

## **Come Out from The Midst of Them**

We have discussed it once or twice in the past, just in conversation, but just how serious is this warning of “come out from the midst of them” to be taken? What are some effects of it? Certainly, we all live *on the earth*. We do not have access to any rockets leaving just yet, so we, like Adam and Eve were, are stuck here. Outside of family members, are we to avoid human contact? Are we to live like hermits in a cave? Absolutely not! However, the instructions in God’s word are quite clear. He does not want us to be so spiritually minded we are no earthly good. He warns us not to be unevenly tied to unbelievers.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18-** “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said: “I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; And I

shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says *the* Lord Almighty.”

We have been sanctified, set apart, by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We were bought with a price.

**Hebrews 10:10-** “By Whose will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

There is an abundance of scripture that contain God’s warnings against becoming too friendly with the world and its ways. This lesson may contain a scriptural overload as we have just spent several months in self-reflection and removing the “leaven: from our lives. This task continues through this week’s Feast and on until the First Resurrection. Why doesn’t God want us involved with those “in the world?”

**1 Corinthians 5:6-8-** “Your glorying *is* not good. Don’t you know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leaven, so that you may become a new lump, *even* as you are unleavened. For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. For this reason, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with

*the* leaven of malice and wickedness, but with *the* unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.”

As we just read in the weekly essay, the author was listening to a sermon given by a Protestant pastor. He said he shut it off after hearing an outright lie in the message. My question is, why was he listening in the first place? The more we know God’s word and we truly grow in our relationship with Him, the discernment from and through His Holy Spirit will increase. When we open the door to someone other than a ***true*** worshipper of God, we open the door to the world and its influence. I know this will seem difficult but hold on, God makes it clear we are to have nothing to do with the world, especially regarding Biblical truth. Even though we have God’s Holy Spirit within us through repentance and baptism, we put ourselves in harm’s way if we choose to conform to worldly principles of conduct and activities.

**Deuteronomy 6:14-15-** “You shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people who are all around you, For the LORD your God *is* a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you and destroy you from off the face of the earth.”

**Revelation 18:4-5-**“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, My people, so that you do not take part in her sins, and that you do not receive of her plagues, For her sins have reached as far as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”

**Proverbs 13:20-21-** “He who walks with wise *men* shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous good shall be repaid.”

**Romans 12:1-6-** “I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service. ***Do not conform yourselves to this world***, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God. For I say through the grace that was given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think with sound-mindedness, as God has divided to each one a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function; Likewise, we, being many, are one body in Christ, and each one members of one another. But each one has different gifts

according to the grace that is given to us—whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the measure of faith;”

It is far too easy to be pulled back into the world and our former ways to which we walked away from by associations in spiritual concerns. It is no mystery that protestant ministers can present the “warm and fuzzy” sermons we often speak of. It is also of no surprise that they may even possess an interesting viewpoint on scripture. I am sure that Satan too had a wonderful story that convinced Eve to take a bite of the apple.

**Genesis 3:4-5-** “And the serpent said to the woman, “In dying, you shall not surely die! For God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God, deciding good and evil.”

Sound familiar? Once he had Adam and Eve hooked, the rest of humanity was a snap and they *actually* walked with God in the Garden of Eden.

**1 Corinthians 15:33-34-** “Do not be deceived; evil companionship corrupts good behavior. Awake to righteousness, and do not sin, for some of you do not have the knowledge of God. I say *this* to your shame.”

Paul delivered a gut punch with that statement. He was speaking to the Church at Corinth. A body of believers who *thought* they were walking in God's ways. Paul was admonishing them for **tolerating** an adulterer in their congregation. Just because someone is nice or not disruptive, God's standards are strict and none of us have been granted any authority to make any changes in anyone's favor who is not walking accordingly. God is NO RESPECTER of persons (**Job 37:24, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:25**).

It is this tolerance that can lead us back to the mire we were rescued from. "Well, they're not that bad, they're just misinformed." I should not have to remind anyone present that tolerance has put us where we are as a nation with respect to all of the perversions that are presently being shoved down our throats. Now that we have realized that it is at an epidemic and ridiculous level, it may be too late to rectify.

