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God's Word Identifies Only Two Classes and Rewards- Part II

Light Versus Darkness

“The law of God existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God’s government [sinned]. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. It was not written then, but was [verbally] rehearsed to them by Jehovah.” – *E.G. White, Story of Redemption, p. 145.*

In the Old Testament times the patriarchs and prophets, the gospel-prophet in particular, prophesied of the Light of the world who would restore the light of the downtrodden covenant-law of God among “the people sitting in darkness” and the world “lying in darkness.” These two general groups of mankind were and are as follows:

a) The “Gentiles.” The paganism and heathenism practiced as the religion of “nations, kindred, tribes, tongues (languages) and peoples” of the then-known world. Such were guilty of ignorance of the true God largely due to being deceived by Satan as handed down through the centuries. From Cain and his cursed followers to the incorrigibly-wicked antediluvians, these were idolaters of every grade, practicing gross wickedness, immorality and even cannibalism; open devil-worship, worship of the dead and of animals, and of the sun, moon and planets and other forms of ancient spiritualism and superstition. The Protestant Bible commentators and advent pioneers referred to the worshippers of the sun, thus Sunday-keepers as Gentiles. In Luke 21, Jesus is recorded as prophesying that “Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles” (“trodden down,” KJV) until the *times of the Gentiles* be fulfilled.” Verse 24. As this is a dual prophecy, the first application of Gentiles naturally refers to the desolating work of pagan Rome and its national religion of paganism with sun-worship at the center of it. By extension, atheism is here included as well.

b) The Chosen people. These were guilty of apostasy, backsliding: “going a - whoring,” consorting, inter-marrying and joining with the very people, nations and tribes who they were tasked with “bringing out of darkness into God’s marvelous light” of truth,” but instead joined them in their sensual and abominable religious festivals exemplified in the worship of Baal, the sun-god, Ashtoreth, the female counterpart, and Moloch who “demanded that they pass their children through fire,” etc. In its modern forms, these are found in worldliness, doing after the manner of the world, as in “love of the world and things of the world,” spiritual pride and Phariseism, “having the form of

godliness but denying the power thereof,” hypocrisy, introducing man-made religious laws, considering “the traditions of the elders” greater than the Decalogue, “gross ignorance” of moral and spiritual darkness that will cover the earth,” according to Isaiah’s prophecy, by deliberate choice through stubbornness of heart. They do not stop here. From the very beginning of the conflict between truth and error, righteousness and unrighteousness, these apostates became and will “*become* the worst enemies of their former brethren”—the *faithful* commandment-keeping remnant of the last days.

The two corporate sins of Backsliding and Treachery: Israel and Judah

Israel, made of the 10 northern tribes, persisted in their open rebellion and idolatry until they were fully dispersed among the pagan nations by the desolating Assyrian captivity.

Judah, made up of the remaining southern tribes, from which the Davidic line came from, also, sadly apostatized and fell away in spite of the wave of prophets God sent to mercifully warn them to “turn away from their sins and “return to Him” in repentance. But they persisted. As a last resort of sorts, God purify them with “fire,” He allowed them to be taken as captives to the first pagan world empire of neo-Babylonia by Nebuchadnezzar, its first king.

They remained there for 70 years, as prophesied by Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet” (author of books of Jeremiah and Lamentations). By the time of the prophesied rebuilding of the temple led by Zerubbabel and Joshua the priest, and the “prophets sent to help them” during the critical phase of the work. Here is revealed a truth little addressed, thus little understood. Through His prophets, God sharply rebuked both Israel and Judah, yet differently. **He revealed that Israel was guilty of *backsliding* but Judah was guilty of *treachery*.**

God considered the sin of treachery, whether individual or corporate, worse than the sin of backsliding. Today, He judges it exactly the same way, and even more. Why? because of steadily-increasing and accumulated light of truth given to each generation to our final generation and all the lessons recorded in the past from which each subsequent generation were to learn from. Thus, “Unto much given much is required.”

Backsliding is almost always a *gradual* falling away from the truth once-loved and fervently defended, by carelessly putting down and forgetting to put back on “the whole armor of God,” thus losing mental and spiritual focus and vigilance. Next follows “looking back” at the attractions and lifestyle that one “came out from” in his conversion and reverts “back to square one” in his relationship with God. The “old man,” once dead, has arisen again. Backsliding, however, is by no means a benign sin, one to be lackadaisical about and taken lightly!

