The Fabric of Truth

Good Morning, Brethren. Ruth and I consider it a privilege to be here with you. We are very thankful to the ecclesia for giving us the opportunity to share some thoughts. We do give praise to our Father above that He has given us this privilege as well.

We want to extend the greetings from our home ecclesia, Oakland County Bible Students.

The subject, The Fabric of Truth, is really a spin-off from a previous discourse that was an assignment at a previous convention. The assignment was essential personal truth doctrines. Let me emphasize that when I say personal, it’s what’s personal to me as to what I would consider essential truth doctrines. I’m not saying it’s what you need to believe; that would be presumptuous. What you need to believe is what God instructs you. It’s good for each of us to have a framework of what we believe as essential doctrines to us in order to make our calling and election sure.

To be brethren in Christ, to start in the narrow way, it’s quite simple. We ask those two or three questions at baptism. That’s all we ask in order to extend the right hand of fellowship. Do you recognize that you are a sinner in Adam? Do you recognize that Jesus Christ is your means of redemption and salvation with the heavenly Father? Do you make a full consecration to dedicate your all to serve the heavenly Father, even unto the death of self-will. It may be worded a little differently but if its in that framework it’s o.k. It’s the concepts of what those concepts represent that are important. Based on those responses you would be considered a brother or sister in Christ. But to make our calling and election sure there is much more in the Word of God that’s required. Each one of us must determine what that may be.

During the time we are living there is so much present truth that’s been revealed by out returned Lord and Saviour that we’re blessed because we have the complete unfolding of the plan. The mystery would be finished, meaning that the church would be complete and that there is a complete understanding of the plan of God because we’re living during the period of the 7th stage of the church. All these things would be revealed.

It’s only logical that our returned Lord, when He returned to gather his bride, would be feeding us with meat in due season as He did at the first advent. It was so prophesied by Jesus in Matthew the 24th chapter when He said that we could expect that upon His return He would give a wise and faithful servant the meat in due season to distribute to the fellow servants. So, ideally, we need to identify who that servant was and what those truths are, to digest them and prove them for ourselves. It’s not a matter of “groupthink”. It’s not a matter of accepting a party line or sectarian thinking. It’s not a part of just being a “Bible Student.” It’s a matter of our personal relationship with the heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ based on an understanding of what His Plan of the Ages is and where we are in it.

That being said I’m not really going to quote a lot of Scriptures. I think all of you here have really proven these things out. If this was a public meeting we would be quoting Scriptures throughout. I’m not going to give you a list. That is a good way, and we’ve done it for ourselves. But we’re going to go about it in a little different manner.

I’m going to start by suggesting Hebrews 5:11 through Hebrews 6:2. It’s where Paul is saying that at the point of time when they should be teachers they themselves still needed to be taught. They were still dwelling on the milk when they needed to get into the meat of the Word. Paul goes on to say that he would not re-lay the fundamental doctrines but wanted to go on into deeper truths. Then he lists some of them. He mentions “baptisms,” the “day of judgment,” and various other things you and I would not say would be essential for fellowship. But he says they are fundamentals. We want to go beyond that. If Paul is saying we want to go beyond then you and I believe that the things Paul is going to be relating, as he goes further in Hebrews, are part of the essential understandings we should have in order to have the meat in due season he was then providing. We’re not going to dwell on the book of Hebrews but let me just go on to say that we believe it is the unfolding of the pictures of the types and shadows of the Tabernacle and its priesthood which all prefigured aspects of the New Creation: our covenant of sacrifice, following in our high priest’s example of His covenant of sacrifice, His sin offering experiences which he passed through in order to developed as a new creature, perfected by the things which He suffered which you and I as footstep followers, the body members of Christ, we, too, as joint sacrificers must have our own sin offering experiences which are counted in as his cause He’s the head of the body and we’re body members. We’re filling up that which he left behind. So, in Paul’s thinking, he wanted to leave behind the fundamentals and get into something deeper. He really did get into something deeper, didn’t he? It was with that kind of understanding that the Tabernacle Shadows was written by Bro. Russell. It’s a way to point out what real true consecration means vs. just consecration to righteousness. You leave behind being just a believer and you enter into being an antitypical priest. You leave behind living a life that’s just in harmony with righteous principles and you’re entering into a life of sacrifice. In so doing part of what our sacrifice includes is studying the Word of God to make His truths our own, and prove it for ourselves.

