

Restitution of All Things – message by Bro. Lester Austin

We have been studying – as most of you know – through the book of First Peter. We studied through verse eighteen last Sunday night and we are going to begin reading there in just a moment and continue through verses nineteen and twenty which will be the basis of our thoughts this morning.

I ask you to pray particularly about this because we are going to be covering some new ground. The time has come for this message. You pray for grace and I will give you the message as God gives it to me. I am going to be faithful to the Word of God. I want to say that I rejoice in the Word of God. I rejoice in the Truths of God. This truth is going to be foreign to many of you, but I want to say something to you now – it is not foreign to the Bible, and if you will just give me your ear for a while, I will lay it out from the Word of God and let you draw your own conclusions. I am not going to try to force anything on you; when the Bible is spoken you will make up your own mind.

This is the confidence that I have – and you have proved this over and over again – and I’m going to read this before I read my text: Acts chapter 17, beginning at verse 10, says:

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

That’s all that I have ever asked of any of you. For 37 years I have asked you to listen to my message and then go to the Bible to confirm it or gainsay it. And that is all that I am asking you to do this morning. Listen to the message of the Word of God, and you go to the Bible to gainsay it. But I want to say this to you on your behalf – I feel like you all have been more like the Berean people than Thessalonica because you all have been open to hear the Word of God all these years - and I know that I have brought some very arousing and troublesome truths before us through the years that tradition was completely opposed to (and this will be so of this message this morning) and yet, you have embraced what God said. That is all I have asked you to do: if God says it, you embrace it. That is the only thing that we are obligated to do.

I want to say before I preach this morning that this truth does not change any of the great truths of the Bible. This does not change the doctrine of Hell by any means, in fact, it confirms it even more assuredly. Hell is a true doctrine of the Bible. It does not change the doctrine of election; election is absolutely a doctrine taught clearly in the Bible. This does not change any of the great truths of the Bible. It just clarifies some things that I think should have been clarified a long time ago.

And so we begin in 1Peter chapter 3 and verse 18:

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

And now may God be pleased to add His blessing to the reading and, I trust, the expounding of His precious Word. We closed out Sunday night on verse 18 with this thought: Quickened by the Spirit. This verse carries on into the following verse, *“By which He went.”* This does have reference to the resurrection, but this particular setting He is not speaking of the resurrection, this is something that transpired before He resurrected on the third day. So, in that light, this was the thought I gave you and you can weigh it, it was the clearest thing that I could see on it, that the Spirit of God had to withdraw from Him as it were in order for Him to die as a mortal man. I do not believe death could ever had come to His mortal body had He had the Spirit upon Him without measure. So obviously the Spirit of God withdrew, as it were, from Christ because we hear Him cry, *“My God, my God. Why hast thou forsaken me?”* He was very much aware of the Spirit of God’s presence being withdrawn from Him, I believe with all my heart, once He died. The Bible says, but was *“quickened by the Spirit”* He was then strengthened and again empowered by the Spirit. We will see this beautifully displayed here in the very first few words,

“By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.”

I have two or three things I want to say here about this. By the Holy Spirit – From His conception to the last word that we have recorded that He said on this earth, everything was by the Holy Spirit. In Acts chapter one, you will find that He

gave instruction by the Holy Spirit to His disciples. It is all by the Holy Spirit. Everything was done and is done by the power of the Holy Spirit if it is of God. If it is spiritual, it is done by the Spirit.

I thought that this was a great statement for the gospel here. Notice what He says here - *“By which also he went and preached.”* Preached! We are in a day when preaching is being pushed aside. As a matter of fact, well known people are saying that we don't need all of the preaching, people do not want preaching – and I guess that is right. But none the less beloved, what thrills me is that God has not changed His mind about preaching! The same thing that He uses to reach men and women walking around on this earth – the gospel, He used to reach these shut up in prison. Nothing changed. The gospel was preached to them and it was preached by the power of the Holy Spirit, from the very lips of our precious Lord Jesus. That is a great statement about the gospel.

