

In the World, Not of the World

Roy Assanti—January 27, 2018

Recently, on the occasion of our 40th wedding anniversary, Manola and I went to Miami on a Caribbean cruise. We'd been looking forward to it for a while. We weren't expecting the airfares that we were hit with, but we found that we could actually go and visit Norbert Bohnert in Canada and then go to Miami for the same airfare. So, that's what we did. Norbert and Denise were very cordial, very hospitable. Where else could you get a week's accommodation or so, no charge, meals included? It was a good deal. Not only that, we did a bit of sightseeing as well. We went to *Head-Smashed, in Alberta, Canada*.

We spent two weeks on a cruise. Generally, I'm a little bit of an extrovert, talking to people. I actually had an Irish fellow convinced that I was from Ireland. The more I talked to him, the more he talked. He asked where I was from? I told him that I was from West Mead. He was convinced. Later, we'd have to unconvince him.

There were also those that were from Scotland, a wee different type of an accent. The English were a little bit different still. Anyway, I had a good time socializing, a little bit of a social buff, and so on, being friendly and just happy with people. They'd stop and welcome you and listen and say, 'You could be on stage.' No, I'm not going to be on stage! We had a great time socializing and meeting people. I guess we were *with the world* and we had so much in common, and so much was also *not* in common.

John 17:15: **"I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one."**

We have to be *in* the world, *but we have to remember and understand that we are different!* We're not on a casual journey. It's an *on purpose* journey, a very, very *serious journey!*

I was saying, we met a variety of people. We made some friends, and we had friends that we went with. We shared laughter, experiences and in some ways we were the same and some ways we were not. There was one essential difference, *the unseen connection*. We saw people that were wonderful. One fellow that sat with us was an accomplished pianist. This guy was so skilled. I was watching him and his hands were literally going up and down at one stage and just hitting the piano keys. You think that shouldn't make any sense, but it did. It was a wonderful tune. He really had a skill.

We, also, are learning a skill. In some ways we are not the same. So, *the unseen connection!* A

difference that was essentially completely diverse deep inside with the way we are, the way I was, is the way you are, and the way our friends were. I sensed that I was the same in many ways with many people; yet, there was a difference. Those who are truly called of God do have a difference; we are different.

In this message, what I'm going to do is to outline three major ways in which we're different, that *we're not of the world!*

1. Led by the Spirit of God

The first difference is that *we are led by the Spirit of God!* We have a *spiritual* mind and heart. What happens is that if we are being called, when we begin to be called and when we begin to answer the call of God, then, *we are led by God's Spirit! That Spirit*—after conversion, baptism and commitment to God's way of life—*is dwelling within us*.

John 14:15: "If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments." *There's a duty, there's a certain way to go; we have a certain mind!*

As part of my trip, I met this lovely fellow; he was a truck driver. I spent a little bit of time with him and the language jarred me a little bit. I was courteous and understood that he was different. We kept going, but there was a difference there.

Verse 16: "And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: **Even the Spirit of the Truth**... [that's the difference] ...which the world cannot receive..." (vs 16-17). We need to be continually aware that there is this difference. *The world does not have this Spirit!*

"...because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you... [first, there are those who have been called by God and the Spirit dwells with them] ...and shall be within you" (v 17).

That is the direction that God's influence, Spirit and calling goes, that we receive His Spirit. Otherwise, God's Word is just a book. I sat down with a friend of ours and she said, 'Roy, do you know that the Jews wrote the Bible? It's written by men; it's only a book; that's it. What are you getting so worked up about?' Rather than this is the work of a Supreme Creator. Then a friend of my older brother's was here with him and he was telling me all about purgatory. I wasn't going to be discourteous to him, because he helps a lot with my

brother. So, I appreciate the good that he does and I was not about to argue with him. He had this little book. ‘You’ve gotta see this little book.’ It was about purgatory. He’s telling me about this burning, ‘spiritual burning is worse than physical burning.’ Scriptures are going through my mind and he’s telling me little stories of those who were dead and came back and said, ‘Thank you for all these Masses and prayers that were offered up.’

