

# Leviticus 1-27

Sunday 5/16/2004

Let's turn to the book of Leviticus. As you know, we took almost a year coming through all the concepts in the Bible that you have to have to truly understand how the Bible works in building your own relationship with the Word of God. Then we began to talk about how we were going to come through the Bible book by book, trying to build a library not only for you as we go, but for anybody down the road that comes into our church that wants to learn the Bible, so that we can have a systematic study to really break the Bible down.

I have found in all the years that I have dealt with people in the Word of God and studied the Bible myself, that the problem with the Bible is the fact that when you get in and you read it, many times you do not know what you are looking for. You do not know what to try to put together. So you get lost in all of it, and it maybe sometimes defeats people.

What we want to do is bring you through book by book and show you how each book of the Bible lays itself out. I want you, either by getting the recording or taking your notes, to be able to have at your fingertips everything that you need about that particular book of the Bible. So that when you begin to read it next time through the Bible, or when somebody at work asks you about what something means in the Bible, you now have the ability to figure it all out.

Obviously, I am not going to be able to give you everything in the books of the Bible, but I promise you this: you will have enough about the Bible to figure out and understand what you are dealing with and how that book lays itself out. It has been a good time. We talked about the book of Genesis as the book of the beginning. Then last week we talked about the book of Exodus as the book of redemption, and we showed you almost chapter by chapter every aspect of your Christian life.

## I. The Book of Leviticus: An Essential Study

Today we are going to talk about the book of Leviticus. The book of Leviticus has 27 chapters, 859 verses, and a whopping 29,546 words. Of all the books in the Bible, I guess, in fact, I was talking to somebody this week on the phone, and they asked me what I was going to teach Sunday. I told them the book of Leviticus, and they went, "Oh, the book of Leviticus, why are you going to teach out of there?" I wondered that myself for a while until I got into the thing.

The book of Leviticus, without a doubt, is one of the most practical books in all of the Bible, and it will lay out everything for you that you need to know. In fact, there is one great doctrine taught through the book of Leviticus which is absolutely essential for you as a New Testament believer. The book of Leviticus deals with the Levitical priesthood. It deals with the sacrifices of the priest and the sacrifices for the nation of Israel.

This is very important because the Bible says in the book of Hebrews that if you are saved this morning, you are a priest. Your priesthood is a priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. That is an eternal priesthood that is talked about in the book of Hebrews. As you know, or you should

know, the book of Hebrews is the book that compares what is in the Old Testament to what is in the New Testament.

What you have in the book of Leviticus is a historical picture of the Levitical priesthood, the priesthood that was ordained by God in the Old Testament, that carried out the function for the nation of Israel regarding the order of the sacrifices. What you have in a practical application, chapter by chapter again, is this great New Testament doctrine laid out for you and for me that you must understand if you are going to be an effective priest for the Lord Jesus Christ.

I know that probably in many cases, the fact that you are a priest is a strange concept because we think today that a priest is of the Roman Catholic variety. We think of ourselves as Christians and children of God, but you do not hear much today about the fact that you and I are priests if we are saved. That priesthood is the most important concept that you are ever going to understand because, just as the priest in the Old Testament had two aspects to his priesthood, you and I in a spiritual sense have two aspects to our priesthood. You must understand this if you are ever going to be all that God wants you to be.

Because of this, in the book of Leviticus, you are going to find the word "atonement" 45 times, the word "holiness" 87 times, and the word "holy" 65 times. In fact, Leviticus is quoted in the New Testament over 40 times. It is a book that you have to understand if you are ever going to be effective for the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what the book of Hebrews does. The book of Hebrews compares what was in the Old Testament to what came in the New Testament and shows you how the Old Testament was good, but the New Testament is better.

The Old Testament priesthood was good, but it failed in the sense that it could not accomplish what Christ accomplished as our High Priest. Then, because we get saved and become a child of God, you become a priest. Remember, in the Old Testament, you had Aaron the High Priest, and his sons were consecrated to be priests. That is a picture. Christ is my High Priest, but I am a child of God, and as a child of God, I have been consecrated the day I got saved to be a priest after the order of my High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek, the eternal priesthood talked about in the book of Hebrews chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

With that in mind, I want to begin to talk to you now about the book of Leviticus. Let us pray.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You so much. We thank You for those that have come today, that we might open up this great book and look at it and see all the things that You have for us. Teach us today, Lord. Help these dear people to understand how the Bible is to them. Do not allow them, Lord, to be caught up in all the foolishness of Christianity today that takes from them this very book, that takes from them, Lord, the priesthood, that wants to get them involved in everything else in this world in Christianity except the Word of God. Let that always be the forefront. Let that always be the focal point of this church and me as their pastor, that we always put the Word of God first, and everything else has to come in order after that. Help us, Lord. Bless our families. Bless our times in the Word of God today, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## II. The Two Divisions of Leviticus: Standing and State

Somewhere in the beginning of your Bible, in the book of Leviticus, I have given you a breakdown of every book so far. Here is what you want to put in the book of Leviticus: The book of Leviticus has two divisions.

1. The first division is chapter 1 through chapter 11.
2. The second division is chapter 12 through chapter 27.

The book of Leviticus splits itself right in that fashion, and the breakdown in that book teaches two great New Testament doctrines that you have to understand. If you do not get this down, you will never really do anything meaningfully for the Lord because remember, the Bible says all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The first thing that it is profitable for is doctrine.

You have to learn doctrine as a child of God. You have to know the great doctrine by which your faith is built. This is why most of God's people today do not know why they believe what they believe. We live in a day and age where you can have more fun with God's people if you just want to have some fun with them, because they believe everything, but they do not know why they believe what they believe. You cannot suffice in this world where the world, the flesh, and the devil are, as a child of God, with that mentality. You have to know why you believe what you believe.

