

The Simplicity of Our Father's Word

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In 2003, the author Robert Fulghum wrote a bestselling book titled, All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten. I'm sure most of you remember that book and a few months ago I ran across my copy of it—I had forgotten I even had it. I just thumbed through it and I would like to read you the chapter headings from this book.

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush (that's one I like).

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

When you go out into the world watch out for traffic.

Hold hands and stick together.

Be nice to people.

Eat your vegetables.

Respect your teacher.

Listen and don't talk in class.

And the last chapter:

Gold fish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup all die and so do we.

Very, very simple truths that a child could understand. I used to be in the audio business for thirty plus years, and years ago I had a chance meeting at one of our annual conventions. I walked into a room that one of the manufacturers had at this convention and it was before ours. I walked in and there was another fellow there—we were the only two in this very large room. So, I went over and introduced myself to him and found out that he was a very well respected, world renowned electrical engineer. He was the chief engineer of a Japanese, high end audio company called Denon. So, while waiting for the show to start, we got into a discussion about why amplifiers sound different. You can have an amplifier that powers your home stereo system and you can have two amplifiers—they have the same specifications, the same frequency response, the same distortion level, the same signal to noise ratio and yet you put each on in your system and they sound different. We were discussing that and he told me something then that I have never forgotten. He said—the chief engineer with decades of experience—“Simple is best”. I've never forgotten that. What he was saying in this particular application

was that simple circuits—electrically simple—sound better than complicated ones. Over the years, I have found that to be true.

Simple is best also works in many other areas. It works in design, for example jewelry, clothes, automobiles, buildings. Simple designs look better. *Simple is best* is also evident in manufacturing. Toyota right now is the gold standard for manufacturing efficiency. They are investigated and looked at by many experts in efficiency and manufacture efficiency. One of the reports showed how they took a front bumper—a production front bumper—and reduced the parts from twenty-two to five. This increased the ease of manufacturing, the ease of assembly and obviously saved money and yet didn't compromise anything. They did it by simplifying the design—*simple is best*.

Simple is best is evident even in science. Maybe you have heard of the scientist, Michio Kaku. If you watch any PBS documentaries on science or cosmology, you have probably seen him. He is a U.S. citizen of Japanese descent, he is a PhD, he is a professor of theoretical physics at City College in New York and the City University of New York Graduate school. This guy is no dummy. He wrote a book that I have read called Einstein's Cosmos in 2004. On page 13, Michio Kaku says this about Einstein:

Einstein's theories are based, not so much on arcane mathematics (that means difficult to understand) but simple, physical pictures. Einstein would often comment that if a new theory was not based on a physical image, simple enough for a child to understand, it was probably worthless.

Indeed, Einstein did present many of his concepts in thought experiments or physical pictures that would illustrate what he was talking about and he presented them very simply. That is how he arrived at some of his conclusions.

Simple is best is a Godly principle. Go to 2 Corinthians 11:3 out of the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (KJV)*

He is telling us that there is a simplicity that is in Christ. The Greek word for *simplicity* is Strong's #572 and it's the Greek word haplotes. Help's Word Study says this about haplotes: "Without folds, like a piece of cloth unfolded, that is, not over complicated or needlessly complex". So, what we are told here is that, understanding the truth about Christ in this instance is not complicated, it is not complex, it is not convoluted as a folded cloth would be, but is open as an open piece of cloth would be—that's a good illustration.

The problem with humans is we tend to over complicate things. We tend to over think things. Those with so-called great minds, high intelligence, high I.Q., high positions in academics or in other areas—those with the so-called great minds—can get really far

off base. I don't know if you remember Garrison Keillor. He was the originator of "A Prairie Home Companion" on NPR—it's off now—it was a Saturday night staple for twenty years or so on NPR radio. He was the creator and the host. He was a spinner of home spun wisdom and said this about intelligence:

Intelligence is like four-wheel drive. It allows you to get stuck in remote places.

That is so true because these great minds with high intelligence, can go off and get down in the weeds and miss the big picture. This is even more true with complicated interpretations pertaining to the understanding of God's word. The prime example of that—the poster child of that—would be the doctrine of the trinity.

