

## How We Are Protected From the Evil One

Fred R. Coulter—August 29, 2015

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

I don't know about you, but this last week was really quite an eventful week. Someone asked me: What do you think of Donald Trump? *I think they've confirmed he has his own hair!* I don't know what to think about him.

Let's look at one Scripture in Jer. 5; just take a look at that. God is merciful in many ways and corrective in many ways. Certainly the book of Jeremiah applies to us today. You go through it and look at it.

I go back and I audit some of the things I did on Church at Home a number of years ago. Randy has it setup so that when you finish a segment, it pops up and asks you if you want to start another series.

I was watching what I did, Church at Home, and then it came up, Do you want to watch *Obsessed With Sex*? I thought with everything going on now, let's see what I did when I gave it. I'm up to number four now, and it's just like it came off the news yesterday. I was astonished, but it sure fits everything that's going on.

I know when I was watching the news on this latest killing of the two reporters, that everything that I said last time I was here, you watch the news and think of the Ten Commandments, and then look at what everyone's trying to do to see how to fix this. Some say get rid of guns. All right, get rid of all guns; then you have to get rid of

- all knives
- all clubs
- all sticks
- hands

So we'll have hand-amputating ceremony over here.

They don't understand that God made us so that *we need God and we need His laws* so that we learn to behave ourselves, which I mean is to have restraint on your actions, because you have been taught the Word of God.

Since the society hasn't been taught the Word of God, what do we have? *Savages and barbarians; everyone doing what is right in his or her own eyes!* The reason I started to look on the series *Obsessed With Sex* was because the one on Duggar—remember the family Duggar, the nineteen children and all this and the problems he had with his sisters, and so forth. He said, 'We're all cured,

we're all fine, we're all good.' They found out he was on one of the adultery channels.

They have it now, you've probably seen it on the news: here's a woman with her lips, a take-off from 'what happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.' It's all captured by the NSA. They know everything. Isn't it interesting? *Yes!*

Remember when Tiger Woods had his affair? *They knew all the women!* They knew where he went. They knew it was his car. They knew that his wife took his number nine golf club and bashed in the window.

Someone wrote an article on that and said, 'Why don't we know about Obama? Where he went to school? What were his grades? Who were his teachers? Who were his mentors?' *Oh, but that's all sealed!* God says that which is been hidden away is going to be exposed; so one day it'll come forth.

Now on that channel where they have this adultery: 'You want a quiet affair? Call us! We have everything worked out.' They had 33-million people on the list not even protected. Just a kid beginning his first hacking could have hacked in and gotten that. That's why at home I do not have my computer hooked up to the Internet. That's just the way it works.

How bad can things get? *You read and study the book of Jeremiah and you see that's exactly what's been happening here!* But I always come back to this one verse. So, this is a roundabout way of answering the question: What do you think of Donald Trump? The answer is *I don't know*, but compared to the rest of them, he certainly is a whole lot better by a magnitude of whatever.

Jeremiah 5:1: "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in her open places, if you can find a man, if there is one... [just one man] ...who does justice, who seeks the Truth; and I will pardon her."

You talk about merciful! You talk about more than fair! God is not fair; God is just. God is merciful; He's not fair. Everybody has an opportunity for salvation, but everybody is different, so God works with each individual separately.

I wonder if this is going to apply to Donald Trump? *I don't know!* We have a long way to the election, so my answer is to what I think about Donald Trump: glad to hear him speak the way he speaks, says what he says. Everybody else is in trepidation and fear because of it, because they've got all their little political deals and everything like

this. They're all controlled. Donald Trump says, 'I have \$10-billion. Nobody controls me.' Everybody is taken aback. How it will come out, we'll have to wait and see.

How you are protected from evil that's in this world? *It's getting worse and worse, as we will see!* Paul wrote to Timothy that men will be '*worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*' Remember that verse when you watch the television, *deceiving and being deceived.* Just because people ignore evil, or won't report evil, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. That means they're deceiving themselves and when everyone neglects the Word of God, those things just come like rolling of golf balls out of a whole box, just one after the other, and nothing changes.

Here is what we are going to see; this is how we need to look at it. I also want to say at the start: ***You cannot solve spiritual problems by political or physical means!*** That's why all the gun controls in the world are not going to get rid of murders. Only God knows how to do that.

God has said that if you want your way, have at it. However, in the final analysis, Christ is going to return and 'I'm going to save the human race.' How bad does it get between where we are now and how it is before Christ returns? *We'll just have to wait and see.* Paul writes the most important chapter on what happens to every society. They all come to this point:

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it is *the* power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes... [believing means *you hear, you act, you do*] ...both to *the* Jew first, and to *the* Greek. For therein *the* righteousness of God is revealed..." (vs 16-17). God reveals His plan:

- what He's doing with humankind
- why many are called but few are chosen
- why are they chosen
- why are you here and not out there

"...from faith unto faith..." (v 17). This is interesting in the Greek, because it is your faith to God, God's faith to you. It's kind of like alternating current coming in—from you to God, from God to you; from you to God, from God to you.

