

Kenyan Spiritual Adventure

Transcribed from a taped Bible Study by Brian Convery
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The hospitality and the sincerity of the Kenyan brethren is unmatched! We have traveled and met a lot of brethren in various places around the world so I don't say that lightly. Rick and I are servants of Christ just as you are. We're also students of the hidden mysteries of God, or the hidden truths as scripture calls them. We are one family, the family of God, thus we are fellow brothers in Christ. We seek no one's goods, or possessions, just the opportunity of speaking to you about the hope that is in us and we do that through the scriptures.

Why don't we turn to 1 Peter 3:15.

1 Peter 3:15; "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"

When we first come into the faith, we don't have the experience with the bible to be able to turn to all the scriptures to accomplish this. That comes as our relationship becomes more intimate with the bible.

God says to us in writing down his instruction from Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

2 Tim 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

That's what we believe, we actually believe what the bible says, and Paul, inspired by God, says that it's done that way so that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work. So to understand what God wants and expects out of us and how we can be pleasing to Him, we have to know the scriptures. We can't always depend on another to tell us what they say. An infant can do that when they're being breastfed, or being fed milk from a bottle. And we all go

through that stage of growth when we first get called into the faith, that's where we are at that time, we're drinking the milk of the word, we're babes. But there comes a time when we have to be of full age and mature and by reason of use of the scriptures, be able to dine with Christ one on one.

God has set up many, many patterns in the bible that we can follow. In Isaiah 28:9, God is telling us how He instructs us through the bible. It's something we have to mature in because He says we, ourselves, are to follow His doctrinal patterns through the bible.

Isa. 28:9, "Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those weaned from milk! Those drawn from the breasts!"

Often people try to teach us a doctrine based on just one scripture. One scripture does not form a teaching. We can see this in verse 10.

Isa 28:10, "For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

That is what we are going to do today.

We live and eat by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. God has placed in the bible and in the keeping of the Sabbaths and Holy Days a plan of salvation. This is lost knowledge on the world, for it isn't time for them to understand. At this time it's only for those called by the Father. Let's turn to John 6: 44 & 65.

John 6:44, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:65, "And He said, Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

Jesus Christ was very obedient to His Father. He lived by His Father's rules, his household rules. Every father has rules in his home, and he expects them to be adhered to. There are some who call

themselves Christians and who try to make us think or believe that Christ was rebellious against His Father's household rules. Nothing is further from the truth. So when we're called of God, it's a very special blessing. But often people say why am I called of God. They say I'm nothing special. And you're absolutely right. Let's listen how God puts it in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

1 Cor. 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*. 27) 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; 28) 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, 29) that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- 31) that, as it is written, HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD."

We know that it's not us doing it. The mighty and the strong don't think that way. They would say to God, I can do it without your help. Not us! All of us, need His help in everything. He's our Father and we're totally dependent upon Him and His Son. But of Him, you're in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. But as it is written "he who glories, let him glory in the Lord." So when our Lord returns and He raises us and gives us His promised Eternal life, there will be no doubt amongst all those in the world and as a result He will get all the glory because of who and what we were.

Let's see some of our responsibilities in this process. We're going to read Acts 2:36-39.

Acts 2:36-39, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37) 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? 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. 39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Of course this is the message that Peter had been preaching on the first day of Pentecost in the year of our Lord's death. There were many of the household of Judah who gathered at the commanded site in Jerusalem for this feast day from all over the middle east. And God had such a miracle performed that day that every single one of them heard it in his native language. And in the scriptures above you see what Peter said to them after they wanted to know what they had to do to be pleasing to God.

Many religious sects today quote this scripture but they don't put any emphasis on the repentance. Because they don't like to believe that we have to repent of anything. They teach that we are completely saved now and will be forever no matter what we do. So they overlook the word repentance as a prerequisite to baptism. They don't acknowledge that there are household rules and when you tell them that the ten commandments are the household rules of the Father, they say, "no, they are done away with, but we do them anyway." But there is a stumbling block contained in those commandments, isn't there? And it's called the fourth commandment. "Thou shall keep the Sabbath and keep it holy." Because men have taken unto themselves to decide what day is holy. These are simple truths that we all understand, but it's very good that we repeat them. Because that is a good habit and it helps our memory. And we have to be able to give a defense for the hope that is in us.

