

Notes from the Series “**Name Above All Names**” by Pastor Colton Clay edited by Martha Chalupa. *This is still a work in progress. Peace be with you, Colton*

Introduction

This message series comprises a foundational teaching that should constitute the first seeds from which all faith will later grow. It is intended to provide a solid foundation for further studies within the field of Christian theology. It is also designed to promote personal growth. Be careful not to forget that all good theology (*belief*) produces good praxeology (*action/practice*). If followed, it will (I believe) keep your eyes fixed on Christ. There are several areas of study within the vast body of Christ, appealing topics which can be both intellectually stimulating as well as beneficial for our lives. However, it is to the detriment of our faith and a great hindrance to spiritual growth, when as a child of the faith our attention and desire is for anything other than our first love. It is my intention that this study plan lay a foundation in Christ Jesus our Lord, so that Christ may be the heart of all your thinking, that Christ may always be the center of your study, and that Christ may be the one who receives your life’s true devotion. Always remember, Jesus is not a subject, Jesus is real and He loves us and we love Him. Love Him with true love and affection, feel this as you would feel and express love toward any physical person. This is our faith, that we have been born again by the true Living Spirit. That is why we can say ‘Father’; that is why we are to Christ, truly a bride in waiting. So long as this true love is within you, He will lead you into truth. I can testify to this in my own life. It is my prayer that I may help you build that strong foundation in Christ- centered theology; something I myself had to struggle to find.

The First Stone which must be set in place. ‘The Stone the builders rejected.’

Do you know the song, ‘Jesus Loves Me’? It goes like this. “Jesus loves me this I know, cause the Bible tells me so!” This song contains two of the most important truths you will ever hear. One, Jesus loves you!

Two, you can know this is true because the Bible says so and the Bible can be trusted.

Have you ever read the Bible and as a result, something you once believed was changed? Yes...*if you are a Christian this has surely happened*. Just as labor pains are natural in childbirth, so too is repentance, a change of heart and turning from our former way of life. This is part of our birth into the family of God. For many, this teaching may result in a change of thought. Hopefully, for all, it will shed new light on the Bible.

Before we go any further, I want to briefly speak of the Bible. The Bible is truly the pinnacle of all the words which have ever been spoken. It is a gift from God, chosen by Him to remain the source of teaching and revelation within His body the Church. It is with Bible in hand that the Holy Spirit teaches us about Christ and reveals God to us. While it is not worshiped, it is honored and should be given the place of highest authority in our lives. It overrules any denomination, any preaching, teaching, pastor, priest or philosophy. The Bible, rightly discerned by those who honor Christ, maintaining His superiority in all things, being careful to honor Him and not themselves, remains our authority for all times. I agree and affirm the words of Paul in my own ministry.

Galatians 1:8, *“if we (I) or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!”*

The Word of God

When you hear the term, ‘*the word of God*’, what comes to mind? For most people, the Bible would come to mind. That is not surprising, neither is it hard to understand. Christians are taught that the Bible is the word of God. It is true that the Bible is ‘God breathed’; it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and every word was ordained by God. I believe this, and it is because I believe this, that when asked about the ‘word of God’, I must profess that Jesus is the Word of God. This I believe because the Bible told me so, and I believe the Bible!

John 1:1, *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God*

created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

John 1:14, *“So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”*

If we have been in agreement concerning the Bible, as both true and the foundation of Christian teaching, we must now agree that the ‘Word of God’ is Christ Jesus, as taught to us by the gospel of John.

It is tempting at this point to consider this something of a trick question, like asking who wrote the letter of Romans? The common answer would be Paul. But the correct answer to that question, who wrote the letter, is Tertius. Romans 16:22, *“I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.”* Obviously this is simply a trick question for fun. Tertius was a scribe who penned the words for the Apostle Paul, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit as he spoke. Knowing the name of Paul’s scribe does not change how we read the letter of Romans. However, this statement in John 1:1, that “Christ is the Word of God who became flesh and lived among us”, should change how we read the Bible. The fact that Jesus was and is the Logos of God, the mind, the consciousness, the Word, the formulation of thought of God the Father, changes everything! So, be mindful of how you hear and careful to note that this is not semantics. We are not squabbling over words. This statement from John says this is who God is! That is very important, and it is Good News!

Narrow Road

One would hope and think that the impact of this truth, that Jesus is the living display of God, and therefore the only pure revelation of God to humanity, would be a common foundational thought in Christianity. However, this is not the case. It is not that this is denied, all teaching

deemed to be Christian affirms John 1 and affirms that Christ is God. But that does not mean this affirmation transforms their belief system. There is a false hermeneutic* prevalent within Christianity that often does well interpreting the New Testament, but upon interpreting the entire Bible, they read the Old Testament much the same way as the teachers of the law who rejected Jesus the Messiah. This has produced a bipolar, irreconcilable view of God. And as a result of not holding fast to Christ, the firm foundation giving birth to a church, looks more like the temple religion of the Bible than the one founded on the Rock of Christ Jesus.

When the Bible says in John 1:1, *“The Word was God, the Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son”*, it is declaring that Christ imparts an understanding of God unlike anything before or since. Therefore, this impartation, this revelation, this manifest display of God Himself, becomes the one foundation upon which everything else must be interpreted. Everything! What came before and what comes after, all understanding of God must begin and stay consistent with Jesus because Jesus is God! This is the Good News about God revealed in Christ Jesus and this is what the Old Testament prophets longed to see. Living on the other side of this monumental event grants us a new light to shine upon the Word and see God as He truly is.

