

# Proverbs 2

Sunday 3/14/2004

We have been focusing on how to build a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been talking about the fundamental principles of what it takes in your life and my life to really have what we need to have with God. We know, and we have talked about this quite a bit, that we are living in the Laodicean church period. We know from the book of Revelation that that is a time where basically God's people literally throw God out of the church and throw His word out of the church.

We know that Laodicea means "justice of the people." It is a time in the history of the church where the rights of people, Christians, are put ahead of the rights of God. Of course, you probably know this: if you are a Christian, you do not have any rights. You are a bondsman; you are bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ died for you. He bought you, and He is our Master. We do not have any rights, but that is the time period that we live in.

I know it is a very confusing time period. If you are a visitor here this morning, you are kind of dropping in the middle of our study. So when we talk about this morning, it is not something that I just decided to do this week. We have come through a series of things, and this is just one more thing in the series that we are going to talk about as we come through. So I will give you a little understanding.

We have been dealing with Proverbs 2, which says this:

*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

*Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You, and Lord, we thank You for all that You do for us today. We thank You for Your word, for its power, for its strength, for its truth, and the impact that it will have on our lives to make us more like You every day. Lord, we have had a good time so far today. We have laughed. We have enjoyed the fellowship and the camaraderie of believers, Lord, who love You and love Your book.

Now, Father, it is time to focus on the most important time of our day here, and that is looking into the Scriptures, which are the truth of God. Help us, Lord, to learn and to glean from Your word things in our lives that will make us more like You and stronger for You every day. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## I. The Fear and Knowledge of God

As you know, we have been talking about the different aspects in Proverbs 2 that really make you more like Christ. In verse 5 last week, we talked about the two main issues that we face. I

told you long ago when we started our study on the book of Proverbs that there were two fundamental issues that we face in our world today among God's people, among the world, society, and everything.

One of them was down here in verse 5: "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD." Simply stated, that means who God is. We talked about that last week. I told you last week that that probably was the most, or that was going to be one of the most important messages you ever hear. This is going to be the second part of the most important message you ever hear in your life. Not because it is coming from me, but because of the content of what it does and how it impacts your life and my life in the Laodicean church period that we are in.

Because we are this church anyhow, and I believe that most of you, if not all of you, want to make yourself a Philadelphian Christian in the Laodicean church period. I am out to build a Philadelphian church in this Laodicean time. So that is what this is all about.

Today I want to talk about the fact where it says here in the second deal, "and find the knowledge of God." Simply stated, that simply means this, and this is the real question today: Do you have what God said? Do you as a believer have the exact words that God wants you to have? "Find the knowledge of God."

I want you to see that it is not the knowledge about God. It does not say, "and then shall thou find the knowledge about God," or things, something about God. It says, "the knowledge of God." God wants you and I to have His mind. God wants you and I to have His mind so that we can make everything in life—our decisions, the things we have to look at, the things we have to deal with—God wants us to see it as He sees it.

Because the only way we can get the mind of Christ, as the Bible says, and the Bible also has, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," the only way we can accomplish that is to have a book that contains God's mind. An absolute perfect standard, an absolute perfect record of the thoughts of God, of the mind of God, that you and I as mortal beings can open up this book in a world that is filled with filthiness and no truth and all of the vileness of the world, that we can have a book that we can open in the middle of this world that states what God says and what God thinks.

Now that is the key. That is the question today. The question today is, do you have the words of God? Do you have what God said? Do you have the ability to know God from the aspect of His mind?

## II. A Personal Quest for Truth

I am going to speak to you today, and we are going to be running around here in some different places, but I want to talk to you today about some things in my own life that helped me get to this point. I am the kind of individual that I really do not care what anybody believes. I have told you before, if I thought the Bible said we needed to speak in tongues, and I really believed that, I have no pet peeve with that. I thank God I would speak in more tongues than all of you. I want that. If salvation, going to heaven, was by baptism, I do not have a problem with it. I would do

whatever the Bible said. It would not be that I have my pet doctrine or I have what I want to believe. I am not that way.

You know what I want? I simply want the truth. I do not care what it is. I do not care how bad it hurts. I do not care what it does. I want the truth, especially in this world today. I want the truth. I do not come to the Bible with any preconceived ideas. I do not come to the Bible flat stupid. I come to the Bible not knowing anything. I come to the Bible just coming to it, simply stating, "God, I do not know a thing. I am so stupid. I do not even know anything. I do not even suspect anything. I want You to teach me the Bible, and I do not care what it is."

That has always been my approach. From a young man, when I first started getting into the word of God, a number of years ago, 30 years ago, I was just getting into all this. I was growing up in the time when this was a very hot issue. It is not much of an issue anymore because the Laodicean church has just planted itself to the place where it is not much anymore. Everybody just takes for granted that what you are seeing around us today is biblical Christianity when it is not.

I will never forget. I was just a young guy, and I was just trying to find my way, but I wanted the truth. I did not care what it was. I remember back then, in my day and age, there were 20 or so guys who were the top men in this country that would lead Christianity. You would read them, you would hear them on the radio. You would read their articles. You would hear them preach. Many of these men, in my course in the ministry, I met personally and talked with them personally.

You have guys like Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. Charles Stanley, John MacArthur, Clyde Narramore, Bob Jones II, Bob Jones III, Cecil Hodges, Dr. Ed Heinzen, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. Al Janney, Dr. Greg Dixon, Curtis Hudson, Dr. Custin, Dr. Neal, Bill Gothard, Dr. Hoggins London, James Robinson, Dr. Dow, and I could go on forever. I am not speaking anything about these guys other than one fact I want to talk to you about this morning: these were the guys that I was around when I was growing up. These were national men.