We must never forget that it's not us who does the calling, it's God the Father. The scriptures tell us very clearly that it is He who calls us to His Son for an absolutely awesome purpose. This calling isn't for everybody at this time. We already read and know that the strong and the mighty are left out. So God the Father decides whom He's

drawing to His Son. So when we see others who do not have our understanding, we do not judge them for it. Because, if they were called by the Father at this time, they would probably do a better job than we are. Remember, we are the weak and the base things. That is what we repent of along with our part that we've played in our sins that required our Savior to give His life for us. We just don't accept Christ. We have to do what He says and follow His footsteps. Lets turn to 1 John 2:3-7. This is the apostle John speaking many years after our Lord's crucifixion. Look what he was teaching the brethren.

1 John 2:3-7, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4) He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5) But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6) He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. 7) Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning."

Israel had those commandments, but they were written on stone and not on their hearts. And that's real important because the commandments that Israel had were the same ones we have. They are the Father's rules of the household. And to glorify Him, one of the things we have to do is be obedient to His household rules. Lets turn to I John 5:1-3.

1 John 5:1-3, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

The world today feels the commandments are burdensome. The nation of Israel thought they were burdensome. In fact, they developed their own commands and Christ talked about that often in the gospels. He would tell the teachers of that age that you have rejected the commandments of

God for the commandments of men. There was a time I once did that too. There was a time all of us did that. Remember, we're all the weak and the base things of the earth. Let's look at chapter 3 verse 4.

1 John 3:4, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

The law isn't a burden, it defines for us what sin is. Without the law, we wouldn't know what sin is. We wouldn't know what our Father's rules of His house are. Let's look at Matthew 5. Let's see what Jesus Christ had to say about it in His own words. Much of the Christian world says He was rebellious against His Father and His rules. However that's not true! Many translations have not translated the Greek properly here. These books I have in front of me, the Interlinear Bible and the Strong's Concordance tell us what those words in the bible mean in the Hebrew language and the Greek language. We're going to be providing these books to Pastor Julius as well as sets to others and show men how to use them. Because when you read a bible, like right here, the men who have translated the words that are in here filter it thru their own religion. Often a word in the Greek can have 4 or 5 different uses. They choose the one they want to put in based on their religious beliefs. That has caused a lot of problems in Christianity. It has promoted a lot of false doctrines. When we see a clear pattern in the bible, we should be alerted when we see something that apparently says something different. With these books right here, we don't have to depend on another man's religious eyes to tell us what it says. Let's look at a really clear example of that right now.

Matt. 5:17-19, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19) Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Here we have Christ saying, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” My version of the bible says to “fulfill” (#4137 *Pleroo*), that word in the Greek does not mean “to fulfill” here in the English sense, but “to make fuller or more perfect.” He wasn’t ending it, He was expanding it! No longer was it written on stone, it would be written in our hearts and our minds. So He says here, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” My bible says “fulfilled” here but should be translated “accomplished” (#1096 *Ginomai*). So He came to make it fuller and it would be here till all was accomplished. And He tells us clearly when that will be, when we have a new heaven and a new earth. The heaven and earth have not passed away. That’s obvious to all of us standing right here today. In fact He emphasized that here when He says “one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law”. In the Hebrew language they have letters, and then to get the meaning of what those letters say they have tiny little marks that go above certain letters and below certain letters. Christ was saying not only will the big letters not be taken away, not even one of the little tiny marks will be either. That’s a very big emphasis. Now look what He says, and yet people teach that He did away with them all. “Whoever therefore **breaks one of the least of these commandments**, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever **does and teaches them**, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

It certainly doesn’t sound like he was rebellious to His Father’s household rules, does it? When people challenge us on that, we need to be able to go to the scriptures and tell them or better yet show them what the scriptures say because that is our only authority. Let’s see what Paul was teaching at Rome supposedly after Christ did away with the commandments.

Rom 7:7, “What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

We read earlier from the apostle John, teaching many years after Paul’s death even, in 1 John 3:4 that the law defines sin.

