

## The Truth Shall Preserve You

*Arm yourself against the darkness of the world by turning to the Light of God*

Fred R. Coulter—October 6, 2018

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! Now that the Feast of Tabernacles is over we're back in the world again, and all the darkness of Satan is coming *beginning with Halloween!* Isn't that interesting? *It is a celebration of death!* That's Satan's way:

- to kill
- to destroy
- to deceive
- to disrupt
- to be covering the whole world in lies
- to be in darkness

Remember we've read in Rev. 13 that the whole world worships Satan. He's 'the god of this world' (2-Cor. 4:4). He's always wanted to be 'God the Most High,' but he has utterly failed and will continue to fail. *His day is coming!*

However at this time as we plunge into the darkness of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, let's come to Isa. 60 and see a very interesting verse that describes the state of things just before the return of Christ.

Isaiah 60:2: "For behold, **the darkness** shall cover the earth..." *That darkness comes from Satan the devil!* God has called us out of that darkness, and God has called us out of the world so that we do not be partakers of the world.

"... and **gross darkness** the people..." (v 2). Who understands anything? Remember that *Satan likes to make people happy and enjoy their delusions, and to lead them into further darkness!*

But the things that they do, while it's happy, happy, happy, are *leading to darkness*. The best examples of that as we have seen is Walt Disney, Disneyland, Disney Productions and Universal Studios. The music that we have in the world, most of it is satanic! The movies and the television and all the things you look at. *They're all projecting Satan's way!*

There are some places where there is more truth than error, more light than darkness. But look at the struggle that they had trying to get Bret Kavanaugh confirmed. The *rulers of darkness* were exerting their utmost power, *but they failed!* In failing we can say that maybe God is giving us a little more time than we have thought.

The first half of v 2 describes the darkness and gross darkness that covers the earth. Yet, everyone is going to think this is wonderful. Then

the catastrophe hits, *the beginning of the events leading to the return of Christ!*

"...but the LORD shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you" (v 2). Then put in the whole book of Revelation.

Now let's see something concerning the commission to the Apostle Paul and his calling, what he was going to do. He was testifying before the officials there. Remember, he was on his way to Damascus and the Lord knocked him to the ground. It doesn't say whether he was on a donkey or walking, it doesn't make any difference, *he was knocked to the ground!*

Acts 26:14: "Then all of us fell to the ground; and I [Saul] heard a voice speak to me, saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the pricks.*' And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting'" (vs 14-15).

Remember that whenever you are persecuted, *it's persecution against Christ!* You have the Holy Spirit of God they come against you for what you believe and they persecute you for that. *That is persecuting Christ!*

Verse 16: Now arise, and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you *as* a minister and a witness both of what you have seen and what I shall reveal to you. **I am personally selecting you** from among the people and the Gentiles, to whom I now send you to open their eyes..." (vs 16-18). *Darkness! Gross darkness covers the earth and blinds their eyes!*

- they don't see
- they don't know
- they don't understand

Verse 18: "To open their eyes, that *they* may turn from darkness to Light..." So we see:

- darkness and Satan
- Light and God
- Truth and error

We need to arm ourselves—so that we can get through this time between now and Passover—to get rid of all the darkness of this world.

Remember last year, we started out and we spent most of the year or a good portion of the year *covering false doctrine!* Where do those come from?

*Satan the devil!* Satan likes to make the people feel good. That's why he starts out with humor. Then later it gets down into what they're trying to do now. There's a whole group over in England going through all of the ancient books of England, 300 years back, trying to find out how to conjure up demons, *because people did! and people do!*

Look at all the movies! Look at all the entertainment! *So, we need a lot of strength!* That's why we have the Word of God.

"...and from **the authority of Satan** to God..." (v 18). *You are either under the authority of Satan or God!*

In dealing in the nations of the world, God deals with them a little differently than the Church. As long as they are seeking Truth that is *really* Truth God will bless that. But if they turn, then He will cast them off. That's what God says in Jer. 18, we've covered that many times.

"...so that they may receive **remission of sins**... [that's the first approach you have to God: 'O Lord, forgive me!' *remission of sins*] ...and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified through faith in Me" (v 18). *That was the whole mission!*

Now let's see what we are to do. Let's see how *Truth is what will get us through all the darkness: Truth and Light vs. darkness and sin.*

Jer. 10 is really a very interesting chapter, because we will see *this is the chapter that talks about the Christmas tree!* Very few people realize and understand that *that is a celebration of the fall of Adam and Eve* in the Garden of Eden. That is *depicting the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil!* Look at how people think how many wonderful things they do at Christmas—all hyped up, all good—but *they're worshipping false gods* beginning with Halloween.