Note how God, through the apostle Peter in the Christian era, and centuries earlier, through King Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, considers backsliding:

“For if, after they have *escaped* the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are *again entangled* in them and *overcome, the*

latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having know it, to turn from the *holy commandment delivered* to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit, and a ‘sow [a female swine], having been washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’” 2 Pet. 2: 20-22, N.K.J.V.

“As a dog return to his own vomit, *so a fool repeats his folly.*” Prov. 26: 11.

For backsliders: The latter end is worse for them than in the beginning. It is considered as spiritually gross as a dog returning to eat its own vomit, and a female pig, who has been previously washed of her filth, returning to wallow in the same sickening mire that she was washed from! They knew and practiced the holy commandment—David calls the ten commandments “holy, just and pure” which was *delivered* to Israel through Moses, and in turn Israel was supposed to deliver to the world.

This is what apostle Jude was calling the attention of God’s people then and now, showing that God is “no respecter of persons,” not “once-saved-always saved;” that God has one law and one standard by which all, whether His chosen people or church, angels who have fallen and even wicked cities—will be judged fairly and will receive their corresponding rewards based on the light revealed to them:

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you our common salvation, I found it *necessary* to write to you *exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.* For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out [by prophecy] for this condemnation, ungodly men, *who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness* [permissiveness] and deny the only Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ. But I want to remind you, *though you once knew this*, that the Lord having saved the people out of the land of Egypt [**Israel**], *afterward destroyed them who did not believe* [the sin of unbelief].

“And **the angels** who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day [executive judgment conducted in heaven by the eternally redeemed with Christ, through the millennium],

“As **Sodom and Gomorrah** and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, have given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh [homosexuality], are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire . . . Woe unto them! For they have gone in *the way of Cain*, have run greedily in *the error of Balaam* for profit, and perished in *the rebellion of Korah.*” Jude 3-7, 11.

Woe is pronounced upon three outstanding sins of the last days, which are the same sins merely repeated that were found among the apostate individuals and churches, starting with Cain, the very first son of Adam to prophet Balaam who was faithful in the beginning but because of greed for mammon became an apostate to Korah, one of the three princes (Dathan and Abiram), who rebelled against Moses and Aaron, God’s duly-instituted authorities over the people. Cain represents that false worship characterized by choosing one’s way to worship God, in disobedience to God’s specification. He turned out the mankind’s first murderer, slaying his own younger brother Abel, whose sacrifice

was accepted by God because he followed the divine specifications on how to worship Him while Cain's worship was rejected. In the last days of earth's history, its antitype clearly is the worldwide worship of and on the man-made sabbath of Sunday, in stark contrast to the worship of and on the Bible Sabbath of creation, the seventh day of each week.

Treachery is a betrayal of trust and confidence. It is devastating and fatal. Even in the armies of the world, treachery is immediately punished with death, because one soldier's betrayal could result in the death of dozens, if not defeat itself in the conflict. It comes from the one least expected or suspected—a spouse (literally or spiritually, God considers the *chosen people* in the Old and the *true church* in the New as His *bride or wife*), a confidante, a best friend, one's own children, a trusted church member, a person looked up to as spiritually mature, one maintaining a position of trust and office of authority, known to be honest and knowledgeable in the things of God.

Judas, one the first Twelve disciples (Christ did not call him like the eleven others; he was recommended by the other disciples because of his apparent talents and skills), bears the ignominious title as the betrayer of our Lord. Lest one forget: unless the treacherous person hastens to repent, confess and forsake this sin of treachery, he will end up as Judas did—he committed suicide. By his persistent refusal to heed and yield to the conviction of his conscience—the “voice of God heard amid the din of human passion,” verily the voice and work of the Holy Spirit, he finally grieved away the Holy Spirit and committed the unpardonable sin.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for Me, this is My covenant with them, saith the Lord. My Spirit that is upon thee, and My words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of *thy mouth*, nor out of the mouth of *thy seed*, nor out of the mouth of *thy seed's seed*, saith the Lord, *from henceforth and forever*. Arise, shine: for **thy light** is come and the **glory of the Lord** is risen upon thee. For behold the **darkness shall cover the earth**, and **gross darkness the people**: but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and *His glory* shall be seen upon thee. And the *Gentiles shall come to thy light*, and *kings to the brightness* of thy rising.” Isa. 59: 20-21; 60; 1-3.