1 John 3:4, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”

There’s nothing for us to fear because when we sin, Christ has already paid that penalty for us if we have truly repented and been baptized. Let’s read Romans 7:14.

Rom 7:14, “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

These are the rules that God has always functioned by. It’s a spiritual law. That’s why Paul in vs 12 says,

Rom 7:12, “Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”

Certainly not done away with here, is it? Let’s look at the gospel of John. And what we’re doing is just reemphasizing what we already know, but it’s good to know where to find that in the bible because we have to be able to give a defense for the hope that is in us. So in John 15:10, this is what Christ said, just prior to His crucifixion.

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

If He was nailing His Father’s household rules to the cross, this is a pretty strange command to give to His disciples just hours before that.

John 14:23-24, “Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24) He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

There are many that say that Jesus did away with His Father’s commands and put in His own. You have just read what Christ had to say in His own words.

Jesus Christ was **not** rebellious, he honored and glorified His Father. Let’s just read a few more

scriptures to make the point.

John 12:49, "For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

John 7:14-18, "Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15) And the Jews marveled, saying, how does this Man know letters, having never studied? [And it should say "studied with us" because that's what they meant.] 16) Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. [He's very obedient to His Father.] 17) If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*."

When He says prove it in this book He means it. Never let somebody come amongst us with a doctrine who can't prove what they say out of here, this book. For we have no authority on our own. This is our authority, the Bible. That's why we are to grow in grace and in knowledge, not just grace. That's like faith without works is dead. And James really cleared that issue up, didn't he? The book of James is basically banned in most Protestant Christian religions. But we don't judge them in that, we just thank God that there for the grace of God go I. We're not the pick of the litter, are we? But He's making us into something that will be.

Verse 18, "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him."

But of course unrighteousness is sin. And as the scriptures tell us, sin is the breaking of the law. The Christian religion uses Romans 10:4, to try to say the commandments are done away with. How many times have you heard this quoted? They don't even give you the whole sentence. For the scripture says,

Rom 10:4, "For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Take away the law of righteousness and all you have left is sin. So something is wrong here in this verse. This book here (Strong's Concordance) tells

us what is wrong. The Greek word that is translated "end" here is "*telos*". It is #5056 in this book by the numbering system. Now listen to what this word is translated as and you are going to see that someone translated it through their own religious eyes for it has many different meanings or applications.

Strong's says of this word, "*telos* From a primary word *tello?* (to *set out* for a definite point or *goal*); properly the point aimed at."

Now think about that. Put that into the verse here now. "For Christ is the **aim of the law** of righteousness to everyone who believes". That confirms every other scripture we have just read about the law and the keeping of it. And why is it the aim? Remember He made it fuller. And what did He say in teaching us? No longer is it written on stone. When it was written on stone, they had to commit the act before it was sin. That was the easy part. They could think about it all they wanted to, but it wasn't accounted as sin, at that time to them under the 1st covenant. Did He tell us just the act is sin? No! If we even think it, it is sin (Matt 5:27-28). That certainly isn't ending it, is it? That's expanding it in a big, big way. But under the 1st covenant, they didn't have God's spirit. We now have it to help us. And thus under the second covenant we have better promises, but much more strenuous criteria when it comes to sinning. Look at how this word is translated throughout the bible, it has so many uses. It can mean continual. So put that in there. It says "for Christ is the **continuation of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes." Another use of it is custom. Put that in there. "For Christ is the **custom of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes." It's also translated uttermost. Put that in there. "For Christ is the **uttermost of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes." So you see, with none of those meanings He didn't end it, did He? When the notion of ending is used remember it is emphasizing the point aimed at not the termination of something. Thus this scripture clearly says exactly what all the others say in this clear doctrinal pattern throughout the Bible.

When we know these scriptures and we can actually look at the bible through eyes that don't

put religion in it, it gives us a very sharp sword. And that is one of the things we're supposed to have. The sword of the spirit which is the word of God. We don't have to fight anybody. Jesus Christ put it there for us. If they can't take that, they have a problem. We have to become skilled in using that sword. And an interesting point in the Greek when it uses the word for sword in Ephesians (6:17), that sword is not a big sword where you fight at a distance. The Greek word used there means a dagger. Very close infighting. That's why we need the rest of the armor on. That's a wonderful lesson in itself, but not today. Let's look at John 21:15-17.

