

The Unpardonable Sin and Eternal Judgment

July 28, 2012

Dear Brethren,

We hope things are well with you and that the knowledge and grace of God are abounding in your lives.

Today I want to focus on a question. Can a human being be subject to eternal judgment (the second death), based on the premise, they had the spirit in man as a guide for them to know the difference between right and wrong? What if anything does the Bible have to say about it? Is there a very clear pattern of instruction given to us in scripture to answer this question? Is the plan of salvation interwoven with the answer?

Eternal judgment is one of the seven elementary or basic doctrines of Christ found in Hebrews 6:1-2. The context of the preceding verses, tell us that they are some of the very first doctrines we are to understand after our calling. They in fact are the substance of the milk of the word, which is consumed by a babe in Christ. They are threshold understandings that we are to internalize through the instructions we receive as infants, (when we are being bottle fed one might say) by another who is mature in the faith, one who is a teacher. One who is at the infant level of understanding is incapable of teaching others in fact, and that (teaching) is one of the seven elementary doctrines found in Hebrews 6:1-2. There is really nothing very difficult in the seven basic tenants for one newly endowed with the holy spirit to comprehend. They are the necessary nourishment a babe in Christ needs to develop the strength to move onto solid food and take its first spiritual steps in the right direction in the body of Christ and not walking into a wall or tumbling down a flight of stairs.

The preceding verses in Hebrews 5:12-14 are very easy to understand in this context as it is a vital part to the understanding of what is actually being taught and stressed here.

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the principles of the oracles (scriptures) of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age (mature), those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (according to Gods wisdom) An infant can't do that. Keep in mind who we are talking about here. These are people whom were baptized, had hands laid on, had received the holy spirit and who were expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The scriptures here confirm that these seven doctrines of Hebrews 6 are not solid food, or the deep things of God. Verse one states they are elementary understandings. One who eats of just them will not be skilled in the word

of righteousness. That requires much more effort and an alert mind willing to put their understandings to the test and knowing what their purposes are in the plan of salvation. Simply put these doctrines are the baby stage food of the called of God. That is very, very important for it is up to God whether we will move beyond them or beyond this infant stage of growth. Hebrews 6:3 tells us, "And this we will do if God permits."

If God permits what? That the individual move beyond the milk of the word, the very basic initial teachings of Christ unto conversion. Why would God not allow an individual to go beyond this point or level of understanding after being called, baptized, and receiving the holy spirit? Because our Father and Brother are merciful and true, and just. Judgment is on the house of the Lord at this time brethren. If They believe we do not possess the ability to grow sufficiently in grace and knowledge and remain faithful, then They will not permit us to grow beyond the milk of the word for we are talking about the penalty of eternal death, the second death for one who falls away who possessed an understanding of the deeper things of God. If you don't think so continue reading here in verses 4-6.

"For those being once enlightened, and having tasted of the heavenly gift, and become partakers of the holy spirit, and having tasted the good word of God, and the works of the power of the coming age, and falling away, it is impossible for them again to renew to repentance, for they again will be crucifying to themselves the Son of God, and putting Him to open shame." (Interlinear Bible)

That, my dear friends is the mercy of a loving Father and devoted big Brother. They don't want to lose a single person to the second death. They do not hold an infant accountable for their actions. That is a Biblical fact established by a seemingly never ending pattern of scriptures under both covenants as we will cover later. We have all known others over the years who could not seem to grasp anything of biblical substance. Think back as to how many brethren you have known who could not, and would not, enter into a discussion of even the most basic of understandings. If they did, they would just repeat what their teacher had told them briefly in repetition. How many are still with the body today? How many decided to put aside the milk and get high on sugar water flavored to their liking? This has been an ongoing event in the history of the church. Look what the apostles had to deal with.

Hebrews 5:10-11;

"having been called out by God as a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Concerning whom we have much to say, and hard to interpret (so you can understand), since you have become dull in hearing."

The apostles wanted to teach these individuals much deeper things but their minds were not there to receive them. Why?

Because God did not permit them to go beyond the milk of the word! Something in their conversion process alerted the Father to the fact that they would most likely not remain faithful

and thus fall away after having tasted the deeper things of God. He will do everything to insure that does not happen to His children for the outcome would be eternal death.

Hebrews 10:26-27;

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fiery indignation, which will devour the adversaries.”

This is a very strong warning to all who have accepted conversion; repented, been baptized, had hands laid on, and received the holy spirit. This would be the unpardonable sin for one who had journeyed long down the converted road. We will get to the unconverted unpardonable sin shortly for it too is clearly spelled out in scripture.

So what is this basic doctrine of eternal judgment mentioned here in Hebrews 6:2?

The Greek word translated eternal here is #166 aionios and means (according to Strongs) “perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well). Vines says of it; “describes duration, either undefined but not endless, as in Romans 16:25; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 1:2; or undefined because of being endless as in Romans 16:26, and the other sixty-six places in the NT. The predominant meaning of aionios, that in which it is used everywhere in the NT, save the places noted above , may be seen in 2 Corinthians 4:18, where it is set in contrast with proskairos, literally for a season and in Philemon 15, where only in the NT it is used without a noun. Moreover it is used of persons and things which are in their nature endless... Aionios is also used of the sin that hath no forgiveness, Mark 3:29, and of the judgment of God from which there is no appeal, Hebrews 6:2 and the fire which is one of its instruments Matthew 18:8; 25:41...”

I think we all can easily get the point of the word as to its meaning.

Judgment is #2917 krima. Strongs says it is from #1919; “a decision the function or effect, for or against...”

Vines says it denotes, “the result of the action signified by the verb Krino, to judge; for the general use see condemnation B, no 1. That says Condemnation denotes a) the sentence pronounced, a verdict, a condemnation, the decision resulting from an investigation. B) the process of judgment leading to a decision...”

What these Greek words tell us here is a final judgment with absolutely no appeal, no chance of ever changing! This is very simple to understand and is easy to digest and thus included in the knowledge of the milk of the word just like repentance from dead works, faith towards God, baptisms, teaching, laying on of hands, and resurrection of the dead. Really basic, totally connected teachings when accompanied by the spirit of God to discern them. However I am sure there are many who try to paint them with a different brush as to being the deep things of God for many reasons. One of which would be that a teacher is required to prepare and dish them out, and that is music to many ears which are subject to the disease of dominion and self-importance over others. Teacher does not mean “follow me.” A teacher is to nourish another

with good food until they can learn to feed themselves and eat at the table with Christ. That is why teaching is one of the seven basic doctrines of Christ. That one is completely abused in this day and age, in and out of the churches.

We read earlier that eternal judgment is a decision which would apply to an individual who had been allowed to go beyond the milk of the word and who would at some time later fall away or reject the truth of God and become an adversary. That action results in no mechanism in the plan of salvation to repent again so that the blood of Christ would be applied to the individual. That sacrifice is a onetime offer and application. It is limited to that as Hebrews 6:6 clearly tells us. We often use the expression the blood of Christ will wash us clean repeatedly. That is not an accurate use of the meaning of Christ's sacrifice for He died once for all mankind, His creation. After baptism it becomes the water of the Word. That is why there is so much concern as to whom God allows or permits to move into that phase of conversion. An infant has not reached the age of reason and can't be held accountable for their actions of ignorance or stupidity, thus not subject to the second death. Ignorance and stupidity or maybe put as carelessness, were covered under the Levitical sacrificial system of the first covenant. Lev 4:27-28;

"And if any person of the land sins through ignorance, by doing that which is not to be done, against one of the commandments of Jehovah, and is guilty; or his sin which he has sinned is made known to him, then he shall bring his offering, a ewe of the goats, a perfect one, a female, for his sin which he has sinned."