Jesus Himself confirmed this during His public ministry, conducted independent of the *chosen people's organizational* structure in His time, eliciting their hatred and venom towards Him, the very Light and life of the world! He declared, “I am the *light of the world*; he that followeth Me shall not walk in *darkness*; but he shall *have the light of life*.” John 8: 12. Keep this in mind: If we are truly following the Light of the world, we shall have the light of life. Say it again: the light of life!

The Jewish nation, who, in their backsliding, apostasy, and treachery towards the abundance of the light of truth exclusively entrusted upon them originally, to give to the world lying in the darkness of sin and ignorance of true knowledge of God and His

kingdom of righteousness, claimed to be the *unconditional chosen people* in their apostasy and despised everyone else—the generic “Gentiles” and “Samaritans.” Alarming, because the world-at-large have yet to open their like-blinded eyes, as apostle Paul said, “the veil is still before their eyes” even to this very day, two thousand years after they crucified the innocent Lord of glory!

They, particularly the “scribes, Pharisees and the elders”—religious leaders who claimed and anointed themselves as the divinely-appointed “spiritual guardians of the people” and “conscience of the nation,” as well as all, whether individuals or churches, local or global, who follow her example, will *hate* Jesus, “the way, the truth and the life” and “the truth as it is in Jesus,” similarly. Why? because they actually loved themselves, not Jesus, their “own truth,” not Bible truth. They “made God’s law of none effect by their traditions,” and passed off the laws of man and the church as though they were the commandments of God. Theirs was the religion and righteousness of man, produced by their own works versus the religion of Christ and the Bible whose righteousness by faith in Christ is manifested in obeying the law of God, thus revealing “the fruits of the Spirit.”

Christ’s transparently pure life—His glorious moral character, and His consistently truthful and truth-filled words and works of mercy, all done in humility and without fanfare, unmistakably exposed, by contrast and comparison, their gross hypocrisy, double-standards, religious bigotry and shameless love of pageantry, pomp and circumstance.

They were finally revealed, both to the blinded people and to themselves, to be what and who they really were: the very sources and wellsprings of spiritual darkness that misled the people and the nation. See Matthew chapter 23. As verily the Law in the flesh and the Light and life of the world, He taught His disciples and the people, by *words and works* what His kingdom of righteousness is, and by what genuine holiness and righteousness means by showing them how to live and flesh out, by practice, the living principles of the law of love.

Jesus declared:

“If you keep My commandments [the condition] ye shall abide in My love [the promise and reward]; even as I have kept My Father’s commandments [His example and demonstration] and abide in His love [the promise and reward]. He that hateth Me hateth My Father also. If I had not done among you *the works* which none other man did, *they had not sin: but now they have both seen and hated both Me and My Father.* But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, *They hated Me without a cause.* If I had not come and spoken them, they had not had sin: ***but now they have no cloak for their sin.***” John 15: 10, 24, 25, 22.

“And this **the condemnation** [judgment] that *light* is come into the world, and men ***loved darkness rather than the light*** [of truth and God’s law], ***because their deeds were evil.*** For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light [of the “truth as it is in Jesus”], neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds be reproved. But he that doeth truth

cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” John 3: 19-21.

Out of sheer necessity, we need to emphasize the following incisive truths contained here in Christ’s words regarding what light and darkness mean, and why those who merely profess being “Christians” and have “the form of godliness by deny its power” in their lives, believers who profess to “love Jesus” in lips but in life practice do the things very things which the law of God and the Word of forbids, for their own good, actually hate, not love the unvarnished, pure truth of the Bible. They condemn themselves by their own deeds. And not only them, but the world itself. Why?

1. The light of truth and of God’s word, written and spoken, through the very Person of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, --the Light of the world--has already come, not only to the chosen people first, but also to the “Gentiles,” the whole “world” lying in the darkness of sin, ignorance and intemperance. That special prophecy is now a historical fact, accepted by both believers and the secular world itself. While the Light of the world had not yet come, God still mercifully considered them as “having not sinned,” though they were living in sin, fake righteousness, hypocrisy, religious bigotry and against the truth. But now that He, the Light of truth had already come, the “chosen people” and the “Gentiles” as well no longer have any cloak whatsoever to hide their sin and guilt. They and their deeds are now lying “open and naked with Him with whom we have to do.”

2. In spite of the fulfilled prophecy and promise of the coming of the Light to dispel the “darkness that covered the earth and “*gross darkness the people*” [of God], in the perversity of their stubbornness and hardness of heart men continue to “love the darkness of sin,” they will invariably do one thing: they will *hate* Christ “without a cause,” they will *hate* the light of truth and *present, testing truth in particular*, and they will *hate all* who faithfully preserve, proclaim and bring these light of truth to them, as the chosen people hated the “promised seed,” the Messiah “who came from among them,” the Savior of the world!