John 21:15-17, "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs. 16) He said to him again a second time, Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, Tend My sheep. 17) He said to him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me? Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep."

In verse 15, this is the first and only time in the Greek language in the new covenant scriptures that the word "lamb" is applied to anything other than Christ. And that's very important. In verse 16 this word for "tend" here, simply means shepherd. In verse 17, Simon is getting a little impatient because he wasn't a very patient person, as we can read from some of the things he did. The command in verse 17 is a command He gave the apostles, all of them. If we really love one another, we will help feed one another. We will care for one another. We won't just leave one another for the wolves to scatter the flock.

God has a very big sense of humor. What did Peter do before the cock crowed? He denied Christ 3 times. So here's Christ's sense of humor using that example. Peter had a thick head and a stiff neck, like me. This proves that repetition is a good teacher. Not for all of us, just for some of us. Let's

turn to Ephesians 4, the entire chapter. And we're going to see what Jesus Christ Himself gave to His body to help it. To help it become mature.

Eph 4:1-32, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,"

We're not to become impatient with each other. I have failed on that point so often in the past my wife reminds me continually. We are to be "**endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit.**"

Not the unity of an organization, or the unity of a man. Because we have brothers and sisters all over the face of the Earth united by the spirit. And we do this "**in the bond of peace.**" We are to be "**one body and one spirit**" just as we "**are called in one hope of your calling.**"

"3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4) *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6) one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all."

And who is He talking about here? Those called by the Father. So many people just read verse 6 and say He's in everyone. No He's not. The scripture in verse 4 says those who "**are called in one hope of your calling.**" It's His calling as He has called us to the Son. Now here's what His Son has done for us after His death.

"7) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8) Therefore He says: WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

Do we see verses 9 and 10, in parentheses? That means somebody added those. They weren't in Paul's original letter. It goes from verse 8 right down to verse 11. Let's remember what He's talking about here. He's talking about the gifts Christ gave.

11) "And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,"

Many organizations believe by their actions that it should say at the end of this verse, "**to be in charge.**" They say this verse defines rankings of rulership over others. But these are gifts and functions, they're not titles and positions. One of my functions in the body of Christ, in the church, is an administrator, which can be really boring. But I don't deny it, so I have to do it. It's not for everybody and I wish it was. That's one of the functions I have. By no means is that a title of authority. It simply says I have to do that job. I am also a teacher in the body. All I do is repeat the words of our Teacher. And He has given me the ability to put those patterns together in my mind. I have absolutely no authority in either of these functions. I was introduced as a pastor when we first got here. Believe me I don't have that gift. I do not have the patience to be a pastor. So I don't even pretend to be. That's for somebody different and special. So Christ gave these functions to members of the body and He tells us for what reason now.

"12) For the training of the saints as servants in the church, for the building up of the body of Christ;," (Bible in Basic English, BBE)

These functions are given so that they can help build the body up. So that they can help us make the transition from the milk of the word to the solid food of the word. Remember we're a family. The stronger defend the weaker until they can defend themselves. Then He continues and says:

"13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; [Now here comes the reason why.] 14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"

That we should no longer be children "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine" If it can't be proven out of this book as a pattern throughout it, do not accept it. For instance keeping Sundays falls nowhere in this book from one cover to the other. Anyone who keeps Sunday follows the authority of Pope Constantine. In the year of 325 AD at the council of Nicene,

Constantine threw out the Sabbath and put in what he called the day of the Lord. So the Catholic Church quite often reminds her young daughters that they actually take their authority from her. And they don't like that. But the mother hen is calling back the chicks to roost at this time. And that will come to be in the future. So, we read here that he says, "**by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,**" They try to twist the words in the bible and we can't let them do that to us. We should never let a man's interpretation come between us and Christ. That's why we have to grow up in the scriptures.

"15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ-- 16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

We are one family. We are one body. And those of us who have gifts that pertain to teaching, or pastors, or even evangelists, we're there for one purpose and that's the building up of everyone else so that we all come to that stature, to the fullness of Christ. Let's look at Romans. 8:15-23.