“By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.” Just a word or two to help us get our bearing here, notice that He preached to the spirits in prison. I remind you that our human spirit and every person that has ever been born on this earth – from Adam until this moment, has a spirit that came from God. That spirit can never ever die, it cannot be destroyed because it shares in the substance of God. Notice what God has to say about the spirit of man in two verses of scripture:

Hebrews 12:9 *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

Numbers 16:22 *And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?*

Also, James says that the body without the spirit is dead. Every person that has ever lived on this earth had a spirit and it came from God, and that spirit can never, ever die. But that cannot be said about the soul. Contrary to a lot of (modern) thinking, Jesus said in Matthew 10 and verse 28:

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

So according to the Bible, the soul can be destroyed, but not so with the spirit.

We do not have any question as to who these (spirits) were, they were those that were disobedient in Noah's time - that is clearly laid out for us. I set this before you in this light today: I think that the fundamental question that we have to settle in our hearts – and it has been settled in my heart from a long time – do we want God to save people or do we want God to damn them forever and ever? You are going to have to settle that in your heart, this is what this subject is all about and, in fact, what God is all about. This is what Jesus came for – He came to save, and before I am through with this message you are going to find out who He came to save, without any question, if you will take the Bible.

For years I have been bold to say that God is going to save all Israel. I have had people get furious with me, they just wouldn't have it! They got fighting mad with me and I asked them, “You mean you do not want God to save people? If God said He was going to save all Israel, what is wrong with God saving all Israel if God purposed to do it?” I rejoice in it! But I want you to know that it is in His time! So you will have to settle in your mind, “Do you want God to save people or do you want God to damn people for ceaseless eternities ahead of us?”

We think about the Sovereignty of God. I have defined sovereignty this way: that is, in the sense of salvation, God saves who He wills, how He wills and when He wills. He does not ask counsel of any man. That is the Sovereignty of God! God has the sovereign right to do as He sovereignly wills. He not only has the right, He exercises the right. He does as He sovereignly wills.

Here is a case in point, if I can understand the scriptures. God, at this point in time, chose to save those who had been disobedient in the time of Noah. Here, God chose to save these people. I cannot speak for you but I can speak for myself that I rejoice in this truth. When this truth dawned on me, and it has been many years ago, I was challenged with this truth. To be honest with you, I was taken aback, I do not remember if I was offended or not but I was very much disturbed about it. But I did what I had been doing since by the grace of God He had made me alive and filled me with His Spirit and gave me some understanding of what thus saith the Word of God – I went to the Word of God! I said, “Lord, if this is so, your Word will verify it.” I want to say that His Word does verify this truth. There is no way you can twist it and make it not say what it will say this morning. I rejoice in this truth!

Their time had come. Here is another amazing statement, in the fourth chapter of Peter in verse number six:

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Go ahead and shout! We should shout about this! This is a shouting truth right here! I am thankful that Jesus come to save! And the Bible says that He came to save that which was lost – that is everybody beloved! Everybody is lost, and He came to save that which was lost. And He has not changed His method whatsoever – “to them was the gospel preached,” I do not believe that in these last days, He started using Hollywood and all of these other methods or all of this ungodliness that people are saying and doing to try to reach people, I still believe that God ordained the gospel, I still believe that it is effective and it will be effective where God sends it, and it is effective today where ever He sends it. The Gospel – the Gospel, is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth! And listen to this, a lot of folk do not like this – unto the Jew first! Like it or not they are God’s chosen people. I love the people of God. Even in Israel where most of them are lost this morning, but they are still God’s chosen people. To the Jew first, and also – thank God this is where I got in – also to the Greek. I am thankful this morning for the Gospel.

