

**CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”**  
**FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024**  
**CHAPTER 42, pg. 191-194**

**CHAPTER 42 - THE KNOWLEDGE OF RECKONING**

*The immaterial part of man has two parts in it: spirit and soul*

*1Th 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your **whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*(NKJV)*

*The spirit of the man is that immaterial part of the man that gives life (animation) to the man. It is that “breathed in” part of him that comes from the Holy Spirit. As a part of the image of God in man, it is that part of the man through which he is to receive from and communicate with God. Due to iniquity and being born after Adam’s kind, the spirit of the man is “dead in sins and trespasses.” That does not mean the spirit is without life; it means the spirit of man is born **separated** from the relationship and therefore the fellowship of God. He cannot receive from God unless God awakens the spirit He put into that man; unless God reveals Himself to that man, he cannot know God. The spirit of man was designed to receive teaching from the Spirit of God and thereby through those revelations give meaning to life and understanding to the ways of God for the man. The spirit of man lives off of revelation. When the spirit is dead and not alive to God, he cannot receive from God the truth and instead uses the ability of the soul to reason and creates imagined “spiritual” truth to make up for the lack of truth which should have come from God but was prevented due to his being dead to Him. The spirit is capable of seeing the created world and even by awed by it, but due to sin, he cannot have a godly understanding of it. God uses the natural world to create in man a sense of His person and character. This information is adequate enough to bring about transformative thinking in the man if he will humble himself. This information God declares is adequate enough for the man to “know” God and be held accountable for worshiping Him. God knows the man through the knowledge of his spirit; he searches the man through that spirit.*

*The soul is related more to the personality, the gifts, the talents, the thought processes of the man, i.e. his mind, will and emotion. The soul acts as the connecting translator of the spirit and the body; it is the headquarters of the reasoning of the man. The soul records and processes the data gathered by the body's senses. The soul gives names and categories for the things the body senses and helps the body make practical use of that data. It also feeds the spirit information and receives a definition back from the spirit. The soul can only make decisions and have good thoughts based on the information he is given. If that information is faulted, incorrect, or false, the soul will base its reasoning off of that bad information. Since the spirit of man, until born again by the Spirit of God, cannot understand the things of God, he can never reason what is true of God, His world even his own life. He cannot think like God until God awakens him and gives him understanding.*

*This immaterial part of the man must be born again by God through the knowledge of Christ by the Spirit of God or he will remain separated from God for eternity. This is why Jesus came and did the work He did. He is fully God and fully man. Living a totally righteous life of trust and obedience, God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. His life was then identified with ours so that when Christ dies as our sin substitute, we die together with Him. Jesus' just and righteous life is identified with us and our death is final in the eyes of God. To the one who is trusting that Jesus is God come in the flesh, the Christ, the Spirit of God applies the work of the horrible cross of Christ that separated Him from His father and His spirit from His body to separate us from our sins and trespasses. This is the Spirit of God removing our sin from us. That pays our account with God in full for our lives and the iniquity (the old man) that separated us from God. But as the work of Jesus on the cross was only part of what He did to save us, there is another very important action that must be applied by the Spirit.*

*When Jesus rises on the third day for our sin, because we are united to Him, we also rise together with Him!! This is the Spirit, who has removed our iniquity from us, giving us what we need to be justified (declared righteous) before God. With the old man removed from us (dead with Christ), the Spirit of God creates in us a new man made in the image of Christ, the perfect*

*faithful savior! The believer is born again; he is justified before God and is now alive unto God, dead unto sin. This is an action no mortal can do; only God can give a man new, eternal life in the image of Christ. It is an act of love and grace, God's unmerited favor and His monergistic work in us, done by God and God alone. Justification is a monergistic work; no effort of man can make him just before God. No human effort can ever justify the man. Attempts to serve God in order to be justified are works of the old nature and defy God. Until a man is justified before God through trusting the person and work of Christ alone, the process of his salvation is halted. He cannot*

*Sanctification is synergistic, a team effort between a yielded, humble, surrendered believer and the empowering Holy Spirit. The believer is led by the Holy Spirit; the believer is not the lead in his actions. However, he is filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit when he humbly yields his members as servants of righteousness; when he humbly allows the Spirit of God to teach him (called renewing his mind in Romans 12:2) and change him into the image of Christ; when he humbly and faithfully chooses active obedience over passivity and self-centeredness; when he humbly recognizes himself as a slave of Christ and not his own boss. That step toward God activates the work of the Holy Spirit to move toward the believer and empower him to do the work of God. The power and agency of the work is the Holy Spirit whereas the medium through which the Spirit works is the yielded believer. The Holy Spirit is the initiator in godly praying, godly trust and godly love. The Holy Spirit is the motivator in the life of a trusting, willing believer.*