I remember in the early 1990's when doctrines were being changed in the Worldwide Church of God and the trinity was being introduced. It just so happened that the head of the ministry then, Joe Tkach Jr., traveled out to our area to visit. At that time, he and his cronies were attending the seminary at Azusa Pacific University to earn a degree. They were studying—obviously Protestant doctrines, as it was a Protestant sponsored seminary—so they were studying Protestant doctrines. I happened to be seated by him, so I started talking to him about these doctrinal changes—primarily the trinity—and I was trying to be very respectful and calm about it and to tell him how I was concerned about that. His response was—I have committed it to memory so it's almost verbatim—the great minds (meaning St. Augustine, St. Jerome, the early "church" fathers) cannot all be wrong. Meaning, their view of Sunday versus the Sabbath, Passover verses Easter, the trinity and on and on. He said that these were the greatest minds of their day and they cannot be wrong. He went on about that, so at the end of his monologue I said that they were unconverted. It looked like I slapped him in the face. He got this blank look like he wasn't comprehending what I was saying. He was stumbling and fumbling and within a couple of minutes it was obvious that he did not understand the concept of conversion. He did not understand the concept of the Father revealing the secrets of His Word as opposed to smart minds going on their own and finding it out. Yes indeed, these church fathers—so to speak—probably had great minds. But did they have the humility or God's Holy spirit to be able to receive revelation from the Father of the simple truths that are scattered throughout the Bible and that are evident throughout the Bible?

With that in mind—I still haven't gotten to the point yet—let's see who the Father has called. This is referring to each one of us. We know where that is. In 1 Corinthians 1:24, is where we will start. Talking about our calling, Paul is trying to give the Corinthians, and us today, the big picture—God's picture.

1 Corinthians 1:24 *But unto them which are called [we will get into the meaning of that in just a minute], both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*
25) *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

26) *For ye see your calling, brethren, [second time he has used that word] how that not many wise ... (KJV)*

The Greek word for *wise* can be “learned” or “skilled”. Not many learned or skilled men.

26 continued) ... *men after the flesh, not many mighty* [the Greek means “powerful” or “strong”], *not many noble* [that means “well born” or “of high rank”], *are called:*

27) *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; (KJV)*

The Greek word for *foolish things* is just one Greek word for foolish things in English, and it’s the Greek word *moros*. It can mean “dull” or “stupid”. That’s where we get the English word *moron* from. He is saying God has chosen the *moros*. Maybe not the sharpest knife in the drawer.

27 continued) ... *and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (KJV)*

Weak things meaning “strengthless, more feeble or impotent”—not a lot of power. We all know that this is true in our own experience and life; we don’t have a lot of power on our own. As we get older, we learn that more and more and more.

28) *And base things of the world ... (KJV)*

The Greek there means “without kin” or “of unknown descent” or by implication “ignoble”. My grandad in the late 1800’s was one step ahead of the law going from Missouri to New Mexico and in order to stay out of jail he changed his name from Jarborough to Railston. So yes, if we look back to our past, we have ignoble beginnings.

28 continued) ... *and things which are despised, hath God chosen ... (KJV)*

The Greek word for *despised* means “contemptible” or “least esteemed”; least esteemed in the world—not to God—but least esteemed.

28 continued) ... *yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are:*
29) *That no flesh should glory in his presence. (KJV)*

Verse 29 in the New English Bible says,

There is no place for pride in the presence of God.

Especially from the likes of a human being. No place for pride in the presence of God. So, God has chosen each of us because we are not the smartest, we are not the strongest—we don’t have some noble pedigree—and we are the least esteemed. Therefore, we have to ask the question, and this is all by introduction, getting to the

point—why does God our Father call the dull and the weak? What is His purpose? We read part of it just a second ago. One reason is to confound the wise. To show the wise they are not so wise, they are not so prudent. A second reason is so that we cannot take credit for what God does. Because we are not wise, we are not strong and anything that happens, God, the Almighty, the Most-High, gets all the credit. A third reason in calling us—the weak of the world—is to learn to totally rely on our Father. We cannot rely on ourselves because we are not the high and the mighty.

Now we get down to where the rubber meets the road. Why would God call the dull of the world, the weak of the world, to a truth that was too complex for them to understand? Why would He do that? Obviously, He wouldn't. God has called the weak of the world, yet He promises the *moros*—"the dull"—to be able to understand His deep things, His secret things. In 1 Corinthians 2:10 (out of the NLT) we see that God takes us—the weak and not the brightest, those without pedigree—and does something miraculous with us.