The song and dance of "I'll go along " and "to each his own" has now become, "accept this behavior or else." The persecutions against anyone remotely standing up for righteousness or any moral position against such behavior are widespread. Violence is the new norm of protest. The Bible lists numerous persons facing aggressive reactions when they took a stand for righteousness and worldly corruption and immorality.

**Psalm 31:14-18-** “But I trusted in You, O LORD; I said, “You are my God.” My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me in Your lovingkindness. Let me not be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed. Let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence— the lips which speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt.”

**Matthew 24:9-11-** “Then shall they deliver you up to affliction and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then shall many be led into sin, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many;”

Just look at what they did to our Savior Jesus Christ! Stephen was stoned! All of the disciples were put to death, save John. We are now reaping the crop of compromise and tolerance. If the church would have been strong in God’s truth, we may not be in this situation...just yet. This is what happened when the church played both sides of the fence, forgetting God’s word and His Sovereignty,

reducing His commandments to “suggestions.” We cannot allow this to happen within His true church.

**James 4:1-8-** “*What is the cause of quarrels and fighting among you? Is it not mainly from your own lusts that are warring within your members? You lust, and have not; you kill, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel, but still you do not have, because you do not ask. Then you ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with evil motives, that you may consume it on your own lusts. You adulterers and adulteresses, don’t you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the scripture says in vain, “The spirit that dwells in us lusts with envy”? But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, “God sets Himself against the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!”*

The modern train of thought is that man needs no godly source of morality. The belief is that we humans all possess a natural sense of right and wrong. This is



certainly debatable these days as some do not know which bathroom to use. God opposes these thoughts in His word.

**Proverbs 14:12-** “There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the way of death.”

**Proverbs 16:25-30-** “There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death. The appetite of a laboring man works for him, for his hunger urges him on. An ungodly man digs up evil, and his lips *are* like a burning fire. A perverse man causes strife, and a whisperer separates chief friends. A violent man lures his neighbor and leads him into a way *that is* not good. He shuts his eyes to devise perverse things; and moving his lips, he brings evil to pass.”

These are the words of Solomon. We can all read of how he fell from grace by reuniting with the world when God so clearly warned us all in the Old Testament.

**Leviticus 18:1-4-** “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘I *am* the LORD your God. As they do in the land of Egypt where you dwelt, you shall not do. And you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Neither shall you walk in their

ordinances. You shall do My judgments and keep My ordinances and walk in them. *I am* the LORD your God.”

**Deuteronomy 7:1-4-** “When the LORD your God shall bring you into the land where you go to possess it and has cast out many nations before you—the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you— And the LORD your God shall deliver them up to you, you shall crush them, and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to his son, nor shall you take his daughter to your son, For they will turn away your sons from following Me so that they may serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and will destroy you suddenly.”

**Deuteronomy 12:29-32-** “When the LORD your God shall cut off the nations before you, where you go to possess them, and you take their place and dwell in their land, Take heed to yourself that you do not become ensnared by following them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not ask about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods that I may also do likewise?’ You shall not do so to the LORD your God, for every abomination to the LORD,

which He hates, they have done to their gods; even their sons and their daughters they have burned in the fire to their gods. Whatsoever thing that I command you, be careful to do it. You shall not add to it, nor take away from it.”

**Jeremiah 10:1-3-** “Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the LORD, “Do not learn the way of the heathen, and do not be terrified at the signs of the heavens; for the nations are terrified at them. For the customs of the people *are* vain; for one cuts a tree out of the forest with the axe, the work of the hands of the workman.

All of these scriptures occurred *after* the great flood. God was so disgusted with mankind; He was grieved He created us. We should all be grateful Noah found favor with God or none of us would be here.

**Genesis 6:5-8-** “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD repented that He had made man on the earth, and He *was* grieved in His heart. And the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the crawling thing, and the fowl of

the air; for I repent that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

The fact that God had to repeatedly remind His people to stay out of the world says something of the mentality of those who profess to be His.

**Proverbs 12:1-2-** “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction *is* stupid. The good *man* receives grace from the LORD, but He will condemn a man of wicked devices.”

