

Consider the Source

We are constantly bombarded with a barrage of lies and constant distractions from all sides. It's debatable which is worse, television with the never ending "Big Pharma" commercials or social media with everyone competing with "likes." The circulation of rumors is prevalent everywhere. The best places for a dose of gossip and "catching up" on current affairs is the break room, the water cooler or in my case (when I was a cop) in the Squad Room. Information leaked from one source in another district was blown out of proportion by the time it reached us in another district. All too often, what started out as decent was watered down and edited for content. Sometimes in an effort to discredit someone or a procedure. Shooting off your mouth without having your brain loaded is a plague upon our society. Just look at what is taught in schools and in our churches!

I know Christine has mentioned the flood of distractions since she and Pierre were baptized. It is to be expected. But if we were not on the right track, would we have the distractions? The Word of God is the only source of absolute truth that exists and you'll save yourself a wrinkle or two if you separate yourself from social

media and the news. I'm not saying stick your head in the sand, just don't get "wrapped around the axle" as we always say.

Nothing comes as a surprise anymore. With times being what they are and the downward spiral of our Republic, I find peace in knowing God's plan for those He's called and chosen. With our Christian walk of faith and obedience, we are subject to obeying the law of the land but keep in mind that we must submit to God's law first. It is He Who governs His children.

There are many "ifs" in God's Word, and they are usually contingent on "us" doing "what" He tells us to do. As difficult as it can be, "if" we keep things in perspective, we need not be overly concerned, no matter how dreadful things may seem. We know we have been called out and set apart. If we are called by God, and if we respond by loving and obeying Him, we have His sure promise that all things will work together for good.

Romans 8:28- "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose."

When we pursue biblical knowledge, we should always seek The One Who wrote it. God is our “go to” Source.

Proverbs 2:1-5- “My son, if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding; Yea, if you cry after knowledge *and* lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver and search *for* her as for hidden treasures, Then you shall understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”

John 14:6- “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

It is obvious that there are so many who no longer love the truth. With what is being taught in churches nowadays is it any wonder? They’re certainly not being taught what His Word says. It’s a watered-down bedtime story. That’s why God will begin His judgment in His house (**1 Peter 4:17**).

We have discussed on occasion the use of “other” sources for Biblical answers. Using them as a source is not a sin in of itself. You *may* be led astray by sound ideas or concepts that are not Biblical. If you are disciplined in God’s Word, you

will know immediately the tactics of the enemy or subtle “untruths” regarding scripture. There are many false teachers and prophets out there who can tell a good tale and string the unprepared down the wrong path.

Matthew 7:15- “But beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, for within *they* are ravening wolves.”

2 Peter 2:1-2- “But there were also false prophets among the people, as indeed there will be false teachers among you, who will stealthily introduce destructive heresies, personally denying *the* Lord who bought them, and bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many people will follow as *authoritative* their destructive ways; and because of them, the way of the truth will be blasphemed.”

2 Timothy 3:13-14- “But wicked men and imposters shall become worse and worse, deceiving *others* and being deceived *themselves*. But *as for* you, continue in the things that you did learn and were assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*;”

Jesus Christ turned over the tables in the temple because they had turned it into a den of thieves, buying, selling, and changing money, desecrating the House of God.

Matthew 21:12-13- “And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers, and the seats of those who were selling doves. Then He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer;’ but you have made it a den of thieves.”

Mark 11:15-17- “Then they came into Jerusalem; and after entering the temple, Jesus began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers and the seats of those who were selling doves. Moreover, He did not allow anyone to carry a vessel through the temple. And He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

John 2:14-16- “And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money exchangers sitting there; And after making a scourge of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with both the sheep and the

oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money exchangers and overturned the tables. And to those who were selling the doves, He said, “Take these things out of here! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise.”

Churches may not be buying and selling, well maybe they are with Bingo games, carnivals, and Hallelujah Fall festivals to compete with Halloween, Christmas Pageants and Easter celebrations. Perhaps He is waiting to return when He will do more than turn over tables...The Two Witnesses will stir things up before Christ’s return.

Revelation 11:3-6- “And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth. And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies. For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will.”

With the current mindset of “Trump Derangement Syndrome,” hating someone for trying to do good is already in place (“nothing new under the sun”- **Ecclesiastes 1:9**). Jesus warned us we too would be hated as He was.

John 15:18- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”

How much more will these two messengers of God be hated for chastising the church? But their source of power is from God above...ours is too!