3. They will purposely *not* come to the light of truth, as revealed in the present, testing truths of the last days given in the comprehensive “third angel’s messages” of Revelation 14 because they refuse to give up their cherished sins which are apparently justified by the false doctrines, called the spiritually inebriating “wine of Babylon.”

4. But anyone, “Jew or Gentile,” whether those still searching and longing in their hearts for saving “truth as it is in Jesus” as well as those who have already found and embraced it, thus loves and practices the truth, will “come to” and happily welcome the bright and magnifying light of truth for it will clearly reveal, confirm and vet “to the world, men and angels” that his life, words, and deeds are truly genuinely “wrought in God” and not a counterfeit.

God’s Chosen Messengers Proclaimed this Truth from the Beginning

All throughout the history of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and their respective followers, God's chosen spokesmen repeated the truth between light and darkness constantly. They made this truth more cogent in their generation and more applicable and growing in urgency in future generations, finally culminating in our very time.

The patriarch **Job**, whom God called "a perfect and upright man who eschewed evil," perfectly understood this: that Jesus is the Light and life of man and the world, and without Him is darkness and death; moreover, that He alone understands what "darkness" and "light" mean in that He alone can discover deep things in darkness and bring light to shadow of death. Job said:

"He discovereth deep things in darkness; and bringeth unto light the shadow of death. He setteth an end to darkness, and searches out all perfection and stones of darkness, and the shadow of death." Job 13: 22; 28: 13.

David, whom God called "a man after Mine own heart," i.e., when he remained humble as a child, and was faithfully living in harmony with God's will (1 Sam. 13: 14; 15: 28; Acts 13: 2), was filled with divine inspiration on this theme and thus wrote:

"The Lord is my Light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Ps. 27: 1.

"For with Thee is the fountain of Life. In Thy light shall we see light." Ps. 37: 1.

"Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance." Ps. 90: 8.

"The light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in the heart." Ps. 97: 11.

"Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness; He is gracious and full of compassion, and righteous." Ps. 112: 4.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Ps. 119: 105.

"Thy Word is very pure; therefore thy servant loveth [not hateth] it. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth." Ps. 119: 140, 142.

God's Word is His law; it is light, truth, and everlasting righteousness. Anyone who truly loves God, will love, not hate the light of truth of the law, and therefore will love not only righteousness, but everlasting righteousness.

King Solomon expressed this truth as:

"The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. But the path of the just [righteous] is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4: 18, 19.

The “truth as it is in Jesus” shines brighter and brighter. All other “truths” will, in time, grow darker and darker until “darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people.” And all who possess the genuine truth, particularly the present, sealing truths of the last days, are “the light of the world;” they are, in the sight of God, humble, obedient, just and righteous whose life example will be as a “path of shining light” to those are stumbling in the darkness of sin and ignorance.

Isaiah, the gospel-prophet, warned God’s people that the *light of God’s law* would be extinguished, that is, an attempt would be made to “do away with it” in and by the apostasy of the “mother church” and her spiritual “daughters” who follow her apostate example. They sink so deep in their apostasy against the truth that they actually “call evil good and good evil,” saying that “darkness is light, and light darkness,” and bitter is sweet, and sweet bitter.” Indeed, that’s how badly seared their consciences have suffered as unmistakably evidenced by how warped their minds and distorted their reasoning have become! And all because they cast away the law of God!

Isa. 5: 24, 20, 25: “Because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. . . . *Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against this people.*” Isa. 5: 24, 20, 25.

The prophet **Amos** reveals the same principle and truth that underlies the difference and separation between these two classes, is also the same principle, in the opposite, which defines the true union with God. He does this by posing the question:

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed”? Amos 3: 3.

We are joined together to whomsoever and whatsoever we choose to believe, follow obey and live thereby. This is a process that takes place over time. It is mental, intellectual, physical, and spiritual. The choice is whether to believe and practice—thus “joining” either evil or good, darkness or light, bitter or sweet—truth or error. Anything in between is a counterfeit, whether rationalized as a “necessary compromise” or “the new and modern way of thinking,” or the Church’s latest interpretation as determined by a “synod.”

