

BÂSAR BLESSINGS MINISTRIES

*"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."
Psalm 68:11*

Publishing Sermons and Bible Studies
given to the Pentecostal Free Church of Acton
by Pastor Norman B Scutt
from 1971 and 1972

"Book 3"

*These words may be even more relevant in
the 21st century than in that age. Through
his unique way of teaching the Word of God,
Pastor Scutt drew out the **Eternal Principles**
which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

*The focus is always on Jesus Christ as the
Only Sacrifice for sin by the pouring out of His Blood.
Belief in God's Message of The Lamb, Christ Crucified,
results in enjoyment of the holy, victorious Life that
God always intended man to have for eternity.*

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WATCHFUL AND WAITING

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

THE Greatest Event of This Age is the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!!

Hebrews 9:36 “For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

“... in the end of the world”, that is, to God it is the end of the world. And Christ has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. It has already been done!

It means the end of the world's system. It is Doom to Satan in God's eyes. It was finished at Calvary.

v27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

As with all men there is something to expect after death! And so with Christ also, as He Himself is the Judge of all men.

v28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

His Second Coming is for the Church – and, of course, the Old Testament saints, being also in the Resurrection of Life. For the world, their Second Coming is for Judgment on this earth.

The Church has nothing else to look for from Heaven! This should be a strengthening to our faith. Our lives here are temporary, and, because of the Lord's Coming, about to be suddenly terminated!

After we are born again, then Baptised in Water, and Baptised in the Holy Spirit, and established in a church, we are to be soul-winners, affecting the world. There is nothing else to look for!

We look for the Saviour, our “First Love”, the “King in His beauty” and the “Firstborn from the dead”! [Luke 2:11, Revelation 2:4, Isaiah 33:17, Revelation 1:5, Colossians 1:18]

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”

[1 Thessalonians 1:9 – 10]

This was the record of the Church to the Thessalonians. They were ready, and were able to receive the Message of the Coming of Jesus.

They **“turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”**

They were committed to serve God for Eternity! We cannot serve the Living God temporarily! I cannot expect to continue forever living here, therefore, there is nothing but to look for Jesus’ Coming.

“idols” of wood and stone, as perhaps things in the house, or gold, silver, paper notes, ie, money, or self, saying, ‘I go, I do, I get, I am’

But this church was able to turn to the Living and True God and wait for His Son from Heaven. This attitude will alter our very living conditions. There would be less spiritual vagrancy, for example, travelling around with guitars, which is being done in our era!

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. 15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” [1 Thessalonians 4:14 – 18]

“comfort one another with these words”

We must encourage each other about His Coming. We are glad to go! We should not be anxious, but glad to be with Him, the Lord Himself! He is the Comfort! It will be a boost to our resistance to pressure. It will be an inspiration to our preaching and teaching. But it would be humdrum work for someone who is not transformed! If we are transformed by His Grace, we can say with certainty, ‘I’m on my way! Jesus is coming for me!’

There is the teaching that Christ gave through was is called ‘the Lord’s Prayer’.

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name. 10. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as
it is in heaven.” [Matthew 6:9 – 10]

“Our Father which art in heaven”

We are to have our hearts centred on Heaven. He focuses us There. It is the
place where my Father is!

“Hallowed be Thy name”

May I not mix up Your Name with the world. I should be always showing that I
am a child of Heaven. I am registered There; my Father lives There.

“Thy kingdom come” [v10]

‘Please send Jesus as soon as it pleases You!’

“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”

‘Father, when is He coming? – have you ever asked that?! I won’t be told the
Time when He will come, but I will be on time with the Holy Ghost!!

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying,
Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, 15. To execute
judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all
their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their
hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”
[Jude 1:14 – 15]

Enoch was the seventh from Adam. How far back men were looking for Jesus’
Coming – to earth in Judgment...

“with ten thousands of His saints”

This is referring to the Church, as we now know from the New Testament
teachings in the Apostles’ letters.

A soul close to God as Enoch was is keen to see the God he walks with.

“God took him” [Genesis 5:24]

This is the Story of the Rapture! The Coming of the Lord is firmly in the
forefront of the hearts of those who have communion with that same Lord.

“And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch: 19. And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 20. And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died. 21. And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22. And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23. And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24. And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” [Genesis 5:18 – 24]

It was no strain to Enoch as he preached repentance, as Jude records. “saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, 15. To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Perhaps, in all that ungodliness, Enoch could take no more... God knows how much I can take. Here is God's proof...

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” [1 Corinthians 10:13]

Therefore, I must leave it to this God who is coming for me! And be happy! I have no more pressure on me than anyone else.

v14 “Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.”

In other words, looking for relief when I don't need it from any other one or source. God is my relief. If I can take the pressure, He is with me in it. If I can't, then He will take it from me.

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” [Hebrews 4:14 – 15]

Jesus is well aware of what I have to put up with. He is the Coming Lord, the Saviour; He knows. We can live in this world under His Personal Guidance and Care by the Holy Spirit. When I can't ask or don't know what to ask for, He tells God.

We should not be full of our own plans and desires. As we see in the taking of the bread and the wine, God has called us around One Person, and One Hope.

“After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. 26. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.” [1 Corinthians 11:25 – 26]

Eating of the (unleavened) bread and drinking of the cup are reminders that He is not Here! And so, with Him being absent, we are to concentrate on His Work, and it working in us. I should have that quickening in my body. Is He really real to me? So real that I am stirred by His Coming?

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.” [John 14:23]

“If a man love Me, he will keep My words” If you are not interested in someone, you are not likely to get ready their coming to you...

This Event, the Coming of Christ for His Church is the end of the world as it is.

The eating of the bread doesn’t make me holy, or give me a feeling of duty. Our eating is that we should be together expecting Him.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. [Titus 2:11 – 15]

This shows the expectant Church.

v12 “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

Severed from the world by the Cross, its systems, its thinking.

“soberly” – conscious, alert, watchfully, seeing my life is already for His Coming.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” [Ephesians 5:1 – 2]

Have your eyes on God. As John said, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." [1 John 5:3]

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" [Ephesians 5:6 – 8]

"walk as children of light:" In your day-to-day living. I must see that my conduct reveals the evidence of the living God, as it is manifest in me.

"Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." [Ephesians 5:14 – 17]

"walk circumspectly" – alertly, carefully.

"Redeeming the time" – buying time out of my day, paying a price for it.

"Christ shall give thee light" – revealing what God really is.

Time must be bought out of my day, and I have to buy it! From hours of sleep, perhaps, or something else to go out of my life to give God more room...

Calvary – the place of the Death of the Eternal One made the Son of God on a wooden Cross. It is The Greatest Event of ALL TIME!! Nothing else can equal that Event in Greater Majesty, Power, Love, Passion, Tenderness, Humility...

... But This is what we are looking out for: To SEE That Lamb that was slain on Calvary. Seeing Him, being caught up to meet Him at the Rapture, That is The Greatest Event of THIS AGE.

It will be even greater than what the Holy Spirit is prepared to reveal to us here and now. We couldn't take it all in! But Then! "but then shall I know even as also I am known" ! [1 Corinthians 13:12]

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to Face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

The Holy Spirit will cease to preach and prophesy through us within the Church, for we will be There!

The Event of The Rapture, the changing of sinful bodies into sinless bodies, of raising the dead in Christ, of snatching believing bodily up into the skies, will be a far greater thing than anything man can or has ever achieved here, in any Age! It will be an Event great in Joy as well!!

“Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O LORD. 2. Lord, hear My voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of My supplications. 3. If, Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? 4. But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. 5. I wait for the LORD, My soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. 6. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.” [Psalm 130:1 – 6]

“Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O LORD” [v1]

He is in difficulty. That is normal life here; it is the sign of one is living for God...

“If, Thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? 4. But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.” [vs3 – 4]

He is looking for the Mercy of God. If God forgives me my sins, I ought never to do that thing again. That is what is meant by “the fear of the Lord”

“I wait for the LORD, My soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope.” [v5]

He waited on the LORD, no one else. Is that so with me? Waiting on the Lord physically, mentally and spiritually?

“My soul” The soul, where the determination is settled. I can say, ‘I’m waiting’ – waiting for Him to come for me. Waiting in this manner means as a life. It is not a suspension of duties! It is living that life which would be snapped up when Jesus comes.

Enoch walked with God. It was a positive life, and more than just an attitude of mind. It was the outworking of his positive decision to walk with God.

“My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.” [v6]

Watching and waiting for the Lord – always having that expectation. Will it be new hopes, or fears...? For Christ, it was waiting for His Resurrection! And we, being “in Christ” are waiting for ours!

"I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

He waited for God more than anyone else could. Do I wait like that – more than those who need to see the dawn break as their lives depended on it – Do I wait like that for the Coming of JESUS?

Yes, we may have hard tasks to do, difficult people to deal with, many things to do which require our concentration, important decisions to make...

But where is the Place I am going?! Do I watch; am I going to watch? Am I going to wait for Him as if I am saying, 'I wait, **I say, more than they that watch for the morning**' ?

"My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

REVEALING THE FIRST LOVE

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

Revelation 22:7 "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

"quickly" Christ is coming without warning.

As He said, "as ye think not..."

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." [Matthew 24:44]

Christ will come at a time when most Christians think it most unlikely. Or, when it is inconvenient for them, or when they are overtaken by distractions, including hurt.

He will come at That Time – the Time that God sends Him.

"blessed is he" Happy is that one who is wanting to see Me at any time! No time will be an inconvenience. The consideration is for Christians! Is there any moment in my life when it would be inconvenient for Him to come at that time? Am I ready to meet Him – the One I love. Time doesn't exist in Eternity!

"blessed" happy. He is asking me, 'Are you happy, are you longing, are you ready to meet Me at any time?'

"blessed is he" that he may feast his eyes on Me. Such is one who **"keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."**

Christ is saying, 'The one who is happy to see Me at any time, is the one who has taken hold of My words – these sayings, the true sayings of God.'

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." [Revelation 19:9]

Words, sayings, exactly what God wants to say, and in the way He wants to say them – His scriptures exactly, which are not to be explained except by God!

“he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” He keeps these sayings, therefore he will be ready. The sayings are exactly what God says.

“Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” [Revelation 22:7]

So such a man is blessed – happy – since he regards these words and won’t let them go, and is ready, eager and happy for Christ to suddenly appear with no inconvenience to him! So what are these “sayings”?

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2. I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy First Love. 5. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” [Revelation 2:1 – 5]

Christ is saying that in His estimation, the one who keeps these sayings is the one who is ready to meet Me at any time.

vs 1 – 3 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2. I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

“I know thy works” a long list of highly spiritual works: labour, patience, hating evil people, examined validity of apostles, endurance, continued in patience and in labour for His name’s sake, and continued working without fainting. BUT ...

vs 4 – 5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy First Love. 5. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

“Nevertheless” even for all that, He would remove the whole church...

The “candlestick” is the church. [Revelation 1:20]

v5 “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

“from whence thou art fallen” I cannot fall lower than in leaving my “first love”. The pastor [“angel”] had fallen, and taken his church with him.

“do the first works” ‘which were the works when you and your church first knew Me, your works of Love.’

If the pastor would not repent, Christ would remove the whole church as it no longer represented Him on earth.

“I have somewhat against thee” [v4]. The pastor of the church had left his First Love which was Christ Himself. And Christ described Himself as his First Love. Is He my First Love? He is worthy as being equal with God on the Throne!!

Without Him being the church’s First Love, the works they did were not eternal works. They were hanging on to their reputation, but not unto Him. There is a difference from saying, ‘I love Him’ and that of Him being my Love.

Obedience to God’s words is the only manifestation of my love to Him. Not obedience to the letter but to Him as my Lord and my God.

As Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:

v15 “If ye love Me, keep My commandments”

v21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”]

v23 “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.”

Christ is God’s First Love! God reckons that if a man keeps the words of His Son, then he must love Him. Jesus told His disciples, He didn’t give them the word; they were all from the Father!

v24 “He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings: and the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father’s which sent Me.”

Here is the Principle: Loving Jesus Christ brings God’s Love to people, it attracts them; they see that Love.

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” [Mark 12:30]

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God” that is, Jesus Christ as well as God on the Throne.