So when the book of Leviticus comes around, we see two great doctrines: the doctrine of standing and the doctrine of state. Years ago, and you do not hear this anymore because we are in the Laodicean church period now, and most pastors and most churches do not teach the Bible, they have their own agendas trying to do what they want to do. But years ago, there were two concepts of the church: the church militant and the church triumphant. Those two concepts of the church are built on the doctrine of standing and state.

One time, the Roman Catholic Church was going to execute one of the great martyrs back in our church history. They got up and pronounced this thing and said, "We are going to separate you because of your heresy. We are going to separate you from the church and we are going to get rid of you and banish you because of your heresy." You know what he said? He pointed that bony finger back before they burned him at the stake and he said, "You know what? You will separate me from the church militant, but you will never separate me from the church triumphant."

You know why? Because standing and state is the greatest doctrine in the Bible after you get saved to begin to understand what happened to you when you got saved. We have a discipleship program; everybody that gets saved that wants to be discipled can be discipled. The first thing we want to deal with when we start to come through there is to help you understand what happened to you the day you got saved. It is absolutely important.

We have a lot of churches today, and I am not fighting anybody, that believe you can lose your salvation. We have a lot of churches today that believe that once you get saved, if you do something, you can lose it. Of course, you know that is simply not true, but the reason why they believe that is because they do not understand Bible doctrine. They certainly do not understand the book of Leviticus. They do not understand the priesthood as it is laid out in the Old

Testament, typified in the book of Hebrews as the New Testament priesthood that is eternal, that is better than the old one, that you and I are part of because we got saved.

### III. The Doctrine of Standing: Your Way to God

Here is the bottom line: your standing in Christ, the church triumphant. When you got saved, the Bible says the moment you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, you were sinlessly perfect. Your soul got separated from your flesh. Paul says you have two natures: the old nature, your flesh, you have to contend with; your new nature in Christ Jesus. He calls them the old man and the new man, the old nature and the new nature.

The moment you got saved, the Bible says that your new nature is one with Christ. Your soul has been set apart, and you now are one with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what the book of Ephesians is all about. The book of Ephesians lays this whole concept out and shows you that the day you got saved, not only did God separate your soul from your flesh, He sealed your soul with the Holy Spirit of God, and you were sealed unto the day of redemption. That is your standing.

Your standing this morning in Christ Jesus is sinless perfection. When God sees you, you say, "Well, you do not understand what I did last week." That is your state. We will talk about that in a minute. You have got to understand this great doctrine of the church triumphant and the church militant, the standing versus the state. The moment you got saved, you are in Christ, and He is in you, and He separates your soul and seals you. Otherwise, He could never have any fellowship with you because you and I are an unclean vessel, and if God did not do something to separate the uncleanness from the cleanliness, He could never dwell in us. That is what your standing is all about.

So in chapter 1 through chapter 11, the theme is the way to God. It is talking about the priesthood in the Old Testament and the way they got to God. You know how they got to God? Through sacrifice. You know how you get to God? Through sacrifice. Hence, the standing. When you come through chapter 1 through chapter 11, you are going to find all the sacrifices, all the offerings.

- Chapter 1: The Burnt Offering
- Chapter 2: The Meat Offering
- Chapter 3: The Peace Offering
- Chapter 4: The Sin Offering
- Chapter 5: The Trespass Offering (Sin offerings are for man's sins against God; trespass offerings are for man's sins against man.)

Then you come to chapter 6 through chapter 9, and you find the sacrifices that are around the priest.

- Chapter 6: The Offering at the Consecration of the Priest
- Chapter 7: The Priest's Portion of the Sacrifice
- Chapter 8: The Consecration of the Sons of Aaron
- Chapter 9: The Fire Coming Down from Heaven, Accepting the Sacrifice

In chapter 1 through chapter 11, it is sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice, showing you that the way to God, the way to your perfect standing in Christ, has to come through a sacrifice. In the Old Testament, you had literal sacrifices: a burnt offering, a meat offering, a peace offering, a sin offering, a trespass offering. Those were the Old Testament sacrifices that were done away when Christ came and died. The Bible says that when Christ died on the cross, He completed and fulfilled everything in the Old Testament. That is why all of those Old Testament things are done away with in Christ Jesus.

The day you and I got saved, we got everything that Jesus Christ is. If you would have the time to come back through chapter 1, through chapter 2, chapter 3, you would study every one of those sacrifices as a different aspect of Christ coming down and dying: the burnt sacrifice, the meat sacrifice, the peace offering, the sin offering. In those offerings, in those 11 chapters, everything that Christ was is fulfilled in Him by those 11 chapters. When He died on the cross, He wiped away those things because they were in Him. When you get in Him, you get those things applied to your sin. That is what your standing is.

This morning, you and I, if you are saved, when God looks at you, God sees His Son. He sees His blood. He does not see the wrong things you did, the bad thoughts you had. That is something else. We will talk about that in a few minutes.

As you come through these chapters, and I am asked this question a lot, turn over to chapter 8, verse 24. I am asked this question a lot in Bible study because it kind of looked like a weird deal. In chapter 8, verse 24, you have the consecration of the priests, the sons. This is a beautiful picture of what happened to you and to me.

*Leviticus 8:24*

*And he brought Aaron's sons, and Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet: and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.*

Strange verse, until you understand the concept of what we are talking about. We are talking about the priesthood in the Old Testament, the book of Leviticus, foreshadowing the coming priesthood, which is going to be eternal. Your understanding here is the way to God; the way that you get to God is through sacrifice.

