

Your Word is The Truth

The most powerful thing and that comes from God!

Fred R. Coulter—November 17, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

(announcements left out of transcript)

Today there are many people searching for God. A lot of them don't know what to do. They go to this church or that church. They go from the stoics of the Catholics to the raucousness of the Pentecostals. They go to Seventh-Day Adventists and they find they're no different than the Protestants now, except for the Sabbath.

Where do they go? *They go online!* Online we have three major sites. We also have it in Spanish, too.

1. truthofGod.org

That is very important because all the things that we have done for years is there. You can download it. Whatever you want.

2. churchathome.org

We are now going to begin advertising more with the Church and more with Church at Home. I talked to Randy about that, and he's going to work with Ron Cary in what we need to do for truthofGod.org. We also have all the domain names, except one (.com) and it looks like it's available so we may have it. TruthofGod.com belongs to a church in Pennsylvania.

What will happen when people on truthofGod.org {or net, world} they'll come to our website. The only problem we have with it, we have all the domain names except .com.

3. thetruthofGod.org

If we get this one, then we will have all the domain names. So, if a person 'Googles' **What is the Truth of God?** that will come automatically to our site, because we will have those domain names active as kickers into our website.

This is what we want to do, is to reach out as much as possible. People are turned off with religion. It's a crazy thing. It really is.

- Where do we begin?
- How do we find God?

You have to come to the Bible. Since there are so many denominations out there, we have a complete analysis done by Ackerman and it compares 27 different translations with the *Faithful Version* and the *King James Version*.

The one good thing about the *King James Version* is they did use the Received Text, but they made many poor translations and some really bad. It shows how in so many of these modern translations they leave out words and verses. You know what? If you are searching for the Truth, you can find it, because every one of these changes and mistranslations have been documented. *They are not hidden!* We have all the changes in the New Testament from 27 translations. You would be surprised how many verses are missing in the *English Standard Version*. The *Faithful Version* covers all of them.

Here's what you have to know about the Word of God: ***We're dealing the God of Truth!*** Do you think that the God of Truth would inspire error to be contained in His Word? ***No, He wouldn't!*** Jesus had something to say about what would happen to His words.

Remember that Peter, James and John—James was martyred (Acts 12)—went with Jesus up to the Mount of Transfiguration and saw Jesus transfigured. This is impression that Peter is talking about in 2-Peter when he explains about the Word of God.

2-Peter 1:12: "Therefore, I will not neglect to make you always mindful of these things, although you *already* know them and have been established in the present Truth."

He's talking about what he's *writing*, because it has to be written down ***by those that God has chosen!*** The only thing that can be done is when it comes out in different languages, those who do the translating ***must be faithful to the original Greek or Hebrew!*** Otherwise, you're going to end up with adding or subtracting from the Word of God. You know what that is all about, last part of Revelation.

Verse 13: "For I consider it my duty, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by causing *you* to remember *these things*." ***Remember!***

What is it we do every week? ***Remember the Sabbath!*** That has never changed; it is a ***perpetual*** covenant. Think of it this way:

- Does the earth turn on its axis and we have day and night? ***It goes around its orbit and we have seasons!***
- How does that keep going? ***It is perpetual***
- How does God keep it from running down? ***The magnetic power from the sun and the***

*balancing magnetic power from Jupiter
keeps the earth in sync!*

It is always going to be there!

If we're to remember the Sabbath, and it's *perpetual*, that's the first place to begin. On Church at Home I challenge everyone to take the Sabbath challenge:

- keep the Sabbath for one month
- study the Sabbath throughout the Bible

If you don't understand about the Sabbath by then... I don't tell them they may be a hopeless cause, I don't know whether they will or not.

Verse 14: "Knowing that shortly the putting off of my tabernacle *will come*, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has signified to me. But I will make every effort *that*, after my departure, you may always have a written remembrance of these things *in order* to practice *them* for yourselves" (vs 14-15)—*and on down to other generations!*

How are you going to know what to do unless it's written down? We've talked about '**Obey My voice.**' How are you going to obey God's voice unless you read what God has inspired to be written down?

Verse 16: "For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths *as our authority*... [everything in the Catholic Church is a concocted myth] ...when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His magnificent glory."

Have you had an experience in your life that is burned into your brain that you never forget? *All of us do!* Think about Peter, James and John when they were on that Mount of Transfiguration and they went through this experience. That's what he's referring to.