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart” all my desires – all – with all, and not at my convenience.

“and with all **thy soul**” with all my determination. Even in conversion, one can lose sight of the Converter

“and with all **thy mind**” all my interest, affections, which quickens the pulse; all must be first to Jesus.

“and with all **thy strength**” all my bodily conduct. Is Jesus the Love my body lives for?

v4 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy First Love.”

Obedying His Commandments and Love do go together, for loving Christ profits me. I can’t give anything to Christ, for He owns everything! Jesus had first claim on the hearts of this church in Ephesus, and also on their wills. So does He have first claim on mine? Or have other things come in?

“... with all thy heart” First claim on my heart to love Him... “... with all thy soul” First determination of my soul on my decisions... “... with all thy mind” First claim on my interests... Does He quicken my pulse – even in sorrows and hurts, am I glad of Him? Not just what He gives me of His Peace etc... “... with all my strength” First claim on my bodily strength; what I have used my hands and feet etc for Him, first for Him.

Our whole lives must be like that. That church used to live like that. He was their First Love, with Him in their view. Is Christ in my view? There is no strain in God’s Love. It won’t make me get weaker, or be that I can’t take any more.

I must repent of the things that are cluttering up my life. The Holy Spirit is a Gift of Love. Healing from God is a Gift of Love. Deliverance from hardness of heart, or stubbornness, of pride etc, is a Gift of Love. Faith in Christ is a Product of Love – His Love in us being worked out by the Holy Spirit.

“thou hast left thy First Love.” The Ephesian church had left their First Love. They were now giving their love somewhere else – to other people? other things? to their own ambition? They were set on their own ways, not on Him.

It is a long way to fall! We can't climb up by ourselves if we fall from Him! He will have to take me up Himself, by His Love. Let Love have His way. They hadn't left the church! Or their Christian lives or their Christian Ministries etc, but their First Love. They could no longer give to Him what they ought to have given. For Him to be my First Love means that He has First Claim on all that is me.

“Charity [sacrificial Love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8. Charity never faileth:” [1 Corinthians 13:4 – 8]

The Love that is expressed in 1 Corinthians 13 is all-consuming; it represents a complete life committed to Christ.

The woman with the alabaster box full of precious ointment poured it on His head. The disciples – particularly Judas Iscariot said that was of waste of it. Her first thought was Christ although the ointment was very precious – very expensive and valuable. What was valuable to her, in her mind, He should have the benefit of it; He must have it. [the woman was Mary, sister of Martha and Lazareth]

Her first desire was to Him, and she got nothing then, it was all given. If He is my First Love, I will reckon that it's not in getting for myself. Perhaps I am not receiving because I'm not a very good giver...

The young man who came to Jesus asking Him about eternal life had a good character, but he didn't have eternal life because he had not kept the First Commandment! He didn't love Him with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. He didn't have Him!

“Yet lackest thou one thing:” His lack was his First Love, Jesus Christ!

“One thing thou lackest:”

He, Jesus, must have the First Claim on my heart, on my will.

He said that what Mary had done would be for a memorial for her. Her love for Him was and is her memorial, not her famous ministry or mighty works, etc! She could have offered the ointment as a gift as a personal sacrifice in her life, but her first thought was Him – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Make Him your First Love forever, and never repent of it!

Scripture Passages and References:

Mary, the woman

“Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead. 2. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him. 3. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. 4. Then said one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray Him, 5. Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6. This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. 7. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of My burying hath she kept this. 8. For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always.” [John 12:1 - 8]

“Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, 7. There came unto Him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meal. 8. But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? 9. For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. 10. When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me. 11. For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye have not always. 12. For in that she hath poured this ointment on My body, she did it for My burial.” [Matthew 26:6 - 12]

“And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on His head. 4. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5. For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. 6. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on Me. 7. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but Me ye have not always.

8. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint My body to the burying." [Mark 14:3 – 8]

The rich young man

"And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17. And He said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18. He saith unto Him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19. Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20. The young man saith unto Him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21. Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me. 22. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." [Matthew 19:16 – 22]

"And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. 19. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20. And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. 22. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." [Mark 10:17 – 22]

"And a certain ruler asked Him saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. 22. Now when Jesus heard these things, He said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow Me. 23. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich." [Luke 18:18 – 23]

HAPPY WITH THE FIRST LOVE

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

Revelation 22:7 "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

"blessed" I must be happy in every part of my life.

"quickly" meaning, suddenly, without any warning. He said He would come as a thief...

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." [Revelation 16:15]

As a thief, at a time when we are living without suspecting the unexpected, He will come. At a time when we are very preoccupied, perhaps with a problem which engages our whole attention, He will come. Or when we are absorbed in some pleasure, or sorrow, or fear, or in making a decision. That is the time when Jesus is coming! Remember Lot's wife... There were two in the field, one was taken and the other left...

"Remember Lot's wife" [Luke 17:32; Genesis 19:15 - 26]

She wasn't ready at the time of deliverance.

"Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left."
[Matthew 24:40]

"blessed" – happy. The blessed one is happy because he is not caught unprepared. Religion doesn't prepare me for the Coming of Christ. Whatever is engaging the happy man, all his attention, his life, is given over to watching with every part of his being. He is watching for the shout! I won't hear it if my spirit is not watching.

It is all from Heaven. I must have a Heaven-born spirit – a heart that is not engaged with pleasures and the things of this life. When I am watching, I will hear, otherwise I will not hear it. His shout will come piercing through those whose ears are accustomed to hearing from Him.

Am I really longing for that sound? Am I eagerly, constantly, expecting to hear it? Am I consciously expecting it in the midst of everything.

“first love” Jesus is your First Love.

A First Love is One who means more to the happy man than any sorrow or joy; he is undistracted by those things.

“Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” [Revelation 22:7]

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” [Revelation 16:15]

He, the blessed man, the happy man, is holding on to God’s Word. I can’t make the excuse of trials, sorrows etc. I will be left behind if I do. Be less concerned as to what goes on around you, and be concentrated on Jesus. He will make us wise.

“And he [the angel] saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” [Revelation 19:9]

“true sayings” Exactly as God wanted it said. It is not to be looked at from man’s point of view.

