

Book of Hebrews Part 12: 5:5-14; 12:14; Salvation through Obeying; Dull of Hearing; Carnal Minded (11/24/ 2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/tknkgyw/book-of-hebrews-part-12>.

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

We will start by circling back to review Hebrews 5:5-6 and then read verse 7—⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." ⁶ As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"; ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh. What does he mean when he says— in the days of His flesh? He is talking about Yeshua who is the Word become flesh. He is referring to Yeshua in His earthly ministry.

Continuing in Hebrews 5:7—when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear. Here again the writer appeals to the humanity of Yeshua by showing Yeshua came in the flesh. This is the exact opposite thing a Gnostic would do. That statement is a reflection of Hebrews 4:15 where it says—For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. In other words, the things we experience are the things He also experienced. Now the writer again appeals to Yeshua's humanity by showing what Yeshua did by going to the cross was absolutely agonizing for Him. He experienced emotions such as fear and anxiety. He experienced all of these emotions we are accustomed to in the flesh are what He had to deal with and fight against.

The statement the writer of Hebrews made was based on the passages in Matthew 26 and 27. Think about the prayer Yeshua prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane—O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will (Matthew 26:39). Yeshua doesn't pray this prayer once; He prays it 3 times because He's in anguish. He was experiencing so much anxiety and fear that he prayed to the Father that if there was any other way to make this happen, please do so.

Ultimately, Yeshua goes to the cross, and when He is on the cross He says—*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* (Matthew 27:46) In the English, this means— My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me. By saying this, Yeshua is turning the people to Psalm 22. That is how Psalm 22 starts out.

What is amazing about this Psalm is as you go on in the Psalms, the LORD hears Him—*Save Me from the lion's mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me* (emphasis added, Psalm 22:21). So at the beginning of Psalm 22, He is crying out—*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*—and the Father hears Him. How do we know this? Because Yeshua rose from the grave. So when we look at this

statement the writer of Hebrews is making here—**was heard because of His godly fear** (Hebrews 5:7), we realize Yeshua was heard because of His Godly fear. This all goes back to Scripture and the reality Yeshua rose from the dead.

Moving on to Hebrews 5:8—**though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**

Again, we jumped ahead; we have already covered this passage, but just to reiterate he's not talking about chastising as a father has to chastise their son so they learn obedience. We know our children must learn obedience, and they do when we punish them. This is how they learn obedience. When they do something wrong, they are going to face consequences. That is not what this passage is saying. What this passage is saying is Yeshua experience what it was like to obey God and His will in the flesh, and Yeshua did it perfectly. He experienced all the fears and anxiety; guess what else He experienced? Horrific suffering and pain, which He experienced on the cross.

Moving on to Hebrews 5:9—**And having been perfected.** The Greek word for perfected is τελειώω (*teleioō*). It refers to reaching the goal; coming and accomplishing that which is set forth. So—**having been perfected**

Again from the beginning of the verse—**And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation** (emphasis added). Let that sink in because the writer just turned all eyes on this. All the emphasis is put on Yeshua for salvation. He is the only one from whom we can receive it. There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved. It is only the name of Yeshua that can save.

Here is why that's important. Today in churches there are pastors telling you that is not true. The writer of Hebrews is putting the emphasis exactly where it belongs, Yeshua; however, these pastors today are creating different avenues claiming these avenues will also take you to salvation.

Saying You're Going to Hell if You Don't Believe in Jesus Is 'Insanity,' Megachurch Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr. Says

By Leonardo Blair, Christian Post Reporter | Mar 12, 2018 2:50 PM



(SCREENSHOT: VIMEO)

Michael A. Walrond Jr., leads the more than 10,000-member First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York.

Let me share with you an article received recently. This is in regard to one of the most influential mega-church pastors in New York City. This is a snapshot of the web. Here is what it says—*saying you're going to hell if you don't believe in Jesus is insanity Mega church Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr. says.* This is reality; this is not a joke.