You look down there and say, "Well, what does it mean when He took the blood and put it on the right part of His ear, and He put the blood on the right big thumb, and He put the blood on the right big toe?" I do not know if you know this or not, but your big thumb is important. You know that you cannot walk without a big toe, right? In the Old Testament, when they wanted to debase a man and they did not want to kill him, but they wanted to humiliate him, they wanted to really make him look bad, you know what they did? They do this in the book of Judges: they cut off his thumbs and his toes. You know why? That makes him like an animal. Animals do not handle things. Animals do not have thumbs or great toes. That is why you never see a dog hitchhiking. They do not have thumbs. They do not have big toes. So when you cut those off, you cannot eat. You cannot walk. Those things represent balance in your life.

Then he says, it is the right ear, right big thumb, right big toe. Right in the Bible is always Jesus Christ. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He is God's right hand. He is God's right arm. We use the expression, "Man, I love that guy. I would cut my right arm off for him." That is exactly what God did for you and for me. He cut off His right arm, Jesus Christ, for you and for me.

When he says in chapter 8, at the consecration of Aaron's sons, that he puts the blood on the right ear, on the right thumb, and the right great toe, he is showing you that the way to God is through sacrifice. I know in the Old Testament historically, he is literally putting the blood on the ear and the thumb and the toe. But for you and for me in the eternal priesthood, it shows the day you get Christ in your life, you are covered by the blood from head to toe. That is your standing. Your standing is in Christ, and you are covered by the blood from head to toe.

You can take that every way you want to take it. You can talk about the fact that the things that you listen to are under the blood. The things that you do are covered by the blood. The places you go are ordained and covered by the blood. Right ear, right thumb, and the right great toe: what you hear, what you do, and where you go.

This is why the Bible says in 1 John 3:9:

*1 John 3:9*

*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

Now that is a strange verse for most Baptist preachers today. In fact, it is so strange, and they do not have any idea what it means, that in all the new Bibles, it is changed. I dare say, if you would go to any church or most churches today and they would preach 1 John 3:9, it would be like this: "He that is born of God does not practice sin." And they get the word "commit" out. You know why? Because that is Baptist. We just cannot understand how once you are saved, you can not sin.

Well, the Bible says in 1 John 1:9:

*1 John 1:9*

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

And then just a couple chapters later, it says, "He that is born of God doth not commit sin." Oh, it is one of those old translations that are messed up by our old King James Bible. We have got to fix it. No, no, no. That is the doctrine of standing and state. In my state, yes, I commit sin daily. But in my standing, it says, "He that is born of God doth not commit sin." Why? "For his seed remaineth in him."

You know what got born of God in me the day I got saved? Not my flesh. My flesh is still as wicked as it ever was. You know what got born again about me? It was my soul. It got sealed. It got separated. I am sealed unto the day of redemption. In that, I will give you a way to understand it: saved by grace, sealed by the Spirit of God. The Bible says in Ephesians 2, "seated

in heavenly places." There it is: saved, sealed, seated. That is my standing in Christ Jesus. I am covered by the blood, and I am born of God, and I do not commit sin because His seed remaineth in Him. That is my standing.

## IV. The Doctrine of State: Your Walk with God

My state is something else. Where we just looked at chapter 1 through chapter 11 as your standing and the way to God through sacrifice, now we come to chapter 12 through chapter 27, and we see not the way to God, but your walk with God. You see that thing? One standing, one state.

Now, what is your state? The state is whatever state you are in this morning. Here is how it works: once you get saved, God separates your soul and seals your soul. Now your standing is sinless perfection in Christ. Hence, "He that is born of God doth not commit sin." You are in Christ, but your state is something else. One deals with your new nature, one deals with your old nature.

The Bible tells you over and over again that once you are saved, you do not walk after the flesh. You walk after the spirit. You do not mind the things of the flesh. You do mind the things of the spirit. That is why the Bible says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," the Word of God. You change your mind. The more you put God's mind into your heart, the less your flesh follows the things of the world. The more you make God's things your things, God's ways your ways, God's thoughts your thoughts, the more you are like Him, the less you are like the world. That is your state.

Your state is your fellowship, your walk with God day by day. You know as well as I do that can suffer sometimes. We all do dumb things. There is not a day that does not go by that we do not fail. That has nothing to do with your soul. That has nothing to do with your standing. That has to do with your state. That is not the church triumphant. This is the church militant. This is the warfare of Ephesians 6 that you are in all your life after you are saved, and you have to stay with the book to stay with God and not fall.

That is why he says in 1 John 1:7:

*1 John 1:7*

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

What? Why, I thought I got my sins cleansed from Romans 10 the day I got saved? You did. When you got saved, Romans 3, Romans 10:9-10, that puts you into the body of Christ, and your standing is now sinless perfection, church triumphant. But you have got to face tomorrow. You have got to face your boss. You have got to face your enemies. You have got to face worse than that, your flesh. You have to face the struggles of this life to maintain your fellowship with God, because the Bible says you have to walk in the light as He is in the light. Light is the Word of God, Psalms 119. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

You have to continue to walk in the light of God's Word to have fellowship with Him. When you do not, then you confess it, not to be saved all over again. Church triumphant, church militant. You say, "God, I am sorry. I should not have said that. I should not have thought that. I should not have done that." And God forgives you and cleanses you and puts you back into fellowship with Him based on the Word of God, the greatest doctrine that you have to learn that is taught by the breakdown of the book of Leviticus.

Just as chapter 1 through chapter 11, chapter by chapter, deals with the aspect of your way to God through sacrifice, your state, chapter 12 through chapter 27, deals with your walk with God through sanctification.

- Chapter 12: Circumcision

In chapter 12, we find the doctrine of circumcision. God told those Jews back there when a male was born, "Wait eight days after he was born, and then circumcise him." There are all kinds of medical things about that eighth day. I have read all kinds of books on it, and they are probably true. I read a guy one time that was a doctor that wrote a book on circumcision about the marvels of God, and he said, "You know what? When a baby is born, it takes eight days for that blood to get to the point where it will clot right, so therefore that is why God in sovereign wisdom said, 'Wait eight days.'" I believe that.