Christ told the first of the seven churches exactly what He knew of them:

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2. I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3. And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.” [Revelation 2:1 – 4]

“Nevertheless” the word which blotted out all record of the pastor’s and his church’s works. To Christ they mattered nothing. Their situation needed immediate attention. His Coming will be at a fixed time. Jesus had been once their First Love, then the first results was their joy in Jesus Christ – Him Himself.

"O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead Me; let them bring Me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles. 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." [Psalm 43:3 – 4]

"unto God my exceeding joy"

Because Christ made God His Exceeding Joy, we, being in Christ, make Christ our exceeding Joy. Such people go to Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings etc only because He is there! His Light is their light, His Presence is everything to them. This was the Ephesian church's experience until they took their eyes off Him and concentrated just on their works.

"Then will I go unto the altar of God" [v4]

This is how we can follow His example, being a soul coming to Christ, to Him Himself.

"unto God my exceeding joy"

Those who come running to see Him!

"Thou wilt shew Me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." [Psalm 16:11]

The Ephesians used to be like that, finding their fullness, their exceeding joy in Jesus Christ...

"my exceeding joy"

An exuberance of spirit; an enthusiasm for Him, to meet Him. An excess of happiness!

"upon the harp will I praise Thee, O God my God"

Jesus is the First Love I ever had, the First Love I ever knew. And, of course, God's First Love is Jesus!

"Then will I go unto the altar of God" If He is my First Love, I will be sure to be there. Faith and Love go together. I should trust God, even without the answer yet coming.

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;” [Revelation 2:1]

The minister, the pastor of the church was in Jesus’ own right hand! He had been the First Love of the church, but now they were so “spiritual” with their ministry and projects that they had forgotten Him!

We can’t love Christ in a controlled, sedate manner! We must have a Passion for Him – and excess of Happiness! Do our works in the church mean more than having and knowing Him? When He was the Ephesian church’s First Love other things were put aside in order to meet with Him.

He said, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them” [Matthew 18:20]. He greatly desires to be with His own.

Continuing with v5 of Revelation 2, “**Remember therefore...**”

“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” [Revelation 2:5]

The pastor and the church had to do the first works – loving Him! Having Him as their First Love!

“Put Me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.” [Isaiah 43:26]

How wonderful! Christ is pleading with us. He longs to be in fellowship with us, in that pure, loving relationship!

Could I ever have an argument against God?! He is always reaching out to me...

“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.” [Hebrews 10:32]

“call to remembrance the former days”

Things don’t make me happy, only JESUS can!

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” [Isaiah 1:18]

“Come now”

“and let us reason together”

“Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed My voice, saith the LORD. 14. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:”
[Jeremiah 3:13 – 14]

“acknowledge thine iniquity”

He is again pleading with fallen man, and saying, ‘Just acknowledge your sins and you will find Me right there’.

“I am married unto you”

If Christ is not my First Love, and works gets in the way and all other distractions follow, gradually I will slip away.

The church at Ephesus had fallen from their former position, their Primary Love being Christ. He wants to give us Salvation. We are to have His Salvation, not our sin! I must search for Jesus...

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” [Psalm 37:4]

“Delight thyself also in the LORD”

As Christ delighted in God, so I can delight in Christ my First Love.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”
[Colossians 3:23]

“do it heartily, as to the Lord”

Show your delight in Him, your First Love!

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” [Philippians 4:4]

This was Paul’s experience of life in Christ! He couldn’t live hard enough for his First Love!!

Are you willing to make the Lord Jesus Christ your First Love forever?

THE PURITY OF FORGIVENESS

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

[Luke 23:24 – 32]

Luke 23:33 – 38 “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots. 35. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God. 36. And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering Him vinegar, 37. And saying, If Thou be the king of the Jews, save Thyself. 38. And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

The first words of Christ from the Cross were, ‘Forgive them’.

“Father, forgive them” [v34]

“And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. 25. And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will. 26. And as they led Him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. 27. And there followed Him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented Him. 28. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. 29. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. 30. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. 31. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? 32. And there were also two other, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death.” [Luke 23:24 – 32]

Forgiveness springs only from Absolute Purity. It is not with men.

“who can forgive sins but God only?” [Mark 2:7]

“Why doth this Man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?” [Mark 2:7]

Even the scribes knew that only God is able to forgive sins! The forgiving of sins means putting them away out of His sight.

Purity hates all sin. Of Christ, God said that He loved righteousness and hated iniquity. His love for God’s Ways was shown by His hatred for what was not God’s Way. What is not of God? Sin!

“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.” [Psalm 45:7]

“Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness”

A love for God’s Ways of living must be accompanied by a positive dislike for what was not.

As appropriate to David, when he took another man’s life and had him killed, he had wronged two people and being king, also the whole nation of Israel, but in repentance, his real cry was that God’s hatred of sin was not in him.

“Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight:”

“Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.” [Psalm 51:4]

It’s not overlooking the sin; it’s having it put out altogether, when Jesus said, “Forgive them”. Jesus, as He spoke those words, was filled with a burning spirit of Holiness. No one else is capable of hating sin like that. To have any kind of liking for self means there is a tolerance of some sin.

Sin is offensive to God’s sight and smell. So Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. The sinful self, fallen mankind, is distorted by iniquity.

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” [1 John 3:8]

Jesus came out to do it with Joy and enthusiasm which exceeded all other joys, as expressed again in Hebrews One, where it also reveals the mighty Work of the Cross.

“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.”

[Hebrews 1:9]

“Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

[Hebrews 1:3]

“He had by Himself purged our sins”

“And His disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up.” [John 2:17]

“For the zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached Thee are fallen upon Me.” [Psalm 69:9]

“the zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up”

This is what Purity is. Only in such a heart could there be real Forgiveness. Purity was revealed at Calvary. Calvary was the Giving of Christ. Everything was controlled by Him although they almost torn Him to bits. He allowed it, for it was the only Way to put away sins.

He was the Perfect Man who was willing to become nothing so that we could come unto God.

All the wrongs of us, every one, Jesus took it all upon Himself. This is the Reason for God’s Forgiveness now towards us because He thoroughly put away all sin at the Cross of Calvary. God hates all sin, so all is put away.