“*For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead,*” Well, that has to speaking of those that are physically dead. “*That they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*” Beloved that is exactly what happened to this crowd that Jesus went to Hell and preached to that was once disobedient in the days of Noah. They were preached to and were made alive by the Spirit. You can say anything you want to about this passage of scripture, but when you get through you will have to come back to this. And I know that this is strange truths for most of you, but please stay with me. I am not through yet. I thank God for the day that this truth dawned upon my heart. I am going to tell you what this truth did, it gave me a whole new view of God. A whole new view of God. It answered some of the most perplexing questions that I had about the character of God.

I start you off in Acts chapter three, and guess who is doing the talking here in these verses? The same beloved apostle writing in the First Peter chapter three – Peter! I thought as I was meditating on this, there is one thing about Peter, he is bold! And that boldness, before he got under the control of the Holy Spirit got him in a lot of trouble, as you all know if you have studied the Bible. I give him credit for being so very bold. When the Spirit of God came on him on the day of Pentecost, he did not hold anything back.

Here is what he says in Acts chapter three and verse nineteen through verse twenty-one:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

I am not preaching on this verse this morning but I want to tell you that I am waiting for that time of refreshing as well beloved! We need that in this hour more than anything I know of – we need the refreshing time of the Lord.

“*And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times*” notice the word times, “*of restitution of,*” how many things - ALL things! “*all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of,*” how many of His prophets – ALL! “*his holy prophets since the world began.*” Just one little, quick word here which dawned on me as I was meditating on this again, until the “*times of restitution*” plural! Beloved, I do not know how long this is going to take. It is not a “time” but “times.” We already see a segment of it right here. It was four thousand years until Christ came, bled and then died, He restored that segment. He’s talking about the “*times of restitution.*” How can you have the restitution of all things and then put everybody in the lake of fire for eternity? I ask that simple question. It is absolutely impossible, you can twist it any way you want but you cannot make it fit. I will follow this through for you. “*All the prophets.*” This was not just something that Peter came across, he said that ALL of the prophets declared this truth – the restitution of all things!

I am going to give you four or five references here so that we can cover this as quick as we can.

Col. 1:20 “*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*”

All of these things are going to be reconciled. You might say that the writer did not say the things under the earth. Well, I am not through preaching yet! We are about to get there. Here is another verse that first thrilled my heart long ago.

2Co 5:18 *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”*

All things are of God? Who believes that? All things are of God! You might say that you have always believed that, well I have too. I believe it even more so today! *“Who hath reconciled us,”* us, that is the elect, those that are saved in that time period. What is this ministry of reconciliation all about? Look at the next verse:

2Co 5:19 *“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*

“The world,” now I know how the brethren have gotten around that, and I do not have any qualms about it, those old preachers and puritans of old were great – I love them and love to read behind them – God greatly used them. I am not trying to take away from anybody’s ministry or take away from any man, I am just saying that I know what the Bible says and I know what men say. God said, *“reconciling the world unto himself,”* the world means the world. Before I am through, I am going to show you that in no uncertain terms. And by the way, I did not write the Bible. This Bible is the same Bible that you have had laying around on your shelf all these years. I did not write the Bible, nor am I re-writing the Bible – I am just preaching the Bible.

Revelation 5:11 – 14 *“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*

That leaves no one out beloved! He said, *“in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,”* He said ALL of them, all of them sometime are going to be bowed down giving honor and glory to the Lamb. Glory be to God and the Lamb forever! You may ask why didn’t Paul say that? Well, I read in two places where he said in heaven and earth, but we still have not read them all.

Philippians 2:8-11 *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

You cannot call Him Lord without the Holy Spirit! And I can tell you that the crowd in Noah’s day did not call Him Lord without the Holy Spirit because Jesus went to them in the power of the Holy Spirit and preached this gospel to them in that day! All of this bowing will be to the glory of God the Father! It will not be that Satan has got everything and God just ended up with just a little smidgen, O no! God is going to bring everybody in His time to that place to bow the knee and reveal His Son to them! And His Son will be exalted because His Son came and died to reconcile this world back unto Himself! That is the Bible! Glory to God! This is the great God of the Bible! When you sing about the Love of God, that is the love that you are talking about! *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!”* That is that *“so love”* of God! The love that reaches to the lowest hell. It has already got some of them out, and that is not all of them I don’t think! But I am not going to speculate, I’m just going to preach this morning.

