

1 Thessalonians 2

2:1-12. The presentation of the gospel

2:13-16. The response to the gospel

2:17-19. The reward

2:1 For you yourselves know brethren our coming to you, that it was not in vain [ineffective].

Αὐτοὶ γὰρ οἶδατε, ἀδελφοί, τὴν εἴσοδον ἡμῶν τὴν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ὅτι οὐ κενὴ γέγονεν,

2:2 But also having suffered before and having been shamefully treated in Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

ἀλλὰ προπαθόντες καὶ ὑβρισθέντες καθὼς οἶδατε ἐν Φιλίπποις ἐπαρρησιασάμεθα ἐν τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν λαλῆσαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν πολλῷ ἀγῶνι.

Paul and Silas were dragged into the marketplace, scourged [unlawful to scourge Roman citizens] and then thrown into a dungeon. Even though Paul was in great pain [from the scourging], he went on to Thessalonica and communicated the gospel. Acts 16:37-40, “But Paul said to them, ‘They [the chief magistrates] have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out’ (38) And the floggers reported these words to the chief magistrates. And they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. (39) And they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept on begging them to leave the city. (40) And going out from the prison, they entered *into the house of Lydia*. And seeing the brethren, they comforted them and departed.

2:3 For our enthusiastic declaration to you was not in error [inaccurate], **nor of uncleanness** [out of fellowship], **nor a huckster** [a tavern keeper watering down the wine after the customer got a little drunk: to dilute the gospel],

ἡ γὰρ παράκλησις ἡμῶν οὐκ ἐκ πλάνης οὐδὲ ἐξ ἀκαθαρσίας οὐδὲ ἐν δόλῳ,

Acts 17:1-4, “And traveling through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. (2) And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures. (3) explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ [Messiah]. (4) And some of them were persuaded [by the evidence] and joined Paul and Silas along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.”

2:4 but as we have been tested for approval [the unbeliever saw how Paul and his team functioned under great pressures] **by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, who tests our souls** [do we understand the gospel message and do we have the integrity to present it correctly].

ἀλλὰ καθὼς δεδοκιμάσμεθα ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ πιστευθῆναι τὸ εὐαγγέλιον οὕτως λαλοῦμεν, οὐχ ὡς ἄνθρωποις ἀρέσκοντες ἀλλὰ θεῷ τῷ δοκιμάζοντι τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν.

Many Christians do not like to present the gospel to the unbeliever who is to some extent indifferent or even hostile to the presentation of the gospel. However, keep in mind that we are not here to please people.

Few Subjects explaining How to become a Christian:

Birth, Death & Happiness

“Behold for I [the archangel Gabriel] bring to you good news of great happiness which is available to all people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord, and this is the sign for your benefit: you will discover a child wrapped in death-clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10b-12)

Great happiness is available to all people of every background and nationality. God’s desire is for the peoples of the world to have this great happiness in living, even in dying and for everlasting future. This happiness came out of Bethlehem, the city of David, for in that city a Savior was born, the humanity of Jesus. At the instant of his birth, the Lord, that is the Son of God united with the humanity of Jesus. From this union we get the name Lord Jesus Christ. Lord means God which explains why the Jewish people called him Emmanuel which means in the Hebrew “God with us.” Jesus means savior and is a reference to His humanity; he bore the penalty of our sins on his human body on the cross; Christ, a Greek word means the anointed one, the Hebrew, Messiah a reference to His future as the God-Man.

The birth of Jesus and his death on the cross combine to bring you the greatest present one could ever receive namely happiness with God for all eternity. If you would like to receive this eternal present, it is as simple as expressing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Father, I am believing in Jesus Christ as my Savior. The Father will honor that decision and make you a child of God forever.

“For God loved the world so much so that he gave his uniquely born son with the result that whoever believes in him will not perish [into eternal judgment] but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

It is Free!

Do you know that the greatest possession in life is free? You can be guaranteed a free trip to heaven, to live with God forever after you depart from this earth. It doesn't require gold, silver or any other valuable possession. You might ask, "Well, what do I have to do?" The answer is nothing. You don't need to stop doing anything! For example, you don't need to stop going to a Buddhist temple or any other temple as a prerequisite for the free gift of salvation; you don't need to stop drinking etc. Also, you don't need to start doing anything! For example, you don't need to do a lot of good or attend a Christian Church. A gift is a gift, and a gift is free.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith and this [salvation] is not from yourselves; it is a gift from God, not from works lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8b, 9).

It is free for all members of the human race since Christ paid the price for you. 1 Peter 2:24a states, "And he [Jesus Christ] himself carried our sins on his body [on the cross]." How can one receive this gift? Do you have to go to the nearest department store to pick it up? No, it is much closer than that; it is in your thinking. Just use your soul to express faith in the Lord Jesus Christ: 'Heavenly Father, I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.' After praying that simple prayer, you will live with God forever.

He saved us [provided a free ticket to heaven] not on the basis of deeds which we have done in (human) righteousness, but according to his loving kindness [He offers you this gift] (Titus 3:5a).

ONE MEDIATOR

God the Son in eternity past desired all mankind to be saved [to have an opportunity to live with him eternally in heaven]. "This is good and

acceptable in the sight of Our Savior and God who desires all mankind to be saved” 1Timothy 2:3,4a). He wants the best for you.

The Lord Jesus Christ was always God and became man in circa 4 BC. Infinite God united with true humanity. Because of this union of two natures, he is now one person equal both with God and with perfect humanity. This is true of no one else and makes him the only mediator between God and mankind.