The article goes on and says—

There was a time when you would see people in the pulpit say, 'well, if you don't believe in Jesus you're going to Hell. That's insanity in many ways because that is not what Jesus even believes. And so the key is you believe in God. And whatever your path is to God I celebrate that.'

This is being spoken from a pulpit. Again, look at his quote—*That's insanity in many ways because that is not what Jesus even believes*. I will tell you what Jesus said—I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6). That is what Jesus said.

Now look at what this pastor goes on to say—*Again, we have enough in this world that divides us we need to find those things that bring us together. And if God cannot bring us closer together* [wasn't that nice and ecumenical] *then something is wrong, not with God but in how we think we know God and understand God*. (The Christian Post, by Leonardo Blair, March 12th, 2018, quoting Michael Walrond Jr.)

In other words, if something is prohibiting unity and from getting people to join us in church, like Jesus, move Him aside because we don't want to inhibit anything from joining us together. The reality is if Jesus is dividing us from the world, then the problem is with us and our thoughts on how we should be saved. That is what Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr. is saying. How insane is that? What is being spoken here is frightening!

I want to take you to 2 Peter 2:1 because he has something to say about this—*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the LORD who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction* (emphasis added). That is prophecy, and you're living it right now.

So when we look at the writer of Hebrews when he says—*having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation* (emphasis added), you need to understand the implications and the weight of that statement. There is no other way to salvation. Yeshua said there is no other way. He told the crowds He was the shepherd and—*he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber* (John 10:1). Do you know what happens to thieves and robbers? They are going to be destroyed. There's no other way; there's no other name we can call on. It is only Him.

So the writer of Hebrews rightly puts the emphasis on Him. He is the author of eternal salvation, but here's what's interesting. Unlike what we just read about this Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr. who makes it sound like the Oprah Winfrey Show in that there are many paths that lead to God, the writer of Hebrews goes the opposite direction. It isn't just narrow to those who confess Jesus; it is narrower than that. It is more select than that. The writer of Hebrews goes on and says—*And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him* (emphasis added).

That's where we're at. This is the reality; you want salvation you must obey Him. What is terrifying is when you actually start to read the words of Yeshua, and then you think, "I'm supposed to obey that. I'm supposed to do that." That is when terror should come over you. That is when you know who you are as a person gets ripped apart. Deception gets thrown to the side when you literally put the words of Yeshua up to your life in comparison and look at where you're at. It is humbling

To help us with this – to add some humility to us – I'm going to show you some of the things that Yeshua said. Keep in mind only those who obey Him will see eternal life. We will start in Matthew 5:24—*For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven*. This is an ultimatum. Your righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the very ones who have devoted their lives to religion and to the faith.

We could argue Yeshua didn't treat kindly the scribes and Pharisees, and that is correct. That was because they were white washed tombs. They did everything to be seen by men and to receive the acknowledgment of glory from men. They looked beautiful on the outside, but their hearts were not right. From that we have to take away the reality that it is not enough for you to go to church, and to look all prim and proper. It's not enough for you to wear the right clothes and say the right things. What you are going to need is to righteousness of the heart. You're going to have to be pure in heart.

Going to Matthew 6:15—**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.** This one of the hardest things for us to practically walk out in real life because forgiveness is not simply going to the LORD and saying, "I've had issues with this person, but you know what? I forgive them." However, if your heart still has hatred and bitterness, you're deceived. That is what is so frightening about this verse. When it says you forgive, it is talking about that forgiveness beginning in the heart. From the heart you proclaim, "LORD, I forgive them; I don't hold it against them." You know what? Yeshua gives you a little motivation knowing that if you don't do this, you are dead. You will have no forgiveness.

That is motivation for me. I can tell you that this motivation has catapulted me to seriously say. "I need to wash my hands of this. I need to be done once and for all. I need to pray for that person." I need to be able to do that or I might as well forget it because according to the verse there's going to be no atonement for me. Unless you obey the words of Yeshua, you'll never see eternal life.

