

The Problem of Sin and the Method of Redemption

Sermon by Sean Morris

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I am unworthy to stand before Thee to utter Thy Words to expound it. Because of this LORD God I pray that You would make me meet for Your use that it would not be I that speak but Thy Spirit Whose only worthy and true Preacher Your Doctrine of Your WORD. I pray Father that Your Spirit be granted to me in an effectual measure in all wisdom, teaching, and warning, the weapons of righteousness that are mighty through God to pull down the strongholds of Satan, the flesh of man, what this world seeks to build up it has built up and will continue to build up in the minds and hearts of Your people so that their thoughts are not brought into the captivity of obedience to Jesus Christ. Father we just ask of Thee that Your resurrected presence which has ascended which is omnipresent and which is in every place would be in our midst because all of our hearts are open before You and all of our besetting sins all of the things which beguile us from the narrow way. As the song says “on the upward way new heights to gain every day” Father would You LORD search these matters out? Would You abide LORD God and manifest Thyself as we come together to gather together to meet with You? Would You manifest Thyself? Would You descend upon us? Would You wash us with the Water of Your WORD with the manifestation of Your presence? Would You help us work righteousness and rejoice that You might meet with us? Would You wash our eyes with eyesalve would You give us gold tried in the fire? Would You make us worthy vessels meet for Your use? Would You make us desirable for the progress of Your Kingdom Father desirable instruments that You would desire to wield and move and animate and bless and empower with Your presence Father God? Take ground back from the devil and to make us courageous and fearless before the giants which oppose us with their blaspheming and curses which long have discouraged Your people from going to the battle lines. Would You give us a revelation of Your living Person that we might know that we are soldiers and individuals of an army with a single Captain who is worthy who is Savior who is Shepherd who is both condescending and pitiful and terrible and mighty and a Judge who has a pitiful eye who weeps but also is full of vengeance and wrath and holiness? Unapproachable in image. Approachable by great faith. Help us to understand oh God and remember Father through grace through the illumination of Your presence through the power of Your Spirit through the present and standing help of Your holy angels, though the descent and union LORD of this place with Your Kingdom in heaven. Help us oh God to stand up LORD in our souls, to stretch out the spear of righteousness in these last days to stretch out LORD God the spear and to move forward LORD God and to conquer the grounds which You desire to take for Your holy Name’s sake. Even now Father Your elect scattered on the hills grope, drowning LORD in the proud waters of the heathen and false converts and false doctrine on every side. Help us LORD. Father I pray that You would have mercy on the brethren that they would not be proud in their hearts seeking for wise and persuasive words of wisdom Father. That You would penetrate their hearts deflate their pride bring shame. Give them virtue LORD God. Give them the ability through Your grace to receive the engrafted WORD in meekness which is able to save their souls.

Today every day as long as You speak LORD. AS long as You give life LORD God let us have ears to hear. Let us not LORD be under the woe of Heb 3 and 4 where it says if you hear His voice today harden not your hearts as in the provocation. Surely You are speaking today LORD. Surely Your voice we are accountable to obedience to Your voice today. Otherwise You would not have said it. Help us LORD God to understand to obey to bow down at Your feet. Help us Father. Great repentance in our hearts, great resolve, great preparation LORD God, great vision. Give us the victory LORD. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee that it might be displayed because of Thy truth oh God. We hold fast to that banner oh God help us. As we approach the battle line. In the name and grace of the LORD Jesus Christ I present these supplications to You. Have mercy on us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Introduction

The title of this sermon is "*The Problem of Sin and the Method of Redemption*" and throughout the duration of this sermon LORD willing those are the two primary themes: the problem of sin and the method of redemption. The reason I titled it "*the method of redemption*" is because there are certain ground rules as a man would engraft a branch of an apple tree into another kind of tree. There is a method by which you can ensure that those two living objects would be living and abiding as one. And so there is a certain method in the Scriptures by which God's people are able to maintain a friendly and saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Because of the apostasy of this generation and this age those methods are not clearly understood because false prophets as they have done in every generation they have gouged out the people's eyes from the practicality of what salvation is in its daily experience. And the people are enamored. They are drunken in a sense of misapplied promises when they are presently disqualified from them. I think of the Methodists of John Wesley's generation. They were known by the heathen as a slander as an insult. They were coined the Methodists because their lifestyle and the way they lived and behaved was of such an orderly discipline and what they did and how they spent their time and the way that they operated as a people and lifestyle it was such an orderly discipline that they were called Methodists by the heathen and it is just so appalling to me today that the methods of redemption are not understood. **The methods of redemption and the methods of redemption are not understood because the problem of sin is not understood.**

And I believe that John Wesley and those that followed that branch of the movement of the Great Awakening in those times, they were called Methodists because they actually believed that the wrath of God could be kindled against a saint and against a believer. And they believed that sin was an actual and real threat and problem. But through Calvinism and other doctrines of which man has created which false prophets have created which have been spawned from hell you can be sure that might have come from a man's sincere lips; he was sincerely deceived by Satan. Just like the apostle Peter was sincerely deceived by Satan when he opposed Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ says, get thee behind me Satan for thou savorest not the things of God but the things that be of men. And because of eternal security generally speaking there is a wide and pervasive lightness, lack of ordered

understanding, and ungodly simplicity, to where it is almost a sin in their minds to even approach the subject of salvation or perfection with any zeal, any urgency, any desperation, and to be moved by terror. But I believe that because the Wesleyans you could call them in that generation understood that there was a problem of sin that awakened them to an ordered lifestyle of seeking God connecting themselves to the means of grace whereby their faith in Christ and their repentance which is wrought by Christ would be maintained. Any farmer in this planet knows something about the method of establishing, planting, and laboring to have a fruitful harvest. They know how to plant the seed, how to break up the fallow ground, how to order the lines, how to keep it from pests, how to organize the fields, how to harvest them, how to water them, how to conserve the amount of water that they use, how to bring forth a prosperous harvest so that their labour is not in vain. By such calculations a farmer approaches the establishment of a harvest. But because of eternal security and other blinding doctrines of men there is a severe lack of calculation, an ordered understanding of how to prosper as the people of God, how to relate to the Spirit of God.

As Gal 6 says, God is not mocked, and they think that He is, that it is more simple than what God has written to us to cause us to understand. God is not mocked. What a man sows that shall he also reap. He says you have a field, you have a heart, and you have seeds. If a man soweth to the flesh he shall of the flesh reap corruption, but if a man soweth to the Spirit he shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. That there is a sowing, there is a reaping and as Mark 4, Matt 8 states there is a soil and that is your heart, the seed is the Word of God and you have a responsibility in the sight of heaven as a creature with a conscience who has been empowered empowered by God though your created ability itself to have a relationship with God so God does not want heartless lip service. God does not want many sacrifices or as Zech 7 does not even want fasting if you are not going to remember what His voice says if you are not going to remember what He said to you. He wants you to remember it. He wants you to understand it. **He wants you to place yourself in a situation where you will never forget it. And the problem of sin causes us to so easily forget it and if you know yourself you know that that is the truth or should I put it this way as Heb 12 puts it: the sin that so easily besets us.** It is a real thing that when you unwillingly fall prey to the seductive nature of this apostate age and begin to mock God believing in your mind that there is no amount of discipline and focus and zeal that you have to do to maintain saving faith and repentance in the living LORD Jesus Christ which you saw when you were saved and to keep seeing Him that you might be saved to the end. That is the method of redemption of Heb 12 very simply put. Heb 12:1-2 Looking unto Him who is the Author and Finisher of your faith. But when you are beset you are looking away and when you are deceived you forget even what to look at. Like 2 Pet 1:9 says, but he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Now God certainly wants us to understand what these things mean so that you might understand in your conscience if you are savingly looking to Christ or if you are being deceived and beset by sin to where you feel like you are obligated not to look at Christ. Simplicity of faith and repentance never changes but your heart changes. God has never changed. He is always faithful. He has always been faithful. He will always be faithful but God's people are not always faithful. It is true. It will always be true if we are rightly related to the faithfulness of God we will by an overflowing power of undeserved grace be made faithful. Oh but brethren you have to know

how to relate to that faithfulness, not mock it. Some of you are so proud you would never think you would mock God but you do not know what it means. You do not even understand it. This is a reality that we need to reckon with as the people of God and as we approach the battle line of the things that God is going to have to do in the near future, seek the salvation of our backslidden brethren which are scattered on the hills, we need to reacquire ourselves today and that is my burden, we need to reacquire ourselves with the methods of redemption and the problem of sin.

The Problem of Sin

Because of eternal security and other ungodly doctrines like some forms of Dispensationalism, etc. somehow people have come to believe that what happened in the OT will never happen to me. I am not that foolish. I am not that unbelieving. And the way is not that narrow.

In Deut 31:14-30 Moses is giving somewhat of a closing address to his sermon. The book of Deut are the sermons of Moses and you can read that whole passage on your own time: Deut 31:14-30, but what you need to know for the sake of this sermon is that God told Moses of an eventual fall and apostasy with the people of God who were genuinely saved which means that they had a saving relationship with the preincarnate Spirit of Jesus Christ. Therefore they are your brethren. They are a church which means they had a sense of saving union with God just like you have. And they also have methods of redemption and problems of sin which are written for our sake "*upon whom the ends of the age are come*". Wherefore him that thinketh he stands. So you think that are standing, that you will stand in the future. Wherefore let him that thinketh he stands take heed lest he fall. You should read these chapters. If you had a sense of sin, the problem of sin that is right now and that will be in front of you you would read it holding your breath. That would be a sense of the gravity and focus and seriousness you would have to the problem of sin. You would not mock these people. You would not look down upon them. You would see that it is me. In Deut 31 Moses was giving a closing address to the people and what you need to know is that God told him that He know the imaginations of their hearts that they would turn away from Him. The last of vs 21 it says, I know their imagination which they go about even now before I brought them into the land which I swear. He said, I know their imagination. Vs 27, for I know thy rebellion and thy stiffnecked behold while I am yet alive with you this day ye have been rebellious before the LORD. And how much more after my death. That is what Moses said. How much more after my death. **I have never met a man in an OT sense or NT sense who had as much grace and power and effectual miraculous expressions following about him everywhere that he went like the prophet Moses and yet those people could not stay faithful with God.** That should shock you. It should astonish you.