Now there is a lot to be said here but sticking to the point of this discussion it is obvious this is not the Passover sacrifice being applied here. Far from it! The sacrifice being applied is specific to ignorance and carelessness. During the Millennial rule of Christ there will even be a special day in the month, whether just the first or all of them, when this will also take place. Ezekiel 45:20;

"And you shall do on the seventh of the month for each man who goes astray, and for the simple. And you shall atone for the house." (Interlinear)

No mercy and forgiveness in the age to come? Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Unconverted Unpardonable Sin

Now is there any scriptural basis to say an unconverted (un-called) individual can be subject to the second death/eternal judgment?

Absolutely and we will call this the unconverted unpardonable sin case. This is a very specific classification of people. It is important we get this right to understand the mercy of God extended towards mankind who are not **adversaries** which will be the vast majority of people in my simple opinion based on the patterns found in the scriptures.

Mark 3:20-30;

“And the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. But when His own people heard, they went out to lay hold of Him for they said He is out of His mind. And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, (to the crowd of people) He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons He casts out demons”

In verses 23-27 Christ explains to all that type of thinking is completely flawed. Now let's listen well to what Christ says to the crowds around Him as to what the scribes had accused Him of, even to the point of denying the obvious.

Verses 28-30;

“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of man (if repented of) and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the holy spirit **never** has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation (second death) because they said, He has an unclean spirit.”

In Matthew 12: 22-23 we can read this same account. In Matthews account in verse 24 it is recorded that it was the Pharisees who made the accusation. Most I trust understand the Scribes and Pharisees were of the same persuasion politically. And in verses 31-32 Christ once again clearly articulates what the outcome of such will be that is those who deny the obvious workings of the spirit of God. Keep in mind these individuals were the leaders of the people, politically, and the religious wantabe's.

“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him: but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, **either in this age or the age to come.**”

Don't just read by these last words brethren, “it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Halleluiah, that clearly tells us there is forgiveness of sins in both ages, the present and the one yet to come. But it also tells us very soberly that if one denies (blasphemes against) the holy spirit in this age there is no hope in the next one to come. We need to shout that out loud and clear and incorporate that biblical fact from Christ's own mouth into whatever teaching we have of the plan of salvation. Forgiveness of sin in this age and in the age to come can't be denied. This is very important to our understanding of the plan of salvation and its timeline written in the pages of the Bible. Each segment or phase of it is encapsulated in justice, mercy, and faith.

So what is so very important about speaking against the holy spirit that would merit eternal death and no chance to enter the family of God by an unconverted individual?

Matthew and Mark have clearly articulated to us Christ's words, that **EVERY** sin will be forgiven men except that committed against the holy spirit. We read earlier that if a converted individual, one who had received the holy spirit of God, and then after having tasted of the deep things of God and reject it, he would perish in the lake of fire at the Judgment Day. Our God is a God of justice, mercy, and faith. We must never lose sight of this in any of our

doctrines. Repentance is a mind boggling act and tool we have use of in dealing within our relationships with God the Father and Jesus Christ. It was a very big part of the commission given to the disciples as well as the rest of us. We will cover that in detail later. However we have been reading here in Matthew and Mark that there is no mechanism available for forgiveness if we speak against the holy spirit. Why would that be the case? The holy spirit is not a being, but the power, by which God functions and accomplishes things. Let's see what Christ was talking about.

The gospel of John holds the key to it all, here a little there a little, line upon line, and precept upon precept. In both Matthew and Mark we have seen where the Scribes and Pharisees publically proclaimed to the people that Jesus receives His power to perform miracles from the devil. They could not deny the actual miracles, for they were obvious to all, be it casting out demons or healing people or taking a few loaves and fish and feeding thousands. If they had have done so the crowds would have stoned them for sure. Remember these folks were the leaders of the people and they were politicians to the core. The devil is in the details. They had as a group decided to take a specific course of action publically, which we have read about in Matthew and Mark. Publically proclaim that Christ was not of God but the devil and thus received His power from him. They wanted the people to follow them and they would go to all ends to keep them under their dominion. They were not called of God and not converted. However, they made a conscious decision to reject the obvious power of God working through Christ and present a lie to the people to confuse them and place a stumbling block before them. How do we know this?

John 3:1-2;

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him."

Do we understand how serious this is? They came to Christ secretly and admitted they knew He was from God, but publically denied that through their insidious claim that He and His abilities were from the devil. They publically denied the obvious workings and manifestation of Gods holy spirit knowing it was a lie. There is no repentance for a mind that will do such a thing. They did not need Gods spirit dwelling in them to know that was a very bad thing to do. They attempted to separate the people from the visible attributes of God, all the while knowing it not to be true. That is pure evil! That is clearly an adversary of God mindset, just like Satan's. God will not work with such a mind. However God will use such people just like He does Satan in the process of perfecting those whom He calls. Any individual who functions in that mindset will meet his end in the lake of fire, no appeal pending.

Let's look at a possible example of such briefly.

Rev 19:19-21;

“And I saw the Beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the Beast and those who worshipped His image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

It should be noted that only the Beast and False Prophet were thrown into the lake of fire. Why not everyone else? Hmmmmmm! They had all come to make war with the Lamb of God and His bride who was with Him. The scriptures are going to tell us why over and over again. Psalm 138:4 tells us;

“All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, when they hear the words of Your mouth.”

The timeline of the plan of salvation tells us that will be later on and not when He comes to make war.

Remember all sins and blasphemies will be forgiven men in this age and the age to come if they are repented of and if one does not become a true adversary of God. If one is deceived they are not a true adversary now are they. Eve was deceived in the garden. Was she then a true adversary of God? Not likely. All the same she sinned and had a penalty attached to it; remember our God is a God of justice as well as of mercy and faith. Could she pay the penalty for her actions? No she could not. She could forfeit her life but that would not have covered the transgression. The only one who could was her Creator. It just so happens her Creator is also her Judge, Savior, and Redeemer.

So we have covered two avenues and circumstances of the unpardonable sin, one for converted individuals and one for unconverted individuals. The two are tied together by their rejection of the holy spirit. These are two separate and distinct groups of people who suffer the same fate, the second death.

Is the likelihood of eternal death facing every human being who has lived? Not in Gods mind or plan and it certainly should not be in ours either. From before the foundation of the world the Word has been ready to be our sacrifice. God has placed far too many mechanisms in the plan for repentance and mercy for that to happen. However some will end up in the lake of fire just like the Beast and the False Prophet. Have you ever given any thought to which one they committed? Converted or unconverted? Just thinking out loud here, time will provide the answer.