(wrong verse read)

Jeremiah 10:1: "Hear the word, which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel." *We can put that as a prophecy for today for all the children of Israel!*

Remember it was directed to the Jews before the destruction of Judea and Jerusalem, but it also included all of the Israelites who were already off in captivity because of their sins.

Verse 2: "Thus says the LORD..." What you think God means when he says, "Thus says the LORD... [You better pay attention!] ...'Do not learn the way of the heathen...?'" What are the ways of the heathen?

- Christmas

- Easter
- New Years
- Halloween
- conjuring up demons
- all the heathen religions

"...and do not be terrified at the signs of the heavens; for the nations are terrified at them. **For the customs of the people are vain...**" (vs 2-3). *Now think on that for a minute!*

How many people think what a wonderful thing that this is. *It's not!* Now notice, *a perfect description of a Christmas tree!* Or if you're in Egypt it would be a palm tree!

"...for one cuts a tree out of the forest with the axe, the work of the hands of the workman. They adorn it with silver and with gold..." (vs 3-4).

Isn't that true? You have tinsel, silver and gold and various other colors, and all of these decorated balls and so forth there! Very few people realize that those are all sex symbols! *Very few people realize* that when you go up with that beautiful serpentine, whatever it is they put there, and at the top they put a star, *they are signifying Satan the devil*, a fallen angel. Fallen angels are pictured as stars, as well as righteous angels.

"...they fasten it with nails and hammers, so that it will not move. They upright like the palm tree, but cannot speak. They must surely be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them; for they cannot do evil nor good, for it is not in them" (vs 4-5).

It doesn't say if you do it it's neither good nor evil, it says that this tree—which a lot of them look to is a god—cannot do good or evil *because it's a tree.*

Verse 6: "Therefore, there is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and Your name is great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of nations?..." (vs 6-7). *Don't forget, God still rules the world, although he's given it over to Satan the devil!*

"...For fear belongs to You because among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, **there is none like You**.... [wonderful indeed] ...But they are altogether foolish and animal-like; the tree is a doctrine of vanities. Silver beaten into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the goldsmith. Violet and purple are their clothing; they are all the work of skillful ones. **But the LORD is the true God...**" (vs 7-10).

Jesus said that about the Father in John 17; *the true God, the true Father, the true Christ!* So, the way we get through this period of satanic

practices and celebrations *is with the Truth of God!*

Verse 10: “But the LORD *is* the true God, **He is the living God**, and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to stand His fury. Thus you shall say to them, ‘The gods who have not made the heavens and the earth...’” (vs 10-11). *That’s all the gods of the world:*

- all their idols
- all their statues
- all their temples
- all the things that they do

You ought to see all the gold in Thailand that they put on the Buddhist Temple. Amazing! They *think* that’s the way to nirvana!

“...they shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.’... [God is going to take care of it, and we will help do it] ...**He has made the earth by His power...**” (vs 11-12).

Everything in the world! Just stop and think about everything that you can in the world. The whole planet; we’re the third planet from the sun—the exact distance it needs to be from the sun—and the moon is right there where it should be; that gives us the months and the seasons.

- all the land
- all the water
- all the oceans
- all the lakes
- all the underground water
- all the water in the clouds

**God has put it all there!** Every drop shows the perfection of the creation of God. That’s before we get to the perfection of any of the plants and any of the animals that God has made. **The greatest perfection**, which he has created, **man in God’s own image!** Think about **the stupidity** of having an idol or following any of the pagan practices!

Verse 12: “He has made the earth **by His power**; He has established the world **by His wisdom**... [everything in it] ...and has stretched out the heavens **by His judgment**. When He utters His voice, *there is* a noise of a multitude of waters in the heavens. ‘He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings with rain, and brings forth the wind **out of His treasures**’” (vs 12-13).

I saw this the other night on television. they were taking all of these statues of saints and people that used to be in churches and things like that. Since many churches are closing down this one man had a business and a hobby of taking those and refurbishing them. People come along and look at them and think that’s a wonderful thing. They make

them look just like people, you can hardly tell them from the person except that they don’t move. But think of this for a minute: when people worship those objects like that and believe that they’re serving God, notice God’s answer to it:

Verse 14: “Every man is stupid for *lack of* knowledge; every refiner is put to shame by the graven image; for his molten image is a lie, and there is no breath in them. **They are vanity, the work of delusion; in the time of their judgment they shall perish**” (vs 14-15). *Yes, indeed!* Why?

