

Pre Passover Exam

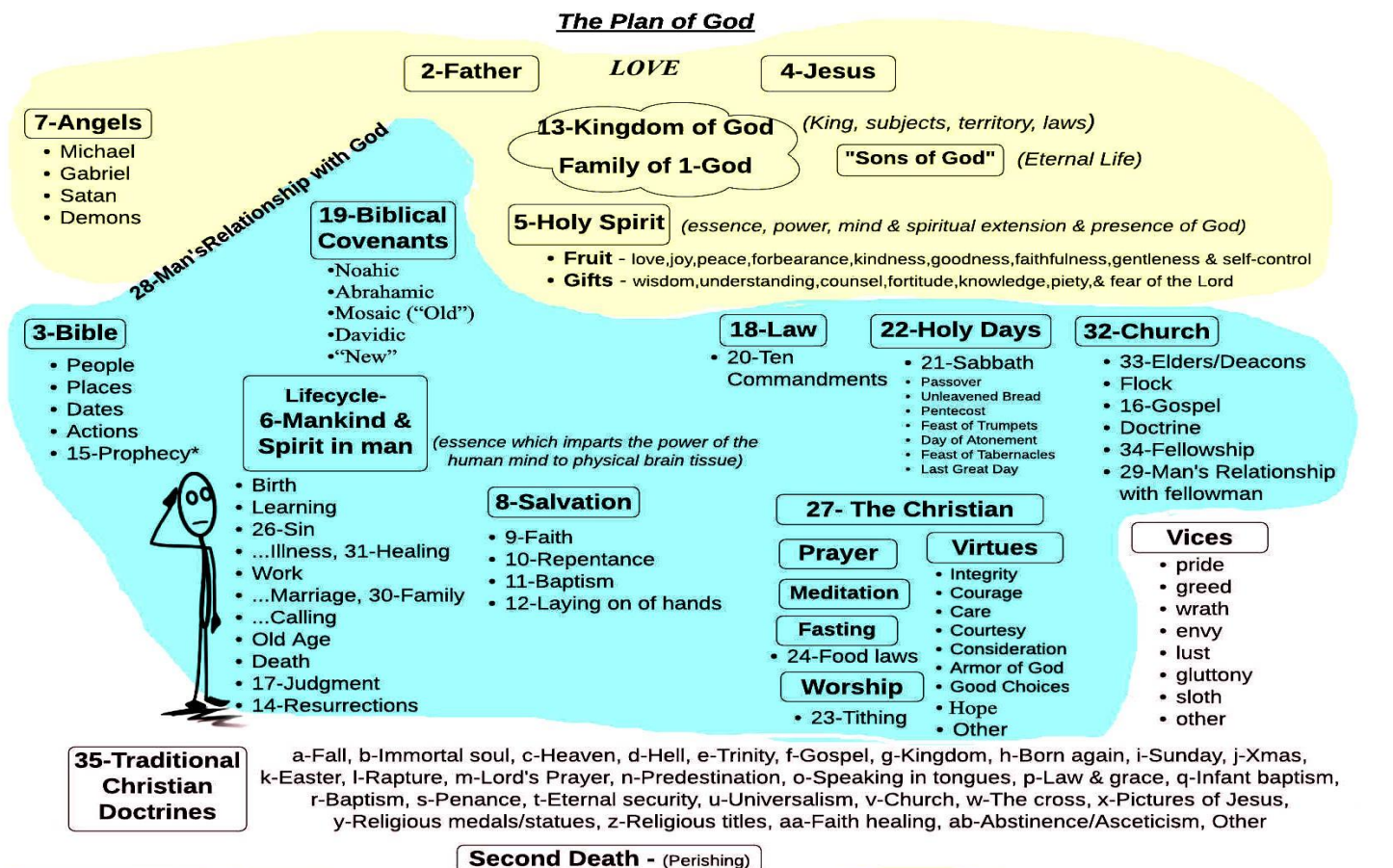
Almost 2000 years ago ...
the apostle Paul said something that has **shaken** even faithful Christians ...

