

# Form, Substance, Reality and Glory

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 7/4/2015

Today's sermon is a little complicated – but I need to address it because we are living in a time when there is so much counterfeit religion being accepted as the **real thing** by God's people.

Jesus and the apostles predicted that false practices would creep into the Church, eventually producing a distorted, **counterfeit** Christianity.

This bogus Godliness is a sly and subtle **difference** that can be demonstrated with an old TV commercial:

How many of you remember the “Charlie Tuna” Starkist commercial - vintage 1962?

Charlie Tuna was good looking, kool, suave, debonair – but Charlie didn't make the cut.

The slogan went like this: “Charlie, Starkist doesn't want Tuna with **good taste** – Starkist wants tuna that tastes **good**.”

Sorry Charlie, only good tasting tuna gets to be Starkist.”

God tells us that there is crowd of people – similar to Charlie Tuna – who try to get into the Kingdom of God – but do not make the cut.

The apostle Paul warns us of this **weakness** among some of the brethren in these perilous last days.

Let me begin by explaining the difference between **form** and **substance**.

A form is a mold or frame **in** which something is shaped. For example, you pour concrete or plaster in a **form** or mold. The **form** of something is not the entire object – sometimes only an outline of it.

Perhaps you have seen the **boards, stakes and braces** on a newly cleared piece of property that are the **form** for a concrete slab about to be poured.

The form is only a beginning of a project. Those boards are only the **form** and nothing more – except the **promise** and **expectation** of something much greater that will rise from the foundation. In that sense, the **form** is extremely important. It must be the correct size, shape and dimension. It must be substantial for its purpose, and it must be in the right place.

But once the concrete foundation is poured, finished smooth and hardened in place – the **form** has served its purpose.

The point is that a **form** is not the **be-all** and **end-all** of a construction project. It would be foolish to build the **form** – and then walk away from the construction project.

Luke 14:29... all that behold it begin to mock him,

Luke 14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

We are not speaking of our own construction projects – but God uses this exact analogy a few times.

We are God's **building** project – and He also goes about it in steps.

1Corinthians 3:9 ...For we are God's building.

Form serves a vital function in the beginning for what will become a new house, or office, or structure.

The mold comes first – then the finished product – the **substance**.

**Substance** is the real **spiritual material** of which a truly converted person consists. "Form precedes substance." **Form** is of the utmost importance – for without it the **reality** cannot be.

A beautiful painting is first in the mind of the artist – that is **form**. The **substance** of the painting is a product shared – the beauty of the painting itself.

When I worked construction - we first received a **blueprint** of the structure. The structure did not exist except in the minds of the engineers. Their project was still in the "**form**" stage. We took steel and bolts and created **substance** - a building - for all to see and use.

When we completed the project we did not despise and reject the engineering drawings as something backward and inferior because they were the "**form**" from which the substance sprang.

**Form** and **substance** exist side by side - and without form - **substance** could not exist.

Paul distinguishes between the real **substance** of Godliness, and that which does not measure up to God's expectations for His people.

Our worship is spiritual, and our goal is spiritual, but there are those in the various church groups today who are only "playing church" and going through the motions. They cannot envision the **reality** of true Godliness because they possess only a **form** of "church going" -- a **form** of religion that comes far **short** of God's high standards.

Paul was concerned that Timothy be aware of the distinction between those teachers who only teach a **form** of religion, and those who teach the requirement of Godly **substance**.

2Timothy 3: explains that in these last days the behavior of some church members would be "having a **form** of godliness, but **denying** the power thereof.

What we are going to see here is that for some church members, **form** is the only kind of religion they practice. Form is all they know. They do not understand **substance**. Form is the whole thing for them – and this applies to a considerable portion of God's Church today.

That is why God has seen to it that this **warning** is included in the Holy Scriptures for us. This refers to those Christians who have **not** gotten off first base.

2Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the **last days** perilous times shall come.

This is speaking of perilous times in the world – but also **spiritually** perilous times as well. That is **now** – this is written to the church today.

2Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

These people are selfish and self-serving... Somehow they have no concern for the **feelings** and **needs** of others – thinking only of themselves... and looking **condescendingly** down on other church brethren.

2Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Now we come to the Title of today's sermon:

God is the one who is telling us about this church condition that exists today.

2Timothy 3:5 Having a **form** [Greek, '*morphosis*'] of godliness, but denying the power thereof [they are not growing in grace and knowledge to become imbued with spiritual substance]: from such turn away.

"From such turn away" – God is warning us that they are a dangerous lot.

I want to point out that the word **form** in verse :5 is '*morphosis*.' We will see it some more today.

2Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

They make the Bible Studies and seminars – but there is **no** real substance produced!

2Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and **never** able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

They were never able to grow into **spiritual substance**.

"Silly women" verse 6 – what is that about?

Paul and Timothy were obviously aware of some congregation where the women had a "Social Club" of silly women who followed a minister that made them feel good about their fun activities.

It could have been anything from a women's club that majored in all the latest gossip, to a bingo-like party that really had nothing to do with the practice of real Christianity.

Like so many church activities today – they are nothing more than "feel good" endeavors.

They would call their doings, "**church activities**," but in reality they were only the external trappings of religion – and not the performance of pure religion at all.

There are a hundred issues that people substitute for true faith.

How to pronounce God's name in Hebrew, Pot-lucks, the study of Genealogies, Choir, church picnics, calendar issues, basketball or summer camp, church socials and dances ...

There is a long list of "Church **things**" that aren't necessarily bad things in and of themselves – but they are also NOT the practice of true Christianity.

They are a "form" of religion at best.

Where does substance come from? Faithfulness to the entire word of God. Laying down one's life to save another. Standing for the Truth. Helping others into the Kingdom of God. Worshiping God in spirit and truth.

But what Paul is speaking of here in 2Timothy 3:5 , is describing the "**form without substance**" church members. They deny the spiritual intent of the things of God. They major in the minors. They are more concerned with looking good than being good. They wish to portray the **image** of Christianity without the **substance** of Christianity in action. They are not growing in grace and knowledge for the purpose of becoming imbued with spiritual **substance**.

And this situation applies to entire **congregations** having only a form of Godliness, all for show, where their main doctrine is to be nice and non-confrontational in matters of faith and morals.

Iron sharpens iron – the sparks fly – it takes a little friction to produce the substance of Godly character. The philosophy of some of these church organizations is not to ruffle anyone's feathers – don't rock the boat – I'm OK / you're OK- go with the flow.

Some of those congregations end up looking a lot like the people in the world. We were called out of this world.

None of us were of any **real spiritual substance** when we were first called.

It is true, **form** precedes **substance**, but it does not matter what we were before we were called because the thing that is important is what we are becoming.

Let's realize that it does not matter what we were before we were called by God because the thing that is important is what we are **becoming** – real spiritual substance and of Godly character.

Are we becoming men and women of spiritual substance? We must be, for that is the spiritual reality that leads to glory.

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Only Godly character – real spiritual substance – will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Let's look at a few examples of “**form only**” from the Bible.

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; [that is a **form** of Godliness] but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Spiritual **fruit** is the product of spiritual substance, “but in works they deny God.”

Paul is declaring that in these last days there would be many substitutes for true religion – that are not!

In Paul's day there were those who harped on the issue of circumcision as the be-all and end-all of righteousness and salvation. And they felt that they had the Scriptures to back up their argument.

Romans 2:13 It is not familiarity with the Law that justifies a man in the sight of God, but **obedience** to it.

Romans 2:20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the **form** [Greek, '*morphosis*'] of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

Paul is saying here, “You have without doubt very great advantages. But, prepared as you are to instruct others, do you ever teach yourself anything?”

Paul explains here how it is **entirely insufficient** to have this “**form**” of knowledge and truth.

If **form** does not proceed to **substance** – it is of no effect.

They could not bring themselves to accept that circumcision was the **form** that pointed to the **substance** – a **spiritual heart** (Romans 2:29).

The Pharisees of Christ' day were big into **form** without substance. Jesus told them:

Matthew 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

They passionately and fervently practiced a **form** of religion. Jesus understood that their hearts were not right with God.

Matthew 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly **appear righteous unto men**, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

The Bible **abounds** with examples where men have a **form** of godliness without any spiritual substance.

Ezekiel 33:30 [All the people say] ... hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

That sounds good – doesn't it? – but it is shallow and without **substance** – talk is cheap – notice the next verse.

They are having their “church service” – thinking God must surely be pleased with us.

Ezekiel 33:31 And they come unto thee [Ezekiel] as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will **not** do them: for **with their mouth they show much love**, but their heart goes after their covetousness.

Isaiah 48:1 Israel... swears by the name of the LORD, and makes mention of the God of Israel, but **not** in truth, nor in righteousness.

God's objection against Israel's religion is that it had **form but no substance**. The people made a great show of being religious, but their religion caused no changes in their conduct.

This criticism applies equally to much of God's Church today.

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draws near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have **removed their heart far from me**, and their reverence toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Brethren, that is having a **form** of godliness, but denying the power thereof.