1 Corinthians 2:10 *But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. [It's a revelation, it is not because of our smarts] For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us [the modern translations leave out "the"] God's deep secrets. (NLT)*

So here we are told something incredibly important. That our Father does the revealing. Not our smarts, not our wisdom, not our IQ, not our intelligence. He reveals these truths to those with His spirit and those with the humility to receive the revelation. Once revealed then, the truth is so simple and so easy to understand. All truly important principles of life and, certainly those in the scriptures, are quite simple. This is no more evident than in God's Word. That leads us to the title of the sermon:

The Simplicity of Our Father's Word

We are going to look into that today and see four points that show us the true simplicity and the ease of understanding of God's Word when you look at the big picture with humility and the exercising His Holy Spirit.

The first point I would like to make:

1. There is a simplicity of the basic understanding of who God is.

It is simple. It is not convoluted or complex. Satan has blinded mankind to the simplicity of who God is and man in his vanity overcomplicates things. The greatest evidence of that is mankind—and this is obviously provoked by Satan and the modern religious world—the one key factor of all Christianity is the belief in the trinity. In fact, I heard a Christian—he is one of the pastors of a mega church—say that the litmus test of being a Christian is belief in the trinity and if you don't believe in the trinity, you are not a Christian. That's interesting because, let me quote from the Catholic Encyclopedia—this is under The Trinity in the Catholic Encyclopedia and I'm quoting now:

Saint Jerome [Jerome was a Catholic scholar who died in 420 A.D.] *says in a well-known phrase* [now they are quoting Saint Jerome] *“The true profession of the mystery of the trinity is to own that we do not comprehend it.”*

This is from the Catholic Encyclopedia; it’s just amazing. I can remember at the time when the changes were occurring in the Worldwide Church of God, the Worldwide News had in it an article written by Joseph Tkach Sr., the father of junior—this was in December 23, 1991. He said in this article that the trinity doctrine is “beyond our human ability to grasp.” And then went on to say that the trinity is a mystery. Yes, it is indeed a mystery because no one can understand it and no one can explain it. For those of us who were there at the time, sitting in the audience, videotapes came out or traveling ministers came out, attempting to explain the trinity. It was frankly embarrassing because the guy who was speaking didn’t understand it himself and he wasn’t doing a very good job of trying to get it across to us. He was trying hard to toe the line, but it just wasn’t working. The trinity is an un-understandable doctrine.

In contrast to that, notice the simplicity of this subject from God’s own word. Go to John 17:1 and compare this cloudy, fuzzy, dark, murky, doctrine of the trinity with what we are going to read here.

John 17:1 *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said [He’s praying to His Father], Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*

2) *As thou hast given him power [He’s admitting His Father had given Him power] over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou [referring to His Father] hast given him [Christ].*

3) *And this is life eternal [anytime we see that phrase, our antenna should go up and we should pay attention], that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)*

So here we have three verses and just right on the surface, you can see that there are three concepts that are evident from these three verses. Number one, there are two Beings—the Father and the Son. If there was a third Being, don’t you think that this might be a great opportunity to list the third Being? But it’s not there.

The second concept that we can learn, because it is plainly stated, is that the Father is the only true God. Why? Because all things flow from the Father. He is indeed supreme. If you wanted to, you could tie in four other scriptures—we won’t turn there for sake of time, I’ll just list them—but there are four other scriptures that say very clearly that Christ’s God is the Father. His God is the Father. John says it in John 14:10 and John 20:17, Paul says it in Ephesians 1:17 and then we find it in Revelation 1:6—all four verses say very clearly that the God of Jesus Christ is the Father. So, the second thing we derive is that the Father is the only true God.

The third thing we derive from these three verses is the Father is superior in authority. The one who gives is greater than the one who receives. We read that in these three verses. The one who sends is greater than the one who is sent. That tells us very clearly that the Father is supreme in authority. We see that the Bible is very clear if we just look at it through God's Holy Spirit, humble ourselves and say that we don't care what we have been taught in the past, we are just going to look at it for what it says—very clearly and very simply.