Apostle Paul drives home this point, giving an example and using language that all can understand, religious or secular, scholar or laymen, rich or poor:

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! *Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her?* For ‘The two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ [Gen. 2: 24]. But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality [actually, or in the secret imaginations of the mind] sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is *the temple of the Holy Spirit*

who is in you, whom you have from God, and *you are not your own*? For you were bought with a price [ransomed by the blood of Christ spilled at Calvary]; therefore, *glorify God* in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6: 15-17, NKJV.

This is why the prophet **Amos** warns, even while he exhorts:

"*Seek good, and not evil*, that you may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. *Hate the evil, and love the good*, and establish judgment in the gate [or reasoning and choice]: it may be that the Lord of hosts will be gracious unto the *remnant* of Joseph." Amos 5: 14, 15.

The prophet **Micah** shows us the struggle against the darkness of sin, lies, deceit and violence, as opposed to that the victory that the Light of truth brings:

"Therefore will I look unto the Lord: I will wait for the God of my salvation: may God shall hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: *when I shall fall, I shall arise*; when I *sit in darkness*, the Lord shall be a *light* unto me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him. [See Ps. 51: 4], until he plead my cause, and execute judgement for me [see 1 Tim. 2: 5]; He will bring me forth to the *light*, and I shall behold *His righteousness*." Micah 7: 7-9.

"Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights? For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have *spoken lies*, and *their tongue is deceitful in their mouth*." Micah 6: 11, 12. On the other hand: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord *require of thee*, but to do justly, and love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Verse 8.

The prophet **Zephaniah** saw and pronounced a woe upon the nation and churches of darkness who boast of their "light" even as they persistently reject the reproof sent to them by God's prophets and messengers for their apostasy. This is that particular darkness brought about by religious leaders, false prophets, ministers and pastors who do violence to the law of God by teaching their adherents that the law of ten commandments has been abrogated. Without the law of God, mortal, fallible and even evil and wicked men become "a law unto himself." This explains why the earth "is filled with violence, crimes, wars, darkness, sin, hypocrisy, deceit, sickness and death. The prophet warned:

"Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the *oppressive city*! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction. She trusted not in the Lord; she drew not near to her God. Her *princes within her* are roaring lions; her *judges* are evening wolves; they gnaw no bones till the morrow. Her *prophets* are light and **treacherous** persons; her *priests have polluted the sanctuary*, they have *done violence to the law*."

But God also showed Zephaniah and ordered him to preserve on sacred record, which we are quoting here, that there would always be a faithful **remnant people of light and truth** of both ancient and spiritual Israel, whom Paul called "the spiritual Jew whose circumcision is not of the flesh but rather of the heart" in these last days, whom

John also described as the “remnant church” of prophecy made of the “saints who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14: 12 and Rev.

“The remnant of Israel shall *do no iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down [in peace and serenity], and none shall make them afraid.*” Zeph. 3: 1-3, 13.

John the beloved received, perhaps the most sublime revelation of these subject touching on light and darkness regarding the everlasting gospel. Mark:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was **life**; and the life was the **light** of men. **And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.** That was the **true light, which lighteth** [with life] **every man** that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. *He came to His own, and His own received Him not.* But as many as received Him, *to them gave He power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1: 1-5, 9-14, K.J.V.

What does it mean to “**receive Him**” and “**believe on His name** so that we can actually “receive the power to become the sons of God”? Is this all there is to it? Just simply say or “confess with your lips,” “I receive Him, I believe on His name?” No! This is, in fact where many if not most of the churches in these last days have gone into gross darkness! As Jesus told Nicodemus, “Unless one is born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot *see* and *enter* into the kingdom of God.” See John 3: 3, 5. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Verse 6. In Matthew 3 is recorded the explanation of what it means to receive the twin baptisms of the water and the Spirit. “I indeed baptize you with *water unto repentance*, but He who is coming after me is *mightier than I*, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will **thoroughly purge** His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will **burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**” John 3: 11, 12.

“Our God is a consuming fire.” Heb. 12: 29; Deut. 4: 24; 9: 3. To where ever **sin** is found, our God is a consuming fire. Through the Holy Spirit, God in Christ will burn away and purify us of our sins **if** we forsake them and give them up to “the Refiner’s and Purifier’s fire.” Malachi 3: 1-3. If not, we will be identified with these sins that will be burned in the destroying fires of the last days. The *cleansing* baptism by *water immersion* is not enough. We need the *purifying* baptism of the Holy Spirit **with fire!** Only then do we receive the power to become the adopted sons of God!

Continued in the next issues