**Hermeneutic: The methodology of text interpretation, especially the interpretation of biblical texts, wisdom literature, and philosophical texts. It simply means the methods we use to understand what we are reading or hearing. We apply some form of hermeneutic even when we are not aware of it.*

Confirmed by the Word

Ephesians 2:19-21, *“so now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are His house, built on the*

foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a Holy Temple for the Lord.”

A Cornerstone: the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure; an important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends or is based; the first piece upon which the entire house will be built.

It is important to note that in the Old Testament, all references to the cornerstone speak of it in terms of a future event. This meant that the cornerstone was not something already present within the scripture, neither was this foundation, upon which everything would be built, already a part of their understanding. It was still to come. And once this foundational rock had been laid, it would become the plumb line, a tool of reference requiring uniformity to a set point.

Isaiah 28:16-17, “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line;”

Psalm 118:22- 23, “the stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.”

Christ the Cornerstone

Matthew 21:33-45, “Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same. Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate.

Come on, let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him. ‘When the owner of the vineyard returns,’ Jesus asked, ‘what do you think he will do to those farmers? The religious leaders replied, ‘He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.’ Then Jesus asked them, ‘Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? “‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’

‘I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.’ When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers.”

Why was the Kingdom being taken away? Because they rejected the foundation stone of Christ, they held blindly to their traditions. They had formulated an understanding of the scripture and of God that blinded them to the loving beauty of God in Christ. In fact, it had so blinded them, that when presented with the truth of who God truly was, their response was anger and the desire to kill Him. Even having been given the revelation of God, they failed to see Him and therefore did not see the Father in Christ. They believed that God loved them and not others. They believed that God should bless them and not others. They could not conceive of the true God of Jubilee! They despised anyone that was different and did not weep over the pain and suffering of sin. Like Jonah, they did not long for the lost nations to see the light. They looked forward to a day when they believed they would be destroyed, they even rejoiced in the hope of it. Not only did they believe these things, but they formulated an image of God who agreed with of all this. Before we rush to judgement, consider Christianity today! Do we weep over the lost nations, void of the gospel, infected with the heresy

of Islam? Do we long to see salvation come to all people? When we see the masses of blind people deceived by the principalities of this world, what do we think? What is being taught from pulpits across the west? When the starving alien is found in our midst, do we care for them, or do we pull back in fear, as if God is not able to bless us so abundantly that both our children and the alien are blessed? In church after church people cling to a Bible they believe is inspired by God, while living in fear that what they have will be taken, people who claim He is their God, while they trust in the ways of man and the weapons formed by his hand.

Psalm 20:6-7, "I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God." If they could only see and understand that God is far beyond them. John 1:3, "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being." Hebrews 1:8-12

(paraphrased), "Your throne is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. It was He who in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of His hands; they will perish, but you remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle you will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not come to an end." This all speaks of the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made. What image have we formed of Him? What fruit comes from our life and teaching, having called upon Him and claimed Him as our God? Does it reflect the true God, or something closer to the God of the Temple in Israel who rejected Christ? Philippians 2:6-8, "Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to cling to, but

emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross." He left behind what was rightfully His for the sake of others. He loved, He healed, He forgave! He did not push people away, He expanded the tent and said 'come in!' He made a way for all people of every tribe and nation to come and be born into the family of God. This God was not afraid to enter the home of sinners, because He knew He was mighty enough to save! He was not weak, He did not need to destroy them, He came to transform them! He did not worry about how much He had or what others might take, because He had not changed, He was still Jehovah Jireh, God who provides! He did not long for the past while cursing the present, He shined like the light of the morning sun and turned darkness into light. Jesus was and Jesus is a mighty God! Filled with love and mercy! John 3:17, "Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." He is Good! And His message is Good News to the Jew first and to the Gentile! I say this with a broken heart. There are many today with Bible in hand, preaching a god who is not like Christ. They repeat the same offense. For them He has become 'a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.' Their heart is hard to the beauty that was Christ. Even when they speak of Him, they do not see that Christ and the Father are ONE! This false doctrine becomes the snare of destruction that blinds them to the Glory of God.

Do you picture the Father to be different from the Son? If so hear the Good News of God! John 5:16-18, "So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, 'My Father is always working, and so am I.' So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill Him. For He not only broke the Sabbath, He called God His Father, thereby making Himself equal with God" Jesus goes on to speak to them about His work, the salvation offered, and of course who He is. Picking back up in

John 5:37-40, “*And the Father who sent me has testified about me Himself. You have never heard His voice or seen Him face to face, and you do not have His message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one He sent to you. You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.*”

Have you read them? Notice, here Christ is affirming God in the Old Testament and declaring Himself to be this same God. However, just as so many do today, they had formulated a conception of God which was at odds with the person of Christ.

Even His own disciples would at times find it difficult to believe that all of who Christ was and is, is all of who the Father is.

John 14:8-10, “***Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show Him to you? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does His work through me.*”**

This uncertainty and searching would not last. Jesus sent them the Spirit of truth and the disciples understood that Christ was God, manifest in the flesh! Having received the Spirit of truth and therefore being spiritually united with God in Christ, they understood the word through the light and lens of Christ. Unlike the teachers of the Law, they started with Jesus, the foundation stone. *Matthew 13:52*

“*is the image of the invisible God,*” Knowing that “*in Him all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*” “*They searched the scriptures and brought out of the storeroom new treasures as well as old*”

By the power of the Holy Spirit they proclaimed the true gospel before the highest religious body of their day!