"...according as it is written: ***'The just shall live by faith'***" (v 17). If you're going to live, you're going to be doing. People don't live just on empty thoughts. You live on what you believe, because you believe what you believe, because you think. We prove what is true from what is false. Today that's a greater problem than ever before— isn't it? *Yes, indeed!*

- What are we looking at in the world?

- Why is it that way?

Verse 18: "Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness of **men who suppress the Truth in unrighteousness.**" How do you suppress "...the Truth in unrighteousness..."?

- let's not be religious
- let's not bring up the Bible, it may offend somebody

***or***

- by rejecting all of it and replacing it with traditions

How unrighteous can that be?

The truth is, even the most evil person in the world in their minds, knows how to appear good to others—don't they? *Yes!* This is why God doesn't judge just the actions; He judges the thoughts. Go back and read Gen. 6, because *it was corrupt*, and the imagination of every man was only evil continually.

Verse 19: "Because that which may be known of God is manifest among them... [today that's more true than ever before with all the Bibles and everything that we have] ...for God has manifested *it* to them; for the invisible things of Him are perceived from *the* creation of *the* world..." (vs 19-20). Everything in the creation screams *God!*

It has its own structure. Whether animals or fish or birds. They have their own DNA. Every human being is different. Everything that God does has His signature on everything, whether it's just a rock, a leaf, an animal, a bird, or a human being.

He is so great and so powerful that no two human beings are alike. That ought to tell us that God has a great and marvelous plan. God has revealed it to them.

Verse 20: "***For the invisible things of Him are perceived from the creation of the world, being understood by the things that were made—both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse;*** because when they knew God..." (vs 20-21). As a nation:

- Did we have a good knowledge of God when we started?
- Did we start out and figure with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?
- *Yes!*
- What happens, because that's all changed?
- *What do we have in society!*
- What does God do when that comes along?

It's very interesting; we'll see it.

“...they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but they became vain in their own reasonings, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (v 21). God takes away knowledge. You may gain a lot of knowledge in certain fields, but if you don’t know anything about God, what do you really know?

Who is the author of darkness? *Satan the devil!* We’re going to see that all of this comes from Satan the devil, and *God turns them over to their own devices!*

Verse 23: “And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into *the* likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed creatures, and creeping things.”

Just think about it; this reminds me of all the sports teams. You’ve got to have some man or animal and it’s got to be like tigers, lions, pirates, athletics or giants. That’s just the sports field.

It’s a progressive thing, v 24: “**For this cause, God also abandoned them...**” Leaves them! Even when people keep the laws and commandments of God in the letter, God has not left them. But when it comes to the point that you live in sin, get rid of the laws and commandments of God, what happens? *Because the individuals reject God, He abandons them!*

“...to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts...” (v 24). A perfect example is television. Every once in a while I do a surfing through many of the channels. This describes it perfectly.

But with all the sex problems going on... “...to disgrace their own bodies between themselves, who exchanged the Truth of God for the lie...” (vs 24-25). Who is the liar and the father of lies? *Satan the devil!*

“...and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the one Who is Creator, Who is blessed into the ages. Amen. **For this cause, God abandoned them to disgraceful passions...**” (vs 25-26)—and so forth.

Verse 28 is exactly how this happens. Let’s think a little bit of God’s way here. What is the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *A little leaven leavens the whole lump!*

Verse 28: “And in exact proportion...” *That’s how God does it!*

Jonathan gave me a clip, I don’t know who sent it, but it was really good. Someone was mocking all the evangelists, showing how they are. Kenneth Copeland lives in a \$16-million mansion. Then it shows how they just merchandize people. I forget the narrator, but he was a comedian, and he made all of this quite funny.

So he tried out Kenneth Copeland. You send in some seed money. He said, ‘So I sent \$20 and then I got back a letter, and then I sent in another \$1 and I got back a letter.’ He said in seven months he had over twenty-four letters. He had all of them. He got prayer cloths and he got certain things. If you send in this much money, God is going to bless you with this.