Eph 1:9 *“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”*

Notice again that He said “times.” That is the God of the Bible beloved. I want to tell you that everything began in God, and everything is going to end in God.

Romans 11:36 *“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”*

I am going to read this same passage in the Amplified Bible. “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it)” Colossians also says in chapter one that He is “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature,” in other words, every things had its origin in Him. Everything had its beginning in God and everything is going to have its ending in God you can be sure. And that is exactly what Brother Watchman Nee was getting to, even though he was not so bold as to say it, when he wrote that little book, “Christ the Sum of All Things.” Brother Nee made this statement, and I have shared it with you many times, he said that God is going to keep building with Christ, and building, and building, and building, until finally there is nothing but Christ.

There is so much to cover, but I still have a lot of time though. The doctrine of eternal punishment stands in the New Testament on the one Greek word “aion.” In a little bit I am going to tell you how it was translated, but the word literally means “an age,” or the “ages” depending on the context.

And by the way, if we were to take the time, and see this is what we are all guilty of I have been to it so many ...all that traditional things for instance like the Second Coming of Christ. When I started preaching I just nominally accepted what I had heard men say. But you know what got me straight on it? A man challenged me. He came and looked me in the eye and said “Give me one verse that teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture!” I got confronted with the truth of the Bible. When you get confronted, then you have to decide if you want to go with tradition and keep your friends, or do like I did, junk tradition and go with God and have all my friends turn against you! For six states they said that Old Lester has turned out to be a heretic. I am not preaching that message today, but I am trying to say that we need to let the Bible speak for itself. I do not care what tradition says or what man says, I am interested in what God says, because after all, He is going to have the last say about everything. I am interested in what God has to say this morning. So the whole (erroneous) teaching on this subject from the New Testament has hinged on the translation of one word, and I will tell you how it was translated. But before I do, I want us to take this word “world” and follow it a little bit through the Bible.

The Greek word “aion” is translated as “age.” Go with me to 1Corinthians chapter 10 and verse 11. I want to read this and then compare it with Ephesians chapter 3.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

Beloved that happened 2000 years ago. As far as I know, the world has not come to an end. It is still going on. Actually, the world will never come to an end. If that had been translated “age,” it would have been clearer. Let me show you that in contrast now.

Eph. 3:21 *“Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”*

In this verse, we find the proper translation of the word “aion.” How long did he say? Throughout all ages, that is, of the ages of the ages of the ages. Let Christ be glorified and exalted he said, world without end. In the First Corinthians passage, it is translated the “end of the world.” Well, it is literally the end of the “age,” that is very clear. The context will show you that. You do not have to go far, but see, as I was saying a while ago, I had just pulled this scripture out and that scripture out and I had heard men do it, until I was confronted with this thing about the Second Coming. Then, I went and looked at those scriptures. I would hear men quote them and never say a thing that the Bible says and say that “this is what it

means.” But when I got to looking, those scriptures did not say anything like those preachers were saying that it means. In reality, they had a theory and they were propping up and pushing a theory as they would read a verse and say “this is what that means.” Well, read a verse and find out for yourself what it means. Do not take anybody’s word for it. Dig out the context of the scripture, don’t just pull a verse up out of anywhere, take the scripture in whole context. You will have no worries about being confused if you will just stay in the context of the scripture. It will make itself clear, just as these verses are so very clear. 1 Corinthians chapter 10, when I read it, I know what the truth as to what is being said – it is talking about the age there, and it is very clear. I have said for all of these years that we must understand words if we are going to understand the Bible. Look with me to Ephesians chapter one and verse twenty-one, where we will see this word “world” used again.

