

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Study Two “The Bride”

#262.1102

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(All bracketed [] words inserted into the following scriptures are the author’s paraphrase.)

HE ALONE TELLS US

I wanted to begin this study in Ephesians 5. It seems recently, since we went to these meetings in Texas and had the wedding, and reading the scriptures about husbands and wives and marriage (and all this), the Lord just began to bring some things out for me that I had never recognized before. I just want to share with you, starting in Ephesians 5, some of the concepts keying off of this. Let me just start reading at verse 25 – it says:

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it [gave himself for it];

26 [So] That he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word [sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water -- Now the King James put “*by the word,*” and we know it is *in words*, and that word “*word*” is “*rhema,*” -- it’s the spoken word],

27 That he might present the church [so that he might present it] to himself a glorious *church*, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Now, before I get into this, let me just talk about some basic concepts -- because for me, this is important – and if we’re going to get into deeper things, you’ve got to have the basics. So first of all, what is the meaning of “salvation”? When we talk about *salvation* – and I want to put on the board the word *Salvation* -- and I want to put 1 Peter 1:9 and, if you’re not familiar with 1 Peter 1:9, it says:

1 Peter 1:9

9 Receiving [Listen to the words...] the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls. [*Receiving the end of your faith; the salvation of your soul.*]

Now the word “*in*” is the same word they’ve translated *crooked*, or *complete; finished*. So let me say that again, and just simply paraphrase it: *Receiving the completion of your faith; the salvation of your soul*. Now what is “faith”? When we use the word faith – I was always told it was a verb, it was something I did; it was an action – but if you ever look it up, you’ll discover it’s a noun; it’s something you *possess*. The verb of “faith” is *believe* – so when you “believe,” the result is called *faith*: *Receiving the completion of your faith; the salvation of your soul*. Since we’re on camera and I have these people sitting here, let me ask Kelly a question: How does one obtain “faith” according to the Bible? Faith comes by “hearing”-- hearing what? The *spoken word*, because when you look the word up, it’s “spoken” (Romans 10:17). Faith, now listen, the verb is *to believe*. To believe what? As the

Lord is instructing me; as He is impressing me, my faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the *rhema* of God – receiving the completion of your faith; the salvation of your soul. If I put on the board that thoughts produce feelings, and feelings lead me into actions – let me say it one more time: *My thought ultimately results in what I say and what I do.* So if my actions are not accurate, what is it that isn't accurate? My *thinking* – and if the Lord is going to make my actions accurate like Christ, then “*who*” do I have to think like? *Receiving the completion of my understanding; the salvation of my soul* – 1 Peter 1:9 :

Thoughts → Feelings → Actions

Salvation (1Peter 1:9)

Therefore, to simplify this, I would say that “salvation” equals mind reform; mind reformation – “mind reformation” is *salvation*. Now let me tell you why that's key according to what we just read in Ephesians. Listen to this one more time:

Ephesians 5:25-26

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it [even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it];

26 [So] That he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word [So that he might sanctify and cleanse the church with the washing of water in words],

How does “faith” come? By *hearing* – He is going to cleanse me by using words, and the word is *spoken*. Now listen:

Ephesians 5:27

27 That he might present the church [So that he might present it] to himself a glorious *church*, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Now consider that concept: My salvation is in how I understand, and I am understanding by means of believing what He is helping me see. Now listen to this verse – I want to read a verse and I want you to think of the concept I just gave you. Listen to this -- I'm reading from Romans 11:33:

Romans 11:33

33 O the depth[s] of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways [are] past finding out!

So we just took a giant step here in your salvation – how does that apply to your salvation? First of all, my “salvation” is *the completion of my faith* – yet my faith comes as I listen to Him and He gives me light and helps me see. But no one can understand Him except He tell them: *O the depths of the richness of God's wisdom. How unsearchable are His ways; are His judgments. His ways are past finding out.* You cannot take this book and sit down and figure out God. It does not work like that. Romans 11:33 is where I simply put a list of verses that talk about the Lord and how you cannot search Him out; you cannot do it (Isaiah 40:28; Ephesians 3:8; John 3:27; Ecclesiastes 3:11) – He has to tell you.

Now let me lay these concepts out one more time: My “salvation” depends on *the completion of my faith*. “Faith” comes by *hearing* God (Romans 10:17), and I can't search it out – He has to tell me. Simple? All right, now listen to this – the apostle Paul wrote this in Colossians 1, and I want you guys to get what he says here -- verse 25, he says:

Colossians 1:25-26

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; [Now listen ...]

26 *Even* the mystery which hath [has] been hid [hidden] from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Stop – now my question to you would be: Does God tell every generation everything? Do I need to read this again? Just listen to the end of this verse – this is verse 26.

Colossians 1:26-27

26 ... the mystery which hath [has] been hid [hidden] from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: [Now Paul says he's telling us this. What?]