But you are in the very same position because God is with you every single day miraculously illuminating the senses of your mind to know Him, His will, and to have supernatural communications to your soul every single day. That is what Phil 2 is talking about when he says you should not obey only in my presence but how much more in my absence for it is God who works in you to will and act for His good pleasure therefore work out your salvation with fear privily for you are in the presence of God. It does not matter if you do not feel or think about it. When you are in

the manifest presence of God, that means when He is showering His pleasure upon you, all of your senses are compelled to know that you are in His presence therefore you worship Him with sincere heartbroken awe. But anytime you do not have that presence you are no less in His presence. He is still in your mind. He is still one with your soul. If you could know the method of redemption and the problem of sin you would look to Him and He would shower His presence upon you and your joy would be complete. It breaks my heart and terrifies me to see what Moses said but what Moses said was only a part of what Jesus Christ said. And when Moses was delivering these sermons to the people of God and Joshua rose up in the mantle of Moses. In Judges 2 it says all the elders who were alive to see the miracles of God with Joshua kept the people obedient till their death. Jesus Christ, the Prophet like unto Moses, the Joshua of the New Covenant. He led the people into the promises of the New Jerusalem, the heavenly land and country which we are supposed to relate to and dwell in and obtain. And all the elders and apostles which were living with them kept the people obedient till their death and the great falling happened after that, the great falling. Look at Judges 1 and 2. This is where the beginning of apostasy happens, the beginning of an apostasy that would grow increase in darkness deception and sin. Though God's people merited for themselves captivity which was a near annihilation of God's people, He only pitied them for His Name. We are going to look at these chapters in the middle of sermon to address the nativity of apostasy and I want to give ref to them for that sake right now.

But in our generation we are not in the nativity of apostasy. **We are born in a generation which has long since been apostate and deceived by the venom of false confidence, an adulterous relationship with Jesus Christ lying down on a bed of the promises of God justifying your sleeping.** That is why it is so dark. Because everyone is sleeping. And I want to look at some ways at which we can see the maturity of the apostasy of the people of God in the Old Covenant so that we can draw relevance to the maturity of the apostasy we see now. The Condescension of God p 372. As we go through the Scriptures here ask yourself if you are deceived by the spirit of apostasy in the New Covenant sense. Let's look at Mic 3:9-11:

⁹Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity.¹⁰They build up Zion with blood, [spiritual blood] and Jerusalem with iniquity.¹¹The heads thereof judge for reward [they are covetous seek the honor one of honor obedient to civil respected person instead of God's Word which brings suffering], and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

Though they are defying all the methods of redemption, they had the audacity to claim all the promises of God saying, is not the LORD among us? None evil can come upon us. Jer 8:5-9. God rose up these prophets to expose the people's unrighteous relationship with the saving grace of God as it was revealed to them and one means of grace to them was the written WORD of God and they have an evil skewed wicked relationship with the Word of God itself:

⁵Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.⁶I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.⁷Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her

appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but My people know not the judgment of the LORD [THE METHODS OF REDEMPTION].⁸How do ye say [come let us reason together], We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.⁹The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the Word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

See what the people were trusting in: they were trusting in having the Scriptures, that they heard it read and preached and expounded by preachers who are supposed to be wise. They expected them to be wise, but God says that they are not even as wise as a stork. They thought they were wise because they had the Scripture, but God says it is in vain. Jer 7:3-5

³Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.⁴Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.⁵For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

And He goes on rebuking them for sin. **The voice of the false prophets was drowning out the conviction of the people's conscience. They are utterly in rebellion according to the written Word of God but the false prophets are saying do not worry, we have the temple of the LORD. We have God's sanctuary and God is within it and inside of it. He will not forsake us. They were looking to the temple of the LORD and they were deaf to the voice of God. They thought that they were saved right now because of a saving work that God did in time past.** They thought that they were right with God right now because of things that they could see of a saving work of God with people that were right with God in time past. Garnishing the sepulchers of the righteous saying in their heart, if I lived in their days I would not have been one of the false prophets. I would have been the true prophets. How many people read the OT like that? I would not have been Korah or one of the 600,000 men of war in Num 14, I would not have been Dathan. I would not have been those two priests Nadab and Abihu who offered strange fire before the LORD. I would not be one of the people hung up by the fierce wrath of God at Baal Peor. I would not have been Achan. There is no darkness in me. In Isaiah 1:11-15 God rebukes them. This time they are not trusting in promises merely or trusting that they have the written Word of God or trusting that they have memorials of God's saving work in time past or some means of grace which could be profitable to them. They were trusting in a lifestyle of religion without God without obedience:

¹¹To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.¹²When ye come to appear before Me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?¹³Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hateth: they are a trouble unto Me; I am weary to bear them.¹⁵And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide Mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

God condemns them for every effort they make because they are not relating to the method of redemption with a right heart a right understanding. They have zeal without knowledge that all these things are emblematic of the promises of God, the means of grace to them, sacrifices, prayers prayed towards the temple of God which according to Solomon and the ground of relationship which that

had were sure to find the eye and ear of God. But God says to what purpose is all of it? Sin, these are commandments that God gave them. Their heart is not right in His sight so He hates it, He despises it. God sends prophets to them rebuking them like Isaiah. Jer 16:10

¹⁰ *And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?*

These people are so deceived that God by His Word promises damnation to them. They cannot understand. They cannot understand. Jeremiah 21:2 They not only do not understand, they are so deceived they embolden themselves upon the grace of God, circumstances of great consequences

Enquire, I pray thee, of the Lord for us; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the Lord will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us.

That is what they said. They are remembering in their minds as the wrath of God was ready to take them away, they were remembering the wondrous works of God, but it was too late. It was too late. They should have remembered long ago. When they dwelt in peace they should have remembered. Jer 2:35:

Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely His anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Maybe you are saying that right now. Are you mocking these people? He says I am innocent, His anger shall turn from me. I have not sinned. Hosea 8:1-4

Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed My covenant, and trespassed against My law.² Israel shall cry unto Me, My God, we know thee.³ Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.⁴ They have set up kings, but not by Me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.

You see what happened brethren. They had a confidence that they knew God at the very instance that God was pronouncing judgment upon them through the prophet Hosea God was prophesying that when it comes upon them they would still cry out to God that they know Him. That is how deceived they are. That is how obstinately sure they are that they are faithful. That is how blind they are to sin. He says they will cry, my God we know Thee, and God says back to them, I do not know you. Do you remember the time when you set up those preachers and they were defying the written Word of God and your conscience was alarmed? You knew the fear of God once and you knew the love of God once. The presence of God was with you when you prayed and read the Bible and your conscience was troubled. You were satisfied with tickling ear preachers who I knew not. He says you think you know Me but I do not know you. You are turned. That is what He is saying. Jer 5:12. You think these things are written for no reason brethren. You think the seeds of apostasy are not in you. You think there is not enough venom in your flesh, not enough residue of the fallen man to take you down by these very snares? There is. Jer 5:12:

They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not He; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:

Jer 17:15:

¹⁵*Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now.*

Mockers. Where is the WORD of the LORD? Let it come now. They were deceived by false prophets, misapplying the promises of God. Jer 14:13: a lamentation

Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

God says the prophets prophesy lies in My name. Jer 23:25-27 the false prophets looked righteous and talked righteous according to the cultural understanding of righteousness in the day. They were as Matt 23:1-3. They quoted the Bible. They honored prophets of old. John Wesley, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards. They garnished the sepulchers of the righteous. They taught right things but their lifestyles were in hypocrisy, their hearts were not in it. God could have said do what they say but do not after their work for they say and do not. How about you brethren? Which one of you in the past week have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness. Jer 23:25-27 states a description of the false prophets and one of the reasons they were so deceiving to the people is because they had a hyperspiritual experience. They were exceedingly spiritual people. And they deceived the people from trusting in God. Jer 23:25-27:

²⁵*I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in My name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed²⁶ How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;²⁷ Which think to cause My people to forget My name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten My name for Baal.*

See brethren this is a sophisticated advancement of Satan upon the people of God. Is 1 spoke of their religious devotions, prayer, Bible study, some means of accountability, solemn assemblies, incense, sacrifices, people very religiously devoted to the organized religion of their day. They had the temple of the LORD to identify themselves with. They had the written WORD of God to hear every week every day. They had a relationship to the written WORD of God. They had prophets who were spiritual who had revelations from what they said was God who suddenly defied the attributes of God which would save them, defied the holiness of God and the exposure of their sin and subtly deceived them to think they were right with God when they were in circumstances of danger and wrath, misapplying the promises of God to a people who were disqualified from them. This was a sophisticated deception born by Satan advanced by evil angels who deceived the minds and hearts of fallen men. There were dreams, miracles. It was sure that anyone who had pleasure in unrighteousness would be deceived. Anyone, even the ancient men that sit before the house and the young men. Anyone who does not sigh and cry for all the abominations of Christianity true Christianity right now today every day, a general tenor of heart of a saved man in an apostate generation is what Ez 9:6 states, sighing and crying, or 2 Pet 2 vexed by the filthy conversation of the wicked, seeing and hearing their lawless deeds it vexed his righteous soul from day to day. That does not mean murder and adultery and homosexuality and reveling and drunkenness and drugs.

