there is going to be much suffering in our near future. So, we have to be in agreement with God just as Noah was. Noah saw a lot of death, brethren. Noah saw the evil in his day. We see the evil in our day. So, we have to be in agreement just like Noah was, that this destruction has to take place.

Satan's world has to come to an end and it's not going down without fighting, brethren. God has opened our minds to see that there is no other way, no other way except for mankind to be brought to their knees. We can see that mankind cannot rule himself, that only God can bring about a just government for man, for mankind. And we are on the doorsteps of His government taking place.

The 144,000 will begin that government in just a short while now, and they will begin to bring about peace. And that will be the beginning of peace. But real peace will not be fully available until the very end, as we know. There will be so many, brethren, that do not want God's offer, that God's written it's the breadth of the earth; so many that will not want to live the way that you and I live.

I know that we cannot comprehend peace for an eternity. Man has not had much peace through time – just shortened periods of time. We know that God will bring about it just as He said, peace forever. So, we're about to begin to see mankind brought down to its knees, so we need to stay focused on God. Make sure we are in agreement with God as these things begin to unfold upon this earth.

Keep directing your mind toward, brethren. And I will end today by quoting Philippians. You don't need to turn there; you already know these things. And it's about focusing the mind.

And it says, **Philippians 4:8—Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do.**

Our instructions, brethren, to prepare the mind and direct the mind to the things of God, just as we just read in this closing scripture. **Do these things and the God of peace will be with you,** eventually.