But I also know this: the number eight in the Bible is the number of new beginnings. When that baby was circumcised the eighth day, that is the picture of the spiritual circumcision that took place in your life that made you a new creature in Christ Jesus the day you got saved. That literal circumcision was done with a knife on a part of the anatomy that has to do with seed, that has to do with birth. The Bible says in Colossians 2 that we are circumcised with a spiritual circumcision made without hands. That has to do with God's seed at a new birth. That old circumcision back there was a picture of the new one that was coming, just like the old priesthood was a picture of the new one that was coming. That is the book of Hebrews: what was old in the Old Testament, there is a better one in the New Testament.

You know what that circumcision did for the nation of Israel? It made them different from all the other nations. So much that when they wanted to talk about the Philistines or the other Gentile nations, they made a point where they said, "that uncircumcised Philistine." There are some uncouth phrases in the Bible. They mean something. They are only uncouth in our modern society, but they are not uncouth to God. God says, "Those uncircumcised Philistines." He said, "Stay away from them." The reason I want you to stay away from them is because they are going to mess you up every time they can. "So I am going to have you mark your body where it has to do with birth and seed to make you separate from everybody else on this planet."

That is exactly what He did spiritually the day you got saved. He spiritually circumcised your flesh from your soul, where the literal circumcision was a circumcision of the flesh. Your spiritual circumcision, Colossians 2:11-13, had to do with your body of your sins and your soul. Now you are set apart. You are spiritually circumcised. You are set apart. You are different. You are to act different. You are to talk different. You are to think different. You are to be different. Why? You are God's child, and you are a priest. You are covered by the blood: ear, thumb, toe,

head to toe. So in chapter 12, the first thing he deals with and shows us is circumcision: we are separated.

- Chapters 13-14: Leprosy

You know what he does in chapter 13 and 14? He deals with leprosy. Leprosy in the Old Testament is a picture of sin, particularly an unsaved man, because that leprosy put a mark on a man. In fact, the priest was told to look for the marks of leprosy on anybody that had leprosy. You know where leprosy comes from? It comes from prolonged uncleanness. It comes from you living in the dirt for all of your life. Leprosy is not something that just happens. Leprosy comes because your living conditions become so depraved and so filthy and so unclean that you get a disease that eats away your body until you die. That is sin.

One of the greatest stories in the Bible is found in 2 Kings 5. I have a sermon on it called "The Day an Army Captain Got Saved." You know who it was? Naaman. Great story. If you want an illustration of what is going on here, 2 Kings 5 says, "Here is Naaman. He was captain of the Lord's host. He had this, he had that, he had great servants." The Bible says, "He was a great man, but he was a leper." You see, the greatest things you can have in life, the greatest things you can attain to, the greatest things that you can have in all your life, do not change the fact that you are still a leper. That sin will eat you and eat you until your ear falls off, your nose falls off, your hands falls off, until you die.

Naaman, just like most unsaved people, goes down to the man of God because that is where you get your leprosy cleansed, you see. He goes down there and he says, "Go baptize in Jordan seven times." He goes down there and baptizes himself seven times in Jordan. He comes out, and his flesh is clean like a little child. Picture of a man getting saved by the washing of the water, by regeneration, the Bible says.

Back here in Leviticus, if that leper wanted to get cleansed, you know what he had to do? Remember the last thing I told you before we switched over to chapter 12? Blood on the ear, blood on the thumb, blood on the great toe. Oh, you have got leprosy, and you want to get cleansed, a picture of an unsaved man. You know what you have got to get? You have got to get the oil on the ear, on the thumb, Leviticus 14:17, and on your great right toe. You have got to get the Holy Spirit of God covering you. There is the Holy Spirit of God coming inside you to live inside you. It is the only way you can get rid of your leprosy. Now leprosy is a picture of sin before we are saved and after we are saved. So in chapter 13 and 14, he shows them how to deal with leprosy.

I am telling you, that is what is wrong with this world today. This world is full of lepers, and they are being eaten alive by their own filth and their own flesh. It has come because God's people live in prolonged uncleanness year after year after year and then walk around saying, "Well, I wonder what is wrong with me." You are a leper. You need to get under the Holy Spirit of God to get that leprosy cleared off your body.

- Chapter 15: Staying Clean in a Dirty Environment

In chapter 15, we have the chapter that deals with dealing with the uncleanness in a general sense of men and women. I look at this chapter as simply this: how you stay clean in a dirty environment. This chapter here will keep you from getting leprosy. How many children of God, how many Christians, men and women, have gotten saved, fallen back into the world, went back into that filth, and got destroyed because of their sin? God says leprosy will eat at you; it will destroy you. But I am telling you, I can keep it so you never get leprosy.

You have got to understand the nation of Israel: at least four or five million people living in close quarters. No porta-potties, no sanitary cooking conditions. We think about all the children of Israel out there bopping around in the wilderness, no big deal. No, it was a big deal. You know how much garbage four or five million people could put together in a day? Go to New York City when they have a garbage strike. It would pile up 200 feet high by the end of the week. What did they do with that? What a mess that must have been.

The nation of Israel had to have strict cleansing laws in a society that was close-quarters with millions of people because we as human beings are dirty. I know you shower in the morning, and you smell great. Yes, but look at you at the end of the day. Go out and mow the grass. Go play softball. As human beings, we have an affinity for picking up dirt. Chapter 15 shows how to keep the uncleanness to a minimum in a man and woman's life.

He says you wash your flesh and clothes in running water every day, all day long. In the 1200s, a black plague swept across Europe. The black plague killed more people. When the black plague was done sweeping through Europe, it took about 50, 60 years, but by the time that black plague came through Europe, there were more dead people than there were alive people. The Jews and the Waldensians, the early Christians, never got the black plague. Henceforth, the Roman Catholic Church blamed it on them and started killing them because they believed they were in witchcraft and put it on all the other people.