**Form** has a very useful purpose, but it is transitory and not meant to be sustained forever.

Form is **introductory** for the purpose of growing into spiritual **reality**.

God uses symbols, analogies, patterns, behaviors, types/antitypes, parables, allegories and He compares and contrasts those representations—to bring us to a right and good understanding of His word and His Plan for us.

Form always points to something in the future.

This principle is **clearly shown** in Heb 9:23-24:

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the **patterns** [forms or copies] **of things in the heavens** should be purified with these; **but the heavenly things** themselves with better sacrifices than these. [only the sacrifice of Christ could suffice.]

'**Patterns**' comes from the Greek, '*hupodeigma*'- "copy" or "pattern" "*form*" sketch or draft of something future, **outlines of heavenly things**.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands [the holy of holies of the Temple – where only the High Priest went on Atonement], which are the **figures** [Greek, *anit-tupon* antitype, counterpart – 499] **of the true**; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

The Bible utilizes various comparisons and contrasts in order to open our understanding to the higher things of God.

For example, we see the letter of the law being contrasted with the spirit of the law so that we might seek that which is right and better.

In another example, Paul speaks of the law being a shadow.

In that case the law being a shadow is the **form** that leads to greater things – the very **substance** of good things to come.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and **not** the very image of the things...

Which is the greater reality? Is it form or substance?

In the flesh we tend to believe that physical things are real, and we are inclined to put great stock in the fact that rocks and rivers and trees are real – and the things we cannot see or handle we consider to be intangible.

However, from God's standpoint the spiritual things and the heavenly things are the things of **reality**.

Please understand that spiritual things are more real than physical things.

Everything that we **see or touch** is temporal and will eventually pass away.

Even the **office** of the Old Testament priesthood pointed to the greater **reality** – Jesus Christ our High Priest.

The unseen **spiritual realm** of God greatly supersedes anything in our physical realm.

Hebrews 8:5 [The priest] serve unto the example and shadow of **heavenly** things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, says he, that thou make all things according to the **pattern** shown to thee in the mount.

Even the Tabernacle which housed the Ark of the Covenant was a **form** and example of the **substantive** heavenly temple of God.

Jesus came **to add substance** to the law – to make the law more full (Matthew 5:17).

The title of today's sermon is "Form, Substance, Reality and Glory." Let's understand about Glory. Glory is a heavenly quality.

The **substance** we wish to attain to is the **same** resurrected **glory** we see in Jesus Christ. This is a most important concept that is lost on the world.

John 17:1 These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; **glorify** thy Son, that thy Son also may **glorify** thee:

When you see this word, "**Glory**," think of the brilliance that is Jesus Christ in His resurrected state (Matthew 17:2). Jesus prayed:

John 17:4 I have **glorified** thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gave me to do.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, **glorify** thou me with thine own self with the **glory** which I had with thee before the world was.

That Godly **glory is the substance** that Christians are to attain to.

Right now – in the flesh we cannot imagine the brilliant glory of the resurrected Christ – not that glory of the Father. At best, Paul says that we might be able to conceive of a **reflected** glory of God.

Paul says, let me make it as clear as I possibly am able:

2Corinthians 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:  
Title from here:

2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror the **glory** of the Lord, are changed [Greek word for **metamorphosis**] into the same image from **glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Christians are in the process of being changed / transformed (metamorphosis) by the Spirit of God. That Godly **glory is the substance** that Christians are to attain to.

Let's consider the noteworthy metamorphosis of the butterfly for a moment – I think we are all familiar with it. I love this picture that God has given us.

The process begins with a tiny caterpillar emerging from a minute egg which does nothing but eat, growing larger and larger.

Then, after being wrapped – seemingly in a death shroud for a time, suddenly it emerges with beautiful wings - able to span **continents**.

It is a beautiful picture from within God's physical creation - of our own resurrection. The ancient writer knew about the change that occurs at our resurrection: Job put it like this in:

Job 14:14 ...All the days of my appointed time will I wait, until my **change** comes.

Obviously, with the butterfly, the entire process is encapsulated within the minute egg – that is the **form** awaiting the development into eventual **substance**.

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus takes Peter, James, and John his brother, and brings them up into an high mountain apart,

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured [Greek for the word for **metamorphosis**] before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

That is as much of God's glory a human can stand without perishing.

Finally after eleven chapters of instruction – originally to the Romans, Paul issues an action step to us:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore [all the teaching up to this point], brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

That is **spiritual substance** Paul is speaking of in that verse.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed [Greek, '*suschematizo*' – in **form** and appearance only] to this world: but be ye transformed [Greek for the word for **metamorphosis**] by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

It is important to distinguish between these two similar words, conformed and transformed.