That is why there is Joy in Heaven, and the Joy is from God’s heart! He is in the presence of the angels!!

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” [Luke 15:7]

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” [Luke 15:10]

“And the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.” [Luke 18:13]

“God be merciful to me a sinner” Now we have His mercy in abundance!

“Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.” [Jeremiah 3:14]

“for I am married unto you” The backslider is called back by the Forgiveness of Jesus. He is not willing for any soul to go into the Lake of Fire.

The Purity of the Forgiveness that Jesus showed on the Cross is proof of God’s intense hatred of all wrong. His contest is with us, mankind, not with Satan, for Satan was judged and destroyed at the Cross.

“And when He [the Comforter, the Holy Spirit] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9. Of sin, because they believe not on Me; 10. Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; 11. Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” [John 16:8:11]

“the prince of this world is judged”

So God contests with those who backslide and are growing cold, and Christ calls them back by saying He is married to them because He knows that the only alternative is the Lake of Fire.

Because God has forgiven us already, therefore I can repent.

“Father, forgive them”

Here is Authority unmated – unlimited, unrestrained, lavish! He, the Lord Jesus had forgiven them. Therefore, you and I can turn from everything, from people or places, accordingly. It is God in me that makes me holy.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” [Isaiah 1:18]

“let us reason” The grounds of the Reason would be His Righteousness and my Repentance!

"Put Me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified." [Isaiah 43:26]

"let us plead together"

God – Christ – is saying, 'You plead for My mercy and I will plead for your love.'

A lack of love for Him, a lack of willingness, feebleness of faith etc shows a lack of understanding of how much He hates sin. You can't patch up your old life. You can't have God's Holy Spirit within the same old life. It must die; the old life must die.

"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee." [Isaiah 44:22]

"return unto Me; for I have redeemed thee" He can say this because He has done it all because of His hatred for sin. How can God have fellowship with me and my sin?

"for they know not what they do" They didn't know then, but now we do.

"redeemed" means to be free to live in righteousness; to be free from sin as God Himself is free from sin. Jesus has such enthusiasm for me because of His enthusiasm in His hatred for sin. Therefore I have to let Him in!

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem has a pure river running through it, as clear as crystal. [Revelation 22:1] So would I like it There if there is sin in me?

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."

"Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed My voice, saith the LORD."
[Jeremiah 3:13]

"Only acknowledge"

'Just own up that you have preferred other people, possessions and things and places to Me' He is saying to you. I should have only JESUS!

The sin by which all will be judged will be based on your relationship to Jesus Christ. I need to ask myself, 'Have I preferred Jesus to everything else?'

Our conversation – our whole life as expressed by what is in our hearts – is said to be in Heaven.

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:” [Philippians 3:20]

Where Christ calls the churches personally to repentance, in Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, it reveals His Holiness which cannot tolerate iniquity.

“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” [Revelation 4:8]

The Message is that men must repent. This vision shows God’s Absolute Hatred and Detesting of sin.

“And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. 8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” [Revelation 21:5 – 8]

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 27. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” [Revelation 21:22, 23, 27]

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” [Revelation 5:9]

All the redeemed shown to be in Heaven. John, by the Holy Spirit, sees them all resurrected and around the throne of God. These visions prove that God is no respecter of persons! All have sinned, in every age, from the beginning. Out of them have come those which accept the same hatred of sin as God has.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” [Romans 3:23]

All have sinned, yet even these from the Old Testament had also hated sin with the same hatred as God, so they will be There. In their day, they washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. [Revelation 7:14]

Our different backgrounds or our different degrees of knowledge are of no matter. The question is, Do I accept that only the Blood of my Lord Jesus Christ is my Complete Defence against all sin?

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. [Revelation 12:10 - 11]

Those that will express that same hatred of sin as God does will be those who overcome Satan by the Blood alone. Satan is the fountain of all evil. At the beginning he said, “Hath God said?”

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” [Genesis 3:1]

We have to trample him under our feet. And we must tackle our flesh; it must die. It must be crucified!

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” [Galatians 2:20]

Accept and believe that Jesus did it all for you and me!

WITH THE EYES OF THE LORD

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

1 Corinthians 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” [Philippians 2:3]

These scriptures are to keep us in the way of the Lord. Many onslaughts of Satan will come. We can also expect assignments from the Lord. But we can only work together with the Lord when we work together with each other.

We cannot have divided loyalties. Many in the church may want to do their best, but they want to do it in their own way! But it is in this way that we will fail to meet Christ's Commandments.

Criticism is a spiritual disease and it is becoming common. Do we realise what is the cause? It could be one individual criticising another individual. It could be criticism of the ministry or of general church matters. When criticism hinders the work of God seriously, then it is the ultimate killer.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12]

“the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword”

The Word of God is a Weapon against all wrongs. It wields judgment to kill.

“a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”

It is its Function to discern. It is decisive, marking the difference between right and wrong. Like a Judge it tries, concludes, condemns, punishes, and damns. It comes to a Final, Unalterable Decision of a Matter.

Jesus said to the Jews in the temple treasury, 'I could decide now what kind of men you are, but I speak only those things which I hear from the One who sent Me'.

"I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him."

[John 8:26]

A critic is one skilled in reviewing. It is a profession. Therefore a critic is a fault-finder who is trained in that. So what about in the church?! If someone says, 'The services are too long', for example, they are saying that because they think they are right in their opinion, their review, of the matter.

And if they say that a particular service was 'too churchy', or some project was something that should not be indulged in, then their review of the matter is what they think is right, in their trained mind!

This must concern and affect the Holy Spirit in a congregation very much when the members come to a conclusion on a matter. For only God's Word can come to a Final Conclusion on any matter, because God's Word is the Truth.

God's Church must be ruled properly and in order. The critic comes to his own conclusion on a matter, convinced that he is right. It is always without God! Only One Person can give a Right View, and that is God!

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

[Hebrews 4:13]

"His sight"

His sight and His Judgment are equal. What He sees is Right, the Right Conclusion, the Right Judgment. Without God's Word properly forming our thoughts, our views and opinions, a Judgment is made which will not be the same as God's. The matter will be as it is only in the eyes of the critic...

