

Genesis 1:1

Sunday 11/13/2005

I listened to the CD this week, and he says, "Point number seven is very important in the Bible." I said, "Well, hang on, you'll get a couple more numbers this morning." But that's what it's all about. God built His Bible around a perfect concept, and we saw last week that that concept is the number seven.

When God laid out the scriptures, He did it in a systematic way that anybody who wanted to learn the Bible could learn the Bible. From about 1900 on in this country, we got the idea that education was the key to God. Today, it's totally out of control. We absolutely think today that the only way you can really learn the Bible is to get as much education as you can. We have basically substituted the power of God in our lives for a degree in theology.

I've seen this all my life in churches, and most of you probably have too. A church loses its pastor, and they look for a pastor. They bring in several candidates. Truthfully, the thing that they really look for is not what his relationship is with God. They don't ever ask him what he knows about the Bible. They simply want to know what level of education he had, and the higher his education level, the more they think that this is the pastor we want.

This is because we have been fooled and deceived into thinking that education is the key to God, and it's not. I showed you very clearly last week that the key to God is not you getting smarter. It's you getting "dumber" in the sense that you simply just believe a book that God wrote you, that it came from God the way God intended it to be given to you, and you go from there.

We saw last week that your Bible is built around the number seven, and I gave you a whole host of concepts. We're going to start going through them today. This is going to be something that no matter where you're at in your Christian life, you can grasp. This is not going to be something that is so far over your head that you never get it. That's not my goal.

I have in my group here, most of you are young Christians that are just beginning to learn how to put the Bible together. What we're doing is we are laying the infrastructure on your foundation, and we are beginning to give you the key concepts that you need to learn and know about the Bible. That's where our goal is.

I. The Seven Laws of God

We're going to start today with what I basically think is the foundation of these seven studies, and I talked about them last week: the seven laws that are in the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, you're going to find seven laws. These laws are in operation 24 hours, seven days a week. The world runs by them.

Science, when they come up—and we'll look at some of this in a moment—when science, in physical science, they have what they call the laws of science. If you went to school someplace, either elementary or high school and college, you learned about laws when you went to science class. We learned that there was a law called the law of gravity. Sir Isaac Newton proved that law. He also proved the law of motion.

We have in the upper realms of that, you learn when you get up into high school, and they probably teach it in junior high and elementary, we have the law of thermodynamics: the first law and the second law of thermodynamics. Now, those laws are absolute. All of those laws, as you're going to see as we get through here this morning, are based on the Bible. Science doesn't know that, but then science knows very little, as you'll also see before we get through here this morning.

But I want to talk to you and I want to show you how that when God set this thing up, He set it up by a perfect standard. I also want you to see how important those laws are, because violating those laws will bring disaster in your life. I deal with it all the time. I've dealt with it all my ministry and all my life, dealing in people's lives.

You see, these laws are absolute. You cannot reverse them. You cannot stop them from happening. The truth of the matter is, your opinion or my opinion about the law of gravity or any other law really doesn't come into play. Somebody says, "I don't believe in the law of gravity." Try walking off a building and see how quickly you realize that the law of gravity has you, and you do not have it. These laws are fixed.

Not only that, all Bible doctrine, everything we're going to study in the Bible for the rest of our life together until Jesus comes back, is based on the seven laws. Man's rejection, here's how it works. I figured this out a long time ago.

First of all, man's basic problem. Let's talk about man's basic problem. Man's basic problem is that he wants to be like God. The first sin in the Bible didn't take place with Adam and Eve. The first sin in the Bible took place way beyond that, way back in Genesis chapter 1, where Ezekiel chapter 28 and Isaiah chapter 14 tell us of a time before God ever put man on this planet, that God had spiritual beings called sons of God. One of them's name was Lucifer.

Lucifer rebelled against God, trying to overthrow God, and because of that, he led a rebellion in heaven. He is cast out of heaven, and he's no longer called Lucifer. Now he's called Satan, or he's called the devil, or Belial in the Old Testament, or the great red dragon, and a number of names. You've got to go back sometime, and if you don't think that the devil's basic problem is our basic problem today, you ought to go back to Isaiah chapter 14 and verse 13 and see in those verses right there the five "I wills."