All right, think on this: What did Satan tell Jesus? *That ‘if you would worship me—you see all the world and all the wealth and all the kingdoms?—I’ll give them to you, because it has been delivered to me.’* How was it delivered to him? *Because when men sin and give up on God, He takes away, and they come under the power of Satan!*

- Does it say he deceives the whole world? *Yes, indeed!*
- Does it say that the world is in the power of the evil one? *Yes, it does!*

Verse 28: “And in exact proportion as **they did not consent to have God in their knowledge...**”

I love that like with Fox News, ‘Oh, we are good, we are the best news channel.’ They are, because the others are so bad. ‘We are fair and balanced. We have a half-truth—whatever part of the truth we want to have—and we have half-lies.’ I think they’re getting it now. They have some who are half-knowledgeable and half are idiots. ***When you don’t want God in your knowledge, God abandons you!*** That’s what we’re seeing in this society.

“...**God abandoned them to a reprobate mind...** [to become more and more evil] ...to practice *those* things that are immoral” (v 28).

What did Paul say about those who grossly sinned in the church, when they were put out? *Turned them over to Satan!* Think about that.

Let’s look at what’s going to happen in the latter days. If you want an interesting study, get out your little handy-dandy concordance, whether it’s on your iPad, or whether you are still so old fashioned you have a concordance and look it up that way.

1-Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit tells *us* explicitly that in *the* latter times...” You look up *latter times, latter days, end-time, end of the world,* and find out what it’s going to be like.

“...some shall apostatize from the faith, *and* shall follow deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (v 1).

- How does that increase?
- What happens?
- How does this society get so evil?

I've got all kinds of reports here. One was about the working of male covens of wizards. What they would do is have sex with one woman to make sure she gets pregnant, and then just before the baby is born he offers it in a ritual sacrifice by killing it in the womb. How does that depth of Satan—as Christ calls some of those things in Rev. 2—get out and now it's public knowledge?

The way that people are, they're going to be those people seeking to do that. Look at the copycat things we have with all the shootings. How does that happen? *Because when you give yourself to demons...*

Verse 2: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy..." Wonder what you do with all the politicians? *and* religionists?

"...their consciences having been cauterized with a hot iron" (v 2). We know that there are evil spirits in prison (2-Peter 2).

- Are some of them released when a certain level of evil comes?
- Does that help explain why this society comes to the depths of satanism, like we read in Rom. 1?
- How does that happen?

Rev. 8—We find that angels are fighting against men. Then when it gets so bad, then something happens:

Revelation 9:1: "And the fifth angel sounded his trumpet; and I saw a star... [an angel equals a star] ...*that* had fallen from heaven to the earth, and there was given to him the key to the bottomless abyss.... [What happens when he opens it?] ...And he opened the bottomless abyss; and there went up smoke from the pit, like *the* smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit. Then locusts came onto the earth from the smoke; and power was given to them..." (vs 1-3). These locusts are demonic spirits; it explains them.

Verse 11: "And they have over them a king... [Who is the god of this world? *Satan the devil!*] ...the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but *the* name he has in Greek is Apollyon"—Apollo. Here demons come out. Then you find the same thing in:

Verse 14: "And it said to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet, 'Loose the four angels who are bound in the great River Euphrates.'" Intensifying of evil, *yes indeed!* Then the Euphrates again is dried up. There are two events about a year apart.

Revelation 16:12: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial into the great River Euphrates; and its waters were dried up, so that the way of the

kings from the rising of *the* sun might be prepared. Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet' For they are spirits of demons working miracles, going forth to the kings of the earth, even of the whole world, to gather them together to *the* battle of that great day of the Almighty God" (vs 12-14).

At this point, does this mean that the abyss has been emptied for the worst evil on the earth? *I don't know, but it sure sounds like it!* So, when Satan is put into the abyss and locked up (Rev. 20) all the demons go with him.

Let's come to Zech. 13. Let's see one of the works that God is going to do when He returns. Wouldn't you say that at the point of the returning of Jesus Christ and the saints onto the earth, that Satan and the demons and their armies will be at the greatest peak possible? *Very well be!* Remember, that Jesus said unless He returned there would be no flesh saved.

Zechariah 13:1: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and for uncleanness.... [Who is the author of sin?] ...And it shall be in that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall be remembered no more. And also I will cause the *lying* prophets and the unclean spirits to pass out of the land'" (vs 1-2).

Put back into the abyss until the thousand years are finished. That's how we get it the way that it is today. So, they are seeking those. We are probably going to see a great deal of this take place.

- How bad is *bad*?
- How evil is *evil*?

Here in America, we have been blessed down through the years and the centuries that we've been a country. We haven't gone through the depths of things like some of these other nations.

Look what is constantly going on in the Middle East with the demonic religion of Islam. Look at Iraq, ancient Babylon. That's the home of every unclean bird and demonic spirit. Why is it that they're always fighting and killing? *They can never settle an argument and get along!* They've just got to do it and to each other. That place must be *part of demonic hell* where a lot of demonic spirits are.