Let’s see what God says about himself to Israel. God calls to them; He calls them to repentance. This is why we have the Gospel:

- to preach repentance to God
- baptism
- receiving of the Holy Spirit
- to become a son or daughter of God

Isn’t that a greater thing then the vanities of this world? Remember what Solomon said; ‘What if you live a thousand years twice over and you die? Isn’t that vanity?’ *Yes, it is!* So, God says:

Jeremiah 3:22: “Return, O backsliding children, *and* I will heal your backslidings.’...” *When you return to God:*

- you’ve got to repent
- you’ve got to be baptized
- you have to receive the Holy Spirit

It’s not like they have in *fake* Christianity, ‘Is there anybody out there that wants to give their heart to the Lord? You out there, stand up and repeat after me. *O Lord, forgive me for my sins; I accept You as my Savior.* You are now sealed for all eternity.’ **That is a lie!** That is what Protestantism is built upon. Yes, it’s true they preach more Scriptures than the Catholics, **but if you don’t have the obedience and the love and the true God**, it’s all vanity!

“...‘Behold, we come to You; for You are the LORD our God. Truly, in vain is salvation hoped for from the high hills... [that’s where they have all of their places of worship] ...*from* the multitude of mountains. Truly, in the LORD our God *is* the salvation of Israel. The shameful thing has eaten up the labor of our fathers from our youth, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.... [everyone is afflicted by it] ...We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covers us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, **and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God**’” (vs 22-25).

That’s the simplest thing to understand.

What does God want? *He wants you to love Him with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and with all your being!* That's what God wants, and He will bless you. How do you show your love to God? Three words: ***obey My voice!*** Israel didn't do that. Here's what has to happen when you return to God;

Jeremiah 4:1: "If you will return, O Israel," says the LORD, ***'Return to Me....'*** *Think about that!* They have all this *fake* Protestantism where they have a lot of things they do with Scripture and use with Scripture, and that sounds good. They have certain things that God says he would bless them in it, but that doesn't mean they receive salvation.

When you come to Halloween it's like a curtain falls and ***darkness takes over from that time forward.*** The only light during that time and in the world is Thanksgiving which is a true day of worship of the true God Who gives everything! That's fine! There's nothing wrong with keeping Thanksgiving.

"...And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall not be removed" (v 1). He gave them a chance. He said:

- Do you want to stay in the land?
- or*
- Do you want to go into captivity?
  - What is it that you want?

***Return to Me!*** Notice how we are to return to God:

Verse 2: "And will swear, 'As the LORD lives'.... [How does God live?] ...in truth..."—***because He is the true God and He cannot lie! It's impossible for God to lie!***

This is His creation and we are part of His creation. What a fantastic thing that is! ***God has given us the blessing of knowing and understanding that we've been made a little lower than God,*** and that ***we have been created for the purpose of being born again into the Kingdom of God as the sons and daughters of God!*** Now, think of that! That wasn't given to them at that time.

"...“As the LORD lives,” in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; then the nations shall bless themselves in Him, and in Him they shall glory.’ For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, ‘Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns’” (vs 2-3)—just another way of saying ***produce good fruit!***

We're going to look at a good number of Psalms that tell us about the Truth of God, and tell us how that puts us in a right relationship with Him. We'll look at Psa. 1 and see that there's a whole lot more to this than just meets the eye when you bring many other things to focus in on it.

Psalms 1:1: "Blessed is the man... [including women] ...who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked..."

What are the things coming down with all the holidays: *the wickedness of this world*, presented in wonderful nice terms by Satan the devil to deceive people. People have a quirk; *they think if they do what they think is good*, then God ought to bless them. They take it even further, even if they're not living according to the way that God has said, they expect the blessings of God anyway!

Verse 1: "Blessed is the man... [or woman] ...who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners... [as a way of life] ...nor sit in the seat of the scornful." ***That's all they do!***

Let's just one example of great scornfulness that came about in trying to get Judge Kavanaugh confirmed. He's had seven FBI investigations and they found nothing! But the scornful say that's not enough or that was too fast. If you can't find anything, you can't find anything, why should you continue?

But the scornful want to take down the people who are trying to do good even in this society. As far as a carnal man is concerned, Judge Kavanaugh is probably more righteous in just his personal behavior than some of us who have the Spirit of God.

That being the case, he's going to be a good judge and hold back the forces of evil for a while who are trying to destroy this nation and take away the blessings that we have. But you look at that, and it's not because of him personally regardless of how good he is, ***but because God works in the kingdoms of men!*** There's much more that needs to be done. That may give a time of blessing and prosperity for a short time so that we can do more to preach the Word of God and preach the Gospel. I include in that all the Churches of God. We've all got to do like were finding here. ***Don't walk in the way of the people of the world!***

Verse 2: "But his delight is in the Law of the LORD..." The whole Bible is the Law of the LORD, not just the first five books of the Bible. It's written there, but it's also written throughout the Bible.