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

That was his problem. He had a bad case of the "I wills." Pride was his number one problem. Once you get pride in your life, it invites a lot of friends over for a barbecue. One of them's name is Mr. Arrogance. When all the friends get together, you come to the place where you have some real problems in your life.

When Mr. Arrogance comes over and you get all the funny cooking around the fire, you begin to think that you're better and you're smarter than God. Here's what you begin to think next: you think that the laws don't apply to you. Now, that's exactly where man goes with it.

You don't go ten chapters in Genesis when you get to Genesis chapter 11, after the fall, where here's a bunch of people get together, and you know what they say? They say, "We are one. We have the same language. We have the same speech. There is nothing now that we decide to do that we can't do." This place in your Bible is called the Tower of Babel. That one little statement there, where it says, "Now nothing that we desire to do, we can do it," that tells me that that early civilization, much like our own civilization today—because human nature is always the same—they've now come to the place that they thought the rules didn't apply to them.

So they built a tower. You know what the purpose of that tower was? I'll give you a little key here: towers in the Bible are always a picture of man-made religions. They always are. Towers in the Bible are always pictures of man-made religion, because the purpose of this tower, if you read the passage, was that through it man may ascend up into heaven, and at the top of this tower may reach unto heaven. That tower in Genesis chapter 11 is called the Tower of Babel. The Tower of Babel was a man-made system to get around the natural laws that God has set up, so that they might get to heaven without God, without Jesus Christ.

So what man does is, in his arrogance, he tries to reverse the laws of God. Even though you can't reverse them and you can't stop them, what you can do is temporarily hold them off. I'll give you an example. We have what we call the law of gravity. Now, if you would go out to KCI Airport this morning and you would get on an airplane, that airplane would drive just like your car down to the end of the runway. When it got to the end of the runway, you'd turn onto a long stretch of highway. You're going to sit there for a minute, and then you're going to hear these gigantic jet engines rev up. All of a sudden, you're going to feel the brakes come off, and this plane is going to move down the runway at an accelerated speed.

As it takes off and it heads down there, the law of gravity still is in control. But the pilot is in a machine that is aerodynamically different than your automobile. He lowers his flaps and he sets all the things just right, and when he hits a certain speed, temporarily the law of gravity ceases to have an effect on that plane. Another law takes over. You know what it is? The law of aerodynamics. The law of gravity steps back one step, the law of aerodynamics steps forward, and the plane lifts off, and up it flies.

Man says, "Whoa, we've conquered gravity! We can fly!" Man's always wanted to fly, because flying and getting off this ground is man's basic desire to get back to what he once lost. I'm going to show you that in a second. So that plane running down the runway, the law of gravity ceases to exist, the law of aerodynamics takes over. Man now thinks he's done a great thing.

Oh, and I've got to tell you, I'm impressed. Boy, you see those F-15 Tomcats and those F-16 Falcons flying over and doing all the stuff they can do, and those jets flying and all of that stuff. I've got to be the first to tell you, I'm impressed. But I'm not so impressed that I think that your man-made bucket of bolts has really canceled out the laws of God. Because all it takes is for that 50 billion dollar, trillion dollar jet engine with 167 thousand million moving parts, all put

together and paid for by the lowest bidder, all it takes is for that sucker to flame out on you, and you know what happens? The law of aerodynamics ceases to exist. The law of gravity takes back over again. In other words, you can't stop it. You can't stop it. You can postpone it for a while.

Now, once we get past that, then we get into what I call the Babel mode, and that is, "Oh, we're going to get back up in outer space." You see, and man has always had a desire. Back in Genesis chapter 6, the Bible says the sons of God came down. They were the fallen angels. The Bible says they were mighty men of renown. Those mighty men of renown, that means they had names and legacies and in history that were passed down. We know them today when you look up into the sky and you see the constellation Hercules, or you see Orion, or you see Perseus, or you see Andromeda, or you see all of those constellations are Greek and Roman mythology, all going back to Genesis chapter 6, when the sons of God...

So because the original purpose of the devil was to ascend, and because man's original purpose is to outdo God in everything he does, unless he becomes God's child, we see that when we get off the earth and we go back into outer space. You've got to know now, remember over there in the book of Acts chapter 14 and verse 19, when the heathen people saw Paul and Barnabas, they thought that the gods had come back down to earth. So they named one of them Mercury and the other one they named Jupiter, and they started talking about them and laying all that stuff out.

