

WORD AT WORK

Kingly Character of Christ II

Dear Friend:

What kind of year will 2011 be? According to the prophetic meaning of biblical numbers, twenty is one short of perfection (twenty-one). Therefore it denotes great expectancy for the fulfilling of destiny. Eleven is one short of twelve and means imperfection. Therefore 2011 shapes up to be a year of God uncovering and revealing any hindrances in us to our destiny so that we can achieve His ultimate purposes.

When pursuing destiny, one of the greatest and most frustrating passages of Scripture comes from Mark 4:26-29, *“And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”* The Kingdom operates just like a farm – the Word of God is the seed and we are the field. When mercy seed is predominately sown, the harvest is mercy. If we want justice, then we have to continually sow judicial seed.

Sowing the seed is just the first step. After sowing comes watering, cultivating and worst of all, waiting. Seeds in their DNA determine the days and months necessary for maturity. Faith for justice takes time to develop. Continual watering is very important and determines the ultimate yield. Give justice time!

I remember from growing up on a farm how different the seasons were. Some seasons were ideal for growing crops while others were very adverse. We are in an ideal season for justice because fullness of iniquity is developing rapidly in nearly every sector of society! Herod’s actions against the leaders of the church expedited fullness of evil, resulting in a dramatic judicial harvest. Politicians and judges promoting an antichrist agenda are ripening themselves for a judicial harvest today! Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

THE WORD AT THE WORK

Kingly Character of Christ II

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Scripture: Galatians 4:16

When we begin to investigate the Character of the Kingly Christ, we conclude it becomes the foundation from which to declare and decree covenant justice. We realize that the beginning starts in the heart with the willingness to demand biblical truth and to refuse to accept anything less. Paul's statement to the Galatians speaks volumes to us today, *"Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?"* Paul walked it, the prophets walked it and Jesus walked it. What happens when we actually speak truth? Truth becomes a dividing line. There are many who do not want the truth. John 1:17 says, *"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."* When the standard of God's truth was brought to people in the heart response determined whether it was received or rejected. The abortion debate is a prime example for those who reject truth. The individual who brings the truth becomes the enemy and must be discredited in order to justify this rejection. When those choices are made, the cup of iniquity over the life of the rejecters begins to fill. The choices made from that point on that support rejection of truth, like repealing "don't ask don't tell" begin the process that will ultimately bring judgment. The opposite is true for everyone who receives the truth. They become a potential agent of God's justice everywhere they go. The truth is a dividing line and Jesus is the dividing line of history and His disciples become a plumbline in their generation.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Scripture: Proverbs 22:17-21

God told Solomon that if he would incline his ear, hear God's words and apply them in his heart, it would be a pleasant thing. The Word would become fixed on his lips, and his trust would be in the Lord. God's truth is absolute. God's truth has certainty. Proverbs 22: 21 is the key, *"That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you."* How would we answer words of truth to those who liken the issue of homosexuality in the military to discrimination in the 40's and 50's concerning black Americans. I watched two senators trying to answer these questions and was appalled at how the Democratic senator likened homosexuality to the issue of justice. I was stunned that the only response the Republican senator could give was a survey of combat troops who thought it would hinder their ability in combat. There was not one single answer of truth in either senator over the issue. It was like God did not exist and there was no absolute truth. Opening the military to homosexuality is opening the military to utter destruction. God's truth in absolute terms is not unclear on this issue. The absolute truth of Romans 1:32 makes it very, very clear that those who approve of homosexuality as well as those who practice it are *"...worthy of death..."* This verse says, *"...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."* The book of Jude calls these perpetrators of perversion "twice dead." The fastest way to devastate the military is to send men out to fight with utter and complete sin in the camp so that they cannot stand before their enemies. The problem we have in nations today is that the church does not proclaim the absolute truth of God's Word.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Scripture: Mark 4:1-4