Eph.1:21 *“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:”*

The word “world” here is literally the word “age.” Look also at Hebrews chapter two.

Heb.2:5 *“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.”*

Again, “world” here literally means “age.” This is in direct reference to the Millennial Age. Literally the Millennial Age to come. Because he is talking about somebody that is going to rule – the angels are not going to be in charge of it, but he’s going to tell who is going to be in charge during the Millennial Age, if you read on, but we are not dealing with that this morning. Look at Hebrews chapter 6 and verse five.

Heb.6:5 *“And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.”*

Again, the word “world” here is literally the word “age,” or you could translate it as the word “ages.” It would be the same truth. And on and on we could go. Let’s go back to a reference that our Lord used in Matthew. This is a verse that have given people fits for years and years.

Matt.12:32 *“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the [world] to come.”*

Neither in this age or the age to come. Not in eternity, it is not speaking about eternity, it is speaking about the age. It means exactly what it says. If a man blasphemes against the Holy Ghost there will be no forgiveness in this age nor in the next age. But, there will be forgiveness, sometime in God’s time. We see two ages referenced here. We are in the age of Grace now, then, the next age will be the Millennial Age. Two ages.

I said earlier that this teaching here of eternal punishment stands on the Greek word “aion,” which literally means age. Now this will give you some food for thought, for those of you that study. The words “forever,” “everlasting,” “eternal,” “age” and “world,” are used over 400 times in the Old Testament alone. When they apply to man, usually, they are in reference to the age. Let me make a suggestion. Take your Bible and start reading in Genesis and have a sheet of paper ready. Make a note every where the Bible says something about this matter of eternity or forever or the age. It will speak clearly about the restitution of all things throughout the Old Testament, you will find this truth – of every soul coming to bow before the Lord Jesus! You’ll find “all nations” and “all peoples,” God makes it clear and you can write it down.

In the book of Exodus, we find a passage that is primarily talking about the priests. This is an example of how this word is used in the Old Testament.

Ex.12:14 *“And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”*

I am going to tell you this wasn’t going to last literally forever, just for the age. I can show you this in the book of Hebrews and show you that all of the Old Testament with it’s symbols and the priesthood – all of it was done away with when the Substance come. In the Old Testament we do not have substance, just symbolism. All of the teachings and types

like the Ark symbolized Christ! There come a time when this was done away with, so it cannot last forever. That is just one example.

Ex.27:21 *“In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, which [is] before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: [it shall be] a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.”*

Ex.28:43 *“And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy [place]; that they bear not iniquity, and die: [it shall be] a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.”*

Ex. 29:28 *“And it shall be Aaron's and his sons' by a statute for ever from the children of Israel: for it [is] an heave offering: and it shall be an heave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifice of their peace offerings, [even] their heave offering unto the LORD.”*

The word “forever” is literally “for the age.” All of these things were done away with in Christ. These were given to them under that Old Testament era, and as long as there was a notion that existed I am sure that this happened. But it did not last forever, it is all gone.

I would encourage you to read and study Hebrews chapters 8-10 where it talks about the priesthood – the old Aaronic Priesthood is done away. It vanished away. Why? Because the Reality had come! All of the rituals had their fulfillment in Christ. The rituals were for that age, but there came a better age. When you read the book of Hebrews, you find “better” things! Not just shadow as in the Old Testament, but substance in the New Testament, and that Substance is Christ! There is nothing any clearer – he said all of this has to pass away. I am trying to show you that this word age has been translated into words that when we read them, it completely throws us off and takes us down another path.

In the New Testament, which was written originally in Greek, this word “aion” was translated into seven different English words. As “age” twice, as “course” once, as “world” 32 times, “eternal” two times, and the adjective form of this word, “aionios” is translated as “eternal” 42 times, as “everlasting” 25 times, and as “forever” once. Take a Strong's or a Young's concordance – I am told that Young's is clearer – and you can check these out for yourself.