27 To whom God would make known what *is* [what are] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles [in the nations]; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Paul just told you *this wasn't revealed before his time*. So would you stand before God and say: “*Well how are we supposed to be like Christ? My salvation depends on how I understand, but I can't know You except You tell me, and You're just revealing this after thousands of years. What's the catch?*” Now there are other verses where he talks about things, and God is just now revealing ...and now he's telling us this. See, there are other verses you can tie into this where he says the same thing (Ephesians 3:5; Romans 16:25; Hebrews 9:8-9). The reason I'm covering this is because the last time we were up here, and we were talking about the bride, Kelly turned over to Ephesians 5, and now listen again – let me read this:

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 [So] That he might [could] sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word [sanctify and cleanse you – by using words] ,

27 That he might [So he could] present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;

Question: If you lived before Paul's time -- before the mystery was revealed of Christ in you, the hope of glory – how could you be *without spot or wrinkle*? You couldn't, could you? Who is going to be without spot or wrinkle? *The fellow that He reveals the most truth to*. Now here's the point you've got to understand: If the Lord has not revealed it to you, you're not responsible for it. If He hasn't explained to you the meaning of the sin nature; if He hasn't revealed to you the Son of God; if He has not shown you these things, you're not responsible. But Christ said: *If I hadn't spoken to them, they wouldn't have had sin, but now they don't have any excuse for what they're doing* (John 15:22). Once He reveals the truth, you're responsible – so people in the past could only be as pure as God allowed them to be, and you see this principle in the “seals of Revelation” because you have “seven seals” – *a book that's perfectly sealed*. As Christ opens the seals, you see segments of time where people are given different revelations of God, and when you come to the seventh seal, he symbolizes this by showing the High Priest take *coals from the altar and dump them into the earth* – (Revelation 8:1-5). In past studies I tried to show you how, in Isaiah, that concept is a *cleansing* thing. In Isaiah 6, the angel takes a coal from off the fire and touches Isaiah's lips – Isaiah says: *I'm a man of unclean lips*. So the angel touches it, and says: *Well now you're clean – your iniquity has been purged*. From what? From the hot coals (Isaiah 6:5-7)

Well, in the “seventh seal,” what do you have? Christ dumping *all of the coals into the earth*. Hence, you're going to have a group of people “without spot or wrinkle.” What do you think it means –

dumping the coals in the earth for cleansing – when I just read three times (now listen): *I'm going to sanctify and cleanse you with words*. And he dumps the coals for cleansing. What do you think those coals are? It's ultimate truth! It's truth that He never gave to any one before this time of the seventh seal – it's obvious. When you come to the seventh seal, He cleanses the earth. How? Using words. Let me read this one more time:

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 [So] That he might [could] sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word [in words],

27 [So] That he might [could] present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So my point is this: *As long as people throughout the ages of time were living up to the light they had, that is all God expected of them.*

WHAT IT ISN'T

I've got to make this point – you see, it helps me to see what it isn't. I've got to tell you what we're not saying here. In the denominations (and I'm telling you, this is key that you understand this); in the churches (the denominational churches), we are told: *You are a sinner – that we are sinners; we have broken the law. The law says: If you sin, you have to die – so therefore, God sent His Son to die in your place, to pay the penalty for what you've done in your life – and He pays this penalty.* When you therefore say: *"I believe in Jesus,"* and you say the prayer, and you give your heart to God – you have this emotional thing with the Lord – and you pray the prayer; you are now saved, and here's what it means: *God now* (and I'm assuming, you know, this is the picture I had) *has your name in a book, and He's got this big book and somehow He applies to your name "righteousness."* Now no one ever told me what "righteousness" was – it was just "good" – it's *righteousness*. So, therefore, when He looks at me, He doesn't see me anymore – He sees Jesus. And He now can accept me because somebody paid the price; paid the penalty for all the mistakes in my life.

That is **not** what I'm saying. I want to say this again – now listen: *Christ gave Himself so that He could cleanse you using words.* Now question: What is it He cleanses if He's using words? Your mind, isn't it? It isn't a big book in heaven – it's right here (Scott points to his head) and if sin is the result of what I think, ultimate sin is it *between my ears*? If you're looking at sin as an action, you've got to realize it only happens because of what you think. Therefore, if righteousness is doing the right thing, it only happens by means of what I think, so righteousness is between my ears. So then God gives me righteousness. What is He giving me? Words – and His words are changing, reforming my thinking. "Righteousness" is how He understands, and when He gives that to me, it becomes my understanding and my righteousness. But I can only understand to the point He reveals it to me. So it isn't that Christ died to pay my penalty so the Father could see me differently. We know *the Son of God died so that I could see the Father differently.*

I want to give you this example because, just recently the Lord gave me this when I thought of Ariel and Charity. I thought of these two kids, you know, if they're playing in the front yard, and somebody were to come into the yard and kill one of them, you would see me react instantly. I would respond instantly – retaliate against this. But if one of these two kids killed one another, I would not retaliate the same way. In fact, I might even not want to expose the fact that one sister killed the other one. You see these are morbid thoughts, I know, but you've got to understand that when Jesus Christ was sent into this world to proclaim the love of God, that was what He came for. Christ came to declare the kingdom of God and the love the Father has for us – and the literal Jews took the man and put Him to death because the words He spoke did not fit their understanding. They were offended at what He

spoke – and when they put Him to death, what did our Heavenly Father do? Nothing! He did not retaliate against them. Why didn't He do that? Why didn't He come in and just lay everybody out? *Because it was evidence to humanity that He loved them as much as He loved His Son.*