Living in a world like that, *let's see how we are protected*, because that's the important point. That is, after Israel comes back:

Isaiah 44:5: "One shall say, 'I *am* the LORD'S'... [we are today; we are the Lord's] ...and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and

another shall write with his hand, 'For the LORD,' and be named by the name of Israel. Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer *even* the LORD of hosts, 'I AM THE FIRST, AND I AM THE LAST... [Where do we find that? *Rev. 1 and 22*] ...and besides Me *there is no God*'" (vs 5-6)—because He hasn't yet revealed the Father.

Verse 7: "And who, as I, shall call and shall declare it and set in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people? And the things that are coming, and shall come, let them declare it to us.... [taunting the idols] ...**Fear not, nor be afraid**..." (vs 7-8). There are lot of fearful things that are going to come on the earth.

"...have I not told you from that time; and have declared it?...?" (v 8). *That's why we're to study the Word of God, so we don't be afraid!*

"...So you *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Yea, *there is no other Rock*;' I know not *one*" (v 8). Then it talks about those who make graven images.

Let's see what else we are to do. As a church, Churches of God, the people of God, we're subject to... Let's apply this to us.

Haggai 1:7: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Consider your ways.'" That's what we need to do. We always need to every day in coming before God in prayer, we need to *consider* our ways.

Verse 8: "'Go up to the mountain and bring wood, and build this house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified,' says the LORD."

Let's draw the analogy. Are we the temple of God? *All of us together are like living stones put together!* We're a *spiritual building* of God, also called the Body of Christ.

Verse 9: "'You looked for much, and behold, it came to little! And when you brought it home, then I blew on it. Why?'" says the LORD of hosts. 'Because of My house that is waste, and you, *each man runs to his own house.*'"

In other words, too many people today, if we could use the analogy, are too busy trying to take care of themselves, instead of taking care of their spiritual life. You get all wrapped up in things in the world.

Verse 10: "Therefore, the heavens above you have held back the dew, and the earth has held back its fruit." You could say, understanding and blessings and different things have been held back.

Verse 11: "And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains..." We're living through that right now because the nation is this way.

Now, for us as the Church, v 12: "Then Zerubbab the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared before the LORD."

- What happens when we do this?
- Individually?
- Collectively?
- Don't you think we have so many things out there to distract us?
- To tempt us?
- To pull us into it?

Look at that poor fellow: Duggar. He went behind his wife, got on this list of adulteries, because he didn't come back to God all the way. Now look at it. You talk about public shame and exposure for one man. If he were President, I suppose he could declare 'what is *is*' and get away with it.

Notice what happens when we do what God wants us to do, v 13: "Then Haggai, the LORD'S messenger, spoke the message of the LORD to the people, saying, "'I *am* with you," says the LORD.'" Think about that for us, not only is God with us, where does He place the Holy Spirit? *In us!*

What did He say about the Holy Spirit? *That if we love Him and keep His words that the Father will love us and 'We—God the Father and Jesus Christ—will make Our abode with him.'* So therefore, in spite of how bad it gets, we don't have to worry. We're not waiting for a rapture; *we're waiting for the resurrection!*

I do think that there are going to be a whole lot more people who are going to die. Why is that? *Because they are getting old!* Does that mean something's wrong? *No!* God says that He takes the righteous from the evil, that is the intense evil to come. So, if you die in the faith, hurray! The next moment's going to happen, you're going to say, 'How long have I been here?' "...I am with you..."

Notice what God does, v 14: "And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people.... [God will add His Spirit to you and stir you up.] ...And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God."

(go to the next track)

What we need to understand concerning overcoming Satan and this world and having courage and confidence, we need to know what Jesus has said and what He is doing.

John 17:14: “I have given them Your words, 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). That’s Satan the devil.

That doesn’t mean we don’t have to fight him. We’ll see that, since Jesus prayed that and He prayed for all of the subsequent disciples from that time until He returns.

Let’s see in this model prayer (Matt. 6) that we are likewise to *ask God to keep us from the evil one*. This is interesting. First thing Christ taught the apostles was *pray to the Father*. The beginning of the revelation of the Father, because Jesus said that **He came to reveal the Father to the ones He personally chooses**. Think on that.

Let me tell you a little conversation that I had from a newly converted Protestant about five years ago. He said, ‘When I was in the Church of Christ, they said if you have Jesus, you have it all.’ He said that because I was doing a Bible study with a nice group of people there, through the Gospel of John. He told me that they never went through that in their church. He said, ‘But if you have Jesus, you have it all.’

John writes in 1-John 2 that if you don’t have the Father, you don’t have Christ. If you have Christ, but you don’t have the Father, you don’t have salvation. Jesus verified that where He says, ‘**We** will make Our abode with you.’ (John 14).

Sidebar: We are a dwelling place of God. He says, 2-Corinthians 6:18<sub>[transcriber’s correction]</sub> “‘And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says *the* Lord Almighty.” Keep that in mind.