You could do the same thing today. You could go turn on the Christian radio and write down any 20 guys you hear. Go to the bookstore and just browse the authors of nationally known pastors. These guys were the national leaders. Every one of them is saved. Every one of them. There is not a question about any one of these guys' salvation. When I was growing up, these are the men my generation was listening to. They were leading Christianity in all fashions. Some of them are Baptist, some of them are not. It is immaterial. I do not get hung up on those things.

But there is one thing that all these men had in common, other than being saved, and that is not one of these men listed believed that the Bible was the word of God. Now let me explain that. Not one of these men believed that you and I could sit here this morning, or in your home, and open up the absolute, perfect, infallible word of God that you could have the mind of Christ.

When I first got saved, I thought, I did not know. In fact, I remember I went to a camp one time and I heard a guy preach. He was preaching up there, and he was great. He said, "You know what? Let me tell you something, kids. If you take a stand for God and you make your mind up

that you are going to stand for the truth, and you are not going to compromise when you are tempted to compromise," he was preaching on Ephesians 5, the armor of God. He said, "The battles that you are going to get into are going to make all the battlefields of this life look like a bunch of kids shooting marbles." He was drawn up there, and he says, "That is right. The Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Chancellorsville and the Battle of Guadalcanal and D-Day and Leyte and all these things, it is just going to be like a bunch of campfire girls to the battle you are going to find yourself in if you stand for that book."

I was just a young kid then. I sat down there that night, and I honest to goodness, I did not believe that guy. But after 30 some years in the ministry, I know exactly what he is talking about. I am telling you, I believe when I got saved, when I started getting into this thing, God was good to me. God put me around some old Philadelphian preachers, the last of a dying breed that really kept me straight and kept me from getting into the mess.

But I am telling you, when I first got saved, I was dumb. I was like that kid, you know, I was seven years old, a big guy down the street, he was like 18. This is how I wanted truth. He came to me and he says, "Hey, want to get smart? You are going to school in second, third grade, fifth grade. How things go?" "Well, I am not too." "You want to get smart? I got some smart pills." "Whoa, smart pills! How much are they?" "Well, they are 50 cents. You get 10." "I would get 30 last year for the month." "50 cents? Okay." Getting 50 cents, I bought those things, took one a day, tasted terrible, little round things. I did that for four months. And then I came to the conclusion, they were rabbit droppings. I went to him and I said, "Hey, for five months now, I have been buying these things with my lunch money. You get smart. And I really believe they are rabbit droppings." He said, "See there, you are getting smarter already." That is me. That is the way I was. I was dumb.

The last story is not true. But I believed when I got saved that everybody believed the Bible. I believed that everybody wanted to do right. If you would have told me that there were deacons up there that were conspiring against the pastor and people over here singing in the choir, singing great songs, and they hated the person over here, and they were slandering them and killing them and doing this, if you would have told me that, I would have said, "You are nuts." "I am saved. Everybody loves God and loves the word of God." Boy, did I grow up quick.

I had to learn some things. I am telling you, in my day and age, those men were the leaders of this country, and you can pick the leaders of Christianity today. I promise you 99.9999999% of them will say one thing, but they believe something else. I am going to show you how I came to that conclusion.

In 1978, they had in Washington D.C., the Congressional Congress on Fundamentalism. What was that? It was a bunch. It was these men, these men and many, many other men, all the Christian leaders in this country, wanted to go to Washington D.C. and hold a Congressional Congress on Fundamentalism. In other words, what they were doing, every Christian in the nation was supposed to be there. Every leader was there. They rented out some big convention hall, and for one solid week, they made a statement. You know how the gays go to Washington in the march and the peace movement goes here tomorrow? Well, they did the same thing, only they

did not march. They went in and they rented out every hotel, every convention, big convention center, and they packed that place to make a stand for fundamentalism.

Now, I did not even know what fundamentalism meant. I was told at one time that it meant the fundamentals. Good. Later on in life, I found out and understand now, a fundamentalist is a guy who has no fun. He preaches a whole lot of damn, and he is mental. To me, that is fundamentalism. But back then, I did not understand. I never, I went to that Congress. I was there. They said it was going to be a historic event that the world would impact the world in America. America would be changed because we were finally going to go to Washington and make a stand as fundamentalists that we were what we believed. They did a good job, did not they? Nobody even knows they were there today. But I was there.

I was there. The issue number one they were all preaching on is, "We believe the Bible." I am going to say it just like they used to say it: "Inerrant, inspired, preserved, word of God." That is where I wanted to be. I was there. That is really the first time I got in trouble by raising my hand. I told you last week about another time. There have been lots of times. This was the first. This was the first time I really, because I was dumb and I just wanted the truth.

I will never forget. They started with a luncheon. The man that was there was the president of Thomas Nelson publishers. They publish all the Bibles. Look on the back of your Bible. You may have a Thomas Nelson. Now, if you do, when I am done with this message, do not burn it. I am not making any personal attacks on anybody. Thomas Nelson is fine. I do not care.

But we went out to the luncheon, and he stood up there. This is when the New King James Bible had just come out. This guy, I cannot even remember his name now. Maybe it was Thomas Nelson. I do not know. But anyway, he was there, and he was talking about the love that he had and his company had for the word of God. There was every top guy in the world there. I mean, these 20 guys I listed, plus 500 more, a thousand more, the lunch place was just incredibly packed.

