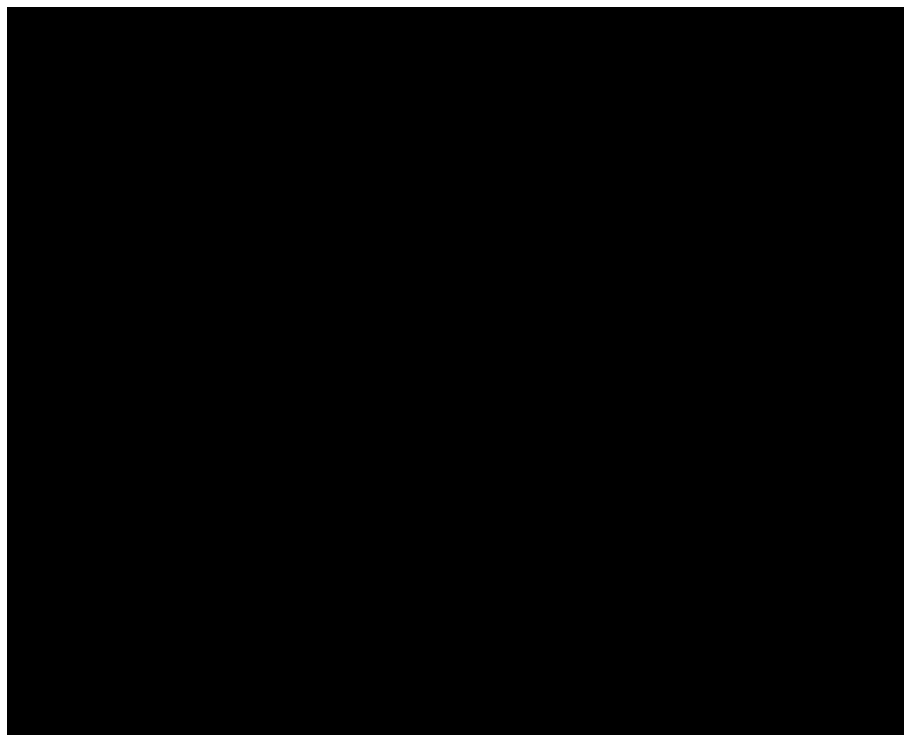


Series of Sevens



Rev. Jack Casey

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How to Study Your Bible

1. Begin in Prayer 1 Cor 2: 9-14
2. Read the Bible Neh. 8: 1-3
3. Study the Bible Neh. 8:8
4. Meditate upon it Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 1
5. Pass the Bible on to others Heb. 5: 12

How to Study Each Chapter

1. The Theme
2. The most important verse
3. The most prominent word
4. The teaching about Christ
5. The command to obey
6. The promise to claim
7. The new truth learned Psalm 119:18

Also every verse or passage has at least 3 applications

1. Past: this is the historical application
2. Present: This is a devotional or spiritual application
3. Future: This is a doctrinal or prophetic application

Introduction

This study is about 7 groups of 7 bible doctrines, there may well be more than these but these 7 are enough to show that God works in 7's or in completeness throughout his word. This proves the infallibility of His preserved word for us today. When we look around us we can see groupings of 7 such as 7 colors in the rainbow, 7 notes on a piano, 7 appendages on the human body, and 7 holes in the human head. So you can see God has a plan and He uses His complete number 7 in carrying it out. I hope that as you go through these 7 different groups of 7 subjects that the Lord will use them to strengthen your spirit and if you are reading this and you have not Christ as your Saviour may the truths found here with His word bring you to a decision to accept Him as Lord and Saviour of your life. God bless His word to your heart is my prayer for this study.

7 Dispensations

Introduction: by definition a Dispensation is a period of time of varying lengths, in which man is tested by God in regard to obedience to a specific revelation of His will and direction for righteous living. There are 7 dispensations clearly defined in the Bible. To be able to rightly divide the Word of God as we are instructed in 2 Timothy one must understand these dispensations and how each of them fit into the whole of God's revealing His plan of redemption for man. Each of the seven dispensations has the same basic elements and we will look at each of them. They are as follows time, subjects, revelation, test, and result. Once one sees how God has dealt with man down through nearly 6,000 years of mans history the whole of the Bible becomes so much more clear and opens up all the rich treasures there in. so let's look at these and see how they play out.

Four Characteristics of All the Dispensations Except
the Last

1. advance in fullness & clearness of revelation
2. gradual spirit decline
3. conformity to the world
4. apostasy into catastrophe

I. Innocence

- A. Time: In The Beginning (Gen. 1:28 – 3:13)
- B. Subjects: Adam and Eve created innocence (Gen. 1:28, 29)
- C. Perfect environment: everything was there (Gen. 2:8-15)
- D. Test: a tree not to be eaten of (Gen. 2:17)
- E. Result: the fall of man (Gen. 3:6, 7)
Expulsion from the garden(Gen. 3:23, 24)

II. Conscience – (Gen. 3:22 – 7:23)

- A. Time: From expulsion to the flood
- B. Subjects: Adam & Eve's descendants to Noah
- C. Environment: On their own outside Eden
- D. Test – serving under conscience
Good as of obedience – Abel
Evil as disobedience to know will of God
- E. Result (Gen.6:5) the judgment by the flood
Only eight souls saved alive by the ark

III. Human Government

- A. Time beginning after the flood (Gen. 8:20 until Gen. 12)
- B. Subjects – Noah, his sons, their descendants
- C. Revelation – man allowed to govern himself.
Highest function of government is the judicial taking of life. Rest of government implied in that.
Rested on Jew and Gentile.
- D. Test – Proper ruling of man under God's principles.

- E. Result – judgment confusing of tongues.
 - Failure – Gen. 11:1-4
 - Penalty confusion of tongues separation of the people – Gen. 11:5-9

IV. Promise

- A. Time- From Genesis 12:1 to Exodus 19:8 about 430 Years
- B. Subjects- a family of people, Abraham the head
- C. Revelation- all blessings given as long as the family lived in the land of Canaan.
- D. Test- stay in the land, famine used to try them several times. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob went away Gen. 12:10, 26:6. Jacob went to Israel with the whole family – 70 souls.
- E. Judgment- slavery in Egypt in Genesis 50 and a coffin in Egypt.

V. Law

- A. Time – Sinai (Ex. 19:1-4) to Calvary, about 1491 years.
- B. Subjects – God's chosen nation.
- C. Revelation – The Law (Ex. 19:5, 6) and its responsibilities
- D. Test – obedience by sacrifice
- E. Result – failure (II Kings 17:7-17)
 - Judgment (II Kings 17:1-6); Captivity (25:1-11)

VI. Grace

- A. Time – from the cross to the crown
- B. Subjects – Jews & Gentiles, a people for His name (Mt. 16:18) "On this rock I will build my church." (I Cor. 12:12, 13)
- C. Revelation – The grace of God (Rom 6:14)
- D. Test – accepting or rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior, with good works as a fruit of salvation.
- E. Result – a raptured church (Rev. 4:1), Judgment on Earth (Rev. 6-19)

VII. Perfect Dispensation

- A. Time – from time of the Revelation to Eternity (Rev. 19-22)
- B. Subjects – those left after Earth's judgments and those born during the millennium
- C. Revelation – Christ is the righteous judge (Is. 11:1, 4; Ps. 2:9)
- D. Test – Satan loosed for a little season (Rev. 20)
- E. Result – 2nd Armageddon (Rev. 20) Earth renovated, the new Earth, New Jerusalem (Rev. 21, 22). Eternity Begins.

Seven Judgments of God

Let me open with this statement, and I say it with great love and compassion for those who hold it as true. There is no scriptural basis for a "general judgment", many hold this view especially in this area, but it cannot be supported.

The Bible does teach that "God" judges the world in righteousness. He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness according to Ps. 9:8. John 5:22 and 23 tell

us that the Father "hath committed all judgment unto the Son", that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the father.

There are judgments - plural. Some are past, some take place in the here and now, and some are yet in the future. Throughout the Bible, God has judged people and nations in His way.

Compare Judgments

Mt. 25:31-46

Rev. 20:11-15

1. no resurrection

a resurrection

2. living nations judged

dead judged

3. on the earth Joel 3:2

Heaven & Earth gone

4. no books

books opened

5.3 classes – sheep, goats, brothers 1 class – dead

6. time – before millennium after millennium

Quick Facts:

The word Nations is used 158 times in the New Testament

Gentile used 92 times;

Nation -58 times

Heathen -5 times

Introduction: As part of our continuing series on God's 7's, we now take up the seven judgments of God. There are those who teach a general judgment, especially in this area of WV. However, there is no scriptural basis for such a teaching. The Bible does teach that God will "judge the world in righteousness; He shall minister judgment to the people in unrighteousness." Ps. 9:8

The Bible describes several judgments of God, one past, one present, five future ones. Let's take a look now at these judgments and how they relate to each of us.

Judgment # 1

The first judgment is the judgment of sin by Jesus Christ on the cross. The subject of this judgment - sins of believers. This is a past judgment for those redeemed already. The time of this judgment was

around AD 30, the place was a hill outside Jerusalem called Golgotha or Calvary. The basis of this judgment is Christ's finished work on the cross. The result of this judgment was death for Christ, justification for believers.

This judgment was for all believers, a careful reading of John 3:16-18. Jesus didn't come the first time as judge, but as savior. Jesus said in Luke. 12:14, "man who made me a judge or a divider over you." The one who has accepted Christ "has now everlasting life and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life." Jn. 5:24. Jesus died so that we might be justified once for all as He says in John 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation." Jesus judged sins of the flesh – Rom. 8:3.

He was made sin for us. Paul in II Cor. 5:21 has told us that Jesus left glory to take our place so that we might be clothed in his righteousness. This offering was once for all, meaning the sacrifice of God's son was deemed sufficient to make one holy. Heb. 10:10 - Paul says that if Christ's one sacrifice can't save and keep you. God has no other way and we would all be doomed. So once a sin is confessed God forgives and forgets it Heb. 10:17. The believer should not ever doubt God's ability to forgive and forget. Once you confess a sin, don't keep bringing it before God. Ps. 103:12.

Judgment # 2

The second judgment is of believers only. It will take place at the judgment seat. It is not to determine whether one is saved or not. Paul tells us in II Cor. 5:10 "that we all must appear" that is all the redeemed. So, the subject is the believers works, the time is after the rapture. It will be held at the judgment seat of Christ, the basis for this judgment is our works whether they are acceptable or not, and the result is reward or loss, see Rom. 14:10.