Rom 8:15-23, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. 16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

And here's another big mistranslation that we read when people translate the Greek into English. The Greek word for "himself" here, also him, or she, has different meanings. It is #846 *Autos*. Those who believe in a trinity, put in him or he or himself. It also means "it." So the pattern of the scriptures tell us which one it is. And it clearly tells us, it is "it." The spirit of God is that very power that God has, that's what makes them eternal.

"17) and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ [So then here we are children of the Father and actually inheritors with Jesus Christ], if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together."

That is an absolutely awesome promise. It's hard to even conceive it. That's why it says no mind can understand or conceive of what awaits us, and God is not going to give that to anyone who won't obey his family rules.

"18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19) For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; 21) because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23) Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."

So let's take a look at Ephesians 5. Right now we have a father and a son in the household. And remember those are functions in the household of God. Those functions are already filled. The Father is calling to His son those who will fulfill the function of the Bride. Sometimes that's hard for us guys to understand, but the scriptures talk about it at great length.

Eph 5:21-32, "submitting to one another in the fear of God."

The Greek word for submitting means, "willingly yielded", it also means as one in the army, "obeying orders". God doesn't want someone who is going to be forced into obeying Him. He wants us to willingly yield to Him, so watch what He says now, a lesson that He's teaching.

"22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."

And remember, it's very important He says "**as unto the Lord**". If your husband is not functioning somewhat in line with what the Lord says, it's very difficult to willingly yield, isn't it? And that's not what Christ wants. There is no abuse in His relationship.

"23) For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."

Paul's message to the Corinthians stated that Jesus Christ was the second Adam, the spiritual Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). He did give up His life for His wife. The first Adam didn't. Adam told God that it was His fault because He gave him the wife that made him sin. So what did Eve do, she followed his example. She said it wasn't my fault the devil, the serpent, made me do it. Neither one of them accepted responsibility for their behavior. So the first Adam wasn't a savior of the first Eve, was he? The second Adam is.

"24) Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything."

But only in the Lord. If they want you to do something that isn't in the Lord according to God's household rules, then there's a problem.

"25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. [What God is calling to His Son right now is the second Eve. And I personally think it is a lot easier for women to figure that out than us guys. We all have our trials.] 28) So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. [Remember the commands in Genesis where God told Adam and Eve that they were to be one flesh and that Eve came from his bones and his body. God uses the same example here but in a spiritual sense. So He says to the second Eve about the second Adam,] 30) For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31) FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32) This is a great

mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

This should **not** be a mystery to us. For we understand the plan of salvation, we know that a father’s in place, a son is in place and what’s next in the family? It’s going to be those who perform the functions, the service in the household of a wife. That’s very important.

Let’s take a look at Revelations 19. There is a time when this marriage will take place, as Paul says right now we are just betrothed to Him.

Rev 19:6-9, “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! [and one of the feast days actually depicts this, this is the Feast of Pentecost, and this is talking about the Father.] 7) Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. [Now look how she’s done that.] 8) And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. [Righteousness according to the Bible and in this covenant is keeping the family household rules. Far beyond just the physical, but the spiritual as well.] 9) Then he said to me, Write: Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God.”

Do you want to see a resume, a description of all the things the Bride will do? Let’s go to Proverbs 31, verses 10-31. See what my wife does to me? She knows where I’m going to turn to, so she sticks all these little notes and reminders that she loves me there. So let’s read the resume of Christ’s bride, the description of what she’s going to be doing. Starting in verse 10.

Pro 31:10-31, “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies. 11) The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. 12) She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. 13) She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. 14) She is like the merchant ships,

