

Persevere to the End, Pt. 5

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Leading up to the Feast, we were going through a sermon series entitled *Persevere to the End*. After Trumpets, we left for the Netherlands, and I gave *Part 4* over there on that Sabbath that followed Trumpets. Now that we've returned from the Feast, back in Cincinnati, I'm going to work at completing the series. I'm not sure, but I think it'll be completed today, and this will be *Part 5*.

We began, again, focusing on this before this Feast season began, and it's a subject that comes up at this time of year, at least for me, year after year, because of things that happen throughout the year that come to mind, especially following the Last Great Day, realizing that this is the end of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, and what the Last Great Day pictures especially comes to mind, that there are those who haven't persevered to the end. Yet that's what we dedicate ourselves to, commit to when we're baptized. Though it seems that people don't hold on to that sometimes and realize what they committed to God, what they said to God, what they agreed with, according to what was stated to them at their baptism, and to be taken seriously then as to what is said.

So, it's something you have to work at, to hold on, to hold fast to God's way of life, to persevere, to keep at it until everything is complete that was started in us after the laying on of hands. Because that's what it's all about, it's about being impregnated with the power of God's spirit in the mind to begin that process, again, as I love the way Herbert Armstrong explained it, to be an embryo, as it were, waiting to be born.

And so, we begin that process in this human life in that manner, being impregnated with God's spirit, and then a process whereby our minds can be transformed. If the supply of God's spirit continues to come into the mind and we're continually dwelling in Christ and in God the Father, then that process does continue. But that depends on our choices and whether or not we are doing this indeed, persevering until this is complete, until we are born, until we're dead, which we're either going to be born or not at that point in time, or our change at the very end from mortal to immortal.

So again, we began focusing on this subject just before the Feast and then a little bit during the Feast, and now after the Feast. An important subject, one that I marvel at it in some ways, of how God just keeps adding to the importance of that commitment, the importance of what He is doing in our lives, the importance of what He has given to everyone within the Church of God since the Church of God began in 31 A.D., and how that's taken by human beings sometimes in a way that really can be so dangerous. Because it's a matter of a commitment and not realizing the depth, the importance, of the kind of judgment and what can happen to the mind if we're separated from God because of what God says about that.

Every year there are those who are separated from the Body of Christ because they let down their guard, perhaps didn't see the importance of keeping up their guard (because that's usually the case), not grasping how precious it is, what God has given to us, and the work it takes to keep that, to have that, because it takes the power of God's spirit. It's a matter of relying on God, depending on God, and the spirit of God to help us because it's something we can't do on our own. We have to desire to want to put the effort into it and ask God for the help to do so, and work as though we're doing it all, like Herbert Armstrong used to explain, as though we're doing it all and knowing full well that we're not because we need His help and His strength to accomplish it. All the more reason why we pray and why we seek His help to fight the fight that's in front of us.

Because it's a fight. The mind, what we have within us by nature, that which is natural, without and apart from God's spirit, is selfish. That's a horrible battle. It's a great battle. It's the greatest battle, obviously, that one can ever find.

So again, every year there are those who are separated from the Body of Christ because they let down their guard, were no longer of a spiritual mind to fight for God's way of life, those who gave into the world, if you will, those who gave into their own selfishness, and no longer wanted what God had offered them, and what Joshua the Christ, in essence, gave His life for and for them to be able to have.

In Part 4, we ended by barely starting to cover scriptures about the man of sin, and we're going to go back there today and pick up from that. There are so many lessons here, really. It's amazing how many things were said there that are so powerful as to what the process is. It's all in 2nd Thessalonians, so much of it.

We were talking about the man of sin, the son of perdition, again, which is found in 2nd Thessalonians 2. We're going to pick up from what Paul wrote in that chapter because this addresses a spirit and an attitude that should never take hold of anyone in God's Church. That's where so much of the battle is and understanding where it comes from and what it is we must be focused upon. It's about a spirit, speaking of 2nd Thessalonians here, and what happened in the Apostasy, and anyone who has ever become a part of that kind of mindset to turn against God, to turn against Christ.

So again, it's about a spirit that ceases to persevere in God's truth. How precious is it? How valuable is it? Do we grasp its value? Do we ask God for help in that? Do we thank God for what we have on a regular basis? Because that reveals whether or not we really grasp its value. You have to grasp the value of something before you're thankful and to combat this selfishness then that's within us by nature. So, a different mindset, a different way of thinking.

It's about a spirit that ceases to persevere in God's truth, a spirit that rejects God's truth, rejects God, rejects Joshua the Christ, and someone who rejects the fellowship of God's Church. That's what it comes down to. That's what the choices lead to of so many who have been separated since the beginning of the Church in 31 A.D..

We in PKG are the ones who are following that period of time of the Apostasy. What an incredible experience! Something unique to us. Everyone in the past two thousand years has gone through something that is unique to them. Just as you go through and look at the different eras, there was that which marked something that was unique about them and their experience and how God worked with them through that period of time, trials and so forth, of things they had to combat. That's a process of something unique being molded in the mind because of those experiences. Something that, as one conquers and overcomes, God will use in the future because of what He molded and fashioned in the mind that was unique to them. There's something we need to be able to see then or will come to see in time and understand.

But to grasp that what we're going through is something unique to us that God is going to use through the experiences because this is the process how so much of this happens. We go through experiences, and those things help to teach us then through the power of God's spirit, of something that's molded in the mind that God has planned for in the future. Awesome!

So, we in PKG are the ones who are following that period of time of the Apostasy and the warnings that should be learned from failing to persevere in God's Church, in God's way of life. The Apostasy magnifies the importance of persevering to the end. Simple as that.

2 Thessalonians 2:1, again, the context here talking about the coming of Christ. **Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Joshua, the Christ, and our gathering together to Him...** So, these are things we can understand and see the simplicity of, the timing and the like, "gathering together unto Him," and what God is bringing together, the 144,000, to rule and reign with Christ. So again here, **and are gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as the day of Christ has come.** So again, addressing the potential for many different things here to get in the way, to slow people, or hurt people. And so, it talks about this, to keep focused on God's way of life and don't let anything from anyone distract you.

Let no one deceive you by any means. That's what it's leading up to. And yet, so many people have been deceived over time by various things, ideas, desires. We can deceive ourselves so easily that what we're doing is okay or whatever the human reasoning sometimes is, the selfishness that gets in the way of human reasoning that allows for the mind to be able to go out and do things that are totally against God, justifying, this concept, this ability of the human mind to justify something that is totally against God in time. It's insanity, truly.