So when an unsaved man goes back up into heaven, and his purpose of going up into space, whether he'll admit this or not, is to prove that that Bible is wrong and God's laws really don't apply, and "Look how smart I am, I can overcome those laws." So what does he do? He names his rocket ships after the gods: Mercury, Gemini, Apollo. He'll put it on a Saturn V rocket. He'll put it on an Atlas missile. You find that man's whole basic fundamental desire is to overcome the laws of God, and that's what an unsaved man does 24 hours, seven days a week. That's what they do because they have a problem with authority. They have a problem with God, and they try to overcome it. Many times they put it off temporarily, but you're never going to change it. Why? Because these laws in the Bible are absolute. They're absolute. Man may temporarily hold them off for a period of time, but he never stops them.

Now, bringing it all around to a practical concept, this is why so many unsaved people's lives end in tragedy. To tell you the truth, this is why a lot of God's people's lives end in tragedy. The number one thing that man thinks he can do is get around God.

In my lifetime, I've had some very bad experiences that were very traumatic to me as far as people dying and going to hell. Situations where God put me in the middle of it to try to win somebody to Christ in a deathbed situation, or in a situation that had a real effect on me. The worst thing I remember is a guy that was dying. He was in the hospital. His throat was eaten out with lung cancer, which had spread up there. He couldn't talk. This man's family asked me to go and see him because the doctor said he had hours to live.

I stood in that room with a man who was fully conscious, but he couldn't speak. I took his hand in my hand. I asked him and I explained to him in the most practical, baby-like fashion so there was no misunderstanding about salvation, heaven and hell, God and the devil, and his own

personal sin debt. God gave me an incredible ability that night, under the extreme circumstances, to be able to lay out the plan of salvation in an incredibly simplistic fashion.

Now, I'm holding this guy's hand in my hand, and I asked him if he knows that he is a sinner. I said, "I know you can't speak, but if you understand what I'm saying and you agree with me in the affirmative, just squeeze my hand one time. Once for yes, twice for no." I asked him, "Do you know that you're a sinner?" He squeezed my hand. I said, "Do you understand what I laid out to you tonight?" He squeezed my hand one more time that he did. I went through every aspect of asking him if he knew there was a heaven and a hell. He answered by squeezing my hand in the affirmative to everything that I asked him.

When it came down to asking him if... and I didn't pull any punches. I told him the reason why I was there: the family had called me because the doctor said he only had hours to live. I'm not coming in with candy and roses and going to pretend, "Hey, I'm going to see you next week." This guy was going to die that night. I knew it, his family knew it, the doctors knew it, and he knew it. Would you believe that all through that night—and I stayed there until he died—every time I asked him if he would now, based on what I said and what he knew, if he would trust Christ as his own personal Savior, he would not squeeze my hand. As far as I know, that poor dear man died and went into eternity without God, without Christ, without the blood of Christ on his sins, and without knowing his heart. I'm just saying, based on the circumstances, he's in hell this morning.

Now, I looked at that and analyzed that for a long time in my life. It changed the way I looked at things and the way I thought about things. I've come to the conclusion that the reason why, after seeing it, hearing it, and experiencing it, that man would not take my hand and trust Christ, the answer is simply this: he thought he could get around those laws.

You know, that's every one of us. We think we're exempt from the law. We really do. When I worked down south in Miami County, I worked out of Paola, Kansas. Every year, around graduation time, there'd be four or five teenagers that would be killed. They would be killed in what is commonly known, and most of you probably know or have heard of this, about the hill jumping. Down in Miami County, it's all you've got. You see them killed every year, and you would think that after four or five years of going to the same high school, with grief counselors, people dying, people doing all of this to these young kids, that young kids would say, "I'm not going to do that."

You know why they don't? Because young people, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, probably up to maybe 25, 26, they think that the rules don't apply to them. They think that they are invulnerable. They think that the rules will never catch up to them. That's why they live their lifestyle the way they do. By the time they're 50, 60, 70 years old, if they live that long, they look back at their lives, and their marriages are destroyed, their lives are a shambles, and they ask themselves, "What happened?" The answer is so simple: these laws of God are absolute. You keep them, life goes well. You violate them, your life is going to wind up in a mess.