You know why they did not get it? Because their practice, the Europeans, the Roman Catholics, they were just washing their hands in bowls of water and putting the dirt right back on them again. The Jews and the Waldensians were following the dietary and the sanitary practice of the book of Leviticus. They were washing their clothes and hands in running water to get the germs off. That is a picture of: you want to keep from getting leprosy? Wash your flesh daily by the Word of God. Take a shower minute by minute. Let the Word of God dwell on you richly. Get into the Word of God. Get into the Book. It will keep you clean.

- Chapter 16: The Scapegoat and the Price of Salvation

In your walk with God, you need to understand circumcision: you are separated from the world. You need to understand in your walk with God about leprosy, a type of sin. As your walk with God, you need to understand chapter 15, how as a Christian man or woman, you stay clean in a filthy world. In chapter 16, you need to understand the price tag that was paid for your salvation.

So in chapter 16, it is a great chapter on the scapegoat. The scapegoat is really easy to understand. They brought two goats down. One died, one lived. A type of Christ, my scapegoat. We were standing side by side. He died for me, and I can live because of it. You need to

understand that. You would be surprised how many of God's people say they are saved. Maybe they are. Say they believe all about the Bible. Maybe they do, but they could care less about what their scapegoat did for them. They could care less in reality.

I will tell you the truth: if you really understand what Christ did for you and you are truly saved, I do not know how you can live your life the way some of God's people live it. I do not understand that. I know I am weird. I know that is what the Word of God has done to me. I am weird. I understand. I give you that. I do. But I do not understand how when somebody is really truly saved that anything can get in the place of God. I know on Sunday morning, we all have things that come up. I know that. But I do not understand how a saved person who can just say, "I am saved, and I am on my way to heaven," can have more fun on Friday night or Saturday night, and when it comes to Sunday morning, just roll over and shut the alarm off or not set it at all and say, "You know what? I am not going today." I do not understand that.

There is nothing in my life more important than being here or this book. I do not care what I like to do. We had some people over last night for a new members reception. I live about nine miles away from the drag strip. They had jet cars over there this weekend. We were walking out. People were leaving. I heard them. The smell was like napalm. I could smell that stuff burning. It was incredible. I wanted to go. I heard those big old funny cars over there. They are burning those big old tires, smoking them. Guys down there putting that on there, and they are sitting up side by side, and the lights are up here, you know, call it a Christmas tree. The guys come down, and you have to hear them. My dogs were barking. Everybody in the neighborhood, the cats were falling out of the trees, the rabbits were running. They were shaking the ground. They are thunder on wheels. I was going to go because I know I have been going a while, and I could sneak in. I could just say, "I am with the pit crew here. Get a Coke. I will go back in here. My car is on the line here. I will be back in just a minute." I was going to go. They were thundering over there last night. This was not like high school grudge matches. No, this was the big boys. They were the big dogs running down that quarter-mile track. I could just envision the smoke, the smell, the cheering fans, the guys with little goggles. I went and got my little goggles and put them on. I sat out there on the porch and I listened to the thunder on wheels. But you know what? Eleven o'clock, I go to bed because I need to be thunder on wheels tomorrow when I get here. I do not need to be doing that.

I am telling you, I do not understand it. I do not understand how you get saved and then just say, "Well, God, I will fit You in where it is convenient." I do not understand. I know what happens. I am not fighting anybody. I am just telling you, I do not get that. When I got saved, I got saved all over, inside, outside. I cannot think of anything I would rather do. Why? Because I know He was my scapegoat. I know there was a day in eternity when I stood here, lost, without Christ, without hope. My Jesus stood on this side, holy, pure, perfect. He became the scapegoat for me.

- Chapters 17-20: Sins of Other Nations and God's Holiness

In chapters 17, 18, 19, and 20, you know what he has there? Sins of the other nations. Stay away from them.

- Chapter 17: Nations that eat blood. You find him in Psalms, drink offerings of blood, Psalms 16.
- Chapter 18: Uncovering nakedness. The fire of Molech, where they had sex relations in a religious service. Born the illegitimate children and then took them down to the big bronze god. Put him in his hand with a fire in his belly. Cranked the hands and dumped the babies in the fire.
- Chapter 19: He puts in a chapter talking about God's holiness, that God will not stand for that, that it will be the downfall of the nation of Israel.
- Chapter 20: Witchcraft, sexual perversion, and all the godless things that the other nations were committing and doing, that every time the nation of Israel got involved, it dragged them down from God. It shows you and it shows me in the Old Testament the great spiritual principle of 1 Peter 1:16, which says:

*1 Peter 1:16*

*Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

- Chapter 21: Physical Qualifications for a Priest

In chapter 21, you have the physical qualifications for being a priest. Here is where you start to see this stuff bear out. Not anybody could just be a priest. If you wanted to be a priest, there is a whole list of things you had to qualify for, and none of them had anything to do with anything spiritual. That is what you do with your physical characteristics. If you were ugly, you could not be a priest. If you had a broken nose, if you had a broken arm, a broken hand. If you had any spot or any blemish on you, you could not be a priest.

Why? Because it was foreshadowing the day that the book of Ephesians talked about in Ephesians 5:26-27, where it said, talking about the church, you and me, the priesthood:

*Ephesians 5:26-27*

*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

You see, the day God saved you and made that eternal priesthood, God gave you your standing: no blemishes. You are perfect. You are sinless. You and I need to understand that as priests, we need to keep ourselves clean. Why? It was the priest who did his work in the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a little table with showbread, baked fresh every day, a picture of your Bible. That showbread is a picture of the Word of God, baked fresh every day. Just so you would not miss it, he said, "There are 12 tribes, make 12 loaves." Okay, that is for Israel. I will get the 12 loaves. But when you put it on that table, put one, two, three, four, five, six, and then right underneath that, one, two, three, four, five, six more. Six, six. Not only is it a stand for the nation of Israel, but it is a type of the Word of God, showing you there is a book coming that is going to be God's bread that you are allowed to eat, just like the priest ate it, that had 66 books in it. That is some Bible you have got.