Verse 17: "Because He received glory and honor from God *the Father* when *the voice* came to Him from the Majestic Glory, 'This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I am well pleased.' And this *is the voice* from heaven that we heard when we were with Him on the Holy mountain. We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word..." (vs 17-19)—*confirmed fulfillment of the prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament and recorded in the New Testament. Confirmed by Christ!*

...to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns... [the return of Christ] ...and *the morning star* arises in your hearts.... [that's the resurrection] ...Knowing this first... (vs 19-20).

We have to keep coming back to this because there are many tricky doctrines that come

along. Why is it that men want to come along and improve upon a perfect God? How can that be? **Cannot be!**

Verse 20: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture originated as anyone's own *private* interpretation... [it has to agree with Truth] ...because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but **the Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit**" (vs 20-21).

That's all of those in the Old Testament and all of those in the New Testament. We need to do a study, too, about all of the strange doctrines that are recorded as springing up in the New Testament.

Think on this for a minute: The Catholic Church and the Protestant churches all came out of the Churches of God. We can see the hints of those in the New Testament. This is why we have to prove all things. Prove all things means you keep digging and searching. The best way to prove all things is start out with the simple things.

What is the simplest thing to start out with to prove the Bible? *The book of Proverbs!* That tells you right from wrong, good from evil. You can examine the world around you. You can look at history and you can see that, yes, everything that the book of Proverbs says about the actions of men and women, good and evil, are there. This is to lay the foundation so you can trust in the Word of God.

The next thing you do with that after Proverbs, you check and study the prophecies. We have a booklet for that: *How Credible is the Bible?* Some of the prophecies that God gave took hundreds and hundreds of years in waves and steps to take place. Duncan MacLeod has that well documented.

2-Timothy 3:13: "But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse..." Isn't that true! Look at this society. Let's just stop and take a look at California; it's burning up:

- it's run by people *who reject God*
- it's run by people *who are perverts*
- it's run by people *who are atheists*

The digital companies that are here, Google and Amazon.com, and the other ones, Facebook, and so forth, are not guided by the Word of God at all.

Have you heard of DuckDuckGo, Inc.? Duckduckgo.com says that everybody's after Trump because he said he's a nationalist. It says a nationalistic one is someone who loves his country, wants to take care of his country, and wants to stand up for it. I'm just paraphrasing what it says. So, if you want to know the difference between that, go to Duckduckgo.com and compare that with Amazon.com. It says a nationalist is a Nazi. Then it

brings in Donald Trump and all of the false information concerning him.

Verse 14: “But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*.”

Stop and think about Paul. We covered in the Corinthians series about all the things he suffered through, all the things that he went through.

- Why did he go through it? *For the sake of the Truth!*
- Did he have challenges and problems that just almost wiped him out? *Yes!*
- Did he have times when he wondered where is God? *Yes!*

Can you imagine the prayers when he was in the deep day and night? Holding on to whatever he was holding on to? *We don't know where it was, but it must have been somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea!*

- God, do you love me?
- Why am I here? *To ensure that you will always be honest with the Truth*

You may have your own difficulties, you may have your own problems that you go through, but remember all of them are ***to ensure that you stay with the Truth!*** None of us have gone through what Paul went through.

Verse 15: “And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus.”

If you go through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and we have *A Harmony of the Gospels*. We have all of the prophetic Scriptures of the life of Christ that were given in the prophets. We have the reference so you can go back and check.

There's a new book out by Joseph Farah, a Jew, *The Gospel in Every Book of the Old Testament*. He did a great job. That's how they were preaching the Gospel to begin with.

Verse 16: “All Scripture... [each and every one] ...*is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work” (vs 16-17). *That's the basis; you start there!*

In the history of the Church that John Guenther did—*History of the Church of God, 325_{AD}. to 1600_{AD}.*—they lived this day and night in their small communities. They had the Bible. They taught them to memorize Matthew, Luke and John, the General Epistles, and all of Paul's epistles.

That was easier for them to do than today, because they had no television, no staying up late at night. They had good food, and so forth. They were of such a force in the Israel of the Alps, the Piedmont area—meaning foothill—there that the Catholic Church felt threatened. That's why they had to come and kill them. They could have gotten along if they would have taken the Mass and have accepted infant baptism.

It would be easy to say to yourself, ‘oh, well, one mass won't hurt. I'll save my neck.’ That's why they were called Anabaptists, meaning again baptized or baptized again, *because infants cannot repent!* They just came into the world. They have nothing in their minds except to let mamma know when they're hungry or dirty or wet.