The phrase “The Fabric of Truth” has been used for many years. I really love it because it mean to my mind the interweaving of various doctrines and prophecies in order to develop and create this beautiful tapestry that the heavenly Father has in His plan of the ages. Each of these strands or threads can be various doctrinal points, prophetic points, or points of Christian practice. We want to stress “truth concepts.” Various doctrines might come into play to create a “truth concept.” Some aspects can be prophetic in nature in which there may be areas where we don’t see eye to eye, but we are agreed on that “truth concept.” “Truth concepts” are made up of truth doctrines. We may all agree on the truth concepts though we don’t all agree on the truth doctrines. That’s what goes into each of us having our own personal essential truth doctrines that we must determine for ourselves.

The “hub” doctrine as we like to say is the Ransom. The Ransom, as we know, is a perfect human life, Jesus, exchanged by a willing death, for the perfect human life lost by father Adam. Very simple. Very straightforward. But let’s add to it the “Ransom for All.” That makes it outstanding for us as a truth concept. But we really want to know those doctrines that make that up. That’s a fundamental principle. It’s essential to me and it gives me hope and inspiration that there is a foundation for my beliefs based on that Ransom for all.

Let’s take the “Ransom for All.” We just related the simple philosophy of it. When we talk about the fabric of the ransom for all or that truth concept we must take in other doctrines. For example, Jesus was perfect, holy, harmless and separate from sinners. Adam was created perfect, yet without any experience with sin. We, Adam’s offspring, have inherited sin, imperfection, throughout out very being, throughout our very DNA. We are born in a dying condition, as ironic as that is. Part of this fabric of truth is that there is no so-called Trinity. Jesus, the son, and God, the father, are separate beings. God the father is eternal and Jesus (the Logos) was created. God was, is and forever shall be. He could not have offered Himself as the ransom because He could not die. This is very straightforward. So, He had to send His son in His place. So no trinity becomes a truth concept and part of the Ransom for All. If you believe in the Trinity you’re not grasping the philosophy of the Ransom.

Part of this fabric or truth is that God is a God of Justice. He is not capricious. His balances of justice must be continually and equally balanced. God is also a God of Love. He desires all mankind to benefit from the ransom. God is a God of Wisdom who can devise such a beautiful, all inclusive plan that can harmonize all of His attributes without violating His creatures’ free moral agency of choice. There is another truth concept that comes in as a doctrinal underpinning of the ransom for all. God is a God of Power, that He can and will accomplish all that He purposes.

This fabric of truth of the philosophy of the ransom for all includes the understanding that there is no immortality of the human soul. Jesus as a perfect human, the exact replacement for Adam, had to be able to die. Hence, the human soul or being is not immortal. Immortality means to be death proof, that one cannot die. God was the only one immortal from the very beginning. Also, we must understand that spirit and human natures are separate and distinct. Since Jesus could not have been a descendant of Adam and have been perfect (since all of Adam’s descendants have inherited sin) He must have had a different source of life. And He did. His heavenly Father was, and is, God Almighty. Hence, Jesus’ previous life was spiritual as the great Logos. He was a spirit being, which life He had to willingly leave behind, be emptied of, in order to be made in the nature of humans. We must understand that the Bible Hell is the *condition* of the dead and not a *place* of torment; that they are now non-existent rather than being tortured somewhere for all eternity. If life means existence, then the opposite of life means non-existence. So to summarize the fabric of this truth doctrine of the Ransom for All it includes the following doctrines:

•Jesus was a perfect human

•Adam was created a perfect human

•Freedom of choice or free moral agency

•Inherited sin

•God’s 4 character attributes

•God has a Divine Plan

•No Immortality of the Human Soul

•Spirit and Human Natures are separate and distinct

•Jesus had a different source of life than Adam

•What the Bible Hell means

•That life is existing and death is not existing, hence the resuscitation of the dead

So right here we can say that those are all part of the threads that make up the fabric of this truth concept of the Ransom for All.

On a personal aspect of the Ransom for All it’s always good to put the head and the heart together. If we can create an emotional attachment to an individual understanding it more than doubles the power and affect it has in our lives. It enhances the power of that concept in our thinking processes.