There are two ways to look at the passage of the sower who sows the word. It all begins with how we view the four different kinds of soil. If we, like the Pharisees, look to categorize people into one group or another then we potentially miss the most important application of the passage. If, however, we choose the approach of humility, we recognize that each of us potentially have four kinds of soil in us. Every single one of us have wayside soil. Wayside soil was the soil at the end of the row necessary for turning the horse or tractor. Wayside soil represents unplowed ground or that which is incapable of germinating seed due to lack of preparation. When truth is spoken to ears that cannot hear, wayside soil is evident. This kind of ground applies spiritually to every area where there are things God wants to tell us but for one reason or another we are not ready to hear them now. We have not prepared the soil. The soil has never been plowed and we just cannot hear it. Sometimes wayside soil exists because of pain. Sometimes wayside soil exists because of tradition. Overemphasizing a truth over time creates wayside soil where people can't hear the counter balance. Christianity today is so Priestly that the Kingly is hard for many to hear! After all these years of Jesus the Savior being emphasized look at the number of people in the church who do not have an ear to hear about Jesus the Judge. The real Jesus we are about to face in the book of Revelation kills more than He saves. Some church people cannot hear this because tradition has turned them into wayside soil. Yet where is He honored in the land? It is time to plow the ground so the ultimate truth can come forth in us. The seed first has to be received. As it is watered and germinates, the growth stage is first the blade, then the ear, and finally the full corn in the ear. When we plant corn, there is a predictable growth pattern. When we plant God's Word, there is a predictable growth pattern. We are all spiritual farmers!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Scripture: Mark 4:1-5

The second kind of soil we have on the inside of us is called stony ground. Mark 4:5 says, "*Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.*" Stony ground refers to hearing a word but never tending it until it gets established on the inside of us which includes the preparational season of watering, weeding and cultivating. All of these are part of the growth process and not to be left out. Many people hear the Word on Sunday morning but they fail in the nourishing process that brings the establishing of this seed and so while they go and get reseeded every week it is usually lost by the time next Sunday rolls around. God's truth is absolute. But it is also a seed and every aspect of the growth process has to be applied. When it is, that seed will produce an absolute harvest!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Scripture: Mark 4:10-7

Verse 7 says, "*And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.*" Because God's Word is seed and because it is absolute truth it has to grow or be formed in our lives. As we apply, adhere to and embrace the Word, it becomes part of who we are. The very same way seeds respond when planted and tended in soil, the Word responds when planted and tended in us. The harvest is inherent in the seed. Absolute truth produces a harvest of eternal righteousness. And the seed of God's Word is growing into a harvest inside of us if we weed it. Thorns can only stop the harvest if there is no weeding. We must be willing to change our thinking to agree with the Word. Cultivation fails if there is no cutting off of apostasy, if there is no cutting off of watered-down Word, if there is no cutting off of that which would choke the real seed. If we do not take the drastic action Jesus recommends by cutting off attitudes and thoughts that offend the Word, then we allow the thorns to grow until they utterly destroy any harvest at all. Jesus said if your hand offends you, "*cut it off*". As drastic as that action sounds, it is really aimed at a spiritual truth of protecting the seed of God's Word until it grows and produces a harvest in us. Homosexuality is not a civil right and never has been. It is death and destruction to the individual practicing it and the society that allows it. What is it about the end of Sodom and

Gomorrah that people do not understand? God killed every resident and He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Scripture: Mark 4:1-8

Finally the good news is that every single one of us have good ground on the inside of us and that good ground is guaranteed to yield a crop that will spring up, increase and grow. When we weed it, when we get out the stones, when we plow the ground and prepare it, then we are promised a dramatic harvest the least of which is thirty-fold. We were created for God's absolute truth. When we receive the seed, we are well on our way to bearing the full measure of fruit that God has ordained and established for our lives. The full measure of eternal fruit means standing for absolute truth. God does not tolerate sin, He judges it. Jesus took that judgment on Himself allowing mercy to be extended – or judgment – if needed. As a King to the King of Kings, we extend what is needed. When politicians need judgment and we extend mercy, their judgment comes on the entire nation. If the church through tradition blesses the politicians who promoted homosexuality by voting to end 'don't ask, don't tell' instead of praying covenant judgment on their heads, the judgment ultimately comes on the nation!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Scripture: Mark 4:10-12