But I want to get to the real meat of this subject this morning. I want to share with you some passages that are as clear as anything else you can read. How many of you believe that everything that God ever wills, will come to pass? I am not trying to trick you, but I know that everyone of you believe that. I know that this truth can be preached to you because you have more of the Berean spirit and you want what this Bible says. I believe that anything that God ever wills, will happen. I do not believe that there are enough demons in Hell to stop His will from happening! I do not believe that there are enough ungodly men to stop it from happening – I believe He has power of all flesh and all spirits too! You believe that too Glory to God.

Now take you Bible and turn to 1 Timothy chapter 2 and read what it says. This is not what Lester Austin says – I know I have had people say that “that is what Lester says,” when I have crossed their wires. Well, if Lester Austin said it, AND the Bible says it, then you better bow to it, Amen! If Ol' Lester says it and the Bible doesn't, then you can disregard it as nothing. Toss it over your shoulder and forget it.

1Tim.2:1-6 *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

God wills for all men to be saved! If you do not have much understanding of the Bible, maybe you are here lost this morning, people who die without Christ die and go to Hell. If you are here lost and you do not come to Christ in repentance and faith you will die in your sins and go to Hell, and you will stay there as long as God deems necessary for you to be there. Just like that crowd in Noah's day did. They were dealt with until Jesus came, bled and died and then went down and preached the gospel to them. SO I want to make myself clear. How are you saved? By coming to a “*knowledge of the truth.*” There is going to be a “due time” for everybody, sometime. There are going to be people who sit in church and hear the gospel with their outer ears and will die in their sins and go to Hell. Because unless the Spirit of God applies this gospel to

your heart, you cannot be saved. God has to open your heart, He has to bring you to a place of repentance, He has to break that rebellion in you and bring you to Christ! But there is going to be a due time for every man. That is not what I said that is what God said! I rejoice and magnify Him the best I know how this morning! This is God's business, and I want to say that it is marvelous in my eyes! This is the Lord's doing!

I might not can answer all of your questions, but this is a God of purpose! I want you to know that in the eons of time God will begin to unfold some of that purpose to us. And I do not know how we will contain ourselves when He does! His purpose will be right and He will have never made not one mistake in all of His doings. Put that down and do not ever forget it! Hold that close to your heart! It does not matter what comes on this world scene, hold that to your heart there is One in control and He is on the throne! His name is Jesus Christ who is on the throne, He is doing right and well and good and He will continue to do it and work everything after the counsel of His own will! I am here to tell you that this God is still God this morning and He always will be God. Glory to God! Hallelujah! Flip over to the fourth chapter of the same book.

1Tim.4:10 *"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."*

I read in 2Corinthians chapter five that he is reconciled the world unto Himself! He is the *"Saviour of all men!"* You say that all men are not saved. Well absolutely not, they are not saved. You heard me say last Sunday night that He still has a lot of saving to do, but He will get it done. He is able to do it and He cannot fail or be discouraged. He will get it done in His time! He is the Savior of all men! But He is not going to benefit anyone that does not come to saving knowledge of Him in this day of grace. You have to come as a sinner, come and bow and repent – that is there has to be a change of heart. I want to read a verse to you from John 12, where our Lord is speaking. You are familiar with verse 32. I quote, claim and plead this verse.

John 12:32 *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."*

I want to tell you something that you already know. Two thousand years ago, He was lifted up from the earth. Jesus is speaking this prior to His crucifixion. Jesus said out of His own mouth that "I will draw all men unto me." While you are in this chapter, drop down to verse 47.

John 12:47 *"And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world."*

He came to save the world beloved! He is going to reconcile all things unto Himself! There is going to be a restitution of all things. ALL things – that is what the Bible teaches! In John 3, we read a few verses here.