You see it in your own children. You can see it – this theme is in the scriptures – where Abraham has his son, Ishmael, and when he has Isaac, Ishmael ridicules and makes fun of Isaac, and it breaks Abraham's heart. Go back and read the story, and you'll see that Sarah is the one who said: "*Cast him out. Get rid of him and his mother.*" And the Lord came to Abraham and said: "*Listen to your wife. You need to do what she is saying to do*" (Genesis 21:9-12). He wasn't going to do it, because they both were his children – he loved them both. And you see it with David and Absalom and Ammon – when Absalom kills Ammon. There's a scripture where it says: *David's heart yearned after Absalom* (2 Samuel 13:39). See, his two sons, one had killed the other one, but he didn't stop loving. But you let someone else come against his family, or the king, and he would cut them to pieces, you see. So I'm telling you this principle and try to understand what I'm saying. When the Father sent His Son into the world, and the world took him – I should say the religious world took Him and killed Him – there was no retaliation. But what the Father did do was, after three days, He raised Him from the dead to prove: "*This is my Son. I have proof that this is my Son. I raised Him from the dead, and please understand you killed my Son, and I love you.*" This concept has to be understood because, for me, it was ultimate proof that the Father loved me – and so what does that do when I see the death at Calvary? *It changes the way I think God sees me.* It doesn't change the way God sees me. It changes the way *I perceive* His thought toward me. In other words, *I realize I have value, and I always have had.* It's ultimate proof for me.

A MARRIAGE FOR HIS SON

I want to talk about being *without spot or wrinkle*. I want to talk about the last generation church and I want to bring in this concept of "*husbands love your wives even as Christ loved the church*" – and we see this picture of the husband and the wife as symbols of *Christ* and *the church*, and how He is going to sanctify and cleanse them using words. But again, you can only be as clean as He allows you to be. As long as your heart is open, He'll lead you to a certain point, but it's evident the people who live during the last generation (the seventh seal) get a better understanding and He cleanses them in a more thorough way. Turn to Matthew 22 and let's read this parable, starting at verse 1:

Matthew 22:1-14

- 1 And Jesus answered and spake [spoke] unto them again by parables, and [this is what he] said,
- 2 *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*
- 3 *And [He] sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not [wouldn't] come.*
- 4 *Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto [to] the marriage.*
- 5 *But they made light of it, and went their ways [they went their way], one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*
- 6 *And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.*
- 7 *But when the king heard thereof [of it], he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*
- 8 *Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*
- 9 *Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye [you] shall find, bid to the marriage.*

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with [what?] guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not [didn't have] on a wedding garment:

12 And he saith [said] unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither [how did you come in here] not having a [on] wedding garment? And he [the man] was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall [will] be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For [Because] many are called, but [and] few *are* chosen.

One more verse is in John, chapter 3. I want to read verse 29, and this is John the Baptist who is speaking. John 3:29 – I want you to notice what the man says:

John 3:29

29 He that hath [has] the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth [stands] and heareth [hears] him, rejoiceth [rejoices] greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Question: Did John the Baptist consider himself to be the bride or a friend of the bridegroom? He is not the bride is he? And the people that we just read about in Matthew 22 are not the bride. He never reveals who the bride is in what we've read. He tells you who the guests are and that the guests should be wearing certain garments – have a certain understanding – in order to be at the wedding, but he never tells you who the bride is. He reveals the bride in Revelation 21:

Revelation 21:9-11

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and [he] talked with me, saying, Come hither [here], I will shew thee [I'll show you] the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed [he showed] me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Who is the bride? He shows him a “city” -- what is a *city*? It's a mindset; it's a way of thinking. Now the question I have for you is: Who possesses the mind of New Jerusalem? Because whoever possesses, or is in *that city* is His bride. At one time in my life when I would read this, I thought “New Jerusalem” was simply, or only, *the mind of Christ* – but look down here in Revelation 21; go down to verse 14:

Revelation 21:14

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Question: If a “wall” is *salvation* (according to Isaiah 60 it is – Isaiah 60:18) – if a “wall” is a symbol of salvation, what does it mean that *the names of the apostles are on the twelve layers of it*? In other words, the apostles have *laid the foundation*. Don't let me confuse you, but listen, did the apostles lay the foundation in the mind of Christ? I'll answer that for you – no, they did not. He laid their foundation. But whose foundation did they lay? **Ours**. And how did they do it? Well, right here (Bible) in this book – we can take this book, written by the apostles of Christ, the New Testament, and he can help us understand foundational truth that will strengthen the walls of our salvation. What is

“salvation”? *My understanding*. Why “walls”? How do you build a wall? You take “stones,” *concepts*, and you fit them all tightly – and you build your protection so that no one can come through the way you understand. See? But the foundation is laid by the apostles. Therefore, the ones dwelling in the city ... as you read about the city, you see how pure it is, and the Lamb’s wife – it has to be *the last generation*. It couldn’t be anyone else– the ones who have the purity of Christ; who are *without spot or wrinkle*.