"...and in His Law does he meditate day and night" (v 2). What does that mean? ***You think with the Word of God!*** The Word of God is true; it is Truth. There is not one sin in anything that God has commanded us to do. ***It is all righteous!*** But the big ***IF*** falls upon us. Notice the blessings that will come:

Verse 3: "And he shall be like a tree planted

by the streams of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, and its leaf shall not wither, and all that he does shall prosper.” *That’s how it needs to be with our lives!* So, going through this dark time of the year let’s be right on top of it.

Verse 4: “The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff, which the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked shall not stand in the judgment... [regardless of how good they may look on the surface] ...nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous” (vs 4-5).

Expand that out; the biggest congregation of righteous people will be all of those who have been changed from flesh to spirit and resurrected at the first resurrection. That is the *great congregation!* What a time that’s going to be?

Verse 6: “For **the LORD knows** the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.” *He knows!* Think about this: **God is with us in our troubles and our difficulties!** He wants us to change, grow and overcome.

Psa. 19 fits right in with the Ten Commandments, the Word of God and so forth. This has meaning for the Old Testament and for the New Testament. One of the things that looking at the heavens does, *it gives us a sense of awe and worship to God Who has made all of these things* down to the finest, tiniest, little particle that there ever is. *All of it!* With that, brethren, I want you to *think about your calling!* God says He’s going to have this as **an inheritance for us with Christ!** If you get down and discouraged, think on that.

Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Day after day they pour forth speech, and night after night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard” (vs 1-3). *That’s a way of saying everyone on earth, wherever you are, you can see the heavens!*

Verse 4: “Their line has gone out through all the earth and their words to the ends of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man *set* to run a race... [of course, the sun is there every day] ...its going forth is from one end of heaven, and its circuit is to the other end. And there is nothing hidden from its heat (vs 4-6).

- they knew it was a circuit
- they knew the earth was round
- they knew that the bodies in the heavens were round

**What a fantastic thing God has made!** This earth is beyond man’s comprehension of fully understanding

how great a creation that just the earth is! Let alone the heavens. Here is what to know. *We have:*

- a God of Truth
- a God of love
- a God of goodness

*His laws are*

- good
- righteous
- Holy
- true

Verse 7: “The Law of the LORD is **perfect**...” What is the ultimate goal for us in conversion? *Perfection!*

Isn’t it necessary to have the Spirit of Truth? the true laws of God? a true relationship with God? *All of those things are necessary for us to become the sons and daughters of God!*

Verse 7: “The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

That’s why we have the whole Word of God. If you want to expand it—here we have Psa. 19—we’re going to look at some other verses in Psalm 119, which magnifies what we’re reading here.

Verse 8: “The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes.... [giving understanding] ...The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether” (vs 8-9). *Every one of them!*

Remember the judgments of the seven last plagues (Rev. 16)? What did the angels say because the plagues that God gives? **True and righteous are You, O God, to bring this!** Yes, they are true and righteous altogether.

Verse 10: “More to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned...” (vs 10-11).

That’s how the Law of God that you meditate on day and night, or that you use to direct your thoughts and your life, gives you the tremendous blessing that you are able to correct yourself. That is the whole key to self-control with God’s Spirit. *Think on that!*

“...in keeping them there is great reward.... [however, our great reward is coming at the resurrection] ...Who can understand his errors?....” (vs 11-12).

People in the world don’t know right from

wrong. If things get really bad they can see it is better not to do that. But “Who can understand his errors?...?” that he or she sins is going against God? *You don’t understand that by the natural carnal mind!*

“...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults...” (v 12). *In the prayer of repentance by David after the affair of Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite* he said that in his repentance he knew that God desired Truth in the hidden part; Truth in our mind. ***That can only come from God, the Word of God and the Spirit of God!*** That’s quite an amazing thing!

Verse 12: “Who can understand his errors? Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults; and keep back Your servant also **from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me...**” (vs 12-13). Now, that’s very interesting, ***sin rules in your life unless:***

- you have the Spirit of God
- use the Spirit of God
- keep His commandments
- keep His statutes
- keep His judgments

***All of those things that we find all together! That’s the only way you can understand your faults!***

Verse 13: “And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them rule over me; then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart... [Psalm 1] ... be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (vs 13-14).