I’m thinking: *How confused!* How can you tell this person? He said, ‘Do you know the Catholics wrote the Bible?’ or put the Bible together, whatever he was saying. ***Rather than it being the Word of God and from the Supreme Creator!***

Tragically, I want to say that some—some that you know, some that I know, some that we don’t know—people that have known the Truth, that have understood, *have let it go by so easy* because of this world and the way it is. ***We’ve got to stand in the day of adversity!***

1-Corinthians 2:13: “Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Holy Spirit...” *This is spiritual stuff!* You’re either tuned in or *IF you think in your own mind*, you’re going to be tuned out.

“...in order to communicate spiritual things by spiritual means” (v 13). It’s not a physical thing. We don’t possess any channel, any ability to understand the spiritual. We have to be linked in all the time, continually, otherwise it just fades away like a disappearing vapor. The Truth is only going to be there if we eat and we drink spiritually. Otherwise it dissipates and we become different.

Verse 14: “But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned.”

We have to continually feed the Spirit to continually be ‘in that zone,’ with that Spirit and *having that spiritual discernment!* We can’t contain spirit. Christ said basically the same thing. You can speak until you’re ‘blue in the face,’ *but you will not convince anyone!* ***They cannot understand unless they are drawn by God!*** You must be ***led by the Spirit of God*** and you must receive it, eventually, on repentance and at baptism.

This principle is dramatically outlined in John 6. Christ had just fed 5,000 men. If it were 5,000 men, would there have been 5,000 women and children? Could there have been a crowd of 10,000 at least, a lot of people. They were fed with two fish and five barley loaves, and there were twelve baskets left over. They had all they could eat plus, and there were leftovers. After this free lunch, there

was a bunch of people looking for some more free food, ‘Where did He go? Let’s get another feed.’

John 6:24: “Accordingly, when the multitude saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also went in the ships... [it wasn’t just a few of them, because Christ had gone on the other side] ...and came to Capernaum, looking for Jesus.”

This is really a full chapter. Someone needs to really do a complete study of John 6 because it’s so full of meaning, especially before the Passover. It’s a *spiritual treasure trove*. We really need to go through it. What is the blood? What is the body? What does it mean? These are all incredibly good food and *spiritual nourishment* for us. We need to look into it again, *and again, and again!* Never forget it!

Verse 25: “And after finding Him *on* the other side of the sea, they said to Him, ‘Rabbi, when did You come here?’... [How’d You get here?] ...Jesus answered them and said, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, you do not seek Me because you saw the miracles, but because you ate the bread and were satisfied’” (vs 25-26). *You were satisfied, fellows, that’s why you’re looking for Me.*

Verse 51: “I AM the living Bread, which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this Bread, he shall live forever... [Jesus not talking about physical life] ...and the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give **for the life** of the world.’ Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another... [What’s He talking about here?] ...saying, ‘How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?’ [they’re taking it physically] ...Therefore, Jesus said to them...” (vs 51-53).

He wasn’t about to give up. They were a little bit offended. Sometimes when maybe you or I offend someone, we might just back off a little bit. Look at the way Christ or God does this. It’s in your face. It doesn’t stop there.

“...‘Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man... [He’s putting His finger right on the soul] ...and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood...’ [He’s really rubbing it in; He’s not backing off!] ...has eternal life... [they don’t understand eternal life] ...and I will raise him up in the last day’” (vs 53-54). *Fantastic promises*, but do they get it? He’s not going to ease up.

Verse 55: “For My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him” (vs 55-56).

We’re speaking about *spiritual discernment*, understanding the things of God! But ***the natural***

mind does not understand nor perceive the things of God. This is a clear demonstration. These guys weren't getting it. There weren't just a few, there were several boats full of them that came over. So, what was the result?

Verse 60: "Therefore, after hearing *these words*... [they couldn't get it] ...many of His disciples said, 'This is a hard saying. Who is able to hear it?'"