Acts 4:10-11, “*let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For*

Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘and the stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”

Who is the true God? He is not looking down on the lost with contempt. He is the one who “chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are.” He found these lowly people, those the temple and even the church today seldom seeks out, and He, out of love, spent time with them! These men ‘*were unschooled, ordinary men*’. He walked with them, loved them, trained them, corrected them and gave His life for them. He molded them on the potter’s wheel into vessels of honor, Men of God! Upon seeing this, the religious leaders in Acts 4:13, “*were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*” *This is God. He is an all-consuming fire and no one can walk with Him without being changed. The rock will crush or the rock will break! Gospel preaching is not weak. This is not mixed wine; it is not a lullaby that rocks the blind to sleep. It calls us all to account, it brings life to the soul, salvation to the lost, piercing the darkness with unquenchable light. With all power and authority, the gates of hell stand no chance against it. Upon hearing of this power one may wonder, where is this? The church may get excited by the words, but one would be hard pressed to see the effect. This may appear to be the case, but I do not believe it to be so. There is something lacking, something of utmost importance. It is the preaching of the Word, the proclamation of all honor, glory and power to Christ! He is dimmed by false teaching. Man finds a way to replace the truth that honors God alone, and slips in lies that bring honor to man. But no flesh shall glory before God. God was pleased with His Son, not the works of man, his foolish devise, empty philosophies and arguments which set themselves up next to Christ. The Gospel is Jesus! Gospel preaching and teaching is that which honors God and God alone! Like Israel of old, they honor Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him. They preach the traditions of men, those who would oppose sound preaching, that long to sit in high places and be honored by man. So, they preach a message of half-truths, quoting scripture to maintain a likeness of the*

church, but deny the power of God in Christ Jesus. They begin in Christ, but soon attribute power, works and authority that belong to Him alone, as the works of their hands, hearts that long for the temporary praise and passions of this world, churches reflecting the world they are in and not the world beyond! Before you misunderstand my words, I want to return to the foundation stone.

Can we be both Holy and filled with unfailing love? Can righteousness walk hand and hand with unending mercy? Can God be establishing a justice when He dips His cup in a well of forgiveness that runs dry? The answer is not only yes, but when we see the truth revealed by Christ upon the cross, the true 'Holy other than' of this world. We understand that not only do these things walk together, they cannot be separated! The blindness of this world will never see that Mercy is Holiness. The way of the cross pleased the Father! At the cross of Calvary, God showed us who He was. The sight of this becomes clear for those who accept the truth. This world is completely blind and accepts all that is contrary to God. The 'doctrine man' does not truly accept the complete blindness of this world, he merely believes that it is near sighted, so the cross becomes foolishness! Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 1:21-25, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

In Church, the preaching of Jesus is the hope of salvation and the way of the cross is the narrow road that leads to life. We must preach that

Word, we must believe that Word, we must see that the Word, Christ lifted up before us, is everything! By the grace of God, we shall, as in Jude 1:3 **"contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people"**. 2Timothy 4: 2, "preaching Christ in season and out, when praised or cursed, in abundance and suffering!" We must because there is no other Salvation!

Back to Isaiah 28:16, "Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.'"

1 Peter 2:4, "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for."

The foundation of saving faith is Jesus Christ.

How do we know the true Christ? This brings us back to the Bible. Ephesians 2:22, "Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself." The foundation of the apostles was Christ Jesus, their corner stone. The foundation of salvation is Jesus Christ Himself.

And the truth comes to us in this order:

1 Timothy 3:15, "(We need to) know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the

nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.”

The pillar and foundation of the truth begins where? In **Christ**.

And Christ has come to us by the message of **the Apostles**.

2 Peter 1:16-21, “For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw His majestic splendor with our own eyes when He received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to Him, ‘This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.’ We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”

They witnessed Him and in so doing they witnessed the fulfillment of prophecy and therefore knew that what He said was true.

They knew that the scriptures, at that time referring to Old Testament text believed on by the people of Israel, were true and therefore what had not come to pass, would, because the words given were given by the inspiration of God.

Therefore, if you believe these are the inspired words of God, they are from beginning to end, testifying of Christ, and the cornerstone of truth. And the pillar upon which that truth and understanding must be built is Jesus Christ, the cornerstone proclaimed by the Apostles. And by believing, you become part of the house, part of the body, part of Christ.

John 17:18-21, “Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. I am praying not only for these disciples but

also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”

The Bible is the testimony of the Word, Logos of God, Jesus Christ, the foundation of the testimony. Meaning, the truth, upon which the true understanding is built upon, is Jesus Christ.

As I said, this is not purely semantics, an argument over words.

Return to Acts 4:8-11, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of our people, are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘the stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”

He is speaking to people of the Old Testament. People who had with piety called upon the name of Yahweh, but rejected their Messiah, because they were blind to see Christ the servant in the Word. Now look at Acts 4: 12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

This is important on two fronts.

First, while I reside in the same ‘part of the house’ as so many of those who make this error, I must say one of the greatest dangers today among people who sincerely believe that they are Bible believing Christians, **is an approach which claims to honor the Bible while it ignores what it says**. All around there are professions, many even backed with various verses of scripture, *improperly applied*, but scripture used to present the Christian faith as something not reconcilable with the way and life of Jesus.

Anything that cannot be reconciled or is not in harmony with the WAY, the NAME, Jesus Christ revealed in the flesh and

proclaimed by the apostles, is a false Gospel and in the words of Paul, NO GOSPEL AT ALL!