Even the heathen will despise that, the hyperreligious heathen. I mean selfishness, covetousness, bitterness, lying, dishonesty, darkness, lack of accountability, pride, self sufficiency, lack of love, lack of love for the cross, lack of glory in the cross, idle words, idle thoughts, idle time, laziness, slackness, sleeping, envy, pride, jealousy. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. Forms of Godliness, denying the power, covenant breakers, silly women laden with diverse lusts She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth God says. What is your standard brethren? What is the standard of NT Christianity? What is sin? What is salvation? Today, right now, every day, what is it? We should be studying the Bible every day to find out. If you think you do not need to you are already deceived by the apostasy of this generation. Reading these things from the OT brethren should break up your heart. It was not written for no reason. It may seem monotonous or repetitious to you. You may feel like it is unnecessary to be introspective about all of these ideas. You are deceived if you think that. You just simply do not understand the NT or the New Covenant or salvation well enough to see the application of these principles. **So what is the spirit of apostasy that has gripped these age brethren? It can be described under the doctrine which as men call it, eternal security. I find that as the root of the matter which emboldens God's regenerated people to a slow and subtle apostasy that he cannot detect.** And I have been there. I once believed in this adamantly, and over the course of 4 years generally speaking I was slowly and subtly being allured into a damnable condition and I did not know it. I read all those passages in the OT and to get across to you the idea that these men of that generation had no concept of what it means to be right with God at the present time.

They had no standard of victory according to the written Word of God corporately speaking. They had no idea what it means to be an effectual witness for Christ for God to the world to the lost. They had no vision of what manner of corporate manifestation of the Spirit of God should be their general experience. They did not have a standard. And that is what eternal security does slowly and subtly, unfounded confidence and there is no concept of what it means to be right with God because people simply are not motivated to study the Bible to find out. There is no concept of victory corporately speaking because they cannot even hear the doctrines of personal salvation. The higher things of corporate perfection and the manifestation of the stature of Jesus Christ dwelling in and inhabiting the temple of God in a NT sense turning the world upside down are so far removed from their Spiritual senses that they cannot even pray for 10 min about it. That which is beating in the heart of God in heaven they cannot even get near it. They may remember times, brief moments. Brethren what are you living for? There is no vision, practically speaking with one another. What I mean by that is brethren when you are talking with one another when you are fellowshiping with one another when you are eating and drinking when you are working what measure of the presence of Jesus Christ are you expecting to commune with while you are with one another? **The measure of the presence of Christ that you are communing with when you are with one another is the measure that you are rightly related to God in your own heart with one another and with God.** When there are two gathered anywhere there are three there. And those two in His Name are to be connected and savingly united with that third and ultimate person. Jesus Christ and when you are you are both overwhelmingly aware of that and glorying in Him and worshipping Him. That is the essence of what it means to be the temple of God, the essence of what it means to be a Christian, one who lives who walks in and expresses the image of Christ. That is the essence of what it means to be holy. As 1 Pet 2:11 says as pilgrims and strangers in this world abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. And what is the result of that: the outpouring of heavenly affections giving you victory over the opposing forces of sin in yourself and one another. I often times am filled with the glory of God resting upon me, having such a sense of the near heart of God

I could weep in one moment and rejoice and weep in the next and I will walk into a room or I will go be amongst some brothers who are lighthearted, idle words, sinful affection flying through the air and it is gone. And I have the decision to leave that I might walk with God or hold my brother accountable and I will only make those decisions if I wanted to fellowship with Jesus Christ all the time. That is what it means to be a Christian. Ps 16:11 says in Thy presence is fulness of joy and at Thy right hand are pleasures forevermore. Jesus Christ says in John 15, abide in Me and let My Words abide in you that ye might ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. **If you rightly connect and relate to the living Person of Jesus Christ you will be so one in heart, in will, in word, in deed that you will feel that you are worshipping God no matter you are doing because He is manifesting Himself to you as it says 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 manifest Myself to him.** What do you seek brethren? What is your standard of Christian life? What is your standard of experience with the living Person of Jesus Christ as you are with one another? Are you going from glory to glory? Have you blinded your eyes and hidden your eyes to sin, real problems of sin which has stolen the fellowship of Jesus Christ that you should be having with your brother? And it has happened so long that you have forgotten that it is so easy to obtain just by repenting and acknowledging sin together and true humility and sincerity.

What am I trying to get across to you what am I trying to stir up your memory to understand is that there is a problem of sin today and you have to acknowledge that you have to have a calculated intentional mindset to be a Christian every single day and the need to discern if you are savingly united with His presence every single day. Men apostatize in one day. Make a covenant with sin and you will see. Kill it and you will live. If you live after the flesh ye shall die brethren. But if ye by the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live (Rom 8:13). Turn to the book of Judges chapter 1-2. Those verses were a general introduction of a mature expression of apostasy which right now resides upon the people of God generally speaking that are scattered upon the hills as sheep without under-shepherd pastors after God's own heart elders who are able to keep them accountable and cause them through the effectualness of preaching to stand to the covenant and be obedient to their conscience not to deny the living voice of God who speaks to you even if it is but a whisper. They do not know that they are being scattered and overwhelmed. That their dwelling is a mature expression of this apostasy that I just described. **But it is just going to come upon us brethren. It is a very subtle and deceitful arising in our midst. Most of you I am here to tell you in the name of the LORD you cannot discern it because you are not looking for it. Because you do not see that you need to look for it because you get deceived by turning the grace of God into lasciviousness which is looseness, lightness, irresponsible behavior, childlike delinquency.** So Judges ch 1 and 2 represent the nativity of apostasy. And when we study this and what happened here and understand it and how they were led into this time we can understand how apostasy makes grounds upon a generation who were saved who were right with God. We can understand also how to discern it when it comes upon us in our day. To do that to prepare to come to these two chapter to see what happened I want to show you the warnings of God in the circumstances that they were placed in. Circumstances that they were placed in brethren is simply that Joshua was leading them into the promise land and according to Lev 18 and many other chapters God had a judgment about the nature of the people that they were about to be among: the Canaanites. And this is what is said about them. Ex 34:11-15. This is after the Great Pause.

¹¹ *Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.*¹² *Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant*

with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:¹³ But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.¹⁵ Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

So brethren right here in vs 11 you have a promise, it says behold look I will drive them all out. They will not be able to stand before you. That is equal to the promises of God to us about sin. I mean sin today the problem of sin today. Your flesh when you wake up in the morning that makes you feel dead makes you feel like God is far from you makes you feel cold makes you feel without love or without joy or without sensibility of God: real sin. Anytime it comes upon you any part of the day real sin the problem of sin God says He will conquer it. He will kill it He will destroy it He will search you out. He will reveal to your consequence and give you faith and repentance as you look to Him. He says I have overcome the world and when you look at Him He makes you overcome. 1 John 5:4 says he who is born of God overcomes the world and He has put His seed in you so that the wicked one toucheth you not. He has given you a shield of His presence. He has given you His Word that He might speak to you and reason with you every day just you and Him walking and talking with God. So His promise to you is that He will deliver you and that is the essence of Matt 6, the prayer of salvation: lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. The active presence of God intruding into your sphere of life conquering the threats of sin delivering from you from its grasp amazing you at His grace all by one prayer not meaningless repetitions knowing your God. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Stop saying that you are going to start saying to the devil and the power of sin and the giants that are before you look at the kingdom and power and glory of the giants of sin. Do not ever let that happen brethren. Whoever says that is their hearts has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. He that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off for he has forgotten that he was purged of his old sins. And those who do say that as a manner of weakness of mind and yet are having practical and daily salvation by abounding in fruit trust in the LORD. If the Word of God confirms you trust in Him. But I want you to see brethren Ex 34:11 that is the promise and Ex 34:12 is the warning. God says take heed to thyself. God is saying look at Me listen to Me you need to understand this or you will die. That is what that means. He says if you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land they will be a snare He says in the midst of Thee. You will be trapped you will be imprisoned you will feel obligated to sin. And that is what happened to these people. I want you to see how many times He warns them of this brethren and for them to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land brethren is this: you have made a covenant with your flesh sin personally or your brother's flesh and he is sinning and you are not stopping it you have made a covenant with a certain sister here where you are not willing to talk to her or pray for you about it. You have made a covenant with their flesh. You saw their Canaanite and you did not stop them or you think about the church and about sin and about the ways that we are not doing right with God or something like this and you make a covenant with that flesh. You are not seeking to stop but God is saying in Ex 23 He is saying do not make a covenant or agreement and do not be at peace with it. Do not be lax or halfhearted or doubleminded about it. You must destroy these things or you will die. That is what vs 13 says, but ye shall destroy if ye take heed and know that it is certain destruction if you make peace with these things. You must understand that you must go to war against the flesh against the spirit of apostasy studying and understand it the means of its subtlety, destroying it. You shall destroy their altars and their images and cut down their groves. Worldly wisdom unfounded

confidence. Reigning as kings on the earth instead of washing each other's feet with joy unspeakable and full of glory. What is your Christianity like? What do you do with your time? What are your ambitions? What are your goals? What are your desires? Is it to have the mind of Christ? Phil 2 says having this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and became a servant obedient to the point of death even the death of a cross. Who was humiliated from the glory of heaven sought not His own glory but the wealth of another Who became poor that many might be made rich. What is your goal? What is your desire? What is your ambition? What do you live for? Where is your treasure? Where is your heart? Deut 7:16-21: another warning parallel to Ex 34:10-15

¹⁶ And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.¹⁷ If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?¹⁸ Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;¹⁹ The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.²⁰ Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.²¹ Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible. (Deut 7)