So, *if* you're led by the Spirit, *if* you have God's Spirit dwelling in you, then this is what happens:

Verse 63: "It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh... [Jesus is not talking about physical food] ...profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, *they* are Spirit and *they* are Life."

This is the difference *between those that understand the Word of God*—that are either being led by God's Spirit, or have God's Spirit and who is spiritually-minded and called of God and is a light—*and someone outside* who may be incredibly skilled in different ways. Yet, totally unskilled in the ways of God, in being molded and changed in character, *prepared*.

We've probably heard about suspended animation. The science fiction movies where someone—before they die—can be injected and preserved for a future time when science comes to the point where they understand the business of aging and they can change the genetic structure of a person and gives them eternal youth in the flesh. We want to live forever, *but the flesh does not and cannot understand the spiritual things!* The flesh is only going to be temporary.

John 14:17: "*Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be within you."

I recall a time when an evangelist of the past that most of us perhaps may be aware of: Gerald Waterhouse. I remember that he gave an account one time when he was sitting down with his brother-in-law and talking to him he was 'on fire' and was telling him all these things. All of a sudden his brother-in-law looked up and called out to his wife and he said, 'Have you put the cat out?' At that point Gerald Waterhouse said, 'I *knew* that I was not getting through.' The things of the flesh cannot understand or perceive the spirit. That's a big difference.

2. The other side

Those in the world are perishing. They're not lost, but they are perishing.

2-Corinthians 4:3: "But if our Gospel... [this knowledge of the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, this other power] ...is hidden to those who are perishing." *Even though they are alive, they are dying!*

In 2-Corinthians 2:15: "For we are Christ's sweet perfume..." *When someone perceives the spiritual knowledge, it's like a perfume!*

I remember years back in my business in the motel, I was being called, but I was not able to be baptized; I wasn't ready. There was group that would sing, a Gospel group, they were singing one of our songs. I was aware of it from services. I was just drawn, *spiritually drawn* to just listen, to just hear, because it was a sound of what I perceived to be God's Spirit. Also, I didn't really want to be in a church, but there was that drawing, like a perfume, like a sweet scent, that we want to be there.

"...to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing..." (v 15).

- they don't know
- they don't understand
- they cannot perceive

Not being led, they are perishing in the flesh!

1-Corinthians 1:18: "For to those who are perishing, the preaching of the cross... [the sacrifice, the promise, the end result] ...is foolishness... they can't understand it] ...**but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.**"

It is difficult sometimes! If you ever go on a cruise, there are so many things happening. Your time is taken away, continually. When you find that quiet time when you shut the door and you're alone, in that quiet time, we might feel a little confused. We slowly lose the Spirit of God that empowers. As you pray, as you have that connection and that surge of confidence, the direction and the strength, that's what keeps us going. If we eat and we drink from Christ, as we are part of the vine, that's what keeps us growing and alive. There is an end to that.

I'm talking about those who don't understand, who are perishing. Their hope is not lost. There is a place where all who have lived their lives, the spirit that contains the knowledge of their life—that individual—is kept. What God is telling Job is: 'Job, you think you're so great and capable.' There are many things that God has told him, to basically humble him. 'What do you really know, Job?' One of the things that He says is this:

Job 38:17: "Have the gates of death been opened to you?... [What do you do when you open the gates? What's death?] ...Or have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?"

In other words, there is a place where God in His infinite order and wisdom has all the lives of those who have ever lived. That's one point.

1-Cor. 15 is about the hope of those who don't understand. Here's another point. God instructs us about *mercy*. He tells us about the story of the Samaritan who finds the man who was beaten, left to die and robbed, and so on. The priest walks the other way, the Levite walks the other way, but here's a Samaritan and he is our neighbor. He shows mercy to the one who was in need. If God gives us that story of hope about someone who was assaulted and robbed, would He allow a life that has gone by without the knowledge of God to perish? *Obviously, He wouldn't!* God would not kill us without giving us hope for those who do not understand.