Brethren, the short answer to much of what we face is simply this; we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are all guilty of sin period, and are subject to death if we do not repent. Our Savior/Judge/Sacrifice has paid the penalty for us as only He could. But that only kicks in under a specific set of rules and circumstances. Each and every human being who has ever lived will be judged by the same set of rules. That will not change. To understand those

rules we need to have the spirit of God working with us. If an individual willingly decides to reject that opportunity they will simply not be allowed to live in such a state of mind. That also is the mercy of God. God's kingdom has no place for adversaries and to reject God is to be an adversary once you have seen or tasted the awesome truth of His spirit at work. It is still hard for me to believe that some in this physical life will in fact completely and willingly reject the goodness of the Father and the Son, but I know it is a reality.

On the other hand it is easy for me to believe and understand that the vast majority of mankind will embrace the calling of God when it is their time in the plan. The incredible opportunity of eternal life through the plan of salvation is an awesome gift from God to all who will love Him in this age and the one to come.

Opportunity to all; Eventually

Let's get some real basic understanding from the patterns in scripture, the doctrines of the Father, which will help us to better understand it all.

We have read in very clear terms that there are sins which lead to death, no reprieve, rebuttal, plea deal, etc. Christ told us that Himself. As well, in the same breath He also told us, "assuredly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter, but he who blasphemes against the holy spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" That's Mark 3:28-29. Matthew 12: 31-32 tells us the same thing but also adds "either in this age or the age to come."

I cannot repeat that enough. Those are the words of Jesus Christ to whom all judgment has been committed. Did Jesus' apostles teach the same thing? Yes they did in painstaking detail over and over again. Let's start with John.

1 John 5:16-17;

"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death."

That is exactly what Christ told us in Matthew and Mark. John here tells us it is good to pray for those sinning not unto death but it is not good to pray for those who have committed sin unto death. There is a lot here brethren. We take it for granted we are to pray for one another. We are told to pray for our neighbors and for those who rule over us. That is a norm for us for we understand we have all fallen short and have sinned. But here John instructs us it is a waste of time to pray to God for someone who has sinned unto death. (That means we will be able to know the difference between the two.) We don't hear that kind of thing often but it does have a record throughout scripture. Let's look at a few examples. When God has made His mind up

on such a thing it is done and He says I am not going to change. The circumstances are different but the message is clear in the following.

Jeremiah 7:16;

“Therefore do not pray for them, nor make intercession to Me, for I will not hear you.”

We can read Jeremiah repeat this command of God in 14:11 as well.

“Then the Lord said to me, do not pray for this people for their good.”

That is really serious, considering we are our brother’s keeper. Just think how heinous an activity it must take for God to say such a thing. We are told to pray for those who rule over us in the civil governments but not for these folks, in these very specific circumstances and settings. That can be confusing to some, but it should not be to us.

Back to 1 John 5:17. “All unrighteousness is sin!” That is very clear and easy for us to understand. John has told us in 3:4 that sin is the breaking of the law. But! He tells us in his same letter of instruction that “there is sin not leading to Death.”

We are going to review why and how that is from the scriptures. We are going to do so with the understanding that we are also instructed not to pray for a brother who is sinning unto death.

We all know that James teaches us, “The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” but God will not even hear this prayer when it comes to the unpardonable sin which leads to death eternal.

While James is on our minds lets listen to him sum up a fundamental and eternal precept about the plan of salvation and the mindset of God.

James 2:8-13;

“If you really fulfill the Royal Law according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well; but if you show partiality you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of it all. For He who said, do not commit adultery, also said, do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. **For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.**”

That is the mindset of God almighty and a foundational doctrine of the Father. It is an understanding which is inseparable from the plan of salvation and without it as a basis for our personal understanding and teachings we will err and confuse the word of God to others in doing so. Mercy is first and foremost something that is given. Without it being given it does not really exist for it needs to be used. It triumphs **over** judgment, for there is no mercy **in** judgment if we truly understand what judgment is. You are either guilty or not of breaking the law whether in one point or many. The sentence is death! However it is up to the Judge whether the sentence will be carried out or not. Our Judge is also our Savior. He is full of mercy as the scriptures tell us. If we are of His body we will be enveloped with that same mindset and attribute. Remember all sin, if repented of, will be forgiven men except for a very specific sin,

the unpardonable sin, which is limited in scope as we have been taught from the scriptures today. The unpardonable sin does not extend to the Royal Law or any other for it is limited to denying the holy spirit in action whether called of the Father or not, for the one who does this becomes an **adversary** of God. God is not going to allow any more of that behavior in the age to come. Adversaries at this time are here to be used as tools in our being perfected through testing and trials.

Let's see God in action on all this. Bring to remembrance that scripture tells us Jesus Christ is the same yesterday (first covenant), today (second covenant), and forever (the kingdom).

Jeremiah 3:1;

"They say, if a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again? (The legal answer is no for it is against the law; Deuteronomy 24:1-4) Would not the land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers, **YET RETURN TO ME, SAYS THE LORD.**"

In verse 5 we read a rhetorical question, "Will He remain angry forever? Will He keep it to the end?" The answer is NO!

Psalm 99:8; "You answered them, O lord our God; You were to them, God-Who-Forgives, though You took vengeance on their deeds."

MERCY TRIUMPS OVER JUDGMENT! Was Israel absolutely and completely guilty of breaking the law? Yes she was. But God says if she returns to Him, He will take her back. Scripture after scripture tells us the very same thing throughout the Bible. It is all predicated on repentance first and then the forgiveness and mercy of God being given.

We are not to be "sons of thunder" reigning down judgment and destruction on others. But at the same time we are commanded to deal with sin and not to be tolerant of it in one who calls himself a brother. Paul could not be any clearer on this point in his instruction to us via the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13;

"But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves that wicked person."

Do we think we know more than God? Our Savior died for us while we were yet sinners. That atoning sacrifice is not applied to everyone at this time in the timeline of the plan of salvation, but will be at a future time as depicted by the rehearsals and hidden truths of the annual holy days. At this time it is only applied to those who are called of the Father for we are now spiritually begotten and of the Fathers seed so that we can be of the same kind as the Elohim and thus able to marry the Son of God, after the example of Abraham seeking a wife for his son and the foundation of such between kinds described in Genesis the first chapter. Once Christ's

sacrifice is applied to us we are washed clean and bright of all our **PAST** sins. The death penalty for them has been covered and removed by Christ Himself. But we will still sin again after our repenting, baptism, and laying on of hands. That is a fact! So does that mean the first time we sin after that we will be a candidate for the lake of fire? Not according to scripture. If we commit the unpardonable sin, that of a converted being who has tasted the fullness of the spirit and the age to come, then yes, we will have no reprieve from it. Hebrews 6:4-6 and Hebrews 10:26-27 are clear as can be. We must not willingly sin after baptism. We will stumble and fall at times but Our Beloved will wash us clean if we continue in growing in His grace and knowledge. Look at Ephesians 5:26-27;

“That He might sanctify and cleanse it (His body, the church, His bride) with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Our Savior and Judge continues to cleanse us and wash us if we do not turn our backs on Him and the Father and walk away from the faith once delivered. We believe and trust in Them. We are all still flesh and blood with the seed of the Father in us to help us through this calling, this transition of begetting to a full born member of the God family, and specifically, to being the bride in that family. However we must not willfully sin. We have a mechanism in our calling, put in place by Christ at His last Passover with the disciples, which takes place once a year. We conduct a mini-version of our original baptism. Mini, because we are not in need of a full washing anymore. If we should enter that state we are, “out of luck” as the saying goes. There is no doubt that we will have acquired some sin, not unto death, during the time frame from one Passover to another. We are to examine ourselves prior to the Passover as we are taught in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29;

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. (We can’t do that again!) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

This is not a light thing here brethren. Many try to second guess God here and water down the importance of what is being said. Remember judgment is on us at this time. This is our age of being judged. That is made clear here and elsewhere.