He is standing up there, and he is talking about how he loves the word of God, how his company stands for the word of God, how important it is for him to be part of this because of the word of God, and how proud he is to be a company that publishes the word of God in the absolute, infallible, blatantly inspired Bible. Everybody is waving and screaming and yelling. So he is done. He says, "Are there any questions? Can I help you anyway?"

At that point, I was confused. I was just dumb enough to think that he meant, "Are there any questions?" I had not learned. In fact, the term "politically correct" had not been invented yet. But it was not invented with the Democrats or the Republicans. It was invented with a Baptist a long time ago. He says, "Are there any questions?" And they had a microphone up in the center, and he said, "Young man," he says, "make your way up." I was way in the back.

I am telling you, I had come there because it was going to be a Congress on fundamentalism, on truth. I was a young guy, and I wanted the truth. I just heard this man stand up there, talk about his company. Now I was confused, and I went up there, and I was not trying to get, I was not. Now, since that time, I have wised up, and if you back me into a corner, I will bite you. Not then.

I was a dumb kid. I am the guy that bought the smart pills. After he told me that, I still took them for another six months, just in case I was wrong.

I walk up to that mic, and he says, "Yes, young man." I said, "Sir, I am here from Kansas City, and I am a little confused, and I am glad to be here, and I am excited. You said that your company took a stand on the word of God, and you print the King James Bible, and because of your love for the Bible." I said, "Can I ask you a question? Maybe I am wrong, but I was very, I mean, I was inching my way in." I said, "Thomas Nelson also prints Mormon Bibles and Jehovah Witness Bibles." I said, "When you go to their conferences, do you say the same thing there that you say here?"

No, no. Now you think I was being smart. Today, if I would say that, I would be smart. And I have some flares in that thing. I was not. I wanted the truth. He said something that did not compute. If he would not have said, "Are there any questions?" I would have shut my mouth. But if you say to me, "Bob, do you have any questions?" if I do not understand, I am going to ask. Do not say that unless you mean for me to ask, because I want to know.

You would have thought, I mean, not only was he offended, the same people who were around me were offended because I said something that was politically incorrect to the big dog that had come from Thomas Nelson. You know why? Because they were getting kickbacks for all the Bibles they told the people to go buy from him. I was in the midst of the scribes and the Pharisees in the temple. I just did not have a cord with stones on it to drive them out. It was not my play. I just wanted to know.

I said, "You guys also publish Jehovah Witness Bibles and Mormon Bibles, do not you?" I said, "Are they the inspired word of God? Do you go to those places and say that?" Oh, wrong thing. Okay. I got over that because I figured he really was not one of them.

That night was Monday night. Dr. Al Janney preached. Oh, if there is any man that could preach the Bible, Dr. Al Janney could preach. He preached that night. I will never forget the message. It was on "On These We Stand." Oh, I was a young guy. I sat down there, and I thought, "Oh, someday I am going to preach like that someday." I was so happy because I finally found in this guy, I finally hit pay dirt. Forget Thomas Nelson. He was just a burp in the lunch meeting. I found the guy. Oh, this is my guy.

Afterwards, we had a little reception, and they were interviewing everybody. Dr. Janney came up, and he said, "Are there any questions that any of you guys, pastors, have about anything we can do for you at all?" Now you would have thought I would have learned by then, but I still wanted to know, and I thought I found it. I said, "Dr. Janney," I see, he says, "Yes." I said, "I want you to know, your message tonight was the greatest message I ever heard. I want you to know," I said, "You said the Bible was the infallible, absolute inspired word of God. You were waving your Bible. I saw as we came in, I peeked, and you got a King James Bible." I said, "Do you, I was stuttering, do you really believe the King James Bible is the absolute, perfect inspired word of God?"

He says, "No, no, no, no, no." He says, "You do not understand." I do not know what to say. I said, "You mean the King James Bible is not?" He says, "No," he says, "Everybody knows, son, that the original manuscripts are the inspired word of God. What you have is a translation of that." I said, "Well, do you think this Bible," I was trying to go another way, I said, "Do you think this Bible has any mistakes in it?" "Well," he says, "certainly it does." He says, "But it is the best." I said, "Are there any mistranslations?" He says, "Well, sure." He says, "Anytime you go from any language, anytime you go from the Greek to the English, because of what they call it, enemies in there, you cannot get the exact translation from this to this. Therefore, it is not going to line up the same way. So you have to go back to the Greek or the Hebrew to get exactly what he said."

You know what? I was not smart enough to know this at that time. I mean, I had read it and studied it, but it is one of those things where God just. I said, "Well, sir, I got a question." I said, "I do not mean to belabor the point, but back in Exodus, where Moses spoke before Pharaoh, Pharaoh was an Egyptian. Moses was a Hebrew. Did they speak in Egyptian or did they speak in Hebrew?" "Well," he said, "obviously they spoke in Egyptian. Pharaoh did not recognize the God. Moses knew Egyptian. Pharaoh did not know Hebrew." He says, "What is your point?" "So they spoke in Egyptian," I said, "but then it is recorded in Hebrew. If what you are saying is true, you did not get exactly what they said, because you are going from Egyptian to Hebrew."

Oh, that was the wrong thing to say. At that point, he says, "I think you are just a troublemaker." I said, "No, no, no, no. I am not. I want to know." I said, "I want a perfect Bible." He says, "Then you have to go back to the Greek because the Bible is only perfectly inspired in the original languages." I said, "Okay. Okay. So what you are saying is that if I want to get the absolute, perfect, infallible, inerrant word that God says, I got to go back and read Greek and Hebrew and study it and get it from there. And then I will have the Bible." He said, "That is right." I said, "Have you ever read the originals?" "No." "Have you ever seen them?" "No." "Have you ever touched them?" "No." "Why not?" "Well, they do not exist."