BABYLON IS FALLEN

It has to be the people that He purifies the best. Now why do I say that? In this chapter of Revelation 19 – turn to Revelation 19 and let me show you something. Revelation 19 begins: “*After these things*.” After what things? After chapter 18 – this is simple. Now look – what is chapter 18 about, just off the top of your head? The fall of Babylon – but I want to look at Revelation 18 with you just for a second, and I want to show you something interesting. Look at verse 1:

Revelation 18:1-4

1 And after these things I saw another angel [messenger] come down from heaven, having great power [authority]; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying [and this is what he said], Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For [Because] all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And [Then] I heard another voice from heaven, saying [and what does this voice say?], Come out of her, [who?] my people, ...

Who’s saying verse 4? Who do you think is speaking: “*Come out of her, my people*”? Christ – let me just set this up for you. Verses 1, 2 and 3: a messenger is giving you a message – he is describing *Babylon*. He is telling you it’s fallen – this is what Babylon is – and after you hear the message, you hear God in the conscience saying: “*All right, come out of it. Come out of this thing*.” What you’re seeing is an abiding truth; another voice speaking to you from the heavens saying: “*Come out of her my people*.” Now, question: What is “Babylon” – what is it? It is *doctrinal confusion*. Now let me make a statement about myself: Because I understand what the “sin nature” is; because I understand Christ is the Son of the living God and because I know I can hear the voice of God— let me say it again – three things: Because I understand *my need* (I know what the “sin nature” is); because I know Christ is the Son, and because I know I can hear God — why are those three things important? You can’t heal a man who isn’t sick – I know my need. *I recognize my need and the Lord has defined the sin nature for me*. Next thing: *Christ is the Son of God*. Why is that key? Because humanity killed Him, and what did God do? He did not retaliate against them. And the next thing is: *I know I can hear the voice of God*. Why is that key? Because that is how I obtain what? *Faith* – that is how I obtain faith. What’s the big deal about faith? *Because the completion of it is the salvation of my soul*. How do I get it? By hearing God.

Because I know my need, I know Christ is the Son, and I know I can hear the voice of God — because I have that straight, I can stand before you and I can look you in the eye with an absolute clear conscience, believing the Lord is impressing your heart with this truth: *For Scott Stanley Babylon is fallen*. I am not in doctrinal confusion any more. I’m not saying I’m completely perfect and I don’t get

angry, and I don't sin...I'm **not** saying that. I'm telling you that I now possess the tools to be made complete in Christ, and I can say it in all honesty with a sincere heart — Babylon is fallen — and I can set you down and I can say: *“Let me tell you what Babylon is. Let me tell you where the scriptures bring out meanings for you that will set you free,”* and when we go through these teachings, you will hear God in your conscience saying: *“You come out of this thing... You come out of this thing.”* That is why He would ever send a messenger to you in the first place — to say to you: *“Babylon is fallen — it's a cage, it's holding unclean and hateful things inside of you. It's caged you in this thing — come out,”* you see?

He can send someone to you to give you that message — and listen — it refutes and undercuts every denomination on the face of this earth. There isn't a single one that understands those principles, those concepts that I just gave you — *not one*. They don't understand the sin nature; they don't believe Jesus is the Son of God; and they don't think they can hear God. Because of that, *the book is their god* — which means they are their own god, interpreting the book. That's basically what it means. Therefore when I come up to you and I say: *“Christ is the Son; here's your sin nature; you can hear God and come out of it,”* and I take you through those teachings, and you start through the changes — and you start realizing: *“My God, Christ is the Son, I can hear... and these things start happening to you....* What about all the people that you associated with at one time? What are they saying to you? Are they with you? *Hey! That's good news! The trinity is not true.* Is that what you're getting from people? Do you want me to tell you what you get? They stand afar off, weeping and wailing because of this great and mighty city that is burning up before them. What mighty city? Babylon (Scott motions to his head). It's being destroyed in my thinking, and people stand afar off, and they say: *Oh, the mighty city! Oh the great city. Look what's happening. They are not buying my merchandise anymore.* What are you doing? You're saying: *“I don't want that stuff. I want to know truth, and I want to be free.”* And because I'm accepting the truth, they will stand afar off (now these are verses — I'm just quoting Revelation 18 — I'm just not taking you there), they stand afar off, weeping and wailing for fear of the torment.

What torment? *You know — the trinity isn't true, and I can hear God and I can have a relationship with Him just like Abraham had — and the Lord has shown me my sin nature, and destroyed it.* Let me say that again: *The Lord has shown me my sin nature, and destroyed it.* People who hear you say that — it cuts them to the core. It torments them; it's a torment to their soul. That is why, when Scott Stanley comes in, people stand afar off for fear of the torment— the torment, the torment, when you tell them the truth — it torments their soul. They can't listen to that. *You are a cult, you have to be a cult. This cannot be true. How could ALL these people be wrong?* And yet, in Romans 6, Paul wrote: *The old man is dead* — and go ask somebody: *“Do you still have a sin nature?” Well, of course we do! Well, what's “the old man dead” — what's he talking about? I don't know.* I'm just telling you — Revelation 18: The messenger comes and he says: *“Babylon is fallen; it's fallen”* — and then you hear a voice within say: *“Come out of her my people; get out of this thing. Listen to these truths and come out.”* And then you see everyone standing afar off for fear of what's happening, see. This is what Revelation 18 is about. Then you come to 19 — and in Revelation 19, now, Babylon is fallen.