What god is ruling this apostate generation brethren? It is the spirit of the antichrist as the NT describes how it was assailing the NT church of God. Do you remember how it suddenly led them into adultery, an adulterous friendship with the world the lusts of the flesh and eyes and pride of life? How it suddenly led them into an adulterous relationship with the world by the cares of this life by the deceitfulness of riches by the lusts of other things. A Christian is an otherworldly creature. He is a stranger literally a wanderer because the tenor of his lifestyle is so detached from the pleasures of this world and connected to heavenly affections. It is apparent that they are not living for this life. It is apparent that they are just passing through. They do not just enjoy their children just because they love the way their flesh looks. They do not enjoy their children's image just because they are in their image but they are desperately in love with the image of God and they cannot rest until their carnal children are conformed to His image; that is Christianity. Where even the good things of the earth things that taste good smell good look good are hateful despicable as dung comparatively to love for Christ, even your own wife your spouse. What are you living for? Do you know what Jesus Christ meant when He said I have meat that ye know not of? I have energy a sustenance of life that ye know not of. Something that keeps me living keeps me breathing keeps me walking that is rapturing me constraining my affections that you know not of He says. My meat is to do the will of My Father and finish His work. Is that the glory of your life? The will of your Father to do His work to know Him. That is the essence of what the love of God is in John 5 is. The Father loveth the Son and showeth Him whatsoever things He is doing. He does likewise. Is that what you live for to know the will of your Father to see it Spiritually speaking and accomplishing it every single day and that it the goal of your life putting it on your foreheads like the priest of the OT, holiness unto the LORD, that you may say every single day though my flesh fail Thou art my portion and my inheritance forever. When you love somebody you want to do their will and if you love God you are obsessed with His will and when you do His will because you are savingly united to Him you feel when He is happy and you are happy because He is happy and you will never get tired of that. So when He smiles it is a light brighter than the sun. Deut 7:16 says do not have pity do not be deceived by carnal compassion do not pardon your children when they cry do not hate them in your heart discipline them upon your brothers and sisters when they murmur and complain like King Saul saying will no one have

pity on me go after them. Do not leave them alone. Do not leave them alone. You are the fence of the Kingdom. When they are being dragged out by the devil they will have to get over you. That is why you are here. That is why this house of God exists and that is what you should be to one another. Do not hate your brother in your heart. Do not have unrighteous pity because if they go down you go down brethren and their sin will be a snare to you and their bitterness will be a root springing up whereby many will be defiled. That little leaven that you know about that you have not reproved that brother or sister about that you were not praying or caring enough about and you want to go on with God it will leaven you brethren. A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough what are you doing with your time? Do you care about the brethren enough? This is not my church, Ryan's church, Jake's church. There is no such thing as that. You are the house of God and all of you priests, every one of you, all of you have burdens to prove, brethren to exhort, Spirit of prophecy to covet that you may edify and build one another up. All of you have prayers to pray so that the Spirit of God might descend upon us that we might be filled up to the fullness of Christ together all of us and I cannot go on without you. None of us can. Are you attending upon your post like Habbakuk? Are you standing and waiting to hear a WORD from the LORD? Are you walking with God. Gal 6:1 says ye that are Spiritual restore such a one from the spirit of error. Are you Spiritual? Are you going about the camp of God doing good? Are you as David who is described by Abigail as being blessed by God because he fighteth the battles of the LORD? Are you abjectly opposed to the uprising of flesh in the general assembly of the house of God on the earth? Or do you love something else more besides the dust of the temple, the feet of your brethren? What are you doing with your life? Do you really have the love of Christ? Jesus Christ gave us one commandment He says love one another as I have loved you. No greater love hath a man than this that a man layeth down his life for his friends and ye are My friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. Brethren that is why He is with you that you might right now to your children spouses to everyone around you teaching and commanding everything He has commanded you and lo He is with you always. God is with you brethren. What excuse do you have? God is with you. And that is what He begins to argue in Deut 7. He is pleading with them saying I am with you. There is no excuse to make these snares to make a covenant with evil to be set upon a course of destruction. He says I am with you. Look what He says vs 17 if thou say in thine heart these nations are more than I how can I dispossess them. Sins are too many there are too many faltering or lukewarm too many times a week people murmur too many burdens do not look at it all. Look at what you are called to. God will raise up other brothers. He will hear the voice of our breathing and rise up to our cause. Just exhort another brother to go after him just do something for Christ.

Understand that if we are all perfect and fitly joined one to another being nourished up in the head which is Christ He will inhabit this house and confirm the gifts of the Spirit so that the fulness of the stature of Jesus Christ which has long been dimmed will shine forth. That is His promise. He is . He has never changed. It is us who have not understood His ways and been slack to take the promise land. It is us who have fainted before the giants and been affrighted of the multitude of the sins which oppose us to this course of victory. God says do not be affrighted. Vs 18 thou shalt not be afraid of them but shall well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh in Egypt, the great temptations which thine eyes saw and thy signs and wonders and mighty hand and stretched out arm whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people that are afraid. Moreover the LORD thy God shall send the hornet among them till they are left and hide thyself from thee till thee be afraid. **Thou shall not be afraid for the LORD thy God is among you a mighty God and terrible. A mighty God and terrible! Do you still believe that? Do you believe that is a reality to be obtained?** Are you dull in your ears from hearing

about the promises of Eph 4: the fullness of the stature of Christ? Is it a far off distant fairy tale that you believe you will never attain? It is because you are affrighted at sin. God says look to the mighty terribleness of God. Join yourself with one another. Confess this unbelief. Bring it into the light and God will cleanse you of your unrighteousness and shine His light upon you and revive His affection in your heart but you have to seek it out you have to seek one another out. When you feel like you cannot pray go get a brother and say can you pray with me. You will be stirred by their affections and prayers. Every stream of God is a river which makes glad the city of God. He is in all of us. From your innermost belly brethren will flow rivers of living water. If we are rightly related to God this expectation of the overwhelming power God defeating everything that opposes the promises of God this will be our experience. But we have to learn to be rightly related to Him with one another as a people right now as a local church. That is His will Deut 12:29-32:

²⁹ When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;³⁰ Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.³¹ Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.³² What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

What does He say? Deut 7 says thou shalt remember what the LORD did unto Pharoah and that will be your success today that is what He said. Do you know what that means to you? Thou shalt surely remember when you had no hope when you had no way of escape when you were depraved and alienated from God in your mind full of wicked words and enslaved to sin under the dominion of the devil by nature his child. God bought you and purged you and saved you and redeemed you and placed you in His presence forever. Thou shalt remember what the LORD did how amazed and thankful you were. How you just wanted to tell the LORD you loved Him because He so amazed you with His saving grace. So shall it be with everything that hinders you from progressive sanctification obtaining corporate perfection to the fullness of the stature of Christ so shall it be. What does that mean to you brethren? It is either just an idea or something to sacrifice your life for. Either it is in your head or it is gripping your heart that you would live and die for this cause. You cannot live and die for this cause unless you have seen this in the Spirit. You cannot do it. And we have been long in the battle brethren a few weeks now some of you are forgetting about this you need to remember or some of you are going to fall. Deut 18:9-14:

⁹ When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.¹⁰ There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.¹³ Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.¹⁴ For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

God is an enemy of sin. He is a destroyer of sin and you were a sinner and He killed you and you are in the business of communing with God and to labor together with Him to kill sin. God has declared war on sin. The only thing that disrupts the good pleasure of God is sin. The only thing that keeps this world from being swallowed up by a paradise expression of light for an everlasting amount of time is sin. The only thing that drove humanity out of the garden of

paradise is sin. God by nature is good. God by the expression of who He is without any merit of what He has done. He blesses people and He is good. That is who He is. He is happy to do good. He is happy to bless. He is happy to make beautiful things. He is happy to make things pleasurable. He is happy to do these things by the nature of who He is. He created a paradise not because they merited it but because that is who He is. The only thing that disrupts that expression of power is sin. Therefore He warns us to take heed to our selves. He has one cause for you to learn brethren love Him. That means hate sin and you have got to find out what that means. You have got to know the mystery of His works. God will show the mystery of heaven of Godliness. It is going to take wisdom from heaven but that is why we pray. But that is why God is with us. It is going to take an undying relentless steadfastness and zeal not loving our lives unto death but that is why we have each other. That is why there are a multitude of same expressions of the same Spirit of edifying the body of Christ and the building of itself in love. That is why you have the eternal unchanging love of God and undying seed that liveth and abideth forever. That is why the WORD of God is nigh on your tongue so that you might almost as if you slipped from hell, confess the truth and live. It is that easy if you are just rightly related to God and one another. Confess the Truth and live the WORD is nigh thee and in their heart. We are dealing with brethren a glorious salvation and terrifying damnation. We are dealing with a problem of sin and method of redemption.

In Deut 18:9-14 it is describing the same thing as He has been in all the former passages but this passage right here is in exact parallel to 2 Cor 6:14-7:1. Turn there brethren and look at it. For those of you who have not been in this lampstand for a long time you are very much unaware of these doctrines. We have studied these things for many hours through the years and those of you who are older in the faith. You know the lightness that you once had and you know the things that beguiled you in times past and those who are new among us. They do not know these things. They have not been through what we have been through and you have got to keep them accountable. To do that you have to remember the standard of grace. 2 Cor 6:17-7:1Vs 14 spends time preparing for the commandment of vs 17 saying therefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the LORD and touch not the unclean things and I will receive you and I will be a Father to you and you shall be My sons and daughters saith the LORD Almighty. Having therefore these promises let us cleanse ourselves of all filthiness of the spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God. And Deut 18:9-14 it describes the conquering progress of the people of God under the leadership of Joshua and their inhabiting of the promise land to be endangered by the presence and lifestyle and ways and doctrines and mentality of the Canaanites. The only way that they could be sure that they would not be damned or snared or held captive into that lifestyle is by utterly destroying the presence of sin and of the Canaanites and their religions and ideologies, to destroy it. They did not need to pity. God said in Deut 18 that when they do that they are perfect with the LORD their God. When they cleansed themselves from all the filthiness of the Canaanites they are perfect with the LORD their God. That is the general understanding of what he is saying there. It is an exact expression of 2 Cor 6,7. God is appealing to us as a NT army clad in the whole army of God wrestling against principalities and powers and rulers of this world. God is commanding us who were deceived by false prophets, deceivers lying in wait with cunning craftiness deceiving the simple minded with faith speeches. God is saying come out from among them and anyone who is deceived by them god is saying cut them off or live and die with them. That is what He is saying right here. God is saying God is your Father and you are His sons and daughters. Know this: He will not be a Father to you and you will not be His sons if you make a covenant with uncleanness. What is uncleanness? It is in you. Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth. That is uncleanness. And when it get a hold of you your tongue become a spring and your tongue become a bitter spring. And