Galatians 1:3-7, “*May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave His life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.*”

There Is Only One Good News

Today there are many forms of ‘Christianity’. These false ‘gospels’ teach the Bible in such a manner that gives very little attention to the foundation of all things, still framing the Old Testament in the same light as Israel did, when Jesus made clear to them that they were misunderstanding it because they did not have HIM. They were unable to see God calling out as it says in Isaiah 30:18, “*the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, He will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him*”

Can you hear Jesus? Listen to Him speak to the temple system again in Matthew 23:37, “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing*”

But! In the Old Testament, God also speaks of impending judgement and so does Jesus. In the next statement he says in Matthew 23:38, “*Look, your house is left to you desolate.*” This is also fulfillment of Isaiah 54:1, “*‘Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,’ says the LORD.*”

This word is confirmed in Galatians 4:25-31, instructing us in one very important and overlooked way concerning identity. “*Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written: ‘Be glad,*

barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.’ Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh, persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? ‘Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.’ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.”

Israel is the wife of God. Ezekiel 16:8, “*Now when I passed by you, and looked upon you, behold, your time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over you, and covered your nakedness: yea, I swore unto you, and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord Jehovah, and you became mine.*” Jeremiah 31:32, “*Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was a husband unto them, says the Lord.*”

How does this relate to Christ?

Ephesians 5:31:32, “*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*”

*If you cannot see Jesus in it, **not just overlaying to typology every part of the Old Testament, but seeing the same “I AM” of Genesis, who was revealed without covering in Christ,** then you have not understood it correctly.*

So when you are preaching or listening to someone proclaiming something, no matter how many scripture verses they use, or how good they sound, is it plumb with the foundation?

1 Corinthians 3:11, “*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” While the Old Testament preceded the New chronologically, the revelation required to unfold the Old is hidden until the coming of Christ.

This is why Christians begin with Jesus the foundations of faith and proceed from there when building our understanding of God. We live in the Glorious time that the Old Testament prophets longed to look into.

*1 Peter 1:10-12, “Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. **Even angels long to look into these things.**”*

I proclaim with the Apostle Paul, one of those who brought us the foundation. Galatians 1:8-10, “*Let God’s curse fall on anyone, **including us** or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.*”

Think for a moment of this glorious and so ‘HOLY OTHER’ message. People say, ‘Believe in God, God’s Word, by which they mean the Bible, and we are encouraged to go to church.’

In so many ways Christ is a part of the story. In His name you pray for forgiveness. He is the one you call upon for healing.

But in practice, so much is mixed by those who on one side build most of their religion upon the Old Testament and the rest on Paul.

The name of Jesus is brought to us by the apostle who witnessed Him, His life, His love, His way of serving, His way of the cross.

This way, this life, this mind, is ‘Holy Other’, not like this world.

Can you see that?

This Way is the Word of God in the flesh. This is Christ, ‘Holy Other’, unlike this world, and God is ordering this universe according to Him. When so many followers left Him in John 6, they did so because He instructed them to partake of His flesh, something that their present understanding of God’s way forbade them to do. After this in John 6:67-69, “*Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, ‘Are you also going to leave?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.’”*

Grammatical Historical Hermeneutics is the foundational method of interpretation shared by evangelicals. One foundational principle of this system is that we must attempt, to the best of our ability, to understand the original intended meaning of the writer. This requires a two-fold consideration, first the writer, followed by the recipients of the writing. This is important and does not overlook the work of God. It simply acknowledges that

God has chosen, by His divine will and providence, to reveal Himself. By the Spirit, the writers of Hebrews give us this instruction. *Hebrews 1:1, “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe.”*

Isaiah 32, “Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammers will hasten to speak distinctly. The Spirit is poured upon us from on high, justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”

The Bible, is a collection of writings *inspired by the Holy Spirit*. Each book (there are 66) was written by the unction of the Spirit.

2Peter 1:21 *“The prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”* Therefore, it would be proper to say, this is **God’s Word**. However, while it is true that the Holy Spirit *‘inspired’* the entire Bible, scripture was given according to an unfolding revelation.

‘The same Spirit wrote Genesis, as Matthew.’ This concept has been misleading.

So now that we are in agreement that we are people who believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit, I will ask again. What do you think of when I say *‘the word of God’*?

John 1:1, *“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”*

John 1:14, *“So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”*

Do you believe this book is inspired by the Holy Spirit? Yes?

Then do not just believe ‘in’ it, believe ‘IT’.

In our day, a false hermeneutic (*that means methods by which we understand what we are hearing or reading*) has given rise to people who say they believe the Bible is the inspired word, even ‘the Word of God’, but hold to their own tradition so tightly, that upon hearing that THE BIBLE says Christ is the Word of God will become contentious. When that is the case, they believe ‘in’ the tradition of the Bible, but they do not believe the Bible itself.

What of the Bible? Colton do you not believe the bible?

I believe it, I truly do! That is why I say that according to the Bible, *Jesus is the Word of God*.

Before you think this is purely semantics, that I am merely squabbling over words, or that it is a trick question, let me say that I believe this matters a great deal and hope you will see why.

Ephesians 2:19-21, *“So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.”*

Isaiah 28:17, *“I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line;”* This is fulfillment of prophecy and is found throughout the Bible.

Psalms 118:22-23, *“The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see”.*

Matthew 21:33-45, *“Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same. Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’ So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him. ‘When the owner of the vineyard returns,’ Jesus asked, ‘what do you think he will do to those farmers?’ The religious leaders replied, ‘He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest.’ Then Jesus asked them, ‘Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ ‘This is the LORD’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.’ ‘I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a*

nation that will produce the proper fruit. Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.’ When the leading priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers.”

Why was the Kingdom being taken away? Because they rejected the foundation stone.