SHE HAS MADE HERSELF READY

And listen to these glorious words.

Revelation 19:1-3

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much [many] people in heaven [in the heavens], [It gets me every time, why? *Babylon is fallen.* I want you to listen to what they say.] saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: [Who is saying that? *People in the heavens that have experienced the fall of Babylon.*]

2 For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath [he has] judged the great whore, which did corrupt [which was corrupting] the earth [Where? In here – *in me* – see what they’re saying?] ...

3 [Listen to the glory, the joy.] And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke [from being burned] rose up for ever and ever [ascended up into the age of the ages].

Now consider this verse – I’m going to read another verse. Now listen, listen close – this is Psalms 37, verse 20:

Psalm 37:20

20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD *shall be* as the fat of lambs:

Now stop – now are you looking at the enemies of God as these people? Let me tell you, the “enemies” of God were all the *distortions* that you carried. Now listen again because I’m going to finish the verse.

Psalm 37:20

20 But the wicked shall perish [the wicked thoughts will perish], and the enemies of the LORD *shall be* as [will be like] the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away [they’ll consume in the smoke and consume away].

He’s talking about *thought*. *The smoke ascended up into the age of the ages* – the result of what? *I saw the ancient of days, the judgment was set in heaven and a fiery river (stream) issued before him* (Daniel 7:9-11). What do you think that is? It’s what’s coming out of his mouth, and as the truth is revealed to you, He is consuming the falsehood out of you – and when people see it they stand back for fear of what they’re seeing. But He is speaking to you his truth, and he says: “*I am*” ... He says: “*Your God is a consuming fire,*” you see – and when you receive His words: “*I’m going to sanctify and cleanse with words. I’m going to dump hot coals into the earth to cleanse it. I’m going to consume Babylon and these wicked thoughts will consume away like the fat of lambs.*” What’s that? Sin – “fat” is a symbol of *sin*. What’s a “lamb”? What’s “the fat of a lamb”? *And it will consume away like smoke – Hallelujah! Salvation is come – Hallelujah!* Don’t you love that? I do too! (Audience asks: “What’s a lamb?”) A “lamb” is *a child of God*, isn’t it?

Revelation 19:5-9

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye [you] that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the [and the] voice of many waters, and as the [and the] voice of mighty thunderings, saying [they said], Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. [is now reigning. Where? Here – He’s reigning (Scott points to his head). Now get the next verse.]

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him [Why?]: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in [what?] fine linen, clean and white [What’s everyone else arrayed in? Remember the parable we just read in Matthew 22 – the guest didn’t have on the wedding garment. What is the “wedding garment”? It’s *Christ’s righteousness* – but it’s only to the point He has revealed it to you. But what about this lady? She’s in fine linen, and she’s the only one that is. She is in *fine linen, clean and white*]: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith [said] unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Now stop and let me make this point – I want you to consider the King of Kings. I want you to consider our Heavenly Father. The King made a marriage for His Son, and you bid His guests and people would refuse to come – and we’re talking about the Son of God who is the Creator of all things. The Son of God has created all things, and it’s time now for Him to be married. The bride has made herself ready – and the King, His Father, the Son of the King is getting married. Is this a small thing? This is huge, isn’t it? This event is huge. Why? Because when it’s time for the marriage, He has to call the guests – but where are they? Who are the guests? Well, John the Baptist said: *“I’m a friend of the bridegroom.”* It’s all of the saints who have lived and died in Christ; and what does He do? He calls them all to the wedding. What is that? It’s *the resurrection*, isn’t it? He calls them all; come on – *Blessed is he who comes to the feast*. Why? He has eternal life – and he comes to the feast dressed in his wedding garment. But only one is without spot or wrinkle, and that is *His bride*.

Now I’ve got to make this point: I am not saying that no one else will ever have the understanding of the bride. What I’m trying to say is – *the bride is the group who gets there first*. She is the first fruits unto God. Why? Because I have sections of time where the Lord has revealed specific things, but when you come to the last one, He gives them **all** of it – and now this group of people is *without spot or wrinkle* — how are they “without spot or wrinkle”? Well, *they understand their need; Christ is the Son; and they can hear the Lord* – and they can hear Him express to them” *“I love you.”*

THE FEAST

At this point there are different directions that I would like to go but, for me, the most important one first – and I love this concept. Before the camp meeting in Texas, as I was looking at Woody’s wedding, and all of this wedding stuff was happening – and I was going to explain marriage at the wedding – and I was seeking the Lord for a deeper understanding of what all this means, but one thing bothered me. I recognized this feast took place *after Babylon had fallen* – and I thought: *I know spiritually a feast is something you eat; something that you feast on* – but I thought: *What in the world could He tell you that’s over and above what you’ve already been given if Babylon is fallen? If you’ve reached a place without spot or wrinkle – and He says: “All right, the bride has made herself ready; come to the wedding” – and here we are, and now we’re going to feast.* And I thought: *Well, on what? What’s left?* And as I was seeking the Lord to understand that, I’m going to tell you, what I’m going to share with you – I know the Lord gave me this, because I felt impressed to imagine myself literally there.