1-Corinthians 15:22: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ *the* Firstfruit... [this is the way it is so ordered and organized] ...then those who are Christ's at His coming. Afterwards the end *comes*, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Him Who *is* God and Father, when He shall have put an end to all rule and all authority and power. For it is ordained that He reign until He has put all enemies under His feet" (vs 22-25).

Part of the process will be to giving all those who have ever lived the choice. It's about getting your name in the Book of Life, which is another subject that we won't go into.

In Ezek. 37 there's a glimpse of the flesh and blood resurrection, the physical resurrection of those who have lived and what is going to happen in this time. There are some that have received knowledge, that have received the spiritual gifts, but there is a time to come when *all* will receive it. Right now, God has got to build the structure whereby they can be helped, served, nurtured, and so on. That's what happening now. *Our time is now!* *However, those who are not called will have a time!*

Ezekiel 37:1: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and brought me by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of a valley, and it was full of bones. And He made me walk among them all around.... [have a good look] ...And behold, very many *were* in the open valley. And lo, *they were* very dry.... [truly dead] ...And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know.'... [What do I know? *It'd be a miracle!*] ...Again He said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, "O dry bones, hear the Word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD... [this is what I say] ...to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews on you, and will bring up flesh on you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you,

and you shall live. And ¹⁰¹**you shall know** that I *am* the LORD'" (vs 1-6).

Why is that said? Perhaps *before* they did not know that He was the Lord? 'I'm going to raise you up and I'm going to give you understanding.' Now is the time when we are led by the Spirit and we have understanding. There will come a time when the others who have lived will get that, or be given that understanding. A surreal scene follows, almost like a dream. It would be something for Hollywood to put something like this together.

Verse 7: "So, I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise. And behold, a shaking! And the bones came together, a bone to its bone. And as I watched, behold the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above. But *there was* no breath in them" (vs 7-8).

Verse 10: "So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. And He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel**. Behold, they say... [metaphorically] ..."Our bones *are* dried and our hope is lost; we ourselves are completely cut off'" (vs 10-11).

- Why on earth did we live?
- Why is there life?

There's no hope otherwise!

Verse 12: "Therefore, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, and will bring you into the land of Israel. And ¹⁰²**you shall know** that I *am* the LORD'" (vs 12-13).

Before they did not know that He was the Lord! He's to reveal Himself to them, today; He reveals Himself to those whom He calls.

"...when I have opened your graves, O My people, and have brought you up out of your graves. And... [at this time] ...I shall put My Spirit in you..." (vs 13-14).

That's when spiritual discernment will be given to the overwhelming majority of those who have lived, until now. They didn't have it prior to dying.

"...and you shall live..." (v 14). What does that mean? *It means that you shall live again!* You had physical life. You thought there was no hope—dried bones, hopeless—but you're going to live again.

"...and I will place you in your own land. And ¹⁰³**you shall know** that I the LORD have spoken

it and have done it'... [Why? *Because they didn't know the power and the reality of gone before!*] ...says the LORD" (v 14).

God is talking about Israel (James 2). What about the rest of the living? What about the rest of those who have been alive? Do they get left out? Look at the principle of what's being taught here.

James 2:2: "Now then, if a man comes into your synagogue wearing gold rings *and dressed in splendid apparel*, and *there* comes in also a poor man in lowly apparel, and you give preference to the one who is wearing the splendid apparel, and say to him, 'Seat yourself here in the best place'; and you say to the poor man, 'Stand over there,' or, 'Sit here under my footstool'; then have you not passed judgment among yourselves, and have made yourselves judges *with evil opinions?*" (vs 2-4).

Verse 9: "But if you have respect of persons, you are practicing sin, being convicted by the Law as transgressors."

The principle applies. If God would only consider Israel and only raise Israel, then would He not be a respecter of persons?

Let's also consider Acts 11:18: "And after hearing these things, they were silent... [about the Gentiles receiving the Spirit of God] ...and they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also has God indeed granted repentance unto life.'"

It includes everyone. Ezek. 37 basically gives us a vision, and understanding that there would be a physical resurrection of all those who have lived and now will have a chance to have their name placed in the Book of Life. They'll be given God's Spirit and understanding at that time.