She brings her food from afar. 15) She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. [This is a humble attitude. Just apply spiritual things to these. We have to be able to feed and clothe each other spiritually. That’s one of our goals, but that’s not all.] 16) She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. [See she provides for the future. Her husband is glorified by others, honored by others because of these things. Everybody wishes she was their wife.] 17) She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. 18) She perceives that her merchandise *is* good, and her lamp does not go out by night. 19) She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. [Not only does she take care of those in her family, but many others as well.] 20) She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. 21) She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household *is* clothed with scarlet. [Her whole being is used and she is always thinking about the well-being of her family.] 22) She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing *is* fine linen and purple. 23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. [because of her activities.] 24) She makes linen garments and sells *them*, and supplies sashes for the merchants. [What she has is of such great value, others want to sell it.] 25) Strength and honor *are* her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. [When we receive the reward, if we actually qualify for that function, it will be incredible.] 26) She opens her mouth with wisdom, [not with vain chatter] and on her tongue *is* the law of kindness. 27) She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. [look what God says about her] 28) Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband *also*, and he praises her: 29) Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all. [He isn’t putting the other daughters down, in fact He’s saying they did well. But they didn’t do well enough to qualify to be the bride in the family of God. But in the plan of salvation as depicted through the seven annual holy days, we find out what they

receive. And I certainly don't have the time today to go into that, but I'm providing that all to your leaders in the church so that they'll be able to share that with you. So look what He finishes up saying to the wife here.] 30) Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* vain, but a woman *who* fears the Lord, she shall be praised. 31) Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Remember what it said about the wedding in Rev. 19, her clothing is her righteous acts. She will be serving the family of God, at all times and in all circumstances. She puts her personal things in a second position to the rest of the family's needs. Let's look at Matthew 22. This is just an incredible parable, or teaching. We're going to read right down to verse 14 and God is going to tell us what happened under the first marriage covenant and what will happen where and when under the second marriage covenant. And remember the two covenants are marriage covenants. There are many other covenants mentioned in the bible, but they don't pertain to us. However, there are some that we can willingly accept. But they are not unto salvation. So they're not wrong, but they aren't going to help us receive salvation. And remember, salvation is a free gift. God says it will be offered to all. But He's not offering it to all right now. It's only being offered to those at this time who are called to be the wife. Because the bride has to be in place so that the second Adam and second Eve can be fruitful and multiply. That's a pattern we see all around us in creation. So let's start here in chapter 22 and verse 1 and read through.

Matt. 22:1-14, "And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2) The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, [Now here He's going to explain what happened during the first covenant's time frame.] 3) and sent out his servants [and that's the prophets] to call those who were invited [that was Israel] to the wedding; and they were not willing to come."

A little bit of history is required here to allow us to understand more clearly what was just said and what will follow.

There came a time when the ten northern tribes of Israel separated from the two southern tribes of Israel. The ten northern tribes took the name of Israel. The two southern tribes took the name of Judah. We read in the bible about "Israel being at war with the Jews." That really messes up a lot of people, they don't understand it. Because they don't know the history of Israel. So we see here in verse 3 that God tells His prophets to call those to the wedding who were invited. And that was all of Israel, but they weren't willing to come. We read in the scriptures in Jer. 3 that God divorced Israel. But we read there that He says that He did not divorce her sister Judah. So here comes the second part as He's going through the sequence.

"4) Again, he sent out other servants, saying, Tell those who are invited [So He tried one more time with Judah.], See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.

5) But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. [Remember, they rejected the commandments of God and added their own commandments of men. That's bad enough that they went their own way, but look what they did next.] 6) And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*. [And of course we read where Jesus Christ told them they killed the messengers of God, they murdered them. They didn't like to hear that.] 7) But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. [In 70 A.D., about 28-30 years after Christ's death, Jerusalem was completely burned and the temple destroyed by Roman armies. Judah lost it's idol.] 8) Then he said to his servants [who are the apostles], The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9) Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding. [Here is where our part comes in. If it weren't for the rebellion of Israel and Judah, we the Gentiles would not have had this opportunity. Because there is a set number which must feed on the Lamb and that number was never completed under the first covenant. That is one of the hidden truths in the bible

about the feast of Passover.] 10) So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests. [Remember the parable of the wheat and the tares, they're both together. And that's exactly what he means right here. Only God will know the difference, because they all look the same when they're growing up.] 11) But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. [And remember what the wedding garment was, the righteous acts of the saints.] 12) So he said to him, 'Friend [remember he doesn't say enemy, he says friend], how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. [When you get God the Father saying to you 'what are you doing here?' Just plead ignorance.] 13) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [And this outer darkness means just to be outside of the light of God, out of His presence. And this weeping and gnashing of teeth is because they realize that they weren't part of the bride at that point. So look what God says now in summing this up.] 14) For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

This qualifying process is not about the gift of salvation, but the function of becoming the bride in the household of God. Remember what He said in the description of the bride in Prov. 31? He said "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." We have to try to excel. We have to learn to feed and clothe the family spiritually. Each and every one of us! Remember in that position, there is not going to be any male or female, it's a function. It's not about sex, but of the service of the heart. About the outgoing concern for others.

