

What Are We Supposed to Do?

Now that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is over, has anyone else experience a rush of worldly influence and distractions? It seems like the enemy wants to refill all the “leaven” in our lives we just discarded. If we maintain our focus and hunger for the “Unleavened” Bread of God’s Word, he will find the task most difficult.

It’s interesting how topics for lessons and discussion are unknown and always delivered in the “nick of time,” like the Calvary in the old western movies. Friday night it was a phone call from our good friend and brother Byron Norrod in California. He is *always* enthusiastic in sharing God’s Word and inspires such great conversations. He also asks some excellent questions that tests how much of God’s Word is known.

With him and his family living on the “left coast,” I am sure they are inundated with the “Sodom and Gomorrah” happenings as opposed to here in Naples. Albeit nowhere is immune and our corruption and sinful atmosphere *is* present but wears a smiley face and more covert. He popped a question that lit the fuse for this

week's discussion. "What are we supposed to do?" He was referring to all the rampant corruption and immorality we as a nation are facing and also an apparent revival in the church. New believers and a swing of the pendulum back to the right is a reprieve but unless they are obeying God's Commandments (all of them) it is still a wrong direction. God is no respecter of persons (**Romans 2:11**). So, do we stand up and stand out, passively sit idly by, and ignore it hoping it will go away, or fix bayonets and go to war?

We can find the answer between Genesis and Revelation in God's Word. All of our response questions and answers have been provided within. Rather than read Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, we will keep it simple and lay a basic foundation to build on. These are some of the topics Byron and I discussed regarding, "what are we supposed to do?"

Love God

We have mentioned "Love, Trust, and Obey God" numerous times. Commandment keeping is not optional, it is mandatory and not just in keeping the ones we want or

in any way that suits us. It is all or nothing. Jesus knew and He simplified it for us in Matthew 22.

Matthew 22:36-40- “Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him,” ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **This is *the* first and greatest commandment;** And *the* second *one is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

This relates the first four commandments into how we relate to God and the last six commandments on how we relate to others. It isn't rocket science nor does it take a degree in Theology to understand. Just a seeking and open heart and humble spirit. By loving God first, we yield ourselves to His will. This leads us into trusting God.

Proverbs 3:5-6- “ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Again, simple and to the point, *trust* God with all your heart. Taking our focus off of God leads us away from following His will. Loving and trusting *in* God will give us the desire to please Him by obeying His commandments and living by every Word in His Bible. God's Word is abounding with scripture telling us to **obey His Commandments, do His Commandments and keep His commandments** and we will be blessed if we do so.

Deuteronomy 7:9- “Therefore, know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God Who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”

We mentioned it before, a thousand generations is “*a long, long time.*” We cannot genuinely love God **unless** we keep His Commandments.

John 14:15- “If you love Me, keep the commandments— namely, My commandments.”

1 John 2:3-5- “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. **The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** On the other hand, *if*

anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected.

By this *means* we know that we are in Him.”

We know what happens to all liars...**Revelation 21:8**- “But *the* cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **all liars**, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is *the* second death.”

Keeping God’s Commandments has become a joy and way of life. Anything we may think we sacrifice by giving up worldly things is replaced with peace, truth, and hope in the promises of God.

1 John 5:3- “For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

Growing in the Likeness of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 4:12-13- “For the perfecting of the saints, for *the* work of *the* ministry, for *the* edifying of the body of Christ; Until we all come into the unity of the faith

and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto *the* measure of *the* stature of the fullness of Christ;”

We know God is a God of order. He lays out His instructions for us to follow. Instructions that enable us to build one upon the other and come to the completeness He has designed us to be.

Genesis 1:26- “And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.”

We were created to be *like* Him and His Son Jesus Christ. To grow in their likeness, we must worship Them in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24- “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

True worship must be “in spirit,” that is, *engaging the whole heart*. Unless we have a sincere passion and zeal for God and His Word, there is no worship in spirit.

Going through the motions with all the “religious practices” or doing it “your way” is not fulfilling this commandment.

Matthew 15:8-9- “ ‘These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for doctrine the* commandments of men.’ ”

Some believers prefer to worship only “in spirit.” This seems quite apparent as in some conversations with Sunday “churchers,” who blatantly admit they know they’re “doing it wrong” but justify their actions with good intentions. They judge the success of their worship by the thrills and chills they experience, substituting entertainment for truth. They have pastors who are more interested in *entertaining* attendees than sharing God’s Word and truth. No matter how hard they try or what songs or music programs they use, they cannot make something more Holy than what God establishes in His Word.

2 Peter 1:20-21- “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture originated as anyone’s own *private* interpretation; Because prophecy was not brought at any

time by human will, but the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by *the* Holy Spirit.”

We do not get to select what verses or Commandments we will obey. Taking anything out of context is described in **Revelation 22:18-19**- “For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, **that if anyone adds to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of *the* book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from *the* book of life,** and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.”

How they overlook this scripture is as blind as missing **Galatians 1:8-9**- “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED!** As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED!**”

If we are ingesting the Word of God and writing it on our hearts, all of the preceding scriptures will provide us with the “ready answer” we are to have for

those God will send our way. Remember, *we cannot change anyone* by “fire hosing” them with scripture, telling them they’re wrong, or handing out pamphlets. Their calling is up to God the Father (John 6:44, 65). What *we can do* is have the scripture available to share when questions are asked. Sharing the Word from your heart will guide them to know God more. Avoid using Sunday preachers or anything that points them away from God’s Word. Go there FIRST.