We're just talking here of Criticism, not Gossip, or the issues in Matthew 18 of humility and forgiveness... Criticism, as a Judgment formed and expressed openly, or in the heart. Criticism produces bondage in the prayer life and coldness in service to the Lord. The Holy Ghost is present in His Power, but how many benefit if criticism is present in the heart when we gather together?

Criticism also produces indifference, as it is just criticism without any incentive to do anything about the matter.

So divisions will be there, even unconsciously. They do exist within the church, and they oppose and hinder the operation of God's Word. If a church member has a firm opinion about someone else in the church, God's Word will not have the freedom to move in that critical one. That member will be affected first, then others will be also.

No one can please God without faith. We must believe that He is! Believe that He is available, and will give the right conclusion if you go to Him.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." [Hebrews 11:6]

It requires spiritual energy to go to God, then He fills and replenishes. Every matter should be taken to God. He will advise and guide, by His Word, of course. God's Word must prove God's point of view! It is the Word of Truth.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."
[Proverbs 3:6]

"Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.!" [John 17:17]

And, as Jesus said to the Jews concerning being His disciple and knowing the truth, it would make them free...

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; 32. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." [John 8:31 - 32]

If I am guided by the Spirit of God in all my views and thoughts and opinions, I will never be a critic, but always have God's perfect view of everything.

THE ESSENCE OF TRUE WORSHIP

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

We are considering what actually is true Worship to God

Worship is described from the Scriptures as :

To prostrate oneself in heart, life or body.

To express – neither silently or noisily – the greatest honour, esteem, respect, love for, adoration of, admiration of, passion for, a great joy in, a longing to obey and a longing to serve.

“And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. 28. And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water. 29. And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31. And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32. And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.” [Matthew 14:25 – 33]

“they ... came and worshipped Him, saying, ...”

The disciples were expressing their deep feelings for their Lord and Master. Worship is something which must come out from the worshipper. Worship of God must have expression! It is beyond ordinary feelings and emotions. As Jesus said, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”

“O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” [Matthew 12:34]

“And they clothed Him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about His head, 18. And began to salute Him, Hail, King of the Jews! 19. And they smote Him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon Him, and bowing their knees worshipped Him.” [Mark 15:17 – 19]

The soldiers did this to Him in mockery, of course, but they knew the actions of worship. They bowed their knees. They worshipped and expressed themselves according to the Object of their worship. They didn't believe on Him as the King of the Jews, so they mocked Him. But their acts outwardly indicated they knew the meaning of worship. By saluting Him they acknowledged they knew it was supposed to be in respect and recognition of His greatness. And in bowing their knees to Him they acknowledged that kings should be held in reverence.

True Worship must only be directed to God. To anything or anyone else, it is idolatry. Worship is usually expressed in the end verbally.

“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”
[Revelation 19:4]

“saying, Amen; Alleluia”

The elders were There, resurrected, in God's Presence, yet they fell forward before Him on the Throne. Yes, they fell forward! – Not as in the Garden where the unbelieving soldiers fell backwards at the voice of Christ! – The elders in Heaven still felt it necessary to express their worship with their voices.

If I am unmoved in wanting to worship God, there must be something wrong in my life. John worshipped the angel because of what he heard and saw of the revelation of the Lamb, but he was rebuked by him because only the Lamb Himself is worthy to be worshipped.

“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.” [Revelation 22:8 – 9]

And another time...

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 10. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” [Revelation 19:9 – 10]

So even though John was in the Spirit, his flesh had to be checked. And again, when he was given the vision of the woman (Jerusalem) being carried by the scarlet coloured beast (Satan).

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 7. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” [Revelation 17:6 – 7]

We cannot worship God with our senses, and neither can we worship God with our emotions or feelings. Only by the Spirit, for God is a Spirit.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” [John 4:24]

“Worship God” Twice the angel had to say to John.

In the time of Judgments, men will worship even the image of the beast. They will be utterly deceived...

And I saw the beast [the man], and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. 20. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
[Revelation 19:19 – 20]

We need to see the signs in our behaviour of our way of looking at God. If we are not worshipping God in the right spiritual way, then we are deceived.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”
[Revelation 20:4]

If I worship someone who is not God, that object of worship must be believed to have the same qualities as God and Christ. That is Deception.

“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” [Galatians 5:9]

Just a little delaying action in my obedience affects the whole life.

Idolatry is Deception at its highest. Men were taken up so completely with what God had made that they forgot – being deceived – God the Creator (Christ). They ascribed to the object the qualities which God Himself has.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” [Romans 1:24 – 25]

If we are in possession of the Holy Spirit, that Life of God must be seen in us, and must have an effect on the unregenerate.

How is this worship to God to be expressed?

FIRSTLY, by doing exactly as God says in His Written Word: by having the highest regard shown to God.

“And the devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, shewed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6. And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give unto Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine. 8. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.” [Luke 4:5 – 8]

vs 5 – 7 “All this power will I give unto Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.”

Satan wanted Christ to admit, to acknowledge that he is superior because of his power over the world. So we see that to submit to a higher authority is the act of worship...

v8 “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.”

Jesus spoke of worship and to serve. It is either Satan or God. If I am not serving God completely, I cannot worship God.

Abraham’s way of worship, as told in Genesis 22, was to kill Isaac in accordance to God’s Will. He was saying in his heart, ‘I long to obey You’. My work for the Lord is also to do what God wants. He will turn the hearts and win them for Christ and transform the lives of those He sends to me.

The Cross-life can only be a giving over, a giving up of myself. I can't preach Christ with myself in the way.

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them." [Deuteronomy 11:16]

"deceived ... serve ... worship..."

If I am worshipping God truly in God's Way, I will not be deceived. We are to make sure that we are seeing God as He is, that is, as the Holy Spirit shows me in His Word. It is the Holy Spirit who must make the impact. We see in the book of Leviticus that the fire was burning on the altar; the burnt offering reduced to only ashes. Nothing left of self, in other words; consumed with worshipping God!

SECONDLY, our worship to God is to be expressed by our coming to God as Someone to be worshipped, to be given honour to. I can't come with anger or any other negative emotion, as would not be coming to God. The more I give myself to Him the more He is delighted and I will enjoy Him all the more.