everyone knows it. Pride, idle words, vaunting yourself. Uncleaness brethren Those of you who are around it are defiled. You know it. You know what I am talking about. You have got to plug it up because your tongue is an unruly evil and it can be set on fire setting your course on hell. Either you are perfect and your tongue is bridled and your religion is true or your lifestyle is a bitter spring because you did not mortify your members you made a covenant with Canaan and with the flesh preaching blasphemies vaunting sin in the presence of God. Feasting without fear. Do you understand what I am saying. 2 Cor 7:1 says cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Do you even fear this? Are you even aware that this is a threat, a sure interruption to the Fatherly loving kindness of His sons and daughters. He is that serious about uncleaness. This is not just fleshly uncleaness like 1 Thess 3 says describing sexual crimes. This is Spiritual uncleaness. Those of you who have studied this before you know what this is: sin. It is corrupt communications proceeding out of your mouth. It is the superfluity of naughtiness overflowing out of your being corrupting others. **The presence of God whether you remember it or not hates the Canaanites hates sin. He will not dwell with uncleaness. So when you find that He has partially departed from the sensation of your spiritual man you should be alarmed that He has taken note of uncleaness and therefore the Fatherly shadow of His presence is no longer dominating your being.** And so you should search out sin, cleanse yourself from it, and you will be filled with the Spirit again. This is how real this is. Are you perfect with the LORD thy God? Are we perfect? Or are we puffed up? Are we proud? How long have you been walking around springs of uncleaness not doing anything about it. How many days have you done that? You know what I am talking about. Your conscience gets troubled and then the fear of man prevents you from doing something about it or the fear of sin itself feeling like you do not have the words to say. Well brother sister go get on your knees. Go pray as James 5 says you have the spirit of Elijah who caused the outpouring of rain through prayer. You see a brother laden with iniquity help him and give him rest. You see someone faint hearted and weary you have the spirit of God. God says covet the Spirit of prophecy. God is commanding you to take the weapons of righteousness. He is commanding you to use weapons which are mighty for the pulling down of strongholds. He is commanding you to do something about it. That is His will. That is His way. Brethren what happened to these people in Judges ch 1 and 2. I will show you what happened. Lev 20 vs 4. You will see that they hid their eyes hid their eyes. Lev 20:4. If the people do in any ways hide their eyes from their man when he giveth up his seed unto Molech and killeth him not. When you hide your eyes from your own sin from the sin of your brethren from charity from doing something about it from caring about corporate perfection of the church through prayer your preaching through the spirit of prophecy, you hide your eyes. That is your call and represents the call of God to seek justice and judgment, seek equity, to do good and pursue it, then you shall do well and prosper in the land. That is what God says. God says to them in Lev 20:26 and ye shall be holy unto Me for I the LORD am holy have severed you from other people that you should be Mine. Come out from among them and be ye separate saith the LORD. Touch not the unclean thing. They began to hide their eyes brethren. Joshua 18:3 they began to hide their eyes and Joshua said unto the children of Israel, how long are ye slack to go and to possess the land which the LORD thy God of your Fathers hath given you. How long are ye slack? They which were venturing to see fell into an unwilling decline which resulted into apostasy because of hiding their eyes because of slackness. Joshua 23:5-13 they were deceived because they hid their eyes. They were deceived by slackness and they were deceived because they did not know for certainty that God would depart from them if they did. Know for certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive any of these nations from before you but they shall be snares and traps unto you scourges in your sides and thorns in your eyes until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you

⁵ And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.⁶ Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;⁷ That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:⁸ But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.⁹ For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but as for you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.¹⁰ One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.¹¹ Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.¹² Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:¹³ Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

They did not know for certainty that this would happen to them. They were deceived by false prophets. They were deceived by their understanding of the grace of God. They were deceived by their understanding of the love God. They were deceived by a multifaceted complicated sophisticated presentation of deception. Because they had pleasure in unrighteousness they believed a lie.

The LORD says vs 6 of Josh 23 be therefore courageous be therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses that ye turn not aside from it to the right hand or to the left that ye come not among these nations that remain among you neither make mention of the names of their gods nor cause to swear by them neither serve them nor vow yourselves unto them but cling that means hold on to squeeze grip cleave unto the LORD your God which ye have done unto this day . The LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong as for you no man hath been able to stand before you up unto this day. One man of you shall chase a thousand for the LORD your God He it is that fighteth for you as He hath promised take good heed therefore unto yourselves that ye love the LORD your God else if ye do anywise go back and cleave unto the remnant of these nations even these that remain among you shall make marriages with you and going unto them and they to you know for certainty the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you. There it is. The impasse. The impasse. That means that God has been with us brethren. He has been with us and He birthed this church. He set up a lampstand in heaven and He has walked in our midst from here since the beginning. He saved more souls than I can remember in the past 5 yrs 50 of you maybe. Another third of you He has drawn you saved you from a backslidden state hidden a multitude of sins placed you in a lampstand with shepherds who have been appointed by Him allowed you to understand the meat and wisdom of God's Word or at least be in the presence of its preaching and teaching saved from childlike delinquency this foolishness where no one is really determined to run a race. No one is really as determined as an olympic racing man they do not live like it they do not die like it get up like it sleep like it do not have their face set on the finish line like it they do not keep their head from turning one inch to the right or left and get an eye of their opponent running by their side because they know that that will slow them down. God is trying to teach you to live like the most disciplined trades and disciplined things that you could possibly know as a heathen man. He is saying that is a Christian wrestler a soldier for war, you would not forget your armor shield sword to shod his feet. He is going to lose his life if he does that. Wrestling war soldiers keeping rank obeying the commander knowing that your unity with the mass of all their forces creates a victory in the battle

field. There is no individual. There is no one man. One man cannot win a war. It is keeping rank and doing your job. That is a Christian. **Hiding of the eyes slackness not knowing for certainty that they will be damned how does it happen. It happens because of a long standing experience of success. It leads to pride. That is what happened in this generation. Joshua's generation is one of the few and faithful. You will see written throughout the centuries of OT church history what happened to them brethren is they began to get slack and it is easy to get slack if you are not reading the WORD of God and being taught to fear Him every single day. You will get slack. You will begin to hide your eyes to what you once thought was abominable. You will lose the sensitivity to sin. You will lose that rapturous experience and expectancy that the Spirit of God is going to fall everywhere you go. You will somehow be deceived to think that that lifestyle can never be attained and you will somehow be deceived to make an agreement with the presence with longstanding iniquity.** That is what happened to this generation. They felt obliged to disobey God's WORD. They felt obliged to maintain a state where God was not glorified according as it is written. They felt obligated. They were in a position of unwilling agreement with sin which they felt like they could not stop. With all this in mind brethren look with me at Judges ch 1 and 2. This book focuses on a transition from one generation to the next or one situation of great sin and God providing great judgment and providing a means of redemption. There is something serious happening where God will overview course of events making a final point that generations after them might look back and understand exactly what happened. And that is what Jud 1 is it is a summary of their departure from God. Look what He says Jud 1:

¹⁹ And the LORD was with Judah; and he drove out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.²⁰ And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.²¹ And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day...²⁷ Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land.²⁸ And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out.²⁹ Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.³⁰ Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries.³¹ Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahalab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob:³² But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out.³³ Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean, nor the inhabitants of Bethanath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: nevertheless the inhabitants of Bethshean and of Bethanath became tributaries unto them.³⁴ And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley:³⁵ But the Amorites would dwell in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries.³⁶ And the coast of the Amorites was from the going up to Akkrabbim, from the rock, and upward.

What happened brethren? They felt defeated. They felt overwhelmed. They felt anxious. They felt weak. They felt unable to overcome that which opposed the promises of God, the promise land. They felt too distant from God to obtain corporate realities of God's glory. They felt too weak they were deceived they felt as though it were unattainable. What did God say in all those warning that we studied thus far? He said that their destruction was sure if they did not do it. One of them did not do it because they had chariots of iron. Another when they were strong they did not drive them

out and kill them they made them tributaries that means they made an alliance with them. They became their servants or they had to pay a payment to dwell in the land. They did not fear sin. They did not open their eyes. They hid their eyes. They were slack and they failed to remember that though God has been with them for so many years of glorious success though they saw stones fall from the sky and smite down enemies though one like Caleb was among them Joshua and other elders who were able to kill giants through faith able to possess mountains and dispossess impenetrable barriers though all these things they were proud they were puffed up they forgot that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump of dough and they lost their children and the next generation perished. And everyone who lived long enough to outlive the elders of that generation perished. Look at Judges ch 2:

And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break My covenant with you.² And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?³ Wherefore I also said [n]ot just promises but warnings of destruction, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

And you are going to depart from Me. And it came to pass when the angel of the LORD said these things they wept.