Let's focus in on the Truth and then the words of God. Why is it that people in the Church of God get carried away? Did you know that most evangelicals today do not believe this? *They believe that Jesus was born by human procreation!* We won't get into it in detail, but we're going to cover the first couple verses here:

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” That's clear as can be. Was Jesus God before He became human? *Yes! It tells us here:*

Verse 2: “He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him. In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men” (vs 2-4).

Verse 14: “And the Word became flesh... [we have sermons covering how did He become flesh] ...and tabernacle among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the* glory as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father), full of grace and truth.” *Foundational!*

Let's see the Truth; that's why you have to know and prove that the Word of God is the Truth. Everything that we stand for and do, and believe and rely upon is the Truth. The Truth of our own human nature that sometimes it can really get carried away beyond what even we think we would allow ourselves to do. But those things are forgivable through repentance and coming to God.

John 8:25—this is at the temple: “Then they said to Him, ‘Who are You?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘The one that I said to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you; but He Who sent Me is true... [God the Father is true, is Truth and all powerful] ...and what I have heard from Him, these things I speak to the world’” (vs 25-26).

Even Jesus spoke exactly what the Father wanted Him to speak, just exactly like the prophets of old.

Verse 27: “*But* they did not know that He was speaking to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you yourselves shall know that I AM...’” (vs 27-28). *The name of God, I AM THAT I AM!*

Remember when Moses said to God, ‘Who am I going to tell the children of Israel has sent me?’ ‘*You tell them I AM THAT I AM has sent you!*’ He had many different names, so that is the base name: **I AM!** That should alert them to the fact that He was the God of the Old Testament.

“...and *that* I do nothing of Myself... [out from] ...But as the Father taught Me...” (v 28). How did He teach Him? *Isa. 50 says as an infant God the Father woke Him up every morning and taught Him!* That’s how Jesus knew. Some say, ‘Well, He grew up and went to the rabbi school and was taught by the rabbis.’ Yes, all the lying rabbis. There’s a book out, *Jesus the Rabbi* by Dwain Miller.

Verse 29: “And He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone because I always do the things that please Him.”

That’s the ultimate goal in our behavior! That’s why we have repentance and yielding to God. The daily prayer is: Forgive us our sins. ***The longer we have the Spirit of God, the more the Spirit of God in our minds reveals to us the sin that’s within so we can repent!*** That’s quite a blessing in itself, when you understand it.

Verse 30: “As He spoke these things, many believed in Him... [here in the temple] ...Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And **you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free**’” (vs 30-32).

- set you free from Satan the devil
- set you free from your own carnality

God offers repentance so it can be removed!

Verse 33: “They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. What do You mean by saying, “You shall become free?”’ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin’” (vs 33-34).

Sin is *the transgression of the Law, if you are living in sin!* That’s what the world is doing. Doesn’t it say that *the whole world is in the power of the wicked one* (1-John 5:19)? The more you check out Christianity on TBN, I tell you, it’s going down the hill.

Verse 43: “Why don’t you understand My speech? Because you cannot *bear* to hear My words. You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me” (vs 43-45).

Truth is the most powerful thing and that comes from God! Everything to do with salvation is based upon Truth and the Word of God!

Let’s see how all of this comes together. Think about the inspiration that went into the writing of this prayer in John 17. How close did John have to be to God? *His intimate prayer to the Father!* This is the prayer that He prayed three times. This was the night before He was arrested. So, keep that in mind as we’re reading this.

John 17:13: “But now I am coming to You; and these things I am speaking *while yet* in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in them.”

The joy does not come necessarily from happiness, but from the strength of the Truth, the strength of God’s Spirit, and knowing that we can come to God and He will hear us. *That is the joy!*

Especially for them growing up. You read in the book of Acts. I’ve discussed a little with Ken about, maybe we’ll have to do a series in the book of Acts, because that’s the only book in the New Testament we don’t have done. You read there, how did it start out, right there at the temple on the day of Pentecost?

Verse 14: “I have given them Your words... [we’ll see how that was done] ... and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one” (vs 14-15). He is there to come and get us.

I was going through what John Guenther had written up in his outline and it’s very interesting. Those in what is called *Israel of the Alps*, is spread out into Europe and many different places. But in the 1100s, while the crusades were going—the King of the North coming against the King of the South, and there were ships coming in the Mediterranean. There were the Mongols coming from the east, and they were saying that we’re close to the end of the world. ***But they prayed for those who would come after them!*** Think about that. Here we are. ***We’re after them!*** The Word of God is still going forward.