Hopefully, this will give you understanding on why this is important. John 5:16, *“So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, ‘My Father is always working, and so am I.’ So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill Him. For He not only broke the Sabbath, He called God His Father, thereby making Himself equal with God.”*

Jesus goes on to speak to them about His work, the salvation offered, and of course, who He is. Picking back up with John 5:37-40, *“And the Father who sent me has testified about me Himself. You have never heard His voice or seen Him face to face, and you do not have His message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one He sent to you. You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.”*

Have you read them? He questions one group.

To another He says, *“you search them believing you have eternal life, but you miss the point!”*

Again, as the Bible says in Matthew 18: 16, *“Let everything be confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses.”* We have Christ, who needs no other.

Acts 4:10-11, *“Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”*

Back to **Isaiah 28:16**, *“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested*

stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.”

1 Peter 2:4, *“As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.’ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ and, ‘A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.”*

The foundation of saving faith is Jesus Christ.

How do we know the true Christ? This brings us back to the Bible. Ephesians 2:22, *“Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.”*

The foundation of the apostles is Christ Jesus, their corner stone.

The foundation of salvation is Jesus Christ Himself.

And the truth comes to us in this order.

1 Timothy 3:15, *“(We need to) know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.”*

The pillar and foundation of the truth, begins where? **Christ.**

And Christ has come to us by the message of **the Apostles.**

2 Peter 1:16-21, *“For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw His majestic splendor with our own eyes when He received honor and glory*

from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to Him, ‘This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.’ We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”

They witnessed Him and in so doing they witnessed the fulfillment of prophecy and therefore knew what He said was true. The scriptures, at that time referring to Old Testament text, believed on by the people of Israel, were true and therefore, what had not come to pass would, because the words given, were given by the inspiration of God. Therefore, if you believe these are the inspired words of God, they are, from beginning to end, testifying of Christ. The cornerstone of truth, and the pillar upon which that truth and understanding must be built, is Jesus Christ, the cornerstone proclaimed by the Apostles. And by believing, you become part of the house, part of the body, part of Christ.

John 17:18-21, *“Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”*

The Bible is the testimony of the Word, the Logos of God, Jesus Christ, the foundation of the testimony, meaning, the truth upon which the true understanding is built upon, is Jesus Christ.

As I said, this is not purely semantics, an argument over words. Return to **Acts 4:8-11**, *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of our people, are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”*

He is speaking to people of the Old Testament, people who had with piety called upon the name of Yahweh, but rejected their Messiah, because they were too blind to see Christ the servant in the Word. Now look at **Acts 4: 12**, *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* This is why, and it is important on two fronts. First, while I reside in the same ‘part of the house’ as so many of those who make this error, I must say, one of the greatest dangers today among people who sincerely believe that they are Bible believing Christians, **is an approach which claims to honor the Bible, while it ignores what it says.**

Let me put it as simply as I can. All around there are professions, many even backed with various verses of scripture, *improperly applied*, but scripture used to present the Christian faith as something not reconcilable with the way and life of Jesus.

Anything that cannot be reconciled, or is not in harmony with the WAY, the NAME, Jesus Christ revealed in the flesh and proclaimed by the apostles, is a false Gospel and in the words of Paul, no gospel at all!

Galatians 1:3-7, *“May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave His life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.”*

Often times, when the bible speaks of someone's 'name', the term transcends the verbal/phonetic pronunciation which is used to identify someone. 'Name' would frequently cover a much broader context, conveying the full depth, character and meaning of their person. It is this broader, richer concept being expressed so often in the New Testament in terms such as 'in my name.' The word, not simply uttering the name. They would 'go' in His name, 'living and being like Him'. In Christ, this meant they would also literally live in HIS SPIRIT. To be 'in the name of Christ' or to 'ask for something in His name', means to do so in harmony with the person of Christ.

Romans 8:2-8, *"Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.**"*

To 'live' in the Spirit implies routine practice, daily, actively, reflecting on Christ, His WAY, His NAME, His very BEING and true SPIRIT. The Holy Spirit shines light within us, regenerating our hearts and mind. Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Isaiah illustrates this in chapter 30: 26, prophesying of the day "**the moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times**

brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted."

This prophecy spoke about the day of Christ and is fulfilled in His body today. Matthew 4:16, *"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."* 2Peter 1:19, *"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."* 1 Peter 2:9, *"called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* Ephesians 5:8, *"For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord."*

This is what it means to be in His name. To use God's name without evidence of God's way, leads to ruin. Rom. 8:8, *"The realm of the flesh cannot please God"*. For hope to be found, those who are called by His Name, must not do so in vain. Turning to Isaiah we see this tragedy and redemption illuminated.

Isaiah 29:1-2, *"What sorrow awaits Ariel, the City of David. Year after year you celebrate your feasts. Yet I will bring disaster upon you, and there will be much weeping and sorrow. For Jerusalem will become what her name Ariel means—an altar covered with blood."* Isaiah 29:13, *"The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.'" Isaiah 29:16, "You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what be formed say to the one who formed it, 'You did not make me?' Can the pot say to the potter, 'You know nothing?'"*

Like so many before and after, **Romans 1:22-23**, *"Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man."* **Isaiah 29:13**, *"They come near to me with their mouth."* They broke the third commandment*, using His 'Name' while disassociating that Name from His character. They conceived of God in their heart, according their ways, in place of the revelation He had given them of Himself, proclaiming His 'revealed

Name', without the reflection of His revealed character. They did not keep his Name 'Holy.'

Romans 2:23-24, *"You who boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? As it is written: 'God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'"*

The Name of God must be kept 'Holy'. His ways, reflected through His chosen people, must be evident and consistent with His revealed character. This is the evidence of His Spirit and Truth revealed by their fruit, their culture, their way of life.