30-33;

“For this reason **MANY** are weak, and sick among you and many are dead. (All in spiritual terms here brethren) For if we would judge ourselves (examine, acknowledge, and then repent of what we have erred in during the year) then we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

Just imagine that. Many are either weak, sick, or dead who have been called of God because they have not continued in a repentive mindset after baptism. Three stages we do not want to enter for they are sequential. Do not let anyone water this truth down. Once saved always

saved is a lie from the devil, the first adversary of God. Brethren we need to be instant in repentive prayer when we come to our senses after tripping over sin, and then prior to Passover, (and the wonderful tool given us called the foot washing) we must examine ourselves and renew our commitment to our Savior. It is incredibly personal. The foot washing function is a blessing to each and every one of us who have taken up the calling and journey to the family of God. Baptism or total immersion is a one-time function. As I mentioned earlier, if we get to needing it again due to our sloppy and willful conduct in sin, then there is no mechanism in place for it to be applied again, no atoning for that degree of willful sin again. Hebrews 6:2 tells us about a fundamental and basic doctrine called "baptisms." It is incredible how many do not understand that doctrine of the milk of the word in the churches today. That doctrine is plural for a reason and is basic, for it gives us hope and not fear. All we have to do is follow it. If we stumble we have hope and not despair. Even with His spirit in us, our merciful Savior understands our weaknesses in the flesh and He has provided for that. "For He knows our frame (understands our constitution); He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14) That Greek word there translated baptisms in 6:2 is #909 baptisimos. It is best translated as washings. We have covered this basic of teachings often in past studies. These washings, be it total or subsequent partials, are one of the reasons we are told in the second covenant scriptures that we are under a "better covenant" which is established with "better promises." Christ has told us He will never leave nor forsake us if we keep the pattern He has given us to follow.

Let's once again jump back to Jeremiah for a moment to read more how mercy triumphs over judgment. Jeremiah 3:20-22;

"Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so you have dealt with Me, O house of Israel, says the Lord. A voice was heard in the desolate heights weeping and supplications of the children of Israel; for they have perverted their way, they have forgotten the Lord their God. Return, (through repentance) you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. In deed we do come to You, for You are the Lord our God."

4:1;

"If you will return O Israel, says the Lord, return to Me; and I will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall be moved."

Joel 2:12-13;

"Now therefore says the Lord, turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm."

We could go on and on with scripture after scripture telling us the very same thing about our Gods willingness to take us back if we repent of our transgressions. Yes mercy does triumph

over judgment. If that point of fact is not part of the readers mindset by now you may not want to bother reading on any further for we are going to cover that in much more depth.

We all need to understand, that even though Israel committed more heinous crimes and sins against God than all the nations around them, that God will still take them back if they repent. That is the mindset of God the Father and the Son and it will be likewise of all who are of Their seed. We will cover that shortly. We need to cover what we are to be, and being judged on, and the outcomes of it. There is so much information on this subject; to date today we have just scratched its surface, so let's look a little deeper into the process. We are only going to cover some of the real easy highlights as to this subject. Maybe I should say the critical facts so we will not be dissuaded from the mindset of God on the subject. You know, the very clear scriptures which define those that may not be so clear.

We Need Gods Spirit to Overcome!

The first Biblical fact we need to come to grips with is that we cannot of ourselves meet even the simplest requirements of fulfilling the law without the spirit of God working in us. We would all fall far short. The law I am talking about is the Royal Law, the 10 commandments, for in breaking one we would be guilty as if we had broken them all. The apostle Paul pounded this home time after time so that we will be without excuse.

Romans 7:7-12;

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. (What law? The one given to Israel at Mt Sinai) For I would not have known covetousness unless the law said, You shall not covet. But sin taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all desire. For apart from the law sin is dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. (Just examine what Paul just told us. He is stating that unless he had come to an understanding of the law he was not accountable for breaking it. But when he became aware of it, he was convicted by it, for he understood he was a true transgressor) And the commandment which was to life, I found to death. For sin finding occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it (I) killed. Therefore the law is holy and the commandment holy and just and good.”

We are all taught here that we can't know what sin (against God) is except through the law. The law defines sin. He specifically tells us, that law, is the one given at Mt. Sinai when he specifically ties it to one of the ten. There are some who profess that all mankind will be thrown into the lake of fire having never been given the opportunity to understand these rules of the household of God and being given the ability to be able to live in them. They state that the “spirit in man” is sufficient enough to be able to understand them, when in fact the scriptures tell us it is not, over and over again. These laws are holy from God. 1 Corinthians tells us in 2:11 and 14 the following;

“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so no one knows the things of God except the spirit of God.”

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Man understands “natural laws” such as why an apple falls to the ground instead of floating upwards. Man does not understand the spiritual laws, for he can’t unless the spirit is in him or at the least leading him. Man has a semblance of some of the spiritual laws but the understanding is based on the knowledge of the tree of good and evil and not on the tree of life. Is Eve guilty of the second death because she was deceived and took for herself the knowledge of what is good and what is evil? Scripture tells us she is guilty of transgression but was deceived into doing so. She left her husband’s instruction on the subject and took it upon herself to make the decision when she allowed another to come between herself and her husband Adam. However, I do fear for Adam for he was not deceived, he received instruction in righteousness directly from the Creator. So if natural law is sufficient for condemning us to eternal death what was the point in God giving the Royal Law to Israel at Sinai? Was He being a respecter of persons or was He following His plan of salvation timeline? The answer is clear to me from scripture and the patterns found in it. Many today do not have a good understanding of the timeline for they reject the fact that each in his own time applies to it. First Christ, then the firstfruits at His coming, then Israel, then the rest of the dead as in the firstborn of the union between Christ and the bride, and then all mankind. If it were all predicated on the spirit of man, natural law, and the knowledge of the tree of good and evil, then why even a need for baptism, the laying on of hands and the holy spirit being imparted to us?

Paul told us he was once alive without the law (an awareness and understanding of it) but when the knowledge of it came to him he died for he was then without excuse for his actions committed against it. He was guilty just as we all were until atonement was applied to it. Christ taught us in Matthew 19:16-19 that it is the 10 commandments that lead us to eternal life. Under the terms of the second covenant they are required to be kept physically and spiritually. He magnified the law. In Matt 5:21-32 He makes it crystal clear. Under the terms of the first covenant it was the “physical act” but under the terms of the second it is even “the thought” which breaks the law. It is a difficult course to walk and is impossible without the aid of the holy spirit and the washings of Christ. Apart from God it is impossible to keep His commandments. That is a fundamental law in itself that we are all being taught at this time, and what we will be teaching to mankind in an age to come. Romans 8:3-9;

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. (We could not fulfill this requirement by ourselves.) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live

according to the spirit, the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind (not having God's holy spirit) is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (And is thus going to be thrown into the lake of fire as some teach?) **So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** But you are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ he is not His."