### **THE KNOWLEDGE OF RECKONING**

*The interaction of the regenerated soul and spirit is the basis of reckoning. "They" feed each other and are necessary to the life of the believer.*

*For the believer to grow into spiritual maturity, knowledge of scriptural truth is necessary and must precede it. Pg 191 This means the taking in of Scriptural truth through the senses of reading, hearing, and speaking the Word of God. That is an active discipline of the body. From this body activity, the word is ingested by the soul where it is*

*processed, digested, memorized, meditated upon and a plan of action considered. That is communicated to the spirit of the man and the thought is processed through discernment of the spirit. The spirit of man, empowered by the Spirit of God, then plans an action pleasing to God and sends it to the will of man to give a yielded body the work of God to do. But it starts with proper knowledge that is centered in God. This is the proper relationship of head and heart knowledge. "For faith to function, there must be Spirit-given knowledge of the Word." Pg 191*

*"There is a crippling tendency among believers to day to deprecate head knowledge of the truth, and even doctrine itself". Pg 191 Some lazy, immature or arrogant believers think they do not need the discipline of reading and thinking of the word of God and foolishly believe they already know God's will. "Just do what your heart says! That is being led by the Spirit" so they erroneously believe. They believe heart knowledge is gained by experience, i.e. something they experienced that they count as a miraculous work of God that proves their acceptability as already sanctified. They then believe that any impulse they feel is the leading of God and therefore is holy, no matter how contrary to God and His Word the action is.*

The Spirit of Truth ministers to us by means of our mind - the spiritual mind that relies on Him. The head knowledge gives us the facts on which we exercise faith or **reckon**. **Reckoning is confidence in what God says to be true. It is not simply acknowledging it as what God says is true; it is accepting and applying to one's thought and action that it is true. It is making what God has said is true a reality in one's life.**

*We are told to meditate (think over and over with application) on these things. We are told to let the Word of Christ (Word of God) dwell in us richly. We are told that if we abide in Christ and His Word abides in us, we will ask and receive. If we abide in His Word we will know the truth and the truth will make us free. **These are all actions of a Word***

***driven head knowledge that becomes a heart knowledge through faith and obedience.***

“...it should be realized that one’s knowledge of the truth is always in advance of his growth in that truth. Many believers know truth in which it will take them a lifetime (and eternity) to grow. *Simply because they have yet to live what they do not know is not ground for denying the need to know biblical truth. When people have not grown into the truth of what they know, they must be encouraged to reckon it to be so and apply it now.*

### ***THE FOUNDATION OF RECKONING***

*A foundation is what we build upon. That foundation must be firm and solid or whatever is built upon it will fall to the natural storms of life that will come.*

*Our foundation of reckoning has at least 4 parts to it*

- 1) We are born anew in Christ
- 2) We are accepted in Christ
- 3) We are eternally secured in Christ
- 4) We are positioned in Christ

*These do not grow us. They are the truths we make into head and heart knowledge as the foundation of our growth.*

### ***GROWTH***

*We must never return to our old way of doing things. The new way is through reckoning the four foundations to be true enough to build a life on.*

*We must understand the deadly and useless old way was crucified with Christ because it was so offensive to God. We do not do things FOR God now, we do things WITH God. We are no longer separated from God but in union with Him. That union is NOT with the old man but with the new man.*

*Trying to unite God with the old man would be like trying to work with a stinking, rotting, decaying corpse tied to us full bodied all the time. Throw away any thoughts that your old man had something to contribute to your sanctification! Let*

*him be gone by the cross and embrace the new man  
created by God in you!*

***THREE PILLARS OF KNOWLEDGE - page 194***

*These pillars are the basis of our POSITION in Christ*

THE FIRST PILLAR - The knowledge of our birth,  
acceptance and security in the Lord Jesus  
Christ

THE SECOND PILLAR - The knowledge of His  
cross as our cross.

As we see our identification with Christ in His  
death to sin, we know His cross to be  
our cross.

We know self to have been crucified there; we  
know ourselves to have been cut off  
from Adam and freed from the power of  
sin.

THE THIRD PILLAR - The knowledge that we are  
alive, and complete, in our risen Lord places  
us securely on the third pillar.