1Co 11:26-30 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
1Co 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an **unworthy** manner will be **guilty** of the body and blood of the Lord.
1Co 11:28 But let a man **examine himself**, & so let him eat of the bread & drink of the cup
1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an **unworthy** manner (*KJV-unworthily*) eats & drinks **judgment** (*KJV - damnation*) to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
1Co 11:30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

In the Church of God, we provide a correct understanding of Paul's words (*which I will explain*) ... as we explore:

- not just what the Corinthians were **doing wrong** ... but
- what Paul (& the Father & Jesus) **expects of Christians** as we approach the Lord's supper service...

where we (vs 26) ... proclaim the Lord's death till He comes



Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present - (World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy*) ... Eternity ...)

Unworthily - Perhaps there is **no expression in the Bible that has given more trouble to weak & feeble Christians than this.** It is certain that there is no one that has operated to **deter so many** from

- the Passover (Luke 22:15)
- the communion (1Cor 10:16)
- the Lord's supper (1Cor 11:20)
- the Table of the Lord (1Cor 10:21)



or that is so often made use of as an **excuse for not making a profession of religion.**

The excuse is, "I am **unworthy** to partake of this holy ordinance. I shall only expose myself to condemnation. I must therefore wait until I become more **worthy**, and better prepared to celebrate it." It is important, therefore, that there should be a correct understanding of this passage. Most persons interpret it as if it were "**unworthy**," and not (KJV) "**unworthily**," and seem to suppose that it refers to their personal qualifications, to their "unfitness" to partake of it, rather than to the manner in which it is done. It is to be remembered, therefore, that the word used here is an "**adverb**," and not an "**adjective**," and has reference to **the manner of observing the ordinance, and not to their personal qualifications or fitness.** It is true that in ourselves we are all "**unworthy**" of an approach to the table of the Lord; "**unworthy**" to be regarded as his followers; "**unworthy**" of a title to everlasting life: but it does not follow that we may not partake of this ordinance in a **worthy**, that is, a proper manner:

- with a deep sense of our sinfulness,
- our need of a Saviour, &
- with some just views of the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer.

Whatever may be our consciousness of personal unworthiness and unfitness - and that consciousness cannot be too deep - yet we may have such love to Christ, and such a desire to be saved by him, and such a sense of **His worthiness**, as to make it proper for us to approach and partake of this ordinance.

The term "**unworthily**" (*ἀναξίως* *anaxiōs*) means properly "in an **unworthy** or improper" manner "in a manner unsuitable to the purposes for which it was designed or instituted;" and may include the following things, namely:

(1) Such an irregular and indecent observance as existed in the church of Corinth, where even gluttony & drunkenness prevailed under the professed design of celebrating the Lord's Supper. (*1Cor 11:21*)

(2) An observance of the ordinance where there should be no distinction between it and common meals (*1Co 11:29*); where they did not regard it as designed to show forth the death of the Lord Jesus.

(3) When it is done for the sake of mockery, and when the purpose is to deride religion, and to show a marked contempt for the ordinances of the gospel. It is a remarkable fact that many infidels have been so full of malice & bitterness against the Christian religion as to observe a **mock celebration** of the Lord's Supper. There is no profounder depth of depravity than this; there is nothing that can more conclusively or painfully show the hostility of man to the gospel of God.

So ... now that we are clear that Paul was not attacking Christians for being “unworthy” to celebrate the Lord’s supper ... Scripture emphasizes we are to be growing & changing - working on ourselves!

1Th 2:12 ...that you would **walk worthy** of God who calls you into His own kingdom & glory



Col 1:10 ... that you may **walk worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy** of the calling with which you were called,

2Th 1:5 ... that you may be **counted worthy** of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer

Luk 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be **counted worthy** to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."



We are called to **Change!**

Act 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,

Ezekiel 18:30–31 Repent, and turn from all your transgressions... get yourselves a new heart & a new spirit...

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way... let him return to the LORD...

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

Ephesians 4:22–24 ...put off... the old man... be renewed... put on the new man...

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation...

Worthiness is Connected to Action & Fruit

Matthew 10:38 & he who does not take his cross & follow after Me is not **worthy** of Me

Luke 13:6–9 (Parable of the fig tree) A warning about not bearing fruit after being given time

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Hebrews 6:7–8 ...the earth which drinks in the rain... & bears herbs... receives blessing... but if it bears thorns... is rejected...

Scriptural ... Self Examination checklist ... Ahead of Passover ... or everyday!?!