Verse 15: “I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep

them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (vs 15-16).

How can you live *in* the world and not be *of* the world? Today it’s harder and harder to do, than at any time in history.

Verse 17: “**Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is the Truth.**” *That’s pretty powerful!* So, the words of God are important and the things that we need to do.

Let’s reaffirm exactly what we’ve been studying. This helps us to realize and know that the Word of God is consistent and is true from Genesis to Revelation. That doesn’t mean there aren’t difficult Scriptures that we need to understand. Some Scriptures are very difficult to understand, *especially some of the prophecies*. The only way we’re going to understand is when it’s time to understand it. Concerning the words of Christ.

John 12:35: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Yet, a little while the Light is with you. Walk while you have the Light, so that *the* darkness will not overtake you. For the one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.’” Doesn’t that sound like the world?

- they don’t know where they’re going
- they don’t know what they’re doing
- they don’t know how to solve the problem

If they solve a problem, then they don’t realize the affects of solving that problem what it will have!

Verse 36: “‘While you have the Light, believe in the Light... [Jesus is the Light of the world] ...so that you may become *the* children of Light.’ Jesus spoke these things and *then* departed from them and was *in* hiding.”

Verse 41: “‘Isaiah said these things... [blinding them so they wouldn’t see] ...when he saw His glory and spoke concerning Him. But even so, many among the rulers believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue... [politics] ...for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God. Then Jesus called out and said, ‘The one who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me’” (vs 41-44).

Those who are converted have the privilege and blessing of praying directly to the Father, as Jesus told us.

Verse 45: “‘And the one who sees Me sees Him Who sent Me. I have come *as* a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. But if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words... [keep that in mind] ...has one who judges him; the Word, which I have spoken, that shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father, Who sent Me, gave Me commandment Himself, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. Therefore, whatever I speak, I speak exactly as the Father has told Me” (vs 45-50).

(go to the next track)

It’s amazing once you really understand this. It gives you a whole new perspective in looking at the Bible. It helps you understand.

Luke 4:1: “And Jesus, filled with *the* Holy Spirit... [the Spirit of the Truth] ...returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness *for* forty days to be tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing in those days; and after they had come to an end, He hungered” (vs 1-2). *At the very weakest, Jesus let Satan come in at his strongest!*

Verse 3: “Then the devil said to Him, ‘If You are *the* Son of God, command that this stone become bread.’ But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word of God.**”’” (vs 3-4)—tie in Deut 8:3

Once you prove that, and the Truth of the Word of God, and the Spirit of the Truth behind it, then—let’s come to Luke 6:46.

- How binding are the words of God?
- How binding are the words of Christ?

Luke 6:46: “And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but **you do not practice** what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and **practices** them...” (vs 46-47)—*live by them!*

That’s the difference. You either practice sin and live in the world, or you practice the Truth and you are following God’s way.

“...I will show you what he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid *the* foundation on the rock; and a flood came, and the torrent beat against that house, but could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock. But the one who has heard *My words* and has not practiced *them* is like a man who built a house on *top of* the ground, without a foundation; and *when* the torrent beat against it, it fell at once, and the ruin of that house was great” (vs 47-49). *It affects everything in life!*

This is all about the prophecies that He gave, and this is parallel with Matt. 24 and Luke 13; Luke 21:33: “‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **My words shall never pass away.**’” *That’s*

absolute! That's what's so important for people to understand.

Let's look a little bit more concerning the words of God and what they mean. Let's look at it from the point of view of Truth. The words that Christ spoke were Truth. Let's come back here and see some Scriptures, very important.

You've heard me say many times to study and learn Psa. 119. We can study it, go over it, study it, go over it, and we still learn every time we do.

Psalm 119:25: "My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Your Word. I have declared my ways, and You answer me; teach me Your statutes. Make me to understand the way of Your precepts, and so shall I speak of Your wonderful works. My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to Your Word. Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your Law graciously" (vs 25-29). *That's the way of the world, the way of lying!*

As you watch the news, keep that phrase in mind—the way of lying. You don't even need to go to some news outlets, because that's all they do. And that's the way of Satan. He's a liar from the beginning and a murderer and has not remained in the Truth. Once you have been removed from the way of lying:

Verse 30: "**I have chosen the way of Truth**; I have laid Your judgments before me. I cleave to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame. I will run the way of Your commandments for You shall enlarge my heart" (vs 30-32).