For there is only one God and One Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all mankind [he received your punishment that he might pay for your freedom] (1Timothy 2:5,6a).

Only a mediator between God and man can solve the problems of mankind. So, as the only mediator, Jesus could say, “I am the way [to heaven], the truth, and [eternal] life; no one comes to the Father [in heaven] except through me” (John 14:6b).

What is Faith!

Why are we told to believe in Jesus Christ for our salvation? You see, faith is a system of perception which requires no merit, not like rationalism or empiricism. By putting your faith in the person and work of Christ for your heavenly ticket, you are recognizing that you can do nothing for this free ticket into heaven. God the Father honors this non-meritorious faith since all the work was already done on the cross.

Faith always has an object. When you were a small child attending a math class, your teacher taught you that 2 plus 2 equals 4, and you believed her. Now, when you believed your teacher, you didn't do any work. Your teacher had all the ability regarding math. The same is true with the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus Christ did all the work. We merely believe in him; we put our trust in him for our salvation. “He saved us

not on the basis of deeds which we have done in (human) righteousness, but according to his loving kindness. . .” (Titus 3:5a).

When we believe in Jesus Christ, we are making a decision which excludes human work. You are making a decision which does not require any effort on your part. It is as simple as: ‘Father, ‘I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior.’ After praying that simple prayer, you will become a child of God forever.

Now, after John [the Baptizer] had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; change your mind [about Jesus Christ] and believe in the good news [salvation is a free gift, requiring only faith] (Mark 1:14, 15).

He who believes in the Son has eternal life [will go to heaven and live with God], but he who does not believe the Son will not see life [with God], but the wrath of God remains on him (John 3:36).

Every Decision has a Time Frame: the longer the Time Frame, the more important it is.

When I decide to eat a Hershey Chocolate bar with almonds, the time frame of that decision is less than 2 minutes for that is how long it takes me to devour it. In other words, that decision impacts me for a maximum of 2 minutes. One’s decision regarding an occupation or marriage may have a time frame lasting one’s entire life. Thus, it is an important decision, but still, it will only impact him for his temporal life. Your decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ regarding His work on the Cross or not is an eternal decision lasting for all eternity. So, it is the most important decision of all decisions.

The Issue in Salvation is not Sin, but Righteousness

The penalty of sin has been paid in full on the cross. “He himself who bore our sins on his body on the cross. . .” (1 Peter 2:24a) Therefore, sinfulness does not send a person to hell (the Lake of Fire), nor is sinlessness the basis for going to heaven. If sin is not the issue in going to heaven, then what is? To live eternally with a perfectly righteous God, one must be perfectly righteous! Unfortunately, man cannot accomplish perfect righteousness. Fortunately, God has resolved this requirement by imputing His righteousness to the person who places his trust in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. “The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all who believe...” (Romans 3:22a)

To Live with Eternal God, we need His Life in an Eternal Body

Human life functions in a mortal body in time only. In eternity, we need eternal life in an eternal body. Eternal life is promised in John 3:36 which states, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life [given at the point of faith in Christ], but whoever rejects the Son will not see eternal life for the wrath of God remains on him.” At salvation, the person receives eternal life which life will function within an eternal body given in the future. 1 John 3:2b states, “. . .But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him [have a resurrection body in which eternal life will function].

We should have great respect and awe for the Integrity of God

The integrity of God that is his righteousness and justice cannot be violated. The righteousness of God in eternity past demanded that every sin be punished. What the righteousness of God demands, the justice of God executes. So, the justice of God the Father punished the humanity of Jesus Christ on the cross for every sin of mankind. This freed the grace of God to offer salvation to all mankind as per John 3:16, “God loved the world [of people] so much so that he gave his uniquely born son with the result that anyone who believes in Him should not be perish [spend eternity in the Lake of Fire] but have eternal life [that he may live with

God forever in an eternal body].” However, this same integrity of God must judge anyone who refuses this grace gift. “Whoever believes in Him is not judged, but the one who does not believe is judged already because he has not believed in the uniquely born Son of God (John 3:18). “If anyone’s name was not found in the Book of [eternal] Life, [because he had rejected Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross] he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

2:5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words [did not flatter to gain a hearing] as you know nor with pretense [a cloak] of covetousness [not to enrich ourselves]; God is a witness [to our modus operandi].

When Paul and his team went into Thessalonica, they just laid it on the line. Furthermore, Paul and his team never used the gospel as a means of making money from the unbelievers. Paul, Silas and Timothy had correct motivation, thinking, decisions and actions.

οὔτε γάρ ποτε ἐν λόγῳ κολακείας ἐγενήθημεν, καθὼς οἴδατε, οὔτε ἐν προφάσει πλεονεξίας, θεὸς μάρτυς,

2:6 Nor did we seek glory from men, neither from you nor from others.

οὔτε ζητοῦντες ἐξ ἀνθρώπων δόξαν, οὔτε ἀφί ὑμῶν οὔτε ἀπί ἄλλων,

Paul and his team members never sought human approbation and power. From their integrity, they sought only to please the Lord in the ministry given to them.

2:7 When we might have been burdensome among you [by requesting financial support] as apostles of Christ, we were not, but we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother keeps on providing for her child.

δυνάμενοι ἐν βάρει εἶναι ὡς Χριστοῦ ἀπόστολοι. ἀλλὰ ἐγενήθημεν ἥπιοι ἐν μέσῳ ὑμῶν, ὡς ἐὰν τροφὸς θάλπη τὰ ἑαυτῆς τέκνα·

Paul and his team members could have been a burden to the Thessalonians by asking for money, but they didn't. They didn't want to distract these believers in any way from their spiritual growth. Furthermore, Paul and his team were very gentle toward these baby-Christians. While they provided spiritual milk for these newborn baby-Christians, they gently kept them warm through impersonal love. Paul and his team members knew that these new believers had sin natures even as they. However, new believers would have little control over their sin nature and so would require a gentle application of impersonal love.