That instruction is abundantly clear to me. I would hope it is to others as well, but unfortunately it is not. Paul just told us it is impossible to please God unless we have the holy spirit. So if we do not have His holy spirit and all the wonderful ability it bestows upon us to understand the things of God, as to keeping His commandments and receiving the blessings that are associated with them now and in the age to come and the wonderful plan of salvation, how can we possibly think that the God of all mercy and forgiveness will just toss us into the lake of fire for not obeying. We did not come to the blessing of the holy spirit being in us by ourselves! He picked us! Does that mean everyone else is condemned to eternal death? "Not a chance in hell" as the saying goes. Paul does an incredible job of explaining this throughout all his epistles, but let's turn to 1 Corinthians 2:6-16;

"However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His spirit. For the spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so, no one knows the things of God except the spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the holy spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned,**"

Psalm 119:33-40;

"Teach me O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding and I shall keep your law, indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the paths of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to (or cause me to long) for Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away (or cause) my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, who (wants to be devoted) to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness."

Does this sound like we can do it all with just the “spirit in man”? Let’s all come to our senses. We need the spirit of God working in us to accomplish any of these things. Apart from the spirit we cannot please God!

We who have been called of the Father, and have been blessed with the holy spirit working in us, are the ones without excuse and that is why judgment starts with us who are called to the house of God at this time as Peter tells us. The minds of this world which are devoid of Gods spirit are not accountable for the punishment that goes with the crimes of breaking Gods law. But they are guilty of breaking them and that’s why there is a sacrifice which is applied once to everyone, but in their own time. They do not have the ability to comprehend it at this time as the scriptures constantly remind us, so let’s not be their judge and jury. We are to be judging our own, and functioning around those obvious judgments, and then waiting on the Judge to finish the rest. Please do not ever lose sight of the fact that each and every one of us are under judgment at this time. Without the spirit of God the things of God are foolishness, incomprehensible. We who are called are being invited to be members of the family of God. The world is not. They are not in the process of qualifying to do so at this time. We have been given the necessary tools to accomplish this task, they have not. We are of our Fathers seed, they are not of our Father. We are under the terms of the second covenant, knowingly under them, they are not.

Once again I ask, are the billions of people who have, are, and will be living before Christ’s return, who have never been granted the privilege of having the holy spirit reside in them going to be terminated forever? Not by the God I know and love, and who by the way loves all mankind. That’s the same God who tells us that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:15).

Paul has taught us it is impossible to please God without His holy spirit guiding us, and thus impossible to believe Him as well. Our carnal knowledge base is drawn from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In other words we have taken it upon ourselves, through Adam and Eves sinning in the garden, to determine for ourselves what is right and what is wrong. We are told that without faith it is also impossible to please God. That is an added ability after the spirit gifts us with it. Faith is a gift from God. So, are those who do not receive this gift from God toast?

Some in the body need to put away childish thoughts and move on to maturity in Christ. We do not look down our noses at those who have not received what we have and we certainly don’t gloat over it. The unpardonable sin is that which leads to the second death. If we don’t get that, maybe we should write it out 500 times to get it, at the very least for it to become a habit to repeat. Hebrews 10:26-31;

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth (and how do we receive that? By the spirit of God) there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries (of

God). Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies (physically) without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment (the second death), do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

This is telling us about an individual who had received the knowledge of the truth, who had been sanctified by the blood of Christ, who then rejected it all, and whom had become an adversary. Those who commit the unpardonable sin, whether converted or not in their physical lifetime, become adversaries of God just like Satan had. He rejected all that God had blessed him with, and in doing so became an enemy without cause. That is a very sick mindset, and one that will infect others as well.

Brethren we are accountable for what we know, and the depth of it will determine how we will be judged. With or without the knowledge of the truth we are still guilty of breaking the law and if Christ's atoning sacrifice was and is not applied to us we would surely perish. But now it has been applied to us, it has covered us and washed us clean, so let's act like it in dealing with a completely ignorant world. We do not judge them, God does, as Paul so clearly articulated to us through the Corinthians. Satan has deceived the whole world and that included us all at one point in our lives. Let's not dabble in going back to the deceit by passing judgment on the world. 2 Peter 2:20-21;

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the commandment delivered to them."

Peter here in context is attributing this depravity of backsliding evil to false teachers bringing brethren once again into bondage and turning them from the faith once delivered. Brethren we do not judge the world, our focus must be on the household of God and its wonderful attributes. For some it is easy to get lured back into an attitude of looking down on the uncalled. Resist it and it will flee from you as in all other sin. Oh yes be vexed by all the sin which surrounds us, but leave it up to God to deal with, all we can do is conduct ourselves according to what pleases God. We have enough to do with overcoming ourselves and assisting brethren in doing so. If God wants us to have influence outside of that sphere then He will make that happen.

What we are reviewing here today in scripture is a pattern imbedded in the complete word of God from one cover to the other, for it is a fundamental understanding in the plan of salvation. It is not a mystery to us. We are to be stewards of the mysteries of God not the knowledge of this world.

Look where it all begins for us. Ephesians 1:3-14;

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption in His blood, the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound towards us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth, in Him, in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the holy spirit of promise, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

How truly humbling is that! Are we the “lucky” ones winning the lottery? Are we so mighty that we are the “pick of the litter?” Can we look down our noses at those who were not predestined, who have not received the knowledge of the mysteries, and the holy spirit to understand them, and the application of Christ’s blood to us? Paul tells us who we were with no punches pulled and who we owe it all too.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31;

“For you see your calling brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised, God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence (like Satan tried to do). **But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption**, that as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

Brethren I hope that if we harbor teachings of a cold hearted God who will kill all who have ever lived with the second death because they should have known the way of God without all the necessary tools and grace we have been given, that we soon come to another more noble understanding. We are being perfected in Christ because the Father chose us so that He could confound those who are actually more endowed with talents of man than we were. That’s like taking a toad and turning it into a princess. We who are called of the Father at this time are only a minuscule part of all who will comprise the family of God. God is forgiving and working

with those in spiritual Israel first. He has already done so with tens of thousands from physical Israel already who are in the grave, but whose spirit is with God in heaven (Colossians 3:3) until their resurrection from the dead unto life at His coming for His bride. Once this is completed God will then deal with the whole house of Israel as He has promised and as we will cover shortly, and then God will deal with all the rest of mankind who has ever lived, the Gentile nations.

Psalm 119:144;

“The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding and I shall live.”

In Romans chapter 11 Paul is giving us a thorough run down of Israel; past, present, and future so we are not ignorant to the plan as it pertains to them. We are going to cut in at verse 20 and read through to verse 36. It is a lesson in the mercy of God to every single Israelite which has ever lived, as well as to every Gentile called under the second covenant.

“Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity (no more blessings as a result of association with God); but towards you goodness (blessings because you are now associated with God) if you continue in goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also if they do not continue in unbelief (repentance), will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these who are natural, (native, keep that in mind for later on) be grafted into their own olive tree. For I do not desire brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening (who do you think allowed that to happen?) in past has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **And so ALL Israel will be saved (let’s repeat that), ALL Israel will be saved** as it is written (which we will cover just some of the scriptures and prophecies dealing with all of Israel later): The **Deliverer** will come out of Zion. And will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins. Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers (it’s a promise to all of Israel). For the gifts and the calling of God are without change of purpose (we of all people should understand this), For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy (in this calling) through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. **For God has shut them all up in disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has given to Him and it will be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and in Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen!”

The plan of salvation is a promise to ALL of Israel, not just a few, just as it is for all of mankind who will repent once the Deliverer, Savior, and Judge decides it. The Bible teaches us through the patterns which run through it. Let's look at a simple one to understand. It's about the bride of Christ who is comprised of those who have excelled more than the others in both the first marriage covenant and the second marriage covenant. It is at a time when they will rise to meet their Husband, their resurrection, the first resurrection as scripture clearly calls it elsewhere.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;

"But I do not want you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (died), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus Christ died and rose again, even so God will bring Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep (dead). For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Here we see the dead (in Christ) rising before those in Christ who are alive. This is spiritual Israel, the bride who has qualified to occupy that function in the household of the Father. This is not Christ returning to make war, but to gather in His elect from the four corners of the earth for the marriage supper in heaven. These are those who will be the kings and priests in the royal family and in the order of Melchizedic. Once again this is "spiritual Israel" united under their Savior, Redeemer, Deliverer and Judge. Remember we are talking patterns here.

Is there anywhere in scripture that even remotely suggests this pattern will continue with physical Israel joining together under Him, those who have died and those who are alive after His coming to make war on mankind? The answer is yes and in a lot of detail if we believe the scriptures. Ezekiel deals with all the relationships between Israel and God, and God and mankind; past, present, and future. Chapters 36, 37, and 38 are just an incredible lesson into the timeline of the future dealings and relationships God has in store for the physical nation of Israel after Christ returns. I have heard from others in the faith that chapter 37 is primarily a metaphor for Israel who is alive after Christ's return (because it does not fit into their personal timeline doctrines), those who will be gathered in to Israel under His protection in the millennium rule. That certainly isn't All of Israel as covenanted through the fathers is it! Paul told us ALL of those under that covenant would be delivered not just a few. Keep in mind the pattern of the dead and alive members of spiritual Israel at His coming. It is not an error that much of the context of chapter 37 is placed between chapters 36 and 38. Thirty eight is clearly depicting the time after the millennium rule of Christ when Satan is released for a little while to test the Gentile nations and for them to be humbled in the process. It talks about a peaceful

Israel living without protective walls, and evil thoughts arising in the minds of the Gentile nations after they have been visited. No kidding, the prince of the power of the air is at it again but only because God is using him as a tool for the perfection of the Gentile Nations at that time, for it is their time in the sequence of such things.

37:1-14;

“The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold there were very many in the open valley, and indeed they were very dry (representing being dead for a very long time). And He said to me, son of man, can these bones live? So I answered, Oh Lord God (Adonay Yehovih), You know. Again He said to me, prophesy to these bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Surely I will cause breathe to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. (You can bet that will have a profound effect on their belief that He is the Lord. Instant attentiveness! The vast majority of Israel does not even know who they were, let alone their relationship in covenant with God, be they dead or alive) So I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, prophesy to the breath, prophesy son of man, and say to the breath, thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, (spiritual Israel is gathered from the four corners) O breath, and breathe on these **slain** (not alive, physically dead, no metaphor here), that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then He said to me, son of man these bones are the **whole house of Israel** (that had died for He addresses those who are alive in 36 scattered among the nations as well as in 37 later).”

This is a resurrection of the dead clear and simple. Let’s take a minute and go back to what Paul clearly understood and taught in Romans 11:26 about this time.

“And so All Israel will be saved, (given the actual opportunity to do so) as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; **this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.**” All of Israel will have the full knowledge of the Lord and the full opportunity to repent with the spirit given to them. They will all be united in the Promised Land. Continuing in Ezekiel 37; 11 again through 14.

“They indeed say, our bones are dry, our hope is lost (because we were sinners and knew not the Lord) and we ourselves are cut off! 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 from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My spirit in

you, (They never had the spirit before. Now they have the essence, the spirit of God imparted to their minds so they can comprehend the things of God just like spiritual Israel had, and thus they will be able to be pleasing to God.) and you shall live, (because they were dead not just located in some foreign country) and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I the Lord, have spoken it and performed it says the Lord.”

Psalm 85 in its entirety is a must read in this context. Let us review verses 6-7;

“Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.”

Revive here is #2421 Hayah. Strongs says of it; “a prime root; to live whether literally or figuratively; causatively to revive...” It can signify “to bring to life” or “to come to live” as it does often in scripture. A more accurate translation of these verses is found in J.P. Greens Interlinear Bible.

“Will You give us life anew, so that Your people may rejoice in You? Cause us to see Your mercy, O Jehovah, and give us Your salvation.”

Psalm 130:7-8;

O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”

Psalm 103:8-14;

“The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy towards those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, **so far has He removed our transgressions from us.** As a father pities children, the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”

This ingathering of all Israel who had died, into the Promised Land, is only half of the story in the timeline of the plan of salvation for physical Israel. Just a metaphor some would say! The rest of the chapter talks about the ingathering and uniting of Israel under one shepherd. Verse 24 tells us;

“David My servant shall be king over them and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.” Because they now had His spirit to help them.

Off topic a bit but could this all be following the pattern of the resurrected spiritual Israel we read about earlier in 1 Thessalonians 4? In that one we see spiritual Israel, (those who had died and those who were still alive) at the return of our spiritual Shepherd rising to meet Him in the air. It is worth pointing out here that I often read that some folks think the Israel of Rev 7 is physical Israel because it talks about the 12 tribes. We need to remember that there are those who qualified to be the bride of Christ under the first marriage covenant with physical Israel. Fortunately for us they fell short of the total number to partake of the Passover Lamb of the

Fathers house, to fully internalize the Passover Lamb. Those of us who are called under the second marriage covenant will be joined to them. Some tribes probably did better than others in their quest. We will be grafted into one of them. That means into specific tribes to complete the 12,000 for each. Just a small point that may help clarify a little better the issue of the identity of the 144,000. That is my belief.

With physical Israel being gathered into the Promised Land to David their physical shepherd and prince, as Ezekiel calls him, we may have something similar taking place. Certainly the setting of these very specific verses in chapter 37 sandwiched between 36 and 38 can give the impression of it. With Atonement happening shortly after Christ's return it is even more thinkable because that is the Jubilee, when all Israel returned to their family inheritances. Then we have Tabernacles shortly after that which we are told in Lev23:24; "All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths." No mixed multitude accompanying them as in the first exodus from Pharaoh and Egypt. Lots of things to have some fun with are there not.

But back to the topic at hand.