In John Chapter Four, we see the woman desired to worship God. God's Spirit in me does make others conscious of God.

v15 "The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw."

She gave the sign that she was an outcast. She came at a time much later than was usual for the women. ["it was about the sixth hour" v6 - around midday, in the heat of the day]

v19 "The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet."

She is finding expression in the conversation with the Lord. She takes notice of Him, and becomes aware of divinity concerning Him.

v20 "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

Again, she is finding expression of what she wanted to do. Her heart is asking, 'Where is God? Where can I find Him to tell Him I love Him?'

v23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."

Here is Christ's Answer to the woman. She could worship God as the Father in her spirit and in truth – which means by the Word of God. It wasn't to do with any particular place. To worship in spirit means to see Him as the Holy Spirit reveals Him, and according to His Word.

When we understand these things in our hearts we are quietened and able to say, 'How wonderful You are!' And that is worship! When we worship in truth, it must be by the Spirit, for the Bible is no more just a printed message on a page. It is a Physical Revelation of all that God is – Truth.

v24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

Christ explains to her exactly what God is.

v25 “The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things.”

She needed and knew that she needed Someone to show her – Someone like This One she was talking to – who God was. It is God who reveals Christ through me by the Spirit. I cannot reveal Jesus Christ by myself, only by the Holy Spirit in me.

v26 “Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He.”

He declares Himself to be He, the Messiah, the One through whom she can find God, the God her heart longs to worship.

A true movement of the Spirit of God in a soul will result in a desire to worship.

THIRDLY, our worship to God is to be expressed by our reverent, humble gratitude in what He has promised to do for us.

“That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.”
[Exodus 12:27]

They worshipped God because of what God had promised to them. He delivered them from death when the blood of the lamb was seen upon their houses.

My gratitude to God for all that He is to me is expressed to Him in worship.

PREPARING TO SEE JESUS

*These Bible Studies from the 1970s given from Pastor Norman Scutt may be even more relevant in the 21st century than in that age. This unique way of teaching the Word of God impressed me and implanted in me the **Eternal Principles** which lie within the pages of Scripture.*

Matthew 24:35 – 39 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away. 36. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered the ark, 39. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

We are considering the importance to us, as members of the Body of Christ, of the Coming of Jesus Christ. To those outside of the Church, they are totally unprepared. In each case, when they heard God’s preaching, His Call to them, they had their excuse.

They were too busy. They were too occupied with the affairs of this life. They had their every day duties and habits in this world. So they could not take God seriously, or His Word as it was preached to them by Noah.

Of course, this is a lesson for us, if we are preparing for the Coming of the Lord. It is only by God’s Spirit that I will take God’s Word seriously. I show that I am taking God’s Word seriously when I put it into practice. I would not be too busy to take God seriously.

If I am in the position of not obeying God’s Word, the Holy Spirit is not able to move in my life because of my resistance. In order to obey God’s Word, I must give God time.

“There were present at that season some that told Him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5. I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” [Luke 13:1 – 5]

They were caught unprepared. They perished because they were unrepentant.

Because of false teaching in the churches, we are encouraged to believe that our suffering is because of God's judgment upon us. But if we have an attitude of repentance continually, it will keep us close to Christ, rather than make us feel rejected in our trial of faith and suffering.

We really can't live a day without repenting. We must have a heart and the will to repent, and to remain a repentant soul. If I find it even slightly difficult to receive correction, I must put that right straight away, or it will grow. The heart will become hardened, for the heart is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. An unrepentant heart is one unmoved by God's Holy Spirit and by His Word. It is the self: what I want, what I feel. It is an unwillingness to be corrected, therefore the heart remains unrepentant. And that unwillingness to accept correction and be repentant becomes habituated...

"And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, 42. Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44. And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation." [Luke 19:41 - 44]

"because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation"

The whole city was living and moving outside of God's Spirit. Jerusalem was meant to be the heart of God's people, but they were without the Spirit of God. They didn't know that God was already there!

"but now they are hid from thine eyes"

He was hid from their eyes, because they were not prepared to obey God's Spirit through God's Word. They were indifferent to Jesus' claims. It is just the same for us in these days. We should know the things that belong unto our Peace. Not through other ways, or other methods, can we know the Peace of God.

I must accept that the Word of God mean a change in me before I hear it.

So then we see these Three Examples of men not prepared to be changed by the Word of God:

- 1 Men were too busy. [Matthew 24:35 – 39]

“If thou hadst known” [Luke 19:41 – 44]

The inhabitants of Jerusalem didn't know that Jesus spoke God's Word.
They were without the Spirit of God.

- 2 Men were not repentant. [Luke 13:1 – 5]

“except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”

Repentance is essential for everyone. We see through the book of Leviticus God's great insistence that there must be something holy, something satisfying to Him coming from the offerer in order to please Him.

The key word in Leviticus is **“offering”**. It occurs 246 times!

God must be satisfied with me. If I come to God with Christ as my Offering, that must mean I am coming repentant.

- 3 Men refused to accept Christ had come. [Luke 19:41 – 44]

“because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation”

And if we are looking for the Coming of Christ, we can only occupy until He comes by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's Guide to Living Here on Earth

... or Reasons for the Church's Way of Living Differently from the World...

ONE

Philippians 3:1 – 21

In describing details of a born-again life, the Holy Spirit has in His view the ultimate Coming of the Son of God for His Church. Those who are without this vision in their hearts and lives are really in a bad way. They would be as the scripture says, minding earthly things. They are living without the Holy Spirit.

“For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” [Romans 8:6]

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”
[Colossians 3:2]

“Who Mind Earthly Things” [Philippians 3:19]

1. All they think about is these things of this earth. Following the Holy Spirit’s Guide to Living on Earth, Spirit-moved believers are set on Heavenly Things.
2. They think only of things that belong to this world. For example, sorrows belong to this world; they don’t belong to Heaven! The Lord could say to us and ask us, ‘Have I a greater attraction to you than your sorrow?’

Actually, sorrow appeals to the flesh. If you are consumed with sorrow, you should consider before the Lord if its root is innate self-pity; self-centreness, and let Him heal you. He alone was the Man of Sorrows, able to bear your burdens away as you turn to Him...