This judgment for works will be based on whether what you have done was for God's glory or not – I Cor. 3:11-15. Those done for His glory will be rewarded, those not will be burned up like hay, but his soul will be saved. Notice verse 11, the foundation is Christ, so are you building on Him, a very important question for all. Notice in verse 12 the first time fire purifies these, the second three, fire destroys these. In verse 13 we are reminded that all of our work will be laid bare before Jesus. If it's built on Christ vs. 14, he or she will receive rewards, if not according to vs. 15, he will lose rewards yet he shall be saved.

This judgment will take place in the air when we are called to meet Him according to I Thess. 4:17. The word "caught" means to grab hastily, to be snatched away. There are 5 crowns given at this judgment. For space sake I will list them and their references. The first crown is the "crown of life" Rev. 2:10, James 1:12, this is the martyrs crown or reward.

The second is the "crown of glory" found in I Peter 5:4, this is the pastors or teachers crown or reward. The

third is the "crown of rejoicing" I Thess. 2:19. This is the soul winners crown, will there be someone there because of you. Will your mission offering cause someone to be there (Heaven)?

The fourth is the "crown of righteousness" in II Tim. 4:8. This crown is for those who are longing and seeking the return of Christ. Paul is still waiting for this crown along with a host of others. The fifth crown is the "incorruptible crown" in I Cor. 9:25-27. This is the reward for victorious living. Paul is encouraging everyone to not play at church but to be real. We should all strive for it.

Judgment # 3

The third judgment is that of believers. The subjects are true believers, the time is daily, the place is anywhere, the basis is upon our confession of the sin to our Father in Heaven, the result is fellowship or loss of it.

Self-judgment brings a realization of sin in the believer's life. Paul says in I Cor. 11:28 "But let a man examine himself." This is often the hardest judgment because we have a difficult time admitting guilt and forgiving ourselves. I Cor. 11:13 tells us we are to agree with God that our actions and thoughts are wrong; when we do God will forgive.

Self-judgment will keep us from the chastening of the Lord. The wonderful thing about this judgment is

that it can take place at anytime, this very moment there is a sensing of sin in a person's life. There should be confession and forgiveness. However, if we withhold self judgment, the Lord will deliver chastening. Paul in I Cor. 11:32 here he tells us that the Lord deals out the needed discipline to bring his child into line so that we will not be judged with the world. Even to the point to death - I John 5:16.

In 1st Jn. 1:8, 9 we find the secret to self judgment. Because every believer still has the "old nature" to contend with in his new life and he must realize that there will be sin in his life until the Lord returns, but it need not bring defeat, but victory.

So we see the first three judgments are for believers. One is in the past-at Calvary, one is in the present –self judgment, and one is still in our future – for reward or loss.

Judgment # 4

The fourth judgment is of Israel. This judgment is still in the future, its subject is the Jews, and the time is during the great tribulation, the place is Jerusalem and the surrounding vicinity, the basis is the rejection of the Godhead, the result is the conversion of Israel as a nation.

This judgment is called the time of Jacob's trouble it occurs while the church is at the judgment seat. Israel will be judged here under antichrist. They are

an earthly people with earthly promises and judgments.

The basis of their judgment is their rejection of the Godhead. In Samuel's day they rejected God the Father, in Christ's day they rejected the Son, and in Stephen's day they rejected the Holy Spirit.

The Jews will be judged by the Lord after He has brought them from all over the world, to cause them to "pass under the rod" according to Ezekiel 20:34, 37 and Jer. 30:7.

The result of this judgment on Israel, is this first they will recognize the Messiah who they pierced according to Zech 12:10. Those who pass under the rod will be saved. No one can enter the kingdom of Christ except those who accept Him – Jer. 30 and 31:1-11. Isaiah 66:8 says they will be a nation born in a day – compare this with Rom. 11:26.

Judgment # 5

The fifth judgment is that of the Gentile nations – the subjects will be the nations (Gentile), the time is the revelation of Christ (Matt. 25:31) "when the Son of man shall come in His glory" this is at the 2nd coming after the 7 years of tribulation. The place is the throne of His glory in the valley of Jehoshaphat, the basis of His judgment is the treatment of Christ's brethren the Jew. The result some nations will be saved (sheep) or retain their nation status, some nations will be destroyed (goats) they will cease to be nations – Joel

3:1, 2. This is not a judgment of individuals but of nations.

The reason for this judgment is the basis of a nation's treatment of the Jew called "my brethren" by Jesus in Matt 25:40. The Gentile nations who have done right by the Jew will be placed on the right – Mt. 25:34. Those who have done evil to the Jew such as Germany will go to the left – Mt. 25:45, 46. This is not the general judgment as some suppose – see also Mt. 25:31-33, 40.

Judgment # 6

The 6th judgment is that of fallen angels. The time is at the end of millennium, the subjects are fallen angels before the flood of Noah's day. The result will be their being thrown into lake of fire. This judgment will occur at the same time as that of Satan – Rev. 20:10. This is also called the judgment of the great day. In Jude 6 we are told that parts of the fallen angels are reserved in bonds (spiritual chains). Parts are doing his bidding. Further study can be had in Mt. 25:41; 13:42; Mk 9:44; II Pet. 2:4.

We as Christians shall reign with Christ and so we will be a part of this judgment – I Cor. 6:3. Paul tells us that we are made lower than the angels, but during the millennium will judge those very angels that plagued us.

Judgment # 7

The seventh judgment is that of the wicked dead. The subject is all of those individuals that rejected Christ, the time after millennium, the place before the white throne, the basis rejection of Christ. The result is the lake of fire.

This is the last and most horrible, terrible of all God's judgment – it is for the lost. It includes atheists, agnostics, cultists, church members, good moral people, golden rule lovers, etc. According to Rev. 20:11, 12 this judgment takes place after the millennial reign and the first resurrection; according to Rev. 20:4, 5. Those verses clearly establish the fact of the millennial reign of Christ.

These people are judged according to their works – Rev. 20:12, 13. This is for their place in the lake of fire. They will have two witnesses against them. The book of life, in which is recorded the names of all who accepted Christ and this without error – Rev. 20:15. The books record every deed done by each from birth to death, without prejudice or error.

The only judgment possible is the lake of fire, this is called the second death, and it is eternal separation from God – II Th. 1:9.

Choose the first judgment and never have to face the last. Choose to try it on your own until your time on earth runs out and the last is assured for you to face.

Seven Resurrections

That's right, not one or two but seven. God works by sevens: He likes completion so seven and those things associated with it are complete. So here we have 7 resurrections. Look at I Cor. 15:14-19.

1st Resurrection

"Resurrection of Christ"– I Cor. 15:14-19 Jesus came from the grave bodily – Luke. 24:39. "A spirit hath not flesh and bone, as ye see me have." He is alive, not just in us, but at the right hand of the Father.

This separates us from others. Buddhism has their leader's bones. If someone found Christ's bones I'd quit the ministry. Did you know the best news ever heard, not from radio or tv. Some women went to the cemetery looking for a grave and asked a man "Where is Jesus buried?" "He is not here, for HE is risen" Look at 15:3, 4. If that isn't true then I'm lying and your faith is useless. 15:17.

2nd Resurrection

Let us read not I Cor. 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Notice the word "first fruits" is plural. Christ was our fruit. Look at Mt. 27:52-53 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Something happened in the graveyards of Israel. Somebody came out of there when Christ arose. Who? Old Testament Saints that's who.

3rd Resurrection

The third one is spiritual. This is the resurrection of the Christian spirit in them. Look at Eph. 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: When Jesus saves, he takes a corpse out of the graveyard of humanity and gave you life. Rom. 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death

Preachers tell people what's wrong and to do right. Now I'll give you the key to accomplishing both. Look at verse 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. What victory, Paul said I am crucified wit Christ. problems come when we try to get into our old graves as we read here in Romans 7: 18-20 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me

In Romans 7: 21-25: and especially the words here in verse 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death: We are half

dead, half alive. Next time your body wants to sin, count it as dead. Now Paul adds awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee light Eph. 5:14. Don't crawl into your old grave and play with a corpse Eph. 2:1-7.

4th Resurrection

_This is a national resurrection as we read of in Romans 11:25-26: For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Some day Israel will be resurrected as a nation as prophesied in Ezekial 37: 1-14. Here he describes the valley of dry bones; now the dry bones are a picture of Israel brought to national life by God in a day. In 1948 they became a nation, not since 606 bc some 2500 years ago that that has been true. Still they are not a resurrected or righteous nation that is yet to come.

There are those who say God is done with Israel but that not true. In 1918 the Balfour declaration was written to give Israel her land but was gone back on by England. In Genesis 12:3 God issues a warning to every nation where Israel is concerned "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee".

England was reduced by Hitler who was reduced by

America who pushed for Israel to be a state. The world has tried to destroy the Jew, but God has kept them safe, and though they are in the land they are not yet God's restored wife but they will be.

5th Resurrection

The Harvest in 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18. Christ the first fruits and now the harvest at His coming in the air. We have a command to comfort people, that this is not going to last. Not to always be tempted, to fail the Lord, to be lonely, to be frustrated, to have dreams go up in smoke, instead we are going up. Hear Paul in Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. If you're saved there is a power in you that can and will someday get you from here past the farthest galaxy in an instant. The vessels portrayed in the movies Star Wars and Star Trek will look like skateboards

We'll leave because we've been bought with a great price as Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians 6:20 "for we are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's" also Eph. 1:13-14 in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Paul adds to this in Romans 8:23 And not only they,

but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body also – I Cor. 15:52, 50-55. There are 2 classes of people, those in "The Grave" and those "The Alive". Jesus in Jn. 11:26 said, whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die – that's the 1st class. Here in Jn. 11:25 – he that believeth in me, though he were dead – this is the 2nd class, yet shall he live.

Back to I Thess. 4:17-18 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. A clap of thunder, a streak of lightning, you'll hear your name called and away you'll fly as gravity loses its hold on you forever. Christ said in Jn. 10, and He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out, and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. In Rev. 4:1, come up hither and away you'll go. Paul says this will happen in a moment; in the twinkling of an eye or about 1/64,000th of a second. You'll meet all your saved loved ones on the way up and then together you'll meet the Lord, no one will say "I got there first." John ends the book of Revelation with this brief prayer "Even so come quickly (suddenly) Lord Jesus". Dr. McGinley said "Boy, when I get caught up in the air and go up to meet the Lord, I'm gonna stick my tongue out at the devil as I go up."

6th Resurrection

This one is found in Rev. 11:6-10 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. and Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the resurrection of the tribulation martyrs including the 144,000 and the two witnesses'. They have had their heads cut off for refusing the mark of the beast. It is repeated in 5, 6, 7, and 8. Notice the people are watching they're dead

bodies. Why? Because their heads are in one place and their bodies are over there in another for the two witnesses’.