I got an e-mail from Dwight Blevins, and he’s been in the Church a long time, been down in Pasadena, and all of that. He said it just dawned on him that the fatal blow to the Church was when the founder built a temple for God. He said this was his Hezekiah-moment. He, the founder, invited the world to celebrate the opening of it.

What does God say in Isa. 66? ‘*Where is the temple that you will build for Me? For all these things My hands have made!*’ What are you going to do for God when God wants to do everything for you? Every one of us, of and by ourselves, are really nothing. When we were first conceived, the naked eye could not even see us. Speck of dust to a son of God! What are we going to do to glorify God? *Love God; keep His commandments!* Isn’t that it?

What happened? It was all taken away. They are ready now to tear down the Hall of

Administration. He gave the auditorium, the temple of God, to a Chinese Pentecostal Protestant church. They had their blessing after they bought it, and guess who inaugurated it for them? *Benny Hin!* A bit of irony and justice! He said that was the last straw and that’s just about right. Everything began to fall away from there.

I remember what it was, because I sat there and I listened to part of the Vienna Orchestra playing all of Beethoven’s Ode. Remember that?

Matthew 6:9: “Therefore, you are to pray after this manner: ‘Our Father Who *is* in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come... [not this kingdom here] ... Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven’” (vs 9-10).

That is through all the prophecies for the world. That’s through every one of us through God’s Holy Spirit within our lives. This is all encompassing; God’s will encompasses everything.

Verse 11: “Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but **rescue us from the evil one**....” (vs 11-13).

***We are rescued!*** You can read it in Col. 1. ***The Father Himself has personally rescued us from the evil one Satan the devil!*** What goes on out in the world, don’t worry about it.

- be alert
- don’t get caught up in it
- understand what is happening
- don’t get involved in it

2-Tim. 1—too many times you miss the first two or three verses and those happen to be the most important, because that’s the introduction and blessing on the rest of what is written.

2-Timothy 1:1: “Paul, *an* apostle of Jesus Christ by *the* will of God, according to *the* promise of life which *is* in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, *my* beloved son: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God *the* Father and Christ Jesus our Lord” (vs 1-2). We need that, don’t we? Grace and peace? *Yes!* Mercy? *Yes!* ***Especially today!***

I was channel surfing the other night as I told you, going through all the channels, and there was one flash of one thing that I saw that later I couldn’t get out of my mind. When that happens, I pray about it and ask God to take it away. That could be a flash of a beginning of an entrance from Satan the devil. You need to be aware of those things.

Verse 3: “I am grateful to God—Whom I have been serving from *the days of my* forefathers with a pure conscience—because I never fail to remember you in my supplications night and day.”

That's called intercessory prayer. We've got a nice sermon coming from Steve Durham about intercessory prayer.

Verse 4: "As I recall your tears, *I am* longing to see you, so that I may be filled with joy; when I remember the unfeigned faith *that is* in you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice—and I am convinced that *it dwells* in you also. For this reason, I admonish you..." (vs 4-6).

Why? *Because people always get the blahs; no one exempt from that!* Sometimes you get them so bad you've got to go to bed.

"...to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands" (v 6). How do we stir up the Spirit of God?

- with the Word of God
- with crying out to God
- with studying all the Word of God that you can

What happens? What about the Word of God? *Jesus said, 'The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life!' The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing.'*

So then, with the Spirit of God the Father and Jesus Christ in you, when you are reading the Word of God, that will open your mind to understanding, and you will be surprised how much your thoughts change when you read the Word of God. God's Spirit is actively working with you. That's how you stir it up.

Verse 7: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear..." We're not to be afraid, even though we see these things going on. Stop and think for just a minute. I wonder what it was like living in Jerusalem, or around Jerusalem, just before it was destroyed in 70<sub>A.D.</sub> That must have been something!

I imagine a lot of them thought, 'Jesus is going to return at any time.' Then after three and a half years, it's over. Now what do we do? *Always stay with God*, because we know this: ***Nothing is going to work out the way we may think!***

Think on this: We already covered the example of Daniel. I always said at the resurrection, he's going to ask God, 'Did it all turn out?' He'll say, 'Go talk to the Apostle John, he'll give you the other half.'

**"...but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness"** (v 7). All of this must be done on a daily basis.

You can look at it this way. Every morning when you get up, you go through your routine, whatever it is, however it is. Every morning God has

designed the body to get rid of wastes. Then you eat food and you feel better. Look at it this way daily *spiritually*. We need to get rid of the waste that is in our mind through prayer, then later study to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, every day. If we do that, then we will be able to be stirred up, trusting God, not being afraid.