The Bible tells us that the Father and His Son have the same nature and they have the same character. They are not some mushy two things in one—they are two separate Beings that have the same nature and character. In Hebrews 1:1 we see that. It is very clear when you read the scriptures.

Hebrews 1:1 *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake [so we see that God speaks] in time past unto the fathers [Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and others—Moses and so on] by the prophets,
2) Hath 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;
3) Who [meaning the Son] being the brightness of his [meaning His Father's] glory, and the express image of his person ... (KJV)*

The Greek word for *image* is very interesting. It's Strong's #5481 and it is character in Greek and we get the word character from that. It is used in coinage because it means, "what has been stamped, what has been engraved on something, an exact copy". You go to Fort Knox and look at a bag of pennies that have just been minted and they all look identical because they have been stamped and engraved from the same stamper. That was true back in the New Testament times as well as today. What we are being told is that the character of the Father and the character of the Son are identical because they have the same nature. Yet, they are separate Beings—they are distinct Beings. We just read that in John 17—the only true God and His Son.

We also have the clear New Testament record of the Father speaking to the Son. We won't turn there as we have covered them before. In Matthew 3:17 Jesus had been baptized and was walking out of the water and a voice from heaven said,

This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

That obviously tells you that there are two Beings, one is speaking to the other. It is not some heraldic angel because it says, "This is My Son". It is very clear that the Father is speaking to His Son and telling His Son that He is very pleased with what He is doing.

It occurred again at the transfiguration in Matthew 17:5. Again we won't go there—a bright cloud overshadowed Christ and James and John and Peter and a voice they heard from this cloud said the same thing,

This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear you Him.

So, listen to what He tells you. Once again, there is no mention of a third Being; a Father talking to His Son—how clear can it be?

We know they are separate Beings because we are told in scripture so many times that the Son sits at the right hand of the Father, of His Father's throne. Go to Hebrews 12:2 and see that. There are many other scriptures. However, we are just hitting the highlights showing it is so simple if we approach it with humility, an open mind and exercising God's Spirit—it is so simple to understand who God is.

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross [which we are eternally thankful for], despising the shame, and [after dying and being resurrected] is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)*

Right hand is an honored position but a subservient position to the King; the King of the Kingdom, the one who is sitting on the throne. I might ask, where is the third Being? If there are three and the trinity is true, why isn't a third Being mentioned at the throne of God? It never has been, never will be. The clincher, of course, is that the Father knows something that the Son doesn't. They have to be two separate Beings if one knows something and one doesn't. The trinity would make you believe the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are this one thing. If one knows something then the other knows that something, but that's not what the Bible says. Matthew 24:36, Christ is discussing what is going to happen when all things will be fulfilled.

Matthew 24:36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man [man is in italics, we would say no one—man or woman, doesn't make any difference], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (KJV)*

The only thing you conclude from this is that the Father knows and someday, some time, some hour, some minute, He is going to tell the Son that now's the time, let's go. If the Father knows and the Son does not, then they must be separate Beings.

Nowhere in these or other verses are three mentioned. Despite the fact that on so many occasions—we've read quite a few already—there are perfect times for the three to be mentioned if there were three, but they are not mentioned. No mention of a third being, there are only two—the Father and the Son and the Father is supreme. Looking back on that, it's pretty simple, isn't it? Easy to understand, isn't it?

The second point I would like to cover is:

2. The simplicity of understanding why there is so much evil in the world.

With the evil going on in the world today and with mass communications and social media, nothing is hidden. We are more aware now of the tremendous wickedness in the world today. Yet man is mystified why there is so much wickedness. People say,

“How can there be a loving God with so much evil in the world? How can that happen?”

Or people say:

”I refuse to worship a God who allows such evil to happen.”

The answer is quite simple if one looks at God’s word. The first two humans made a fateful decision in Genesis 3. They chose to reject Yehovah; His word, what He was saying, and Himself also. They chose to listen to a created being, the devil. Christ called him the prince of this world in John 16. They listened to him, rather than to the Creator of Satan, Lucifer, the devil, and they chose to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil. They made that decision; the very first two human beings. After that decision, God left man to determine his own way. They had said to God, we don’t want Your nose in our business, we want to decide for ourselves and God said, okay that’s your decision. Then you will have to suffer the consequences. If you’re going to determine your own way then you will have to suffer the consequences from walking on the path that you decide is best. From that day forth, Yehovah hid the truth from mankind in general. Go to Matthew 11:25; we’re breaking into the context and Christ is condemning the Jews, the religious leaders of the day. He is thanking His Father in light of what the Jews were doing.