Jesus walked among us as the ultimate truth! What we do with Jesus determines the level of Kingdom authority that we project! Jesus gave us seeds of truth. The seeds have to be planted. Some seeds take a lifetime to grow. Mark 4:11-12 states, *"And He said to them, 'To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that, 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'"* Jesus even taught in parables in order to prove the individual kind of soil His hearers possessed. Those who were diligent and applied the Word, heard and cultivated the seed. Those who acted on it after hearing it by removing the stones made sure that there was a crop coming out of the good soil that was in them. Those are the ones who inherit the Kingdom. The people who say "yes" to the standard of truth that Jesus brought by affirming both the Old Covenant and the New inherit the Kingdom. The others do not and they have a far hotter future than those who say "yes" and engraft the Word into their lives. Jesus said this whole pattern of how we respond to the truth of what we do with the word we hear is the secret of the Kingdom. Mark 4:24 in the Amplified Bible says, *"The measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear is the measure of virtue and knowledge that will come back to you and more besides will be given you."*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Scripture: Mark 4:21-25

In verses 21-25 we are told, *"Also He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.' Then He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.'"* What measure are we applying to the unchangeable truth that we hear? Are those who speak truth our friends or do we treat them as enemies? How do we respond to the unvarnished truth of God's Word? Do we feel like the double death promised all those who promote, promise and approve of homosexuality is too strong? Do we water down God's ultimate truth? Do we present it in such a way that it loses the weight that it carries? Do we diminish it in any way? Jesus made it clear that for those who have more will be given and to those who do not have even what they have will be taken away. There is a point in Christian development where if we refuse to water, weed, and prepare the soil, crop failure looms and we start sliding backward and can easily

lose everything we have gained. Could such a moment in history be facing the church right now? Could the persecution that is shaping up by the government and the antichrist individuals who occupy its chief positions be creating such a moment for the church right now? What measure of truth are we accepting - the world's or God's. If we are not accepting God's we are in deep, deep trouble.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Scripture: Mark 4:26-29

Verses 26-29 state, *"And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'"* The Kingdom works on the seed harvest principle of cultivation. Ten acres of corn under good cultivation which includes weeding, watering, removing the stones and cutting out the thorns will produce more than twenty acres with no cultivation. Are we weeding, watering and removing stones? The thorns are all the things that hinder our time in God's word. The real question is, because this is the entire foundation of the Kingdom, what are we doing with this application of biblical truth? Do we say yes to God's judgments? Do we say yes to the ultimate authoritarian side of God's word? For so many today, truth is relative. Jesus, Muhammad and Buddha are about equal. Jesus is not a truth, He is the truth. His truth says the wages of sin is death. Our good news is that Jesus conquered death, but man must turn loose of their sin to receive Him. Are we ready to embrace absolute truth, weed it, water it and take the stones out, so that it can product 30, 60 and a hundred-fold in us?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-26