They come and preach repentance – this is what the 144,000 Jewish young men 12,000 from each tribe will do. They go out and preach the gospel of the kingdom two by two. Multitudes get saved and baptized.

Finally they are killed and the world rejoices – vs. 10, 11, and 12. Boy, you talk about horror stories. Picture the site with CNN’s 24-hr coverage when they go up, and multitudes go with them.

7th Resurrection

The last, and the worst is found in Rev. 20:11-13 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works, and¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. This is literal, and physical and all those who have refused Christ every person no matter their stature,

culture, economic status will stand there. They are judged according to their works, some will get a hotter spot in hell than others, but it will still be hell.

There will be no place to hide according to vs. 11 one will be standing on nothing. Mt. 22 has a picture of this in verses 13 Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth and 14 For many are called, but few are chosen. The call is all upon the earth today to repent and be saved. To refuse this will result in your going to hell no matter your excuse – Mt. 25:41, depart from ye, ye cursed into everlasting fire." All of them according to the Bible will be speechless except for one word – Amen.

Which resurrection will you be in, it cannot be number 4 –that is for a nation or number 6 – this is in the tribulation, or number 2 – this one is for Old Testament Saints only. It can't be number one – that's Christ. That leaves only 3, 5, and 7. If you choose number 3 you'll be in number 5, if not you certainly will make number 7 a sure trip to heaven. I recommend 3 right now. To miss # 7 you must receive the Lord Jesus and let Him give you a spiritual resurrection. NOW!

Seven Mysteries — I Cor. 4:1, 2

By definition a Bible Mystery is a previously unrevealed truth.

A Steward in that day was and is someone given something valuable to take care of by his master. One example is Eleazer steward of Abraham, everything Abraham had was under Eleazer's hand and he was to be faithful to Abraham to see that everything necessary is done to carryout Abraham's desires for his property.

A steward is to be faithful; in these verses a steward is to be faithful where some mysteries are concerned. Now if every minister in America had been faithful in taking care of these mysteries, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in today.

God has given the church seven mysteries that were to be taught and taken care of, but we have failed and we are reaping the consequences of that failure. Americans have become interested in a lot of "things" and have forgotten Christ's work, "Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." The church needs to get back to the Saviours' business and proclaim the mysteries of the church.

How many people do you know who are honestly hungering for righteousness? Here is an illustration: A fellow asked his friend, "Do you believe the main problems in America are ignorance and indifference?"

His friend answered, "I don't know and I don't care."
There's the truth!

Mystery Number One

Mystery of Godliness

I Tim. 3:16: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh,

God was manifest in the flesh. This is the greatest verse in the Bible on the deity of Christ. What does that mean? God showed up as a baby. Needing all the care a baby needs. Here's the mystery — the creator and sustainer of all creation was being nursed by a woman, diapered, bathed, etc. Just like any other baby. The Bible says, that Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." He was born and grew as a child yet he was 100% God. Paul says "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." I Cor. 1:25, also 20 hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Man tries to use their wisdom to get around God. They can't we must always remember a mystery is something to be believed, because it is unrevealed truth. We are to be faithful to it — II Tim. 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Mystery Two

Col. 1:27

Mystery "Christ in you the hope of glory"

A sinless, perfect Savior stepped down from his exalted position as the Son to come in and dwell in our wicked vessels. Thus we have a sinless man inside a sinner. Dr. Hugh Pyle said, "The resident should be the president, the boarder should be the boss." That means if Jesus is in you, He should be running your life not you or me.

When you're on the throne of your life, Jesus is at the foot. There's not room for two on the throne of your life and Jesus will not force Himself on to it. Peter couldn't stand the thought when Jesus washed his feet. Peter knew Jesus was God and should not be at his sinful feet. Christ is in there with an old rotten sinner Mk. 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.. this is a pretty good description of what is on our insides before Christ comes in and cleans us up. That is why Paul could say to all who are saved "Christ in you the hope of Gory". Bishop Berkley, a real saved man said this, "When I pray I sin, when I preach I sin, my very repentance needs to be repented of, my tears need washing in the blood of Christ." You've got a war going on in there between Christ the new you and that vile old you described above.

Mystery Three

Eph. 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Remember we are to be faithful

This is the mystery of Christ and his church – 29-30 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. If you're saved you are in Christ's body, we are called the bride of Christ, and we are "bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh." With these words it is easy to see that Christ is going to protect His body from harm, we do we would never knowingly bring injury or pain to ourselves. Neither would we cause our brides any pain or sorrow on her wedding day and Christ will not either. Now Christ is in Heaven – I'm down here, I'm part of him, and he's part of me.

You are here and in Heaven right now look at Eph. 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Because I am in heaven with Him right now I can do the following where prayer is concerned "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace." I do not need anyone to run interference for me. Each Christian is a priest and can go to the throne of God on their own and need no other.

Paul gives us something in II Cor. 11:2 for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present

you as a chaste virgin to Christ. This verse says we haven't met him yet, and Eph. says we are already with him. How? Well, I Cor. 6:17 – "but he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." As far as the spirit is concerned, I'm joined to him right now. II Cor. 5:6-8 Being therefore always of good courage, and knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord (for we walk by faith, not by sight); we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord. It's a great mystery. Christ and the Church. Take the best you've ever experienced down here and push it above everything possible – that's Heaven.

Everything down here is a depraved fallen counterpart of something real. Someday we'll see the real thing and it will never be fake again.

Mystery Four: Restoration of Israel

Rom. 11:23 And they also, if they continue not in their unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again

If faithful men had done right, Israel would not have some of its current problems. We have on our coins "In God we trust," but we cow tow to the Arabs to maintain our oil and to everyone also. Maybe we should put in Rockefeller We Trust.

Rom. 11:25-30 For I would not, brethren, have you

ignorant of this mystery, lest ye be wise in your own conceits, that a hardening in part hath befallen Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in; and so all Israel shall be saved: even as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer; He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: And this is my covenant unto them, When I shall take away their sins. As touching the gospel, they are enemies for your sake: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sake. For the gifts and the calling of God are not repented of. For as ye in time past were disobedient to God, but now have obtained mercy by their disobedience, – Unbelieving Jews are enemies to the gospel, yet they are beloved of God because He chose them as His wife. He's not through yet with Israel; they are going to be saved as a nation in the future. You have to love the Jew.

Jews are unlovable at times, but God chose those stiff-necked stubborn people because they were the smallest of people. You love them or the Lord will fix you. Spain, England, Italy, Germany, Russia. God has been telling the Jew to go back for centuries. The last book in the Old Testament is II Chronicles last verse, "let him go up". You'd better love the Jew and win as many as you can to Christ.

Mystery Five: Mystery of Babylon

In Rev. 17:5 and upon her forehead a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER

OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

She's called a woman – Rev. 17:18 And the woman whom thou sawest is the great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth, with seven heads (10 with inscription). The woman is a city, one that reigns over kings. Vs. 9 Here is the mind that hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth – So she's a city that rules others and one built on seven hills.

Vs. 4 having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations – she has a golden cup – full of sin, arranged in royal colors, purple and scarlet. Do you know a city like this?

Vs. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered with a great wonder– she is the mother of harlots – she is a prostitute and has given birth to prostitutes. The Babylonian influence has been felt throughout history. She sells herself for money, power. She has filled her cup with the blood of martyrs of Jesus – she has seduced men into opposing God and killing his servants. This is not about individuals but about a system and a city. If you carefully study scripture and history, you'll see what I mean, not just any history but church history.

Mystery Six: Mystery of Iniquity

II Thess 2:2-8 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

– vs. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work

This is the mystery of the antichrist. His number is the number of man – 666 – Rev. 13. this number does not mean that someone's name adds up to this number but that he is a tri part man, an unholy trinity if you will just the opposite of God the Father. He will be a living breathing person and he will require everyone to take a mark of some type. With the latest technology from veri-chip this seems to be the way to do it as it is small

and can contain an identifying number that can be read by scanners and already is in use on a limited basis by some resorts and corporations.

He has a sign – a kiss, Judas Iscariot

He has a salute – two fingers bent

He has a name – son of perdition

He has a religion – compiled from all religions

He has a nationality – he will be at least part Jew and will come from the revived Roman Empire. Today it is called the European Union and consists of 27 nations most of whom were part of the Roman Empire at its height of power. However there are to be only 10 heads so how can it be with 27 nations? This is taken care of already as they have a core group nations composed of the 10 western nations.

He may be alive today – the only thing keeping him from coming on the scene is the church and the Holy Spirit.

There is more on the antichrist in the Bible than any other person except Christ. He is in type and shadow all through the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. He is total evil – evil incarnate, capable of doing and saying great things.

Mystery Seven: The Rapture

I Cor. 15:51-55 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead

shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The final mystery is the Rapture of the bride of Christ from the earth.

The rapture will involve two kinds of people, those saints whose physical bodies are buried, and those still living on the top side of the earth. The dead will be pulled up out of the ground – Jn. 5:25-29 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation., the living will be changed.

The mortal body will put on immortality; the corruption will put on incorruption. This was stated

in Prophecy long ago – Is. 25: 8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. We see this proven in the story of Mary and Martha with Lazarus – Martha was upset that Jesus had tarried and Lazarus had died. He had to show her that Lazarus would live again – Jn. 11. Thus the old saying "you can't keep a good man down" is really true. "O grave, where is thy victory."

If Jesus were to come right now, this minute, you would hear a roar like a bomb going off, a flash of brilliant light. The only things left would be your clothes and your blood (it's tainted). Only flesh and bone inherit kingdom.

In a few days after the rapture the lie will be given – UFO's took all these religious fanatics away. Jesus will be the UFO because to the world he is truly unidentifiable. How's this happen, you'll change and never bump your head on the ceiling. Jesus' new body didn't need doors. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it were tonight? It is hard to accept that there are Christians who really do not want Jesus to come. If you're saved, think about this. No cancer, diabetes, no worry over your children. It will all be over.

Here's an example: a little boy got saved, about 8 weeks later, the dad got saved. When he was being baptized the little boy wandered up on the platform (everyone laughed) when his dad came up out of the

water. The little boy turned and said, "Now if the Lord comes, daddy won't be left behind." Now the little boy had witnessed to his dad and been told to shut up. The boy would begin to cry, and dad asked why. The boy said this, "Well, if Jesus comes, you're going to be left behind." After about 2 weeks, he heard the boy crying during his prayers, "please save daddy, Lord, please save daddy so if the Lord comes we'll all go up together." The man thought he was going to go crazy, and came from work, went to church and got saved.

Now if the Lord would come tonight, would you be left behind. The Bible says, "Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."