Imagine yourself there, literally – and you know, have you guys seen the picture of the big banquet table – it’s a mile long, and all this food is on it, and the table was all set? The Lord just put me in that place, and I imagined myself there – and I thought: *Now imagine the beauty of Christ — the Son of God is sitting at the head of that table.* And then I thought: *Am I going to sit there now and eat apples and oranges, and stuff?* Of course not! What do you think I’m going to do? My gaze, my eyes would be on **that man**. Now let me tell you why – **for me** – because *He is the evident token of God’s love for me*. I was, from the womb, given the lie *that I had no value to God*. And before I go on, I’ve just got to tell you – you can test yourself right now. Just ask yourself: *Does God love me? Do I feel in my heart — God loves me as much as He loves Jesus?* And answer that honestly – does He love you as much as He does Jesus? Now there’s actually a verse in the Bible that says that (John 17:23), but you can test yourself. I’m not asking you: *Do you know the verse and believe what the Bible...* that’s not what I’m saying. Do you, honest to God, in your heart believe you’re as important to God – that He loves you as much as He loves His only birthed Son? Now, from the womb you’re given the lie that He doesn’t.

I’m already 50 years old – I’ll be 51 next month, and I have lived 51 years believing that lie; and the Lord has erased it, and proven to me, in fact, has spoken to me that *I’m as valuable; that He loves me; He has never rejected me; I’ve always been acceptable.* I know that and there isn’t a person in this

room or anything on this planet that could steal that away from me. Why? The Lord told me this. I didn't read it; He told me this – the Lord spoke it, and I received it, OK? So here I am, 50 years of this lie, and I'm brought before the Son of God, and what does He mean to me? Well, it's looking at that death – I see this man and I see my Father loves me *THAT MUCH*. Now how can you picture Him in beauty; in glory? How can you picture Him and recognize, *God loves me that much* – and you tell me what you're going to feast on. What do you think that feast is? That is going to so flood your soul — let me tell you, right now, it is a truth that is working in my heart, and changing my life, but when I literally, literally see the man in His majesty, and the thought hits me – *He loves me that much?* – you see, the reality is going to blow me away! When I see my Father reach for me— I can't even imagine it right now — but when He does, what will that do to you? Do you think you're going to sit there eating bananas, or eat fruit when this is taking place? That's insanity – but let me tell you something even more beautiful: “The bride” is *this last generation church*, and it's evident that when we all get there, all of the Christians who have died in Christ have been invited to see this feast. And I know that they will some day, through eternity, receive the understanding He has given me; and we will all be in this thing. The only thing is, I will have the opportunity to say: “*The Lord brought me here first.*” Now they're all going to get it, but the 144,000 are the first fruits.

Now, in the Song of Solomon, you have the Christ; you have the husband; you have the bridegroom; you have the daughters of Jerusalem – but then you have His bride. And He tells His bride: “*You're the only one of your mother. There's not another one like you.*” (Song of Solomon 6:9) You see, that bride is different – we've just seen she's wearing fine linen, clean and white. Everyone else is dressed in white robes, but she's in fine linen *in her understanding*. Now, I'm building up to something, because this was so precious to me, and it lit the fire in the core of my heart. I want to give this to you, that the same thing would happen to you. When you read in the scriptures symbols – “flowers” are symbols of *man's glory*. “Glory” is *thought*. He says: “*All flesh is as grass and the flowers are the glory of it.*” (Isaiah 40:6-7) Flowers – the beauty of a flower represents the glory of humanity – and the Lord says: “*I blow upon that glory, and it goes away.*” But Christ used “the lily” – the lily as the symbol of *man's glory from abiding*, because he makes the comment: “*You see the lily, it doesn't spin or toil; yet Solomon in all of his glory wasn't arrayed like one of these.*” (Matthew 6:28-29) See that lily – that white lily – is that picture of the glory I have in Christ, and when you come to the Song of Solomon, the question is asked by the daughters of Jerusalem to the bride: “*What's your beloved more than another beloved? How are you seeing it any different than us? What is He to you that's different?*” (Song of Solomon 5:9)

“*Where has he gone? Where's your beloved gone?*” (Song of Solomon 6:1) And she gives this answer (I'm not going to go through the whole thing. I'm preparing a study to read those symbols and show you how the 144,000 will see Him differently than others) – but one thing she says is this: “*My beloved has gone into his garden and He's feeding among the lilies.*” (Song of Solomon 6:2-3) Now think about it, because here is His garden (Scott points to his head), and coming into the garden, this is what the beloved says – He says: “*Your eyes* (and what are your “eyes”? It's your *understanding*...) -- He says: “*Your eyes overcome me.*” (Song of Solomon 6:5)