Let's see what else we are to do. We are to resist the devil, *in faith*. Satan is going to come around, one way or the other. When does he come? *When you are at your weakest!* 'Look at this, I will give you a benefit.'

Paul is talking to all the elders, 1-Peter 5:4: "And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you shall receive an unfading, *eternal* crown of glory.... [that's what we're looking for] ...In the same manner, *you* younger men be subject to *the* older men..." (vs 4-5).

Why? *Because young men have a problem of pride and vanity!* Not that old men don't, but they should be taking care of themselves better than the younger men.

"...and all *of you* be subject to one another, being clothed with humility..." (v 5). When you are not close to God, then *the self* wells up!

"...because God sets Himself against the proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble. Be humbled therefore under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time" (vs 5-6).

Here's how you pray every day in addition to what we've already covered, v 7: "Casting **all** your cares upon Him, because He cares for you."

Why? What if you have something that is just really, really bothering you and:

- you don't take it to God?
- you don't let Him help you resolve it?
- you don't study how to resolve it?
- Who comes?

Look at what happens, v 8: **"Be sober! Be vigilant!...."** If there's any one thing that Christians need to do is be diligent, be vigilant, be on top of it all the time. That comes every day, every day.

"...For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion..." (v 8). Remember he doesn't roar until he has captured his prey. He comes purring. He comes with benefits. He comes with an advantage.

"...seeking anyone he may devour. Whom resist, steadfast in the faith..." (vs 8-9). If you're not praying, not studying, not being stirred up, how's your faith? *Kind of sagging!* It's kind of like you don't have all the armor on to fight against him. So, there it is.

Verse 9: “Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing *that* the same afflictions are being fulfilled among your brethren who *are in the world.*”

That’s why we pray for everyone. We pray every day for people we don’t know and never met, but have the Spirit of God. Likewise, with what we believe concerning Jesus Christ! Spiritually we know Him, but we never met Him in person. We have never seen Him in person, yet, we believe, because of the power of God’s Spirit and His Word and His Truth.

What is that going to be like? The more I think about the resurrection, the more I think, being on that Sea of Glass is going to be one fantastic time! Absolutely marvelous!

We get old and decrepit and die, and the last time you’re conscious to look at yourself in the mirror, you think, ‘Really, this happened to me?’ And then at the resurrection, you look and say, ‘Whooh, look at what happened here!’

Claim this promise, v 10: “Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while, Himself **perfect you, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**”

Someone mentioned the other day, he asked me why he is going through the trial? *I told him, ‘When you’re done with it, you’ll understand!’* So likewise, when we’re going through a trial, and it hasn’t come to a conclusion, when it does you’ll understand.

I go along now and I think of things that we went through years and years ago. I look back at it and I say, ‘Huh, that’s why.’ Now then, I am sure there are going to be a lot of things at the resurrection that we’re going to look back and say, ‘Huh, that’s why.’ *To perfect you!*

“..Himself...” the God of all grace, Himself, that’s the Father. The Father Himself loves you. God the Father is involved in this.

“...perfect you... [that’s why we go through it] ...establish, strengthen, *and settle you.* o Him be the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen” (vs 10-11). That’s quite a promise to keep. God will keep it.

What do we do when we have something we don’t understand? We go to God and say, ‘I don’t understand it; help me through this.’ He’ll give you a little bit of understanding. You keep coming back for more. God will help you in it.

Here is how we grow in grace and knowledge and be stirred up:

1. prayer
2. by approaching growing and overcoming this way:

Proverbs 1:31: “Therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices.” It will all come back on them. Like the Psalmist said, he was perplexed that all of the wicked prosper, that they don’t have trouble; they don’t have problems. ‘Why is that, God?’ He was ready to really get in a bad attitude, until he took it to God. Then he said, ‘I understand.’

Verse 32: “For the waywardness of the simple shall slay them, and the complacency of fools destroys them. But whoever hearkens to me... [that’s the wisdom and Spirit of God] ...shall dwell safely and shall be secure without fear of harm.”

Let’s look at it this way. Let’s apply these things *spiritually*.

Proverbs 2:1: “My son... [Are you son or daughter of God? *Yes, you are!*] ... <sup>[#1]</sup>**if**...” — conditional. The question mark is never God. The question mark is never His Word. It may be the question mark in our mind is we don’t understand it, but that doesn’t mean that it’s not right.

“...you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you” (v 1). How does that compare with:

Hebrews 10:16: “...‘I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.’”

Proverbs 2:2: “So that you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding.” Understanding comes this way:

- you must first have knowledge
- then comes understanding
- then comes wisdom

Verse 3: “Yea, <sup>[#2]</sup>**if** you cry after knowledge *and* lift up your voice for understanding; <sup>[#3]</sup>**if** you seek her as silver and search *for* her as for hidden treasures” (vs 3-4). That’s how we are to study the Bible. These are the true riches of life.