(go to the next track)

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm of all the Psalms. It has 22 sections of 8 verses each. That’s interesting because #8 is the symbol of *a new beginning* or *renewal*. Twenty-two is the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, and this was given to all of the temple singers to memorize. As you see right at the first of each section of 8 verses, there is a Hebrew letter.

- the first section is Aleph
- the second section is Beth
- the third section is Gimel
- the fourth section Daleth

You see it all the way through. In Hebrew each one of these verses starts with this letter of the section that it is in. That must have been a tremendous Psalm to hear! Psa. 119:1 will give us an awful lot that we need to learn:

How do we keep our focus during the time of the darkness of this world and the power of Satan the devil who is controlling all of the things that we see around us. It’s an amazing thing indeed when

you stop and think about it. Notice how this ties right in with Psa. 1 and Psa. 19. We have 1,19 and 119!

Psalm 119:1: “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD.” *That’s quite tremendous!* Just think of this blessing that comes.

Verse 2: “**Blessed are they who keep His testimonies...**” *That’s why you have to study the whole Bible!* Whatever God says that is not a commandment or judgment is the testimony: ‘I say to you...’

“...and **who seek Him with the whole heart**” (v 2). *That’s very important for us today,* because we live in the age of the Laodiceans who are lukewarm and *are not seeking God with the whole heart!* Is that why so many of them were subverted when the change of doctrine came in?

Doesn’t that tie in with the first commandment: ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.’ *That’s your whole heart! Seek Him with Your whole heart!*

Verse 3: “They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.” ***IF you’re obeying God walking in His ways, you’re not sinning!*** How then can we get our mind cleansed with Truth deep in the inner part of our mind?

- through God’s Spirit
- through prayer
- through study

Verse 4: “You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently”—*zealously!*

- **diligent** means *continues*
- **zealous** means with purpose
  - ✓ with zeal
  - ✓ with enthusiasm
  - ✓ with joy

After the first four verses then he looked at himself and said, ‘I’ve got a lot to work on.’

Verse 5: “O that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed when I have respect unto **all** Your commandments... [quite a thing; full circle] ...I will praise You with uprightness of heart when I have learned...” (vs 5-7).

Sidebar: Another interesting here in Psalm 119: You I want to go through and circle every ‘I’; this is a proper use of ‘I’ and there are 135 ‘I.’ in the whole Psalm. Think of that, the right use of ‘I.’ This is not vanity, because this is like one long miraculous prayer to God!

“...when I have learned Your righteous judgments. I

will keep Your statutes; O **forsake me not** utterly” (vs 7-8)—*showing repentance!* ‘Don’t leave me to myself, O God!’

Verse 9: “With what shall a young man... [any person young or old] ...cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word.”

What did Jesus say about the Word of God? **Your Word is the Truth!** He also said, ‘**Sanctify them**’—that is **make them Holy through your Truth!**

Amazing how the Bible fits together so wonderfully! This is why we study! This is why we grow and overcome, and we repeat and go through things so we learn, so becomes part of us.

Verse 10: “With all my heart I have sought You; O let me not wander from Your commandments. Your Word I have laid up in my heart, so that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes” (vs 10-12)—*teach me your way, O LORD.*

- How much does God know? Everything there is to know in the whole universe!
- How much do we have to learn?

*We can learn a lot in this physical life, but were going to learn so much more after the resurrection that it’s going to make this life with all the things that we have done in it like it kindergarten!*

Verse 12: “Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes.”

John 6:45: “It is written in the prophets, ‘And **they shall all be taught by God.**’...” How are we taught of God?

- with His Word
  - through His Spirit
  - through loving God
  - through exercising the things of God
- that he’s given to us*
- so we can grow and overcome
  - so we can draw near to Him

Psalms 119:13: “With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches” (vs 13-14). *If we can focus on this and keep this right in the forefront of our mind:*

- how great is God
  - how great is Jesus Christ
- how great are*
- His laws
  - His commandments
  - His way
  - His Spirit

- His Truth
- His righteousness
- His goodness

***This will keep us and get us through the dark tunnel of all the things of the darkness of this world that’s coming, beginning with Halloween!***

Verse 14: “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies as much as in all riches. I will meditate upon Your precepts and have respect to Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word” (vs 14-16)—*tie in Psalms 1, Blessed is the man meditates in the Law of the LORD night and day!*

Right there *fulfillments!* This is how the Word of God is; you can take one section of it and it tells us something that you go to other parts of it and it expands and it gives us all the details we need to know.

Verse 17: “Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your Word.”