Psa. 119 is one of the greatest Psalms you can have to overcome the false lying of what the Protestants and Catholics say! The Catholics say it's the old law and they say we really don't need the Bible because we have the Catholic religion, which is true: ***christianized mysticism!***

Protestants say the Old Testament has been fulfilled and 'we don't need to do anything with it.' But if you don't read the Old Testament and study the Old Testament and believe that, how are you going to believe the New Testament? *You're not!* That's how they come along and keep their Sunday. It originally started, the Catholics say that 'God gave the Sabbath to the Jews and to separate the Christians from the Jews, we keep Sunday.' So, everybody says that sounds logical.

Always remember that all logic is not Truth, but all Truth is logical!

Verse 142: "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness..."

Verse 172: "My tongue shall speak of Your Word, for all Your commandments are righteousness."

If His righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, what does this mean concerning the commandments of God? *They are everlasting, all of them!*

Verse 151: "You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth."

- everlasting righteousness
- commandments are righteousness
- commandments are Truth
- we are to keep the Word of truth

Verse 160: "Your Word is true from the beginning..." *Not one lie in it*, except as men want to change it. It's interesting, as I said, all changes have been documented, so they're easily proved. It takes a little effort, but you can prove it.

Verse 160: "Your Word is true from the beginning, and every one of Your righteous ordinances endures forever."

How can anyone say—and we've covered that Jesus said, 'Do not think that I've come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come to fulfill'—*to complete!* ***Everything in the Old Testament has to be amplified and completed by the New Testament***, and it makes a perfect round sphere concerning the Word of God.

This is how all of these things come together; Psalm 146:1: "O praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Do not put your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no salvation" (vs 1-3). ***That's why we are to follow Christ, God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit and no man!***

The reason is v 4: "His breath goes forth; he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.... [on the other hand]: ...Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made the heavens and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps Truth forever" (vs 4-6).

- the Word of God is true
- His righteousness is true

All those things are important for us to understand. Let's put all of this together and see one of the most important, easy to understand epistles.

What is darkness? *Darkness comes from Satan!* In between Light and dark there are gray zones. These gray zones represent the allowance of

Satan's way into a Christian's life. *God wants that cleansed out!*

If we're walking in darkness—we could apply this to Sunday-keeping and since Christmas is just around the corner—and I bet everybody is really, really happy that Thanksgiving is on the 22nd because that gives them a whole another week of a buying-binge to put everybody in debt for all the Christmas stuff that goes on. I remember one year, they complained because it was too late and they missed a whole week of sales.

- What is that about? *Business!*
- What does it say in Rev. 18? *The merchants of the earth have been rich through the luxury of her abundance!*

Everything about the holidays of this world is nothing but commercialism and Satanism. And, yes, as I've said on Church at Home: show a picture of little kiddies out there, Santa Claus, and 'it's a wonderful thing.' *Satan likes to get them early!* The whole system is set up today that it's harder and harder for young people to really want to find out anything about God, sad as it is.

1-John 1:6, **IF**: "...we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves..." In other words, **if** there is an ongoing sin and you think that's perfectly okay, and you're not repenting of it, **you're lying to yourself!** If you lie to yourself, how deceived can you be?

If you tell a lie, you know that you've told a lie. The lie is over here. But **IF** "...we are lying to ourselves, and we are **not practicing the Truth**" (v 6). *That's what it is if you allow that compromise to come in!* We've seen that happen. The agents of change are always trying to sneak in.

Verse 7: "However, if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, **then** we have fellowship **with one another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin"—*meaning with each other and each one to God the Father and Jesus Christ. That's our fellowship!*

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin..." What does that mean? *If we say all human beings are good and they don't sin, they make mistakes!*

Did you know that now Protestant evangelicals believe that people are basically good? Just because they're around a bunch of self-righteousness people, who in their own ways are good, because they want to be good in the way that they want to be good. But they've got this darkness of Sunday that they're working on. So it's a self-deception.

Verse 8: "If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us. If we confess our own sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (vs 8-9).

Matthew 12:30: "'The one who is not with Me is against Me... [so it's all or nothing] ... and the one who does not gather with Me scatters. Because of this, I say to you... [What sins will be forgiven if we confess them?] ...**every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men...** [and women] ...except the blasphemy against the *Holy Spirit...*" (vs 30-31). *That is the rejection of God!*

Remember Peter, what Christ told him: 'You're going to deny Me three times this night, this very day.' He said, 'No, no, that'll never happen,' but it did. He went out and repented. That was a sin that falls within this category.

