

THE WAY OF THE LORD

VOLUME XXXV NUMBER I The Way of the Lord II

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
Scripture: Genesis 18:19

Happy New Year!!

Genesis 18:19 says of Abraham, *“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”* The reason God developed a relationship with Abraham is because God knew he would keep the way of the Lord and teach his children to do what was necessary to preserve creation! The way of the Lord consists of two things: doing righteousness so that we qualify to do judgment. After the flood, God covenanted to no longer arrest evil by catastrophic, universal floods. Therefore, in order that evil not prevail, God's covenant with man necessitated doing judgment that would rein in evil so that the land did not continually demand relief from fullness of iniquity. Therefore, God's sheriffs in the earth became His covenant believers. We have the job of policing evil. And when we routinely “turn-the-other-cheek” out of tradition without consulting the Spirit, we are enabling evil at times God's will would be that we arrest it. For every believer that thinks his job is to “turn-the-other-cheek” and **always** pray **for** the enemy, he is not fully representing Christ and not living up to what the Word clearly calls us to do. When the enemy succeeds in convincing believers that “turn-the-other-cheek” is universally the best way to represent Christ, we forfeit part of God's purpose, and possibly the prophetic promises that go with it! The Lord made it clear that Abraham would have to do righteousness and judgment in order to receive the prophetic promises. It is no different for us. We have to do the same. We have to embrace righteousness in order to do judgment so that we can have all that God promises us.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2
Scripture: Proverbs 8:12,13

Proverbs 8:13 reveals that just like God has the way of the Lord, satan has the way of evil. Evil has a specific way. Proverbs 8:12,13 says, *“I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”* God's way is opposite of satan's way! Satan has a way that consists of pride, arrogance and evil, accompanied by perverse and lying lips. There are two competing ways – there is the way of the Lord and the way of the devil. One is righteous and one is evil. The question is, which one will man choose? What is our attitude to be toward evil? With the misinterpretation most believers have of the Sermon on the Mount and the misemphasis on “turn-the-other-cheek” grace, we have in part abandoned the way of the Lord. Changes have to be made in our thoughts, our actions and our prayers.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
Scripture: Amos 5:10-15

Amos 5:10-15 says, *“They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor And take grain taxes from him, Though you have built houses of hewn stone, Yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, But you shall not drink wine from them. For I know your manifold transgressions And your mighty sins: Afflicting the just and taking bribes; Diverting the poor from justice at the gate. Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, For it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the Lord God*

of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the Lord God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.” Is the church taught this today? Do we hate evil? We often do not hate anything because we are taught not to hate anything. We do not think Jesus hates anything, but He does! Jesus hates sin! We are clearly told to hate evil, love good and establish justice in the gate. Does the church see that as their assignment? The prophet Amos saw it and proclaimed it. Do we hate anything? The Bible says to hate evil, but we do not. The way of the Lord has been very much diminished by emphasizing compassionate love! The way of the Lord has been diminished. The question is, are we going to say yes to the way of the Lord? It begins by hating evil. Can we start there?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Scripture: Psalm 97:10

Psalm 97:10 says, *“You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”* Psalm 97 is simple and clear – if we love the Lord, we will hate evil. The Bible draws a clear distinction between the way of the Lord and the way of evil. There are two distinctive paths that men can take. One is Godly and righteous and the other is ungodly and demonic. Evil has its own path. It has its own way. and those who are righteous are called to drop the plumbline and do judgment in prayer on those who are evil so that evil does not prevail. We must ask ourselves, does the evil of shedding innocent blood prevail in America? Has abortion prevailed in America? Why has abortion prevailed? Because Christians think they can vote for people who either support or refuse to openly oppose abortion and it is OK. But it is not OK! Choosing the way of the Lord requires us to choose, in every decision and every action, whether to keep the Lord’s way or abandon it. We cannot violate God’s Word and not pay the price. Voting **for** politicians who do not openly oppose abortion is not hating evil, and is not keeping the way of the Lord. The price of abortion is eventual judgment! As it continues to be legal and innocent blood continues to be shed, the cup of iniquity fills, demanding termination of the land’s inhabitants! The church needs to open their eyes to the truth in the Word. Ignoring Bible verses and truths about justice, judgment and hating evil effectively enables evil to prevail. Refusing to hate evil is more acceptable in today’s culture and many believers genuinely think they are emulating Christ by doing so. But ignoring, “contextualizing” or refusing to grapple with difficult Scriptures is a “Christianity” that grieves the Lord. Following the way of the Lord is not easy and never has been. Living the “seeker-sensitive” lukewarm lifestyle is unlikely to earn a *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”* Refusing to hate evil is refusing to represent the fullness of Who Christ is! This is a serious hour – in many areas evil is prevailing in America and the church has to learn to move God’s Hand against it.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Scripture: Psalm 2:1-9