As Jesus was instructing and sending out the Twelve He said, in Matthew 10:24-26, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known."* It is obvious that Jesus was preparing the Twelve for persecution. Not everyone was going to receive their message. The Twelve followed by the seventy were spiritual revolutionaries. Their message had financial and political repercussions. Signs and wonders were necessary because of those repercussions. As persecution grew, the early church agreed in Acts four in asking for signs and wonders. They sought the same judicial anointing which Moses experienced in Egypt. God answered their prayer with Ananias and Sapphira being the first casualties. The Twelve were sent only to Israelites. They were headed into a stormy season of rejection and the question was how were they to respond? Were they to "turn-the-other-cheek" all the time? Apparently, from the time they entered the city and began to preach, they were to "turn-the-other-cheek" until they left that city. And for those who would not receive the word, when they left that city, they were to bring down the full measure of God's judicial Throne. At least that is what Matthew 10:14-20 tell us. They were to take their sandals off, shake the dust off of their feet and declare that it would be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for that city. Jesus was absolute truth and as the author of absolute truth, He released judgment on cities who refused to receive it! "Turn-the-other-cheek" only lasted until people chose to accept or reject the message. What does that say to us now about those who have voted to repeal 'Don't ask, don't tell', or about those who consistently reject God's word and champion abortion? By not bringing the full weight of God's judicial Throne upon their heads, as Jesus commanded the Twelve, we enable evil! The church is the number one enabler of evil in nations today! By refusing to invoke covenant justice (God's judicial curse) we enable evil through our tradition. Jesus commanded both the twelve and the seventy to shake the dust off (judicial curse). Absolute truth has not changed. The Jesus who is absolute truth will visit the violators when the church obeys! Obey, obey, obey!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Our God dispenses double death!

Scripture: Matthew 10:28

Verse 28 says, “*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*” Jesus sent out the Twelve with the understanding that they were the agents representing the God who dispensed double death. He would first kill the body, then he would kill their soul in hell for eternity. Do we think they went out in a weak position? Do we think Jesus sent them out to always “turn-the-other-cheek”? He had already told the Twelve if they were not received, to shake the dust off of their feet. The definition of it being more tolerable for Sodom on the day of judgment than us, is double death. Jesus had to make sure they would not fear any man who stood in their face. They were to fear no one – President, King, Prime Minister or Emperor – acting only in fear of the living God. This enabled them to become the agents of ultimate justice. They represented the God who dispensed double death. We will know apostolic authority has been restored to the church when double death manifests at our words! When ‘Herods’ populate state and federal governments, the proclamation is double death. Jesus commanded the twelve and the seventy to do it - What is wrong with us?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Scripture: Matthew 10:27

Matthew 10:27 is a very special verse to me, because in April of 1986, I heard the audible voice of the Lord. “Prepare my people for persecution!” I began to pray about what to do with that assignment. How do you prepare people who refuse to be prepared for persecution? It would be another 10 years before God would give me the prophetic structure that became the initial meat of the message that could introduce that call. The meat of that message is in a book called *Marked Men*. Each new revelation that followed *The Sure Mercies of David* and *Jesus & Justice* prepare the church to overcome persecution and gain a harvest. The church who winds up the age responds far differently than the church who began the church age! But now, after all these years, with the completion of the series, the *Kingly Character of Christ*, I feel that the preparation is approaching maturity. How can it be that God would audibly give you a command to do something and then take 30 years to complete the message that makes up the core of the assignment? What kind of grace and mercy does God have for generations of people to take that long in the preparation of the message? We serve an awesome and amazing God and the truth of the matter is, no one in the body of Christ is ready for end-time persecution until we know the God who dispenses double death and can stand and represent Him. Then and only then are we ready for whatever the enemy throws at us!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Scripture: Acts 7:54-60

After experiencing years of personal persecution, I believe the church makes some dangerously false assumptions about the last days. We assume that the end-time church is going to be like the beginning church. It is not! All of the prophets promised a double anointing to wind up the age. That signals the end-time church is going to be significantly different from the beginning church. Even the book of Revelation makes it clear that the end-time church is going to be quite different from the founding church. The early church stressed “turn-the-other-cheek”. The first church was so evangelistic that they laid their life down as a witness and a testimony to the saving ability of the living Christ. We assume that the end-time church is going to be exactly like that. What if that is not an accurate assumption? What if our eschatology is based on tradition and our faith is misplaced? What if the end-time church must represent Jesus the Judge? If that is true, then we are contributing to a generation of martyrs who should be victors in Kingdom advancement long before they are martyrs. Will the greatest source of persecution be the world or those who turn apostate in their beliefs?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-5