Sidebar: What's required is *faith! Faith is a gift of God!* It's described in Heb. 11. You've got to believe if you know you can't see. That substance, that belief God calls faith. Without faith, my friend look at me and says, 'The Book was written by people. You may as well read a novel. There's nothing special about it.' *or* The other fellow, the really staunch Catholic, he stuck to his little books of purgatory and hell. He didn't want to give me hell, but he gave me purgatory.

These things are difficult for flesh and blood to perceive. I'm a bit of a crazy grandfather at the moment. I have three little grandchildren, the youngest one is about three-months-old. You look at them and it's a miracle. Look at their eyes, the fact that they can see. How can you form?

I watched this newsreel on prosthetic limbs and they are incredible. They can mechanically

move hands and feet and they can move their hands and get a drink with a metal prosthetic limb attached to the nervous system. Actually, they can drink with these mechanical limbs. What would it take to make a life, a little child, complete with all the systems: the skeletal, the nervous system, the heart pumping blood, the digestive system, the brain. How could that ever come out of the ground? Dumb stupidity does not produce complexity and beauty!

If you really begin to think about even just a hair or fingernail, it's incredible; it doesn't just happen! If God created these things that are cast into the oven are eventually are going to see an end, what else has He got in store for us, as He says, 'Oh ye of little faith?'

3. We are not to be conformed to the world

It's easily said but we've got to take heed. Our journey is one of the most perilous. I still think, personally, that in Matt. 25, when you get five wise virgins and five foolish virgins, there are ten virgins. *They are betrothed; they are converted!* We say that the door was shut because there were five wise and five foolish, and the wise entered at the time. The foolish had to go and trade and come back, and the door was shut. There was outer darkness. What does outer darkness mean? What does gnashing of teeth mean? Weeping, what does it mean? **They're out!**

So, our journey today is perilous and we need not underscore or think that it's a 'walk in the park' or it's easy. It's a day-by-day-by-day. 'Sufficient is the trouble of the day thereof.' *Everyday! Take everyday and you need to make sure that every single day counts!*

I mentioned about *Head-Smashed*. Norbert and Denise, they brought us to a place called *Head-Smashed in Buffalo Jump*, Alberta, Canada. It was very interesting what we learned there. It's either the Canadian Indians or the First Nations and now they're called *Aborigines* as they were called by the lecturer there.

What would happened is that they would find a location where there was a high ledge and a long drop. What they would do is that they would build a corral. At the end it would be not very big, a small opening. That opening, as it went out would be larger *and larger and larger*. They would put barriers on either side of it. I just found it very interesting how the Indians would cause the cattle to run off the cliff. There was a lot of deception there, to corral the buffaloes to run down that cliff.

What they would do is, first they would make sure, look at the deception here, they were down wind—these are my thoughts as I was listening to this intently—so that the animals would

not smell them. If the wind was blowing away, they couldn't smell them. Then they would have these mimics, those that would put the calfskins on, and they mimicked the calf, however the calf sounded. They would make the same noise as the calf and the flock would accept them.

Then there were the wolves, those that had the wolf skins. They would walk around and spook the flock. They would push them forward with the spooking. The others would lead the little calves in cries of fear. Eventually, they'd be led into the funnel, staring off wide then getting smaller and smaller. Then there various Indians on either side—or First Nations or whatever you mean. They would have these skins and they'd wave the skins and shout. That would start them stampeding. They'd start and the dimension would grow and grow until at the end they were moving at velocity and could not stop. Then over the cliff and they'd get more than their head smashed in.

There's a spiritual principle there. Satan is a very, very shrewd being, as we understand from Genesis. If we get caught in such a momentum, a trap that has momentum, they'll be a point where you cannot stop. I wonder whether you believe that? I wonder whether we believe that?