- Chapter 22: Personal Holiness of the Priest

In chapter 22, you have the personal holiness of the priest. You realize that the key to your walk with God is your walking in the light versus the darkness. He says in verse 3:

*Leviticus 22:3*

*Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.*

Clearly speaking, clearly saying, my friend, if you are not clean this morning and have not judged and confessed the sins of your state this morning, you and God are out of fellowship. We have weird ideas as Christians. We think we can walk around the world, do what we want to do, think what we want to think, be what we want to be, and then come around here and say, "Well, you know what? Me and God, we are kind of in fellowship." I had a guy say one time, "Well, he said, 'I am not really in fellowship with God, but I am not really out of fellowship with God.'" That exists only in your mind. Sitting here this morning, you are either confessed up and right with God, getting all that God has for you, or you are dirty this morning, and God is having a tough time getting through.

Chapter 22 shows two kinds of sin, or two ways you got unclean.

3. One was in verse 5: you touch something dead, hanging out with the unsaved world. I wonder how many people did not show up to church around this city this morning because they were too busy out with their friend, the unsaved world, last night, and then one of them rocks up and says, "Well, I am a witness, I am a witness." What a witness you are. God's people spend too much time touching dead things. I am not saying you should not be friends with unsaved people, not saying you should cut them all off. My Bible says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." You cannot mix and match. I am not saying you do not have, I have lost friends. I have people that I have to be with that are unsaved that I genuinely want to get saved. But when it comes to the point that they have more influence in your life than God does, you are out of balance. So the first uncleanliness was touching something that was dead, verse 5, unsaved.
4. You know what the second problem was, how they got unclean? They had a running issue, an ongoing sin. Verse 4:

*Leviticus 22:4*

*What man soever of the seed of Aaron is a leper, or hath a running issue; he shall not eat of the holy things, until he be clean. And whoso toucheth any thing that is unclean by the dead, or a man whose seed goeth from him;*

Something that they have had all their life, they cannot shake. Something that keeps dragging them down. Something that just keeps putting them under. Something they just cannot get on top of, get a victory. There could be a number of things that it is. It is immaterial what it is. I am just telling you, your personal holiness as a priest will be attacked two ways: by the unsaved world

and by the things in your life. Maybe you did when you were before you were saved, or maybe you did after you were saved, or maybe you just never dealt with that have been running issues in your life ever since you have been saved. There is a way to deal with it. You need to get the Holy Spirit of God on your ear, on your thumb, and on your toe.

- Chapter 23: The Feasts of the Lord

In chapter 23, you have the feasts laid out. There are eight feasts here in chapter 23. Those eight feasts run the course of seven months.

5. The Feast of Passover
6. The Feast of Unleavened Bread
7. The Feast of First Fruits

These three feasts take place in the first month.

8. Then the second feast runs 49 days; it is called the Feast of Weeks.
9. Then the third month, you have the Feast of Pentecost.

Then the fourth month, the fifth month, and the sixth month, you have no feasts.

10. In the last month, the seventh month, you have the Feast of Trumpets.
11. The Feast of Atonement.
12. The Feast of Tabernacles.

You have no more feasts the rest of the year. What an incredible concept.

The Feast of the Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of First Fruits, first month. Forty-nine days, Feast of the Week, second month. Third month, Pentecost. Then four, five, and six, no feast. Then the last feasts: Trumpets, seventh month; Atonement, seventh month; Tabernacles, seventh month. You know what you have there? You have a picture of man being on this earth for 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000, 5,000, 6,000, and the 7,000th year being the millennial reign of Christ. That is why there are no more feasts the rest of that year, because it is over, Revelation 20, 21, and 22.

If that were not enough, chapter 23, verse 15, says there are three raptures in the Bible. You want to have fun with some Baptists sometimes? They are going to get smart with you? Just say, "You know what? There are three raptures in the Bible. Which one are you going up in?" The Bible says, "Come up hither" three times. Three raptures in the Bible. Three times somebody goes up. You say, "Well, I do not believe that." I do not care what you believe. It is my fault you do not read the Bible.

*Proverbs 25:7*

*For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.*

*Revelation 4:1*

*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

*Revelation 11:12*

*And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

Read it. Three times, up, up, up. They all match three feasts: Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles. Passover, Old Testament saints went up. Pentecost, me and you. Tabernacles, tribulation saints. You will not beat it. Wherever you go, that book lays it out.

Those seven feasts, you see, the Jewish year began with the Passover. Up to that point in Exodus 12, it began with the Feast of Tabernacles. But in Exodus 12:1-2, he says, "This is going to be the beginning of the month for you." Change the calendar. From that point on, the Feast of the Passovers marked the Jewish beginning of the year, and those feasts ran seven months consecutively. When you got to that last feast on the seventh month, no more for the rest of the years, because it is over.

You know what that tells me? Those Old Testament priests back there in Leviticus, they built their lives, their jobs, and everything they did around those feasts. I am telling you right now, as a child of God, I am building my life and everything I do around God's plan and God's program. Just as that Old Testament priest saw that, understood that, and said, "You know what, that is God's plan, I have got to take everything I do and wrap it around that, not wrap God around what I want to do." He changed their lives and put everything they did, thought, was, around God's program in the Old Testament. As a New Testament priest after the Order of Melchizedek, who understands my standing and understands my state and understands my priesthood, I am going to look at the program of God, and I am going to build everything in my life around what God is doing.