Going to Matthew 18:3 where we find the third ultimatum in a row—**Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.** You need to have that childlike faith. Children are not double minded in their hearts. When you tell them to believe something, they do. We need to be those kind of people regardless of what we see happening in the world. We need to have a childlike faith so our faith is not moved. We know Yeshua is coming soon; it's going to be OK.

Matthew 5:44—**But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.** This goes right along with forgiving men their trespasses. Are we to that point where we can love our enemies? Have you reached that point in your heart? If you don't have that in your heart, you have problems. It is very scary when the author of Hebrews says—**He [Yeshua] became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him** (emphasis added).

When you start going through passages like these, you will find out quickly you might be a long ways away from the faith. I'm a long way away from being perfected. I'm a long way away from allowing Yeshua to enter into my heart and completely take over leave nothing behind. When you given your whole heart to the LORD, that's true freedom and true liberty.

Then we read what Yeshua said in Matthew 5:48—**Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.** We are called to perfection; we are called to be like our Father in heaven. However, all I hear today are excuses as to why we're not. We lie to ourselves.

Matthew 10:37—**He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** I have seen people who have been confronted with situations with their own children where these parents compromised the faith, the commandments of

God, for the sake of their children. You can find Biblical examples such as with Eli the priest. He exulted his kids higher than the LORD, and the LORD took out his family by killing his two sons.

So when you look at verses such as Matthew 5:44, your love for Him has to be this great or you are not going to get into the kingdom. That's not to say we are not to love our children, but if you're doing so at the compromise of the faith and His commandments, there is a problem.

Look at John 13:34—**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** Think about that. That kind of love has to mirror the very love Yeshua has given us. We have to love each other that same way. Again I ask you, are we living up to that standard? If we are honest with ourselves, we will most likely answer, no we are not. When you look at the words of Yeshua and remember what He said, we often fall far from the faith.

For example, remember the story in Matthew 19 where a rich young man comes to Yeshua and asks Him what he must do to inherit kingdom of God. Yeshua's response it, keep the commandments. As Yeshua stated in John 14:15—**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.** If we do not keep them, we will not enter in. This is a reality.

Going back and continuing on in Hebrews 5:10-11—¹⁰ **called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain** (emphasis added). In other words, what the writer is saying is, "Listen to me. I have to bring to your attention Melchizedek; we need to talk about this guy, but the things that I have to say about him are so profound and spiritually deep, I don't know how I'm going to do this. This is going to be hard to explain to you."

Do you know why the writer said that? The answer is in the following verse—**since you have become dull of hearing** (Hebrews 5:11). He wants to share the deeper things of the word, his concern is they—**have become dull of hearing.** The word for dull in the Greek is *νωθρός*, which means lazy or sluggish. They had become spiritual lazy and sluggish. They were complacent.

This is a pivotal moment in this epistle. Up to this point in this letter to the Hebrews, these Jewish believers were not formally challenge, accused, or rebuked in any way. Now, however, that doors been burst wide open. What is fascinating is when you step back and look at this epistle as a whole you're going to realize something. This epistle is a full out intervention. The writer of Hebrews is so concerned about his brother because it is not just one of those situations where you disagree about something that is not that significant; this is a matter of life and death. Something is wrong with them; they are not growing in the faith and have instead become spiritually dull.

Moving on to Hebrews 5:12—**For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.** In other words, they have to be taught the 1st principle, the things that are the most elementary, all over again. They need milk and not solid food. That is the problem. By now they should be teachers; instead, they are spiritual infants.

Considering the importance of that statement, we're going to spend a little bit of time here because there's a lot I believe needs to be drawn out of the statement especially when you consider where this modern-day, progressive church is and the kind of Christians it is cultivating in today's society. The 1st

thing I want to mention here is this statement is an analogical statement. When the writer says we need milk and not solid food, that is the time for you to sit back and ponder what he meant by that statement—**milk and not solid food**. He is using these terms as a beautiful and powerful teaching tool to take spiritual concepts and render them down into the physical realm so there is something that's tangible and relatable to everyone in the audience. He does this in order to bring greater clarity and understanding to what is being communicated. That is what he does here with these terms. That is why he utilizes the terms, milk and solid food. What is the writer really getting at? He is getting at human development.