Verse 28;

"The nations will also know that I the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

What an awesome, loving, merciful, and faithful God we have. Here we have "the age to come" after "the age of man" in which forgiveness of sin, loving kindness, and repentance will cover the landscape of Israel. Israel will fulfill their destiny as being the chosen people of God a holy nation before the eyes of the Gentiles. He will put His spirit in them all, if they are willing to follow Him wherever He goes. Their repentance will be from the heart and not just lip service. And no, they will not be thrown in mass into the lake of fire. On the contrary every sin and blasphemy they have committed will be forgiven them if they repent. Only those who have, and are a party to committing the unpardonable sin will make that trip to the lake.

The key tenant of the elementary teaching of eternal judgment is very simple. We have covered it more than adequately so far today to either believe the scriptures or reject them. Christ is the author of it; every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men if they repent of them except the unpardonable sin which is that of denying the holy spirit and becoming an adversary of God. That will merit the second death no plea bargaining, no deviation.

Repentance is the Key!

The second part of this very simple doctrine is that repentance and forgiveness are inseparable. Forgiveness is a part of Gods nature. It is not a part of man's. We need to learn it from an early age. We also need to learn repentance from an early age as well, from parents who understand its effectiveness and need to raise children who will be a benefit to the family stability and wellbeing. This is one of the seven doctrines of the milk of the word. I hope we have all noticed

these doctrines are intricately linked to form a very sound foundation as children of God. It is the start of the journey and the second covenant scriptures are laced with it. The pattern is very simple; repent, repent, repent!

Acts 2:38-37;

“Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do.”

Do we think for one minute that this will not be the same response from the vast majority of all who are raised from the dead at their judgment time? We need to think about this. Remember the more you know about yourself the more you will know about others.

Verse 38;

“Then Peter said to them, repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the holy spirit.”

A simple fact of the doctrine of eternal judgment is this; if an individual will not repent they will cease to exist. It's that simple! No repentance, no forgiveness, no existence. That will be the simple pattern or equation. For those who do repent they will be given the holy spirit, just as we have been given it to help us comprehend what is expected of us and the glory that awaits all who undertake and complete that journey. This is simple arithmetic, one plus one is two. Christ has preached repentance from day one because it is a pillar of the elementary doctrines He gave us.

Mark 1:14-15;

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel.”

When Christ sent out the 12, what did He tell them to preach?

Mark 6:12;

“So they went out and preached that people should repent.”

Look at the simplicity of Christ's ageless message of repentance.

Luke 13:1-5;

“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, do you suppose these Galileans were worst sinners than all other Galileans (He knew their thoughts) because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. (The analogy is very simple to grasp. Repent and you won't perish in reference to the second death not in terms of their physical existence for it is appointed to man to die and then be resurrected.) Or those 18 on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worst sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

Perish is the Greek word *apollumi* #622 and means; to destroy fully, complete destruction. Christ gave us two very simple illustrations of the difference between the mindset of man and that of God. Men have wild ideas about bad things happening to people. They equate it often with the assumption the people being afflicted did something really bad or wrong against God. The churches of God in some quarters are rife with that thinking, all the while professing an understanding of the nature of God. Some things just do not change. Often when tragedy strikes an individual or group, it does not take long for many of the self-righteous religious birds to fly off the roost chirping “dirty sinner” and “Gods punishing them.” When we see such things we should say to ourselves, “there go I if not for the grace of God.” We must never fall into that trap of self-righteous condemnation at any level. The scriptures tell us what is to be condemned and what is not. Some actually relish the opportunity to condemn. Proverbs 17:5 is something we should have before our eyes continually, “He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.” Remember the example of the publican and the Pharisee that Christ spoke about. The Pharisee was glad he was not a filthy sinner like the publican. That’s the same mindset as the religious birds flying of the roost. But here in these two examples from Christ we need to take away the understanding that it is God who determines what sin is, and to what extent it is committed, and who is deserving of what punishment. He also once again establishes the biblical fact that if we do not repent of sin we will be completely destroyed. Simple and sobering to understand and taught as one teaching little children, feeding them milk one might say. However we are to understand when an individual has openly committed the unpardonable sin. We have the spirit of God and the scriptures to lead us in such things. As God instructed us earlier we are not to waist our time with such an individual.

Luke 17:3-4;

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day and returns to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him.”

Oh, the simplicity of Christ with no toxic mind of man involved. This is a pattern of how God views sin which is repented of; sin, repent, forgive. One, two, three! We were instructed by Christ that all sin and blasphemies against Christ would be forgiven men outside of the sin categorized as unpardonable. Yet there are brethren who don’t believe these simple instructions. There is an old saying when it comes to simple and basic knowledge; “ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die.” We are not to place heavy burdens upon the called of God.

There are a lot of folks these days who preach a fire and brimstone judgment for most of mankind during the resurrection. You have all heard it at one time or another; resurrected, pronounced guilty, into the lake of fire. Then again we have the fruity tooties who are choking to death on the fuzzy, lazy, completely deceived doctrine, of once saved always saved. These

two very extreme doctrines are ever present these days and a stumbling block for many who are called and uncalled. Let's take a minute with the word of God and address the first one and in doing so we will be addressing the second one to some extent which isn't the focus of today. We have reviewed the words of Christ as to forgiveness of all sin, except the unpardonable sin, and that there is sin unto death and sin not unto death. In Matthew 10 we are given instruction as to the twelve going out into Israel, being sent by Christ with a specific purpose. In verse 7-8 we can see they were given the ability to direct the power of God to heal, raise dead people, and cast out demons. These were obvious signs that God was working through them. Now a little further on we read some will reject them even though they did these wonderful miracles for all to see. What is very important here is what Christ tells us about these folks and their attitudes when it comes to the resurrection and the judgment.

Verse 15;

Assuredly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city."

Does this mean the land of Sodom and Gomorrah or the people who had occupied it? Well, that is very simple to understand that Christ is talking about the people. If we recall all of them were destroyed centuries prior to Christ's time, and millennia before the resurrection. If we recall those people were very sinful. Christ here is telling us it will be more "tolerable" for them in the judgment than for those here He is addressing in His time frame on earth. These folks rejected the obvious power of God at work. Many ask how that can be. Does this somehow mean there are degrees of Lake of Fire punishment like one would find in Catholic doctrine? Did these folks here in context commit or come close to committing the unpardonable sin? Christ is going to answer those questions for us. But first what does tolerable mean in the Greek? It is the word *anektoteros* #414. Strong's says of it, "more endurable" and that it is a derivative of #430 *anechomai* "to hold oneself up against." That sounds like a little hope to me.

Just think here we have Christ telling us that these folks from Sodom and Gomorrah will have it better off in the judgment. These folks were so perverted during their physical lives they were obliterated by God for such things as rampant homosexuality, etc. Mark 6:11 tells us the very same thing that Matthew 10:15 does. Let's get some more real specific instruction on all this from Christ.

Luke 10:13-14;

"Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works (obvious presence of God's holy spirit) which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented a great while ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."

Here we have a direct correlation of repentance to the judgment and it being more tolerable for the repentant. It gets much clearer if it isn't already.

Matthew 11:20-24;

“Then He began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent; Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment than for you. And you Capernaum who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land (the people) of Sodom in the Day of Judgment than for you.”

If an individual has not had the things of God revealed to them in this lifetime it will be more tolerable for them in the judgment. That is a Biblical fact!