Verse 5: “**Then** you shall understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” Think how many people in the world don’t understand a thing about the Bible; nothing about the Bible. There are a lot of them who hold the Bible and teach certain things from the Bible but they don’t understand it.

Think about the magnitude of the knowledge that God has given to His people to understand His plan, to know what’s going on. That is a fantastic thing.



Verse 6: “For the LORD gives wisdom...”—knowledge, understanding, wisdom. Wisdom is you take knowledge and understanding and apply it and put it together and see how it fits to this pattern and fits to that pattern and fits to the other thing.

“...out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous...” (vs 6-7).

That’s why none of the wicked understand. It says the wicked will do wickedly and none of the wicked shall understand, but the righteous shall understand. He gives it to the righteous.

“...*He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly.” (v 7). God is going to protect you. {note Psa. 91, ***you are hidden in the shadow of God’s protection.***} Can you see angels? *No!* Can anybody else see angels? *No!* There’s going to come a time you’re going to realize an angel of God has protected you from something, or cause you to just have a thought to do a little something different and you just miss great trouble. Has that ever happened? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 8: “He keeps the paths of *right* judgment and preserves the way of His saints. ***Then...*** [Notice *if, if, if, then, then.* It increases. It becomes more.] ...you shall understand righteousness and judgment and equity, every good path” (vs 8-9).

You can be smart as you want to in the world, but Paul says those who declare themselves the smart in the world, the intellects, *they’re fools!* Listen! Since we’re the creation of God, if we don’t know anything about God, how are we at all successful in anything? Think of the pharaohs, think of all of the philosophers of Ancient Greece. Where are their philosophies today?

Verse 10: “Wisdom shall enter into your heart...” That’s what we want, the wisdom of God. We’re to be the righteousness and wisdom of God.

“...and knowledge will be pleasing to your soul” (v 10). You will desire and want to have the knowledge of God.

Verse 11: “Discretion shall preserve you and, understanding shall keep you.” Remember, everything we do is a choice. So, you must have all of these things to make the right choices.

- God is there to *protect us*
- God is there to *guard us*
- God is there to *help us*

He wants our full, active cooperation and work all the time.

Verse 12: “To deliver you from the way of the evil *man...*” We could also put *one*, instead of just *man*. ***We are to be delivered from the evil one!*** Isn’t that what we are to pray? *Yes, indeed!* Especially today with all the cunning devices of Satan the devil. This is *Satan’s* world!

Verse 12: “To deliver you from the way of the evil *man*, from the man who speaks wicked things.” Wicked things can be very enticing. It’s not, ‘Let’s go down here and cut this guy’s head off.’ *No!*

I’ve got one here about how you can make all kinds of money off the government. A benefit! You get a girl pregnant and don’t marry her, but she goes, get the benefit from the government. Then you buy a house and rent it to her. The government will pay her \$900 a month for rent. Then since you’re not working, you can get on disability. If you get on disability, then you can get food stamps. If you get on food stamps, and you’re one of the government’s wards, then you get medical care.

All of those are enticing benefits that are sin. ***God says if a person is not willing to work, he won’t eat!*** ‘Oh, that’s cruel.’ Boy, a Democrat will come cut your head off.

Verse 16: “To deliver you from the wanton woman, *even* from the stranger *who* flatters *with* her words.” God is not picking on women, but the truth of the matter is when sexual temptations come along, men become very weak. The woman, who says no, is the last barrier to sin. So, that’s why it brings out about women.

Look what has happened to so many people. We talked about Tiger Woods. He’s never won a major golf game since then. Once you go violently against God, when you know better, it’s hard to recover. That’s why every day, every day, every day: prayer, study, yielding to God.

It’s just like you eat every day. Why? ***Because if you don’t, you’re going to get weak!*** You drink water every day. If you don’t, you’re going to be deprived and you’re going to be thirsty and your body isn’t going to function well.

Likewise spiritually! If you don’t drink in of the Word of God and His Spirit, and if you don’t... ***‘Taste and see that the Lord is good.’*** In other words, if you spiritually are fed on the Word of God and nourished with the Spirit of God, it’s just like eating and drinking daily; you maintain your health.

When difficult times come, what do you have to do? ***You have to cut back and get rid of the extra toxins in your body!*** So all of these things fit. This is how we do it.