Matthew 11:25 *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent [You’ve hidden them from the powerful of the day, the intelligent of the day, the greatest minds of the day] , and hast revealed them unto babes. (KJV)*

Reveal them unto the moros, the dull, the not so smart, the weak, the small, those without pedigree. Christ is thanking His Father for doing that. All mankind, since Adam and Eve, have followed in their footsteps and they are paying the price and the world we live in today is really paying the price for choosing their own way. An obvious scripture comes to mind—we won’t turn there—Galatians 6:7, where Paul says,

Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatever a man sows, that will he also reap.

This is happening in spades today; we see the fruits of it to this very day. Man doesn’t understand that the Father is only dealing with a few people right now. He is not dealing with the world because the originators of the human race—the first two human beings—didn’t want God involved. He is dealing with only a few today. We read earlier in 1 Corinthians 1:26 in which it talked about a calling. The Greek word for *calling* in 1 Corinthians 1:26 is Strong’s #2821 and it means “an invitation, an invite”. With that in mind go to Romans 8:28. There in 1 Corinthians 1:26 Paul talked about our calling, that not many wise men, not many noble, not many great, are called. Now in Romans 8:28, the same author says the following—a very familiar scripture. We know the first part of this by heart when we are going through trials and difficulties; we remind ourselves of this truth.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, [but notice going on] to them who are the called according to his purpose. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *called* here is only one digit off from the word in 1 Corinthians 1:26, this is #2822 and it has exactly the same meaning as #2821; it means “invited” or “appointed”. So, the fact is, God is inviting only a few to understand today. God is not at war with Satan and losing, as the Protestants feel. That somehow, we are losing this battle and that Satan is stronger than God. Look at all the evil. He is conquering God or is more influential than God. That is not the case at all. It is just that God is not dealing with everyone right now. Satan, being the prince of the world, God is allowing him to have his own way and we are seeing the fruits of that today. But the fact is, God is the Author of the plan. God is working His own plan, He is calling only a few right now. Adam and Eve said we don’t want You, we want to determine for ourselves right and wrong and God said, if that’s what you want, that’s what you get. We see that all around us; it’s so simple why there is so much evil in the world.

The third point in talking about the simplicity of God’s word.

3. The simplicity of God’s law.

Mankind today—increasingly so today—says there are no laws, there are no moral absolutes. When I was in graduate school, God was beginning to call me and I was getting literature and He was beginning to open my mind. Just as we have all experienced ourselves. There was a Presbyterian church that I went to from time to time and I asked the Presbyterian minister,

“Are the ten commandments always in force? Do they always apply in all circumstances?”

He was very direct and said, “No they don’t.”

I said, “How do you know then if they apply or don’t apply?”

“You tell me the circumstances and I will tell you whether they apply”.

We call that today, situation ethics. It depends on the situation whether God’s law applies. Whether you should murder somebody or not murder somebody, it depends on the situation. Then it’s up to men to decide whether it applies or doesn’t apply. It’s called situation ethics. The world believes there are no moral absolutes. Everyone decides for himself or in some cases, your priest decides for you or your minister decides for you. Rather than the individual looking to God and saying,

“What is God’s mind on this, how does God feel about this?”

Modern Christianity has been influenced by Satan to believe that Christ did away with the law. The Ten Commandments are nice, but they are part of the law and are done away with. Many believe that, to be a Christian, you don’t have to keep the law. It was

nailed to the cross along with our sins so you don't have to keep it. They use, as evidence of that notion, that Christ lived a perfect life for you, so therefore you don't have to live the perfect life, because He did it for you. All you have to do is believe. That doctrine makes people feel good. Why? Because you don't have to work at being a Christian. You just have to believe and then you can just go do what you want to do, live your life, vent your spleen, behave like a jerk, do whatever you want to do and as long as I believe, I'm okay. God loves me, Christ died for me, He lived the perfect life for me. What does the Bible say about that? The answer is so simple.

The apostles had a simple answer regarding the law; in James 1:22—very simple. People that say all you have to do is believe ought to get their noses in the Bible and read what the apostles said. What was their teaching after Christ was resurrected, after He was on the right hand of God?

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word [how can you wiggle around that one?], and not hearers only [then if you're hearers only], deceiving your own selves.* (KJV)

If you deceive yourselves so that you can hear and not do and if you say I just believe and then I can do whatever I want, Apostle James is saying you are deceived. That is a satanic deception, don't believe that.

Notice the simplicity of our Father's law; think about this. If you were the Supreme Being and you were thinking about which laws I want to give my children to obey? In the introduction I read Robert Fulghum's chapter breaks and there were a bunch of them. They were all true and good advice, but there were a bunch of them. When you think about it, isn't it amazing that our Father gave only ten on how to live your life? He only gave ten commandments. He could have given twenty, fifty, 100, 1000, but He gave ten. The first four teach us how to love Him, the last six teach us how to love our brothers and sisters and neighbors. Christ said He was going to make it even more simple for them. Instead of ten—notice this in Matthew 22:35. Christ further simplified the ten. You get the idea that simple is a good thing? *Simple is best*, it is a Godly thing?

Matthew 22:35 *Then one of them [testing Him], which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,*
36) *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?* (KJV)

He was asked for one commandment—what is it?

37) *Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul [that means your life, everything you have], and with all thy mind.*
38) *This is the first and great commandment.* (KJV)

Verse 39, Christ wasn't asked for a second one but He did give one.

39) *And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

40) *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (KJV)*

So, He distilled the ten into two; how much simpler can you get? Love the Father with all your being, love your neighbor as yourself. It can't get any simpler than that. The Jews could not leave God's Word alone—they just couldn't accept the simple, obvious, plain answer. They complicated God's Word through the oral law—the Talmud. Look at the first five books of the Bible, we know those as the Torah.

The first five books of the Bible can be written out—in standard print—and would take about 350 pages. The Jewish Talmud attempts to explain the Torah. Guess how big the Jewish Talmud is in explaining the Torah of 350 pages. The Jewish Talmud take up 523 books, printed in twenty-two volumes. The Talmud in standard print would be 6200 pages. That is almost eighteen times larger than the Torah. You talk about over complication. Rather than, as Christ did, taking it down to two in a simplified manner, you expand it eighteen or twenty times. Then it is so complicated for the average person that it becomes almost meaningless.

Look at the simplicity of keeping the Sabbath and the Holy Days. Man says the Sabbath and the Holy Days are done away, along with the law of Moses. Some say that we shouldn't keep any day. Others say that we should keep every day in our heart and not single out a physical day but keep every day in our heart as though it was the Sabbath day. Christ says something so simple—look at Mark 2:27. He answers all of these questions in a sentence.

Mark 2:27 *And he said unto them, the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: (KJV)*

He was talking to the Jews who have all these do's and don'ts about the Sabbath—all these rules and restrictions. Christ is saying that the Sabbath is for the benefit of My Father's children; it's for their good. Man is not made for the Sabbath; the Sabbath is made as a blessing for mankind. If the Sabbath was done away with, why would Christ say that the Sabbath was made for man. He wouldn't. If the Sabbath was done away, He wouldn't say anything remotely like this. Yehovah created the Sabbath over 2000 years before Moses—at creation in Genesis 2. Then Yehovah re-identified the Sabbath with the coming of the Manna in Exodus 16 after they came out of Egypt. This was before the Ten Commandments were ever given, before the Old Covenant was ratified at Mount Sinai. The fact is, the Sabbath is there as a blessing to all of us. What is the simple purpose of the Sabbath, if you put all of the scriptures together, what is the simple purpose of the Sabbath? It is to keep us in the true knowledge and the true worship of the true God. It is to keep mankind—once mankind's eyes are open—in the true knowledge and the true worship of the true God. By having the Sabbath once a week, by having the Holy Days once a year, it keeps us oriented as to who God is and what His plan is and how He relates to mankind. We rehearse it week by week, year by year—it is a blessing to mankind.