So I want you to look at this day with Him through *His eyes* for a minute, and consider this: Here you have Michael, born in eternity past, creating all things as the Son of God, coming into this world through Mary in Bethlehem, and you know the story.... going through all of what He went through and, I would just simply say, the plan of salvation — He lived the plan of salvation, and went through that process Himself...died, was raised from the dead, and here in front of Him is somebody *who gets it*. Sitting in front of Him is somebody that gets it, they understand – and He looks and He says: *The way you see this just overcomes me. I love the way you understand what has happened.* How does He know you got it? I'm *without spot or wrinkle* – Babylon is fallen. This lie of no value – well, I see the Son of God died; I see You died and You proved the Father's love to me. And now here You are, the

evident token – and He’s looking at you, and He is saying: “*This overwhelms me.*” **You give Him meaning – you make what He did worth something, in a way no one has before.** Why? Because the Father chose to reveal it to *you*. The Father has chosen the bride for His Son – He chose the time and place you were to live; He has chosen the bride for His Son.

I picture the literal peasant girl sitting there in all rags, and the golden carriage drives up – and the king gets out, he sees her and he says: “*I choose you for my Son.*” At that point it makes no difference what she’s wearing... all that matters is that she is accepting what the king is offering – that she has nothing to do with it except what? To open her heart, now listen – all she can do is open her heart and the Son of God says: “*I’m going to cleanse and sanctify you with words and you’ll be without spot or wrinkle. I’ll present you to myself without spot or wrinkle. Open up – I’m pouring the coals into the earth. It is the last group. My Father has said tell them: This is the bride.*” And as He does, Babylon falls, and the next thing is — Hallelujah! The Bride’s made herself ready. Everyone’s blessed who is called to the wedding. It’s the resurrection; come one and come all, and see the feast – and I know these people will be looking at that man, but they are also going to be looking at somebody who is brought to the finish; and it’s going to be you, if you so desire it – if you can make this practical in your life.

A PERSONAL THING

I want to read about the 144,000 in Revelation 14 and I want to make just a couple of points. (She’s [speaking of an audience member] sitting here going — Well is he still crying? I’ve been crying ever since the last time I saw you...it’s the truth...it’s terrible.) In Revelation 14, I want to read about the bride. (I’m speaking of the first resurrection of the righteous -- they will come to the feast.) You know what? That’s another thing – when I look at the wedding and the relationship between the bride and the man (and I could get into all kinds of things here), that’s a personal thing. You know, we just had this wedding in Texas, and I told Woody, I said: “*You know what? The next person that wants to get married, I’m going to tell them: You go before the Lord with your spouse and you say your vows before God – and then you call us for the feast, and we’ll celebrate it with you, and you can tell us what you did. And if you want to repeat your vows again, fine – just the fact you’re saying that you said it is enough for me. I don’t have to hear it.*” It’s a personal thing; and I realized between Christ and I, the marriage has already happened. You now how you know about it? Because I tell you, you see? That’s the only way any of us knows the other one because you come and tell us, and you believe (now listen) – you *believe with your heart unto righteousness*. Consider that. What’s “righteousness”? *God’s thought* – you believe with your heart. Well, how do you believe with your heart? Because it’s with your heart that you sense; you feel. It’s not intellect – it’s *heart*. I believe with my heart unto righteousness, then I profess what has happened.

I told Woody, I said: “*You and Tia already were married. You knew the Lord was putting you with this woman – you were married. And it’s a personal thing – it’s between you and her and God. I have nothing to do with it. After that marriage, call me to the feast, and you tell me what you did and I’ll celebrate it with you, and praise God for what’s happened.*” And I’ll never again tell another person: *Yeah, you’ve got to say your vows in front of the church* – only if the Lord’s impressing you to do it.

THE 144,000

So reading about the 144,000 in Revelation 14, this is the bride. I want you to realize some things out of this:

Revelation 14:1

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.

.... And in past studies, go back to the studies *In This Mountain* and *Who Shall Ascend* and this

scripture, for me anyway, came alive. I understood to ascend out of the sea and stand on top of Zion with the foundation of Zion being the sure foundation – Christ, the *founded foundation* – and by the time you get to the top of the mountain, you ascend to the top, you have the character of God.

Revelation 14:2

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: [And I want to read a scripture.]

Psalm 43:4

4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

I heard harpers harping with their harps – what do you think they’re harping? Praise to God – now listen, listen... Praise to God – they are praising God!

Revelation 14:3

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne [a new praise to God], and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song [no one could learn it] but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which [who] were redeemed from the earth.

Now let me tell you something about myself: I have a new praise to God because I realize truth – it’s happening in my life, in my praise for Him, and my acknowledgment of everything that is changing. The beauty of this is, no one can praise Him with me on this level except you too see your need, recognize the Son, and know you can hear God – and put those things all together, and you let Him *speak* and slay the old man – and you be convinced: *He loves me as much as He loves Jesus*. It puts new praise in your lips. Now follow what he says here – verse 4 is key:

Revelation 14:4

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.