Seven Feasts of the Lord

These feasts are in 2 groups. The first four are types of Christ and church. The last three deal with Israel in the future.

The 23rd chapter of Leviticus gives us an account of these 7 feasts; they were a shadow of things to come – Col. 2:16- 17 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Holy convocations are a calling together of God's people.

The Sabbath is not a feast, but is the benchmark of time. Most of the seven feasts start on a Sabbath or the day after a Sabbath. We must bear in mind that the weekly Sabbath started at 6:00 p.m. Friday and ended at 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Six of these feasts are times of great joy and adoration. Only one the Day of Atonement was a time of mourning because of sin.

These holy days served two purposes the first one practical, the second one prophetic. On the practical side they served both social and commercial purposes. They brought the 12 tribes together in worship and fellowship – all males were required to come together 3 times a year. Most of the feasts were geared into the agricultural life of the land. The primary purpose of these feasts was to give the prophetic picture of all future time. So lets look at each and see how they

applied to Israel then and to the Church today.

First Feast

The Passover – Death of Christ

The description is given back in Ex. 12, in vs. 2 through 12. This feast represents the sacrificial death of Christ and the value of his blood – I Cor. 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

The Passover originated in the last plague, placed upon Egypt by God in the freeing of His people. In Numbers chapter 9 we see that they are keeping it at Mt. Sinai. –Ex. 12:3-14.

Moses instructions to the people was for them to take a lamb of the first year and put it up on 10th day of the month Nisan and it was to be kept for 4 days to prove it had no blemish. We find in the Gospels that Christ was kept for 4 days in Jerusalem read the following passages –Mt. 21:23 – 27, Mt. 22:15-22, 33-46.

Next each family was to roast the lamb with fire – cooked quickly to prevent any deterioration or corruption. They were to eat unleavened bread – there was not time for bread to rise then, leaven became a picture of sin. Each family was to eat it with bitter herbs – to remind them of their bitter hard years in bondage.

The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus the lamb. The shedding of His blood applied to our lives, has the same affect as on the doorposts. Passover was Israel's beginning of months and so it is for us. The first time Israel observed Passover was amid God's terror. When we receive Jesus we are before that moment facing God's terror. Israel observed it as a happy memorial, so we observe the Lord's Supper as a happy memorial until he comes.

Second Feast

Feast of Unleavened Bread

Lev. 23:6-8 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. This feast started the day after Passover on the 1st day of the week, if history begins in Ex. 12:14-28, 13:7. Unleavened bread was to be eaten for 7 days after Passover. Leaven here, as elsewhere, is the symbol of evil. Unleavened bread speaks of fellowship with Christ. – I Cor. 5:7, 8 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness;

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. No servile (servants work) was to be done. For one week every one was to rest from their work. They were to make burnt offerings, meal offerings, and sin offerings on the 1st& 7th days of the feast they were holy days of gathering. The Passover is Christ's death for our sins; afterwards we are to maintain fellowship by covering our sin – Jn. 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me... - I Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. The feast of Matzoth (unleavened bread) shows us the continual cleansing power of Christ's blood.

Third Feast

Feast of First Fruits – Lev. 23:9-14 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. And the meat offering thereof shall be

two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

This feast began on the 16th day of the 1st month. It included 6 days of the feast of unleavened bread. This month included last part of March, 1st part of April. During this time some grain would ripen and be ready for harvest. These early stalks would be cut and bound together, brought to the priest and he would wave it before the Lord. There would also be a burnt offering, meal offering, drink offering.

This offering is a picture of Christ's resurrection as he is the first fruits of many to follow – Jn. 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit, and I Cor. 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming . When the priest waved his sheaf on that day it was before a rent veil.

We see in verses 9 and 10 this feast could not be observed until Israel was in the land.

In verse 11 we have the first day of feast of unleavened bread. Mt. 28:1 – in the end of the Sabbath, as it began toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. There is no mistake of this feasts' meaning. Paul in I Cor. 15:20 but now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

When you read verses 12 & 13 take special notice that there is no sin offering included. These are sweet and speak of fellowship – II Cor. 5:21 – for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Now in verse 14 we see the new crop of grain could not be enjoyed until this offering was waved. For the Christian the death and resurrection of Christ brings a new relationship and blessing. Paul said – therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.

Fourth Feast Pentecost Lev. 23: 15-22

15-16 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat

offering unto the LORD – Pentecost means 50 days, so you have 7 weeks of 7 days, which equals 49, then the 50th day after first fruits was Pentecost. Pentecost is always on the 1st day of the week, also called feast of weeks. In Deut. 16:16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles, all males were to be in attendance. Its meaning is clear as seen in Acts 2:1 – and when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place. The fulfillment of this feast in Lev is found in the fact that fifty days after Christ resurrection, came the Baptism (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit.

Now in verse 17 we notice something striking about this bread. Leaven is added. These loaves speak of the church – leaven is sin. Showing there is evil still in the redeemed body of believers in the visible church.

Also in verses 18 & 20 – all the offerings are preformed at this feast. All that Christ is and all that He has done have been made even to the church. Believers can draw upon him for everything.

In verse 21 we see that they were to rest on this day. This was a Holy gathering where no work was to be done. Paul said –not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing and renewing of the Holy Ghost we rest in Christ.

According to verse 22 – this day and feast was adopted to the land. In the midst of the celebration they were to remember the poor. This looks forward to the great harvest at the end of the age after the first fruits are all gathered (rapture). James – of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Mt. 13:38- 39 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. We go now from the first and 3rd months – Passover thru Pentecost to the 7th month, from the beginning of the religious year to the beginning of the civil year.

Fifth Feast: Feast of Trumpets

Lev. 23: 23-25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

The 1st day is a Sabbath (rest day). This feast is for the re-gathering of Israel – Mt. 24:30-31 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the

clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. We see from Matthew that when Jesus comes to earth to establish His kingdom He will call all of Israel back to their own land, read also the following passages Jer. 16:14, 15, Isa. 11:11, and Amos 9:14, 15. This feast is followed by the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the seventh month. This feast is started by the blowing of trumpets. Note the last of the 7 trumpets in Revelation as some would have it.

We can compare verse 23 with Isaiah 27:13, Mt. 24:31, and Ps. 89:15 says blessed is the people that know the joyful sound they shall walk, Lord, in the light of thy countenance. No work to be done, so they could prepare themselves for the rest of the month.

Sixth Feast: Day of Atonement

Lev. 23: 26-32 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his

people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

This is the only feast where there was to be no joy expressed. It was the day for the cleansing from sin as outlined in chapter 16:1-34. It was fulfilled in Christ. He is our great high priest who instead of offering a sin offering for himself, offered himself as a sin offering for us as seen here in Heb. 9:11-14 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?. Ye shall afflict your souls it was a solemn day of mourning over one's sins. It refers to a time when a fountain will be opened to the House of David – Zech.

12:9-14, and 13:1

Seventh Feast: Feast of Tabernacles

Lev. 23: 34-43 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook;

and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

This feast was a harvest home celebration observed at the end of the harvest, and was to continue 7 days. Deut. 16:13 – Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacle 7 days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine.

They were to dwell in booths (huts) made of palm branches to remind them of Elin and willows of Babylon read also Ps. 137:1-9. It spoke of Israel's wanderings in the wilderness. It points forward to the time when God has fully removed their sin and they will dwell again safely in the Promised Land as we see here in Micah 4:4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it, read also Zech.14:16-21, and Heb. 11:13-16. The final full-rejoicing is the 7th day of 7th month – the Sabbath is to the week a day of rest. The 7th month is a month of rest, for the other 6 months the Sabbath picture the rest of the millennium.

Seven Baptisms

Most people would be stunned to hear that there are 7 baptisms not one. At the least they would think, it would be a study of how different churches practice baptism, which is partly true. – Eph. 4:1-5 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

Baptism is a controversial subject, mostly about denominational built traditions and not on Scripture. I want us to see the Bible's view of baptism and there are 7 baptisms recorded in scripture.

Most people think because of our name Baptists that we put a lot of emphasis on baptizing. But we don't or at least real Baptist's don't. Because water baptism doesn't do anything except get you wet. The purpose of public baptism is to identify one with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. You can trace Baptist theology and history back to the 1st Century, unlike some churches which say they're the oldest and go all the way back to Christ, they actually go back to the 1830's.

There are those that practice infant baptism and say its in the Bible, but its not. Jewish babies were circumcised not baptized. Search the Bible and you'll not find one infant baptized. This practice was brought into the Roman church from pagan practices. It is a

controversial subject. Let's see some of the modes of baptism that are not in the bible and one that is.

1. infant – no proof
2. sprinkling – no proof
3. Pouring – no proof
4. Immersion – yes, but some go once backwards, some 3 times forward, some forward and backward.

1st Baptism

I Cor. 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, also Ex. 14. They went down into the Red Sea and the water was over them, and they were baptized right there. They left the world (Egypt), they were baptized (identified with) before reaching the Promised Land. They weren't sprinkled or immersed, they were baptized by aspersion. Their Baptism was in a cloud (vapor, fog).

Remember one Lord, one faith, one baptism – is this it. No, Why? Because it is Old Testament, not because of that, they were under grace under the blood of the Lamb. But this isn't the one baptism. In I Cor. 8 Paul says many lords (gods) many faiths. But to believers there is one lord, one baptism, one faith, one spirit, only one real baptism!

Water baptism doesn't put you in the church, just in

water. Preacher asked "how many wants to join the Lord's army, they all stood but one who said he already had. Preacher asked where, he told him the place, preacher said well you haven't joined the Lord's army you joined the Lord's many."

2nd Baptism

Matt. 3:1-11. John the Baptist (despite some peoples opinion he did not found the Baptist church, he wasn't even a part of the church). In this passage we find that John is down on the banks telling Israel to repent and for those who do he is baptizing them going from one side of Jordon or the other. So what's this baptism for? John in Jn 1:23-31, here he explains his work. His baptism was to reveal the Messiah.

John said he was a friend to the bridegroom and he rejoiced and his joy was full. Jesus said of John, none born of woman was greater! Yet the least in the kingdom was greater. Why would he say that of John, well all here who are in the kingdom have been born twice once of woman and once of the Holy Ghost. John was an Old Testament Prophet revealing Jesus as Messiah to Israel.

It was a water baptism showing the death of sinner under wrath with Christ coming to take his place. When Christ comes to John, John says I need to be baptized of you (Jesus). Jesus said "Suffer it to be so far now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Why did Jesus say this? Because the

Bible says Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. Where's the transgressors, they are down by the river. So Jesus goes down into the water to be baptized in my place and yours.