Isaiah was a great prophet and he saw the end-time church in chapter 60 and 61. Chapter 60 paints a bit of a different picture than what most believers are prepared to accept as their lot in life for the last days. Isaiah 60:1-5 says, *“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. ‘Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.”* Deep darkness is certainly covering the earth. Has God arisen over us? Is His glory seen? Are the gentiles coming or are they fleeing? Are kings coming or are they fleeing? Why would people and kings come to the church? It seems there is a whole judicial element that is missing in the church that the prophets saw. In Samuel’s day, the people came to him because of the destruction wrought by their enemies. When Samuel prayed, God began killing the Philistines. It was Samuel who hacked Agag into pieces to obey God's directive after Saul failed in his Kingly duty. Until the church can stand in this anointing of a King, they are not ready for persecution!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Scripture: Joel 2:23-27

Joel 2:23-27 says, *“Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you—The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God, And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.”* We are promised both the former and the latter rain in the same season so that there is a harvest of nations. Where is that harvest of nations and where is that harvest of nations in the authority that Scripture promises? The church with the double anointing is the church that has the anointing to save and the anointing to judge. Where is that operational in the church today? When the church stands up in the Kingly anointing, nations will come!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Scripture: Psalm 2

Psalm 2 presents the outline for the end-time harvest. Until the church can stand in the fullness of what Psalm 2 presents, we are not even close to being prepared to harvest nations! What kind of church does Psalm 2 portray? Psalm 2 promises a church that carries a rod of iron. A rod of iron is necessary to deal with deep darkness. With that rod of iron the church scares the living hell out of wayward judges. They declare to them that they must either kiss the Son or perish. Where is that church? I cannot find it on my radar map, but God knows it is in my heart. And that church is in the heart of the Father. Where is the church that brings forth such absolute truth that it scares the living hell out of politicians? Where is that church? It is promised in Psalm 2. I want to live long enough to see it in operation, don't you?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15-19

2 Timothy 2:15-19 tell us, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”* The emphasis here is God knows those who are His! How did the people know Samuel was a prophet? God answered when he prayed! Does God know us? Are we His? If we are His then we all have a common characteristic, we name the name of Christ and if so we should have accepted the standard of Biblical truth as absolute. That means there is only one name given under heaven whereby we must be saved. His name is Jesus! Every other name is a counterfeit. The Bible describes Buddha and Mohammed as counterfeit doors. Any other name than Jesus disqualifies for salvation. And God proved it by resurrection of the dead. All others are liars and there is no truth in them. It is obvious from going to church that not everyone who names the name of Christ actually is known by Him. The Lord knows those who are His because they have a common characteristic. All those who are His name the name of Christ and adhere to the Word as the ultimate truth. They accept the Biblical standard of truth, and as a result they depart from iniquity. That means that every church that subscribes to ordaining homosexual priests or marrying homosexuals is apostate, and is utterly unknown by God. Double death is on them and they have earned it in their choices. Truth is hard to accept sometimes because truth has consequences.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:20-13

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul by the Holy Spirit is making it clear to Timothy how a person becomes a vessel of honor. All vessels of honor have one characteristic in common. They are self cleansers. The reason they are self cleansers has the same root. They choose to accept Biblical truth. It is absolute in their understanding and they must conform their life to that truth! Conforming their lives to that truth makes them a vessel of honor. That is as true today as it was 2,000 years ago and as it has been throughout. It has not changed. It is granite, bedrock, solid kingdom truth. Vessels of honor align themselves with God’s Word come hell or high water. What are we? Are we blowing in the wind or are we attaching ourselves to the granite that never, ever changes nor even has a shadow of turning?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Scripture: Revelation 2:7