"...every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men except the blasphemy against the *Holy Spirit; that shall not be forgiven to men*" (v 31).

That is a total rejection of God, not a matter of anger or discouragement, or whatever, but a deliberate planned absolute rejection of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Verse 32: "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age nor in the coming age."

1-John 1:9: "If we confess our own sins... [confession and repentance go together] ... He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar... [we can't make God a liar] ...and His Word is not in us" (vs 9-10).

In 1-John 2 he's talking about many antichrists. What he's doing is building up 1-John 1 & 2 to that point. All of these things fit together step-by-step.

1-John 2:1: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And *yet*, if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ *the Righteous*; and He is *the* propitiation for our sins..." (vs 1-2).

Because with 'the law of sin and death' in us, there are times when 'the law of sin and death' in us gets us carried away. Happens to me; happens to you. We all have to come back to God. Isn't that true? *Yes, indeed!* Sometimes it's very unpleasant, but we have to overcome it.

“...and not for our sins only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (v 2). *That’s in God’s plan!* Whenever there is repentance, there is forgiveness.

Remember what happened there in Matt. 18, when Jesus said, ‘If your brother sins against you, you are to forgive him.’ Peter said, ‘How many times? Seven?’ ***Jesus said, ‘No, I say to you seventy times seven’: 149 times!*** If that’s in one day, that’s a pretty miserable day.

He is faithful and just to forgive. Here’s how He begins to separate those who are the true children of God and those who are not. There were those coming around, showing the basis of all of the false doctrines were first recognized and written about in the New Testament.

In the Greek, there are these two words: ‘en toutoo’; then you fill in the blank. ‘En toutoo’ means by *this standard* because that’s the intended meaning. You have to have a standard.

Verse 3: “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments.” *That’s why:*

- the Truth of God
- the Word of God
- the commandments of God

All those things that we covered! This is where we need to come when we start approaching God, coming out of the world, and how are we going to orient our lives in the right way.

Verse 4: “The one who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him.” *That is pretty strong!* That’s the strongest that you can get.

There are a lot of people who say, ‘I know God. Come to church on Sunday for me. We’re going to have a wonderful Christmas party. And our children had a great Halloween. You should have been there.’

Verse 5: “On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word... [all of it: the Word of God and the Word of Christ] ...truly in this one **the love of God is being perfected**...” *This is the ultimate of everything*, that we come to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and being. We have our ups and our downs with it.

“...By this *means* we know that we are in Him.... [there’s always a test for truth or error, righteousness or sin] ...Anyone who claims to dwell in Him is obligating himself also to walk even as He Himself walked.... [that’s the standard] ...Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you but an old commandment, which you had from *the beginning*; the old commandment is the message that

you have heard from *the beginning*. Again, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining” (vs 5-8).

This helps us to understand what God wants us to do. These are the guides in:

- *how we come out of this world* for those who are new
- *how we overcome the world* for those who are already converted
- *how we come back to God* when we have great difficulties and problems that have come upon us and to be recovered by God

All of those combined!

I hope this helps you. *This is one of these things that we could put into the remembrance category!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Peter 1:12-21
- 2) 2-Timothy 3:13-17
- 3) John 1:1-4, 14
- 4) John 8:25-34, 43-45
- 5) John 17:13-17
- 6) John 12:35-36, 41-50
- 7) Luke 4:1-4
- 8) Luke 6:46-49
- 9) Luke 21:33
- 10) Psalm 119:25-32, 142, 172, 151, 160
- 11) Psalm 146:1-6
- 12) 1-John 1:6-9
- 13) Matthew 12:30-32
- 14) 1-John 1:9-10
- 15) 1-John 2:1-8

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 12
- Isaiah 50
- 1-John 5:19
- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Matthew 24
- Luke 13
- Revelation 18
- Matthew 18

Also referenced:

- Booklet: *How Credible is the Bible* by Duncan MacLeod
- Books:
 - ✓ *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
 - ✓ *The Gospel in Every Book of the Old Testament* by Joseph Farah
 - ✓ *History of the Church of God (325_{AD} to 1600_{AD})* by John Guenther
 - ✓ *Jesus the Rabbi* by Dwain Miller
- Sermon Series: *1st & 2nd Corinthians*

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 11-22-18

Formatted: bo—11/23/18

Copyright 2018—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.