Psalm 2:1-3 describes the battle between politicians and judges setting themselves against God’s representatives. Verses 4-6 describe God arising with His anointing on His people to do judgment on the leaders and judges. Verses 7-9 outline the church’s use of the Rod of Iron to execute that judgment. And verses 10-12 warn the judges and politicians that the wrath of God is coming their direction if they do not repent. Are we applying this Psalm in our prayer life? Are we praying God’s Rod of Iron on the rebellious? How would we like to get to heaven and find out we were guilty of enabling evil by refusing to represent Who Christ is and have open ears to the Spirit? That is certainly not what any believer wants! We want to stand before God having walked out His purpose and His plan and having seen the full measure of His will in action. Sometimes that will includes turning the other cheek and sometimes it includes praying judgment to arrest evil! The question is, will we take the Rod of Iron when prompted by the Spirit and swing it in prayer? When leaders dictate evil as the Holy Spirit leads, ask God to reward them accordingly!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

Scripture: Psalm 2:10-12

Psalm 2:10-12 is very important in this hour because it says, *“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”* It was judges who brought the shedding of innocent blood, through abortion, on the land. It is judges who are now increasing iniquity in the land by making homosexual marriage legal. And nothing brings destruction on a nation faster than fullness of iniquity. Do those actions speak of serving the Lord with fear and rejoicing with trembling? May the fear of the Lord fall on our judges and politicians because if they refuse, as Psalm 2:10-12 warns, they perish when the Lord’s wrath is kindled. When it is, we had better be

ready to listen to the Spirit's leading and pray judgment on their heads. If the Spirit leads we can ask the God of Heaven to visit them and cut them off. We can ask God to weigh to them what they have weighed to the innocent unborn. Judges whose decisions cast away biblical "cords" and aim to break Godly "bonds" help fill the land with iniquity are clearly warned in Scripture. And the church is exhorted to break them with a Rod of Iron **in prayer!** It is time to bring God's judgment on the heads of judges. That is done through prayer and God is listening and waiting on us to ask! Only then can the land be cleansed!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Scripture: Romans 1:20-32

Romans 1:20-32 says, *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."* Those that "...knew God, (but) did not glorify Him as God" are unequivocally without excuse. And "...even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind." Our Bibles say **"those who practice such things..." and those that "approve of those who practice them" are deserving of death!** It is indeed strong language, but it is the language of Romans. We are called to represent Christ and we are called to follow the Spirit in doing righteousness and doing judgment. The Spirit knows when a judge has exhausted mercy. We do not decide these judicial prayers on our own. Instead we move through Holy Spirit direction. Asking God to weigh to a judge what they weigh to a nation allows the Lord to determine the layer of love necessary – warning, affliction or even termination. Simply practicing homosexuality or approving of those who practice it does not make or break an individual case. Fullness is the ultimate issue. Only God knows if an individual is filled with **ALL** "...unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful..." It is a comprehensive list and one where only the Spirit can know if an individual qualifies. But if they do and we are given clear Holy Spirit direction, we must pray judgment on their heads. I believe the Throne is open and we will see the Holy Spirit lead us into judicial prayer that will curb unrighteous judges from filling the cup of iniquity. The time to pray judgment is if and only if the Holy Spirit leads. But I trust He will lead if we are open to listen. Moses saved his nation by praying judgment on the perpetrators and so can we. If America will see any salvation from a full cup of iniquity, then it will be because there are saints willing to listen and pray when the Holy Spirit directs. Dark days of national destruction are inevitable if the church does not embrace the way of the Lord and do judgment!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