**Proverbs 12:15-** “The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes, but he who listens to advice *is* wise.”

Some people will never fully understand that God is more than serious when He tells us to do something. We had better do it and do it just the way He said in His word. It is so vitally important to God that we do not return to our earthly ways when we have been called out from the midst of them.

**Galatians 4:8-9-** “Now on the one hand, when you did not know God, you were in bondage to those who are not gods by nature. But on the other hand, after

having known God—rather, after having been known by God—how *is it that* you are turning again to the weak and impotent elements, to which you again desire to be in bondage?”

**Proverbs 26:10-12-** “The great *God* who formed all *things* both rewards the fool and rewards transgressors. As a dog returns to its vomit, *so* a fool returns to his own folly. Do you see a man wise in his own conceit? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.”

**2 Peter 2:20-22-** “For if, after escaping the moral defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they again become entangled in them, and are overcome, the final end is worse than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment *that was* delivered to them. But the *pronouncement found* in the true proverb has happened to them: The dog has returned to *eat* his own vomit; and *the* sow *that was* washed *has returned* to her wallowing place in *the filthy* mire.”

So many reminders throughout scripture warning us not to return to our former ways. Association with our worldly beliefs is contrary to our new life in Christ Jesus. We are to put off the old man and bear good fruit.

**Matthew 7:17-20-** “In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree cannot produce evil fruit, nor can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree *that is* not producing good fruit is cut down and is cast into the fire. Therefore, you shall assuredly know them by their fruits.”

**Romans 8:6-8-** “For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace, Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it *be*. But those who are in *the* flesh cannot please God.”

The people that are still “in the world,” such as those we work with or even the Protestant ministers that may have a “good message” are not those who can in anyway enlighten us to God’s word. They may present an interesting point or share wisdom from everyday life but not keeping God’s commandments puts them at a loss for the complete truth.

**Ephesians 4:17-24-** “So then, I declare and testify this in *the* Lord that you are no longer to walk even as the rest *of the* Gentiles are walking, in *the* vanity of their minds, Having *their* understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. They have cast off all feelings, *and* have given themselves up to licentiousness, to work every uncleanness with insatiable desire. But you have not so learned Christ; If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, according to *the* truth in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

They just do not understand nor is it they ever will unless God the Father calls them (**John 6:44**).

**Psalm 14:2-5-** “The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek *after* God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not *even* one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, those who devour My

people as men eat bread and do not call upon the LORD? There they are in great fear, for God is with the generation of the righteous.”

**Mark 7:18-23-** “And He said to them, “Are you likewise without understanding? Don’t you perceive that anything that enters into a man from outside is not able to defile him? For it does not enter into his heart, but into the belly, and *then* passes out into the sewer, purging all food.” And He said, “That which springs forth from *within* a man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the hearts of men, go forth evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness’s, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; All these evils go forth from within, and *these* defile a man.”

Again, we must guard our hearts and minds against what is allowed to enter them. We have a clever adversary, and he is well aware of our weaknesses. When we are weak and complacent we can leave the door open ever so slightly and he has his foot in the door before you realize it. Our lives need to be measured against God’s standards He lists in His word.

**Psalm 16:1-4-** “Preserve me, O God, for in You do I take refuge. I have said to the LORD, “You are my LORD; I have no goodness apart from You.” As for the



saints in the earth, “They are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight.” Their sorrows shall be multiplied who run after another god. I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood; and I will not take their names upon my lips.”

By dipping back into worldly things, we can become distracted and lose focus on our walk towards the Kingdom. Again, distraction is another open door where the adversary can gain a foothold. Acceptance and tolerance of something that “does not seem so bad” is all the leaven the enemy needs to deposit. It will grow from there and impede any spiritual growth. Hitting a brick wall in your walk with God? Make sure the door is closed and nailed shut. God is trying to tell you something. If we find ourselves too weak to close the door, ask God, He has the strength.