⁷And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that He did for Israel...¹⁰ And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.¹¹ And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:¹² And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.¹³ And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.¹⁴ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.¹⁵ Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

The Method of Redemption

Now brethren this means that we are in such a position and there right now dwells among us certain perimeters of Israel and there have been breaches in our walls, certain unperfected stone of the temple of God right now which need real and actual grace to conquer the opposing forces which keep us from perfection corporately speaking. We need to acquaint ourselves with what these things in a NT sense. I have preached hrs of sermons on it written chapters on it. Or do you think it does not matter? I am here to testify to you before the LORD certainly you will not be disciplined and focused enough not righteously fearful enough soberminded you will not do what it takes unless you learn to relate to God according as it is written. If you do not understand Christianity in the light of what the Scriptures describe it to be or it is too foreign or complicated to remember or whatever excuses you have you will forget about it. You will not be as holy sincere and resigned to the altar of your personal sacrifice to God as it is determined for you to be to keep this course and live. You will not do it. You will start giving God maimed sacrificed you will start honoring God with your lips and forget your heart you will start serving the eyes of men and being man pleasers instead of

raptured by the eyes of God and serving God. You will be deceived. And you will lose yourself or your children or all your labour. What happened now is that because they did not conquer this sin they became spiritual wanderers trusting they were okay because they had some of the promises of God but the entire perimeters given to them to inherit by is grace all the riches of His glory and the inheritance of the saints they did not care enough about that neither do you. Neither do you brethren. Though God tells us that we have the riches of the inheritance of the saints to obtain the surpassing greatness of His power to usward who believe the fullness of the stature of Christ the endowment with power from on high that would cause the heathen to be confounded rage ashamed that would threaten the very economic success of the merchandise of sin because so many people are being either affected or converted. All of the perimeters of God's promises and God's glory to obtain. Are you light hearted about it? Do you even know that it is your responsibility in the sight of heaven to obtain it? Do you know that there is real and actual sin preventing us from obtaining it right now? Do you know that you have a real responsibility to help others obtain that? Do you know that you cannot go on without them? Do you think so much of yourself? Are you the puffed up one of 1 Cor 5 which does not know one covetous man leavens the whole church to be covetous. One unbridled tongue corrupts everyone else with corrupt communications grieving the Spirit of God (Eph 4) That is what the LORD says to this generation, they do always err in their hearts, they vexed the Spirit of God. Ps 79 and Is 63 so God forsook them and became their enemy. Do you think it is a light thing to grieve the presence of God? Do you think there is no eternal consequence or great loss. Are you light hearted about it? Have you done something to the grace of God so that this is not your goal anyone? The grace of God once appeared to you and it taught you something that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts you should live soberly and righteously and Godly in the present world. Are you still doing that? Are you learning His ways His judgments what He says that is what He is. Are you grieved that the blood guiltiness of this harlot rival beast of false Christianity? Do you want to do something about it? What are you living for? What do you do with your time? How do you order your life? Are you intentional? God has given every one of us revelations of grace. We are accountable to obtaining that experience on a daily basis. He has given you revelations of things that you cannot presently walk in right now and He wants you to set your eyes upon them and pursue after them and every day you do that the light will get brighter. Are you doing that or have you forgotten about that light? And you are causing us to wander causing the people of God to be beset by sin. This is serious brethren. There is a problem with sin.

Turn to Num 20. Jud 2 was an example of when people put themselves in situations doctrinally contradicting to the LORD therefore they decline into a Spiritual experience wandering confoundedness and captivity to a circumstance which ensured their destruction. The people wandered because of slackness. Because they hid their eyes they did not know what God wanted them to know. Num 20 This is a generation which was put into wandering as well and this wandering that they went through was a trying experience and it was trying because God was going to search their hearts and that is what God is doing with us right now. **The eye of God is upon this house and when there is overwhelming sin that threatens the progress of the whole body He will place them into circumstances which purges out the rebels. It is a divine operation He will ordain and He has all the power of the heathen in His hand.** That is what happened here; it is called the wanderings in the wilderness. They literally wandered from one place to the next, one land to the next of the wilderness from one kingdom to another until all the rebels died because God wanted to purge them out and raise up someone else an army of Davids who would keep His law until the end. It does not take many He will take 300. He does not need many He needs a pure lump I want to give you a sense of what it is to wander because some of you are

murmurers and complainers in your hearts. That is your inclination and when things are too slow or promises are too far or circumstances are hard and longstanding you just begin to murmur instead of recognizing the reason that we are in the situation that we are in. Some of you will go so far to say God is not among us and that is what they did why they died. Just simply because they were in circumstances which were trying. How absurd is that? They were set free from the furnace of iron Egypt. They stood before God in flaming fire in mount Sinai. So it is with you. You have sat and ate and drank in the presence of salvation Jesus Christ, His table in the wilderness. You have done it. God caused them to wander. They approached unto Edom in vs 14-22

¹⁴ And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:¹⁵ How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers:¹⁶ And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:¹⁷ Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.¹⁸ And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.¹⁹ And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing anything else, go through on my feet.²⁰ And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.²¹ Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.²² And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.

They are just trying to get through to the Promises Land and to do something for God. And they are just trying to pass through Edom and they say no you will not pass through or we will come after you with the sword so they retracted and went somewhere else. Vs 22-26 is the death of Aaron and they mourned for him and Eliazar took the mantle instead. Ch 2

And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners.² And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.³ And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.⁴ And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

The way the wandering way of trial and purging to kill the rebels to raise up a sanctified people. It is God's ordained course of order but it feels like wandering. He is purging them out. That is what He is doing. The work of the LORD. He is trying them seeing if they love their lives if they ever will love their lives giving them one step closer to the Promise Land. He says the soul of the people was discouraged because of the way.

Vs 5-9 the people murmured saying wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness where there is no break or water and our soul loathes this light bread. So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people and much people of Israel died therefore the people came to Moses and said we have sinned we have spoken against the LORD don't take them away. Pray unto the LORD that He may take away the serpents from among us. And God did not take away the serpents. God provided a Way to look and to live. So it is with us. Yes brethren so it is with us. Every time one of you murmur every time one of you say something in your heart or

mind or outloud towards God with yourself with one another any where any how God will in His wrath send serpents among us around us deceiving us to bite you and God will not take them away. He intends surely for you to look to His Son and live. They were a divine ordination to purge. He does not take away false prophets. He does not take away persecutions and difficulties, the Canaanites taking away our Wells so that we have to dig another. He does not take it away. He gives you a Savior to look to and live. And those who do not look will die. So He made a brazen serpent and set it up upon a hill so that from the millions of the Israelites that expanded across the desert when they were bit and the venom coursed through their veins and certain death was minutes away they had to race to that brazen serpent look at it and they would live. So it is with you. Jesus Christ said in John 3 as the serpent was lifted up in wilderness even so must the Son of Man be lifted up looking unto Him brethren the Author and Finisher of our faith sets you free from besetting sin and you will be able to run this race to its finish. God will not take away the serpents will not take away the king of Egypt will not take away the King Arad He will not do it. He will not take away the serpents even if you are discouraged by the way He is giving you a place to look and live. They wandered more and after this time period an undertermined amount of time during which the serpents were just besieging Israel many people died in that time period of purging their heart was turned back to God and their pastor Moses they apologized called upon Him somehow they were revived into a new state of mind and they approached the next test and it was Sihon king of the Amorites Num 21:1. They approached them in peace they said let me pass through the land just as they said to the king of Edom they said we will go by the king's highway vs 23 King Sihon did not suffer it they took out for war Israel killed, conquered, and crushed him because they were right with God. Surely after that they approached King Og king of Baashan in vs 33-34 and God said to Moses vs 34 fear him not for I have delivered him into your hands and all the people in this land though should do to him as though did to Sihon King of the Amorites at Heshbon. They started gaining momentum again because I just gave you a victory with Sihon if you want a victory here do not fear go onward Christian soliders march. Do not fear be very courageous be very courageous to keep all that is written in the law of Moses as He said. There are opposing forces, principalities, men whose flesh is to be fear if you are deceived by worldly wisdom. But not if you are endued with the power of God strengthened with all might according to his glorious power to the attaining of steadfastness with joyfulness giving thanks (Col 1). In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Whatsoever you do in word and deed do all in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ (Col 3:17). So they are gaining momentum. They defeated Sihon now they are coming to Baashan to King Og and they defeat him too and they are gaining momentum you see they are having expectation of the unconquerable success of the Israelites rightly related to the King which was God.

There have been times and seasons brethren where we have had momentum that we do not have right now. There is momentum in the sense that He is moving among the heathen but there is a decay right now among the church within because of a lack of corporate prayer meetings because our physical house of assembly was stolen by the Canaanites. Because of decay because of we do not have preacher's meetings and that causes the senses and sensitivity and sharpness and intentionality of the preachers to be steadfast going about the work of God doing good as they should do to a worthy degree. There is a decay because the elders have been separated and doing labors and we have not been spending enough time together and praying together enough because we have been here and there and Jake is picking up [] and [] who are a root of bitterness right now and all these other labors which have been temporarily the appointment of God to put us into wandering condition because of the labors themselves because we are in a backslidden generation because God

has set in the goodness of His own Fatherly heart to try us and give unto us according to our works because we are in the course of God. And because of the influx of our new brethren over these past time period there has been a decay of the sensitivity and the expectation of the power of God being poured out upon us like it was when we were having the covenant and revival meetings. And there has been as sense of decay of that expectation that rushing wind that glorious movement that we knew that God was nigh and at hand and for all that we call upon Him for we felt the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace and just the glorious unity of striving together with one mind for the sake of the Gospel of Christ and we were ordering our entire lifestyles around being endued with power from high being ascended up into this glorious panoramic view of the war watching God slay His enemies before it happens in the secret pace of prayer. But now we do not have a house to even do that and we are too great a number to even do that and in the meantime God has given us works to do until we have a house again. We are trying to buy a house right now. Do not tell anyone in Wells. We are trying to buy the Living Water house. The realtor has not gotten back to us. Either we are not praying or God is just desiring to try us just like the Israelites there may be some of you that are murmuring and you have provoked His wrath or maybe there is an Achan and 36 men need to die before we get up and call upon God as we should to take the ground which is given to us. I do not know all the reasons I do not know all the course but I know that God is with us. He is with me. He has been with us the elders and those who are staying right with God.

How many of you are not staying right with God? What are you doing? Eph 6 says the goal of our success is accomplished by all the saints giving themselves to prayers and supplications with all perseverance on behalf of all saints. Are you doing that? Maybe the eye of God is falling upon you. Maybe you are that rebel that He wants to purge. Maybe God wants us to abide 30 days so that a great man might die. God is the force to be reckoned with. His course is divinely ordered and our experience is up to Him and if you are looking you are living and if you are not looking the wrath of God and the sure destruction of serpents is after you. And He wants you to look and live. Brethren this is the same circumstance as the OT. It is the same circumstance as the NT church.