- Chapter 24: Oil for the Lamps

In chapter 24, he gives them instructions on the oil for the lamps. He tells you very clearly that it is olive oil. Romans 9, Romans 9, 10, and 11 show you that Christ is the olive tree. Paul goes through that great study in Romans 11 and 9, showing you the restoration of the nation of Israel, and he explained to you and to me that Christ is the olive tree, and Israel is the natural branches, and you and I are the wild olive tree grafted in, and the oil from the tree is the Holy Spirit of God.

When God told those priests back there, and he gave them all the stuff for the tabernacle, and all the things that were going on, all the things that were taking place, and he had the oil for those lamps, he says this: "Those lamps are never to go out." And yet when you come through your Bible, 1 Samuel 3:3, when Samuel was just a young guy, trying to learn the aspect of the ministry, the lamp went out. You know why? Because the priesthood under Eli was totally corrupt, and they cared nothing about the things of God. They cared nothing about keeping that lamp burning. Those boys had their own agenda.

Here was a young man who wanted to learn God and everything about God, one of the greatest studies you will ever find any place in your life, how God speaks to a young man or a young lady about God's call and the work in him and their life. They are down here, and this young man is in the church, he is in the temple, he is down there, his mother brought him down, his mother dedicated him to God and brought him down and said, "Here Eli, here you take him and make him a great man of God." That church was corrupt, and the preachers were corrupt, and they had their own agenda. It had nothing to do with God, and they were busy chasing their own dreams and chasing their own things, and while they are busy building their churches, the lamp of God went out.

Leviticus 24:2 says that lamp is to burn continually.

*Leviticus 24:2*

*Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually;*

I am telling you, we are living in a day and age where the lamp of God has gone out. We are in the Laodicean church period. I am nothing great. You could write volumes about what I do not know about the Bible, but I am dumb enough and smart enough to figure this out. In these last days, in this darkness, brother, we are living in a dark age, just like they did back in 1200 AD. The devil has come down and scooped up the Word of God, and churches and people and preachers are out there playing some kind of church game, doing everything in the world except teaching their people the Bible. There are men and women out there right now that say, "You know what, I want to learn God, I want to learn the Bible, well where do I go, what do I do, how do I get there?"

I will tell you what you need today. I will tell you what this city needs, and every city around this city needs: it needs somebody who will just keep the light burning. You do not need a billboard. I told you a couple of weeks ago, if you got here this morning, you know one thing: you got here because God got you here. I am not even in the phone book. I do not even have a sign. We do not have a web page. We do not have any of that stuff. We are not going to have any of that stuff. You cannot just drive into town and see our spire and know how to get here. Our spire fell down. Our baptismal pool has been dry since we started here.

I will tell you why: I played the games. I went throughout. I have seen it all, 30 years of my life. I made up my mind when we did this church that it was going to be God's way. If God cannot bring them, if I have got to go up and pump everybody up, if I have got to go out here and put a web... I am not fighting those things. I am not. If you have got a web page in your church, I am all for it. If you have got a steeple, hey, great man, I am fine. "There is the church, there is the steeple, open the door and there are all the people." I am for it. I am all for that. You can have all the... I am not fighting it. I am just saying, here is what I believe: I believe in these last days that God said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." I simply believe that if I just stand here and preach the book and love the book and give you the best deal I know how to give you, instead of saying, "How much can you give me?" I will say, "How much can I give you?" I will spend time with you and teach you the Bible, whatever you need. That is my job because my job

is not to take big offerings, it is not to build big buildings. My job is simply stated: my job is to make sure that lamp does not go out.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16*

*Rejoice evermore.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

*Pray without ceasing.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:19*

*Quench not the Spirit.*

That is what is wrong with Christianity today. That is why saved people look at most churches and will not go, will not listen to most preachers, look at most Christians and think it is ridiculous, because it is. We are living in an age where we plan all kinds of churches and all kinds of big deals, but the lamp is gone out. There is nobody, there is no light, nothing. Nobody can see the light. The lamps have burned out. The Holy Spirit of God, the olive oil, the church of God has lost its fire.

- Chapter 25: The Year of Jubilee

In chapter 25, the year of Jubilee, he says in verse 10:

*Leviticus 25:10*

*And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

You know how God had that thing worked out? He said, "You know what, you can do whatever you want to do within my standards that I am giving you here. You can have businesses, you can have this, you can have that, but at the end of 49 years, because I am God and I do things by sevens, so seven times seven is 49, and he says at the end of those 49 years, on the 50th year, there is going to be a Jubilee year, and everything and everybody, every slave, every animal, every piece of product, everything goes back to its original owner. It starts over again. I am going to proclaim the year 50 as liberty throughout the land." In fact, so much that on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, they have Leviticus 25:9-10. That was before there was a church-state issue.

You know what it is a picture of? For the Jew, it is a picture of the Day of the Lord, the theme of the Bible, the second coming of Christ, the day after 7,000 years of man on this planet. Christ comes back at the millennium, the 7,000th year, and he sets up his Jubilee year, and brother, we are off in eternity. It is a picture for you and me, the Day of Jesus Christ. Remember, the Day of the Lord is the second coming. The Day of Jesus Christ in the Bible is the rapture of the church.

It is a picture of the year we are set free. I am free now. I am in Christ, but I am still under the bondage of this flesh. There is coming a day I am going to be set free, and I am not going to have this old carcass to haul around anymore. I am going to be with Him. Glory to God that day. That is my year of Jubilee. That is what he is talking about. There is coming a day you are going to be free.

There is coming a day every unsaved person, or every saved person that died in Christ under the bondage of this life, even though they are in heaven and they are free, they are still under the mortal bondage. The Bible says, "Just as we bore the image of the earthly, we are going to bear the image of the heavenly, and we are going to be free."