Think about this human development. Every one of us can understand this. We go out in society; we go to the malls, we go to church, and we go to all these different places where you see children and adults. What do we know about infants? Infants need milk. That is how they survive. When you think about infants it is interesting because they're in a completely vulnerable state.

This understanding is important regarding the analogical statement the writer of Hebrews is utilizing here and how that crosses over into the spiritual realm and the particular group of Jewish believers he is writing to. An infant cannot even change its own clothes, change its own diaper, and cannot handle things. It can't even feed itself. It is completely in a vulnerable state; it relies solely on the mother to nourish it. It helps with the child's immune system, it is the building blocks for the brain, the child grows healthy and becomes stronger and over time they develop into a toddler, young child and eventually a responsible adult that also cares for others.

There is a reason the writer is utilizing this specific analogy because it works absolutely perfectly. And when you bring this into the spiritual realm he's dealing with the fact that these particular Jewish believers are little infants. The expectation was they would have grown by now; therefore, something's wrong.

By comparison, having a new baby and bringing that baby home is a precious time. It is one of the most beautiful experiences you will ever have in your life. It is no different when a new believer comes into the faith and calls upon the name of Yeshua. It is beyond precious. But can you imagine that infant never growing? We can joke tongue and cheek and say, "You know what? I'm going to buy this infant a pair of shoes, and they will wear them for 20 years." That, however, is not the reality. You will be buying multiple shoes because the child is going to keep growing. The expectation is your infant is going to grow, and they're going to need these things because they get bigger and bigger and bigger. That is what the writer is saying. There is but one expectation for someone who comes into the faith by confessing Yeshua as Messiah; that expectation is that there will be growth.

I'm going to show you a little deeper dimension to this statement because Paul, ironically, says the exact same thing to the Corinthians that the writer of Hebrews is saying to this particular group of Jewish believers. The only difference is Paul uses one specific word that's a little different, and so Paul rounds out the whole concept very nicely.

This is what we read in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2—¹ **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ**. So that same rebuke the writer of Hebrews used to come

against the Hebrews is what you see Paul, a Jew, saying as he is rebuking the Corinthians Gentiles. He is rebuking them telling them, "You are babes in Messiah."

Paul continues—² **I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able.** Something was wrong. What was wrong? Paul tells us as we continue in the verse—³ **for you are still carnal.** That's the key. They were still carnal.

Do you want to prohibit spiritual growth? If you do, become carnal because it will inhibit growth every single time. What is carnality? What does it mean to be carnal? It means to be in your flesh. It means you are devoting more of your time, passions, desires, thoughts, and to things of the world and what satisfies the flesh.

A carnal mind will tell you, "You know what? You don't need to fast and pray. It's OK because you really don't need that." A carnal mind will tell you, "You kind of said a prayer yesterday; it's not the end of the world if you don't pray right now because you've got a lot of things going on." A carnal mind will tell you, "I'm going to go watch T.V. instead of sitting down and reading the word of God."

Do you see what the carnal mind does? It is a problem and will prohibit growth. This is not an issue where you can say, "Well, it is not that big of a deal because we're not talking about internal implications." Trust me when I say this, "Yes it is." I know this from the book of Hebrews; I know this from the Apostle Paul and looking at the Corinthians.

When a believer falls into this trap of complacency and stagnation where they become spiritually lazy, someone has to sound the shofar. Someone has to sound the alarm. The most terrifying thing about all of this is all the people who fall into this trap don't know it has happened. They are all completely blind to it. These are people who will tell you, "I said a prayer and believe in my heart Jesus is LORD, so I am fine," but they are not spiritually pursuing Yeshua in relationship.

I am going to tell you, the death of any marriage is when the spouses stop pursuing one another. It is the death of every marriage. You find couples all the time who come in for counseling because they have stopped pursuing one another. Likewise, the expectation of our relationship with Yeshua is but one thing; you never stop pursuing Him and the relationship with Him.