"Let no one deceive you by any means." Whether it's self or others, and the influence that others can have, the ability to listen to other things that are out there. Today, we are so bombarded by garbage. I feel sorry for young people, I truly do. I feel sorry for anyone who spends too much time getting their authority from Google, or Chat, or some of this other garbage. They can be used in a way that's

profitable and beneficial, but you have to be careful because if you let it be a diet of authority to you (which some are doing even in God's Church), it's going to hurt you in the long run.

It is not an authority! It can only spew back to you what has been fed into it, what it sees and knows and understands... Well, it doesn't understand. That's the problem. But of the garbage of knowledge that's out there that it has to pull from. Where do you think it gets all that? It doesn't get it from some ability it has to discern truth and know what truth is. It gets it from all the things that have been written out there. And there is no end of writing, of authoritative things, of what it says... Well, anyway, I could give sermon after sermon on that, and it'd just be a waste of time because the subject itself is garbage in so many regards as far as anything that's authoritative. We should know where true authority comes from in the sense of what is truth that comes from God. You have to be careful.

I think about being over in Europe right now. More than ever before, news that's over there, they're being fed, spoon-fed one-sided stuff (just lump it up in "stuff," not such nice "stuff"). Anyway, they're being spoon-fed things that do affect the mind and affect the minds of people in the Church if you're not careful. You've got to be careful, careful you don't take sides, careful you don't begin to let it guide and direct your thoughts and your thinking, to understand this world is totally screwed up.

Everything in it is screwed up. Every political party is screwed up. Every kind of government is screwed up. There is nothing sound. There is nothing that's true in the sense of what God is offering us. And yet if you're not careful, you're going to let it get a hold of you, and then you take it up as being authoritative, that you know certain things, and you've got to be careful. You've got to be on guard. Don't let it lead and guide and direct your thinking to where it's affecting you in a wrong way. The only way you're going to be able to work through that is by God's spirit, and you need to ask God for help to discern things that are out there that you hear. There's a lot of garbage.

God says, "Don't let anyone deceive you by any means." Not just about Christ. Not just about His coming, but about anything that's out there, and it has to do with the mind and being able to discern then what to take in and what not to take in, what to take with a little bit of grain of salt on occasion. Some things that aren't really that important. Because things in this world are not. In the scheme of things, what the world sees as important is not really all that important. It really isn't.

Do you know why? Because it all has to be brought to an end. It all has to be stopped. It all has to be cleaned up because it's all a bunch of "stuff" that isn't good. Everything needs to be changed. Everything! And in large part, that's going to be our job. It's going to be what we have part in. Awesome!

So, be careful what you let into your mind and what you begin to take as being authoritative, dogmatic. This is how people get off on tangents on things having to do with listening to and having a diet of ideas that are out there that are so off the wall that, after a time, if people aren't careful, it becomes their thinking because they let it in, ideas that are so weird and strange.

Now, most of us can discern that the idea that the world isn't flat (is a bunch of hooey), and so forth, or that going to the moon was all filmed in a studio. You know, there's so much out there where people try to say, "No one has ever gone to the moon." We've had that enter the Church as well. You've got to be careful what you let into your mind. Now, next week they'll come out and say, "We found out that no one's gone to the moon." Just kidding. Just kidding!

So, we have to be careful, and that's what it's saying here, especially when it comes to this way of life and what God has given to us. We are so blessed by what we can see and understand. And so, some of the greatest things concerning what was going to happen to the Church and the process of what people go through, this is powerful in what's being revealed here, summed up in a very powerful way.

Let no one deceive you by any means, and it doesn't say "for that day will not come." That's not even in the scripture. **...for unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.** So, in other words, the coming of Christ isn't going to come until this takes place, this event.

"Unless the falling away," the Apostasy, which we've always understood that there had to be a falling away within the Church. Now, there was a time, and for a long time that it was thought that this man of sin would be a particular religious leader in the world who is over a large part of traditional Christianity and that he would be the one who would become the man of sin, the son of perdition, and somehow there would be such power there that people in the Church would be deceived by it. That is so stupid.

I mean, we just weren't there yet, if that'd be the case for those who'd believed that. Because the reality is their teachings are so diverse, so opposite of what the truth is that anyone that's close to God is never going to be fooled by Easter, Christmas, Sunday worship, etc., etc. That man or that individual will never have sway over God's true Church. So, do you fear anything that he might say? On the contrary, we see the foolishness of it, the way, how far the world has gone, and we had to come to see what this is really all about.

"Unless the falling away comes first and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." It's just that it wasn't grasped this had to be in the Church. This was someone who was going to be in the Church of God.

...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God. Now, that's just human nature. There was a very inspiring, spirit-led sermon at the Feast this year on that subject, basically having to do with our journey back to the tree of life. And when I can be so moved and inspired by a sermon because I see God in it, because I see the spirit of God in it, that says a lot. I'll just be candid with you, okay, to that degree. I hope we were moved by that. And those who weren't, go back and listen to it again because it says so very, very much and is built upon some things that Herbert Armstrong gave that really haven't been given in the Church yet fully. **...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped.**

And I say this because – not because of who it was that gave it, but because I know how he gave it. Okay? So often in God's Church I have tried to teach individuals in Spokesman's Club and Graduate Clubs when I became a minister out in Texas and then later on working with clubs in this area here, and then up in Pennsylvania and so forth, trying to help people judge things not by how it was said, in that respect, or the uniqueness of what was said, the many different ways you can give a speech, a seven minute speech, but by listening to what was said that's of God's spirit. Is there something here of God's spirit that you can learn from, that you can gain from?

And so, the other things will come along as time goes along, as an individual continues to grow, all of us within God's Church. But that's how we should judge and measure things – by God's spirit. Is God in it? Where is God in it? What is being said in it? What is the food that I can drink in?

...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits... We came to understand this was about a place of authority. That's how the word is used. It's not a matter of getting a chair and sitting down. It's a matter of authority, who sits in a power of authority. That's how the word is used in scripture. **...so that he sits as God in the temple of God.** Now, we should have understood this in many respects when Herbert Armstrong revealed what the temple of God was. But we didn't get it because it wasn't time. You can't get ahead of what God reveals. God will reveal things in His own time and magnify it then.