I said, "One more question, and I am gone, and I am going back home. Let me ask you, what does the word Bible mean?" He says, "The word Bible means books." "Was there ever a time when the original manuscripts were ever all in one book?" "No." "Well, then, Dr. Janney, what you are telling me is that when you stand up and wave this book and say, 'We believe the Bible is the word of God in the absolute, infallible, perfect, inerrant word of God,' you are talking about a book that nobody has ever seen. Nobody has ever read. Nobody has ever touched because it never existed. Is that right?"

Let me tell you something. The meeting was over, and I came away that night understanding that I was in a warfare. I came away to understand that when these guys talk about the inspired, complete, perfect word of God, they are duping you. He is standing up there waving this book saying your mommy, your daddy, your grandma, your aunt, your uncle were saved by this old book, and he does not even mean the book he is waving. He is talking about some ancient dead manuscripts that do not even exist anymore. I learned very quickly what politically correct was when it came to the word of God.

I spent the next 30 years of my life going everywhere I could, reading everything I could, putting myself into this thing because, you know what? I came away saying that is the problem I am up against. You know what? That is your problem today. Maybe it is not your problem, but it is the problem for me.

### III. The Scholars' Union and Dead Languages

With that in mind, I want to take you back and I want to show you one of the stories that God gave me that illustrates exactly what I just said. When it comes to your relationship with God, just let me say this: forget your degree. Forget your education. Forget how smart you are. Because Jesus said, "Except you come to me as a little child, you have no place with me, no part of me." You have to come as a child. You have to come as a child, not knowing anything. If that is how you come, then that is what God meets you on. Boy, God will give you some things.

You know what? It always bothered me. Now I am not against Bible colleges, but I am against this: when you go to Bible college, you learn a system of terms. You learn soteriology. You learn hermeneutics or hemorrhoid-nutics, however you want to say it. You learn, that is a pain to study too. You learn, you learn, you learn angelology. You learn all of these great big \$55,000 words. In other words, you go spend four years of your time, come back to learn to talk like nobody in the Bible ever talked about.

Did Jesus, when He sat down to 5,000, say, "Today, I am going to teach you a study in soteriology and our apologetics and hemorrhoid-nutics. Here we go. Now here is what it is all about"? No, He told them stories. You know how I learned my Bible? By the stories that God put in that Bible. You know why? Because I am a child.

The greatest preachers in this world today will want you to believe that they are spiritual and capable of leading because of their education. Because the first thing the pulpit committee wants to ask is, not what you know about the Bible, but where did you go to school and what did you learn? Contrast that with the greatest king in the Bible, the wisest man that ever lived, that when he came before God and the people and God says, "What do you want to run the people?" He got on his knees and said, "I am a child. I do not know anything. I am totally dependent on You."

So let us put away scholarship, intellectualism, put away the manuscripts, put away all this stuff. Let me show you in the next 30 years of my life, let me show you where God took me. One of the first things God showed me a number of months later was this story. This story brought it all into focus. This was the automatic focus on my lens, man. I saw everything clearly.

### IV. The Custodianship of God's Word

In the Bible, do you know who the custodianship of the word of God was given to in the Old Testament? It was given to the priesthood, the Levites. They are the only ones who could write down whatever was said. Nobody else could. The Levites were the custodians of the word of God. The Levites, the priesthood, were the custodians of the Bible in the Old Testament, and nobody could do anything with the Bible. It passed through generation after generation of the priests and the Levites.

Hebrews 8 and 9 says that you and I as the body of Christ are the New Testament priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, and we are priests. If you want to find the word of God, the true absolute perfect word of God down through history, do not go with the scholars. Do not go with J. Gresham Machen. Do not go with Westcott and Hort. Go back to the true biblical line of priesthoods. They always have been and always will be the custodians of the word of God. That is where it is at in history. No scholars' union. Nothing you have got to learn. Nothing you have got to join.

I am telling you, this story here changed my perspective on the word of God because I knew now that all the Sauls in this world wanted to make it politically correct. They wanted to make alliance with the Philistines. They wanted to do what they needed to do to get what they wanted to get out of it. But the true bottom line is it was never the Sauls that do the battles in life anyhow. Never is. Never is.

## V. Saul, Jonathan, and the Philistines

First Samuel 13. I am going to begin reading down here. Let us pick it up in verse 17.

*And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way that leadeth to Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:*

*And another company turned the way to Bethhoron: and another company turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.*

*Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:*

*But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.*

*Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, to sharpen the goads.*

*So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.*

I do not know if you know what you are reading here or not, but here is what you have got. Saul is the king. Saul was not God's choice. Saul was the people's choice. Saul will represent for us the 20th century, modern, educated, spiritual leader slash pastor who marries himself to the world concept of being politically correct.

We have the Philistines. The Philistines in the Old Testament always were, even to this day, the enemies of God. They were one of the nations that by design the devil had penetrated and brought them under submission to himself that through that nation of Baal worship and all of the satanic things that went on, the devil could destroy the people of God.

I want to start by saying this. I know most of you believe this, not all of you, but I believe what the Bible says in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 when it says:

*But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

I know that right here you have a picture of what has happened today. If you know your Bible at all, as I already said, you know the Philistines are the sworn enemies of the people of God, not naturally, but by design. Their mission is to destroy the kingdom of God and to enslave the people of God and to defeat them. That is the only reason they existed back in the Old Testament. They were around today over in the Middle East, amalgamated with all those nations, and they were alive today all through the Old Testament. At every turn, they tried to plague and to destroy the people of God from the book of Genesis, right on through where the kings of Israel were. In fact, in a couple of chapters later in 1 Samuel 17, when David goes out to fight Goliath, that giant Goliath that wants to defile the armies of Israel and defeat them, he is a Philistine. They never, ever in any way, shape or form represent anything good.