This concept of being kind of complacent in your faith and everything is still fine is false. There is no such thing as just kind of holding the line in the faith. You are there moving forward or you're falling away; there's no middle ground here.

We don't like to hear that, but that's the truth. We like to tell ourselves everything is going to be fine. Guess what? Everything is not going to be fine. Everything is going to be hell. If you are carnal, that is the only expectation you have.

Going back to Hebrews 5:13—**For everyone who partakes only of milk.** Let's stop here a second. What is milk of the word? What is this milk he is referring to? First and foremost it's conceptual faith that Yeshua is LORD. It is your faith that through Him you have salvation. It is your faith that you believe He suffered and died for your sins, and that the Father raised Him from the grave. That is what the milk is.

We could add to that baptism. We go through the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua. These things are the milk.

Continuing in Hebrews 5:13—**For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.** Some people look at this verse and interpret it as they are unskilled in the word of righteousness; the writer is not talking about salvation, and therefore it is not that bad of a situation.

To clarify that interpretation, let's continue to read the passage in Hebrews 5:13—**But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil** (emphasis added). Given this information, do you understand the importance of being skilled in the word of righteousness and why you need to know this? Do you think it's important as a Christian believer in Yeshua you know the difference between good and evil? Yes! It makes all the difference in the world.

Do you understand why the devil would never want churches to go past the milk of the word? Do you understand why he would never want them to be fed with any solid food? Because of this, we have entire church buildings filled with people who don't know their left hand from the right. There are entire buildings filled with people who are not able to discern between good and evil.

That way the devil can come in and start passing stuff off. He can whisper in the ears of the pastor and congregants that they should start incorporating all kinds of extracurricular things into the worship service. They start to think about more inventive ways to get the gospel out to the public. They come up with all these ideas which all sound good, but they don't know good from evil.

Look at what it says in Isaiah 5:20— **Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.** That should terrify you. We live in days where good is being called evil, and evil is being called good. Scary part is that is going on in the church.

So do you think it matters? Do you think it's important in regard to deception to know these 2 things? Do you think it is important to have believers skilled in the word of righteousness so they can protect one another? Absolutely! This is what makes the seeker sensitive movement, which is so popular today, so very dangerous. These churches present this revolving door to a perpetual state of milk week after week. The pastor comes brings the same message week after week. They never spiritually grow. The buildings are filled with those who are suckling milk alone and there's no growth.

In those churches, the people who are cutting their teeth are then leaving. I've literally seen interviews and talked to people who use to go to seeker sensitive churches. They tend to tell you they left because they were not getting anything beyond milk. When these people leave, you are left with an entire building, sometimes 1000's of people, who don't know their right hand from the left. All the people who want the meat that need, that they have cut their teeth on milk already and want to go deeper, are gone. Yet these churches operate under the guise of being seekers sensitive. They feel they need to reach the people nobody else is reaching for the Gospel.

I have to be honest; there are niche ministries that are being called for that very purpose. However, I cannot find anywhere in Scripture where we are not to have spiritual growth and discipleship. There is nothing in Scripture alluding to that. Yet this is the new, modern take on Christianity, and it's absolutely pillaging the faith. It will result in sending more people to hell than all the bars in America, which is what Leonard Raven Hill said.

With that said, I want to show you some passages that reveal the expectation for believers who have come into the faith. The fact is the whole expectation is we are to grow spiritually, and there's no other expectation. 2 Peter 1:5—**But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith** (emphasis added). I emphasized this because the montra today is you can't add anything to your faith. The montra is Yeshua did it all so we don't have to; therefore, you have nothing to do other than simply believe. That is what we are being told. The Bible, however, is telling me something different. It says—**add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love** (emphasis added, 2 Peter 1:5-7). Love is the ultimate goal.

You are going to have to add to your faith. If anyone is telling you not to add to this conceptual belief Yeshua is LORD—they are deceivers, and they are deceived themselves. Peter goes on to show you how important this growth is. So that when I tell you this is difference between life and death you understand this is true. I'm not making it up.