There is a consistent theme that seems to run through every single church that Jesus dealt with in the book of Revelation. And because it is so consistent perhaps it needs to become first, foremost and utterly primary in our lives. In verse 7 of Revelation 2 Jesus said, *“He who has an ear let him ear what the Spirit says to the churches...”* Do we have an ear for what God is saying? Over and over again I was taught in seminary that the Spirit and the Word always agree and when the Spirit and the Word agree in us then we become one with that Word. When we become one with that Word there is no deterring God’s purpose in our lives. How many in the church today are hearing what the Spirit is saying to the church? Are we hearing? The Bible is the only book in existence that consistently presents absolute truth!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Scripture: Revelation 2:11

To the church at Smyrna the Spirit says, *"He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* What did they have to overcome at Smyrna? They had to prepare for and overcome persecution. Are we prepared for persecution unto death? Are we prepared to declare double death on those who reject our message? Jesus commanded the early church to do this. We are certainly in process and that is what this series, cultivating the Character of the Kingly Christ, is all about. When it is cultivated, watch out because Jesus the Judge is coming out of us!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Scripture: Revelation 2:17

In Revelation 2:17 to the church at Pergamos the Spirit says, *"He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* What was the issue for the church At Pergamos? Surprisingly enough their issue was very close to our own. The doctrine of Balaam was beginning to function at Pergamos. The doctrine of Balaam accepts sin in the camp in order to disqualify people covenantally when the church grows apostate by accepting sin. They can ask consistently in prayer but never qualify to see God's hand. They were allowing sin in the camp much like our churches are doing today in rejecting God's truth concerning sexual purity. The doctrine of Balaam is alive and well in many of our mainline denominations and working its way throughout the church. Just imagine what is going to happen when the Jesus of double death shows up!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Scripture: Revelation 2:29

Revelation 2:29 says, *"He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* The Spirit was saying to the church at Thyatira, you are nicer than God. Verse 20 says, *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and beguile My servants to commit sexual immorality..."* Allow is the Greek word **eh-ah-o**. It means to tolerate, to refuse to restrain or to be passive in the face of evil. Is the church refusing to restrain evil by not confronting it? Is the church refusing to voice God's opposition to the perverse programs of our political leaders? Is the church refusing to shake the dust off their feet and to call down the judicial hand of God on every senator who crosses the aisle to vote for imposing injury on our military by the approval of homosexuality? The apostate doctrine of Balaam is alive and well in the land and it is time we made a choice about what we are going to do with it. The battle is in the church!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Scripture: Revelation 3:6

Revelation 3:6 says, *"He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* To the church at Sardis Jesus said *"Hold fast, repent, strengthen the things that remain for you have not completed your assignment."* When it comes to completing our assignments, how are we doing in that category? What if our assignment is to take a stand for Biblical truth in the last days? How is the church doing on completing that assignment? Are we taking that stand? Are we going to pass on to the next generation of believers that heart to embrace the real biblical truth and reject the counterfeit? If we do not, nations may be lost.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Scripture: Revelation 3:13

Revelation 3:13 says, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."* The church at Philadelphia is the only one that is not rebuked. Apparently the church at Philadelphia was doing everything God

called them to do. The promise to the church at Philadelphia is one you and I would dearly love to take to the bank. In verse 10 God said, *“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”* What an awesome promise! To everyone who said yes to the biblical standard of truth by adjusting and aligning their life to that standard, God said, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole earth. If there was ever a season to possess that promise, that season is now! Are we possessing? By embracing the Kingly Character of Christ we are possessing!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Scripture: Revelation 3:22