2Corinthians 11:13-15, Satan and his false apostles are "transformed" [*suschematizo*] into angels of light and supposed ministers of righteousness.

The same Greek word translated as conformed in Romans 12:2 is translated here as transformed. But Satan and his false apostles are **scheming** impostors and not servants of God – from which nothing good can come.

Satan and his false apostles **look good** on the surface, but within, their character is evil and has not changed.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

Romans 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and **every one members one of another**.

How is it that our church leaders cannot grasp the importance of this concept? If they understood - even in part - we would be **one** people with love for all.

As Christians, we are to utilize every single day in developing into the same **substance** which is Jesus Christ – just as Jesus is of the same substance as God the Father (Hebrews 1:3).

We are to utilize every single day developing into the same spiritual **substance** which is Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Hebrews 1:1 **God**, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Hebrews 1:2 **Has** in these last days **spoken unto us** by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Hebrews 1:3 Who [Jesus Christ] being the brightness of His [God the Father's] **glory**, and the express image of His person ["Person" here is the same Greek word translated as **substance**], and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Did you notice that Jesus is the express image of God the Father's **substance** – and **we** are to be becoming of that same **substance**?

Let's look at how easily God's people have slipped backward into a **form** of religion - while ignoring the weightier matters and going on to spiritual **substance**.

Jeremiah is the Prophet of **Hope** (Jeremiah 31:17). God will bring again His people from the land of the enemy – there is the **hope**.

Jeremiah speaks of **lying words**. He is speaking of **form** rather than substance. Here is an example that is taking place today:

One minister saw that Herbert W Armstrong had a beautiful auditorium with two grand pianos in it. This minister reasoned that **that** was the answer – so he built a imposing auditorium and put two grand pianos in it! And the people come to it – thinking that they do service to God.

Is that what our faith is about – being the biggest and the best?

God says that when it comes to Auditoriums, or grand pianos, or even the Temple in Jerusalem "**You trust in lying words.**"

Some men build large administration buildings for their organizations – and brag – “Look at what mine hands have built.” Is that what God seeks of us?

Jeremiah 7:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Jeremiah 7:2 Stand in the gate of the **LORD'S house** [the Temple], and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

Jeremiah 7:3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, **Amend** your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Jeremiah 7:4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The **temple** of the LORD, The **temple** of the LORD, The **temple** of the LORD, are these.

Their faith was that they would not go into captivity - like northern Israel had – because they had God in a box – the **Temple**.

They rationalized that God would **never** let His Temple fall into enemy hands.

Jeremiah 7:5 For if ye thoroughly **amend** your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor;

We see Godly principles here: These lead to **substance**.

Jeremiah 7:6 If ye **oppress** not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Jeremiah 7:7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever.

Jeremiah 7:8 Behold, ye trust in **lying words**, that cannot profit.

Jeremiah 7:9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Jeremiah 7:10 And come and **stand before me in this house**, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

We can get away with it – Scott free!

Jeremiah 7:11 Is this house, which is called by my name, [The Temple of the Lord] become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 7:12 But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name **at the first**, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

Remember how God chose Shiloh for the permanent place of the Tabernacle of the Lord, with the Ark of the Covenant housed within for 400 years up to the time of King David.

Jeremiah 7:13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

Jeremiah 7:14 Therefore will I do unto **this house** [The Temple - this soon came to pass when Solomon's temple was destroyed – without a stone resting upon another stone], which is called by my name, **wherein ye trust**, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

They had only a form of religion – because they trusted in physical things.

God tells us that those are only physical accoutrements – and that they too will perish.

Men put their faith in the physical **organization**, administration or structure – rather than the **spiritual in the heavens** to which the Temple pointed.

Jeremiah 7:15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

And Manasseh is not far behind.

Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, [because they are not repentant - but wax worse and worse] neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, **Obey** my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jeremiah 7:24 But they hearkened **not**, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Jeremiah 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Jeremiah 7:26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

Jeremiah 7:27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

Jeremiah 7:28 But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

Then God goes on to cite a few of the reasons that our nations will soon be utterly desolate as well.

It is one thing for our nations of England and America to **abhor God's name** with our wicked conduct – and it is quite another thing **within God's Church** to make a pretense of serving God with the physical things while neglecting the clear spiritual components [as we saw in Jeremiah 7:5-6] that God requires of His inheritance – His sons and daughters.

Notice what the writer of this Psalm had to say about worshipping God in spirit and truth – substance.