2 Peter 1:8-9—**For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our LORD Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**

Think about that statement. Peter tells us if we do not grow we are virtually blind. As a result, you won't know how to discern between good and evil, and you will have forgotten what Yeshua did on the cross. You are called to pursue the Messiah Yeshua. Absence of growth is total spiritual blindness.

Let me take you to my favorite passage on this topic found in Philippians 1:9—**And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment** (emphasis added). So here we have Paul, a Jew, telling Gentile believers their love must abound in two ways, and he's very specific about it. He tells them these two ways are knowledge and discernment.

Now here's the real kicker. These two terms are explicitly a reference to the Torah, to the Law of God. That is interesting in light of the fact that Christianity has literally thrown out the Torah. They want nothing to do with it. They will tell you the Torah has nothing to do with Christ. The reality is it has everything to do with pursuing Him; it has everything to do with relationship with Him. It has everything to do with the expectation of you coming into the faith and being with Him.

To support what I just said and the two specific words in Philippians 1:9—knowledge and discernment, I want to take you to Hosea—**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge** (emphasis added). Think about that statement. Do you think, as Peter said in 2 Peter 1:5, it's important you add to your faith knowledge? Yes! When Paul says— **your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment** (emphasis added, Philippians 1:9), there is a reason. If you do not have knowledge and

discernment, you are going to be destroyed because the enemy will come in and deceive you. You will not see him coming because you do not have the eyes of the Living God.

Continuing in Philippians 1:9—**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the Law of your God, I also will forget your children** (emphasis added).

Did you notice how the term— **lack of knowledge** is used synonymously with—**the Law of your God**? To reject knowledge is to forget the Law of God. It's to forget the Torah. What is the devil doing in this generation? He's going after the knowledge of God. He is taking the knowledge of God away from the believers. He is coming to steal, kill, and destroy to the point where God will literally—**forget our children**.

Going back to Philippians 1:9—**And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment** (emphasis added). I could take you to passage after passage in regard to this term, discernment. However, all we need to do is read Hebrews 4:12—**For the word of God is living and powerful...a. discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart** (emphasis added). We know Paul is speaking about the Torah when he says—**word of God**. Where does discernment come from? It comes from His word. That is how we get discernment. So that is how we are to grow. We are to grow in the word of the LORD.

Continuing in Philippians 1:10—**that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ** (emphasis added). So why do we need abound in the Torah? Why do we need to abandon the knowledge of the word of the LORD? So we can properly—**approve the things that are excellent**.

As a side note, the phrase Paul uses—**approve the things that are excellent**—He uses explicitly in the context of Torah. Let me show you this in Romans 2:17-18—**Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the Law, and make your boast in God,¹⁸ and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent,** [What does he say next?] **being instructed out of the Law** (emphasis added). He tells us we are to approve the things being instructed out of the Torah! This is how we approve the things that are excellent. This is the knowledge that we are called to possess that the devil doesn't want you to have.

Colossians 1:9—**For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will** (emphasis added). I could go to so many epistles and show you this over and over. This is the heart of Paul. In his introduction in the Philippians and the Colossians, he tells us we are to—**be filled with the knowledge of His will** (emphasis added).

Now look at what he says as he continues in Colossians 1:9-10—**in all wisdom and spiritual understanding¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the LORD, fully pleasing Him** (emphasis added). That's what it's about. We are to walk worthy of the cross.

I love what Leonard Raven Hill says—**Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?** Think about that statement because it puts you in check immediately. Going back to Colossians 1:10—**¹⁰ that**

you may walk worthy of the LORD, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Now I want to take you to the Torah because I want to show you that this statement the Apostle Paul—**wisdom and spiritual understanding**—and the structure he has laid out here are not concepts of his own. He is literally extrapolating out of the Torah. Let me show you this in Deuteronomy 4:5—**Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.** In other words, this is Moses talking to Israel telling them, “The LORD gave me all these commandments, and I have given them to you; therefore, you better listen to them and do these things when you go into that land.”

Now look at what it says in Deuteronomy 4:6—**Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people'** (emphasis added). In other words, the commandments that are given by God in His Law that He calls wisdom and understanding is the very thing the Apostle Paul just got done saying in Colossians 1:9—**you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding** (emphasis added).

If you want to truly understand what the Torah is in the deepest sense, those two passages define the Torah. I was challenged and put on the spot many years ago when someone came up to me and said, “Daniel, in five words, tell me what the Torah is.” I thought about it, and it was only by divine inspiration, I told her, “It’s the will of God.” That’s what it is. It is the will of God.

I want to take you to Revelation 13:18—**Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666** (emphasis added). Why did I show you this? Because you need to understand the importance of having wisdom and understanding. The only way you will spot and identify the spirit of the antichrist is if you have wisdom and understanding.

Given that, do you think it might be important you start pursuing the knowledge of the LORD, and you don't pursue it simply for knowledge? Instead, you are reading it and learning to do it so that we apply it to our lives. Amen?

I want to show you a couple other passages. Proverbs 1:5-7—¹**A wise man will hear and increase learning** (emphasis added). What are they doing? They are pursuing their master, Yeshua, because they're in love with Him. They don't want anything else. They want to pursue Him, their husband.

Continuing—**and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,** ⁶**To understand a proverb and an enigma.** I'm going to tell you something—Scripture is filled with proverbs and enigma. Yeshua’s teachings were filled they were proverbs and enigmas. Continuing—⁶**To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles.** ⁷**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.** What is the Torah? It is instruction. We are not to be fools! We are not to despise the Torah.

Proverbs 16:23—**The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.** We add. We don't sit or become stagnate. We become complacent because that means your falling away. We pursue Yeshua with everything we have got.

Proverbs 15:14—**The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness** (emphasis added). This is not talking about the wisdom of the world. This is not talking about getting your Ph D. in psychology, astrophysics, or anything like that. This is talking about entering into God's word and becoming knowledgeable about spiritual things.

Proverbs 9:9—**Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning** (emphasis added). No matter where you go in Scripture, this is being told to you over and over and over again.

Psalms 25:4-5—**Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.** Do you want to see the LORD? David, who wrote this Psalm, is broken before the LORD.

Go to Psalm 19:18—**Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your Law.** You see, the heart of someone who is pursuing Yeshua is crying out, "LORD, I beg of You. Open the Torah. Open up Your words and teachings where I have read about you." You should desire nothing else because you understand His words and teachings are better than fine gold. That is what the heart of the righteous should look like. They are crying out for this.

Ephesians 5:8-10—**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the LORD. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), [now he tells us what the fruit of the Spirit is] ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the LORD** (emphasis added).

That is our responsibility, and that is the expectation. We must seek what pleases the LORD. We need to find out what is acceptable to Him. If you do not seek, you will not know. If you continue to be governed by your flesh, it will pull you away from the word every single time without exception. I'm telling you this; when you know you're supposed to be fasting and praying, and you're not listening to the Spirit, you have a problem. When you feel the Holy Spirit prodding you, and you ignore Him, you have a problem.

I am going to close with this from Hebrews 12:14—**Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the LORD** (emphasis added). If you do not pursue holiness, you will never see the LORD. That is a terrifying statement to end on. We are to pursue holiness.

Isn't it interesting that nothing today is more hated than God's holiness. I could have never imagined a generation of churches that hold such contempt for the Torah, that hold such contempt against His Law. They are offended when you keep the Sabbath as prescribed in Scripture. This is a commandment of God, and the church has become repulsed by commandments that you can read with your own two eyes. These are the commandments that were written on stone tablets by the Living God.

The church is in trouble. You do not want to be taken with the sea of deception because it is a very powerful undercurrent. If you have ever been in the ocean and experienced that undercurrent, it is deadly. It is so powerful it will sweep you out. You don't want to get caught in that undercurrent.