And so it is here. We weren't able to piece it together because God hadn't opened it up to us yet. God has to give it and help us to see it when it's His time. Same thing with the man of sin and the son of perdition, we weren't supposed to be able to see it yet. There was a time when we were, and then that became important to the scattered Church.

...so that he sits in the temple of God, showing himself (exhibiting, demonstrating by what he's doing) that he is God. He did exactly what Adam and Eve did. He did exactly what Satan did. He lifted himself up, relied on self and his own ability, his own knowledge of things, the way he saw them, and that's what everyone does who leaves the Church of God. Everyone who ceases to persevere, they raise themselves up as God. That's the bottom line. Because no one has the authority and the right, or the power, to determine right and wrong except God Almighty. He established it. His way is right, just, perfect in every way, the way of give, the way of love based on love, agape, His love, which is so far beyond human love, obviously.

So again here, anyone who raises something up more important than that, and turns away from what God has given that is true, that's what they've done. They've done exactly the same thing, what Lucifer did: raised up their own ability to see things, the way they see it, and justify their actions. There is no other way of regarding this. It's the common, human spirit to do this, to turn against God, to fight against God.

“The carnal mind is enmity against God.” That’s the way we are as human beings. We fight against. This is where our battle is. This is why this is such a battle, to battle against the human mind. We can’t do it by ourselves. And if we’re not convicted of that, then we’re going to go out and do the very same things. We have to be convicted that we have to have God’s spirit to fight this battle. It’s bigger than we are. It’s a spiritual matter. Only God Almighty determines right and wrong.

And so, anyone who disobeys anything that God has given that we’re to obey, that’s right for us, that’s good for us, has done the same thing, lifted themselves up as God. God can’t have that in His Family. We have to come into unity, agreement, and oneness with God in our mind, that we agree. We agree that God is right. We see that God is right, and we want to continue in it, and we know we need help in it. Awesome!

But if we don’t see that, this is what’s going to happen. It’s happened to thousands upon thousands and tens of thousands of people since the beginning, and it’s going to happen in the Millennium.

It used to be pictured that the Millennium is some kind of utopia. Well, it’s so much better than what the world has now when you have one world ruling government that does so in power, doesn’t put up with nonsense, and stupidity, and dumb ideas. It doesn’t put up with the kind of garbage that’s out there today that people can’t even fight against when they see it’s stupid, and what’s destroying cities and the like, that puts up with whatever, most everything you see on the news anymore, and says “No, we’re not doing that.”

And there is government in that, and justice in that, swift. Not going to court and having to wait for two years to even get the case heard, you know, or three years or four years, whatever it takes, and then another three or four years to finally get that taken care of. It’s going to be swift. Because you know why? Because God, because Joshua the Christ, because the 144,000 know exactly what happened. They know exactly what happened. Just, swift justice. Don’t have to wait on judges. Don’t have to wait on lawyers to argue over certain matters because they know what happened, and it’ll be resolved quickly. That’s a beautiful thing. On and on it goes.

The educational system? It’ll be the same all the way around the world. Not like it is today with all the kind of garbage that different ones try to put into it and try to get others to teach and come into unity with so you can screw up the minds of others. Awesome, truth, one truth in the world. Not putting up with ideas of going up on top of a mountain or being high on a mountain (because that’s where you live anyway), and you spin these wheels and somehow they’re like prayers going up to some god somewhere and he’s going to hear it because, I don’t know, maybe it has to do with how fast you spin the wheel or how slow you did. I don’t know what makes the difference? And it’s the same thing that goes around and around – “Oh, there it goes again!” spinning around in front of you. “Oh, these are prayers.” So sick, so shallow.

You talk about a demonic mind, a satanic mind that would get people to believe in such garbage? And on and on it goes. And that somehow when someone dies you can go up there and sprinkle water toward them and do some kind of a signal of something that wasn't true anyway. Insanity! Anyway, sorry about that, but it's just mind-boggling what's in the world. We have to be careful that we don't become part of some of that. You have to fight, persevere in the truth.

...sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. So, I think of many more who did the same thing. That's why John said there are many antichrists. There are many. There was one primary one that Paul spoke of, that John referred to as well, and this is the one that was going to be shown within the Church, who would bring about a great apostasy within the Church, a great falling away. But everyone from the very beginning who became antichrist, everyone who turned against God, who turned against the truth that was given to them, who lifted themselves, every one of them lifted themselves up and did the exact same thing that Joe Tkach did. They didn't do, perhaps believe what he'd believed, or try to teach what he taught; it could be just one thing that they went off on a tangent in and justified and said it's okay, when it's not okay.

Then it begins to involve many other things because when you make a decision to go a wrong way and to do the wrong things, it doesn't take long, and the other things start falling in as well. Doesn't take long. You may be one of those who hangs on and says, "I'm never going to eat pork!" That's what used to blow my mind. People would be so proud and so proud sometimes of others, who would say, "Well, they still don't eat pork." Whoop-tee-doo. You know, really, whoop-tee-doo, they still don't eat pork. They break the Sabbath, they break the Holy Days, they're doing "this," they're doing "that," but they don't eat pork. Oh, that's so refreshing! I can take great solace in that. No, I can't! It just shows how far the mind goes and how we sometimes judge so improperly before God.

So, everyone who does this, everyone who doesn't persevere, fulfills 2nd Thessalonians 2 and does exactly what Joe Tkach Jr, or Sr and Jr, what they both did. Does exactly what Lucifer did. Raises up their thinking above God, that it's okay to do something that disagrees with God. How can the mind do that? How can a human being do that? How can you turn against Passover and not observe it year after year after year? How can the mind do that? And yet to a majority of people who have been called in the last two thousand years, that's exactly what they've done, they've quit observing Passover.

Now, you look at it just from that viewpoint alone, it's mind-boggling, it really is, that we could go so far as human beings who have been baptized, who have received the impregnation of God's spirit in our minds, and we don't keep Passover anymore. That's horrifying that the mind can go that far.

So again, Satan was the first to exhibit such a defiant, evil spirit, to begin deciding, determining for himself what was right and what was wrong, what was good and what was evil. Same thing that Eve did. Same thing that Adam did. That's what they did. They all made that choice. Everyone who turns against God makes the same choice. Incredible!