Num 22 moves into them approaching Balaam where he goes up to the mountain and tries to curse them. Israel is right with God at this time and He is rebuking Balaam saying you cannot curse whom God has blessed. The prophet himself is kind of falling over in ecstatic wonder at God's promises to Israel and he himself cannot keep himself together. He just does not know how to stop these people. King Balak does not know what to do all of Moab is trembling and Satan puts in the mind of covetous Balaam to be an instrument of their destruction. He whispers in his ear: he says if you cause these people to sin God will destroy them. It is called the **doctrine of Balaam** you can look it up and study it. **Balaam taught them that these people cannot be cursed nor destroyed nor fought against nor conquered but you get them to sin against God their defenses depart from them.** So that is what he did. They probably sent all their beautiful women into Israel and made some kind of great expression of peace. They probably tried to give them all kinds of money and somehow Israel began to get close to Moab and they began taking some of their women and what happened was a great and terrible destruction at Baal Peor where they had to kill these men who did not repent and all of the faithful of Israel were just weeping even Moses as the wrath of God was coming upon them and they were just being ravaged and destroyed and Moses was probably feeling overwhelmed. They were all weeping there the great congregation. Phinehas stood up as this prince proudly flaunting around his spiritual adultery walking hand in hand with this woman of Moab. He was a respectable man and Phinehas ran the man and women together at the same time and the wrath of God was appeased.

What kind of indignation do you have against sin? Do you even understand that we are so connected to one another that the wrath of God can come upon us corporately speaking to put us into stages of spiritual wandering. Do you understand? Let not a man think of himself more highly than he ought but let him think soberly according as God has dealt according to every man a measure of faith. We are one body and members one of another. And we have need of one another and when one is exalted we all are exalted and when one falls we all fall. When you see that light of the first love of God beginning to dim in your brothers' eye what do you do about it? Do you love his flesh and pamper him? Do you love him? Do you help him? What are you doing? How long are we going to be slack? Satan created a counterattack to stop the momentum of Israel and it was the doctrine of Balaam. They defeated Og they defeated Sihon. Satan deceived them. **Some of you you are so rash and unlearned according to the Scriptures you are ready to go back to Egypt when things get hard. It is just absurd. It is foolish. You ought to be weeping or taking a javelin. That is what you should be doing. God is with us to bless us and save us or to smite us and crush us and purge us it is one or the other.** God will always be with us unless the whole lump is fallen into reprobation then He will depart. Do you understand that? Do you live like it? Phinehas pacified the wrath of God. By this counterattack Satan deceived the masses of the regenerated people of God generally speaking and what happened was because of sin there is a general leavening and break down of the Spiritual senses of Israel .That is what happened at Baal Peor typologically metaphorically speaking it happens to us when one two or three of you starts loving the pride of life the deceitfulness of riches and lusts of other things the cares of this life grows lukewarm is in spiritual adultery with the world. You have got a woman of Moab walking by your side. And through the circumstances that I have rehearsed to you brethren when your spouses, now I want to speak practically. When your spouses are struggling what do you do? Do you try to help them, pray for them and when you do not think they are getting victory do you go and get help for them? Do you ask them to go get help from another? What are you doing? I am speaking to ladies. Men, when your spouses are struggling what do you do about it? In the camp because 1 Cor 7 where it says the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the believing husband and the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife it means that whole households are called to appear before God even if only one spouse is regenerate so that means that when one spouse is unclean in a damnable condition and that is known they can still appear before God with the believing one and that can be with a regenerate backslider as well who is legally a sinner and an unbeliever at that present time.

Leavening happens and this has happened for weeks now spouses I am talking to you. When your spouse falls into an unclean state and that is acknowledged by the elders are you publicizing that so that he or she can be properly shamed? Because that shame is going to work for their repentance. Matt 18 says that such a one should be as an heathen man and a publican and that is for their salvation because they cannot be ashamed for sin so they need to be ashamed. When they look at the countenance of their brethren they feel like a stranger and that will help them realize that they are strangers with God. It is serious. It is serious. When a woman commits adultery on a man and she goes off and goes into another house and his beloved wife broke the covenant marriage and that wife says come over and spend the night he will say I will not even go into that place. I am not even going to go in that room. If you want to see me and be with me we are going to go somewhere else because it is so defying. It is such a betrayal such a bitter deep wound into the bones. He would not even go in that place. Adultery. And those who commit adultery on God. Lukewarmness they deserve that disdain and if you have wisdom you would want it. A scorner loveth not him that reproveth him neither will he go unto the wise. Well brethren God says if you are wise go after them. Smite them on the cheek and he will bless you in the end.

I do not know the course of our future, our near future. I know the LORD is moving abroad. The burden that I had from God is to stop the decay within, to remind you of these things. The problem of sin; methods of redemption to appeal to your conscience as much as God would give me grace to try to alarm you so that that we could march forward that we would gain a house building we have the funds to do it and we could go on with God. New brethren I have a warning for you those of you who have been with us for only months I have a warning for you. Remember Jehu. Jehu was a man who had zeal who was anointed of the LORD who understood how to destroy the house of Balaam. When he was strengthened for that he was weak in another cause. He knew how to see sinners converted. He knew how to preach the true Gospel. He knew how to do some signs and wonders to purge lost people from their iniquities. I can assure you brethren if you are new you do not know how to purge the house of God as you should. There is a vast realm of labor which you are the present time unaware of simply by not knowing the scriptures and not being instructed and you need to devote yourself to that. Now you older brethren or younger brethren who have been here for a while you know what I am talking about where you were made aware of what it means to come near to corporate perfection and sensibility to sin, the holiness of God, the momentum that brooded upon the congregation, the advances we made together in time past, the new brethren do not know that. Do not let their lightness deceive you. Do not trust in their flesh. Do not do it. Jehu was zealous to destroy Balaam and he failed to purge Israel from hypocrisy and all of you who are new who were backslidden before you came here and you are just learning the ways of how to keep yourself right in the sight of God. Do not exalt yourself too far. And if you just experienced being restored and you have just come into our midst you need to learn from these older brethren who have an understanding of how to keep the people right with God and their affections are turned towards that more than your are because of simply time and experience and trials that they have been through these years. Older brethren do not be deceived. Let us not become like all the other false Christians who also zealous for many things but not zealous for perfect things. Remember the things the LORD has taught you. Older brethren keep them accountable. New brethren remember Jehu. These things can be very deceiving if you do not prayerfully with trembling bear these things in your heart. I am serious. This is not a game. When God tells you to tremble He means it He is not light like you are. This is not a game to Him. He has to watch the rapists rape people and hear the cries and screams of murderers and drunkards. He sees physical crimes as much spiritual crimes. He hears and sees it day and night. He never sleeps. He is watching it right now. This is not a game to Him. If He says you could be empowered to express His glory to save souls He means it. And if He says sin is going to interrupt that He means it. And it is not a game to Him. And sin subtly deceiving our brethren is not a game and you new brethren do not know that enough and you older brethren you are too lighthearted and forget that and forsake what you do know. If the LORD has the elders off doing battles or on a mountain praying or getting doctrine to prepare for the future are you going to fall into idolatry like they did in Exodus 32 or are you going to be faithful like Joshua waiting at the foot of the mountain completely departed from the reveling mass of idolatry so that when Moses came down from the mountain Joshua was there and thought there was war in the camp? And Moses says no they have committed idolatry Joshua because Joshua was there on his face. What are you doing? Just because we are not having covenant or revival or corporate prayer meetings that does not mean that you are justified to sin or to backslide. **It means that we have been divinely appointed to this season that we are in and you have a responsibility to walk with God and you have to do what it takes. All the means of grace are still here. You just do not love or seek it enough or you are not fearing enough.**

For the sake of an example I remember when brother Rudy was lost and he came down here from wherever he was in the North and I was the only elder in town at the time or maybe another was with me I am not really sure. But I know that I was taking primary responsibility at that time for examining Rudy. I think Ryan and Jake might have been up north. And we examined him and he was a hypocrite of hypocrites. Self righteous. He was one of the goodliest people I have ever seen. He could smile like a Christian talk like a Christian walk like a Christian. He could deceive masses like some of you who were false Christians. He could shine with a twinkle in his eye. And if you looked at his appearance you would have been deceived. He was essentially no different than a true Christian in the outward appearance. He really was essentially. Even now in his flesh he still has that in him. In his flesh he can work well. He loves working. He loves things that Christians love in his flesh. Some of you you were rappers or something else when you were lost you know. He grew up being disciplined in a rigid lifestyle of usually what only Christians would like to do and he loved it in his flesh. Now I am just using this as an example I am going to turn to you in a moment. He came in and he had two false professions of salvation before he was actually saved. And that is such a difficult situation to be in as an elder because you know he could be very offended and he could not believe you if you say it is not true. And he sought God for a while and he believed he was saved and he came in and wanted to be examined. We sat down with him. He was smiling. He was happy. He gives this whole explanation of what happened and by all appearance in my mind I wanted to say he was saved. In the soul in my heart in the Spirit of God I had no peace no Spiritual sensational edification by anything that he said so I could not believe that he was saved so I said Rudy you are deceived. And I just preached and somehow God showed him and he went back and sought God again and came back again with another false profession which looked better than the one time before probably talked better had his words ordered better understood the vocabulary better. He spoke it and it just seemed in my mind I wanted to believe but in my soul because I was crying out to God because we were trembling in our hearts before the meeting because we know a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough knowing that we cannot make a mistake here or I will be judged by God. God gave us discernment and I had no peace simply by the supernatural exercisement of the unction of the holy One giving us understanding. No peace that he was saved. I preached to him again tore him down again. He went back and sought God and woke up one morning and felt like he was falling into hell literally cried out terrified felt like he was falling even when he was awake he felt like he was falling into hell. The Spirit of God came upon brother Jordan. He preached to him and unbraided his hypocrisy by the power of the Spirit of God like no one before. He fell down on his face was confronted by Almighty God like never before. And as they sung a hymn in meekness he received the engrafted Word and in one instantaneous moment of time he was saved. He got up and shared his testimony and he was weeping giving praise to God and the Spirit of God fell and we had great joy.