Let's look at 2 Corinthians 11. And again these are simple truths, it's a pattern. This is how we defend ourselves against the protractors. Those who try to call us evildoers and revile us in Christ. But the truth has set us free.

2 Cor 11:1-4, "Oh, that you would bear with

me in a little folly--and indeed you do bear with me. 2) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. 3) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!"

If it isn't in here, it doesn't glorify God. And if someone comes preaching another gospel, throw them out on the seat of their pants. If His words aren't what's in here, you want nothing to do with them. But only you can make that decision. Let's look at Luke 22.

Luke 22:15, "Then He said to them, With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;"

Now in Luke 22 we see a very important time in Christ's life. This is where in verse 15, He said to them "**With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.**" And He goes on to give us two of the symbols of the new covenant. The symbols are His broken body and His shed blood. Each had tremendous significance to us as the wife, but I don't have time right now to go into them. In the book of John, when it talks about this same time period, John explains that we are to do the foot washing at that time too. It is an act of humility, while at the same time, an act of renewal. And there are many lessons in that, but that's once again for another time.

In John 13, Christ said, "a new commandment He was giving to us. That we were to love one another." And He says, "by this men will recognize that you are mine if you have love one to the other." The word in the Greek for love is *agapao*. And that word means outgoing concern for others. The world thinks it means fuzzy love, feely, touchy. But it is much more than that. Now look what takes place in Luke 22 here right after all that instruction is given. Verse. 24,

Luke 22:24-26, “Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.”

Remember this is right after the Passover, the foot washing. And the word for rivalry here in the Greek means “love of strife.” Their eagerness to argue. So there they were like a couple of roosters trying to dominate each other. It’s funny watching two roosters. They keep standing up taller and taller, pushing their head up higher and higher. Sooner or later, one of them loses his balance and he loses the contest. So he continues and says,

“25) And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors.”

We are to have no sort of rulership like that in the Church. We have one Head, one Husband. There is no gift of headship. We are to let no one come between us, and our Husband. That’s what the first Eve did. If she would have stuck with her husband’s instructions, she would have never been deceived. This book is our Husband talking to us and instructing us. We need to be very familiar with it. And Christ continues,

“26) But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.”

Remember the resume of the bride? It doesn’t say in there that she had dominion over the household did it. Her authority in the household came from her service to it. And that’s so very important because that’s where she was honored. That’s where her respect came from. Not from being in charge and lording it over anybody. That’s the way of the gentile kings. As far as that goes, that’s the way it was for almost all the kings of Israel and Judah too. Let’s go to 2 Corinthians 1:24.

2 Cor 1:24, “Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.”

Here is Paul speaking. Remember, salvation is something that we all have to undertake personally to accomplish it. We have to seek salvation with

trembling and fear. Because it is something to be fearful of if we don’t receive it. And no one else can do that for us. Let’s look at 2 Corinthians 11. This is a warning to us all. We’ll read down to verse 15.

2 Cor 11:1-15, “Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly--and indeed you do bear with me. 2) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. 3) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4) For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it! 5) For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles. 6) Even though *I am* untrained in speech, yet *I am* not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things. 7) Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? 8) I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you. 9) And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. 10) As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. 11) Why? Because I do not love you? God knows! 12) But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13) For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15) Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

At that time there were many imposters going around saying that they were apostles of Christ. Remember apostle isn't a name, it's a function. All the Greek word for apostle means is "one sent out." Sent out by Christ. Verses 13-15. These deceivers tell us smooth things, "You don't have to keep the law. The Sabbath is done away with." That appeals to some senses doesn't it. But not to those of us who have the spirit of God. We know them as words of death. They're right out of Satan's mind. Let's look at 1 Corinthians 12. And we're coming to the end here pretty quick. I could talk forever, I have to have people remind me. They have to remind me to stop. But we can sum this up. Actually we don't even have to go through chapter 12. It's talking about the spiritual gifts. Here's where Christ portrays His church as a body. Actually, let's just take a minute and just read through it real quick.