That's why I love the expression about the ability to choose good and evil, or the tree of good and evil, that you might as well just call it what it is, as we heard at the Feast, the tree of death. Because that's the bottom line; that's the story. That's where it ends. We decide for ourselves, that's where it goes.

Verse 4—who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God. Now, we don't tend to think this way if we're not careful. If we're not careful, we don't tend to, but we really need to in the sense of understanding what this is saying spiritually, that this is what we are actually doing in the mind. And how insane is that? To say that we know better than God, the one who created us, the one who created everything?

...opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits, again, in a place of power and authority, **as God in the temple of God.** Now, this man of sin, this son of perdition, did that in a very unique way within the church because that's where he sat in authority, and not, if we understand it, not *in* the Church. There's an expression I've used going way, way back, and I try to separate that so that it's better understood, "in the environment of the Church." You can be in the environment of the Church of God but when it really comes right down to the truth of it, you're really not in the Church if you're living what is wrong, if you're living lies, if you're deceptive, if you're going in a different direction, if you're making decisions and choices that are against God and you're not in agreement and unity with God.

That's for someone who is of the mind, "I want help! I want to change! I want to conquer! I want to overcome! I want to persevere! I need, I want God's spirit in me every day, for Joshua the Christ, and God the Father dwelling in me and me in them that enables that." But we've had many through time that have been in the environment of the church and at some point baptized, received the impregnation of God's spirit, but at some point in time went off course, made certain choices, began thinking in a different way, and no longer were in the Church, in the Temple because they got cut off.

That's why it's so dangerous to even fall asleep because the same reality can become true then in time. They become so set in that, in the thinking of the mind separated from God, that it's not an easy task to bring to repentance, even with an awakening. Because that can be offered but very easily rejected, too.

...showing himself that he is God. So, we don't tend to think that way. I mean, how can Satan, how can Lucifer show himself that he is God? Because he can't. How can anyone in the Church, a human being, show themselves that they are God? I mean, that would be stupid, that would be insane, wouldn't it? So, people can't go that far in their minds because they don't grasp it spiritually. Yes, you can. That's what everyone has done who is no longer a part of it.

And this helps in judging. When we understand these things, it helps us to judge things; it helps us to be able to be in unity and oneness with God in judgment. And I believe very strongly that's a lot of what God is doing with this particular period of time. A lot is going to have to do with judgment, those things that we're to be trained in in how we see things and how we grasp things and how we understand things

that come from God, and making sure, as Joshua said, “If I judge, My judgment is just, because I don’t seek My own will, but the will of the Father who sent Me.” And if we do that, and that’s our life in the Body of Christ, in the Church of God, then it just becomes us, who we are, in a special and a unique way, in a unique focus that not all have been worked with in the same manner.

So, we have awesome opportunities, but we have to learn how to judge and be in unity with God in judgment. Because this is a biggie in God’s plan and purpose, and things that have to be accomplished all the way to the end.

Verse 5—Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? So, now you know what is restraining. It’s the word that means “to hold back.” In other words, Christ can’t return until a certain event happens. And in our timing, that doesn’t mean it happens immediately on that day. But we’re there. Just like six thousand years; that’s a long time in our thinking. And God has done many things through that period of time with many people through that period of time. And the end, this period of time that we’re approaching, of Christ’s return, even Christ Himself and others gave it and spoke of it as being this was the end-time. Two thousand years ago! Because four thousand years were already gone. That’s over half of God’s purpose and God’s plan for humanity, for mankind, and how He’s going to work with mankind. So, to think it’s in the end of that now, you’re going farther and closer to the end, it’s been that way for two thousand years. Now, we are at the end of the end of the six thousand years, not the seven.

So, he reminds them he told them these things. **Do you not know what is restraining/holding back, that he may be revealed in his own time?** Because this is something that has to happen in a specific time. It can’t be revealed until this time. The Church can’t know it until this time, who it’s speaking of, what is to happen, and why. Awesome, what we’ve lived through, because it’s an experience to learn from, to be trained in that’s unique.

For the mystery of iniquity/of unrighteousness/transgression of the law is already at work. So, makes it very clear here. John later said the same things in a very strong way, “There are many antichrists. It’s already happening in the Church.” That’s why Paul said, “I marvel that some of you are so soon removed from Him who’s called you to the truth,” in essence. **Only He who now** (same word) **restrains/holds back until he is taken out of the way.** So, had to be taken out of the way. Then something unique happened.

... **so, then the lawless one**, the one without the law, **will be revealed.** And he was. It was very uncomfortable when that began to happen, began to speak of such things, to warn people about others who had lied, who weren’t a part of the Body of Christ, that people needed to be aware of, if you had any high accounting of or way of looking up to. Because sometimes people were held up with great and high esteem and respect, like Dr. Hoeh was, and he shouldn’t have been. He shouldn’t have been. It was foolish to have done that because it disagreed with things that Herbert Armstrong had written.

So, anyone who was sitting in that class, or in those classes year after year after year, who hadn't read the book, or if they did they just ignored it, of what Herbert Armstrong recorded and said, what a shame. When he made it very clear, Passover is on the 14th, never on the 15th. He made it very clear in the book about God's Holy Days when he laid out Passover and all the Holy Days in that book. It was written there for all those college students to have read, which they were supposed to have read anyway. And so, to hear Dr. Hoeh get up and talk about the possibility of a 14/15 Passover, he got by with it year after year after year after year. Hundreds of students going through his classes over a period of time, and he was an antichrist from the first day he started teaching those things, a plant.

God allowed him to be a plant. He invited demonic-influenced people into his office to talk to them because he said he had the ability; he felt he was so strong in his knowledge and understanding of things that he could communicate with them and learn something from them. That's what his tactic was. That's what he said. Blooming idiot for doing that. Messing with something like that, you have no comprehension of the power of something you're not supposed to be doing in the first place.

And so, we look back and our vision is 20/20, but at that time it wasn't as clear. But we're to learn from these kinds of things and understand things that are wrong. So anyway, the point being is when there is danger, and danger in God's Church, everybody should be aware of it.

...only He who now holds back will until he is taken out of the way; so then that lawless/one without law will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. Beautiful in what it reveals. No longer being held back. He is coming. He is returning. In that generation, he's going to return. That was the promise. Awesome! He's going to return. Not until... This had to take place first. And He destroyed him. I marvel at that. Forty times seven (40 x 7), exactly two hundred and eighty days (280 days) later, when he gave his sermon that started the Apostasy down in Atlanta. Incredible. Coincidence?