Now, Saul, if anybody pictures the modern day, 20th century religious, quote, pastor in America, it is Saul. Because Saul refuses to see that the Philistines are his enemies. He thinks that he can make an alliance with them, that they can coexist and get along, even though the Bible told him over and over and over and over again that he could not. If Saul has one character flaw that winds up being his downfall where God kills him, it is in fact, he reads what the word of God says, and he does not believe it, and he does his own thing based on the political correctness of the situation.

Saul would not, could not, did not see the danger. He builds an alliance with them. In fact, the Bible gave clear warning that the Philistines were going to be his enemy. You could not be friends with them. You could not coexist with them. They existed for one reason, that is to destroy and defeat the people of God. But all the time, even though he is trying to make friends with them and make an allegiance and alliance, the Philistines were interlocked with Satan to destroy the people of God.

Saul, for whatever reason, politically, religiously, ignoring the danger and what the word of God said, came to the conclusion that he was going to put all the blacksmiths out of business in Israel. So the Bible says, in verse 19, "there was no smith found in Israel" because the blacksmiths made swords. Saul says, "Well, look, you Philistine guys, you believe in God, we all can get along. You know what? We can probably even do some business together here." He said, "What now, if you leave us alone and we will just kind of coexist, what do you want?" They said, "We do not want anything. Just let us make some money. Let us make your swords. You take all your Jewish blacksmiths, put them out of business. We, the Philistines, will provide you with your weapon of war, your sword and your spears."

If you have been saved at least a year or more, you know that you are in a war. Ephesians 6, we have studied it on Thursday night many times, you know, the Bible says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and against powers." That is the difference between the

Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, they had to have real swords because they were going up against real nations. They were going up against real kings and kingdoms who wanted to see them destroyed, who because they were satanically controlled, wanted to wipe out and stop the plan of God of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. So they had an army. The book of Numbers is given because that is the book where they were numbered for war. They are numbered together, and all the tribes put together, and they fight, and they literally fight with real swords, and they defeat when they do what is right and they obey God, nobody stands in front of them.

Now that is all changed. The preacher, Saul, the religious leader, Saul, the king, Saul, has now made a political alliance with the ungodly world of the Philistines to say, "No more swords from Israel, you give us your swords." The Philistine did not give many swords. The Philistine said, "You know what? You do not need any swords. Just use your old mattocks, use your old plow, use your old rake, use this, use that. We are not going to give you any swords. What we will give you are gardening tools because we want to control you."

I am telling you, you know that you are in a battle, and God has told you that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, that we are up against an evil day, and we are supposed to stand in an evil day, and we are supposed to, having done all, to stand. If that was not enough, Hebrews 4 says, "Take the word of God, which is the sword of the spirit, a sharp two edged sword." The word of God is your sword in the New Testament because in the New Testament you do not need a literal sword to fight the nations because your battle is not literal, it is spiritual. You need a spiritual sword.

So where the nation of Israel in a literal battle needs a literal sword, you and your spiritual battle need a spiritual sword. Where Saul sold out politically and religiously to the Philistines and got some gardening tools and they took the swords away, the leaders of this country today for the last hundred years have taken the sword through an alliance with the world and the ungodliness of the world in the religious sector to take your sword and then try to get you to stand and fight. Now that is why Christians fail today. They are trying to stand and do all to stand with a rake instead of a sword.

The devil is not dumb. He knows the power in your life is that sword. Because when the Lord comes back and the devil gets defeated, it is a sharp two edged sword that goes out of His mouth by which He smites the nation. It is the word of God. The devil does not care if you have a share, a coulter, an axe or a mattock. You are not going to do any damage with that. Those are gardening tools. He wants to make sure the Sauls of this world are in line with him, that he takes the sword out of your hand. That is exactly what is taking place. Those 20-25 guys, those men back there in 1978, they were nothing more than Sauls. Yes, they were saved and they were on their way to heaven, but they all had one thing in common: they told me that the book that I was supposed to stand with never existed. They believed that they took it from my hands, and they got mad at me because I wanted to ask, "Where is my Bible?"

I found on this issue, there are two kinds of people. There are people who are just ignorant, who do not know the difference. And there are people who are downright dishonest that know the

difference, but they have a political check in this thing, like Saul. You know what Saul's fundamental problem was? He was a king and he was a prophet, but he was not a priest. There are only two men in the Bible that hold those three offices: king, prophet, priest. One of them is the Lord Jesus Christ, the other one is David. David was God's man, Saul was the people's man.

You see how easy it is to find a pastor for your church? It only comes in two categories: the people's man or God's man. The people's man will always have a degree; they will always have the thing going back to the world. God's man will just have a book. That is all you need is the book. You have to have the book. You have got the book, you do not need anything else. I am telling you, when you understand this, when you realize it, it will change your life. I told you before, it is not just what you hear, it is how you hear it.

Now I have no problem with anybody. A guy comes to me and says, "Well, I do not really believe that King James Bible is the word of God." I do not care. I do not care what anybody believes, but I will find out if you know why you believe what you do believe. All my life, all my life, since that time back there in Washington, all my life, I may not be raising my hand, but I will ask the same questions.