Principle: A Christian organization should never solicit funds from unbelievers. Furthermore, money should never be an issue for young believers.

2:8 So affectionately longing for you [a love for children who are absent], we were willing to impart to you [to share], not only the gospel of God, but also our own souls [to give from one's soul], because you have become beloved by us [Paul and his team had the integrity to love].

οὕτως ὁμιρόμενοι ὑμῶν εὐδοκοῦμεν μεταδοῦναι ὑμῖν οὐ μόνον τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ θεοῦ ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰς ἑαυτῶν ψυχάς, διότι ἀγαπητοὶ ἡμῖν ἐγενήθητε.

After the Thessalonians had responded to the gospel, Paul and his team members taught them the Word of God from their understanding of the spiritual life and furthermore, had great capacity to love these growing believers. Remember that love has four primary components namely knowledge, righteousness, justice and grace orientation. Since Paul and his team members had great capacity for life, great integrity and grace orientation, they would naturally become quite close to their new converts.

2:9 For, brethren, you remember our labor and travail [a woman giving birth]. For laboring night and day in order not to put a burden on any one of you [Paul's team never asked for funds], we preached the gospel of God to you.

μνημονεύετε γάρ, ἀδελφοί, τὸν κόπον ἡμῶν καὶ τὸν μόχθον· νυκτὸς καὶ ἡμέρας ἐργαζόμενοι πρὸς τὸ μὴ ἐπιβαρῆσαι τινα ὑμῶν ἐκηρύξαμεν εἰς ὑμᾶς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ θεοῦ.

2:10 You are witnesses and so is God how holy [separated to God: expressing divine viewpoint] and uprightly [filling of the Spirit] and blamelessly [Did everything right] we were to you who believed.

ὁμοῖς μάρτυρες καὶ ὁ θεός, ὡς ὀσίως καὶ δικαίως καὶ ἀμέμπτως ὑμῖν τοῖς πιστεύουσιν ἐγενήθημεν,

The Pauline team had correct thinking, correct motivation, correct decisions and actions. A right thing done in a right way is right.

2:11 even as you know how we exhorted [to call someone to your side to help them either by a kind word or by censor] and comforted [and to encourage] and charged [regarding responsibility] each one of you, as a father to his children,

καθάπερ οἴδατε ὡς ἕνα ἕκαστον ὑμῶν ὡς πατὴρ τέκνα ἑαυτοῦ

Paul and his team members taught the new believers their responsibilities regarding both the Laws of Establishment and the spiritual life just as a father would teach his son. In addition to charging these new believers regarding their responsibilities, there were times when they had to exhort, to encourage and even to censor.

2:12. that you should walk worthy of God, who has called [election] you to His kingdom and glory.

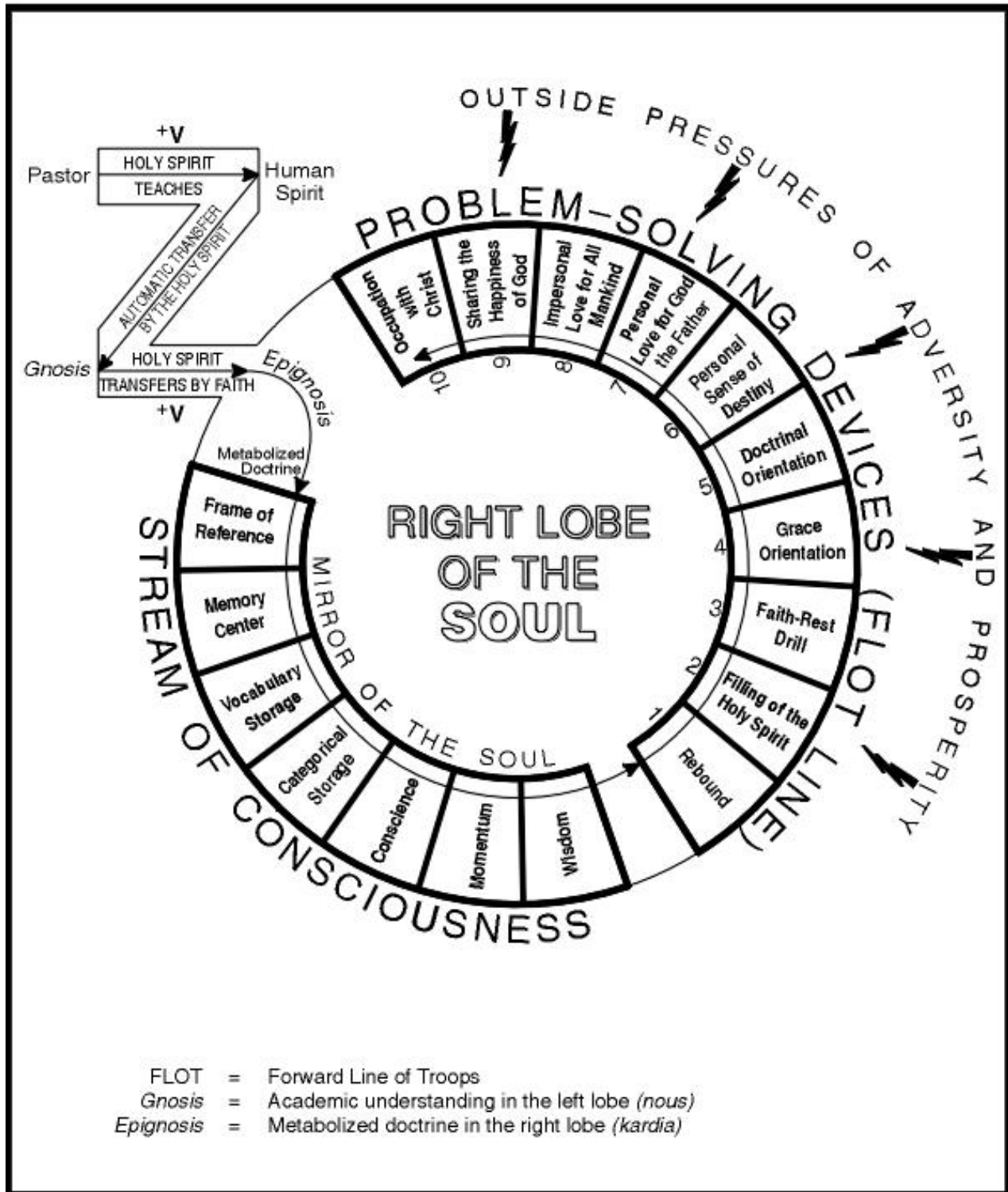
παρακαλοῦντες ὑμᾶς καὶ παραμυθούμενοι καὶ μαρτυρόμενοι εἰς τὸ περιπατεῖν ὑμᾶς ἀξίως τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ καλοῦντος ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν ἑαυτοῦ βασιλείαν καὶ δόξαν.