Verse 9—Whose coming is according to the working of Satan. Why does it say that? Well, for several reasons. First of all, it's the exact same kind of mind. It's doing the same kind of thing, this lifting up self to the point of believing it can change all that it changed from what was given in the beginning. Same mind. But also, this time, with that power and influence, because Satan was very much at the forefront of all this, truly was.

It was done by demonic spirits, Satan himself very much involved, working slowly, lullaby in the church to the Church, working with ministers to deviate, to go astray, to teach things that shouldn't have been taught, getting weaker and weaker. And the result, the Church falling asleep. So much, so bad that God had to spew the entire church out of His mouth, separate it from Him. Incredible that that happened. One of the greatest lessons ever to human beings. Truly has been. We're not to forget it.

Not only that, but we are going to teach it in the Millennium and in the Great White Throne over and over and over again. And it doesn't become boring; it's inspiring to understand the right way to do things

before God. It's inspiring to learn what to be on guard against and how to fight against it, and to be aware of it so that you can grasp and comprehend the dangers. That's why these things have to be taught.

That's why, almost every year at the Feast, Herbert Armstrong would start with the story at some point about what happened to Lucifer. You know where he went from there? To Adam and Eve, because that's the next, the great big lesson that needs to be learned, what happened to them almost immediately. Didn't take very long. And then Israel, what happened to them. But he never used this example, that's the greatest of all, because now that fits into the story as well in a very powerful way.

Whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power, signs, and lying wonders. That's why, to this day, I marvel at things that actually happened, how fast... We speak of, you've heard many of times of what happened to different ministers. A few hours of Joe Jr., three hours, four hours, and all of a sudden, talk to them and you don't know – you don't know them. That's some scary stuff.

When you can talk to someone and you can have a conversation with them about the Church in a certain manner, in a certain way, on one day, and two days later, you talk to them, and you don't recognize them anymore, they're not the same person. You don't see things the same way at all. Now, that's mind-boggling. But it's by a tremendous power that's out there. Truly is. Once you yield yourself to it.

"With all power." Talk about tremendous power that's there, greater than ours, especially when you're cut off from God's spirit or getting weak in God's spirit, and you fall asleep.

"Signs." Things that were happening all over the Church in different points in time.

"And lying wonders." Lying is a good way of describing it all because, over and over again, some of the kinds of lies that were going around were mind-boggling.

...and with all deceitfulness of unrighteousness among those who perish. So, who is perishing? Those who turn against God. Can it be turned around? Perhaps for some. We don't know yet who might respond, who won't respond later on. But it's an exceedingly dangerous place to be, truly.

...with all deceitfulness and unrighteousness among those who perish because they did not receive the agape, the love of the truth. And we have to have that. If any of us in this body don't... if that isn't there, a love of the truth, of everything that we have been given, every one of them, and love what God has shown to us and revealed to us, that we are blessed to have... Because they are our treasure. That's where the value is. It's what gives the mind the ability to see as much as it does. You know what it reveals? It reveals God. It reveals the mind and thinking of God. And if we don't love those things that are there, then we're not able to have a right relationship with God. Because it's God. It reveals the mind of God. That's why the word of God, the Bible, is so powerful: Because it reveals His mind. And then the truths out of that Bible that God has given to the Church that are there, that are revealed, that we don't

fully understand all of it until it's given in God's time, whenever that is, and then to be in unity with it. Awesome. It's God.

That's why it's such an incredible thing what it says about Christ, that He's the word of God. Awesome! And we should want that mind, "Let this mind be in you, which was in Joshua the Christ." We can have the same mind. Not to the same degree and same level that He had because of Him being the Son of God and being unique in that regard, but we have access to the same thing, and that mind can become ours. And we will have it in time in Elohim.

Precious to us? The most valuable thing we could ever want or desire in life? Should be. Above and beyond everything else that we might want in this temporary physical life. It's amazing how your perspective changes as you go through life. The older you get, the clearer that one becomes. Because there is not a whole lot left as you get older. Time is running out. And you know, what's the most valuable thing? God, the truth of God.

Not this. This is just a means for that process to take place. Not trying to hold on to this. I don't want to hold on to it to the last minute, to where I'm [gasping] "Give me something! Put me on a machine, anything to keep me alive a little bit longer." I just want to go to sleep. It's over with. Fought the fight. Beautiful.

But human beings without God tend to want to hold on to this to the last second. Think, what are you torturing yourself for? Just go to sleep. It's what I want. I don't know about everybody else, but that's what I want. But as you get older, you begin to see that more and more. It's God. It's God's way of life. Because this little bit of life here, it doesn't last very long. It's a little speck of dust in time. Very little. But sometimes we hold on to it with all of our being, and we want other things we see out there.

What is it we see? What is it anyone could see that you would want to disobey God? What is it that is so valuable? Most of the time, it's a sexual relationship with someone you're not supposed to have a sexual relationship with. You want it so bad! It's like, "This is what I want! Sell my life for it." That's what people have done in God's Church.

That's the number one thing that I'd say the ministry has had to deal with throughout time, and some of them themselves, because they got caught up in it too. Like the one that was here at one time, and he took women and had them in a personal counseling, from what I understand, in his basement with candlelight. I think with a glass of wine. I'm not sure. And today, knowing the same individual, it probably would have been spiked if he'd had the ability. That's how sick he was.

You think these things don't happen in the environment? But it doesn't happen in God's Church. Big difference, isn't there? And we have to learn to discern. We have to learn to make choices and realize that God allows these things to exist. He doesn't remove them all. What did He say? I mean, it's an awesome thing. "Let the tares grow up with it." "Let the tares grow right up with it." It looks the same in

a wheat field. They can look the same, but they're not the same. Awesome! And God says leave it there until it's a certain time. There's all purpose in that. It's for the wheat that will receive the truth and learn to discern things about the tares, and that that's a choice, that you don't want that. You don't want to have an appearance of something that's not genuine. Just to look like that is not enough. We heard that at the Feast as well.

Now, for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. How did that happen? Because of that carnal mind, because of that mindset of becoming weaker and weaker, of turning inward, of becoming rich and increased with goods in the sense of what we as a body felt we knew and understood. We always have more to learn. There is always more to grow in. But it was like, this was fulfilling enough. That basically came through the ministry then.