Look at the simplicity of tithing. This is something that hits home to all of us. How does man in essence, do tithing? Man created the IRS—the Internal Revenue System. The bane of all of us. Mankind created the IRS tax code. I did a little research to see how big the tax code has gotten. This year, 2020, how many pages are in the IRS tax code? Any idea? 1000, 5000, 10,000? This year, the U.S. tax code, to figure out how much you owe the government is 73,954 pages. You talk about over complication; it's like the Catholics needing a priest to explain the trinity or to explain some of their doctrines. If you are in business, you need a CPA to figure out the tax code. In fact, a couple of years ago, when the rules changed, our CPA said she called the IRS with a specific question they had. She said, I called and asked them—I read the question—and wanted to get a response. I called two agents on two different days to make sure I got two different agents and they contradicted themselves. So, she said “we were rolling the dice, but we had to file something so we did”. That's man's way; what is God's way? A flat ten percent. You don't need a tax code; you need one sentence. It is ten percent.

Tithing was in existence before Moses. Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek in Genesis 14. The point I am making is, that in God's law—whether it's the Sabbath, the Holy Days, tithing or any other area in God's law—once God opens our mind, His law—God's law, our Father's law—is simple indeed. It is so simple and easy to understand that we can teach our children to understand it.

The fourth and last point.

4. There is a simplicity of the choices that we must make.

Our Father's Word reveals that the difference between good and evil is the same as the difference between light and dark. Christ drew this picture for us and explained the difference between good and evil in terms that even a child could understand. Hopefully parents will use this example in scriptures to illustrate that point. In Matthew 6:22 the difference between good and evil is so easy to explain. This out of the New King James.

Matthew 6:22 *“The lamp [meaning the source of light] of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.*

23) But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (NKJV)

Now go to the Apostle John in John 8:12. He is recording Christ using this same analogy. This time out of the King James.

John 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, [very simple and easy to understand] I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (KJV)*

If you follow Me, I will light your path. If you follow Me, you won't be in darkness, you won't stumble around, you will see clearly. Then go to John 12:35, using this very clear, very simple analogy. He is getting to the end of His time on earth.

John 12:35 *Then Jesus said unto them, yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. (KJV)*

Continuing in verse 46.

46) I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. (KJV)

Christ uses a simple analogy, what did the apostles do? Did they pick up on that analogy or did they run off somewhere else? Let's look at Paul in Acts 26:18. We are breaking into the context here where Paul was describing to King Agrippa, his calling from the Father—he is explaining what the Father wanted him to do.

Acts 26:18 *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God ... (KJV)*

He is saying very clearly that the power of Satan is darkness, turning to God brings us into the light. What did Peter say in 1 Peter 2:9? Did Peter follow Christ's example in this analogy, because it's true and very clear? A very familiar scripture to us, but we generally focus on the first part of this verse.

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you [invited you, same Greek word] out of darkness into his marvelous light: (KJV)*

The contrast between Satan's world and our Father's world is between us following Satan or following our Father. Then what did the Apostle John say? In 1 John 1:5 John is not quoting Christ as he did in His gospels, John is writing for himself.

1 John 1:5 *This then is the message which we have heard of him [referring to Christ], and declare unto you, that God is light [couldn't be clearer], and in him is no darkness at all.*

6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and [if we walk in the light] the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (KJV)

Notice the next chapter, 1 John 2:8 where he follows up on this.

1 John 2:8 *Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him [referring to Christ] and in you: [why?] because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.*

9) *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. (KJV)*

Yet, we have in the church, hatred between individuals, hatred between groups and we need to read this scripture if we have hatred of our brothers and sisters. We are walking in the dark. We are allowing Satan to manipulate us as a puppeteer like a puppet on a string. What a clear and simple picture; evil equals darkness, goodness equals light. A child can understand that. Yet, despite this, the world is in darkness and the world loves it—just loves it.

In John 1:5 he talking about the coming of Jesus Christ and what a monumental event it was that the Son of God would become a human being and walk the earth and do what He did.

John 1:5 *And the light shineth in darkness [referring to Christ coming into the world]; and the darkness comprehended it not. (KJV)*

What a sad state of affairs and it is true today. The darkness does not comprehend the truth of God's word or the choices we have to make.

John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, [they love darkness, they love their evil deeds, they love their sins] because their deeds were evil. (KJV)*

Think about this: Every time we sin, we are saying to our Father,

“You know, I would rather be in darkness than in light. I would rather do this over here and be in darkness than please You and be in Your light or be in the light of Your Son. I would rather be in darkness.”