I want to say something else. The other night I watched a movie. It was an interesting movie. It was called *Hacksaw Ridge*. I don't watch movies, but this one really got me. It was about a Seventh Day Adventist. You probably know the story. He refused to carry a gun in WWII. He was only going to go as a medic. They had to get on this elevated area only with ropes. That's it. The enemy was on the other side. They kept on getting pushed back.

What happened was that this fellow went through a lot of persecution and a lot of difficulty. What draws me to it is that it's a true story. War is so bloody. It depicted so vividly lost limbs and intestines everywhere. I'm sorry, I don't mean to be gory, but it is a terrible scene. Everybody had to retreat. They went but he stayed. Overnight, little by little, he would say, 'Just one more.' He would pray to God, 'Just one more. Give me one more.' He would go and save one more person, let them down the cliff and go and find another one. I think he saved something like 75 people.

He had to have been protected. It was nothing less than a miracle, an absolute miracle that he wasn't killed. The Japanese were shooting bodies. One time he was bayoneted because he had a body over him. It just missed him and he buried another person so that he couldn't be seen to be bayoneted. When the soldiers went away, he cleared him up and brought him down over the cliff. He went down the rat holes that they had and just dodged it from

Japanese soldiers. It was the 'dance of death.' It was absolutely incredible how the man did what he did and how he lived through it.

There's a reason why I mention this. ***The bottom line is that we, also, walk this kind of a walk!*** We are not to go to sleep. Day by day our battle is there. The flesh pulls us down. The world pulls us out. We want to belong but we have to retreat. We have to go into that 'silent place.' We have to refuel, re-strengthen, double up on strength, because this world is just such a perilous battlefield with mines, bullets and perils everywhere.

1-John 5:19: "We know that we are of God, and ***that the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one.***"

There you are! ***The whole world is a battleground!*** Would we underestimate Satan? *He set the course of humanity on the course that it's on, on this corral and a fall to death!* Do we believe what is written there in Scripture? *It's in the power of the wicked one*, and he has all his devices and vices out there. ***Make no mistake, those who are led by God's Spirit at this time are in great peril!*** We need to be alert and not underestimate, or devalue, or simplify the situation. The battle that we are in, it is a battle.

Hebrews 6:4: "For *it is impossible...*" This is what happens. This is what can happen if we get too far down the corral.

"...for those *who were* once enlightened, and who personally obtained the heavenly gift, and became partakers of *the Holy Spirit*" (v 4).

- Why would He say this?
- Why would God inspire this to be said?

"...and who have tasted..."

- the aroma
- the taste
- the sense of the promises
- the joy
- the strength

that comes from God! "...*the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come*" (v-5).

- Where does the power come from?
 - From the air?
 - you are down
 - you have little strength
 - you are a little despondent
- you just go to that private place and you pray*
- you think on God's Word
 - you meditate on it
 - you are revived
 - you are strengthened

It's the same thing as drinking and being revived when you are in great thirst!

Verse 5: “And who have tasted *the* good Word of God, and *the* powers of *the* world to come, **if** they have fallen away...” (vs 5-6).

Why does it say that if cannot happen? *It can happen!* We are on perilous grounds!

“...to renew *them* again unto repentance; *seeing that* they are crucifying the Son of God for themselves, and are publicly holding *Him* in contempt” (v 6).

The Apostle Paul gives this warning. The Spirit of God Who has inspired His Word for us today, warns us through the life, the experiences and the inspiration of the Apostle Paul. Note his experience and his lament.

- Can we understand this?
- Do you understand what you have inside of you?
- Do you know it?

We need to be aware!

2-Timothy 1:14: “Guard the good thing that was committed *to you* by *the* Holy Spirit **that is dwelling in us**—present tense—or being led if we’re not baptized; it’s leading us.

Verse 15: “You know this, that **all those who are in Asia** have rejected me, of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus **because he frequently...** [the Apostle Paul is grieving for this man who] **...refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains**” (vs 15-16). *This guy really had God's Spirit and he's gone!*

Verse 17: “For when he was in Rome, he searched for me very diligently and found *me*. May the Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from *the* Lord in that day and how much he served *me* in Ephesus, you know very well” (vs 17-18).