Stop and consider this: Every person who has ever been born on this planet is defiled by their mother. There isn’t a mother on this planet that did not defile her children, and it happened in the womb when you gave them the feeling of having no value to God. It’s happened to every one of us – but he says the 144,000 are not defiled with women. Now that’s another reality in my life – I can actually look at my literal mother and realize what she did to me is gone. She doesn’t even know what happened, but the Lord has revealed something to me and I am different as I stand here now, and I know there is spiritual significance – *not defiled with women* – but I know that also means you’re no longer carrying that defilement, and that is His definition of a “virgin.” Let me tell you this – since we’re on this level, I want to give you something that I pray this isn’t too far out for you, but I want to read something to you about Mary, and what happened to this woman; and let me tell you why this is significant.

Now listen: “*I saw a woman with the moon under her feet, clothed with the sun, with a crown of twelve stars. And she was travailing in birth to bring forth the man child.*” (Revelation 12:1-2) Now back in ‘84, in the summer of ‘84, I held a study at a black Baptist church and I read that verse, Revelation 12, and I said: “*Who is that?*” And the preacher said: “*It’s gotta be Mary – Look, it’s Mary; she brought forth the man child.*” He wasn’t recognizing it was the church – but let’s put the two together, and let me tell you that what happened to this woman, Mary, is a picture of what happens to the church. Now let me read to you what happened to this woman:

Luke 1:28,30-31

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured [A messenger of God, I could just say, *came to you – a messenger of God came and said: Hail, you’re highly favored*], the

Lord *is* with thee [you]: blessed *art* thou among women.

30 And the angel said unto her [And he said], Fear not, Mary [*{put your name here}*]: for thou hast [you have] found favour [grace] with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb [You'll conceive in your womb, and I'm telling you, this very word *womb* – you can take it right back to the Old Testament and here's where it is – it's right here in Proverbs 18 (*your mind*). You'll conceive in your womb], and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS [and call his name Jesus].

That's happened to every one sitting in this room, spiritually, if you see that He is the Son of God. *Peter, who do you say that I am? Well, you're the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You're blessed. My Father told you that; you got that from my Father. Flesh and blood didn't do that; you got that from my Father* (Matthew 16:-15-17). Now listen – I'm not going to read the whole thing. I want you to see how he says this happens – listen to this:

Luke 1:35

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee [The angel answered and said, Holy Spirit will come upon you], and the power of the Highest shall [will] overshadow thee [you]: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God [that is why the holy thing born in you will be called the Son of God].

That is why you'll see it. Why? It's the power of God. *Peter, My Father told you that.* It's the same thing that happened to Mary – *the power of God overshadows you; Holy Spirit comes upon you and the power of the Highest....* that is why that holy thing is called the Son – that's why you see it. Now listen – in Mary's womb, He was defiled and divinity and humanity were blended together, and He was tempted in all points like you to believe what? *I have no value to God.* But He had seen the face of God, and He was tempted in all....but he never sinned; He never believed the lie — tempted in all points but He never sinned. *He never believed the lie* – the defilement is overcome and put away. In your minds, when you understood the truth of the Son of God, He was defiled in your womb – and I'm speaking for myself right now because, back in the 80's when the Lord showed me that Jesus was really His Son, I saw that through the eyes of *I have no value to God except Jesus die for me and now that He dies and pays my penalty, that gives me value.* This whole concept of the Son of God was defiled in my womb.

But when I understood Calvary, it changed. As I began to see Calvary, I began to see the truth about the Son of God in a new way – I saw Him differently; it was more pure and we are getting rid of the lie, and I'm seeing Him differently... and suddenly now He IS Holy Spirit. I see the holiness of what He is doing. What am I saying? That before this, the way I perceived the resurrected Savior – it is now different. The Lord, at Calvary, purified – completely finished His Son – and I want to touch on this just for a second. When the man hanging on the cross said: “*Why have you forsaken Me?*” The next thing He said was: “*It's finished.*” What's finished? I was told: *Well, now He paid the penalty, so that finishes it.* No sir! Do you know what was finished? The fact that He knew He was the Son of God, and the Father forsook Him to prove to you His love — and the reality of that truth, I think, hit Him right between the eyes: *My Father, I'm His only birthed son, and why have You forsaken ME?* Answer: *Because they need to see that I love them as much as I love You, that's why. It's finished. I get it. The reality of it I see. It's finished.*

So we have the fact that we can look at Him and see the love of God for us, and I am no longer defiled with women; I've been redeemed from among men; I'm the first fruit unto God, and I can tell you that because I don't carry the lie – I don't speak guile. You see, if you believe the lie, you can't help but speak untruth. But if you see your need, and you see He's the Son, and you know you can hear God –

and those concepts are alive in you, and cannot be moved – the Lord can bring you to the place where He will destroy your doctrinal confusion, and unravel the iniquity. But if you're carrying anything that denies any of those truths, you speak with deceit. Why? Because you are deceived, that's why. You can't help but speak that way. So that's the 144,000 and that is His bride – and let's stop right here.

The Inward Victory of God's People

Revelation 19:11-16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.