Perhaps the most dangerous church of all was the one at Laodicea. They were rich, wealthy and in need of nothing in the natural but every place of renowned accomplishment was a place of spiritual deficit. They were the region that developed an ophthalmic salve that healed eyes but were spiritually blind. Revelation 3:22 says, *“He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* Is it not interesting that every single church in the book of Revelation has the same statement in it! The exhortation is to hear what the Spirit says, to honor it and embrace it as God’s standard of absolute Biblical truth. If the Spirit is shouting, prepare to face persecution the question is how do we prepare? Do we turn the other cheek or prepare to speak as Jude exhorts? What does the end-time church really look like? Can we overcome Laodicea’s problem? Laodicea thought they were wealthy and as a result became lukewarm and more tolerant than God. As a result, they were about to lose everything they had gained spiritually. Being tolerant is seen today as part of being Christian. But in fact, it is really part of apostate compromise. Jesus does not tolerate sin. He judges it. It is our job to warn people who are in it in the hope that they will turn and save themselves from the coming judgment.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Scripture: Matthew 12:33-35

Matthew 12:33-35 says, *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”* When we say yes to God's word and when we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church and agree, then it becomes part of who we are. Sowing seed in good soil causes us to prevail. The good soil produces a good treasure. That treasure comes right out of our heart. God is after the transformation of the human heart. The way that is done spiritually is by consistent sowing of spiritual seed. The spiritual seed that we sow is God's word. We agree with it. We align our lives to it. The process of doing the word guarantees that we depart from iniquity. It also guarantees that God knows we are His. He promises to save us from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole earth. Developing the Kingly Character of Christ has a reward that is beyond description.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Scripture: Proverbs 4:20-23

Proverbs 4:20-23 says, *“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”* What we put in our heart is seed and when it comes out of our hearts it establishes the issues of life. The Hebrew word for ‘issues’ is **to-tsaw-aw**, and it means the establishing of the borders and boundaries of life. The promise is that in God's ordained season after we put the word in our heart it will bring forth the borders and boundaries of life. That was the promise God gave to Joshua: Keep the word in your heart, meditate on it day and night. It will make your way prosperous and you shall have great success.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Scripture: Psalms 68:19-20, Isaiah 55:8-11

In Psalms 68:19-20 we have the same Hebrew word: **to-tsaw-aw** appearing, only this time it is in the borders and boundaries of death. Verses 19 and 20 say, *“Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, The God of our salvation! Our God is the God of salvation; And to GOD the Lord belong escapes from death.”* ‘Escapes from death are “the issues of life”. The borders and boundaries of death or the escapes from death belong to God. And God says, Put the Word in your heart and it will come out as the borders and boundaries of your life. When we become one with God’s judicial word, the borders and boundaries of life and death can come out of us just like Peter and Paul. We have protection from premature death as we face the assaults of the enemy. We have the promise that the same God who walked with Moses and brought judgments on all the gods of Egypt will walk with us. It is time we said yes to the ultimate standard of biblical truth. Isaiah 55 records one of the ultimate biblical promises for hearing what the Spirit says, by promising when we put it in our heart, it can establish the border and boundary of life. Verses 8-11 say, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”* Just like the rain and the snow come down from heaven, God's word is the same. When we put it in our heart and bring it forth, it becomes seed to the sower and bread to the eater. It shall accomplish what God pleases. It shall prosper in the thing whereunto He sent it. I wonder if Jesus had that in mind when He reminded the Twelve not to fear man, but to fear the one who is the agent of double death. They were going to represent Him. I wonder if Peter had that in mind when he announced the death of Ananias and Sapphira. Isn't it time we grew to that place, so we can fearlessly face the end-times!

ITINERARY

2/2-7	San Jose, Costa Rica	Kingdom Harvest International Ministries	
2/11-14	Summerville, SC	Daystar Ministries Fri, Sat 7pm, Sun 10am, Mon 7pm	Pastor Jerry Ashley 843-821-0089
2/18-20	Waco, TX	Presence Power and Passion Ministries Call for times and location	Jack Abbott 254-716-5300
2/20	Dallas, TX	Sun, 4pm. Call for location	David Ritchie 817-994-4908
2/28	Norwalk, CA	In Accord Ministries The Sizzler Restaurant, 11am-1pm	Dr. Chris Gonzales 310-351-0654

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