And that is what happened. But brethren that was his salvation but in that story in that testimony you can see an example of subtlety and deceitfulness of sin and some of you do not understand that. With one another, that is what I am talking about. With one another you think that your brother or sister is smiling or their countenance looks like a Christian or she seems to be walking and acting like a Christian she or he actually is one in her/his heart. **You start judging people according to appearance and not righteous judgment, you do not have a burden from God to keep your brother accountable and so you are not praying for grace to have a Spiritual unity with your brethren so then you do not spiritually discern when there is not unity because that is not what you are seeking because you are not understanding what God is calling or else maybe your goal is something else, maybe your own ministry or reputation**

or maybe you want this or that whatever it is it is not the corporate perfection of the body of Christ so you are not in desperation and love praying for that grace to be able to discern your brethren are in error to restore by the unction of the holy one so you are not deceived by their show of humility and form of Godliness because you know the kingdom of God is not in word but in power and you know that fellowship is not in wise and persuasive words of man's wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and power. This is what I am talking about the decay I am talking about by the new brethren, by the season that we are in, by the lack of revival meetings, by the general decay of response of energy of this kind of accountability in the body of Christ. There has been a decay. And if God would have us to be revived He would have us to take heed to ourselves. When you see an unwillingness in your brethren to confess sin which sins that you feel God is marking against them. I am not saying to do away w charity that covers a multitude of sins I am talking about sin that endangers souls. When you think they are unwilling to confess sin be willing to go after them. When you feel that someone is hiding or running away spiritually speaking from the presence of God because of the fear of man that is darkness. Are you going to let them fall asleep in the dark? **What are you doing? God says His house is supposed to be a house of light and you are supposed to be a midnight cry. He says arise thou that sleepest arise from the dead and Christ will give you light. If you do not understand what Spiritual light is and spiritual darkness is and the mystery of its engrossment upon a soul you are not learning how to be a Spiritual man. You are learning some lip service eye service form of godliness Christianity which is the apostasy of this age. You need to learn how to walk with God and know the living God and how to be desperate for the Spirit of prophecy to edify your brethren to learn how to change the spiritual temperature and atmosphere of the places you are in amongst the brethren.**

The Method of Redemption: Principles of Success

So I will close with this brethren: principles of success understand the problem of sin and the method of redemption. Heb 10:24-25 means that you have this mentality towards your brethren.

²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.²³Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised);²⁴And let us consider [that takes love; means to meditate upon, calculate, plan, give yourself to, think upon] one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching [the day of judgement].²⁶For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,²⁷But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.²⁸He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:²⁹Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?³⁰For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Vs 26-29 you see an understanding of certain destruction and in vs 19-23 you see an understanding of sure redemption. And with both of those understandings you are moved to keep men from willful sin to keep men from the hardness of heart that they will have towards the blood of Christ that makes them feel like they are obliged to willfully sin keep men from hardening their heart from the full assurance of faith and the profession of faith

without wavering to draw near to the presence of God for help because they have been sprinkled by the blood of Christ. Keep men from being deceived from thinking that God is a hard man who reaps where He does not sow. He has never done that. He never will. God always reaps where He sows and He sowed into you the seed of His Son Jesus Christ and He wants to reap fruit from it. He has sowed, where?, in you and He demands fruit, where?, from you and He only reaps where He sows and He only calls you to join with Him in His work. Brethren the yoke is easy; come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my burden upon you and learn from Me for I am meek and humble in heart and you shall find rest for yourselves for My burden is easy and My yoke is Light. The only seed that He sows He puts within you His living seed so that the devil himself will be afraid of you and run away from you (James 4) because God is near. Burdens are lifted at Calvary brethren. Jesus is very near to us. You have got to love Him fear Him acknowledge Him understand the means of redemption vs 19-23 the means of destructions vs 26-29 the subtlety of it arising. **Pray for the Spirit of prophecy to help brethren in need. When you need it you need to cry and whine like a lamb that needs help and your brethren will come and shepherds will come and the chief Bishop of your souls will come to turn your eyes back to the healing wounds of Christ. By his stripes you were healed.** You look to Him every moment of time every day. The mindset brethren is vs 24-25 consideration devotion one to another ,a unity and burden pressing upon their minds preparing for the day of judgment so much the more as you see the day approaching. What do you plan to do after the service and during the meal time? Do you plan to have casual idle conversation wandering around or do you plan to intentionally exhort, encourage, bless one another, have a spirit of unction to speak something right and good? Set your mind on what is pure and lovely and enduring forever so that when you speak everyone else will think about those things. This one thing you will know brethren Jesus Christ was intentional every second of His life even in resting and being still and knowing He is God. Even when you lie on your bed being still and knowing that He is God, your reins instructing you in the night, the shadow of the Almighty ensuring you that you will never dash your foot against a stone, that the angel of the LORD encampeth around those who fear Him and will deliver Him. Though 10 thousand fall at your side because of the spirit of the antichrist, the apostasy of the age, it shall not come nigh thee. That is what He tells you if you draw near to Him and put your head upon His bosom take your rightful place purchased by His blood to be more incessant for the reward of His suffering and the awareness of your unworthy condition. Stand up and be courageous to obey the covenant purchased by His blood. Be very courageous brethren to obey Heb 10:16-24 and 25-29. Principles of success brethren as I have quoted this verse many times 1 Cor 14:

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.³ But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Speak good things restoring things saving unction coming from your mortal and finite lips. Gal 6:1:

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Save those who are overtaken. Deliver them from their faults. If you are Spiritual you will know how to do it. James 5. Those two points are about preaching and prophesying right things. James 5 is about praying right things. Prayer comes before preaching and heavenly wisdom and prophesying

and you cannot pray if you are not burdened. Praying like the spirit of Elijah prayed. James 5:17 What is the interpretation? Elijah was morally responsible to make sure the land brought forth fruit and that heaven brought forth rain and that moral responsibility was dependent on whether he succeeded to pray earnestly and that was dependent on him being sensitive to the problem of sin and the methods of righteousness and he succeeded in his course of his allotted ministry.

¹⁷*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.¹⁹ Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;²⁰ Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

Vs. 17-18 are speaking corporately. Converting power of rain is spoken of in vs 18. In the last days He will pour out His Spirit upon you and your sons and daughters will prophesy your young men shall see visions your old men shall see dreams and I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. That is the rain. By the effectual prayers of righteous men rain falls. Men are restored from backslidden states. Men are restored from backslidden states. Men that are waxing wanton in a spiritual wilderness are restored revived and fruitfulness comes from their souls and they are converted. By prayer brethren.

Eph 6 speaks of this is light of the entire battle against spiritual forces Eph 6:10-17 speaks of the battle against the forces of darkness. **The means and methods of redemption are the armor of righteousness which is unconquerable which is a sure success which the devils are afraid of. I had a vision once that I was holding the Sword of the Spirit over my head and it was like a bright lamp and the devils and dragons were afraid of the circumference of light all around me. That is how they think of the Sword of the Spirit of God. They are afraid of it, It is an offensive weapon, the only offensive weapon that can cause them to flee.** Vs 18 how do you put on the armor, feel the armor, gird it upon your body knowing that no flaming arrow shall pass its shield? It is right here vs 18 praying always praying always building up your most holy faith by praying in the holy Ghost keeping yourself in the love of God praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints and for the preachers that utterance may be give unto them according to the opening of their mouth.

And one final point of the principles of success the methods of redemption. The book of Jude. In our course He will not take the serpents away but those who look will live and those who are bitten by these serpents those who are on the course of destruction venom literally coursing through their veins, they turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. God forewarn us in Jude 3-4

³*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Denying by deeds and works (Tit 1:16). Denying His Name literally presently and progressively in word, thought, and deed. Col 3:17 whatsoever you do in word and deed do all in the name of the

LORD Jesus Christ: words and deeds. This is where His name is it is His Person literally. Do not allow this to happen. It is a principle of success.

I will close with this brethren. This last point. Rom 6:

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. [which means God has forbidden it which means it is impossible]¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.²¹ What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Everything that I described to you today it may be such a plan of salvation which requires your study. It is true. Study to shew thyself approved a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth. It may be a means of salvation presently and progressively relating to the Person of Jesus Christ because you are studying that you may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work thoroughly purging yourself from wood hay and stubble. There is an understanding a heavenly wisdom that has to be sought out as hidden treasures of silver and gold is sought out of high mountains and deep caves and underwater mountains. There are things to see and a God who hides Himself to us but you will never grow weary of it if you understand what Rom 6 is saying. Rom 6 is saying putting before us two roads a road to heaven and a road to eternal death. A course to walk a life to live of thought or deed or course. One road is by being a servant of sin unto death. The other road is obedience unto righteousness. Vs 18 one road is those who are free from sin. The saving road is for servants to righteousness unto holiness. But it says of the road of damnation in vs 21 the fruit of sin it says the end of those things is death. Vs 21 is the end of the road of sin it says the end of those things is death. Those words, thoughts, deeds, that mentality that you are subservient to that worldly wisdom. The end of those things is death. But look at vs 22 there is another end. Those who have the fruit unto holiness, the end of that is everlasting life. See there are two roads and Rom 6:15-22 is describing a lifestyle of obedience to righteousness having fruit unto holiness and the end of that is everlasting life and those who are yielding themselves to sin who are servants of sin who are bearing fruit which is shameful and the end of those things is death. That is the end of the context of all the verses leading to vs 23. Here is the conclusion of the matter. If you want to stay on that road of righteousness and avoid the road of sin here is the glorious truth. It is the gift of God. It is a gift that you cannot earn. That you never will earn. And that you already have. So walk it. The wages of sin is death but the whole course of the lifestyle of righteousness bearing fruit of holiness and the end of that everlasting life; it is the gift of God in Christ Jesus our LORD. Praise His Name. It is not hard to receive a gift. It is right before you in your mouth in your heart. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD.