

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)

I do not lay claim to a new light but rather, I am attempting to repeat truths which have been handed down to us from God through His divine word. **The Bible is its best commentary.** Before we look elsewhere for illumination, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to a better understanding of the verse or verses in question as we research all the passages in the Bible which deal with that particular subject. One of the tools you will find useful in your quest for understanding the scriptures is a good concordance. If you do not have a comfortable working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, perhaps you would consider “Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible” or “Young’s Analytical Concordance To The Bible”. In addition, excellent Bible software programs are available for your computer. These software programs have Hebrew and Greek dictionaries that, in many cases, allow you a better understanding of the intent of a particular verse or passage.

There are several factors which may hinder you from profiting from this paper. The first hindrance may be pride. You may have spent a great time in personal Bible study and may have shared your spiritual views for many years. Precepts we share in this paper may not always agree with the opinions you hold sacred and the tenets you have been teaching. It is our intent to provide an abundance of scripture that will document and support the truth we are sharing. The natural tendency of our flesh, however, is to reject anything which differs from our own opinion or from the opinion of someone we highly respect. Our material body has a natural reluctance to question our own beliefs and a resistance to change our views.

Some of the principles we share may not always agree with the favorite commentary that you hold so dear. Please bear in mind; however, the opinions in your favorite commentary (or Bible software) may be based upon the views which were reached through examination of only a few scriptures rather than being based upon all of the scriptures which deal with a particular subject.

We also expose ourselves to error when we try to apply scripture dealing with one particular group such as the Jews to a different group such as the members of God's local churches or perhaps to the members of the family of God. Does God require every man

who is a member of the family of God today to be circumcised? It is certainly a command in the Bible but it applied only to the Hebrew Theocracy. There is authority and there are promises given to God's local churches that were not given to all the members of the family of God. Did God give every member of His family the authority to baptize those they lead to Christ (whether the soul winner is a member of a local church or not) or was that authority given to His local churches? If an applicant told your church they had been baptized in a swimming pool by a soul winner who had never been a member of a local church, would your church recognize that baptism and register their name as a member of your church? I suspect you would insist that applicant be baptized by the authority of your church before their name was registered as a member. There is authority and there are promises given to God's local churches that were not given to all the members of the family of God. It is important that we be aware of who is being addressed since not all instructions were given to all people.

The Ten Virgins – Mathew 25:1-14

At the beginning of Matthew chapter 24, the disciples of Jesus were bragging about the beauty of Herod's temple. Jesus states that there will be a day when every stone will be torn down and not stone will be left upon another. The disciples waited until they got Him alone at the Mount of Olives and asked Him three questions.

- 1-When will all the stones be torn down?
- 2-What shall be the sign of thy coming?
- 3-What shall be the signs of the end of the world?

For the rest of chapters 24 and 25, Jesus answers those three questions. In Matthew 24:44-51, He urges everyone to be ready for His return.

Matthew 24

⁴⁴*So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.*

⁴⁵*“Who then is the **faithful and wise servant**, whom the master has put **in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time**? ⁴⁶*It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.* ⁴⁷*I tell you the truth, he**

will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' ⁴⁹and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As we begin the next chapter, Jesus is still speaking of being ready when He returns to get His Father's children

Matthew 25

¹**At that time** the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

¹²"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

¹³"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Revelation 4

¹After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will

show you what must take place after this.”²At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

PLEASE NOTE:

If the bride at a Jewish wedding was a widow, the celebration or marriage supper lasted 3 days.

If the bride at a Jewish wedding was a virgin, the celebration lasted **7** days.

In Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus told us some of the facts about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that will take place in the Third Heaven during the seven years of tribulation on this earth (Revelation 19:7-9).

NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.

1 – The first person I call your attention to is the bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

John 3

²⁶*They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”*

²⁷*To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.”²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. **The friend who attends the bridegroom** waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. **That joy** is mine, and it is now complete.³⁰*He must become greater; I must become less.**

John the Baptist, by his own testimony above, said that *he was a friend of the bridegroom, not a member of the Bride*. That would make him an invited guest, not part of the Bride.

Matthew 11

¹After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

²When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; **yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he**. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

What was the kingdom that John the Baptist was not a member of? If it was the kingdom of the saved (the family of God), Jesus was saying that John the Baptist was not saved. On the other hand, if Jesus was saying that John the Baptist was a member of the wedding guests rather than a member of the Bride, it would agree with the rest of the

scriptures including Revelation 21. In Revelation 21 we learn that there will be people living outside the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. They will **enter into** the city to worship the Lord through the 12 gates. Who are those living outside the city on the New Earth? They certainly were not the lost. They will be the friends of the Bridegroom- the wedding guests.

NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.

2 – The second ones I call your attention to in Matthew 22:1-14 are the friends of the Bridegroom-the wedding guests.

Part of that group will be those who were saved up until the organization of the church in Jerusalem. The other part of that group will be those who have been saved since the organization of the church in Jerusalem, but have never answered the call to be a member of one of the local New Testament churches. They never had scriptural baptism.

Revelation 21

⁹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, **I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God....

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴**The nations** will walk by its light, and **the kings of the earth will bring** their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations **will be brought into it.** ²⁷Nothing impure will ever **enter it**, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Again, I would like to point out that in Revelation 21 we learn that there will be people living outside the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. They will **enter into**

the city to worship the Lord through the 12 gates. Who are those living outside the city on the New Earth? They certainly were not the lost. They will be the friends of the Bridegroom- the wedding guests.

NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.

3 – The third ones I call your attention to in Matthew 22:1-14 are the Bride – those who have scriptural baptism and are members of one of God’s scriptural churches. .

John 14

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You may read the 13th chapter of John to see that Jesus Christ waited until He had His disciples (the local church in Jerusalem) alone to make that promise in John 14:1-3. Jesus was telling them that although His Father had many dwelling places, He was going to prepare a special place for them to dwell in so that they (His Bride) would dwell together with Him through eternity. The only scriptures that speak of a prepared place is Revelation 21 where it describes the Holy City Jerusalem.

The disciples of John the Baptist were just as saved as we are. They had repented of their sins and had asked that the Messiah pay their sin debt just as we did. Not all of the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus when He called to them. If you know of any scripture where Jesus promised the disciples who remained with John the Baptist that He was going to prepare a special place for them, please consider it your duty to share it with me.

Revelation 21

⁹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, *I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.*” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared**....

IN MATTHEW 25:1-10, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BRIDE WILL BE INSIDE WHEN THE DOORS ARE SHUT AT THE WEDDING FEAST. PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT MATTHEW 25:1-10 DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE BRIDE BUT TEACHES US ABOUT THE WEDDING GUESTS AND ABOUT THOSE WHO WILL MISS THE WEDDING FEAST BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT BE PROPERLY PREPARED.

Matthew 25

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Two groups are mentioned in Matthew 25:1-10.

1st group- the wise virgins – Those who have made preparation for the coming of Christ (salvation) but are not a member of the Bride. Please remember that Jesus did not say any of the 10 virgins were the bride.

2nd group- the foolish virgins – Those who have not made proper preparation for the coming of Christ – They have no salvation.

And so we find that in Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus was giving us insight about the wedding guests that will be at the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9), not insight about the Bride of Christ.

Matthew 22

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, **‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’**”

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Jesus was teaching in Matthew **25**:1-10 that the foolish virgins had trusted a false plan of salvation and did not possess the Holy Spirit. Oil is a type or picture of the Holy Spirit that we receive at the moment of salvation.

Please remember that most of those Jesus was speaking to in Matthew **22**:1-14 were lost people (Matthew **21**:45) who thought they were going to make it to the wedding feast in the 3rd Heaven. One of the points Jesus was making in the parable (Matthew **22**:1-14), was that many who thought they were going to make it were going to end up in outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. They will not have the proper wedding garment: the righteous of Christ. Revelation 7:13-14 explains the white robes that those saved during the Tribulation will wear. All of us who are saved by the blood of the Lamb will wear white robes.

Matthew 25

¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins **who were ready** went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹“Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

WHAT IS THE PLAN AT THE CATCHING UP?

One thing is sure. Not everyone who prophesies in Christ's name, cast out devils in His name or done other works in His name will go in when the door is opened.

Matthew 7

¹³“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

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¹After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place **after this**.” ²At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

THE BASIC QUESTION THAT YOU AND I MUST ANSWER IS, IF EVERYONE IS A MEMBER OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, WHO ARE THE WEDDING GUESTS IN THE PARABLES THAT JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT?

NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14

In the parable Jesus taught you had:

1- A Father- God the Father

2- A Groom- Jesus Christ

3- A Bride

4- Servants

5- Wedding Guests

Matthew 22

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Are you sure you are prepared to leave at the catching up or will you be left behind?

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)

Yours In Christ,

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