- Chapter 26: Blessings and Warnings

Chapter 26 is the blessings of God, but it is a warning. The blessings of God, my friend, are conditional. Let me tell you something. God will save you unconditionally, but the blessings of God in your life after you are saved, standing and state, He, sinless perfection, church triumphant, standing, but your state, the blessings of God, are conditional. He says in verse 1 of chapter 26:

*Leviticus 26:1*

*Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.*

You see that thing? He says if you do not, I will give you peace in the land. You stay with my Word, you stay with me, you stay in the book, you follow my statutes, do not have other gods, I will give you peace in the land. Now this thing will work in your individual life; it will also work for any country. Watch what I am saying. Here comes Fox News, CBS, and ABC all in one basket right down the road to you. Oh yes, I know, the book of Leviticus is boring.

*Leviticus 26:6*

*For I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.*

He says if you stay in my book and you have no other gods and you love me and you keep my Word, I will give you peace. You can lay down at night and not be afraid. No beast will hurt you, and no sword will go through your land. But it is conditional:

*Leviticus 26:14*

*But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;*

*Leviticus 26:15*

*And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:*

Remember, it is you or a nation. "No desire of my statutes, abhor my judgments, break my covenants."

*Leviticus 26:16*

*I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.*

I think we call it terrorism. I think we have congressional meetings to figure out how we got in this mess, how we are going to get out of it. I think we run around and blame Rumsfeld, blame Bush, blame Kerry, blame this, blame this, blame her, them, them, them, them. We blame everybody for terror in our land when I will tell you why it is here. There was a time when this country went to sleep at night. There was a time when this country had peace, and no nation would stand up to us, could ever beat us. There was a time when we had the blessings of God, but we rejected those books. We threw away the Bible. We threw away the judgment. Now we wonder why we have an appointment with terror. This book will not quit.

- Chapter 27: Things Devoted to God

Lastly, and you thought everything else was good up to this. Maybe you did not. But the last chapter is the best. We are talking about your walk. The way to God is through sacrifice, chapter 1 through chapter 11. But the walk with God is through your state, through sanctification. We saw circumcision set you apart, leprosy, uncleanness, the scapegoat, the sins of the other nations, the physical qualifications of a priest, personal holiness, the feasts, oil in the lamps, year of Jubilee, blessings of God, curses of God, all dealing with your walk based on your understanding of the Word of God and following Him. Sanctification.

Then chapter 27. You know what you have after you have all this? You have the things that are devoted to God. You know what that priest did? That priest looked around him and he looked at all God gave him. He said something like this, "Lord, You have been so good to me. Lord, I just love You so much. God, You have taken care of me, You have taken care of my wife, You have taken care of my kids, You give me a good job, You give me a house, You give me this, You give me that. Lord, I will tell You what, I do not know what to tell You. Lord, I will tell You, I love You so much. There are some things that I am going to give back to You. I am going to give You some devoted things."

In that great chapter, there are the things that those priests said, "Lord, these are Yours. They are mine. I know You have given them to me, but I am giving them back to You." Whether it was the animals, the land, whatever, once they gave it back to God, they could not sell it, they could not give it away, it was the Lord's. I am going to tell you something. What in your life have you devoted to Him? Do you even know what He wants?

People get all upset. "You know, I do not want to go to church because all they are talking about is money." Hey, God does not care about your money. There are lots of other things you can give to God that God wants you to devote. You know what your problem is? Your problem is not money. You are probably not anything. You just do not want to give anything to God personally. You want to keep what you have got for yourself. You want all the things after God has given you everything. You do not want to devote anything to Him. He said in verse 28:

*Leviticus 27:28*

*Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing is most holy unto the LORD.*

You cannot sell them. You do not have to redeem them anymore. Every devoted thing is most holy unto the Lord. All devoted things are God's until the 50th year of Jubilee. Once you give it to Him, it is devoted to Him. Totally His. It is not yours anymore. Whether it be your lands, whether it be your animal, whether it be your house, whether it be your kids, they are His. You cannot sell them. You cannot give them away.

That is what it means, my friend, to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek. There are things in your life and my life when you come to the point where you understand what you are in the ministry of God, that you are a priest. You are a priest. You are a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Once you are a priest, you understand that as you work daily, you realize that the way to God was through sacrifice. You see all those sacrifices fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. You understand that your walk with God is based on your sanctification. All of those things in your life build you to the place where you keep yourself under God.

In the process of that, you look at what God has given you. You look at what you have. You look at what you are. You simply say this: "God, there are some things that I am just going to give to You. I am going to give You my kids. I am going to give You my job. I am going to give You my finances. I am going to give You my house. I am going to give You my business. I am going to give You my wife. I am going to give You my husband. I am going to give You this." Once you give it to Him, they are His. You take that thing seriously, knowing that they are wholly holy unto Him.

When you come to that point in your life that you understand your standing, that is your worship with God. That is your sinless perfection in the body of Christ and your state, your daily cleansing and walk with Him. Two of the most misunderstood, under-taught, forgotten doctrines in the Bible that are the backbone of what you and I believe.

You ask yourself in your life, and we are going to end on this, no invitation today. I just want to have you think about this in your life: What have you devoted to Him? With all that you have got, with all that you are, with all your success, with all your failures. What have you just said? Are you even to the place in your life where you sit down with God and have those conversations? Are you just flitting around playing, saying, "Well, I am not happy with this, I am not happy with that," and yet you are not willing to do anything about it? Are you just one of those kind of people that just kind of go through life and you maintain your Christianity and put on the show, but the bottom line is there is no substance down on the inside that you understand that you are a priest? You understand what the book of Leviticus understands, and now you see it even clearer, and you realize, "You know what, as a priest, there are things that I am going to give to Him that are His." I do not want to know what they are. I do not care what they are. They are between you and God, but that is what makes your relationship so special. That is what builds into your life and the life of God all those things that make you an effective priest.

Samuel wanted to do what God wanted him to do, but he was in the world of unclean priests, men who let the lamp of God go out. That is a perfect picture of where we are at today, and yet God got to Samuel everything he needed to be a great priest for the Lord. That is where we are at today.