3. This world is the limit of their horizon.
4. Their minds are set on this world’s things. They are fixed, yes, set on this world.

What am I set on?

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” [Matthew 28:18]

“All power”

Satan is completely excluded!

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” [Philippians 3:20]

Returning to Philippians 3 – the conduct of a believer in Jesus Christ is patterned not on earthly things but on That World of God. Therefore I am looking for the Creator from That World to take me Home!

v1 “Finally, brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.”

“Finally”

Once we have been told by the Holy Spirit, 'You must be ready for JESUS' that is sufficient.

So we are to live in this world as citizens of Heaven. There is no allowance for the flesh.

I cannot obey both the flesh and the Spirit.

If I obey the flesh, the Spirit is grieved.

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." [Ephesians 4:30]

But if I obey the Spirit, the flesh is starved!

Whatever hardship to the flesh, take it as from God, as use it to clean up your life. We are to be governed and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Serving two masters can only lead to destruction...

TWO

(The Holy Spirit's Guide to Living Here on Earth

... or Reasons for the Church's Way of Living Differently from the World...)

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." [Philippians 3:11 - 15]

The Holy Spirit has an Objective, and that is to prepare the Church, the Body of Christ, for the personal Coming for them of JESUS. These verses in Philippians are typical of the teaching to the Church in this Age.

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10. And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
[1 Thessalonians 1:9 - 10]

The Thessalonians were commended for being all converted and living by God's Word and waiting for Jesus to come... All diversions within a church are caused by Satan. The letter to the Philippians shows us how to behave within the church and also how to live for JESUS. The Church is not undirected!

The self is a very popular Master! We must not follow the self. Therefore, we have This Guide. The Holy Spirit always has Christ in view.

To live like Christ is my minimum duty. To live for Christ is an act of love.

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" [Titus 2:12]

"**soberly**" that is, watching for Christ – by the Holy Spirit alone, of course.

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." [Romans 5:5]

"**the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts**" that is, the Love of God **for Christ** is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost.

I must reject totally everything that is not according to the Word of God – in both my preaching and my living.

"**righteously**" that is, obediently to Christ. [Titus 2:12] JESUS is only real to me by the Holy Spirit. When I know that I am allowing the Holy Spirit to make Jesus real to me, then only can I say that I am 'living for Christ'. Are my actions motivated only for Christ's Glory?

"**godly**" that is, victoriously! There is no defeat in God! I will live victoriously if Christ is my passion. Am I moved only by Him? What would JESUS think of my way of living for Him? There are no degrees of obedience...

The same Holy Spirit who worked in Paul and the early church must be working in each of us in our local church, therefore we must all be of the same mind, and the same degree of obedience.

If I am living for Christ, I will be looking for Christ! It will take up my time – even all of it!! For sacrifice is essential. Any life that is controlled by the Holy Spirit must be a life of sacrifice – the denying of self. That is the Spirit's work, to help me deny the flesh. As He is keeping me looking for and living for JESUS, He cuts off all the things which are in the way. They are continuous actions through the Word of God, which attacks the flesh. That is why it was said by the Lord to the young man, "Take up the cross"

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
[Mark 10:21]

"It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25. Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26. For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
[Hebrews 9:23 – 28]

In this passage in Hebrews, the emphasis is on Christ's physical Appearing. Those who want to see Him are watching eagerly and patiently.

"look" They look for Him. It is not casual, but they are living to see Jesus. Reading from Romans to Hebrews is to be well recommended. The letters from Romans to Thessalonians have never been altered in their order...

We may look at the night sky to see the stars! Well, there is a Polestar for Christians! Jesus said, "I am the Bright and Morning Star" [Revelation 22:16]

"I Jesus have sent Mine Angel [the Holy Spirit] to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

"morning" He refers to the Place where there will be no night There.

"Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. 19. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20. Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?"
[Amos 5:18 – 20]

But the Day of the LORD will be utterly dark; no Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth, with the Holy Spirit gone from it...

“Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2. For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.” [Isaiah 53:1 – 2]

The prophet Isaiah, by the Holy Spirit, appeals to those who will believe the True Report from God on the Throne and the Holy Spirit. There is One who came from Heaven to this earth devoid of the Word of God, and who was terribly disfigured... Can you believe and say, ‘When I see Him – JESUS – there is no other beauty that I would desire Him to have.’

Can I say that I don’t want Him any other way than marred in His face and body? I must be more of a master of my ‘self’ than ever before.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”
[Matthew 24:12]

Iniquity abounds because people, including Christians, are taking the world’s way out of everything. Yet Christ is coming for His Church. We need therefore to see how the Holy Spirit controls the Church...

How the Holy Spirit Prepares the Church for the Coming of Christ

“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8. Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 10. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” [1 Corinthians 2:6 – 13]

It is made clear that only the Holy Ghost can reveal the hidden mysteries of God. So the Holy Spirit prepares the Church for the Coming of Christ in these Three Ways:

1 He Reveals the Things to Come

He reveals to the Church what God has prepared for it in the world to come. v10 "But God..." must follow v9! These are mighty words!

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 10. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

The Holy Spirit is searching out for us these deep things of God in order to give us the best beneficial Way...

2 He Leads the Church Into the Truth of Christ

Jesus knows that we cannot bear everything at once.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. 14. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you." [John 16:12 - 14]

The Holy Spirit sees Christ clearly and reveals to the members of the Church both God and Christ as we are able to take it.

3 He encourages the Church to Long to See Christ

The Holy Spirit moves the Church to say, "Come" to Christ.

"I Jesus have sent Mine Angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let Him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whoever will, let him take the water of life freely." [Revelation 22:16 - 17]

"Come" The Holy Spirit is reminding Christ that He, the Spirit, will keep ready for Christ those who will always submit to His, the Spirit's, Guidance and Control.

"Mine Angel" v16. The Holy Spirit is He who testifies the things of Jesus Christ to the churches.

God's World, the World to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us to, is a World without sin.

There is no conflict There!

The Holy Spirit has been sent to get the Church prepared for the moment when the Church will be taken There.

Therefore, we must have no conflict with the flesh against the Spirit in us. We must allow the Holy Spirit to work fully in our lives.