John 3:16-17 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

That is what He came for, and the Bible says that He set His face as a flint toward Calvary. He came to save the world beloved, and that will happen in His time. That beautiful passage that I read to you a while ago, about Him not imputing their sins unto them, this is where a lot of people have a problem with this truth. I have already read to you that He is the Savior of all men, but I want you to listen to 1 John chapter 2 and verses 1 and 2.

1John 2:1,2 *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins:"* If He would have stopped after "propitiation" we might have had some questions, but He didn't. *"And not for ours only,"* meaning the elect, *"but also for the sins of the whole world."*

I haven't connected them until this morning – and my heart tuned a flip- but this verse amplified what John said when He stood and said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!" Glory to God! He paid the dues,

He paid the price. He reconciled every thing back unto Himself, by the grace and the mercy of God. Look at Hebrews 2:9 in the light of this truth.

Heb 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Every man! He tasted death for every man. I want you to know that you have a message to declare beloved. He has tasted death for every man – He has paid the price! Declare this gospel! God is going to save men in this age, He is going to save men in the next age, and He is going to bring them all in because He tasted death for every man. I rejoice in this wonderful truth.

I want to take you back to 2 Corinthians chapter 5. This time we are going to begin reading in verse 14. We are going to read some more direct words.

2Cor. 5:14-15 *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*

Again we see, “all.” All men. “They which live” are those that have been made alive in Jesus Christ. We should not live our lives to ourselves but unto Him who died and rose again.

2Co 5:16 -19 *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*

This is self-explanatory. You do not need this expounded. Just read this and take it for what it says. On to another clear passage.

1Cor.15:21-23 *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order:”*

Literally every man in his own rank – what ever God has purposed, everyman is going to be made alive. As surely as death passed upon all men because all men have sinned, life is passed upon all men because Christ died and paid the sin debt and – thank God – rose again the third day! ALL shall be made alive. Now for some Old Testament passages.

Psalms 2:7 *“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”*

Obviously, David is prophesying here about the Lord Jesus Christ. No one can miss that. In the next verse, here is what - in prophecy - the Lord said unto Christ:

Psalms 2:8 *“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”*

Do you reckon He – Jesus - asked?

Psalms 22:27 *“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations.”*

Now that looks pretty conclusive to me. It is hard not to stop and preach there. But just take that on face value of what it said.

Psalms 67:7 *“God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.”*

Psalms 86:9 *“All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.”*

Now I want to ask one little simple question – how many nations did He make? All of them. Before we are through, I want to take you to Revelation and read that again to you. There, it is just as clear and almost the same words.

Isa 66:18 *“For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”*

Isa 25:6-7 *“And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well defined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.*

Do you know why those that are lost are not saved? Why they do not just run to Christ and fall at His feet? Because there is a vail over them. I will tell you that vail it is not always going to be there.

Isaiah 25:8 *He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.”*

I have read all of these passages about every knee is going to bow and those about every tongue is going to praise Him – that could not be until that vail is taken off. There is no way that you could put a rebel up here and make him give glory and honor to anybody unless something had happened to his heart. When it talks about every knee bowing, they are going to bow because they want to bow! God will have brought them to the place to where they want to bow – they are ready to hear – He will take the vail and the cover off! And there, for the first time, they will see this wonderful Christ the One with the wounds in His hands. They will want Him, they will desire Him, they will run to Him the Bible says! Hallelujah!

Isa 45:20-22 *“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”*

He has the final say beloved! Everything started in Him and everything is going to end in Him!

Isa 45:23-25 *“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.”*

Isa 52:10 *“The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”*

We know that this is yet future. They will see this salvation and they will experience it and will know it. Just like say it and experienced it when you came to Christ and He washed you from your sins and made you a new creature. There is coming a day when everyone else is going to share in that same truth.

Let’s see this in action. This should humble us and make our hearts rejoice. Ezekiel chapter 16. You will have to listen carefully to this reading. You might want to go back and it again later. He is talking about Israel or Jerusalem here.