In Isaiah 5, the prophet has something to say about this; about men loving the darkness. We have a human nature and that human nature just loves darkness and that is something we have to overcome. God watches us daily to see if we are overcoming it. Isaiah 5:20-21, out of the NIV.

Isaiah 5:20 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, [that is the world we live in today, 180 degrees out of sync with God Almighty] who put darkness for light and light for darkness ... (NIV)*

It's fine to sleep around with whoever you want, doesn't make any difference—that's darkness and they are saying that's good. The government is so evil anyway, it's good to lie on your taxes or cheat or steal from your company or whatever—that's okay—everybody does it.

20 continued) *... who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

21) *Woe to those who are wise in their own eye, and clever in their own sight.*
(NIV)

Just like Adam and Eve. Just like those who say, the Ten Commandments don't apply, you tell me the circumstances and I'll tell you whether they apply; wise in their own eyes, clever in their own sight. Closing out this last point, light versus dark, good versus evil, it's a very simple, clear choice that a young child could understand and God gives us that choice and God makes it so clear. It is up to us of course, to heed and to believe.

Let's conclude.

Our Father did make His Word so easy for us to understand. If it was so complicated that it took an entire lifetime to come to understand, then only an older person—assuming you live that long—who had lived and studied for decades could understand it; if it was that complicated. What good would that do? If you didn't understand the truth until you got into your '60's, '70's or '80's, how would that help you raise your children in your 20's and 30's? That wouldn't work.

There is an author named Cormac McCarthy and he wrote a book in 2005 called No Country For Old Men. It was made into an academy award winning movie. It is a novel about an old West Texas sheriff. I read it because it talks about the country in West Texas where I grew up and also about a lot of people I knew in the sense of their mindset and their mentality and how they viewed things. It's about an old West Texas sheriff who is fighting the modern world of drug smuggling. You see these contrasts of this modern world and the younger generation. How they view drugs and what they will do to get drugs or smuggle drugs versus an old sheriff who is a couple generations older and who has a totally different mindset. Towards the end of the book this sheriff said something profound that applies to what we have been talking about. He said:

“I think the truth is always simple. It pretty much has to be. It needs to be simple enough for a child to understand, otherwise it would be too late. By the time you figured it out, it would be too late.”

Isn't that true—a very profound statement. If God's Word was so complicated that we needed time—decades—to finally get to the point where we understood it, it would be too late. We would have already lived most of our lives. We wouldn't have trained our children properly. If God's Word was so complicated that we need a priest or shaman to interpret His word for us then that would be putting a man between us and the Father. We know that is not God's design and not God's idea. We have to look no further than the trinity. It puts men trying to explain the unexplainable to people who can't understand it.

Paul understood this concept of how we need to explain things simply and understand things simply.

1 Corinthians 14:9 *So likewise ye [talking to the Corinthians but by extension to us today], except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. (KJV)*

God planned it so the words that are spoken are simple, if we have a humble attitude and exercise God's Holy Spirit. Look at the scriptures for what they say and not according to the traditions or the teachings of men or what some commentator says. If we just look into the Bible, the Bible is simple to understand if we approach it with a humble mind and if we exercise God's Holy Spirit and we prostrate ourselves before God saying,

"You called me, I am not the smartest, I am not the brightest, I am the weakest and I want You to show me the simplicity in Your word. I want You to reveal it to me so I can understand, I can teach it to my children and I can obey it in my life; please show me".

If we have that attitude, once God reveals it to us, it clicks into place and it's so, so simple.

We should be very thankful that we, as the dull of the world, can understand these simple truths of our Father's Word. We need to appreciate the simplicity that He has put into His Word. Yes, we have issues with translations; I wish we all spoke the same language but God saw to that at the Tower of Babel and this is the world we live in, so we have to deal with issues of translations and all of that. But the fact is, God's Word is indeed simple and we need to appreciate that simplicity.

One final point, something to think about. The simplicity in our Father's way implies that we as the ones who are invited into His family, have an obligation to simplify our lives. We have an obligation to un-complicate our lives so that we can single-mindedly simply focus on loving the Almighty with all our being, loving our neighbor as ourselves and over time, growing to be like our Father and like His Son; a very simple concept indeed.