2:13 For this cause also, we thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of hearing from us, you welcomed it as from God, not a word from men, but as it is, truly the Word of God, which also effectually works in you [spiritual energy in the soul from metabolized doctrine] by those who believe [faith perception].

Καὶ διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ θεῷ ἀδιαλείπτως, ὅτι παραλαμβάντες λόγον ἀκοῆς παρὶ ἡμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐδέξασθε οὐ λόγον ἀνθρώπων ἀλλὰ καθὼς ἐστὶν ἀληθῶς λόγον θεοῦ, ὃς καὶ ἐνεργεῖται ἐν ὑμῖν τοῖς πιστεύουσιν.

The following chart with emphasis on Operation Z and the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness will explain in more detail the above verse.

CREATION OF PROBLEM-SOLVING DEVICES



DOCTRINE OF THE STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Metabolized Bible doctrine circulating in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness creates two things. First, using a military expression, it creates a FLOT (forward line of troops) line in your soul. This is where you deploy the ten problem solving devices in order to establish a defensive perimeter around your stream of consciousness of your soul to prevent all of your enemies such as problems, difficulties, disasters catastrophes from penetrating into your soul and thereby causing stress. The ten problem solving devices include: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for mankind, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with Christ. Secondly, it produces a mirror in the soul from which mirror you can make an objective, accurate self-evaluation.

The Compartments of the Stream of Consciousness are as follows:

1. The Frame of Reference is the first compartment which is defined as the conceptual structure where concepts, principles and doctrines like pieces of a puzzle, are placed in their proper places to form the spiritual life of the Church Age. The frame of reference is where you have the giant computer system that puts new information into its proper area and correlates it with information, principles and doctrines you have previously learned. So, the Frame of Reference is always being updated.
2. From the Frame of Reference, the Holy Spirit then sends all this data to the second compartment namely the memory center. Whereas the frame of reference is the area of retention for metabolization of doctrine, the memory center is the area for recall. The memory center is the mechanism for circulating doctrine into the other compartments of the stream of consciousness. The memory center is an index to the rate of learning Bible doctrine. (Principle: the rate of learning must always exceed the rate of forgetting. When the rate

of learning is greater than the rate of forgetting, the total quantity of metabolized doctrine increases both in your frame of reference and in your memory center. When the rate of forgetting is greater than the rate of learning, then the total quantity of metabolized doctrine decreases both in the frame of reference, memory center, and in circulation throughout the rest of your stream of consciousness.) Recall is necessary for the execution of the spiritual life so that in an instant of time you can come up with the right principle, the right answer to make the right moves. In summary, the memory center is the circulating link between the frame of reference and the other five compartments of the stream of consciousness. Lamentations 3:20-23, "Surely my soul remembers and is humbled within me. This I recall in my thinking, therefore I have confidence. The unfailing love of the Lord indeed never ceases, for His compassions never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Psalm 119:16, "In your doctrines I will delight; I will not forget Your doctrine." 1 Corinthians 11:24, "And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This represents My body, which is a substitute for you; keep on doing this in remembrance of Me.'"

3. The third compartment is the Vocabulary Storage. You can never think beyond your remembered vocabulary, and you can never develop a system of knowledge without technical words etc. So, Vocabulary Storage is the location of all technical theological nomenclature, biblical metaphors, teaching acronyms through which Bible doctrine is classified and categorized. You must learn such vocabulary as rebound, faith-rest, dispensations, hypostatic union, protocol plan of God, portfolio of invisible assets, substitutionary spiritual death, common and efficacious grace, election and predestination, reciprocity, the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit and God the Son, the baptism of the Holy Spirit just to name a few. After salvation, the believer as a spiritual baby must learn a vocabulary by which to think, express, apply, and utilize Bible doctrine. You cannot think without vocabulary. Jeremiah 15:16, "Your words were found and I ate them [positive volition],

and Your words became for me a source of superabundance of happiness and a delight to my heart, because Your name was engraved in my soul, O Lord God of the armies." Moses made it clear that Bible doctrines are composed of words. Deuteronomy 8:3, "And He humbled you and let you be hungry, then He fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your ancestors know, that He might cause you to know that mankind does not live by food alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