Eze 16:44-48 *Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter: Thou art thy mother's daughter; that lotheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which lothed their husbands and their children: your mother was an Hittite, and your father an Amorite. (Abraham) And thine elder sister is Samaria, she and her daughters that dwell at thy left hand: and thy younger sister, that dwelleth at thy*

right hand, is Sodom and her daughters. Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways. As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters.”

He is talking to a group of people that have had light. Jerusalem had light. And He said that even Sodom didn't do as wickedly as you have done. Let us read on.

Eze 16:49 “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done.”

In other words, he said you have justified them in the way they lived, but you are supposed to know better, you are supposed to have the light and (prove it) by the way you lived. If the heathen world is not doing this today by the falsehood and the hypocrisy they see in so-called “church members,” and they say “if they are saved, I am alright.” I have had thousands of people to tell me that.

Eze 16:52 “Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.”

He said, paraphrasing, if I were to weigh you, Sodom on one side and Samaria on the other, and put you (Jerusalem) in the middle, he saying that “they are more righteous than you.”

Eze 16:53 “When I shall bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of thy captives in the midst of them.”

What is He saying? I am going to restore them. I am going to bring them again from their captivity. Here is my thinking, God is saying, “If I am going to forgive you, for all of your sins, I am going to forgive them for all of their sins.”

Eze 16:54 “That thou mayest bear thine own shame, and mayest be confounded in all that thou hast done, in that thou art a comfort unto them.”

In other words, he has said that you (Jerusalem) have lived so wickedly, that you have made them comfortable in their sins! That is why this lost world is going to Hell right from the church today, the same thing is being repeated!

Eze 16:55-63 “When thy sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then thou and thy daughters shall return to your former estate. For thy sister Sodom was not mentioned by thy mouth in the day of thy pride, Before thy wickedness was discovered, as at the time of thy reproach of the daughters of Syria, and all that are round about her, the daughters of the Philistines, which despise thee round about. Thou hast borne thy lewdness and thine abominations, saith the LORD. For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even deal with thee as thou hast done, which hast despised the oath in breaking the covenant. Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Then thou shalt remember thy ways, and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant. And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: That thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord GOD.”

I want to tell you something and I want to say it with all humility, there is no one who hates this perversion anymore than I do. But don't you ever be guilty of saying that “God can't save these poor people.” I have heard all of these fancy

preachers and what a lot of them said, and they have turned out to be, themselves, as vile as they can be, but I am going to tell you that there is salvation for every man. There is salvation for every man. Beloved, if He is going to save Sodom, then I put before you that He is going to save everybody else.

I am going to pass over this, but He also says that about Moab, Ammon and Elam in Jeremiah 48:47, Jeremiah 49:6 and 39 you will read that, but I will read to you in Psalms 86 about the nations, and then in Revelation.

Ps 86:9 "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone."

Rev 15:4 "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."

"All nations shall come and worship thee"...beloved, He went by the Spirit and preached unto the spirits in prison. They were judged according to men in the flesh, but they today live according to God in the Spirit. I rejoice with everything within me, this is the God of the Bible. I am not ashamed of this truth. I would use wisdom with this truth. I would not want to just drop this on just anybody because so many people do not have any truth and understanding, hardly of anything, but the time has come for this message to be declared. I have declared it the clearest way I know how with the ability that God has given me.

I want to say to you that are here lost this morning, you are going to come to Christ, sooner or later. But do you want to pass through Hell before that happens in your life, or do you want to bow your knee at the foot of the crucified One and cry unto Him, "God be merciful to me a sinner?" He has died to save your soul and paid the supreme price – He is the Savior of all men, but especially of those that believe.

I trust that by the Grace of God you will take what I have given you. All I ask you to do is weigh it from the Bible. That is all I ever ask of anybody. If it is true, rejoice and give God the honor and glory. If it is not, toss it out the window. Fair enough?

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