You know, in time, as we grow—and I've got some here already earmarked for this—once we get to a point where we start really getting into people's lives in a place that would be commonly

called—I don't really look at it this way, but I use the terminology because everybody understands it—as a counseling ministry, where you take people in that are having marital problems, financial problems, whatever, or they've got personal problems, and you sit down with them with a very directed spiritual approach to solve their problem. You're going to find some people that have satanic strongholds in their life, whether it be alcohol, drugs, or whatever, and there's a way in the Bible to deal with that. You're going to find people that are in deep depression; there's a way in the Bible to deal with that. In other words, it's more than just your general John 3:16. You specifically take them and deal with them in a counseling scenario.

But I've got to tell you, counseling and dealing with people is really, it's a lot more trumped up as being hard than it really is, because in its basically biblical concept, it's very easy. It runs like this: if you and I were going to go to Denver, and we got on I-70 and we started heading west. Denver is about 600-700 miles. You just put the speed control, you get on the freeway, you put the speed control at 100 miles an hour, and you're just driving all the way to Denver. 700 miles, 12-13 hours. Well, it'd be a lot less than that, but when you get to Denver, and you finally get to Denver, and you get out of your car, you say, "Well, here I am in Denver." But in the process, you've got 15 speeding tickets. Because between when you started and when you ended, you got 15 speeding tickets.

Now you go to court. The judge looks at that, he throws the book at you. You wind up paying about fifty thousand dollars in fines. You wind up losing your license for two years. Now the ramifications of that start to set in: how you're going to go to work, how you're going to do that. You see the other entrails that come off of one major mistake like that. Now, is there anybody here that would walk around and say to themselves, "I've got to walk back to Kansas City, or take a bus, or take a plane—can't take a plane, I don't have any money left. Can't take a bus, I don't have any money left." Is there anybody going to walk around and say, "Pastor, how did this happen? How did it happen?" It's easy. The speed limit is 65, you went 100. Not once, not twice, not three times, eight, nine, ten times you got a ticket. Bottom line is easy: when you break the law, you've got to pay the consequences.

Now, does there anybody in this room doesn't understand that when you break God's law, you pay the consequences? A lifestyle of rebellion, a lifestyle of violating the principles, a lifestyle of saying it doesn't apply to me. A couple of months ago, Barb and I were sitting at home, and the doorbell rang, and a couple came over to see us we hadn't seen for years and years and years. Nice couple, a couple that are friends. They sit down in our living room, and they told me how everything was going. It wasn't working in Kansas City. He lost his job. He couldn't get on top of it financially. He couldn't do this, he couldn't do that. And now they were moving down to someplace down in the south, and this is all the stuff that they were getting into, and this is what they were going to do, and they were absolutely desperate.

I sat there, and I honest to goodness, I counted in an hour and a half conversation we had, I counted about 16 principal laws that this guy had broken. And he knew better. This is not somebody who did not know the Bible. He knew better. And he's sitting there looking at me, scratching his head with the wonderment in his watch, "Why can't I get on top of my situation?" When the answer was so obvious. It was like waking up in the morning and going out into your

living room and a good year blimp landed in your front room. Could you miss it? If you went into your kitchen and there's a nine million pound elephant sitting at the kitchen table, would you just say, "It's stuffy in here today, wonder why?" Could you miss it?

Violate the principles that are there, absolute laws of God, your life goes down the tubes. It's as simple as that. The speed limit is 65. When you drive 100, you deal with the consequences. You can play the game all you want. You can shuffle the deck, reshuffle the deck, change everything in your life to try to make it go away and be better. As long as you don't do what the Word of God says, you are changing nothing. You're deceiving yourself. You're thinking the rules don't apply to me. "I can beat the system." I'm telling you, it doesn't work that way.

II. The Law of First Mention

All right, now let's talk about a couple of these laws. We won't get through them all today, but now that you know that they're absolute, they are things that you need to see and understand.

First of all, the first law we're going to talk about, we've talked about this before, not in great detail, but we're going to detail it out today, and that is called the Law of First Mention. Now, this key, this law, the Law of First Mention, is an absolute law in unlocking the scriptures to you. Simply put, it means this: that many times in the Bible, with most topics in the Bible that are major topics, the first time you find that topic in the Word of God, it will define that topic the rest of the time through the Bible.