Revelation 11:7-12- “And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them. And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth.” Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who

were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, “Come up here!” And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise.*”

Just a thought or two on the Book of Revelation. It isn't just a forecast of catastrophes or all gloom and doom; it is a summary of our call to spiritual awakening. The overview provides us crucial information to fully compare ourselves to the standards Christ sets forth and to be a part of His plan of salvation for mankind. We can become overly focused on symbolism and can miss the spiritual and moral guidance. Understanding it increases our hope in the promises of God.

In thinking on distractions and sources, last night I received a text from my “older brother” Don, regarding Artificial Intelligence and how those who create false wisdom fits with scripture. Technology and the speed of which it is advancing can be a legitimate concern. The subject of AI was discussed during an Elder's Conference a while back. Fred Coulter recently shared an email he had received regarding the use of AI by those preparing lessons or sermons. It was agreed that the use of AI for such purposes is definitely not in the best interests of the Elders or the members and I'm confident God frowns on it as well. First I will share the

email (minus the email address of the sender) and then elaborate on some of the reasons why.

Subject: The Timing of a 30 A.D. Resurrection | Videos & Movies on Vimeo

Date: April 10, 2026 at 11:30:38 PM EDT

To: CBCG <fredcoulter@startmail.com>

<https://vimeo.com/1182094043>

Good afternoon Fred.

I have some concerns about the AI GPTCHAT.

I have found that both United Church of God and Church of God A Worldwide Association both have a GPTCHAT Program set up to assist members in writing up sermons.

They can put in scriptures they want to use and give it a subject heading and the GPTCHAT will write the message for them.

No longer does God inspire the message or inspiring the individual who's speaking the message, they just read it out aloud.

Also, if the message has not been inspired by God... is it inspired by a different spirit? Where will that lead too.

2 Peter 1:21, 2 Corinthians 11: 4

Simon.

You know me, I always like to give a little background on a subject just for a foundation. Artificial Intelligence *is nothing new*. It was first developed by British logician Alan Turing in the 1930's and advancements continued through modern 21st Century technology. Without getting into a science lesson, AI is the ability of a digital computer or computer controlled robot to perform tasks associated with intelligent beings. It is a series of codes and algorithms that enable the function to be performed. One such computer was designed to play chess and could compute two hundred million possible moves per second. It beat the world champion human chess player six games in a row in 1997. The development since then has advanced tremendously. AI certainly has its applications to science and technology but using it to teach or preach the Word of God is *not* a good application.

Anyone who teaches or preaches the Word of God, must know it. It must come from the heart of the one sharing the message. Using AI to write a message and pretty soon you'll have pastors who *never* study God's Word *nor* work at preparation, AI writes it for them. The detrimental aspect is it doesn't come from the heart, and it doesn't come from their mind or a personal relationship with God.

It is Artificial. This will breed complacency and spiritual decay within God's Church. Falling into this trap turns Artificial Intelligence into *Genuine Ignorance.*

We must realize the source of our creativity comes from our God given abilities. While the use of AI in itself is not a sin, we cannot ever forget to hold fast to the gift of innovation that God has given His creation.

Exodus 35:31- “And He has filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of work,”

When we employ these God given talents, He is our source and not lines of code or algorithms.

Romans 12:6- “But each one has different gifts according to the grace that is given to us—whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the measure of faith;”

In any application of using Artificial Intelligence, we should always start by seeking God for His wisdom and guidance so we are aware of any traps the enemy may set for us. Not just in using AI, but in everything we set out to do!

Proverbs 16:3- “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.”

We have been foretold of the things that will happen, and certainly current events are evident of scripture being fulfilled. This is why nothing that transpires in our society should come as a surprise. The evil minds have run amok, and it seems there’s a competition on just how irrational one can be over another. It’s almost as if foolishness was a virtue. It really makes me wonder, “what’s next?” But we can trust God as our One source for truth. He is our strength, our peace, our future, and our hope is in Him.

Jeremiah 29:11-13- “For I know the purposes which I am purposing for you,’ says the LORD; ‘purposes of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you shall call on Me, and you shall go and pray to Me, and I will hearken to you. And you shall seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Regardless of how threatening and chaotic the world gets; we have been called out of it and set apart. We have been given the truth of God and hope in His plan of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:13- “May the God of hope fill you now with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope *and in the* power of *the* Holy Spirit.”

Amen.

BL-04/18/26