3rd Baptism

Suffering – Mt. 20:22-24 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. Jesus is responding to James & John's mom who is trying to secure better positions for her sons. Here's the question, can they do what he's going to do? They said they were. There's no reference, inference, or any connection of water. Jesus is way past baptism, he is on his way to that cross.

What's he referring to? The cross of Calvary, on that cross he shows the depths of that baptism. "My God" – this suffering is pictured not only as fire but as deep waters. "Waters are come unto my soul and all thy billows and waves lie hard over me."

When James and John said they were able, they didn't

know what that really would mean for the 11 as they were martyred for Christ. Many are the persons who have been through a baptism of suffering. Yet this secures nothing of its own, for God alone rewards of his sovereign will.

4th Baptism

Rom. 6:1-3 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? This Baptism is into Jesus death. Now those that demand baptism use that verse to prove their point. No pool of water can put you in Christ, how can water put you in Christ. The Bible says, "God is a spirit and they that worship God must worship him in spirit and truth." So how can water put you in the spirit? If you baptize someone in hard water, would that make them a hard shell Baptist? This baptism is about being placed in Christ through His death not through water.

One particular group of believers when pressed, admit that they believe that when you go down in that water, your body and soul contact the blood of Jesus Christ, and the blood of Jesus is applied to you in the pool. That's not possible or scriptural. No water on earth can put you in touch with the blood. There is a baptism but not here, for God is a Spirit.

Look at Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. When you start your theology in the book of Acts you'll end up wrong. A person needs to learn that Acts is a transitional book, it one that like a swinging door goes back into the Old Testament and then brings the reader into the New Testament. Now here in 38 is a verse taken out of context and this is sad. To see why this verse is here look at vs. 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do. Notice no one is asking to be saved, they are asking what must we do? The nation of Israel wants to know what to do for having nailed Jesus to the cross. That's the question and Vs. 38 is the answer. Israel your children are far off (dispersion Jews). This is not John's baptism but Simon's for Israel after the crucifixion. Look at vs. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven, that is to Israel, now verses 17-36. This is for a nation that killed its Messiah.

You get saved by grace, you get the Holy Ghost immediately then you can get dunked. So if this is for a nation, where can we go? Look at Acts 16:30-31 the Philippian jailer, his question is different. What must I do to be saved? He is a gentile wanting salvation. Paul doesn't say repent, confess, believe, and be baptized, keep the golden rule, find the church Christ founded, do unto others and hope for the best.

Look at the questions in Acts:

Acts 2 – What must we do – unsaved Jew

Acts 16 – What must I do to be saved –
unsaved Gentile (Jailer)?

Acts 9 – Lord, what would you have me to do – saved
Christian? The answer was to get up and go to
somebody and they will tell you what to do.

Fifth Baptism

This fifth one is Gentile baptism, again Simon Peter is preaching this time in Acts Ch.10. This time God has sent him to Cornelius the Roman centurion who had become a Jewish proselyte but knew there was something more and was praying for it. Peter is called by God to go down and preach the gospel to them which he does now look here around vs. 40. Look what happens in 43-44 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. Peter is getting to the heart of the matter and is ready to deliver the invitation. He starts it in 43 then right in the middle God interrupts with the event in Vs. 44 they all were baptized with the Holy Ghost before Peter ever got to mention any idea of water being involved in their salvation, look here at vs. 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we.

He tells them to be baptized in the name (singular) not Lord Jesus Christ. Just in the Lord's name. Gentile baptism is not Jewish baptism. Gentile baptism is found in Mt. 28:19 baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

So Peter is following Mt. 28:19. The only one according to II Cor. 3 who can wear the title Lord is the Spirit. You can also use Lord with Jesus "God hath given him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord." You can put Lord on the Father as David did in the Psalms "The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand." Baptism in the name of the Lord is baptism in the name (one) of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sixth Baptism – I Cor. 12:13

Since you can't see a spirit, the Bible often says, ghost. Why? Because a ghost has a bodily shape and is not that sheet looking thing floating around as we were taught in the cartoons. "One Spirit are yea all baptized into one body". This is the baptism of Eph. 7:5. This is the body of Christ. Each one of us is in the body in particular. Listen to Paul no one has a more prominent or less prominent place in Christ. He is the head we are the body. Some are in the hand, arm, and leg just read Eph. 5:23-30.

In plain words, when you were saved, not only did the

Holy Sprit come into you (Christ in you the hope of glory) but he put you in Christ. The Holy Spirit made you a part of a spiritual body. "God is a spirit" and you are in that body. Now some say there is no invisible body of Christ. If that is so what happened to Luther, Spurgeon, Morgan, and Ironside where are they; if they are not in the body. Your own family that is saved and gone from this mortal realm is in this body.

Right here is where the devil kicks in the lies as to why you didn't get it. The "it" being the Holy Ghost that is. Look at I Cor. 12 and the last 5 verses Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? No are all prophets? No, are all teachers? No are all workers of miracles? No, Have all the gifts of healing? No do all speak with tongues? No do all interpret? No, all of these questions are written to demand a negative answer – NO.

Every Christian is in Christ. Every Christian has the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Look at Col. 2:8-9 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. We are complete in HIM who is the head of all things. Look down at vs. 12-13 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him

through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. God performed an operation on you when you were saved a spiritual surgery if you will. Now when I baptize someone under the water that's not the operation of God but of me. Someone asked Jack Hyles "What is your position on baptism." He said nothing just simulating baptism someone. This baptism was an operation of God. This spiritual baptism puts you in Christ. When baptism is spoken of in the Bible it's a burial. Rom. 6 is not in water nor is this here, but it is a burial its submersion.

No other form of baptism does this accept immersion when you bury someone you don't stand him by a tree and throw dirt at him. You pack him down and cover them up. Burial is putting him under – resurrection is bringing him back up.

7th Baptism –

Mt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Notice the phrase “And with fire”, now some would say that this is some special baptism for believers and we're to pray for it. I don't know where that got started

but it is a real sad affair and not even remotely true.

Look on to verse 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Burn up the chaff (unbelievers, pretenders) with his fan (this is the tool that they used to throw the wheat in the air for the chaff to blow away, then it would be collected and burnt with unquenchable fire). You don't want that. You do need the filling for power stated several times in Acts, we need that. This baptism of fire is for the lost. When an evangelist preaches "Lord set us on fire" its different, he is talking about a Holy zeal.

This fire is burning, tormenting and continuous, when the Bible said this word was like a fire in my bones – the Holy zeal revival power.

This fire in Mt. 3:11-13 is the fire of hell. Look back at 8-10 the axe that is laid to the root of unbelief to cut it down and burn it. An old preacher was asked why he didn't put more hell in his sermons. His answer – well when I put more hell in my sermon the folks make such a noise fanning themselves they cant hear me over the microphone. There really should be more of it, if there was there would be a whole lot of fanning especially in some churches.

He (Jesus) is going to perform a baptism of fire an immersion in fire. David in the Psalms – cast them into deep pits and let coals of fire fall on them, and

burning coals that they might not rise again. Some say how could a loving God do such a thing! God isn't doing anything, it the individual that will go on his own to "that place created for the devil."

God made a mansion of gold for His own, and hell for the devil and His children which one will you choose to spend eternity in, is your choice. The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is eternal life.

One added passage in I Pet. 3:20-22 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. This passage was brought to my attention and a question asked, so let's look at it. Peter is discussing Christ's suffering and what he has done even for those who were disobedient in Noah's days. Men were so evil that 120 years of preaching the coming judgment of God, Noah saw only 8 people survive.

Notice the last phrase of vs. 20. It says "saved THROUGH (not by) water." The 8 were saved or rescued in spite of the water. Here water is the agent of judgment not a means of salvation.

In vs. 21 Peter continues his explanation of Christ suffering by telling us that this baptism of suffering and that new life it brought is the anti-type or fulfillment of the picture Noah provided of an ark of safety. That is our safety is Jesus Christ when we are joined by faith in Him. We are saying with God that it was sufficient.

Notice Peter inserts that its not water which can only remove the filth (dirt) of the flesh. But something much stronger that is the answer (pledge) in agreeing to conditions of a covenant. In this case agreeing with God that Christ is the answer to sin and guilty conscience by faith in his death and resurrection as seen in these two passages Rom. 10:9, Heb. 9:14, 10:22.

The Seven Deadly Sins

We come now to the 7th and last series of sevens. This seventh series is one that will require a different approach; as we will cover the seven deadly sins. I'm sure some will not agree to these 7, but according to church history, these 7 are the worst.

In the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great classified all sins under seven distinctions. It was his view that all sins committed could be placed under one of the seven. From that time until today these sins have been known as the Deadly Sins.

Jesus classified sin as falling into 3 categories: lust of flesh, lust of eye, and pride of life. In these 3 you will find these 7 and all the rest of what we call sin.

Each of these 7 will be studied using 7 questions.

1st Deadly Sin

The first sin is Pride. Our base verse is Proverbs 8:13. To live in the transforming power of the Lord we are to hate evil. Solomon then names pride as the evil to hate and its sidekick, arrogance. We are to hate these as God does.

"What is Pride?" We find the answer in 3 places. First pride is a sin. Proverbs 21:4 says: "An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." A high look, is when you deliberately ignore people

you run into or at church you purposely snub people, that's a high look and it's a form of pride, and God calls it sin as much sin as drunkenness or any other, except today we frown on alcohol and think nothing about being prideful.

Pride is a sin that binds. The psalmist says in Psalm 73:6: "Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain." The more we focus on ourselves, how good we are, what we can accomplish, the more we hinder ourselves from God, the more our happiness is destroyed. We then flaunt ourselves as a man does a gold chain around his neck.

Pride is called by God an abomination. Listen to Proverbs 16:5: "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord" (also Psalm 119:21). Pride is repulsive to God. It has the stench of death about it and though a prideful person may join with others, they will be crushed by God.

From where does pride come? It comes from false wisdom. Listen to Paul in Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, & 28-30. In 22, Paul says that the prideful person is devoid of the moral understanding of who God is. In 28-30, Paul describes the person who is undiscerning of God's ways. This list sounds like today's headlines. It comes from conceit. Proverbs 26:12: "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him." A fool may be opinionated, but he is open to learning. One filled with pride in his own

abilities and wisdom, he has very little hope at all. This is why the publicans and the harlots of Jesus' day heard and were saved and the Pharisees were not Luke 7:30.

It is a sin born from within (Mark 7:21-22). These show us that all sin emanates from a heart that is contrary to God and His righteousness. Even saved people can have hearts rebellious towards God.