And it wasn't enough, and wasn't even holding on well to what was given, because it didn't take very long... You know, it didn't take long at all, and the eras of the Church weren't being taught anymore. Might be good to think about that one for a while. Why did they not want to continue teaching about the eras of the Church? What would that reveal or say if you really taught those and really believed them?

One of the hardest things, I think, for anyone to do at that particular time after the Apostasy was to say, "I am Laodicean. I fell asleep." It wasn't easy to acknowledge something on a spiritual plane about self. And that's why so many couldn't do it. Because they weren't Laodiceans, they were Philadelphian, and some still are. It's like... blblblbl. A lot to learn from these things.

Now, for this reason, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. It's because of that mindset that you get farther and farther away from the truth, and it's easier to be deceived, to believe a lie, to believe things that aren't true and aren't right.

...that they all may be judged who do not believe the truth. Everyone is going to be judged by the truth, by God's word. And if there are those who haven't believed it, have chosen not to believe it, and if they have hurt their mind, the impregnation that has taken place within their mind, that's an exceedingly dangerous state. What will happen? It'll come out in God's time.

...that they all may be judged who do not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. That says it all. Satan had pleasure in unrighteousness. Adam and Eve had pleasure in unrighteousness. Everyone who's ever left has had pleasure in unrighteousness more than pleasure in the truth and in God. And that's just the truth.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation. That's an awesome thing to understand, that those who persevere, those who want God's way of life, to grasp and comprehend from the very beginning what an

awesome thing that God called us to this, and the world hasn't been. Billions and billions of people, so few in six thousand years have had the kind of opportunity that's been given to us.

Because God from the beginning chose you for salvation in sanctification, set apart for holy use and purpose, **by the spirit**. We have to have that power in our life, that spirit, because that's how sanctification, set apart for holy use and purpose, can continue and have the ability to grow. That's why it's important to be genuine and true as much as humanly possible before God. Because there are things that every one of us has in our lives, in our minds, that we don't yet see. But as we grow, God shows us a little bit more.

It's a refining process. We start out very rough, a big block of rock, and then slowly but surely, chips begin to be knocked off on it, so you can begin to see something that's there, and a little bit more. But we always have more that needs to be knocked off, and we don't have enough time in this human life to get it all knocked off. Thankfully, God receives us to a certain point in time where, because of those constant choices of choosing what is right, agreeing with God, wanting God, that there is that which develops within us to where God says, "Now I know you." We still aren't there, and we're not until we're changed, until we're actually in Elohim. Then we won't have this anymore, the selfishness.

I so look forward to it. I'm not rushing toward it, but when it comes, it comes, and I'm going to be glad for it because I don't like selfishness. I hate selfishness. It's ugly, ugly, ugly. And we all have it to varying measures in our lives, depending on how much we've grown and conquered in certain areas. That's why we have to be so careful in judgment and give time and patience for people. God will take care of His. He does take care of His. And if there is time to work and mold and fashion and bring to repentance certain areas, God works to accomplish that. That's in God's hands.

And so, we have to be very careful then in our judgment of the Body, of one another in the Body. We have to be so, so careful of that, what comes out of here, what actually comes out of here.

Because God, from the beginning, chose you for salvation and sanctification by/through the spirit and belief in the truth. Beautiful! That's what's valuable, the truth.

...to which He called you by our good news. How are we called? Set down one night, heard things that Herbert Armstrong had written, and I knew. Amazing! It's like I always knew it. Not because I could prove it, because I'm so intellectual and could use Strongs Concordance and had a good understanding of the Bible and what the Bible was saying. Because I didn't. Just knew it was true. All of a sudden just knew it. And God brings us to that point where we know what is true, whatever it is that process we go through, whether instantaneous in a moment or over a few weeks or over a few years, a little bit here, a little bit more there, and then we finally come to that point where we see it and it's God's time for us.

...to which He called you by our good news for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Joshua, the Christ. God does the calling, and no one can see it unless God's part of it.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast. Persevere! That takes work. It takes forethought. It takes thinking. It takes a purpose that has to be in the mind and an understanding of how we are able to do this. You can't stand fast on your own, you have to have help to persevere, to persist.

Some add to this the phrase "**in the Lord.**" Well, stand fast, because that's what it says. And yes, it's in God and it's in Christ, and it's God the Father. It's a spiritual matter.

...and hold/lay hold/hold on to the traditions which you were taught. So, it's the truth, the ways of doing things within the Church, whatever that is given, that's for all of us to do in the same way. Whatever has been delivered to us, whatever has been taught to us, whatever has been transmitted to us to do, to be in unity and harmony.

Just like the crazy, old shot. It was a very physical thing. Good or bad, I don't know. Pros and cons? Absolutely. I hate stuff like that. But in order to have fellowship, in order to travel, it was kind of a needful thing for a time. So, all had to do the same thing. So, a decision had to be made, and God blessed it. And those who didn't do it either had to learn or have gone by the wayside. That's a tradition. That's what fits into the meaning of this. It's what's transmitted, what's given that we're to do to be in unity and oneness together.

...which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. Now, may our Lord Joshua, the Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace... You know, there is a sermon, there are several sermons right there in those statements. To understand what it means, what God is doing for us, and the kind of love that God has for us. Not human love. Too often, we equate things about God with human life, and it's so beyond that. That's why this thing of becoming angry, or scriptures use it because that's how they see God, because they don't grasp and understand what is really being said and things having to do with wrath, which really, is just a matter of judgment that has to come in time. It's not that God wants to do that at all. On the contrary! He does everything to try to help us not to have that, to have to receive the judgment of the Last Great Day, if you will, at the end. He wants us to be able to become part of His Family.

"Who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation in good hope by grace." What it means to receive the favor, the help, the graciousness of God in our lives. Awesome!

...comfort your hearts and establish you. So, that's what God desires to do: give us a comfort of peace in our thinking, in our minds, and what we have, and establish us, that we become established in what is true and right, so that we can be changed when the time comes.

...and establish you in every good word and work. So, awesome, incredible what's taught here. It truly is.

So, those things that happened in 2nd Thessalonians 2, thinking about the importance then of the need getting back to the tree of life. That's what it's about because that's where our strength comes from. It's

about a relationship with God. It's about receiving help and God's spirit in our life in order to have the mind to be able to be changed. Awesome!