This is the reality, all those in Asia. Why? The Apostle Paul was inspired, and here Peter is inspired to say it this way:

1-Peter 5:8: “Be sober!...” That’s what we’re talking about. That’s the message of this third point: “Be sober!...” Be watchful! We’ve read this so many times I know it, but do we take heed day-by-day?

“...Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour” (v 8).

Eph. 6—we look at another self-defense mechanism. What we’re doing is that today we need to be on guard.

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord, and in the might of His strength. **Put on the whole armor** of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (vs 10-11). How many are there that we knew that are no longer amongst us?

Verse 12: “Because we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but against principalities *and* against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high *places*. Therefore, **take up the whole armor of God** so that you may be able to **resist in the evil day...**” (vs 12-13).

Here’s where I sort of stop. We slowly, slowly move down that corral and when suddenly we’re pushed, it’s going to be too late unless we have the strength to just move aside, stop, go the other way.

We will be tested because I would guess that God does not give Spirit life lightly. You’re going to have to be tested so that the character is there to do the right thing. God has to know, the Father and Christ have to know, that we will always make the right decision, if He’s going to give us life for always.

“...**resist in the evil day**, and having worked out all things, to stand” (v 13). When that fellow went back in the field there, there were flamethrowers. *Incredible!* Whole rows of men would be in flames. Specifically here, there’s a Spiritual equivalent.

Verse 16: “Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

Matthew 24:13: “But the one who endures *to the* end, that one shall be saved.” We have to hang on *until* *God says enough!*

Matt. 11 it’s an encouragement for us. On the cruise, sometimes, I’d find some time alone and just to shut the door with the world behind you. You’re down and you need to be strengthened day-by-day. Just to pray, or to meditate, or stand by in a quiet corner of the ship and to look out, with no one there, onto the ocean, it’s absolutely necessary. This is what comes to mind. We need to find that ‘quiet place’ daily. Don’t wait until you’re low on strength. Daily build it up.

Matthew 11:28: “**Come to Me, all you who labor and are overly burdened...**” That is the promise when you’re low. You’re going to have problems. You’ve got to prevail. When they’re there and the burden is heavy, “...all who labor...” in *the Truth* and *who are being shaped and molded like a*

clay vessel, and you will be. You've got to overcome.

"...and I will give you rest" (v 28). Wow! What a refreshing to go and drink from the Spiritual waters and be refreshed, rejuvenated. Where does it come from? From the air? This is not what my friends on the cruise could experience or could know. They didn't know that. Suddenly a dynamo would sit there and talk about this or—because of the joy that is in us—speak in a certain accent, or make a joke, or tell a story, and be sociable and be energetic. This is where the energy comes to us to rejoice.

Verse 29: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls." *Incredible promise! Real living day-to-day!*

Verse 30: "For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light."

I can remember when I was first called. I can remember being drawn, going to services, eating and enjoying learning something new. A lot of time has passed since probably right about 1972. *It's past!*

Romans 13:11: "Now *consider* this... [It's not long to go! Not for me! Not for you!] ...knowing the time, that *it is* already *the* hour *that* we should be roused out of sleep... [day-by-day] ...**because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.**"

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 17:15
- 2) John 14:15-17
- 3) 1 Corinthians 2:13-14
- 4) John 6:24-26, 51-56, 60, 63
- 5) John 14:17
- 6) 2-Corinthians 4:3
- 7) 2-Corinthians 2:15
- 8) 1-Corinthians 1:18
- 9) Job 38:17
- 10) 1-Corinthians 15:22-25
- 11) Ezekiel 37:1-8, 10-14
- 12) James 2:2-4, 9
- 13) Acts 11:18
- 14) 1-John 5:19
- 15) Hebrews 6:4-6
- 16) 2-Timothy 1:14-18
- 17) 1-Peter 5:8
- 18) Ephesians 6:10-13, 16
- 19) Matthew 24:13
- 20) Matthew 11:28-30
- 21) Romans 13:11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Hebrews 11
- Matthew 25

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