Years ago, a guy said to me, "Well, you teach that those sons of God back there in Genesis 6 were giants and angels. Wow, that is so far out. You are really weird. Nobody believes that." I said, "Well, what are they?" He says, "Anybody knows that has got any education, that is the godly line of Seth." "Okay. I know I am dumb. I know I am stupid. You may be right. Trace for me the godly line of Seth. Here it is. Trace it for me. If it is a line and you know it is a line, then it is in this book, or at least you would not know it. Show me the godly line of Seth. Can I help you? It starts with Genesis and then it runs to Exodus and then it runs." "Can I help you? Show it to me. Do not stand there and tell me what you believe. Show me why you believe it. I want to know if you have studied as much as I have."

He says, "Well, it was, it was saved people. The godly line was saved people. It is not really in the Bible. The godly line was saved people, and they were marrying all the wicked, unsaved people." "Yeah," I said, "You are saying there were sons of God back in Genesis 6?" "Well, sure." "And they were saved people?" "Sure." "Did they all marry the godly line? Was every one of them wrong?" "No, of course not." "Okay. Next question. Why did not they get on the ark?"

You know what I found out about this book over the years? This book has got a wrench that will fit any nut in this world. You will not go anywhere. When you think you are going, He is going to put that number size four on you and crank you down. You cannot get around it. You cannot get around it. That book is the word of God. Wherever you go, if you just do not take it the way that it is, when you are done, you have got a thousand pieces sticking out of you that you do not know what to do with. I am telling you.

## VI. The Philadelphia Church and the King James Bible

The Laodicean church, we have talked about it many, many times. The Philadelphia church, we have talked about it many, many times. When you go back to the Philadelphia church, it is the greatest period of time in church history, a time where three quarters of the world is born again

and knows the Lord as their own personal Savior. He says the key to that is the key of David. We have talked about it. The word of God, this book, it is nothing more than a King James Bible going around the world about 10 times. The British Empire has provinces and colonies everywhere in this world in Africa, in India, in China, in Hong Kong, in Japan, wherever you want to go. Missionaries are going there, and they are teaching people to read and write and speaking out English through a King James Bible. It is the textbook for the schools. I know you do not get that today, but I am not very politically correct. I know it is true. I read the books they do not want you to read.

I am telling you, I look at that thing, and right in the middle of that, it says, "Because you keep the book." Revelation 3:10, He said:

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Then He says down in the next verse, "Hold fast what you have that no man steals your crown." Well, the only thing they have got listed in that chapter they have got is the word of God. He says, "There is an hour of temptation coming when somebody is going to try to take your crown." That hour of temptation came around 1800 in America, 1800 in Europe, England.

Being a studier of history the way that I am, trying to get it from the understanding of God, there are two places in history that as far as I am concerned are absolute masterpieces of a stroke of genius that the devil pulled off. I mean, I know that he is wiser than any being outside of God. I know all that. I know that he knows the Bible better than anybody outside the Godhead. I know everything I am supposed to know about the devil, but I want to tell you something. There are a couple of times in history where he did it so magnificently that it is hard to believe that he pulled it off in front of everybody, and everybody just bought into it.

The first time back in with the time of Constantine in 325, when he just reversed the whole thing from pagan Rome to papal Rome, and overnight, Rome and Catholic said it was incredible. It was an incredible thing. The second time is when he took the King James Bible out of the American Christians, out of the English Christians. After 400 years of seeing God do what He did in a marvelous way, the devil walked in and swiped that thing out, and nobody even griped.

You know how he did it? Look at 1 Samuel 13:17. It says, "And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies." I do not know if you know it or not, in the book of Revelation, John writes to seven churches, and those seven churches represent the seven periods of church history. You know that Paul writes to seven churches. You know, the seven churches that Paul writes to line up with the seven churches that John writes to as far as what they are going through. You know what lines up to Laodicea in Paul's writing? It is Colossians. Colossians, five times in the book of Colossians, maybe you have seen this, five times the book of Colossians, you find the word Laodicea, Laodicea, Laodicea. That is the one it matches up.

Remember, I taught you last week the number one problem that you have in America is who God is. You know how the outline of Colossians goes. You know what the first chapter of Colossians talks about? It talks about who God is. You know what chapter 2 and 3 talk about? It talks about

the issues that we have to face in the Laodicean church. The last chapter talks about how we deal with them.

You know the number one thing you have going on in Colossae that is going on in Laodicea that is going on right here because the Holy Spirit of God put this thing together. He says down here in 1 Samuel 13:17 when these Philistines showed up, they are called spoilers. They wanted to spoil Israel. So when you come over to Colossians 2:8, you find a warning. One of the two warnings in the Bible. You know what he says? He said:

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Philistines. You know how this thing happened? I am going to tell you how it happened in a short thing because I am finished just here really quickly. Here is how it happened. The Philadelphia church age was going full bore. Everything was running great. The devil did not die. You take any college class on manuscript evidence, and they act like God and the devil are dead. When was the last time you heard a good college class on the act of demonism and devil in manuscript evidence? Never hear it. You know why? They think when it came to the Bible, the devil forgot about it. He did not forget about it. Paul says himself, he is not even dead yet. He said there are people corrupting the word of God already. I mean, it is so clear. It is so prevalent. It is unbelievable other than the fact that somebody is either ignorant of the fact or they do not want to believe it because they are dishonest.

Here is what happens. Around 1400 someplace, they are digging around over there in the Vatican, and they find these old manuscripts. Somebody said, "Whoa, these manuscripts are written around 400 A.D. We do not have anything in the world that is around 400 A.D." By the way, just let me put you in perspective on something else since it is this time of the year. It was just Saturday. What was it? Remember what Saturday was? What parade did we have Saturday? St. Patrick's Day? Okay. But we had the parade yesterday. Green beer, green hats. You know what? His name was not St. Pat. His name was Patricius. He lived 389-400 A.D. You go over to Ireland. This is understanding. It fits in here. I am just going to throw it in. You do not have to pay extra for it. It is yours.