4. The fourth compartment is Categorical Storage where Biblical information is organized into its subject matter. By comparison of Scripture to Scripture, biblical subjects emerge and are brought together into divisions of doctrine, formed for the purpose of classification and utilization. Vocabulary and categorical storage are essential for understanding the mechanics of the spiritual life and causing spiritual advance. Can you imagine not understanding well the following doctrines such as dispensations, salvation, hypostatic union, logistical grace, and the angelic conflict just to mention a few doctrinal categories.
5. The fifth compartment is Conscience in which is stored norms and standards, and priorities related to the absolutes of Bible doctrine. The Greek word for conscience is *suneidesis* which means 'to know with an absolute standard.' The English word conscience comes from the Latin, *consciari* which means "to know with." Conscience is the mental faculty by which one distinguishes between right and wrong and motivates the believer under the Filling of the Spirit to do what is right and not to do what is wrong. Romans 2:15, "in that they show the work of the Law printed in their hearts, their conscience confirming the testimony, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending themselves." Accusing and defending oneself is the function of the norms and standards of the conscience of the believer. Acts 23:1, "And Paul, looking intently at the Sanhedrin, said, 'Brethren, I have conducted myself as a citizen with

a good conscience before God up to this day." Acts 24:16, "In view of this, I myself keep on doing my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men." 1 Timothy 3:9, "but holding to the mystery doctrine with a clear conscience." We never have true happiness in our soul without a clear conscience. 1 Peter 2:19, "For this is grace, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly." 1 Peter 3:16, "and be having a good conscience, so that in the things in which you are slandered, those who malign your good in Christ will be put to shame." The believer in reversionism destroys his conscience through scar tissue of the soul, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later periods of time [the hypostatic union, Church Age, and Tribulation] some [believers] will become apostate from doctrine, paying attention to deceitful spirits [false teachers] and doctrines of demons by means of hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience with a branding iron." The branding iron is scar tissue in the soul from rejection of the truth. Precedence from the humanity of Christ in the dispensation of the hypostatic union is taught in Hebrews 9:14, "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Metabolized doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness and its application purifies the conscience from dead works.

6. Momentum is the 6th compartment of the stream of consciousness which results in the execution of the unique spiritual life. Momentum comes from achieving the four objectives in the spiritual life; two are tactical and two are strategic. The first tactical objective is a personal sense of destiny which is tantamount to spiritual self-esteem. The first strategic objective is spiritual maturity which then becomes a tactical base from which the second strategic objective is taken namely maximum glorification of God. When Paul wrote 2 Timothy in 67 A.D., he had parlayed spiritual maturity into maximum glorification of God. In other words, through his

phenomenal momentum, he had taken all his tactical and strategic objectives. 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the doctrine." An analogy to spiritual momentum is found in 1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn babies eagerly desire the unadulterated milk of the word, that by means of it you may grow as a result of salvation." 2 Peter 3:18, "but keep on growing in the sphere of grace and the knowledge about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." The major Greek verb in the momentum department is *auxano* which means "to grow". The minister communicates the truth as a part of the function of momentum as per Ephesians 4:15, "but communicating the truth associated with love, we may cause them to grow up with reference to the all things with reference to Him, who is the head, Christ." 2 Thessalonians 1:3, "We ought always to give thanks to God concerning you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith has fantastic growth, and the love of each one of you toward one another keeps on growing ever greater."

7. The Seventh or last compartment of the stream of consciousness is wisdom. Wisdom is the sphere for the application of metabolized doctrine to your experiences after salvation. Therefore, the wisdom compartment is directly connected to the execution of the unique spiritual life of the Church Age. The Hebrew word for wisdom is *chakmah*, the Greek is *sophia*. Proverbs 2:2, "Make your ear to concentrate on wisdom, apply your heart to understanding." Proverbs 2:10, "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge of doctrine will be pleasant to your soul." Proverbs 18:15, "The heart of the wise acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Ephesians 1:7-8, "By whom we have redemption through His blood [propitiation, reconciliation and redemption], resulting in the forgiveness of our trespasses, on the basis of the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us by means of all wisdom and a way of thinking," The wealth of God is measured in terms of doctrine and wisdom in the soul. Colossians 1:9, "For this reason also, since the day we heard, we do not cease to pray for you

and to ask that you may be filled up with knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

See the Doctrine of the Ten Problems Solving Devices:

2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also have suffered these things by your own countrymen [primarily religious Jewish Thessalonians], even as they also by the Jews [the religious crowd in Jerusalem];

ὁμοίως γὰρ μιμηταὶ ἐγενήθητε, ἀδελφοί, τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν τοῦ θεοῦ τῶν οὐσῶν ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι τὰ αὐτὰ ἐπάθετε καὶ ὑμεῖς ὑπὸ τῶν ἰδίων συμφυλετῶν καθὼς καὶ αὐτοὶ ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων,

The Jewish believers of the churches in Judea were the first ones to be persecuted by their own brethren. The Thessalonians suffered in the same manner from their Jewish countrymen (Acts 17:5-9). As the Jewish believers in Judea remained faithful so you remained faithful to the Lord by growing spiritually under persecution. First the Jewish Christians in Judea were ostracized by friends, relatives, and others in their periphery. When that didn't work, their businesses were wiped out etc. and some were killed. All the same, they remained faithful. This was the example the Thessalonians did follow.