1 Peter 3:15- “But sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope *that is* in you, with meekness and reverence:”

Providing them scripture gives them God’s truth and not an opinion. It takes us out of the equation and let’s God do the talking. We can also let them see Christ’s light in us by the example we set for all to see. Is it obvious we are growing in His likeness? Or do they really have to strain to see if you know God at all? They will know us by our fruits (**Matthew 7:16, 20**).

Matthew 5:16- “In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who *is* in heaven.”

John 13:15- “For I have given you an example, to show that you also should do exactly as I have done to you.”

1 Peter 2:21- “For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps.”

Pray

The best way for us to fight what we cannot touch is to give it to the One we cannot see. Prayer is our weapon against the wiles of Satan. Perhaps it is why God tells us to “pray without ceasing (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**).”

Again, we may not be able to change overtly or physically any of the wrongs going on in our nation on our own, but when we cry out to our Living God, He hears us. He can change *anything* beginning with us if we are willing.

1 John 5:14-15- “And this is the confidence that we have toward Him: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we may ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.”

And when we pray, it needs to be sincere and **from our hearts**, *not half-hearted* but **pray expecting**. It must not be a wish list or mumbled from a string of beads; **it must come from a humble heart**. We pray that God may be glorified in our prayers *if we are faithful* in our asking in the Name of Jesus.

John 14:13-14- “And whatever you shall ask in My name, this will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 16:23-24- “And in that day you shall ask Me nothing. Truly, truly I tell you, whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until this day, you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

When we are walking with Him according to His Word, we have His promises our prayers will be heard.

Psalms 116:1-2- “I love the LORD because He hears my voice and my prayers. Because He has bowed down His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.”

Watch

Perhaps this addressed Byron's question in summary. "What are we supposed to do?" The world and moral condition of our nation definitely needs correction; Christ's return will address this accordingly. Making sure we are ready is critical. Remember, if we see Him coming in the clouds, we're on the wrong side of the horse...

Isaiah 5:20-23- "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Who justify the wicked for a bribe and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"

We can witness this scripture coming to fruition every day. Gender identity over which bathroom to use and the sinful immorality resembles a modern day Sodom. We have been instructed to follow every word that proceeds from the mouth of God from Genesis to Revelation. As the world continues its downward spiral, we have been foretold of what lies ahead so nothing will come as a surprise. Just turn

on the news, wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes and a host of other disasters appear to be fulfilling scripture.

Matthew 24:6-8- “And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary that all these things take place, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places. Now all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.”

Mark 13:7-8- “But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for it is necessary for these things to come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be earthquakes in different places, and there shall be famines and disasters. These things are the beginning of sorrows.”

Nowhere in these scriptures does God tell us to focus on these events. In fact, He tells us, “Do not be troubled.” These things are occurring today throughout the world. Many things will and must transpire before the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Just to mention the “abomination of desolation” and some thoughts on this. It is mentioned as a future prophecy in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11. This

deals with the Anti-Christ setting up false worship in the temple. Lord knows there is enough false prophets and teachers within His own church as it is. A close look at the Catholic Church would definitely be of concern, but nothing has been done with any violence, yet. It is also mentioned in Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:15- “Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (the one who reads, let him understand).”

Mark 13:14- “Now when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it should not stand (let the one who reads understand), then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains.”

God wants us to be cognizant of the end time prophecies in His Word, but He does NOT want us glued to the internet or the news seeking end times events. These things **will happen** as they are part of God’s plan for mankind and our reunification with Him and Jesus Christ. Nothing you or I can do will stop *anything* that is God’s will. He wants us **to watch our own spiritual condition that we are found worthy to be accepted into His Kingdom at the First Resurrection.**

Matthew 24:42-46- “Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have been watching and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready. For the Son of man is coming at a time that you do not think. Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing.”

Matthew 25:13- “Watch, therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.”

Mark 13:32-33- “But concerning that day and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Take heed, be watching and praying. For you do not know when the time is coming.”

Mark 13:35-37- “Be watching, therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock’s crowing, or in the morning; Lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Luke 21:34-36- “Watch yourselves, lest your hearts be preoccupied with high living and drinking and the cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly. For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. Watch therefore and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

It is by far more important ***to do*** what God has already told us what to do. It allows us to put our *faith and trust* in Him and His Word to guide us in whatever situation we may face. ***If*** He *brings us to it*, He *will bring us through it*. Our faith will increase as will our wisdom and discernment. How we respond to incidents will depend on how close we are in our relationship with Him. Will we turn over tables in the churches? Maybe. We know the Two Witnesses will. Will we see any of these things our lifetime, does it really matter? We have been told these things will happen and that should be sufficient.

I’m not saying we are to be inactive recluses, or welcome mats for the unrighteous, but look at what One Man, Jesus Christ did. Imagine, *just imagine* what would our nation and the church be ***if*** those who profess to know and follow Him ***did*** what His Word said to do! His Word is eternal!

Luke 21:31-33- “In the same way also, when you see these things coming to pass, know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, there is no way that this generation shall pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth shall pass away, **but My words shall never pass away.**”

The war has been won; victory is ours through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We *cannot be idle* in our walk towards His Kingdom. We walk by faith and not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**). We are to strive to become the likeness of Jesus Christ and fulfill God’s creation purpose within each of us. No matter what events unfold, **we will be ready.** So, what are we supposed to do? **Just what God said,** congratulations Class of Saturday April 11th, 2026. Amen.