For Israel, God's revealed name is YHWH.

Yahweh is the Name of the Almighty Father in Heaven that people commonly call 'The LORD' or 'God'. The reason we see 'LORD' and 'God' in our Bibles, is because of a Jewish tradition that the Name Yahweh was not to be spoken for fear that the Name be blasphemed, something which Christ did not agree with. He freely referred to the Father by ABBA making Himself equal, and even referring to Himself as the 'I AM'.

Continue Reading:

Isaiah 29:22-24, *"Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: 'Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my Name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction.'"*

God's ways cannot be mingled and mixed with the way and understanding of this world. God brings calamity upon Israel, but as always, He does so for a good reason. Jacob, the lineage of faith whose children have not been faithful, will see his children sanctify the Name of the God of Israel. Isaiah 29: 23, "Jacob's face will turn from pale, distraught anguish, and see God's work. As children born of God will acknowledge the holiness (otherness, separate from, of special use) of

the Holy One of Jacob, they will stand in awe of the God of Israel." (paraphrased).

The One, unlike any other, the Holy One of Israel

Note the change of language. This verse speaks of the Good News going out to the Gentiles. They will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel, and this understanding will bring a blessing and change.

Isiah 29:24, *"Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction."*

Galatians 4:27, *"For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband!"*

Hosea 14:3-7, *"In you, the orphan finds mercy' I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon."*

We who have been born of the spirit, and not of the flesh, into the household of God, have also been given a name which must be kept holy. **Philippians 2:5**, *"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the Name above all other names, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

You may hold an image in your head, as many do, of some point in time when everyone and everything bows down and confesses. If so, I will not attempt to say that cannot happen or will not happen.

But, I will tell you that in popular modern songs or even in our extreme western love of literalism, the language used in this text implies a different meaning.

First, let this 'mind', which is to say this 'way', this 'character of life', this 'value system', be in you that was in Christ. Romans 12:2, *"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind"*

What way was that? That He would give up His privileges, even those afforded to Him and truly His. He set that aside and took the position of servant. He was even willing to die a criminal's death for others. This was such a powerful way of life, such a beautiful display of love, so magnificent was his life: HIS NAME.

That God is elevating this NAME to THIS WAY, THIS LIFE, HIS SPIRIT, HIS BEING, TO BECOME THE VERY ORDER OF CREATION. Therefore, Paul says in I Corinthians 15: 24, "Everything will come into submission and under the authority of this NAME."

And you see in Revelation this taking place. And in Hebrews 1:8-13, *"But about the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.' He also says, 'In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.' To which of the angels did God ever say, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'"*

The right hand of God refers to 'the place of power in all creation.', which Christ is now. He said in Matthew 28:18 *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

He is right now in that place of power, and according to the NAME of Jesus, all things are possible. ALSO, let's be clear. ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HIM. There is no

authority above Him, He does what He pleases, when He pleases and there is nothing anyone can do about it!

Some of the wisest words you will ever hear were spoken by the King of Babylon in Daniel 4:34-36, *"I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most-High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: 'What have you done?'"* Daniel 4:34-36

Hear what happens after this understanding has come to him. *"At the same time that my sanity was restored."*

He will remain in this place of power until all things are brought under the subjection and order of Christ. The enemies of Christ are the ways of this world, the spiritual force of darkness and sin, not flesh and blood.

Ephesians 6:12, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

This ordering under the NAME of Jesus is the word spoken again in the Bible as 'the restoration of all things', the making all things new.

Acts 3:21, *"Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through his holy prophets."*

Romans 8:21, *"that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."*

Revelation 21:5, *"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*

It was HIS great being, teaching, way of life, act of mercy that displayed the goodness of God, and this NAME pleased the Father. That Way becomes the instrument to which all other NAMES and WAYS are subject. All of creation, all of its names and ways, will be restored and ordered according to the essence of the being, the character, teaching,

display of love, beauty of sacrifice, Christ, the HOLY OTHER than this world. That Name will reorder, roll up and recreate all that is.

And even NOW that NAME is unstoppable. No power in the universe can stop the NAME, the Way of Christ.

Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” **Matthew 7:16**, “You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.” **Matthew 5:14-16**, “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

John 15:8, “This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples.” **John 13:35**, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” **1 Peter 2:12**, “Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” **1 Peter 1:15-16**,

“You must be Holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is Holy. For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be Holy because I am Holy.’”

In Biblical times (antiquity), the concept of ‘name’ conveyed a broader meaning than it does today. This was particularly true within the Hebrew culture. To ‘go’ in someone’s name, is to ‘be like that someone’, to ‘keep’ someone’s way of life, understanding and in Christ, to literally live in HIS SPIRIT. *This concept conveys the full depth, character and meaning of their person. Your handout includes extra notes on the subject.*

Romans 8:2-8, “*through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who*

do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.”

When the Bible uses terms like ‘living in the Spirit’, the writer is conveying the same concept as ‘in the name of’. One’s worldview and by extension practice of life. (theology/praxeology) are one and the same so far as the biblical writings are concerned.

Isaiah 30:26, “**The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.**”

I hope today that this truth will shine upon us all and bring transformation.

Isaiah 29:1-2, “What sorrow awaits Ariel, the City of David. Year after year you celebrate your feasts. Yet I will bring disaster upon you, and there will be much weeping and sorrow. For Jerusalem will become what her name Ariel means—an altar covered with blood.” **Isaiah 29:13**, **The Lord says: ‘These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.’”**

Isaiah 29:16, “You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what be formed say to the one who formed it, ‘You did not make me?’ Can the pot say to the potter, ‘You know nothing?’” This meant they created / conceived of God as ‘like themselves’, not the physical human which He would become. Rather they attributed to God their own understanding of the world, which to put it plainly meant ‘worldly’.