Religion:

1. Religion is Satan's counterfeit for salvation and the spiritual life.
2. Religion is a part of Satan's plan, a part of his strategy, his ace trump.
3. Religion is the worst thing that ever happened to mankind in history, it is a soul-destroyer for it epitomizes Satan's policy of evil.

4. Religion is not the same as Christianity. All religions operate on a merit system and use human power and have no relationship with God. Christianity from day one is a grace relationship with God which relationship operates on grace and uses God's power and when executed effectively leads to the most fantastic relationship of reciprocal love.

5. Therefore, religion and Christianity are opposing forces in the angelic conflict, they are antithetical and mutually exclusive.

6. In religion, man by man's efforts seeks to gain the approbation of God through his works, power, talent, abilities etc. Hence, religion is always a form of reversionism under the influence of evil and always includes some system of legalism.

7. In Christianity, God seeks and finds man through the work of Christ, and from that time on it is strictly a matter of grace.

8. Christianity is a relationship with God through regeneration while religion is a relationship with Satan through reversionism.

2:15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us [Paul and his team] and they [religious Jews] do not please God and in opposition to all men [who seek the truth],

τῶν καὶ τὸν κύριον ἀποκτεινάντων Ἰησοῦν καὶ τοὺς προφήτας, καὶ ἡμᾶς ἐκδιωξάντων, καὶ θεῷ μὴ ἀρεσκόντων, καὶ πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις ἐναντίων,

The cosmic system is Satan's strategy as the ruler of this world to control believers as well as unbelievers. (However, our study will primarily deal with Satan's strategy regarding believers.) Satan's cosmic system is composed of two separate power spheres namely Cosmic 1 and 2. Cosmic One is Satan's exploitation of believers through their own arrogance. Cosmic Two is Satan's propaganda to educate and promote antagonism toward anything

related to God, or anyone learning or teaching His word. Cosmic one represents Satan's attitude from the time of his prehistoric fall up to the prehistoric angelic trial. Cosmic Two represents Satan's attitude from the time of Adam's fall in the garden to the end of the Millennium. Cosmic One emphasizes arrogance and subjectivity. Cosmic Two emphasizes antagonism and intolerance toward the plan, purpose, and will of God, as well as toward all Christians executing it. Thus, Cosmic One is Satan's philosophy in the prehistoric angelic conflict. Cosmic Two is Satan's philosophy in human history as the ruler of this world.

COSMIC ONE:

1. Emphasizes arrogance; preoccupation with self.
2. Targets the self-consciousness of soul.
3. Results in preoccupation and obsession with self to the exclusion of God and man.
4. Emphasizes self in contrast to God and objective reality.
5. Represents Satan's attitude at the time of his prehistoric fall.
6. Represents Satan's philosophy in the prehistoric angelic conflict when he was obsessed with self in maximum arrogance.
7. The believer in cosmic one assumes the arrogance of Satan in the pre-historic angelic conflict.
8. The believer is a slave to self.

COSMIC TWO:

1. Emphasizes animosity, hatred, antagonism toward God, and His plan.
2. Results in antagonism toward Christ as the living Word and doctrine as the written Word.
3. Stresses human viewpoint over Divine viewpoint.
4. Represents Satan's attitude from the time of man's historical fall to the end of human history.
5. Represents Satan's philosophy as ruler of this world after the fall of man. For this reason, he is obsessed with destroying the plan of God.
6. The believer in cosmic two becomes inculcated with the antagonism of Satan and so becomes a slave to Satan.

Ephesians 2:2, "in which sphere [in spiritual death] you formerly walked [as an unbeliever] according to the lifestyle of this cosmos [Satan's cosmic system], according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit [Satan] who is now operational [working via Cosmic 1 & 2] in the sons of disobedience [believers not executing the spiritual life]."

The religious Jews who lived during Christ's 1st Advent did not understand Christ since they rejected revelation from God. Certainly today, cosmic unbelievers and cosmic Christians cannot understand the Christian who is advancing in the spiritual life and

executing God's plan though a Christian can understand those in Satan's cosmic system through the Word of God.

Gate 7 of Cosmic 2: Religion

Christianity and religion are antithetical. In Christianity, God saves mankind through personal faith in Jesus Christ. In religion, man seeks to impress God with his works. Religion can be classified as the devil's ace trump. For religion has been invented by Satan to counterfeit God's plan, purpose, and will for mankind, to blind the unbeliever from the gospel and to divert the believer from the execution of the protocol plan of God for the Church Age. Religion is part of the devil's strategy in being "like the Most-High God," as stated in Isaiah 14:14. Christianity is not a religion, but an eternal relationship with God through personal faith in Christ. In religion, Homo sapiens seek the approbation of God through good deeds, human merit, and various categories of works. Religion reflects the evil genius of Satan, whereas Christianity represents the perfect integrity of God combined with His grace policy.

For deceit and error to be carried out effectively, Satan has devised a system of counterfeits which are the counterfeits of religion such as:

1. Gospel, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers [through religion, philosophy etc.], so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
2. Ministers, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, "For such ones are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) Did not even Satan marvelously transform himself into an angel of light? (15) Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works."