1 Cor 12:12-31, "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."

That's the doctrine of oneness. That's why we can say one God. But is it only one member? No, there's a Father and a Son. So, there's a very good teaching on the doctrine of the oneness of God too, which this world does not understand.

"13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14) For in fact the body is not one member but many. [Just like the family. Look at how silly the things are that people do.] 15) If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? 16) And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? 17) If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? 18) But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. [We all receive gifts. For the building up of the body.] 19) And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*? 20) But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. 21) And the eye cannot say to the

hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22) No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23) And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty,"

Can you imagine if one of these parts that is unpresentable decided not to work anymore. The rest of the body wouldn't like that too much would it. And just think if the foot says I'm not going to let the body walk anymore. Then the foot is being stupid because it won't be able to be fed. All the parts of the body are interdependent on one another. And if they operate independently, they'll get sick and they will die. Only the head directs the parts of the body and that's Christ. He tells each and every part of the body, as He has placed them into His body, what their functions are.

"24) but our presentable *parts* have no need.

But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, 25) that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. 26) And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

[When part of the body is honored, we've all had a part to play in that. That's why we rejoice together in it. But also, if one member suffers, the whole body will suffer for it.] 27) Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 28) And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues."

Now watch what He says here. These are not orders of hierarchy or ranks. These are the original functions He provided to help build up the church. Remember the book of Acts. First he provided apostles "those sent out." Secondly, there came a need then for what is called prophets. And in the Greek, that word for prophet doesn't mean one who can foretell the future. It means "inspired speakers." So why did they have to come second?

Because by the apostles preaching so many were coming to them and wanted to know more. They couldn't contend with all the people because there weren't enough of them. So Christ gave some the ability to speak inspired words. Then came another necessary function called teachers. Teachers came in order to be able to help people learn what's in the bible. And remember, all they had at that time were the old covenant scriptures. Then, after that, came miracles. Why miracles? Because remember persecution came upon the church. The miracles that were performed helped encourage them and remind them that God was with them no matter what the persecution. Then the gift of healing. Seeing a healing, a miraculous healing, is an absolute affirmation of our faith. Then the gift of helps. Why helps? Because of so many people. The body had to work to help itself, so God gave people a gift to enhance their natural ability to be able to help the body in all kinds of things. That certainly isn't a title. Then came the boring gift of administration. Someone had to arrange Feast sites and someone had to make sure there was food for everyone to eat. And many such boring things. So I hope a lot of people get the gift of administration. And then varieties of tongues. And remember when it says that about tongues, they're talking about a known language, not gibberish. This is tongues right now (Brian would give a few sentences in English and then a translator would repeat them in the native tongue of the congregation being addressed). If I was to talk to many of you in English, you wouldn't have a clue what I was saying. I'd be like a clanging cymbal to you. Do you see how we all work together to build each other up? Look at how Paul sums this all up.

29) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?
30) Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31) But earnestly desire the best gifts [And all gifts aren't mentioned right here, they're mentioned in other places. And it surprises people what these gifts actually are.]. And yet I show you a more excellent way."

Here is an empty drum and a beat we do not dance to.

1 Cor 13:1, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

Let's look at John 13. Just a couple of scriptures. Let's really sum it up.

John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The word "love" is *agapao* in the Greek. It means outgoing concern for others. 2 John 1:4-6.

2 John 1:4-6, "I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. [Once again, not done away with.] 5) And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. 6) This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it."

Never let anyone come amongst you with another gospel and try to deceive you. The spirit of God tells us what's right and true. And because of that we can glorify God. We are a family. We are one body in Christ. We all have our parts to play. Every single one of us! Some seem like they have more honor and are more desirable, but that's not true. We must all grow to the same unity and the same stature of the fullness of Christ.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to talk to you about the hope that lies in us. Rick and I can pretty much sum it up by saying our peace we give to you.

Thank you.