Christ’s messages to the seven churches in Revelation are very telling as to the importance of repentance in our calling and personal relationship with Him and the Father. The importance of its relationship between sin and forgiveness is really easy to understand if we have the spirit of God. It is a fundamental tenant of all the instruction we are given about the plan of salvation in the second covenant scriptures as well as the first. The only important thing to mention here is, under the first covenant it was primarily a focus of and towards a nation or a people, but under the second it is very personal. That is why we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

The Lamb of God gave up all the glory He had as one of the Elohim, to become a man, and to die for every man, woman, and child which has ever taken the breath of life. He was and is and always will be the sacrifice which paid the penalty that we all deserved. It was His immense capacity for mercy that moved Him to do so. That is why He teaches us; “But I desire mercy and not sacrifice, For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” He was and is the sacrifice in our stead. We should be learning how to comprehend and function with a mindset of mercy and not demanding a penalty. The penalty phase of all our existences is His and His alone to deal with. We need to be learning the weightier matters of this. Christ and the Father do not want to lose a single person to the second death. They are so intent on it that He, Christ, paid the penalty for us. That is not a light thing, it is very heavy. All God asks of us is that we turn from our sins and repent and acknowledge what He has done for us. Then our minds will grow in the grace and knowledge of the solid food God has to give us. That is a lifesaving and life giving event to each and every human being. That is one of the primary reasons why Jesus is and will be the judge of all mankind. It was His shed blood, and He had been tempted in all things just like us but He did not take the bait. He did not sin.

Repentance and forgiveness of sin are in the forefront of the gospel. Luke tells us what Christ’s instructions were to His disciples as He departed to the throne room of God.

Luke 24:46-47;

“Then He said to them, thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sin should be

preached in His name (not, “you are going to burn in the lake of fire sinner”) to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”

Here we have just one of the many scriptures which tell us the very same thing. We are not “sons of thunder” but rather “our brother’s keeper” and we need to have the mindset of Christ more often than not brethren. That means towards ourselves and others. That is not an easy thing to do these days. But remember we are not to spend our time on one who has committed the unpardonable sin. Our mercy is not greater than Gods and if we start following that course in our lives we will be completely distracted from the purpose we are placed in the body to fulfill. We are to be edifying one another and by that example many have and will be established in the desire to imitate those good works.

Acts 26:19-20;

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

Paul understood his calling and how he was placed in the body and the functions he was to undertake in it, as well as to all others. Let’s refresh our memories as to what he was instructed to do.

Verses 17-18;

“I will deliver you from the people, as well from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, (not to punch them in it) to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Paul’s main sphere of influence was to be with the Gentiles and to do what?

- 1) To open their eyes.
- 2) Turn them from darkness to light,
- 3) Turn them from the power of Satan (who has deceived the whole world) unto God

All this had to happen before they could do what” Repent! And then they had access to what?

- 1) Forgiveness of sins.
- 2) Receive access to an inheritance among others who were sanctified by faith in Christ.

This process is spelled out throughout scripture. It is an unbroken pattern. The world of religion either preaches a “fire and brimstone” or “fuzzy love” gospel. We should not be doing the same thing. The gospel should be one of hope not eternal damnation. That has not been, nor will be, and is not Christ’s focus to us. It is a small part of what we are to emphasis as the seven doctrines of the milk of the word point out to us. That’s right one seventh representation of it minus the fire and brimstone, son of thunder excitement in its presentation. It is a very sad doctrine yet very necessary to our basic understanding before we can move on further into the mysteries of God, or as it can be labeled, the hidden truths of God. All our instruction on the subject should be centered around Christ as our Savior, Redeemer, and Judge who is full of

mercy and instant to forgive true repentance. Let us not fall into the category of teachers that the Pharisees occupy in any doctrine. They should all be interwoven with justice, mercy, and faith, but at the same time not Pollyannaish.

Matthew 23:23;

“Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law; justice (#2920), mercy, and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

Luke’s account of this states in 11:42;

“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint, and rue, and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God...”

God is not cold hearted in judgment. He is not nonchalant about it. It is not a vapor to Him. It is very important to Him. It is founded in mercy and love. If we do not preach such things and teach such things it does not matter what else we hold and have which is true. Matthew 7:1-2 is crystal clear in content and application.

“Judge (condemn) not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment (condemnation) you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Once again it is not our lot in the life of our calling to be sons of thunder calling down destruction on mankind. We are to be of our Father and function as we are placed in the body of Christ and obey His household rules and follow the example of His Son. We must never forget that. Yes, we stand up to heretics and deceivers, but we are also to make an effort to open the eyes of those who have been deceived by Satan, not smash them shut. We need to give them the message of hope contained in the words of Christ and the plan of salvation. He is our Creator, Redeemer, Savior, and He is our merciful and forgiving Judge and He is the only way to Salvation.

Every single man and woman, who has ever lived, taken the breath of life, will have the opportunity to repent and believe unless they have seared their minds through the unpardonable sin. For the vast majority this will happen in a future age reserved for them. They through the awesome miracle of resurrection will be instantly ready and prepared to believe what their resurrector has to say. They will be given the opportunity to repent, and to be given the spirit so they can understand the depth of their past behavior and indifference to God. It is also important to understand that this type of judgment is at this time on the church. Some will reject this wonderful opportunity after having tasted of it deeply, but at the same time many will not be allowed to move forward in the depths of the wonders and understanding of it so that they will have the opportunity to finish it at a time they will be more suited to being successful. We must never endanger the lives of those called of the Father. Causing one to stumble and have them recover is one thing, but to separate them from God or even attempt to is a grievous error for then we would have become an adversary. We must never become a

knowing and willing adversary of God. Scripture makes this clear that any who reject the holy spirit in such a mode are headed to the second death, called or uncalled.

We who are called at this time are called for a very special function. If we fall short of the standard that is required to fill the function of the bride in the household of the Father we are not going to be thrown into the lake of fire. Once again we can read “many daughters have done well but you excel them all” (Proverbs 31:29). Our calling is not an easy road to walk or field to plow. We would not have a prayer of finishing it unless we had the spirit of God in us and benefiting from those gifts given to us as part of the package. The daughters who have done well but whom did not excel have a special function set aside for them after the pattern of a biblical family. But that as well as so much information on the resurrection is for another time and another place. However it is so very important to know and understanding the role and function we are being prepared for at this time. Without that understanding we will certainly fall short of the goal. It goes far beyond the functions of Kings and Priests. It goes back to the premise of let Us make man in Our image and in Our likeness. The second Adam and second Eve will become fruitful and multiply. It is a function full of mercy and hope for all mankind.

Revelation 22:17;

“And the spirit and the bride say, Come! And the one hearing let him affirm, Come! And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires let him take the water of life freely.”

Oh yes brethren, all mankind will be given the opportunity to take of this water of life freely in a future age to come. It is truly awesome, and the mindset of a merciful God who loves His creation as much as He loves Himself. If we complete our being perfected in this calling we will function as the spiritual mother, the second Eve, in the age to come, and carry out all those responsibilities. A mother will do anything to safeguard the welfare of her children and we need to speak and act like it now.

Let’s wrap up with these awesome words of hope for all mankind in verse 14;

“Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

The time frame here is easy to see, it is after the resurrection.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian Convery