Now, v 18 is key; this is wonderful for study and keep in mind, because ‘the Word of God which is Spirit and Life,’ that’s what Jesus said. Then we learn and we learn and we can go over things and we can learn more every time we go over them again. That’s why there is repetition that’s why there is going through things every year with the Holy Days and every week with the Sabbath. If you think about it, the human mind needs the seventh day to be renewed every week. Here is why you study:

Verse 18: “**Open my eyes so that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Law.**” *That’s what we want to do with the Word of God!*

Psalms 50:1: “The mighty God, God, the LORD, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shined forth. Our God shall come...” (vs 1-3). *Very important! That is the return of Christ spiritually!*

“...and He shall not keep silent... [look what He’s going to do. His is coming is known] ... a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, so that He may judge His people” (vs 3-4). *That includes Judah and Israel, and all the nations of the world; that includes the Church!*

Verse 5: “**Gather My saints unto Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.**”

Stop and think: #5 is the number of *grace*. We receive salvation through grace; ‘*by grace have you been saved*, and this not of yourself but by the

power of God.’

“Gather My saints...”—*that’s the resurrection!* We made a covenant with God, *the covenant of baptism*, and in the covenant of baptism there are two things that are working as we covered (Rom. 6). Christ’s sacrifice and then our burial, immersed underwater, ***full immersion of water because that symbolizes death and burial!*** It also symbolizes your commitment to God; that if you don’t carry out your part of the covenant that you will likewise die. However, when we’re baptized we were conjoined to the sacrifice of Christ. We covered #5, which is *grace*.

- What is the number of this Psalm? *50!*
- What day is the day of resurrection?  
*Pentecost, the 50<sup>th</sup> day!*

So here, right in this Psalm, there’s a wonderful thing that God reveals to us out of His Word, because we study and re-study and go over it.

Now let’s look at some verses concerning the Truth of God. You can go to through all these in Psa. 119 and look at them all. O how I love Your Law, keep Your commandments and all of that.

Psalm 119:140: “Your Word is very pure; therefore, Your servant loves it.”

Notice what happens when you understand the greatness of God. This helps you so you’re not lifted up in vanity and the carnality of human nature notice his attitude:

Verse 141: “I am small and despised, yet, I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Law is the Truth: (vs 141-142).

You want to know why fake Christianity doesn’t understand? *They have thrown the Law of God behind their backs! They’ve gotten rid of Truth!* We’ll see how that is manifested in Christ Who was called in the Gospel of John *The Word!*

Verse 151: “You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are Truth.” *With the deception that’s going on in the world with the holidays are coming up, we need to stick with the Truth:*

- God’s Truth
- God’s love
- God’s commandments
- God’s Spirit
- God’s judgments

*All of those together!*

- Your Law is the Truth
- Your commandments are Truth

Verse 160: “**Your Word is true from the beginning**, and every one of Your righteous

ordinances endures forever.” *That’s amazing! All your precepts are true from the beginning!*

Now let’s come back and look at some other Psalms and some things that are important for us to realize.

Psalm 25 is focusing in on Truth. The best way to keep from being deceived is to understand the Truth. This is a quite a Psalm; there’s a lot of it so let’s see what we can learn from it.

Psalm 25:1: “To You, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; do not let me be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me.... [we need that] ...Yea, let none who wait on You be ashamed; let them be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths” (vs 1-4). *We’re to walk in the way of the Lord! The one who loves God is obligating himself to walk even as He—Jesus Christ—walked* (1-John 2).

Verse 5: “Lead me in Your Truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You do I wait all the day long.”

Quite a wonderful thing when you think about how ***the Truth of God is for us, and the Spirit of Truth is in us. God the Father and Jesus Christ have placed Their Spirit within us!*** That’s a fantastic and marvelous thing! This is why we always need to learn from the Psalms and learn from the Word of God. And with the Spirit of God to do the Truth the way that God wants.

Verse 6: “Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they have been of old.” *Always that’s the way God is for those who love Him!* Another thing to understand is that ***fake Christianity*** is absolutely misguided in saying that ‘God’s love is unconditional.’ *That is not true! It is conditional!*

His love is everlasting! But God is going to destroy all the sinners, who don’t repent, in the Lake of Fire That’s part of God’s love for His Family for the rest of eternity, that we don’t live in sin!

Verse 7: “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your loving kindness remember me for Your goodness sake, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will teach sinners in the way.... [the way of the Lord] ...The meek He will guide in judgment; and the meek He will teach His way” (vs 7-9). All the way through:

- God is teaching
- God is leading
- God is giving to us

*But we have to respond to God!* He made us in a



way that we can, and that's the great and wonderful part of it!

Verse 10: "**All the paths of the LORD are mercy and Truth...** [that's what we need] ...to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies."