Hebrews 10:15—Now, the holy spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Eternal. I will put My laws into their hearts. What an awesome process we're going through, that as we yield to God, as we choose God and continue to make those choices day by day, of thinking about what is God's will, not just ours, but learning to fight that fight and striving to, in our prayers, too, asking God for help to choose His way, to choose His will, not ours all the time, but His will. Because our will gets in the way. Our will is selfish, it really is. That's why we have to think about things like this when we have to make choices and decisions.

"I will put my laws into their hearts." So, God does that. In other words, is His law dear to us? Is His truth dear to us? Do we love it? Are we thankful for it? Do we thank Him for it on a regular basis?

...and in their minds I will write them. I love that. It's the transforming of the mind. God's spirit in our minds, and it's, as it were, a writing within our minds His way of life, His truth, to where we're becoming more and more at one with Him, our minds are changing. If that wasn't there and if that didn't exist, what would we do? To understand that and to know that is awesome.

And their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more. What an awesome blessing God doesn't hold anything against us. We repent and it's gone. It's gone! And sometimes that's hard for people in the Church to receive from God because we are of a mindset we tend to... Maybe you've heard the expression, "So and so would have made a good catholic." Because there is this part about punishing ones self and things that people go through.

I think of seeing that person, it's always in my mind... Not always, but when I think about some of these kinds of things I think of this woman, when the senior class from Big Sandy, Ambassador, went down to Mexico City, and we went to this area where this cathedral was there. And this woman was crawling upon the ground and beating herself on her back. And there was... And you see blood. You think, what is that all about? How demonic can someone be that they have to...they feel like they have to do this to be right with God? What? You think, with any ability of a clear mind, of a sound mind...? Well, you just can't do it without being called. But what a horrible god that would require something like that or receive pleasure in people doing that?

That's why I think this concept of hell is such a dumb, dumb human thing, demonic thing, satanic thing. To think that you're going to be tortured forever and that God receives some kind of pleasure from the judgment that's given that for all eternity...? That's just hard to grasp that anyone could think a God of love could be like that. And who would want that kind of a god? So, you're kind of in this quandary, "What am I going to do? I don't want to go through that for all eternity, so I guess at the last minute here if I can have someone come by and pour some water on me, I guess I'd better go with that one." What a sick idea that thing about, ideas about God out there.

I look forward to the time people can see through all that garbage. There is a great freedom and peace in just knowing the truth in that, that that's so idiotic, so insane, so demonic. That's where it comes from.

Their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more.

And I do have to say, just interjecting here, that during this Feast season I have seen more things having to do with the spirit world than I think I've seen in a...maybe since...maybe forty years ago in the environment of the church, in some things that were happening close to the time that the church was being attacked through the State of California and so forth.

They were very rampant at that time, and kind of powerful at that time because they were being allowed to do certain things in order to bring some things to the surface, primarily about so many evangelists who weren't in unity and oneness with God at all, definitely not with Herbert Armstrong, which says it all. Looking to take over. Looking to take over the Church. So betraying everything that they had been given and taught at Ambassador College. Some of those things just boggle my mind. Because it happened a lot, over and over and over and over again. We're to learn from that.

Yes, I was interjecting there. I was going to go back to that and say, wait a minute, why did I stop? Okay. I'm not going to go into it, but there is a certain part of the world where certain things are sent, and it's an email you want to be on, but I'm not going to have you all on because of this very thing. There are two who continue to write. They are so demonic, so sick. You don't answer them. You don't deal with them. You just delete, delete, delete. I had so many on there, it was like they are so stirred up right now, they really are, demonic world. Anyway, insane minds.

And their sins and their iniquities I will remember no more. Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. What a peace of mind to have, to know that when you've repented of something, it's gone. You don't have to carry it around. You don't have to beat yourself up. You don't have to feel low, though sometimes we do, I do, we all do to a certain degree, perhaps when certain things happen, and you're fighting things in the mind and whatever, wherever. Hopefully, they're up here first. Too often it takes us a time to get up here where we can battle it in here rather than physically in the world. Because too often, people are still dealing with the physical things of the world. But you have to get beyond that and deal with it up here before anything ever happens in life. For everyone has sin, in how you treat someone and how you talk to someone, and on and on it goes, plus many other things.

Therefore, brethren, having boldness, confidence, trust, freedom of speech in what's right, to enter the Holiest by the blood of Joshua. What an awesome thing to understand. Every day, we can go into the Holiest of Holies. Mind-boggling! Before God Almighty, and He hears us.

...by a new and a living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh. Beautiful picture it paints here of that which happened when He died, when he had that spear rammed into His

side, and all of a sudden the blood came out, and the curtain, if you will, of the temple split from top to bottom. Beautiful picture in what it shows on a spiritual plane.

...and having a High Priest (verse 21) over the house of God, which we have in Joshua, the Christ, **let us draw near with a true heart**, being genuine and true before God, **in full assurance**. Again, this is a matter of confidence and trust in what God has offered us. **...of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water**.

So, everything they did on a physical plane, we do in a spiritual one. That's how we're cleansed. It's just a spiritual thing. It's a matter of going before God through the forgiveness of sin, through Joshua the Christ, and this is pictured in us on a spiritual plane, being made white, being cleansed, pure water from God.

Let us hold fast the confession... King James says "profession." The Greek means "agreement," in essence. **Let us hold fast the agreement of our hope without wavering**. What agreement? Baptism. It's what we said to God. It's what we committed to at baptism. It's a covenant relationship that we entered into with God at baptism. That's what it's all about. They entered into a physical one and couldn't do it. We enter into a spiritual one, and we can do it if we choose, if we seek to make the right choices on a continuing basis, and we just ask God for help to continue in it.

So, that's why it says, "hold fast," which means persevere. Just keep doing it. You keep repeating it as much as Christ is to come into our life, coming into our life, we have to yield to that process by continually repenting so that He will. And we continue to hold fast and persevere and doing the same thing day after day, seeking forgiveness of sin, seeking to be cleansed so that we can draw closer to God and ask for help to hold on and to esteem highly and love His law, His truth, His word.

...for He is faithful who promised. Let us consider... means "to take note of," think about from time to time. We should when we're praying. **...one another in order to stir**, as it says here, **love and good works**, agape. How do you do that? Well, it's a matter of asking God for help to live His way of life in how we think toward one another, how we are toward one another. It's a spiritual thing. Ask for help to love one another more. It's a good thing to pray about, how we see one another, that we cherish that, that we love that.