Scripture: Judges 1:4-7

Many ask, what is God's standard for biblical judgment? The answer is His Word! If we execute judgment in prayer, what brings justice in God's eyes? What kind of judgment should we pray in order to bring justice? Judges 1:4-7 is a great picture of this. It says, *"Then Judah went up, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek. And they found Adoni-Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Then Adoni-Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes. And Adoni-Bezek said, 'Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me.'* Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died." Adoni-Bezek's own actions

dictated justice. What does biblical justice look like? God visits people and repays them according to their works. If we have politicians and judges who practice and promote unrighteousness even in the face of warning and affliction, then they may qualify for Holy Spirit-driven judgment. If their policies and judgments reflect the Psalm 2 stance of breaking the Bible's bonds in pieces and casting away righteous cords from them, then they are warned to kiss the Son, lest He be angry and His wrath is kindled. If their actions kindle God's wrath, He will repay them according to their works. A picture of a late-term abortion is a frightening picture - doctors insert a catheter at the base of an unborn infant's brain and literally remove everything from his or her skull. Isn't it interesting that the Muslim enemy raised up against America kills by cutting off the heads of the innocent. Anyone who thinks that is a coincidence had better think again because I suspect we will see the axios judgment of God on the heads of the doctors and leaders who champion abortion, if they refuse to turn. The question is, will the church extend God's mercy to the nation and pray judgment on the perpetrators, as the Spirit leads? If we will, we may see a spiritual judgment on a political party. If the church cannot pray that kind of judgment, then we had better check our hearts to see if we have something preventing us from doing the Word. If we are going to pray mercy on the nation and judgment on the perpetrators, then we have to first repent for the sins of the nation. Only then will we be in a place to pray God's judgment on the perpetrators. It is the only way to save the land.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7, 8-12

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 says, *"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know **what is restraining**, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **He who now restrains** will do so until He is taken out of the way."* The mystery of lawlessness is already at work and the one thing we know about that mystery comes out of verses 8-12. Verses 8-12 says, *"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason **God will send them strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."* The mystery of lawlessness **finds pleasure in** unrighteousness. People who find pleasure in unrighteousness deserve the full measure of the judgment of God. And the only way to save the nation is to invoke the covenant of Sure Mercy over the land and invoke God's judgment on all those who choose the mystery of lawlessness and find pleasure in lawless actions! Finding pleasure in sexual sin earns judgment. Finding pleasure in killing and beheading innocent people earns death!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Scripture: Joshua 23:11,12

The New Century Version of the Bible quotes Joshua 23:11,12 as saying, *"So you must be careful to love the Lord your God. 'If you turn away from the way of the Lord and become friends with these people who are not part of Israel and marry them,...'"* In the NKJ, verse 13 says, *"...know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you."* The way the Israelites forfeited the covenant blessing of God was by departing from the way of the Lord. As long as they kept the way of the Lord, then they had covenantal blessing to destroy the enemy. When they departed from the way of the Lord, they lost that covenantal blessing. It is fairly straightforward and simple and it is the manner in which covenant works.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Scripture: Judges 2:21-23

Judges 2:21-23 says, *"I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not.' Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of*

Joshua." In order to keep the way of the Lord, they had to do righteousness so they could execute judgment. And whether or not they would execute judgment was the real test. That is one part of what comprises the way of the Lord. It is obvious that God was and is very serious about His people doing the way of the Lord. He was so serious that He left nations that had to be judged and removed in order to find out if Israel would keep the way of the Lord. Are there nations, political parties or politicians that need to be judged and removed today? Is God leaving certain leaders to find out if His church will keep the way of the Lord? Identify leaders today that champion rebellion against God's Word! In seasons like this, it is good to do a washing of the water of the Word exercise. In such an exercise, we simply follow a concept all the way through Scripture and look at every place it appears. By doing this, we get a view of the length, width, breadth and height of the truth and how it applies to our lives as believers. What is the length, width, breadth and height of doing the **way of the Lord** as an issue before God? According to Judges, it was a pretty serious issue in Israel, because God left five nations that needed judgment to determine whether or not Israel would keep the way of the Lord. Judgment included termination. Can we discern a true Holy Spirit-push and move God's Hand to terminate by prayer?