This is what we are to do daily, Proverbs 4:18: “But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shines more and more to the perfect day.” Now if that is not a New Testament Scripture, what is the perfect day? *The resurrection!*

Verse 19: “The way of the wicked *is* as darkness; they know not at what they stumble.” Isn’t that true? They don’t know:

- Why this? *We don’t know!*
- Why that? *We don’t know!*
- Why did he do this? *We don’t know!*
- Why did she do that? *We don’t know!*
- How could anyone ever do that? *We don’t know!*

Verse 20: “My son, attend to my words... [daily] ...incline your ear to my sayings.... [that’s how you fight against sin] ...Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart” (vs 20-21).

Look at all the New Testament doctrine we’re covering right here in the book of Proverbs.

Verse 22: “For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.” How about spiritually? Spiritual health to our spirit? Our relationship with God? Our relationship with each other?

Verse 23: “**Above all guard the door of your mind**... [or heart, they are synonymous] ...with diligence... [that’s how we stir ourselves up] ...for out of it *are* the issues of life.”

- life and death
- conversion
- Truth
- love
- fighting against all the forces of evil in the world
- the things that you hear
- the things that you see

That’s how it is.

Verse 24: “Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you. Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established: (vs 24-26).

What did we read in 1-Peter 5? ***That the Lord will settle you, strengthen you, and establish you!***

Verse 27: “Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil.” Don’t get involved in it; change.

Let’s come to Psalm 147:1: “O praise the LORD, for it is good to sing praises to our God, for

praise is pleasant and becoming. The LORD builds up Jerusalem...” (vs 1-2). Remember, we’re going to live in New Jerusalem. Jesus said, ‘If I go, I’m going to prepare a place for you.’ Think about what that is going to be like.

“...He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names, Great is our LORD and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite” (vs 2-5).

Think of that! Think of how many people are wandering around and don’t know what to do. ***We do!***

- God is for us
- God is with us
- God is in us

Verse 6: “The LORD lifts up the meek; He casts the wicked down to the ground.”

Verse 10: “He delights not in the strength of the horse...” Nor a power car, but He sure likes His cherubim. How’s that for a power car? Wherever you want to go.

“...He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, who hope in His steadfast love. Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion” (vs 10-12).

You can count on this, because ***God is true, He cannot lie, His Word is true, everything that He says He’s going to do He will do!*** All of the *ifs* that are conditional for us, if we yield to Him and follow that:

- He will be with us
- He will bless us
- He will keep us from the evil one
- Christ prayed for all of us to keep us from the evil one

This world is going to get a whole lot worse. We don’t know what’s going to happen financially. Everybody’s saying the end of the world’s coming right after the Shemitah. We’ll wait and see. What if it doesn’t? ***God’s still in charge!***

One little caveat on that to think of: I don’t think the Shemitah applies to the Chinese—do you? I’ll let you think on that.

Hebrews 13:5: “*Do not allow the love of money to influence your behavior...*” How’s that when your little ole lust and your little ole greed starts popping up? Then Satan comes along and says, ‘I’ll give you a benefit. Wouldn’t that be nice?’ ***No!***

“...*but be satisfied with what you have; for He has said, ‘In no way... [this is what Jesus said] ...will I ever leave you...’*” (v 5). We’re all going to be tried; we’re all going to be tested.

- Was Jesus tried and tested? *Yes!*
- Did He give His life? *Yes!*
- Horrible death? *Yes!*

“...no—I will never...” (v 5). I want you to look at no, no, never, three dogmatic negations that He will never do it.

“...I will never forsake you in any way.’ So then, let us boldly say, ‘*The Lord is my helper, and I will not afraid. What can man do to me?’*” (vs 5-6). *Nothing!*

***So, that’s how you live in this world that’s going straight to the depths of hell!***

- Sermon: *Intercessory Prayer* by Steve Durham (coming soon)

FRC:lp  
Transcribed: 9-13-15  
Formatted: 9-15-15

Copyright 2015—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.

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 5:1
- 2) Romans 1:16-21, 23-26, 28
- 3) 1-Timothy 4:1-2
- 4) Revelation 9:1-2, 11, 14
- 5) Revelation 16:12-14
- 6) Zechariah 13:1-2
- 7) Isaiah 44:5-8
- 8) Haggai 1:7-14
- 9) John 17:14-15
- 10) 2-Corinthians 6:18
- 11) Matthew 6:9-13
- 12) 2-Timothy 1:1-7
- 13) 1-Peter 5:4-11
- 14) Proverbs 1:31-33
- 15) Proverbs 2:1
- 16) Hebrews 10:16
- 17) Proverbs 2:2-12, 16
- 18) Proverbs 4:18-27
- 19) Psalm 147:1-6, 10-12
- 20) Hebrews 13:5-6

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 6
- Revelation 2
- 2-Peter 2
- Revelation 8; 20; 1; 22
- 1-John 2
- John 14
- Isaiah 66
- Colossians 1
- Psalm 91

#### Also referenced:

- Sermon Series: *Obsessed With Sex*  
(churchathome.org)