3. Communion table, 1 Corinthians 10:19-21, “What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything or that an idol is anything? (20), No, I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God, and I do not desire you to become fellow worshippers with demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”
4. Doctrine, 1 Timothy 4:1, “But the Spirit [the Holy Spirit is the teacher of Bible doctrine] explicitly teaches that in latter periods of time [between the 1st and 2nd Advents namely the Church Age and the Tribulation] some [believers] will withdraw from doctrine, concentrating on deceitful spirits [demon telepathy via black-out of the soul] and doctrines from demons [involvement in Cosmic 1 & 2].”
5. Spirituality, Galatians 3:1-3, “O foolish Galatians who has hypnotized you [and put a spell on you with an evil eye]? Before [salvation] whose eyes [the mind’s eye of the Galatians namely through perception could understand and even visualize the crucifixion, and so believed] Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. (2) This only I desire to learn from you: did you receive the [Filling of the] Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing of faith [after they believed in Christ, they received the Filling of the Spirit]? (3) Are you so stupid that having begun in the sphere of the [Filling of the] Spirit [using divine power], are you now being brought to completion by the flesh [using human power out of fellowship to advance spiritually]?”
6. System of righteousness, Matthew 19:16-22, “Now behold a man came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good shall I do to obtain eternal life?” (17) And He replied to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good [What good shall I do]? There is only one [Jesus] who is good. If you desire to enter into [eternal] life [through your

righteousness], and you do, then keep the commandments [impossible]. (18) The man inquired, “Which ones?” Jesus replied, “You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness [in court]; (19) you shall honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (20) And the young man answered, “All these, I have guarded. What do I still lack?” (21) And Jesus said to him, “If you desire to be perfect [through works] and you do [though it is impossible], go and sell your possessions and give them to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven then [return] here [after you realize that you are not perfect] and follow Me [in regeneration]. (22) After the young man heard the instruction, he departed grieving for he possessed a lot of property.”

7. False gods. All throughout history people have and will worship demons as gods. In the latter half of the Great Tribulation the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire will be worshiped as a god. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, “Do not let anyone deceive you in any way since it [the Day of the Lord: the Tribulation and 2nd Advent] will not come unless the departure [Rapture], and the man who is lawless [anti-establishment] shall be revealed, the son of perdition [doomed to destruction], (4) who opposes [the Lord Jesus Christ] and exalts himself above every so called god, or object of worship, so that he is installed in the temple of God [the Jewish temple of the Tribulation], proclaiming himself to be god.”
8. Power (dynamics), 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, “And then [after the Rapture] the lawless one [dictator of the revived Roman Empire] will be revealed, whom the Lord shall destroy with the breath of His mouth [the least power of God] in fact he shall neutralize him by the very appearance of His coming [2nd Advent], (9) the dictator whose presence [in history] shall be according to the modus operandi of

Satan with all power and by means of miraculous signs even wonder- miracles of the lie.” Satan promotes him by means of power and miracles.

9. Way of life, Matthew 23:13-36: In this passage, the Pharisees emphasized the external condition of a person and ignored the internal condition. They emphasized taboos and outward morality. They ignored internal sins which made external righteousness a sham. Their outside was clean = morality and taboos, but their inside was filthy = mental sins and lusts.

Religion is Satan's strategy for distracting Homo sapiens from the three categories of truth. First, are the laws of divine establishment as taught in the Mosaic Law. Religion seeks to become the state and once it is in power, it attacks human freedom. Also, the union of religion and state is a major attack on human freedom. Second, is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Religion distorts salvation through many diverse systems of salvation by works, and third is Bible doctrine for the believer. Religion substitutes false doctrine (or the "doctrine of demons," 2 Timothy 4:1) for truth. Religion sets up a system of works and ritual to replace the protocol plan of God.

Religion motivates and produces, through false teachers, every category of evil, violence, terrorism, and murder to force people into their religion which is not only characterized by the doctrine of demons (2 Timothy 4:1), but it has both false teachers and false prophets to communicate this information. There are at least five characteristics of false teachers in the Church Age.

1. False teachers are masters of hypocrisy. They use a phony facade, first exposed by our Lord in Matthew 7:15, “Beware (constantly be on your guard) of the false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves,” and further developed

by Paul in Romans 16:18, “For such believers do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own emotions, and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the right lobes of the unsuspecting [those ignorant of truth].” Behind a public relations-facade, false teachers use legalism to convert their victims to religion, Galatians 4:17-18, “They [Judaizers] zealously affect [seek or woo] you [into legalism], not well [not honestly] yes, they wish to exclude you [this means they wish to separate you from me, so that I can’t woo you with grace] in order that you might affect [court or woo] them. (18) But it is good always to be properly courted [by good Bible teachers] in an honorable manner, and not only when I am present with you.”

2. False Teachers flatter their victim, making them feel wanted and appeals to victim’s pride. 2 Timothy 3:5-7 “Holding to a superficial form [outward appearance] of the spiritual life, but they themselves have disregarded its power; avoid such ones as these. (6) For among them are those [immoral Christian men] who creep into homes [slyly enter the homes] and seduce [captivate] silly women [morally weak women because there is no doctrine in their souls] who are overwhelmed by their sins and are carried away by various lusts. (7) Always learning [these women], but they are never able to come to an epignosis knowledge of the truth.”
3. False teachers promote idolatry as a part of the devil's communion table, Habakkuk 2:18-19, “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols. (19) Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’ To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’ And that is your teacher? Behold it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it.” 1 Corinthians 10:19-22, “What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? (20) No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not

to God; and I do not want you to become a sharer in demons. (21) You cannot drink the cup of the Lord [the Communion table requires fellowship] and the cup of demons [demon influence: living in the cosmic system]; therefore, you cannot partake of the table of the Lord [the Eucharist for this worship requires the spiritual life] and the table of demons [demon influence].”