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

Scripture: Judges 3:1-4

Judges 3:1-4 says, *"Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it) namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses."* God left the nations to test Israel as to whether or not they would execute judgment, go to war and utterly destroy them. It was, *"...namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites..."* It is obvious that the way of the Lord concerns knowing war. If we do not *know* war or are not willing to *learn* how to war in the Spirit, we cannot execute the judgment of God. Do we know enough war that we can pray God's judgment and see God's deliverance? Moses learned to war God's way and I trust we will follow in his footsteps!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:17-25

2 Samuel 22:17-25 states, *"He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. **For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God.** For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before Him, And I **kept myself from my iniquity.** Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes."* David became a mighty warrior and one of the reasons was that he adhered to and kept the way of the Lord. It was the way of the Lord that made David's mighty men, mighty. He walked in righteousness and could therefore execute judgment. That is God's plan for every single one of us. That plan has not changed and is still functional and operational today.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Scripture: 2 Kings 21:19-23, Proverbs 29:2

2 Kings 21:19-23 states, *"Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. He forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and **did not walk in the way of the Lord.** Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house."* David adhered to the way of the Lord and became the greatest king that Israel ever had. Amon departed from the way of the Lord and he was killed by his own servants in his own house. The blessing of God went to all those who kept the way of the Lord and the judgment of God fell on all those who abandoned it. The righteous face tremendous persecution when evil is ascendant. The righteous groan when the wicked rule. Being faithful in great adversity has eternal reward! The question is really simple – are we walking in the way of the Lord or have we abandoned it?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

2 Chronicles 17:1-9 says, *“Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. And his heart took delight in **the ways of the Lord**; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah. Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and **taught the people.**”* Jehoshaphat and his appointed leaders taught the people the ways of the Lord! By teaching the people the ways of the Lord, he strengthened the whole nation. How can we strengthen our whole nation? We could share with everyone we know the ways of the Lord and trust that those who have a heart for it will grab ahold and advance!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Scripture: Psalm 18:16-21

Psalm 18:16-21 says, *“He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the **ways of the Lord**, And have not wickedly departed from my God.”* In this Psalm of David, we find God on David's side. Verses 20,21 tell us why, *“The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the **ways of the Lord**, And have not wickedly departed from my God.”* David tells us why God was with him and gave him tremendous victory. It was simple. David chose to keep the **way of the Lord**. And because he kept the **way of the Lord**, the blessing of God was his.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Scripture: Psalm 18:22-42

David makes it very clear why God blessed him. Because David kept the ways of the Lord, he was blessed. In verses 34-36 David said, *“He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip.”* Verses 37-42 make very clear the necessary attitude of a warrior who keeps the way of the Lord. Warriors pursue the enemy, they do not turn back until they have utterly destroyed the enemy under their feet. Verse 42 says, *“Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets.”* The attitude of a warrior who keeps the ways of the Lord is, do not turn back until the enemy is utterly destroyed. If the enemy is not destroyed, we should be willing to pray and use our faith until God's enemy is utterly decimated. That is how God works. We need to realize that and act accordingly. Our World War II generals conducted war like God. Patton, McArthur and Eisenhower knew how to war. The presidents who reined their troops in during other eras brought dramatic hurt to the nation!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Scripture: Psalm 25:8-18

Psalm 25:8-18 says, *“Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name’s sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. My eyes are ever toward the Lord, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins.”* God guides the

humble in judgment. and He teaches the humble the way of judgment. Psalm 25:10, in the NIV, says, “*All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.*” God's **way of the Lord** is loving and faithful when we do His covenant. We receive the full blessing of God when we say yes and walk in it. The question is, are we saying yes and walking in it?