You go to Downshire, Ireland, walk down to that little cemetery on the south end of town, walk in there, you will see a little tombstone. You know what it says? It says, "Patrick, an apostle to Ireland." He was not a Catholic. He was a born again, blood washed, Bible believing, preaching Christian. You know what he would do? He would believe the manuscripts from which your King James Bible comes from. Never touched the other ones in a day in his life. He would go out in that wilderness out there of Ireland with a big old drum. Then late at night, he would build a fire, and he would beat that drum, and all the people, all the tribesmen, all the country folk would come from miles around, and they would come to that fire to hear what that drum is, and he would get about 200 people down there. Then he would open up his old Greek New Testament from the old Syriac and the old Latin, and he would preach to them and get hundreds of them saved. That is St. Pat. No green beer, no green hat. That is St. Pat. But anyway, little sidelight. That is understanding.

So during this time over in the Vatican, they find these manuscripts. 400 years later, about 1816, a guy by the name of Tischendorf, a German linguist. Linguist. Linguini. I do not care. He is a German scholar. He is over in the Sinai monastery over in the Sinai Peninsula. It is a cold day. He is checking out the monks. He sees a couple monks over in the corner lighting the fire. Better than checking out the nuns. He is lighting the fire with these manuscripts. Tischendorf looked over, and he says, "Wait a minute, boys. Here, here is a Bic. Let me see." "Well, these are the oldest manuscripts anybody ever seen. These date around 400 AD. Well, there is not anything in the world older than this." So he says, "Can I have these?" "No. You cannot have them. We got them." "But you do not understand." You go back and forth, fights them for months. They will not give them to him. So he finally says, "Look, just let me take them to England, and I want to photograph them. We will send them back. Cross my heart. Hope to die. Send them back." "Okay. You take it." He took them. Never sent them back. You know where they are today? In the British Museum. He sold them for a million dollars. That is the guy behind your Bible.

So they come to this thing here, and now we have these two sets of manuscripts. These are called Sinaiticus. These are called Vaticanus. Do not you love the way I can make 6,000 years in history in 16 seconds? They get all these manuscripts together, and around about 1800, here are two guys, Dr. Hort and Dr. Westcott from Cambridge University. Dr. Hort, Dr. Westcott. They look at these manuscripts, and they say, "I say, oh, this is the most extraordinary thing we have ever seen in our life. There is nothing in the history of the world that is going to precedent what we have got here. We have here the oldest biblical manuscripts that is known to man. The only other manuscripts we have are down around the 15th and the 16th century. These date back to 400 AD."

They proposed a theory, and the theory was this: Older is better. Older is more accurate. On that theory, they translated those manuscripts into a Greek New Testament, which went into a revision committee in 1883 and produced the RSV in 1888. They proposed a theory that because they are older and they are closer to Christ's time, they must be better, more accurate. Therefore, who cares? They come from the Roman Catholic Church. Who cares of anything about who cares that Westcott and Hort, Tischendorf and the guys like Meisham, Graysham and Warfield and Robinson and Nestle, who finally took it all and produced the Greek New Testament that if you go to a Bible college today, when they teach you Greek, they teach you out of Nestle's New Testament Greek.

What did all these guys have in common? One, none of them believed anything about the Bible that it was supernaturally given from God. Two, if every man believed what he wrote, he believed, they are all in hell tonight, this morning, this afternoon, whenever it is. They did not believe anything. They believed you have got to be baptized to get to heaven. They were Anglican. They were bishops that believed in baby sprinkling. They were everything that the Word of God was not.

But you see, during this time, the rise of being a scholar comes on the scene, the rise of being noted, and the scholars develop what I call the scholars' union. You know what the first sin in the Bible is? You say Adam and Eve. No, you are wrong. The first sin in the Bible is the devil back there in Genesis 1 saying, "I am not satisfied with what I am. I want to be God." You know what

the second sin in the Bible is? It is Eve saying, "I am not satisfied with what I am. I want to know." When God came to her, the devil came to her, he said, "Now you eat this fruit, you are going to know." That is all you have got to say to a woman. Tell a woman you can know. She can buy it right now. That joke is not working. Let us move on with something else. Even many did not laugh.

You know what? The devil said, "I am not satisfied. I want to be God." Eve said, "I am not satisfied. I want to be like the gods knowing." You know what the number one problem you and I have to deal with all the time? You are staying who we are. When you start reading your own press releases, and you start believing you are really as good as everybody thinks you are, you are in trouble. Boy, you fan that thing with education that you can know and know in scholarship.

You know this, if you have got to learn Greek and Hebrew to know your Bible, you realize that both those languages are dead. You realize that there is less than one millionth or 1% of people who speak those languages in the whole world today. You realize that only the 1 million and 1% can really find out what the word of God says. How stupid is that?

But you see, if you ever go to the doctor, go to the dentist, sit down there in that chair, and he says, "Well, hmm," I always hate when they go, "hmm, hmm, hmm." He looks to his assistant and he says, "The bicuspid are incinerated, and the upper molars have got conglomerations on the inside of the upper cystaceans, and we are going to have to do a pulpectomy by intellectual sicker wreck to get this thing worked out." Now I am nervous. Can I call my wife, tell her I will be here for a couple of months before I get home? You know what he just said? He said the big teeth on the bottom and the little teeth on the top have got some dirt in them, and I am going to get them out here and scrub it out. But you see, if he said, "Bob, the big teeth on the bottom and the top," he could not charge 120 bucks an hour. In other words, he went to school to learn those Latin terms to keep you and me out and put the dentist in the union.