- not to the sinner
- not to those who are presumptuous *fake* Christian

They mean well; they'll probably be in the second resurrection. But as far as salvation for the first resurrection at the return of Christ that's a whole other story!

I really like Psalm 85, and it helps us to see some of the beauty in the poetry and the wonderful things of God.

Psalm 85:7: "Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.... [mercy and Truth] ...I will hear what God the LORD will speak..." (vs 7-8). *When you read the Bible you're hearing what God will speak to you!*

"...for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints, but let them not turn again to folly.... [go back in a way the world] ...Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land. **Mercy and Truth** have met together..." (vs 8-10). *That's what we need!*

Mercy and Truth will be another interesting study you could do; that's what is the whole Bible is about:

- Truth of God
- forgiveness is sin
- mercy to grow and overcome
- the Truth of God to lead us in every way

"...righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (v 10). *That's going to be a wonderful thing in New Jerusalem beginning with the first resurrection and the thousand years, and on in the New Jerusalem! That's to be something!*

Verse 11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth..." You can take that and you can magnify that many different ways.

On the walls of our meeting hall, we have likes pictures in color of magnified sand. It shows that is glory *in sand!* Think of that!

So, when it says "...Truth shall spring out of the earth..." *there's Truth looking at that!* If God gives I kind of glory to sand, what is He going to give to His saints? What kind of glory and beauty will that be?

Verse 11: "Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from

heaven. Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps" (vs 11-13).

We're going to emphasize the Truth, because that's what's going to carry us through all of these difficult times that were going to be facing. Psalm 91 is a Psalm of protection for us in times of trouble.

Psalm 91:1: "He who dwells in **the secret place of the Most High**..."—*that's us with His Spirit!* The world doesn't know that! The world doesn't know that God watches over us.

"...shall abide **under the shadow of the Almighty**.... [the world never sees the shadow] ...I will say of the LORD, '**He is my refuge and my fortress**, my God, in Whom I will trust.' Surely He will deliver you from the fowler's trap and from the destroying pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. **His Truth** shall be your shield and buckler" (vs 1-4).

- keep you from sinning
- keep you doing the will of God
- keep you living God's way
- keep you doing the things of God

***His Truth!*** *We're going to focus on the Truth!*

That covers all the all that we want to cover in the Psalms for the time being. Let's come to the Gospel of John. {note sermon series: *Gospel of John*} I should probably do another one now; that's a long time ago, but I covered quite a few things that it went through the *King James* to show some of the things that it was actually teaching, which most people would understand what it was doing and we do. It took 52 sessions to go through the gospel of John with subtitles like *justification, grace, mercy and forgiveness*.

It seems as simple as these verses are to understand a carnal mind will mess them up and twist them, and change everything.

John 1:1: "In *the* beginning was **the Word**..."—Your Word is the Truth!

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am **the Way**, and **the Truth**, and **the Life**...' "***The Word of God!***

John 1:1: "...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... [nothing can be more plain and simple than that] ...He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him. In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men" (vs 1-4).

Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world' (John 8). That is to bring the Truth of God in a world of darkness; *the Light!*

Verse 5: "And the Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness does not comprehend it." *If you're living in darkness you can understand:*

- the Word being Christ
- the Word being the Word of God
- the Word being the Gospel

Then it talks about John the Baptist and so forth; he was not the Light.

Verse 9: "The True Light... [that's Christ] ...was that which enlightens everyone who comes into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, but the world did not know Him" (vs 9-10).

That's an astounding thing, that God created the world and the world doesn't know anything about Him. That's true because of Satan the devil and because of the sin of Adam and Eve that cut men off from God.

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way **death passed into all mankind**; and it is for this reason that all have sinned"—*therefore, we are creatures of sin! All sin because of that nature of death!*

Sidebar: You need to understand that because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that the Gospels tell us all about—and were going to go through that in-depth leading up to the Passover—we need to understand the Truth of God even more. This whole Gospel of John talks about the Truth, righteousness and mercy.

Verse 11: "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him; but as many as received Him... [through repentance, baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit] ...**to them He gave authority to become the children of God**, even to those who believe in His name; who were not begotten by bloodlines... [doesn't matter who you are] ...nor by the will of the flesh, nor by the will of man, but by the will of God" (vs 11-13).