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Scripture: Psalm 138:1-7

Psalm 138:1-7 says, “*I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, And made me bold with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, When they hear the words of Your mouth. Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, For great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.*” Verses 5-7 give us a glimpse into the heart of those who say yes to the ways of the Lord. These verses say, “*Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, For great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.*” When we are facing Muslim threats, it is nice to know that as we walk in the way of the Lord, the Lord brings the Hand of God to save us if our race is not finished. That is the promise of Psalm 138 and we know we will see it! For those called to be martyrs, the injustice of their death demands judgment!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Scripture: Proverbs 10:27-29

Proverbs 10:27-29 says, “*The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish. **The way of the Lord** is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.*” What an awesome promise is in verse 29: “***The way of the Lord** is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.*” What a tremendous promise! When we say yes to doing the way of the Lord, walking in righteousness and doing judgment, then we guarantee that in every situation we find ourselves, we will have the strength of the Lord. If we want strength, we must walk in the way of the Lord. It is guaranteed for all of our days.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Scripture: Isaiah 2:5

Isaiah 2:5 in the New Century version of the Bible says, “*Come, family of Jacob, and let us follow **the way of the Lord.***” We know what the way of the Lord is. We see it in David. We see it in Israel’s other righteous kings. The way of the Lord is doing righteousness so we can execute judgment. And when we say yes to that, we walk in light. There is never a darkness that can overtake us if the light is always there. And that is the promise – that the light will always be there.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5

Isaiah 40:3-5 says, “*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’*” When we are preparing the way of the Lord, then the judgment of God raises every valley, brings down every mountain, straightens out the crooked places and makes the rough places smooth. That is what judgment does. Judgment always prepares for a manifestation that results in salvation. Once people see the judgment, then they have a motivation to grab onto salvation. If they do not see the judgment, they have less motivation for salvation. John the Baptist fully shouldered it. Now since Jesus is coming again, we have the opportunity to fully shoulder it in our generation. The question is, will we? Are we ready for that adversity? We need to be!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Scripture: Jeremiah 5:4,5

Jeremiah 5:4,5 says, *“Therefore I said, ‘Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God. I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God.’ But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds.”* This passage makes it very clear that the primary way of the Lord is the judgment of God. If we know the way of the Lord, then we know the judgment of God. Is what Jeremiah states true of us today? Do we know the way of the Lord? Do we know the judgment of God? It was true for Jeremiah. That was his declaration! If you know the way of the Lord, you know the judgment of God. Do we know the judgment of God? Or have we mistakenly thought that we could not participate in judgment? That is precisely what the enemy has said – we thought we could not participate in judgment. But that is absolutely a lie according to the Word! We are supposed to be the primary participators in bringing forth justice. A heart to bring forth God's timely Words in prayer will result in mighty fruit. It is the way of the Lord and we are called to it. Will we walk in it?

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:24-30

Ezekiel 18:24-30 says, *“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord God. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.’”* It is interesting that Israel was complaining that the way of the Lord was not fair. Then the prophet had to say, ‘Wait a minute – the way of the Lord is fair. It is your ways that are not fair.’ Verse 30 is very interesting, *“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord God. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.’”* If there was ever a statement that could be made to nations, it is that one. Turn and repent so that iniquity will not be your ruin. The church can make that difference in many nations today. As we embrace the way of the Lord and execute the judgment of our God, we can bring mercy to our nations and justice to the perpetrators. God is ready, are we?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Scripture: Hosea 14:9

Hosea 14:9 says, *“Who is wise? Let him understand these things. Who is prudent? Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them.”* According to Hosea, the righteous walk in the way of the Lord. It is only those who are transgressors that have a problem. Many churches have a problem in keeping the way of the Lord. Is part of the reason, our failure to do righteousness so we can execute judgment? If we are hesitating to bring judgment, even on our own transgressions, then we are not walking in the way of the Lord. If that is the case, it is time to turn from those transgressions so that we can save our nation. God is ready, are we?

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3

Matthew 3:1-3 says, *“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”* Jesus is coming again. Will we shoulder this prophetic anointing? Will we do the judgment of God in order to make His paths straight? If not, we are hindering the harvest in the last days. By participating in the judgment of God, we participate in welcoming an increased harvest in the last

days. Will we increase or decrease the harvest of God? We will increase it or decrease it based on whether or not we will walk in the way of the Lord? It is our choice!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Scripture: Mark 1:1-3

Mark 1:1-3 says, *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”* We have the opportunity to help prepare the way of the Lord. We do it by judgment. It is pretty clear – over and over again the Scripture keeps telling us the very same thing. But the question still remains the same: will we do it? Are we ready to say yes by now? If we will do it, we have a chance of saving the nation. If we do not do it, it is likely we will forfeit God's best. What will the church do?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Scripture: Luke 3:4-6