In this chapter and the surrounding ones, Isaiah speaks about how the people are blind to God and because of this there has been suffering and destruction.

Take note that:

*“They come near to me with their mouth.”, which means they are using His ‘name’ according to how we define a name, the phonetic pronunciation of it. But while they used words to represent God, most likely the name YAWEH or Adonai, they did not believe or conceive of God in their heart according to the revelation of Himself. **The result of this was the same as it always is.***

They did not practice life the WAY of God. They proclaimed His revealed name, but they did not demonstrate to the world His revealed character.

By doing so they did not keep His name ‘Holy’.

Romans 2:23-24, “You who boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? As it is written: ‘God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’”

HIS ways, HIS culture, the UNDERSTANDING of LIFE, that GOD had revealed to them.

Holy or Holiness, conveys the root meaning *‘set aside for special use’* developed from ‘other/of special intention or use’. Eventually this comes to mean ‘that which is understood to be Holy, deserving of reverence’.

For Israel, God’s revealed name was YHWH.

Yahweh is the name of the Almighty Father in Heaven that people commonly call ‘The LORD’ or ‘God’. The reason we see ‘LORD’ and ‘God’ in our Bibles, is because of a Jewish tradition that the name Yahweh was not to be spoken for fear that the Name be blasphemed, something which Christ did not agree with. He freely referred to Father by ABBA, making Himself equal with, and even referring to himself as the ‘I AM’.

Continue Reading:

Isaiah 29:22-24, “Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: ‘Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name;

they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

Let’s look closer at what is being said:

First, God’s ways cannot be mingled and mixed with the way and understanding of this world. God brings calamity upon Israel, but as always, He does so for a good reason.

Soon, Jacob will see his children sanctify the name of the God of Israel.

Therefore, Jacob’s face will not be pale, fearful, distraught etc.

And.... they will acknowledge the holiness (*otherness, separate from, of special use.*) of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

Isaiah 29:24, “Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction.”

The One, unlike any other, the Holy One of Israel

Note the change of language. This verse speaks of the Good News going out to the Gentiles. **Isaiah 29:23, “They will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. And this understanding will bring a blessing and change.” Galatians 4:27, “For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband!”**

Hosea 14:3-7, “In you the orphan finds mercy.’ I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return

and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.”

This understanding comes, as it always does and must, from the result of seeing the destruction which followed the ‘mingling of the Name of God.’ This is redemption through Christ, which we will read later.

Let’s look at one more text in regard to the NAME.

Philippians 2:5, *“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

You may hold an image in your head, as many do, of some point in time when everyone and everything bows down and confesses. If so, I will *not* attempt to say that *cannot* happen or *will not happen*.

But, I will tell you *that in popular modern songs, or even in our extreme western love of literalism, the language used in this text implies a different meaning.*

First, let this ‘**mind**’, which is to say this ‘way’, this ‘character of life’, this ‘value system’, be in you that was in Christ. Romans 12:2, *“be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

What way was that? ***That He would give up His privileges, even those afforded to Him and truly His. He set that aside and took the position of servant. He was even willing to die a criminal’s death for others.***

This was such a powerful way of life, such a beautiful display of love, so magnificent was his life, HIS NAME.

God elevated this NAME to THIS WAY, THIS LIFE, HIS SPIRIT, HIS BEING TO BECOME THE VERY ORDER OF CREATION.

Therefore, Paul says in I Corinthians 15: 24-28 and in Ephesians 1: 21-23, *“Everything will come into submission and under the authority of the Name Jesus.”*

You see this in Revelation taking place. And in Hebrews 1:8-13, *“But about the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.’ He also says, ‘In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.’ To which of the angels did God ever say, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?’”*

The right hand of God refers to ‘the place of power in all creation’. He said in Matthew 28:18, ***“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”***

He is right now in that place of power, and according to the **NAME of Jesus**, all things are possible. ALSO, let’s be clear. ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HIM. There is no authority above Him, He does what He pleases, when He pleases and there is nothing anyone can do about it!

Some of the wisest words you will ever hear were spoken by the King of Babylon in Daniel 4:34-36, ***“I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most-High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation.***

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done?'

Listen to what happens after this understanding has come to him.

Continuing in Daniel 4: 36, ***“At the same time that my sanity was restored...”***

He will remain in this place of power until all things are brought under the subjection and order of Christ. The enemies of Christ are the ways of this world, the spiritual force of darkness and sin, not flesh and blood.

Ephesians 6:12, ***“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”***

This ordering, under the NAME of Jesus, is the Word spoken again in Bible as ***‘the restoration of all things’***, the making of all things new.

Acts 3:21, ***“Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets.”***

Romans 8:21, ***“that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.”***

Revelation 21:5, ***“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”***

It was HIS great being, teaching, way of life, act of mercy that displayed the goodness of God, pleased the Father and by this NAME. That Way becomes the instrument to which all other NAMES and WAYS are to become subject too. All of creation, all of its names and ways, will be restored and ordered according to the essence of being, the character, teaching, display of love, beauty of sacrifice, CHRIST the HOLY OTHER THAN THIS WORLD. THAT NAME WILL REORDER, ROLL UP AND RECREATE ALL THAT IS.

And even NOW, that NAME is unstoppable. No power in the universe can stop the NAME, the Way of Christ.