In Galatians 2:20 the setting is that Paul has had this negative experience. He had to confront his long time traveling partner, Barnabas, who in fact was the one that introduced him to the apostles if you remember. And he had to confront Peter, the one who had been specially used of the Lord with the two keys, bringing the truth first to the Jewish Christians at Pentecost and later to Cornelius and the Gentile converts. Paul had to call them hypocrites because certain Jewish Christians had come up from Jerusalem and were implying that the Jewish Christians there, such as Barnabas and Peter, weren’t really being faithful to God because they were eating with the Gentile Christians. Paul had to call them out. He had to. And it was a great thing that he did. If he hadn’t it might have derailed Gentiles in the church and furthered the church thinking that they had to come under the Jewish Law in order to be faithful to God. But the way Paul ends his writing on that exchange puts the emotion for us into that intellectual concept: I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. Of course Paul was the one who taught of the ransom for all, the anti-lutron, to be testified in due time, in 1 Timothy 2. However, here Paul is making it personal. He’s showing the emotional connection that he had to the intellectual understanding of the Ransom for All. He stood up to Peter and Barnabas to save the church from understanding that we have to be under the Jewish law. The Gentiles don’t have to observe the Jewish Law to be faithful to God. Jesus died as a ransom. He broke down that wall of separation. He loved me and He gave Himself for me.

Let’s develop this into another truth concept: Restitution for all. This is based on the previous Ransom for all. Like the Ransom for all this, too, is a principal truth doctrine. Once there is a Ransom for all which brings all back to existence, we need to know what happens to them all. This Fabric of Truth doctrine incorporates the following:

Restitution means being restored to that which was lost. Adam lost life and the dominion of earth, including human perfection and happiness as well as a sense of harmony in his earthly surroundings. He was the king and lost his kingdom. This means that the earth as a planet will be restored to the Edenic conditions as Adam knew it even though he only knew a little slice. It will have perfect vegetation and animal life. All will be in balance.

There will be absence of fear. I want to talk about this for a moment. You and I don’t even realize what it’s like to ever live without some sense of fear. We have fear in our very structure. Let me explain what I mean by that. You and I have an immune system. Our immune system is protecting us all the time from viruses and bacteria and various other things. So we have built into our very system something that operates on the fear of getting sick, ill, contaminated. It’s working all the time. We don’t have to think about it. But we all know what happens if our immune system is down and not working. We get sick. We usually attribute that to our immune system not working properly. So, in the kingdom, in the perfection of the kingdom, will perfect man need an immune system? In a perfect environment, if there’s no viruses, no bacteria, there’re no illnesses or diseases, when that’a all eventually eradicated, will mankind even need an immune system? It seems to me that we won’t. We won’t need that protection.

Let’s take it to another step. We have a fear of being hungry. Every time we get hungry we look for something to eat or, if we’re thirsty, to drink. In our lives often it’s not a fear but it’s a concern, we think about it every day. Even if we’re dieting thoughts of food and nourishment come to mind. But, there are parts of the world as you well know, where people are literally in fear every day of where they will get their next meal. Just because our circumstances have alleviated some of these fears and concerns doesn’t mean there isn’t a fear factor if the means weren’t there for us.

We have fear of being rejected by one another right in this room. We may be interacting but have a subconscious fear of being rejected by one another. No one likes being rejected.

You and I have never really lived a day without some sense of fear, either consciously or subconsciously. But Adam and Eve didn’t know that at first. They had no fear at first. Everything was provided for them in the Garden. It was all pleasant and beautiful and lovely. It’s when Adam and Eve got the knowledge of truth that fear set in. They made coverings from the leaves of the fig tree. They were afraid to be seen naked. Fear came in. They were disobedient. When that kicked in Bro. Russell talks about the virus of sin being released in their bodies which started the dying process. They had to be evicted out of the Garden for it to reach its culmination. When they had children that fear factor was genetically passed right on down the line so we have inherited that. But, restitution means we are going to be restored back to what Adam lost so mankind will be restored back to the time when there was no fear. There will be the perfect climate. Pollution will be eliminated as well all the various injustices that take place throughout the earth today.

As Adam lost the potential for life everlasting on earth so, too, this hope or offering of life eternal will be restored to resuscitated mankind. Since Adam had requirements to be able to continue to live, namely he had to be obedient to God’s authority as well as God’s instructions or commands. Likewise, resuscitated mankind will be restored to be able to choose whether or not they will follow God’s instructions in order to attain and maintain perfect human life for all eternity. The same requiremens, same offer, same test but the difference is that mankind will have their experiences with sin and evil.

Now, first and foremost, acknowledging God’s sovereignty. Secondly, acknowledging that Jesus is their ransomer and redeemer. Then thirdly, embracing from the heart and then putting into practice the requirements of justice and love as simply expressed in the Golden Rule, Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It’s proactive. It’s the difference between the goats and the sheep in the parable of Matthew 25. The sheep put into practice proactively this Golden Rule whereas the goats refrained from doing that proactively. That resulted in a different character and therefore in a different reward.