You go to a doctor. "Ah, doctor, I got problems. I got pains in my, I got pains in here." He says, "Hmm, oh," he goes, "hmm. Well, you have a gastric bronchitis of the inside of the incisors, and we got some problems down here with the codapius of the inside of the cajonigra, and it looks like we are going to have to foliate the inside of that conglia later get that thing cleaned out." Translation: "You got gas." Did you see, turn it in on HMO, HBO, yeah, HMO. What has he got? Gas? \$643? No, but if you say it is a cigilicus of the inside of it, you can get some money out of it. You know why? He went to school to learn those terms, Latin terms, dead language.

You go out to the conservation department. You say, "I hear you got a problem out here." "No, no problem." "Well, it was in the paper, and I heard from some of the gun shops that you are having an open season on coyotes because the coyotes are just running rampant out here, and you are going to let people in, huh, I want to shoot some coyotes." Guy says, "Just a minute. Hey, sir, we got a man down here wants to go out and shoot some canine collopious of this, of this stop." It is all Latin. You are sitting in this side thinking you are going to, you want to go shoot Tyrannosaurus rexes. I mean, you know, I want to shoot coyotes and little dogs, but they are not called little dogs and coyotes. They have got a Latin name that long. "That is a garter snake."

"No, that is a conglopius elastica." It has got a name that long. "That is a box turtle." "No, that is a snap." It is not long. Why? What is the deal? Because the conservation officer says, "I am in the union. You are not. I went to school to learn those terms." So you are smarter because I still know it is a turtle. Okay. Okay. That is the way it is. You learn the terms. You are a Bible scholar. You do not learn the terms, subscribe to the union. You are not.

You know how the old song goes. "I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy. I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy too. You see by our outfits that we are both cowboys. You get you a cowboy suit. You can be a cowboy too." That is how it works. You see? "Oh, you are a Bible scholar." "Yes. Doctor, how are you doctor?" You read that first name? The first 20 guys, Dr. Doe, Dr. Doc, you are so many doctors, you think God is sick. They are all doc. Everybody is a doctor. Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine. I mean, doctor, doctor, how are you doctor? Fine, doctor, how are you doctor? Fine. I am doctor. I am doctor. So until we are doctors, I get a doctor suit on. I am a doctor suit. We are doctor here. Doctor. I am a doctor. Hey, good to have you doctor. Thank you, doctor. Now we are going to speak to us. Doctor, doctor, come up and speak to doctor. I am doctor so and so. I want to speak to you about Dr. So and so because so thank you, Dr. So and so and all my other doctors. So until they brought me here tonight, because I just want to tell you, oh, give me a break. But that is where we are at today.

## VII. Jonathan's Enlightenment

One last thing and we are done. Turn over here to 1 Samuel 14:24. It is never the Sauls. Never the Sauls. He takes the swords from the people and then says, "Go out and fight."

*And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.*

*And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.*

*And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.*

*But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.*

*Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.*

Here it comes and we are done. Saul sends him out to fight, but Saul does not go out to fight. You know what? It is the little guy that is going to get the job done. Always has been, always will be. Let me show you. "And the men of Israel were distressed that day." Why? "For Saul, the big spiritual leader, Saul had adjured the people, put them under a religious oath saying, 'Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening that I may be avenged of mine enemies.'" Personal agenda. "None of the people tasted any food." "And all they that of the land came to a wood and there was honey upon the ground." Type of the word of God. Psalm 119. "And when the people

were coming to the wood behold, the honey dropped. God brought it to him. But no man put his hand to his mouth for the people feared the oath." The preacher kept them from getting the word of God under some stupid religious oath that had to do with his own personal vendetta and agenda. Nothing to do with a plan of God. Are you getting this?

"But Jonathan," verse 27, you know who Jonathan is? We know who Saul is. We know who the Philistines are. Who is Jonathan? Who is Jonathan? In my story today, who is Jonathan? Oh, let me help you. I am Jonathan. I have just been to the fundamental congress with Saul. Everybody is telling me what the problem is. They are trying to take my sword, telling me not to eat. They have got their own personal agendas. "But Jonathan, that is me, heard not when his father charged the people with the oath. Wherefore he put forth the end of a rod that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb." Look at this. "And he put his hand to his mouth and his eyes were enlightened." Anytime you get that book, boy, it is going to change your perspective.

What did it do for him? Then said Jonathan, I mean, verse 28, "Then answered one of the people and said, Thy father straightly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint." "Jonathan said, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you how mine eyes have been enlightened because I tasted a little bit of honey." I am telling you what, the religious leaders of this world have troubled Christianity. "See what I got? Bob, you are so smart. See what I got? Bob, you are such an intellectual. See what I got? Bob, I just stand in awe. You are intellect." I have not got any of those things. I just got a little bit of honey. That honey opened up my eyes, and I saw where the real problem was. You know what? I got me a book. I know who He is, and I know what He said.

Thirty years ago, I struggled, and I came out of that meeting, and that last 30 years, God has confirmed in my heart that a little honey will enlighten your eyes. Who God is? What God said. My story. Pastor Saul taking the swords, telling the people to go out to fight. "Do not eat any of that. Go fight. I got a personal agenda. Do not eat till my enemies are avenged." People out there struggling, falling down in the woods, cannot go any farther. Jonathan shows up and says, "I am really hungry. I cannot fight." Oh, little honey. Boy, his eyes are lit up, and he saw what the issue was. That is the key.

Let us pray. Father.