Name Above All Names Part II 5/22/2016

Isaiah 30:26, ***“The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.”*** Matthew 4:16, ***“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”*** 2 Peter 1:19, ***“We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*** 1 Peter 2:9, ***“called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*** Ephesians 5:8, ***“For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord.”*** Hebrews 8:10,

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Deuteronomy 28:9-10, “The LORD will establish you as a Holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you.”

1 Kings 9:6-9, “If you or your descendants turn away from Me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, ‘Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their ancestors out of

Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.”

1 Peter 1:6-7, “Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Hebrews 12:5-11, “This word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one He loves and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son.’ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

Rom. 8:8, “The realm of the flesh cannot please God.”

Isaiah 29:1-2, “What sorrow awaits Ariel, the City of David. Year after year you celebrate your feasts. Yet I will bring disaster upon you, and there will be much weeping and sorrow. For Jerusalem will become what her name Ariel means—an altar covered with blood.” Isaiah 29:13, “The Lord says: **“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”** Isaiah 29:16, “You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what be formed

say to the one who formed it, ‘You did not make me?’ Can the pot say to the potter, ‘You know nothing?’”

Romans 1:22-23, “Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man.”

Romans 2:23-24, “You who boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? As it is written: ‘God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you’”

Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:16, “You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.” Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket.

Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” John 15:8, “**This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, proving yourselves to be My disciples.**” John 13:35, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” 1 Peter 2:12, “Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” 1 Peter 1:15-16, “You must be Holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is Holy. **For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be Holy because I am Holy.’”**

Leviticus 22:32, “I am the Lord who sanctifies you,”

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” As the Spirit spoke to the Hebrew’s **“If you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts! (Chapter 4) Hebrews 10:1-4,7-8,10,14-17,**

“The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Christ said, ‘You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them’. Then He said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will.’ God’s will for us is to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. The Holy Spirit also testifies that this is so. For he says, ‘This is the new covenant I will make with my people on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds.’”

Roman 1:17, “For that reason, we know that the righteous shall live by faith in Christ. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Colossians 1:27, “the glorious riches of this mystery, is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Hebrews 11:4 “and without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 10:29, “has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

Mark 4:24, “Consider carefully what you hear,” Galatians 1:6-7, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called

you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.” Galatians 3:3, “...beginning by means of the Spirit...finish by means of the flesh.” 7:12-14, “the law is holy, and the commandment is holy... spiritual.” Romans 7:14, “The law is spiritual, I am (we are) of the flesh, sold under sin.” Romans 7:23, “the law of sin that dwells in my members.” Romans 8:3, “What the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.” Philippians 3:3, “We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort.” 2Corinthians 4:7, “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” 2Corinthians 5:18-19,21, “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ. God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” John 15:5, “**Apart from me you can do nothing.**” Galatians 6:14, “We, boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. All who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.” Philippians 2:13, “For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Colossians 1:27, “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” 1John 2:19, “They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

Hebrews 10:19-23, “Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, draw near to God with a sincere

heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

Galatians 6:14-15, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.”

Holy, Holiness: OT Hebrew: **קָדוֹשׁ (qādōš)**- that which is distinct or separate from the common or profane, a concept of holiness, one of ‘otherness’, something consecrated, dedicated and surrendered to, ‘set aside for special use’, developed from ‘other/of special intention or use’. Eventually coming to mean ‘that which is understood to be ‘Holy’, deserving of reverence.

NT Greek ἁγιόζω (hagiazō)- God and what is associated with Him is declared as ‘Holy’. God is specifically described as Holy (Jn. 17:11, 1 Pet. 1:15-16, Rev. 4:8, 6:10), and Christ is called Holy in the same sense as God (Rev. 3:7, cf. 1 Jn. 2:20). Jesus is addressed as ‘the Holy One of God’ by an unclean spirit (Mk. 1:24, Lk. 4:34), by the angel Gabriel (Lk. 1:35), and by Simon Peter (Jn. 6:69). He is called God’s ‘Holy servant’ (Acts 4:27; cf. 3:14). Here reference to ‘Holy’ means belonging to and authorized by God and thus, resisting Jesus is equivalent to resisting God. Those who name Jesus as their Lord are called hagioi, ‘saints’. This is not primarily an ethical expression, but is parallel to being ‘called’ (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2), ‘chosen’ (Rom. 8:33, Col. 3:12), and ‘faithful’ (Col. 1:2). It implies association with the Holy Spirit. Christ is the one in whom believers become Holy to the true God (see 1 Cor. 6:11). The power to do so comes from the risen Christ, who operates according to the Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4). In these cases, Holiness refers to a relationship with God that is not mediated through ritual observance,

but through the leading of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14). Both Christ (1 Cor. 1:30) and the Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Pet. 1:2) are agents of ‘sanctification’, without which the author of Hebrews says none will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Adjective: ὁσιος (hosios)- Jesus, as high priest, is completely hosios, in that He is utterly sinless and totally pure (Heb. 7:26). God is called hosios in two quotations from the Old Testament. In Rev. 15:3-4 (quoting Ps. 145:17), it is God alone who is hosios, as is stated in Rev. 16:5 (quoting Deut. 32:4). - *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* Copyright 2006 William D. Mounce.

NT Greek ónoma – name; (figuratively) the manifestation or revelation of someone's character, i.e. as distinguishing them from all others. Thus ‘praying in the name of Christ’ means to pray as directed (authorized) by Him, bringing revelation that flows out of being in His presence. ‘Praying in Jesus’ name’ therefore, is not a religious formula. “According to Hebrew notions, a name is inseparable from the person to whom it belongs, i.e. it is something of his essence. Therefore, in the case of God, it is especially sacred” (*Souter*).] -copyright © 1987, 2011 by *Helps Ministries, Inc.*