This means that when you receive the Holy Spirit of God *it's by the will of God!* Do you understand that? We need to take that:

- as a treasure
  - as a blessing
  - as a responsibility
- so that we grow in*
- grace
  - knowledge

- love
- understanding

*in these things, and let's do that during this dark time that besets the world!*

Verse 14: "And the Word became flesh... [we've covered that in great detail] ...and tabernacled among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the glory **as of the only begotten** with the Father*), full of **grace and Truth.**"

Grace and Truth is the equivalent of mercy and Truth in the Old Testament. He had to be full of grace and Truth to carry human nature in His physical body and never sin. *Think of that!*

Verse 16: "And of His fullness we... [the apostles and all the early converts] ...have all received, and grace upon grace." Note sermon series on:

- *Grace of God in the Bible*
- *God's Grace and Commandment-Keeping*
- *Grace Upon Grace*

How can you have grace upon grace? *Continuously with God to have direct access to God the Father in heaven above!* That's a fantastic grace above and beyond the grace that we have for the mercy and forgiveness of sin.

- the grace that we have that God will put our sins from us
- the grace that we have to understand the Word of God

This is *grace upon grace upon grace* and that is direct access to God the Father in heaven above. Jesus said that when you pray say, 'Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be **Your** name. **Your** Kingdom come; **Your** will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

That is an amazing thing! There's a hymn we sing every once in a while called Amazing Grace, and it really is. When you stop and think about the whole world given over to Satan the devil and those that God has called to have:

- the Spirit of God
- the love of God
- the blessing of God

*and we're headed toward eternal life!* Absolutely amazing! *We've all received grace upon grace!*

Now let's see some more about the grace of God. Go through and study on your own whole Gospel of John. This is an amazing Gospel, layered in stacked with:

- Truth upon Truth
- grace upon grace

- love upon love
- Truth and Light

**and Holiness that comes from God!**

John 4:21 tells us how we need to approach God. We know that God has the seven Spirits of God, which are the seven eyes of God that go through the whole earth seeking those who are seeking Him. Yes, God is seeking people that he can call, and He leaves it up to us to answer the call, and we have to follow through with that. A lot of people come part way then go back; very few come all the way to God unto repentance and baptism the way that they should, and then from there grow in grace and knowledge—grace upon grace upon grace—in order to develop the character and mind of Christ, so that at the resurrection we can be resurrected as the sons and daughters of God!

John 4:21: “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you shall neither in this mountain... [in Samaria] ...nor in Jerusalem worship the Father. You do not know what you worship...’” (vs 21-22)—*because they had the false gods! People in the world don’t know what they worship!*

“...We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.” (v 22). The first one was Jesus Christ, and then all of the apostles. They were not Jews by the fact that they were of the bloodline of Judah. They were Jews because they lived in the area that God gave to the Jews. Therefore, regardless of which tribe of Israel they came from they were called, generically, *Jews*.

We know Paul came from the tribe of Benjamin. But in Judaism he was exceedingly above that of all of the ones of his contemporaries (Gal. 1).

Verse 23: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers... [He just covered the *false worshipers*] ... shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth; for the Father is indeed seeking... [with the seven Spirits of God] ... those who worship Him in this manner.”

- you don’t need a building
- you don’t need a statue
- you don’t need an idol
- you don’t need rosaries

**you need**

- repentance
- mercy
- the grace of God
- truth from the heart
- to worship Him with all your heart, mind, soul and being

Verse 24: “God is Spirit, and **those who**

**worship Him must...** [*obligated* to worship Him in this manner] ...**worship in Spirit and in Truth.**”  
*That’s what we need to do!*

- this is how we get through these dark times
- this is how we don’t become captive to anything in the world
- this is how we don’t become captive to the schemes of Satan the devil

**It is:**

- **the Truth, the Truth, the Truth**
- **mercy**
- **forgiveness**
- **grace**
- **righteous**

**That’s how we can overcome these things!**

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 60:2
- 2) Acts 26:14-18
- 3) Jeremiah 10:1-15
- 4) Jeremiah 3:22-25
- 5) Jeremiah 4:1-3
- 6) Psalm 1:1-6
- 7) Psalm 19:1-14
- 8) Psalm 119:1-12
- 9) John 6:45
- 10) Psalm 119:13-18
- 11) Psalm 50:1-5
- 12) Psalm 119:140-142, 151, 160
- 13) Psalm 25:1-10
- 14) Psalm 85:1-13
- 15) Psalm 91:1-4
- 16) John 1:1
- 17) John 14:6
- 18) John 1:1-5, 9-10
- 19) Romans 5:12
- 20) John 1:11-14, 16
- 21) John 4:21-24

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 13
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Jeremiah 18
- John 17
- Revelation 16
- Romans 6
- 1 John 2
- John 8
- Galatians 1

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

- *Gospel of John*
- *Grace of God in the Bible*
- *God’s Grace and Commandment-Keeping*
- *Grace Upon Grace*

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