- “Am I Bearing Fruit **Worthy** of Repentance?”

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith...

Sample questions to explore ... Am I walking **worthy** of God’s calling?

Do I take seriously that God has called me into His kingdom? (1 Thes 2:12)

1Th 2:12 that you would walk **worthy** of God who calls you into His own kingdom & glory

Is my daily life aligned with my calling as a Christian? (Ephesians 4:1)

Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk **worthy** of the calling with which you were called

Do I seek to please God in how I live? (Colossians 1:10)

Col 1:10 that you may walk **worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Am I enduring trials in a way that reflects faithfulness? (2 Thessalonians 1:5)

2Th 1:5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted **worthy** of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer

Am I watchful and spiritually alert? (Luke 21:36)

Luk 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted **worthy** to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- Repenting ... of Sin ... (Exodus 20, Deu 5)



Sample questions to explore ... Am I truly changing, or just feeling convicted?

Have I genuinely turned from known sin? (Acts 3:19)

Act 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

Do I actively put off old behaviours and patterns? (Ephesians 4:22)

Eph 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Am I allowing my mind to be renewed by God? (Romans 12:2)

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Do I respond to correction with humility and change? (2 Corinthians 7:10)

2Co 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Am I removing “leaven” (sin) from my life consistently? (1 Corinthians 5:7–8)

1Co 5:7-8 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice & wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity & truth.

- Is there visible evidence of **transformation**?

Sample questions to explore ...

Are there clear changes in my behaviour over time? (Matthew 3:8)

Mat 3:8 Therefore bear fruits **worthy** of repentance



Would others see spiritual fruit in my life? (Matthew 7:16)

Mat 7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Am I producing good works that glorify God? (Col 1:10)

Col 1:10 that you may walk **worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Is my life marked by righteousness, not just belief? (Philip 1:11)

Php 1:11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory & praise of God



- **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** - Is God’s Spirit producing His

character in me? (Gal 5:22–23)

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Sample questions to explore ...

- Love — Do I genuinely care for others sacrificially?
- Joy — Is my joy rooted in God, not circumstances?
- Peace — Do I trust God instead of living in anxiety?
- Longsuffering — Am I patient with difficult people?
- Kindness — Do I act with compassion and gentleness?
- Goodness — Do I pursue what is morally right?
- Faithfulness — Am I reliable and loyal to God?
- Gentleness — Do I respond without harshness?
- Self-control — Do I master my impulses?

- **WARNING SIGNS (HONEST CHECK)** ... Am I drifting into dangerous territory?

Sample questions to explore ...

Do I claim faith but lack consistent works? (James 2:17)

Jas 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Am I unchanged over long periods of time? (Luke 13:6–9)

Luk 13:6-9 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"

Do I justify or tolerate ongoing sin? (Hebrews 10:26)

Heb 10:26-27 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Am I producing “thorns” instead of fruit? (Hebrews 6:7–8)

Heb 6:7-8 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

Do I resist correction or conviction? (Proverbs 29:1)

Pro 29:1 He who is often rebuked, & hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, & that without remedy

Psa 139:23-24 (KJV) Search me, O God, & know my heart: try me, & know my thoughts: & see if there be any wicked way in me, & lead me in the way everlasting.



Self-examination is a cornerstone of spiritual growth in the Christian faith. It's less about **self-criticism** and more about **aligning** one's heart with God's standards.

Gal 6:4 But let every man **prove** his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. (*Don't be dependent on the applause of others for happiness*)

In Scripture, **examination** is often linked to **repentance -turning back to God** after wandering
Lamentations 3:40 Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord.

Based on these verses, "**examining ourselves**" involves:

- **Sincerity:** Checking that our motives for worship are pure.
- **Integrity:** Ensuring our actions match our profession of faith.
- **Humility:** Asking God to reveal areas where we need to grow.
- **Responsibility:** Taking ownership of our own spiritual walk rather than judging others.

Being a "Doer" and Not Just a "Hearer" (James 1:22–25)

Jas 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, & not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, & immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty & continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

James compares the Word of God to a mirror. Examining yourself means looking into that mirror and actually changing what you see. (NOT Quitting! ... **aligning** one's heart with God's standards)