**2 Samuel 22:31-33-** “*As for God, His way is perfect. The word of the LORD is tried. He is a shield to all those who seek refuge in Him, For Who is God, except the LORD? And Who is a rock except our God? God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect.*”

**Philippians 4:13-** “I can do all things through Christ, Who empowers me.”

Spiritual guidance and truth can only come from One Source. Seeking spiritual guidance from a corrupted source, while it may not be overtly poison, we have been warned against it. The source may have a Ph.D. and “thirty years in the word” but no closer to knowing God than we are to Mars.

**Matthew 15:7-9-** “Hypocrites! Isaiah has prophesied well concerning you, saying, ‘These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for* doctrine *the* commandments of men.’ ”

**Ephesians 5:6-11-** “Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words; for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not be joint partakers with them. For you were once darkness; but now *you are* light in *the* Lord. Walk as children of light, (Because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is well pleasing to the Lord; **And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them;**”

If these worldly preachers genuinely loved God, they would know and love His truth. They would willfully submit themselves to His will and His word. They do

not submit. Truth is not popular in Protestant churches; they should change the name to Burger King as they “have it their way.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12-** “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the truth, so that they might be saved. And for this cause, God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe *the* lie, So that all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness.”

**Romans 10:2-3-** “For I testify of them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of the righteousness *that* comes from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Do you think it might offend God that anyone would seek the advice from such sources as these rather than seek Him Who gave us His only Son? Pursuing godly wisdom from a source who does not know Him may not be the best course of action. This disobedience is noted and reflects on our devotion to the One Who called us out of darkness. When God said to come out from the midst of them and be separate, I do not believe He said to seek their wisdom concerning Me.

**Romans 1:28-31-** “And in exact proportion as they did not consent to have God in *their* knowledge, God abandoned them to a reprobate mind, to practice *those* things that are immoral; Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, guile, evil dispositions; whisperers, Slanderers, God-haters, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things *and practices*; disobedient to parents, Void of understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable *and* unmerciful;”

When we fully take a stand against the morally unhealthy things we left, it serves to further separate us from a fallen world and we grow in our relationship with our Creator.

**1 Timothy 6:11-12-** “But you, O man of God, flee these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance *and* meekness. Fight the good fight of the faith! Take hold of eternal life to which you were also called and did profess a good profession in the presence of many witnesses.”

If you seek to increase your faith and know God even more than you do at present, we must live by every word that proceeds from His mouth! There can be no

compromise. Disciplining our minds and hearts on the word of God and our walk and relationship with Him will develop our faith and increase our spiritual awareness of the world around us. Rejoice in Him and His truth.

**Philippians 4:4-9-** “Rejoice in *the* Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your moderation be known to all men; the Lord *is* near. Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything; And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever *things* are honorable, whatever *things* are just, whatever *things* are pure, whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report; if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. Whatever things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, you do also; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

We must never forget from whence we came and the price that was paid for our liberation from sin and death. We must love God first.

**2 Peter 1:5-9-** “And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence besides, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, self-control;

and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; And to godliness, brotherly love; and to brotherly love, the love *of God*. For *if* these things exist and abound in you, they *will* cause *you to be* neither lacking effort nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so shortsighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins.”

God has provided more than just one scripture telling us to “come out from the midst of them.” We have listed numerous ones to ponder but there are still more in His instruction manual, the Bible.

**1 Timothy 6:3-5-** “If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to godliness, ***He is proud and knows nothing***. Rather, he has a morbid attraction to questions and disputes over words, from which come envy, arguments, blasphemy, wicked suspicions, Vain reasonings of men who have been corrupted in *their* minds and *are* destitute of the truth—*men* who believe that gain is godliness. From such withdraw yourself.”

One of the best scriptures reminds us that the world is passing away and if we love the world, God's love is not in us.

**1 John 2:15-18-** “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him Because everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever. Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time.”

As we celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, let us look ahead to keeping any unwanted influences from the world drawing us back or to open the door to Satan and his wiles.

We no longer live “in” the world but have been called out of it. This does not make us an elitist nor does it make anyone still “in the world” necessarily evil. It does not automatically make anything we have contact with in the world a sin. It is a

word of caution and concern for our spiritual vulnerability. We are governed by the Highest set of standards, and we must strive to live up to them. We never know when Jesus Christ will return.

**John 4:23-24-** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” Amen.