When does pride begin? It often begins with material blessings. When the Lord provides for us in material ways and then we look at it as something we've done. Hezekiah, in II Kings 20:13 is a good example, he told visiting dignitaries all that he had accomplished. God judged him with the very Babylonians he showed all of it to.

It comes from too much self-esteem, when we think too much of ourselves and what we can do. Haman in Esther 5:11 thought a great deal of his power and influence with the King and died on the gallows, by the king's hand.

It comes from exalted position. The farther a man goes in corporate life or politics or ministry, he often will take God's blessing to be self created. Naaman (II Kings 5:11-13) thought because of his position he should have been attended to by Elisha, yet he was not.

How does pride affect the individual? First, it brings about a deceptive pattern of thought. Listen to Paul in Galatians 6:3: "For if a man think himself to

be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." A prideful person always thinks of himself as more than he really is. Self-esteem is vanity and vanity is nothing. Self conceit results in self deception.

Pride brings shame. Proverbs 11:2: "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly (of mind) is wisdom." A prideful person's life will end in shame. Good examples include Jim Bakker, Jim Jones, and many professional athletes, singers, and actors.

Pride brings a man low. Proverbs 29:23: "A man's pride shall bring him low." Pride seals a man off from learning and is a precursor of impending destruction.

Why is pride dangerous? It brings material loss (Daniel 4:30, 34; 5:20). Nebuchadnezzar had it all. God made him the Head of Gold in the statue he saw in the vision until he declared it was all by his own hands, and then God put him in a field to eat grass.

It brings punishment. King Uzziah (II Chronicles 26:16-19) had pride in all his strength, even to burning incense on the altar. This was something reserved for the priests. For this, he received leprosy.

It leads to condemnation of the devil. Listen to Paul's admonition to Timothy: "not a novice (neophyte) (one not thoroughly grounded in the Word), lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." The devil likes nothing

more than to see preachers get prideful. When that happens he just wrecks their ministry, thus they become easy picking to be puffed up in their own conceit and self esteem.

How can pride be cured? First by sober thinking Paul in Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Paul speaking by the grace of God says that each believer is to consider carefully his or her life, and to constantly remind themselves that we are crucified with Christ and that He lives through us.

Second by humility as James tells us in James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. We see that James tells us that God gives grace to the humble more than enough to see a person through life.

Third by the fear of the Lord listen to David in Ps. 111:10 the fear of the Lord is that beginning of wisdom also in Eccl 1:16. This fear is not holy reverence but a comprehensive Godliness and worship of God.

What happens when pride is cured? The first thing is the fruit of the Spirit will come —Gal. 5:22, 23. As pride vanishes from one's life, God replaces it with joy.

The love of the brethren as Paul tell us in Eph. 4: 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; when we walk with a lowly mind (humility) absent of pride we will begin to forbear others. That is accept them as they are faults and all. Our love for them bears all things about others.

The instruction of others will come — Paul in II Tim. 2:25 says "in meekness instructing those that approve themselves." A meek disposition allows one to share the truth of God's word in its fullness, rightly dividing the word before them that it might work repentance.

2nd Deadly Sin

"Anger" — Prov. 14:17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated the word anger has within it wrath. Anger is a stirring up of the emotions or instant displeasure, indignation.

What is anger — Anger is a work of the flesh — Gal. 5:19- 20 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies. These verses describe natural reactions and actions of the flesh or natural aspect of a person, they are not learned traits, and we are born with them.

Anger is a messenger of death — Prov. 16:14 says that the wrath of a king is as messengers of death. When a king is angry his judgment usually is death for those who have crossed him. Anger in us will bring death to our souls, our testimonies, and our ability to witness.

Anger is a sin and its one hated by God — the prophet Amos tells us in Amos 1:11 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever: Edom was trying to destroy Judah in their own selfish anger. God hated this act and promised judgment on Teman and Bazrah.

Where does anger come from; anger comes from grievous words. Solomon says in Prov. 15:1 that a soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. Words that are spoken out of pain or from a distressed mind cause anger. When someone says something to you and you allow those words to weigh on you they will produce anger. Jealousy produces anger as seen here in Prov. 6:34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: we that jealousy is the rage of a man, jealousy can drive a person to all sorts of actions, including lashing out in anger. Jealousy comes through the old nature (flesh) Gal. 5:19, 20.

When does anger begin during a time of greed we see this in I Kings 21:4 as a good example. Ahab wanted

Naboth's vineyard. In his greed, anger came and anger caused the death of Naboth. During a time of reproving we this in Asa toward the prophet II Chr. 16:10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. We then Asa was wrath with the seer, and put him in the prison house; for he was in a rage. Hanani rebuked Asa for his idolatry, and Asa lashed out in anger.

During a time of arguing as in Job 32:3 Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled because they had found no answer. Elihu becomes angry at his friends and lashes out verbally because they had found no answer for Job's suffering.

How does anger affect the individual – anger affects in such a way as to cause people to go so far as to commit murder. As an example anger caused Cain to kill Abel in Gen. 4:5-8. Cain was angry at God for not accepting his offering. So he lashed out at Abel whose offering was accepted. Anger caused the Jews to slay Stephen in Acts 7:54-59. Stephen clearly told the Sanhedrin that they had killed Jesus the Son of God. Their anger at the truth so consumed them that they stoned Stephen for telling the truth.

It caused Haman to conspire against Mordecai the Jew in Ester 3:5. And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. Here is a man consumed with anger because a man who he felt to be inferior, would not bow

down to him. Haman used his anger to conspire not only to destroy Mordecai but all Jews.

Why is anger dangerous, because of its end result. It brings destruction read here Paul's words in Col. 3:6 tells about the wrath of God and its results. For which things the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. The things that Paul is talking about are fornication, uncleanness, covetousness. Because of these, God's wrath is brought on those who do them.

It brings God's wrath, again Paul in Rom. 1:18 tells us for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness. God's wrath is a holy aversion to evil all that is evil. God cannot be free from wrath unless he was free from all concern of this universe.

Anger brings hard feelings as we see here in I Sam. 20:30-34. How can anger be cured – Anger being such a powerful emotion, there must be some way to deal with it. How? By putting it off – Paul tells us in Col. 3:8 that we are to put off anger that is to put it aside, to rid ourselves completely from it. We are to put anger off like a piece of dirty clothes or to rid ourselves like we do garbage. So we must put it off and along with that we must refuse to do evil. David in Ps. 37:8 tells us to cease from anger, forsake wrath; fret not thyself in

any wise to do evil.

When we feel anger coming on we are to refuse to allow it to take control of our emotions. We are to refuse it a place in our mind, replace it with scripture. How can we? By prayer – Paul in I Tim. 2:8 says I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath. Prayer, the ability to pray comes as we know Christ in a deeper life experience.

What happens when anger is cured – it becomes an amazing transformation? A life of self-control will come. James said we are to be swift to hear and slow to speak, slow to wrath. Notice that self-control gives one time to assess the situation and find a solution through prayer instead of anger.

"A life of understanding will come" – Solomon the wisest to live, tells us in Prov. 14:29 – "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding." A spirit under control will become a spirit able to understand situations and react in property response. So understanding is a direct result of failing control of anger.

"A life of fruit bearing will come" – Paul in Col. 1:10-11 says fruit of love, joy, peace, etc. will come from our lives and on top of that we gain strength, power of God in our lives, bringing a greater ability to control anger.

3rd Deadly Sin Envy – Prov. 27:4

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy." A definition of envy: would include jealousy, covetousness and all similar behaviors.

What is envy? "Envy is a sin that produces confusion." James tells us that envy will cause people to speak evil of your good work. Listen to James 3:16 "Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers they may be ashamed that falsely because your good conversation in Christ." Jealous people will do all sorts of things to undermine someone doing right. Usually when they are not willing to do right, their envy causes them to react in a destructive manner.

"Envy is a sin that kills." Job can give us a good insight into this. Job 5:2 "For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one." He describes an envious person as a fool or silly person and their lifestyles would lead to death.

"Envy is a sin of the rottenness of the bones." Solomon tells us in Prov. 14:30 "A sound heart is the life of the flesh buy envy the rottenness of the bones." A heart controlled by violent emotions (envy) is the course of trouble for the entire body.

From where does envy come? First envy comes from a person living in and for the flesh or carnally. Listen to Paul in I Cor. 3:3 "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas

there is among you envying." Envy is an outgrowth of an immature spirit. You can tell this by their resemblance to unsaved people.

Second, "envy comes about when there is unbelief". Acts 17:5 "But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy." The Jews who refused to believe in Jesus became envious of Paul and the ministry success as seen in souls saved.

Thirdly, envy is born of a spirit of hatred. Matt. 20:24 "And when the ten heard it they were moved with indignation against the two brethren." The 10 get mad because James and John had asked for what they secretly desired. Their envy becomes so great it manifests itself in a display of hatred. So envy is promoted from the inside of us by a carnal life, that is living in the flesh. Because of unbelief in Jesus and by hatred because of someone else's opportunity.

When does envy begin? Envy begins when there is a lusting for something not yours. Tit. 3:3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes...divers lust and pleasure living in malice and envy." Anyone is susceptible because of the large variety of lust. As diverse as people are, many find themselves caught in envy and find malice (concealed anger) at their not being able to reach whatever they are after.

Envy comes upon us much quicker. The less we know about the Bible, the easier for envy to take over our lives. Read here Acts 17:5 "But the Jews which

believed not moved with envy." These Jewish religionists refused to believe what was happening to people because of the gospel. Envy set in and they found some fellows to cause a riot. Unbelief in our own lives in one area or another will lead to envy as we see the Lord working in someone else's life.

Unbelief comes when God is forgotten in our lives. Listen to Paul in Rom. 1:28-32. Once a person leaves God out of their lives, they open themselves to all sorts of sin, envy being just one that will cause destruction to a person.

How does envy affect the individual? Envy affects each differently, let's see just 3 to get an idea of how deadly envy is.

First – envy caused Joseph's bothers to hate him enough to want him dead, even at their own hands. Gen. 37:4, 8, 18-28. Family situations can lead to murderous envy.

Second – envy had such a strong hold on King Saul that he tried on several occasions to kill David who was doing nothing more than obeying God's direction for his life. As David was blessed, Saul's envy grew until murder was consuming his heart. Here we have a situation relative to our work place today. Someone follows the Lord and is blessed, and then a superior becomes envious because he or she is not equally blessed even though they did nothing to warrant being blessed. I Sam. 18:7-11, 19:8-24.

Thirdly – it caused the Jews to be envious of Paul's teaching power – Acts 3:45 "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy." The religious Jews were so moved by what was happening when Paul came to a town that they were moved to outburst causing riots, they went so far as to even blaspheme. Here we see people around us in churches who are religious, just going through the motions. Along comes a man of God, the spirit begins to move and stir people up. The religious people then begin their attacks on the man because there is no such work going on in their lives.