Psalm 78:56 Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies:

Psalm 78:57 But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

Psalm 78:58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

Psalm 78:59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

Psalm 78:60 So that he **forsook the tabernacle** of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

Israel would have remained a *glorious* nation if they had been obedient to God.

Psalm 78:61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his **glory** [Israel] into the enemy's hand.

Psalm 78:62 He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

The Sabbath and the Feast days provide the **form** or appearance of Godly faith. Even though they are necessary and important – they are not the end in itself.

The Sabbath and the Feast days point to the **reality** and the **substance**.

I think that basically we all understand that.

Jews and the Seventh Day Adventist observe the Sabbath to **no** avail. What is missing for the Jews and the Seventh Day Adventist? It is not organization or church government – they both have plenty of that.

Having done with the outward – physically observing the Sabbath Day – we now give ourselves entirely to the inward and to the spiritual meaning of the Sabbath Day. We are to pursue a higher goal and standard.

### **The Sabbath and Holy Days**

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Genesis 2:3 And God **blessed** the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Few people on this earth recognize that verse three represents the beginning of the **spiritual process** for man to grow into substance. The Sabbath Day has deep spiritual implications for mankind.

The seven day week is analogous to the 7000 year Plan of God. The seventh day Sabbath is equivalent to the end of the 7000 years – the millennial rest of God's Kingdom on earth. So, we see that the Sabbath is much more than a weekly day of rest for our weary bodies.

The Sabbath Day is the **form** we are first given in order to develop spiritually into the **substance** of Christianity. We are to actually worship God on the Sabbath Day. We are to learn of His ways and practice on one another. The Sabbath is for the purpose of considering one another to provoke unto love and to good works (Hebrews 10:24).

We observe the Sabbath in order to separate ourselves from the world put on the **substance** which is Jesus Christ.

If we go to services mainly for the purpose of catching up on the local news, socializing with associates, and enjoying a good potluck now and then – we are not utilizing the Sabbath for its intended purpose.

Mark 2:27 And [Jesus] said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath:

We have people in the church today with their pet doctrines that miss the mark of Christianity entirely. One man quit attending Sabbath services because the spark plugs in his car ignited the fuel in each cylinder – making many **little fires** – which in his mind violated God's command against fires on the Sabbath. That there is an example of a **form** of religion that **denies** Godliness.

Exodus 35:3 Ye shall kindle **no fire** throughout your habitations upon the Sabbath day.

After reading this one verse, this man concluded – like many Jews do – that God is against any kind of fire anywhere on the Sabbath. No candle for light? – No fire for heat on a winter's day? – that is not what God is saying.

That is the **extent** of his faith – and he stands by it. It has become his **righteousness** – not to start his engine. He should read all of God's word and understand God's intent. God did not allow a **construction fire** for smelting metal in the building of the Tabernacle. Continue on down in Chapter 35:

Exodus 35:21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering **for the work of the tabernacle** of the congregation...

Brethren, our Faith is so much more than this! Do we have the wisdom to see that God's intent is for us to learn from the **form** – and grow into the **substance** of Godly character on the Sabbath Day?

We **begin** with the **form** of the Sabbath Day and all that it means and holds – and from there we learn, we grow, we develop into – we metamorph into the spiritual **substance** which is God.

God has given us the Holy Days for the exact same reason He gave us the Sabbath Day.

The Holy Days are the **form** which – with God's Spirit – yields the **substance**.

**The Lord's Passover** (Leviticus 23:5) shows that we can avail ourselves of the forgiveness of sin and put on the **substance** of Christ.

The Jews observe Passover in **form** only – not maturing into the **substance** which will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Like Passover, all of the Holy Days must be understood and lived so that they are not observed in **form** only.

**Unleavened Bread** (Leviticus 23:6-8) focus on the cleansing process which transforms us from **form** to **substance** as we put all sin out of our life.

Jesus is the **substance** of the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1Corinthians 5:8)

**Pentecost** is the exact picture of going on to perfection in our spiritual growth.

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Spirit says, Today if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

Hebrews 3:11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness of sin**.

Hebrews 3:14 For we are made **partakers of Christ**, if we hold the beginning of our confidence [Same Greek word for **substance**] steadfast unto the end;

**Trumpets, Atonement** – is not an exercise in hunger. **Feast of Tabernacles**, and the **Last Great Day**. The Holy Days all have tremendous spiritual implications for the people of God. They are steps in the Plan of God.

2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creation**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Yes, we go through a process of spiritual metamorphosis. We begin with **form** and are transformed into spiritual **substance** – that is the **reality** that leads to **glory**.

End: Form, Substance, Reality and Glory