I'll tell you, some of the most inspiring times I have oftentimes are when I see people together and the noise level is so high that you see God has brought people together who have closeness in a relationship, they're able to share in things together, and it's exciting. I think of this place where we go sometimes when we're over in Europe, and everybody gets in this one area where they're all eating food and food being served all over the place, and the noise level is so high, I sometimes kind of cringe. Some of the other people out here, it's got to be pretty high level for them. And my watch goes off a few times.

I don't know how many of you have the... If you have an iPhone or the Apple Watch, it actually alerts me when the noise level gets too high. It's like, this frequency, what you're hearing, is dangerous to your ears. But when I see that, so be it. I'm not going to worry about that part.

Anyway, what a beautiful thing to grow in this unity and oneness, that we are one Body, that we are God's people. And that's an awesome thing to come to more and more. The more you grow and the more you'll see the need for that, truly, to see one another as God's people, as God's children. And if we can hold that in our minds on a continuing basis on a spiritual plane, things change in how you think about people and what you want to see them accomplish and succeed in. And on and on it goes.

So, let us consider, take note of **one another**, that's what it's talking about here, **to stir**, in essence, a matter of God's **love and good works**. And that has to do with how we're living toward them. It's not a matter of going around and trying to stir them up, because you can't. That's a personal choice, asking for help to be able to live what is right, to be a right example, to have right thinking toward God's own people.

...not forsaking assembling of ourselves in assembly, as it is, here in the Greek language. **...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves in assembly**. So, when is that? Uh. So, when we have ability and opportunity, we need to take advantage of it because this is something else we're to value. There is value, great value, yes, in fellowship with God Almighty and Joshua the Christ, but in fellowship with His people. There is something unique and powerful in that, to be able to be, to have that kind of friendship and relationship, where the knowing is we're in the same boat, we're going through the same kinds of things. We believe the same thing. We're holding on to the same thing. And there is that value, then, that we can hold toward one another that God really wants us to have. We're to value His word, but that leads to really valuing His, those who are His.

So again, **not forsaking assembling of ourselves in assembly as the manner of some**. Because this is something that's happened for the past two thousand years. If we're not careful we'll begin to let down and make reason why we can't do this and can't do that or whatever. Is it just to hear a sermon on the Sabbath or is there more involved? Where we can, if we have ability and can, we should be striving to do it.

...but exhorting, says "**one another**" here; that's not in the scripture even, okay. The word is "**encouraging**." How do you do that? Well, sometimes just to be there, just to visit, to talk, to discuss, and sometimes to discuss matters that are important in life, too.

...and so much the more as you see the day approaching. So, we talk about various things. We talk about some of these things. We see what's happening in the world and we discuss some of these things. We are unique in that regard concerning what we see. We understand what's happening on the world scene as far as governments are concerned and why this government and other governments are just falling apart and doing some of the dumbest things and saying some of the most insane things you can

think of, of what they actually believe in. And you think, what an awesome thing that this is about to get all cleaned up. It needs so cleaned up.

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth... Has that happened to people? Over and over and over again. If we sin willfully, no longer persevering in other words, in what is true and fighting the battle that we have to fight, **after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains the sacrifice for sins.** Says a lot. **...but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.** What a horrible end.

I think of the Last Great Day sermon and realize where it's all going to and what a horrible thing that human beings will settle for that more than wanting what God has to offer. You can't understand that fully. It's just not there. Because it is insane; it's not soundness of mind. But to think human beings can do that and choose that? Yes, by the droves, by vast numbers of people. It says, "as the sand of the sea." It means what it says.

...but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected... The word is used in the King James as "despised," but it means anyone who "is set aside." The Greek means "to set aside, to do away with what has been laid down." In other words, what we've been shown, what we've been given, to lay that aside, to no longer esteem it, to no longer hold it up, to no longer value it, to no longer hold on to it.

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law died without mercy. So, it's using that example for us spiritually, but for them, it says, look what happened, **anyone who has rejected Moses' law died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

Of how much worse punishment... There's was all physical, and there were certain things, and death sometimes was a matter of judgment for them, obviously, by the thousands on occasion, justly so. But that was in a physical world. That's not even talking about the second death. That's why it's asking, **Of how much worse punishment do you suppose will be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot.** Passover. To understand what was given to us so we could have opportunity to see, to know what is true? Astounding.

"Who has trampled the Son of God underfoot." And this is something that God has been showing us over the last three to four years. Been adding more and more emphasis to this so that we can see it, so that we can understand it, so that we can grasp and say it's a horrible thing, it's a horrible thing choices people make, but it is their choice, and it is against God, and there has to be judgment, and I agree with it, I agree with what God says. It has to come to pass. It has to be that way. There is no other way. So be it.

Think God wants less? God wants everyone. Would want everyone, would desire that everyone would choose Him, would embrace Him, but knows that that's not going to happen. And He's always known

that. That's why He made us the way we are. Because He knew that was going to happen. It was a part of what had to happen in the spirit world as well, and so, He knew it was going to happen even more so in a physical world.

Of how much worse punishment do you suppose will be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot and counted the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified a common thing, just an ordinary thing. Not that important, in other words, not that valuable. ...and insulted (brought insult to) the spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.

And again, even that word has been used in a way that can give a wrong concept and idea of the mind of God and the way God is. It shows how human beings can be in their thinking when it comes to how they respond to those who aren't in agreement with them, and how vengeful human beings can be to get their way. But God is... This is not about God. His way is right. His way is just. And you, we, don't have to take vengeance into our own hands, but God has a process of judgment whereby mankind is going to be judged, and everything will come into agreement with Him or not. It's not because of a mindset that's out to get vengeance like we are as human beings.

Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. You don't have to worry about it. You don't have to be concerned about it. If you see something wrong in the Church, you don't have to take it to yourself to deal with it, to make it right, to make someone else right. God will take care of it in His way and in His time. And hopefully, we're able to see that individuals are able to change and repent or whatever because we really want the best for one another – as God wants that far more for us.

Then again, The Eternal will judge His people. It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

And we're going to stop there today with that. But again, food for thought, to think about what it means to persevere, to hold on to what God has given to us. What an awesome blessing we have to be able to go through that process.