Why is envy dangerous? It causes ill feelings. Luke 15:25-32 tells of the prodigal son and his brother's reaction to their father's celebration party. Not only has this but it brought confusion and evil work. James in 3:9-14 – gives pictures of confession: the mouth, a tree, water, he concludes in 14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your heart, glory not." Good and evil cannot come from the same place.

Also it brings hatred in the family – Gen. 37:4, 8, and 11. Joseph told the truth of a dream, his brothers rejected it and envied him for it. Our family members can become envious as we are promoted or shown some favor. Envy is dangerous.

How can envy be cured? By becoming a person who truly loves others, no matter what may be happening to them. Paul tells us in I Cor. 13:4, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind, charity envieth not." We need real

love that accepts each person for who and what they are.

Another step in the cure is putting Jesus first in every aspect of our lives. Rom. 13:13-14. Each day we should put Christ on anew just as we would put on our clothes to protect us and shield us. Christ will shield and protect us from the sin listed in verse 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

The last step in curing envy is to live in the spirit. Gal. 5:25-26. The more we live in and by the Holy Spirit the more mature spiritually we become, the more fruit the less we desirous we will be towards envy.

What happens when envy is cured? The grudges we held in the past will be forgotten. James 5:9 "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned." Also Lev. 19:18, once you or I have totally surrendered our lives we will have no room for grudges or envy. In place of envy there will come meekness toward all men. Titus 3:2-4. A person cured of envy will in turn produce in its place a gentle nature, in our outward conduct toward others. Along with gentleness comes meekness, an inward attitude or power under control. Our emotions are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

There will be a manifesting of love – I Cor. 3:4-7. The proper attributes of a life possessed by the love of

Christ are what is seen in a person's life.

4th Deadly Sin

"Impurity" – we have covered pride, anger, envy and now we come to impurity. Our base text is from Rev. 22:15 – "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers and idolaters, whosoever loveth maketh a liar." In the English language the word for impurity is similar in meaning with unclean, filthy, sloppy, loathsome, nasty, repulsive, morally unfit and corrupt.

1st – what are some kinds of impurity – Look at Ex. 20:7-16. In this chapter we have three basic forms of impurity that cover most others under them. We find impurity of sex in vs. 14 marital infidelities is more than an outward act. It is born in the mind, cultivated and then acted out. Lev. 20:10-22 expands this – covers all forms of impurity.

Impurity of worship – look in vs. 8-10 – to fail to participate in worship towards God leads one into an impure life. We find impurity in outward conduct – vs. 7-16. These verses outline and describe acts of impure conduct. Vs. 7 is an outward act toward God, the other 3 relate to acts toward our fellow man.

2nd — where does impurity come from – impurity comes from within a person – Mk. 7:21 – "For from

within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murder." It is these thoughts that bring about the same outward actions.

Not only from within but also from lust – Mt. 5:28 – "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already." On this verse you can put in place of women any other thing and in place of adultery write in the actions of the thing.

Also from enticement – II Tim. 3:6 – "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts." It is a sad fact that the devil strikes at women first. He started with Eve and has consistently gone after women and then men. He entices with the beautiful side of evil until the person is caught and an impure life follows.

3rd — when does impurity begin – we find in Eph. 4:17-19 that impurity begins when there is a lack of understanding of God's word. Men and women are born in moral, ethical, spiritual ignorance. Resulting in blindness to what's right and wrong. Therefore they give themselves to any and all forms of impurity.

Impurity also begins when there is idleness. David is a prime example of impure actions because of idleness. In II Sam. 11:1-4 we have the sordid account of David's escapades with Bathsheba, when he should have been at the battle front.

Impurity begins when there is carnality. Paul in Rom. 8:7 says "Because the carnal mind is against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Minds that are consumed by human passions and ideas will be involved in impure lifestyles.

4th – how does impurity affect the individual – impurity affects an individual in at least 3 ways. First it causes the individual to reap corruption. Gal. 6:7-8 – "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption." Corruption here is moral, physical, spiritual ruin and rottenness. For example: STD's, murder, rape, on the spiritual side a destroyed testimony, a black eye on Christ.

Second it causes death in the midst of life. Paul in I Tim. 5:6 will describe this person "But she liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." When one practices an impure life, that person is useless to God and others while they live on physically.

Thirdly, it causes the soul unrest. Isa. 57:20-21. The prophet describes this soul in unrest. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." There is no peace, saith my God to the wicked. Those who wish to practice impurity cannot find that peace that they long for. They seek it in all forms of impure living.

5th – why is impurity dangerous – first it caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah according to Jude 7. This abominable lifestyle brought complete destruction and it is no less for any today who wishes

to practice impurity. Second it causes death read I Cor. 10:8 this is a recount of those who died because of their orgy around the golden calf. Paul in Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death." Being enslaved to an impure lifestyle leads to death – spiritual death. Third it leads to Hell. Prov. 9:13-18 – sin is like a stairway that leads ever downward until one steps into hell.

6th – how can impurity be cured – there are three steps in the cure. First by coming to the Lord Matt. 11:28-29. Jesus tells those living impure lives to "come unto me all ye that labor and are heave laden and I will give you rest." Salvation is the cure for those in impure lives. It erases from God's memory a person's past. God said he would remember our sin no more.

Second by the mortification of unclean members Paul in Col. 3:5 says "mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." An individual covered by the blood should daily nail those areas of weakness to the cross thereby not allowing them to be involved in impure actions.

Thirdly by confessing Christ. Paul in Rom. 10:9-10 tells us that we should confess Christ. When we spend our time reading about Christ and then telling others about him or praising him then there is not likely going to be an opportunity for impure thoughts or actions.

7th – what happens when impurity is cured – three things at least happen. First a pure conscience is experienced. Paul in II Tim. 1:3 tells us a saved person

can have a pure moral conscience leading to open channels of prayer.

Second a fruitful life of holiness is experienced. Paul in I Thess. 4:7 says "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." The closer we come to God the more sanctified we become in our spiritual lives.

Third a zeal for good works is experience. Paul in Titus 2:14 "and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." A person set free from an impure lifestyle will begin a life devoted to all out service towards the Lord. We need more pure zealots to go all out for Christ.

5th Deadly Sin

Gluttony – Deut. 21:20 This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

This is the 5th deadly sin and one that most of us joke about. However, it can be a serious problem both physically and spiritually. In the English language the word is similar in meaning with over-indulgence, in excess, selfishness and greed. So gluttony, though we associate it with eating, can be applied to other areas as well.

1st – what is gluttony lets hear Amos in Ch. 6:1-7 as he

tells us gluttony is the sin of over-indulgence. Isreal was living it up with all the finest except God. It is a sin that paints false pictures. Luke 12:16-20. The rich man thought he had it made as he was over blessed with goods, thought all he needed to do was have one giant party with his life. God called him a fool. We all too often, as we prosper, paint a false picture of what has been given us. It is a sin that contaminates the body. I Cor. 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. We are told to flee over indulgence because our bodies belong to Christ and are a temple of God to be kept holy.

2nd what are the types of gluttony – there is gluttony in eating. Prov. 30:21-22, "For a servant when he reigneth and a fool when he is filled with meat." The fool here is one filled with self and is of great mischief.

There is gluttony in drinking – Prov. 20:1 – wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Alcohol is personified as a demon, allowing him to be deceived by demon alcohol. Its power to destroy is seen everywhere in society. Alcohol is rarely contained and always destroys.

There is gluttony in sinning – Lk. 15:14. The prodigal son is ample proof of sinning to excess. It says "he

wasted his substance with riotous living." He sinned to excess and ended in a hog pen.

3rd – from where does gluttony come – it comes from pride. For example Belshazzar: in Dan. 5:1, 2, 27. He made a great feast for his friends. When he was drunk he called for the holy vessels stolen from the temple and used them in his debauchery. Vs. 27 says "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." It comes from greed. In Acts 5:1, 2 we have Annanias and Saphira they sold their land because others did and instead of openly giving the half openly, they said it was all of it. Their greed caused them to lie to the Holy Spirit. For that, they both died in the church.

It comes from covetousness – Ahab in I Kings 21:2-16. Ahab wanted the vineyard of Naboth and Jezebel took care of it for him.

4th – how does gluttony affect the individual – it caused the Jews to lust after Egypt. Num. 11:4-6 – the riff-raff began complaining how good it was in Egypt and all they had to eat, and God gave them manna to eat. They forgot the slavery. The world always appears better than we have it until you're there and bondage begins.

It caused Eli's son to sin before God in II Sam. 2:12-17. These 2 boys were evil. They were greedy and took more of the offering than was allowed. "But thou shalt give it me now and if not, I will take it by force." They had absolutely no regard for God or his

love.

It caused the death of Belshazzar in Dan. 5:30. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. His indulgence in using the vessels of God cost him his life. God is not mocked.

5th – why is gluttony dangerous – first the glutton's belly becomes his God – Ph. 3:19. Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things. They admit there is no one higher than themselves, they live for self indulgence and their end is destruction. Their only glory is their shame. They boast of liberty yet they are slaves to sin.

The glutton forsakes the Lord's word – II Tim. 4:10. "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world and is departed." Demas had worked with Paul for a while and then the love of the world over took him. And he left to fill himself with the world. This still happens today. People serve the world's glimmer and they follow the trail of light, false as it is.

The glutton's end is poverty – Prov. 23:21. "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty." Proof enough is everywhere around us, where people over-indulge their passions. Lost jobs, accidents, death, lost homes, broken marriages are all the results of gluttony.

6th How can gluttony be cured; first of all by confessing

the transgression. Ps. 32:5. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess and thou forgavest the iniquity.

The first step – admit there is a problem in the area of gluttony that affects you. Then confess it as sin and call upon the Lord to forgive and remove it. By seeking first the kingdom of God Mt. 6:33. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. We must place the values of heaven and their by-products above gluttony. This will bring a quick reversal of gluttony.

By being filled with the spirit Eph.5:18."But be filled with the Sprit." It appears to me that allowing the Spirit to fully control us is the best cure for what ails us spiritually.

7th – What are the results of a person cured of gluttony First "a temperate life will be produced." Titus 1:7-8. Temperate is one who is held in check and this is done by the Holy Spirit for it is a fruit of the spirit.

Secondly a saintly life will be produced. II Pet. 1:5. "Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." We will become more Christ-like each day, become more acceptable to him and more useful.

Thirdly – a life of fellowship will be produced. I Cor. 1:9 says "by when ye were called unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord." The bonds of our

fellowship like a woven material will become stronger and stronger.