4. False teachers promote self-righteousness, to include legalism, personality arrogance, authority arrogance, crusader arrogance, and works arrogance, 1 Timothy 1:6-7, “From which some men [pastors] have deviated [apostasy through reversionism]. They themselves have turned aside to ineffective teaching desiring to be teachers of the Law. (7) Since they do not understand either what they are teaching or concerning the things about which they speak dogmatically.
5. False teachers continue to operate throughout the Church Age, as this is the intensified period of the angelic conflict, 1 John 4:1-6, “Beloved, do not believe every personality, but test the person to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have come out into the world. (2) By this you know the person of God: every person [pneuma] that confessed that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. (3) and every person that does not confess Jesus is from God: this is the person of the antichrist of which you have heard that it is coming and now it is already in the world. (4) You are from God, little children and have overcome them because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (5) They are from the world; therefore, they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. (6). We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the person of truth and the person of error.”

2:16 forbidding us to speak to the gentiles that they might be saved, with the result that they always fill up [a cup] with their sins [and persecutions]; but the wrath [of God] has come upon them to the uttermost.

κωλυόντων ἡμᾶς τοῖς ἔθνεσιν λαλῆσαι ἵνα σωθῶσιν, εἰς τὸ ἀναπληρῶσαι αὐτῶν τὰς ἀμαρτίας πάντοτε. ἔφθασεν δὲ ἐπὶ αὐτοῦς ἡ ὀργὴ εἰς τέλος.

The word “fill up” here means to fill up a cup, and they fill up the cup with their sins and then they drink from that cup poisoning themselves with lust. This is a very apt analogy, for any group of people that seeks to gain control of other people through intimidation, torture, murder or through any other means will suffer the consequences of insatiable lust. On top of that, they will be judged by the justice of the Lord, “for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.”

2:17 But, my brothers, when we were taken away from you [I was bereaved of you] for an hour's time, in presence, not in heart, more abundantly we were eager with much desire to see your face.

Ἡμεῖς δέ, ἀδελφοί, ἀπορφανισθέντες ἀφί ὑμῶν πρὸς καιρὸν ὥρας, προσώπω οὐ καρδία, περισσοτέρως ἐσπουδάσαμεν τὸ πρόσωπον ὑμῶν ἰδεῖν ἐν πολλῇ ἐπιθυμίᾳ

This tells us that Paul hated to leave Thessalonica. They responded so beautifully to the Word of God. They took in doctrine in such a wonderful manner so that it was difficult for Paul and his team to leave. This was great Christian fellowship between the teachers of the Word and the recipients both enjoying the Word together.

2:18 Therefore, we desired to come to you, truly I, Paul, both once and twice; but Satan hindered us.

διότι ἠθελήσαμεν ἐλθεῖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἐγὼ μὲν Παῦλος καὶ ἄπαξ καὶ δῖς, καὶ ἐνέκοψεν ἡμᾶς ὁ Σατανᾶς

Since the Thessalonian Christians were so eager to learn the spiritual life from Paul, he eagerly wanted to return to teach them further. It was a wonderful relationship. Satan understanding this mutual love for doctrine and so on two different occasions prevented Paul from returning to Thessalonica for Satan does not want a communicator to teach and the congregation to learn doctrine.

2:19, 20 For who is our confidence [believers completing the spiritual life is the basis of the pastor having confidence that he will receive the Crown of Glory] **or happiness** [related to the Crown of Glory], **or crown of boasting** [glory]- **Is it not you** [major contributors to our receiving this crown] **in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming** [the Crown of Glory will be distributed shortly after the Rapture of the Church]? **(20) For you are our glory and happiness.**

τίς γὰρ ἡμῶν ἐλπίς ἢ χαρὰ ἢ στέφανος καυχήσεως - ἢ οὐχὶ καὶ ὑμεῖς - ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῇ αὐτοῦ παρουσίᾳ; (20) ὑμεῖς γὰρ ἐστε ἡ δόξα ἡμῶν καὶ ἡ χαρά.

The Crown of Glory:

1.The Crown of Glory is awarded to pastors (in the past other communicators such as the apostles) who faithfully study and communicate Bible doctrine to their congregation. The size of the congregation never has anything to do with the evaluation of the pastor.

2. The motivation for the pastor is occupation with the Lord. 1 Peter 5:2-4, “Shepherd the flock of God with you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily on the basis of the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with a ready mentality; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears [Rapture], you will receive the unfading Crown of Glory.”

3. Philippians 4:1 personalizes this concept. “Therefore, my brethren, loved ones [congregation who is respected for their faithfulness], deeply desired ones, my happiness, and my crown [of Glory], keep on being stabilized [in doctrine].”

4. The pastor’s boasting or crown of glory is based on certain members of his congregation reaching spiritual maturity and taking Evidence Testing. The pastor can boast about these believers who utilized the power of God and fulfill the spiritual life.

There are four categories of pastors in the Church Age. The cosmic pastor who lives in cosmic one and cosmic two and is distracted by social action, crusader arrogance, and is totally disoriented to reality. He is very arrogant, self-righteous, and ignorant of Bible doctrine. Then there is the baby pastor who emphasizes his own personality while de-emphasizing the Word of God. All he does is evangelize and gives little moral lectures. Third, there is the adolescent pastor who teaches some truth but is distracted by various forms of high profile. He is selling his own personality (rather than teaching doctrine) by visiting the sick, calling on the congregation, and conducting programs, and obviously has no time to study. He can be a pseudo-intellectual, a crusader, a bleeding heart-liberal, and or a self-righteous legalist with a pleasing personality. He appeals to those with negative volition toward Bible doctrine. Finally, the mature pastor who through personal study and teaching advances to maturity and is leading his congregation there. He emphasizes doctrine and is a prepared person academically, knowing where he stands theologically. He focuses on the message, not his personality.

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org