Luke 3:4-6 says, *“...as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”* Luke emphasizes the fact that doing the judgment of God opens the door for all flesh to see the salvation of God. So, in Luke's understanding, salvation follows judgment. When we do judgment, we prepare for a harvest of salvation. Surely we are willing to prepare for a harvest of salvation. And the only way to do that is to follow the Spirit in doing judgment. Are we ready to say yes to the way of the Lord and start doing judgment?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Scripture: John 1:21-23

John 1:21-23 says, *“And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?’ He said: ‘I am “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.”* All four Gospels record the command to make straight the way of the Lord. Each one emphasizes a little different aspect, but they are all in agreement that we are called to do judgment in order to gain salvation. The question is, are we willing to say yes? It is time that we answered that call in this hour!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Scripture: Acts 9:1,2

The Good News translation of Acts 9:1,2 says, *“In the meantime Saul kept up his violent threats of murder against the followers of the Lord. He went to the High Priest and asked for letters of introduction to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he should find there any followers of the Way of the Lord, he would be able to arrest them, both men and women, and bring them back to Jerusalem.”* It is interesting that the early church, in most Bible translations, is called “The Way”. But apparently, “The Way” was short for “The Way of the Lord”. So the nickname that the early church gained was, “The Way”. Can the reason be because they executed the judgment that comprised the way of the Lord? The way it is translated here in the Good New Translation certainly points in that direction, because that is how it is translated each time it appears. It is amazing to see all of the many verses that the “way of the Lord” appears. There are enough of them to make us realize that it is a very serious issue in both Old and New Testaments!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Scripture: Acts 13:9,10; 18:24,25; 19:9,23

Acts 13:9,10 says, *“Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, ‘O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?’”* Isn't it interesting that as soon as the Apostle Paul found himself in a confrontation with a false prophet, he accused him of perverting the straight ways of the Lord and immediately brought blindness and judgment on him? And that

judgment caused the proconsul to believe so that he gained a salvation through judgment. How many salvations have we not gained because we have not understood and embraced the way of the Lord and prayed God's judgment? It is clear in Scripture and the question is, are we going to embrace it for the last days so that we can have the fullness of the harvest that God has ordained for us. Acts 18:24,25 says, *"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John."* Apollos was eloquent in Scripture, but he only knew the way of the Lord up to the point of the baptism of John. He did not know the way of the Lord, as comprised in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting that there is a difference between the baptism of John and the baptism of the Spirit. This difference tells us that the baptism of the Spirit is important to executing judgment in the way of the Lord. Acts 19:9,23 in the Good News translation, states, *"But some of them were stubborn and would not believe, and before the whole group they said evil things about the Way of the Lord. So Paul left them and took the believers with him, and every day he held discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus...It was at this time that there was serious trouble in Ephesus because of the Way of the Lord."* We find that the way of the Lord became a central issue in the New Testament church, probably because it included the execution of judgment through prayer. Serious Christians who executed judgment turned cultures upside down, forcing them to consider righteousness! Righteousness is not popular and there are enough religious spirits who war against this message that it has a preparational price tag. But the way of the Lord is biblical! It is so biblical, it runs all the way through the Old Covenant, all the way through the New. It is very solidly in the book of Acts. How can we neglect so great a salvation and so great a call as to prepare the way of the Lord by making crooked places straight and rough places smooth. Most often, it is the judgment of God that accomplishes this. This is not surprising, as judgment causes the fear of God to fall. The Word tells us that *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* And if only we enter in, can we taste the full measure of harvest? The choice is ours and we have to make it. It is time to line up with Jesus and demonstrate the way of the Lord!

The way of the Lord is God's might and power

To overtake evil in this day and hour.

The saints who walk right will pray justice prayers

Advancing salvation as God's Kings and Heirs.

ITINERARY

1/23 - 1/26/15 Summerville, SC

Daystar Ministries
850 Bacons Bridge Rd. Summerville, SC 29485
Fri 7pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 10am, Mon 7pm

Pastor Jerry Ashley
843-875-4370