Gluttony (over-indulgence) is easy to get into. It comes in all forms and craftily takes hold of us, consuming us on the inside and out. However once we come to realize its hold and affect, then the Holy Spirit can break its hold and bring great benefit to our lives and to our service for Jesus.

6th Deadly Sin: Slothfulness

Matt. 20:6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle.

Slothfulness is a sin with quite obvious results. That is, no work being done. In the English language the word slothfulness is similar in meaning with lazy, idle, neglectful, sluggish, inactive and laggard.

1st what is slothfulness; it is refusing to work. Prov. 21:25 "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour." The slothful have tremendous desires. They would like to own the world one day, but they lack the disciplined industry necessary for the achievement of the smallest goal. Their days are spent in daydreaming.

It is a sin of being a busybody. I Tim. 5:13 "and withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

Today they wander via Bell Atlantic and the Internet, the damage done can be achieved at a greater rate of speed.

It is a sin of being disorderly. II Thess. 3:10-12 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. These people are so heavenly minded they are of no earthly use. They will not submit to the Lord's authority, they choose rather to just cause problems.

2nd - From where does slothfulness come - Slothfulness comes about first from ignorance. Isa. 56:10 "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot back; sleeping lying down, leaving to slumber." These leaders (prophets) were supposed to speak for God and watch for the nation, yet they are so morally corrupt they are called dumb dogs sleeping. There are many professional pastors who are no different. They don't speak for God and some do not even know him so they can't warn the church of anything.

It comes from an idle life. Ezek. 16:49 "Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her." Idle hands are the devil's workshop. It was Sodom's condition when she was judged. There are churches

that will face the same and even individuals.

It comes from drowsiness. Prov. 23:12 "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." A slothful person will sleep their life away, whiling away hours of time in wasteful pursuits until they have nothing.

3rd when does slothfulness begin – well first it begins when there is conceit. Prov. 26:16 "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason." This man sticks to his opinions and defends his view of things with industry, and the disgust of others, leaves him unaffected.

It comes when there is foolishness. Ecc. 4:5 "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh." The fool resigns all ambition to perform successful work. He sits in seething anger, overcome by a sense of life's futility, and literally feeds on his own flesh. He becomes a bundle of psychosomatic disturbance.

It comes when there is pride. Ezek. 16:49 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. Pride always comes before a fall; a slothful person convinces themselves they're right and doing fine.

4th – how does slothfulness affect the individual – it led the Jews to idolatry Exod. 32:19 that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot,

and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. They created for themselves an idol, a golden calf, when Moses didn't come back when they thought he should have. Slothfulness in Christian service will bring the same results, a building of some idol in our lives.

It leads to begging during the harvest – Prov. 20:4. "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." Any excuse not to work, he or she has no sight beyond today the slothful end up begging for food.

It causes one to be unprepared. In Matt. 25:1-13 we have the parable of the 10 virgins. 5 were wise and took care of making preparations, 5 were foolish and went to sleep. When the time to go came, they were left because they were unprepared. The slothful person will continually put off being saved until it often is too late.

5th – why is slothfulness dangerous. The danger is this it is the door to poverty. Prov. 20:13 "love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread." The slothful will sleep their life away. They like sleeping late, getting up for a while, going to bed early.

The danger is also that of going hungry. Prov. 19:15. "Slothfulness fasteth into a deep sleep, and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." The slothful person is idle, they will go around doing nothing all day and then beg for food to fill his belly. Spiritually speaking, a person

will not apply themselves to the Lord's word and work and they walk in spiritual hunger – with gnawing in the soul.

It brings destruction – Ecc. 10:8 "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge; a serpent shall bite him." Inattention to duty will cause the slothful to fall, they allow the hedge or wall to collapse around them, allowing the enemy to inflict vicious wounds, leading to destruction. Diligence to serving God will keep us out of the enemy's pitfalls and fiery darts.

6th – how can slothfulness be cured – first step in the cure is considering the way of work. Prov. 6:6-9 – the slothful person needs to pay attention to the little ant. He does his work without apparent leadership. He goes all day gathering food for the cold, fixing his home and colony. This is the way believers should be - out and about doing the Lord's work, gathering the harvest and building the kingdom one soul at a time.

Acknowledge the transgression. Ps. 51:2-3 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. – the person wanting to stop being slothful must first see his way and then call upon the only one who can change his way, the Lord. Then not only ask to have the outside washed but the inside also. Spurgeon stated, "The hypocrite is content if his garments be washed; but the true suppliant cries "wash me."

Occupy for Christ – Luke 19:13 "and he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, occupy till I come." The cure is to take the gift the Lord has given you and put it to work, (occupy) all the while looking up for His soon return. These three steps will move you from slothful to worker.

7th – what happens when slothfulness is cured – There will be the willingness to please Christ. II Tim. 2:2-3. Anyone cured of slothfulness will develop a rich hunger for the things of Christ. Not only that, but a desire to share those same things with others. It will not be easy; however there is great reward in striving towards the goal.

There will be a willingness to work for Christ. I Cor. 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Once anyone gets a good look at Christ, they will become as solid as a rock, never departing from the faith, but always desirous of doing the work of the Lord.

There will be the willingness to occupy for Christ. I Cor. 3:6-8. There is no desire for complacency in the person cured of slothfulness. Because in God's economy he is the only one of importance. He has given each of us a role and no one is better than anyone else.

7th Deadly Sin: Avarice

We have now come to the last of the 7 deadly sins the sin of Avarice. We have covered pride, anger, envy, impurity, gluttony, slothfulness and now avarice. The word carries the meaning of greed, stinginess, miserliness.

1st what is avarice. In the Bible we see that avarice is a sign of idolatry. Paul in Col. 3:5, "mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness – which is idolatry." Evil concupiscence is a greedy desire to have more; with a complete disregard for the right of others. Putting these desired objects before God and in place of God. Not only is it a sin of idolatry, but it is a direct sin against God. Exod. 20:17 gives examples of the areas greed causes us to sin against God Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. Homes, work, personal objects, etc can all be sources of avarice.

It is also a sin that causes trouble – Prov. 15:27 "he that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live." Man's greed for unjust gain is a perpetual source of woe. Greed leads men to always want more. The gifts (bribes) they often accept bring ruin upon themselves and shame upon all who bear their name.

2nd What is the extent of avarice – how far does avarice reach in people's lives. It reaches from the prophet to the priest. Jer. 8:10. From the prophet even unto the priest everyone dealeth falsely. These religious leaders were so given to greed that they were lying and cheating to gain more from the people. They were doing this through extraordinary fees for temple sacrifices.

It reaches to these high in government. I Sam. 15:8-9. Saul was to destroy all the people including the king Agag. But in his greed he kept the best sheep, oxen, fattings, lambs and Agag alive and for this greed Saul lost his throne and his life.

It reaches from the poorest to the richest. Jer. 6:13 From the least of them to the greatest of them everyone is given to covetousness. The whole nation was given over to greed, each trying to take advantage of the other.

3rd From where does avarice come it would be too simple to say that we are born with it. We are, but greed is bred and fed by outside influences and inside. It comes from self-love. II Tim. 3:2. Paul says here that "from men shall be lovers of their own selves." In the book of Judges it says everyone did that which was right in his own eyes. This is self-love, this kind of love allows you to take all you can by whatever means to satisfy your needs and it is ok because no one is more important than you.

It comes from selfish desires. Jesus in Matt. 25:8-9 "and the foolish said unto the wise, give us your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered saying, not so." These virgins had used up their oil and then wanted what the wise young women had, so they wouldn't be left behind. They were too greedy using up in a wasteful way their oil. Far too many people today will waste their resources and then greedily endeavor to get more from someone near them.

It comes from the heart. Jesus in the gospel of Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders so out of our heart proceeds the sin of greed. What is sown into a person's heart will be manifested in their life. These people are easy to spot especially in church settings. They are not content with what God offers them, they want what someone else has or they do not want someone else to have what they think is rightly theirs.

4th How does avarice affect the individual, it will cause you to try and buy what's not yours. In Acts 24:26 Felix the governor tries to get Paul to pay him money to let him go. Felix would break the law to gain some more money. So many today are willing to break any law to have what they are lusting after. Some lust greedily after positions in the church, some covet others flock, or another's pastorate, they convince themselves they deserve it.

Greed will cause murder. In I Kings 21:2-16. Ahab

who had all anyone could want, wanted even more, Naboth's little vineyard. Greed causes people to kill for shoes, love, money, business. Then there is the greed that will murder someone's reputation.

Greed will cause some to die last. In Luke 12:13-21 Jesus tells of the incident when the rich young ruler asked what he needed to do to be saved. Jesus told him and the young man went away sad and was never heard of again. So many people hear the gospel, and then greed kicks in as they are not willing to give up the excess desires of their heart.

5th – why is avarice dangerous it causes some to err from the faith. Paul in I Tim. 6:10 says for the love of money is the root of all evil; which some coveted after, they have erred from the faith. Some strong believers are lured away from the faith by greed for money, power, etc.

It causes denial of God. Solomon in Prov. 30:8-9 tells us that the greedy will have no trouble denying the father who saved them.

Greed provides excuses to reject God's invitation. In Luke 14:18 Jesus said "and they all with one consent began to make excuse." When the spirit beckons the spirit of greed kicks in and convinces people to wait until they have gained more, then they can be saved, knowing that will never happen.

6th How can avarice be cured; by placing our

affections in the right place. Paul in Col. 3:2-6 tells us that we should focus our attention and affection upward to heaven, instead of horizontal. Greed will begin to lesson it holds on lives.

By being content with what we have. In Hebrews 13:5, let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have. Every person needs to learn to be content with what they have and where they are.

By seeking God – this is the major step anyone who is greedy can take. Jesus in Luke 12:22-31 tells us not to seek for more clothes or food, drink or any other earthly pleasure but instead look ever so diligently toward the father and his desire and then he will meet all other needs.

7th – what is the results of a life cured of greed – there will be a renewed mind to use for God. Paul in Rom. 12:2, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. The more we look for Jesus, the more our mind will be changed to think and act the way God would.

Our lives will become worthy of God. Paul again in I Thess. 2:12 admonishes us to walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. A renewed mind brings action in our lives that will be counted as acceptable to God. The reason being as we are renewed, our actions will only reflect God's desire and intent.

There will be holiness manifested before God. Peter in I Pet. 3:11 says to us, "Let him eschew evil and do

good; let him seek peace and ensue it." These two things are evidence of a holy life when they are present in anyone.

Hating evil and its presence and desiring peace in lives of others are the things God has. He hates evil, loves the person, he desires peace with everyone and actively pursues that relationship with any and all.