This leads to the concept of the resurrection hope, a full and complete standing before God. No one is resurrected from the grave except the Ancient Worthies because they’ve already had their test. They are resurrected with a perfect humanity. But the rest of creation is resuscitated and under that resuscitation they are brought back to life but without a full standing with God. That has to be something that they develop, that they choose and practice. Then they are tested on this. If they pass the test they will obtain the proffered life eternal, a complete standing with God, a resurrection.

That takes us to our next point. We’ve touched on it but let’s emphasize it. There’s another thread in this fabric of truth. What’s going to make this restitution opportunity more successful for mankind than it was for Adam and Eve?

**First,** it’s the permission of evil. Mankind’s current life experiences with all the consequences of choosing not to follow their Creator’s instructions, whether they do it knowingly or not, will grant them an unparalleled and personal insight that could not have been acquired effectively and efficiently in any other way.

**Secondly,** there’s going to be a great Mediator, the Christ Head and Body. These will be both empowered and educated by their experiences while in their previous human lives. They’re going to be exalted to immortality on the Divine Plane. They will be in the spirit realm and they will be more effective in influencing mankind during that Mediatorial Reign than Satan has been influencing mankind during this reign of sin and death. This great Mediator is depicted in Scripture as being Kings, empowered, and as Priests, those that have already sacrificed and in their sin offering experiences they have been educated, perfected as new creatures through the things which they suffered in this life even as our Master had, as we follow in His footsteps, in order to educate us to know how to assist mankind as they walk up that highway of holiness.

We’re getting an unprecedented education right now. No one would want a brain surgeon to operate on him who didn’t have previous experience. How would you like to be their first patient? Would that make you feel good? No, I don’t think anyone would like that. However, usually, nowadays, we can screen our neurosurgeons and we can see how many years they’ve been in practice. How many surgeries they have performed. We can even read reviews and it gives us a much greater measure of confidence. That’s what the greater Mediator will be made up of. It will be made up of those of us struggling against our old nature. We are changing the way we are thinking and we have many failures. But because we are still here we are still trying. Because we are still trying that means the great teacher is still working with us. You and I are trying to develop a Godlike, Christlike character.

If we were to describe that character musically we would say it is a beautiful symphony. The greatest piece that could ever be played. And you and I are trying to learn how to play that with brains and minds that don’t work well because we have that inherited sin. We have at least 2 stuck keys on our piano as we’re trying to play that symphony. At least 2. Some of us have more. I’m sure I do. You and I are learning how to play this symphony with 2 stuck keys but the heavenly Father gave us Jesus so he could make up the difference. So he hears a beautiful symphony. But you and I have to keep practicing. We’re not only practicing to learn how to play it but also how to work around our stuck keys, the sin which doth so easily beset us. As we work on this one of two things can happen. We can become so discouraged that we give up. Or we just keep playing and trying and practicing, trusting that our Jesus is making up the difference for our weaknesses. Which student is the teacher more pleased with? The one who keeps trying, even though they can’t do it perfectly? or the one who quits? If the one keeps trying there is hope. For the one who quits that’s the end. They’ll never get any better. It’s like saying we don’t accept that Jesus will make the difference. So brethren, stay in the game. Keep practicing. Keep admiring that beautiful piece. We don’t need to lower that piece to what we can do. Hold up the beauty of that Divine Character before our minds, that Christlike character. We just keep learning to play it to the best of our ability.

Mankind will eventually not have any stuck keys. They’ll be able to play that piece perfectly because they will have perfect human bodies as they’ve practiced walking up that highway of holiness. You and I will be there as their teachers saying that we had those same stuck keys. Brother A will be able to say, I had those same stuck keys. Sister B will be able to say that her stuck keys were a little bit different but here they are. You and I will be given the assignment, if we’re faithful, if we keep practicing, to help those who had similarly stuck keys. Another way of looking at this is this. If there was a button you could push that could take away all our sins and shortcomings, no more selfish or sinful propensities, wouldn’t we all push it in a heartbeat? I think so. I don’t think anyone of us would think twice about it if that was a possibility. That tells us that we’re out of harmony with this sinful arrangement. But the heavenly Father has so designed that you and I are learning to live through that. We’re in the world but not of the world in order to help the world in the future when worldliness is done away with.

**Thirdly,** in order to assist mankind, the great deceiver, Satan, will be completely restrained from being able to affect mankind or continue to blind their minds while they learn and practice living up to the requirements of that golden rule.

33:46