I call this—you've heard me say it on Thursday night—I call this the definitive passages. This is where the topic is defined, that wherever you go, wherever you find it the rest of the Bible, you'll know what the context is because of the first place it shows up in the Bible. It is the absolute most unbelievable thing. Here again, every Bible college on the face of this planet and every pastor in this city will laugh at you when you say that. That's okay, that's all right, no problem. He who laughs last laughs best. But you're going to find that this is the way it weighs out.

Genesis is filled with them, and the reason why it is, is because Genesis is called the book of the beginning. Genesis is the great defining book in the Bible. You saw this when we laid out the book of Genesis.

For instance:

Genesis 1:1 is the first time that you find God showing up, and that defines Him for the rest of the Bible.

In Genesis 1:5, it's the first time that day and night shows up, and it defines them for the rest of the Bible. The average person thinks that's the first night time and daytime in the Bible. No, no, no, no. The sun—that's the first day of creation—the sun doesn't even show up as the ball of fire in the sky till three more days. No, no, no, this is something else, but it defines it for you, and we're going to see it, we'll get into it a little bit later on throughout.

We saw last week in Genesis 2:3 was the first time the number seven showed up in the Bible. John, do I need to go through that again, or did you get that? You got that, okay. John got it. It

showed you the first time that seven shows up, God sanctified it, He set it apart, He made it holy, and off we go. Something special about seven.

Genesis 3:1, first time the devil shows up. You know what? When you find him in Genesis 3:1, he is defined for the next 6,000 years. Every church, every Christian that gets deceived by the devil by getting the wrong Bible and everything else that goes into this godly mess called the latest in church today, falls victim to a trap that was laid out in Genesis 3:1. When you find Genesis 3:1, you're going to find that this whole thing is built around how the devil operates.

Now, when the devil operates, and you want to find his operation, it's so slick and so clean that God said, "You know what? First time he shows up in the Bible, define him by it." And he's defined. He doesn't operate any other way down through history for the next 6,000 years like he does in Genesis 3:1. You know what? He comes to Eve and he says, "Yea, hath God said?" When you look at the passage, it's not a statement, it's a question mark at the end. He says, "Yea, hath God said?" In other words, "Did God really know what He was talking about?"

And then he does what every preacher is doing in the pulpit right now, what we're preaching: he changes what God said. He said, "Eve, Eve, yea, hath God said? God comes down and teaches you the Bible every afternoon in the cool of the day, doesn't He? Yes, He does. Does God really know what He's talking about, Eve? Let me tell you something, I've heard what He said. I think a better rendering of that verse should be this. I think that the aorist tense of that Hebrew word that He gave you really means this than this." That's how he did it. That's how they're doing it all across this world today. Nothing changes. Genesis 3:1 nails it.

Genesis 2:7 is the first time that you find the word soul in your Bible. Now, that's the big question today. Big question today is, "When's life begin?" Big question today is about stem cell research. A lot of God's people get into all that mess and they get fooling around with all that stuff. You know what? You took the average Christian and set him down and said, "Show me in the Bible where the Bible defines where life begins," they couldn't do it. Life begins, you know where it starts? Genesis 2:7. First time the word soul shows up in your Bible defines the beginning of life.

You go to Genesis 4:22, you've got two words there, iron and brass. They're the two key words that define it and bring it all the way through to Daniel's image in the book of Daniel and Christ and God's judgment, the second coming of Christ.

Genesis 6:2, you have the sons of God. They're defined for you right there through the rest of the Bible.

Genesis 7, first time it rains in the Bible is in Genesis 7. You know what? It's defined right there, and it shows you how rain is a key to the second coming of Christ. We looked at it on Thursday night.

Genesis 8, first time you've got two birds mentioned specifically, one's a dove, one's a raven. They're defined right there, and you'll find them all the way through the Bible standing for the same thing.

Genesis 9:13, first time you find a rainbow in the Bible, and it's defined all the way through the Bible.

Genesis 10:10, first time you find Babylon showing up in the Bible, and right there it's defined. It sets up the greatest study in all the Bible down there in the land of Shinar, which is Babel, which is Babylon, all the way through the Bible.

Genesis 13:13, first time sinner is found in the Bible. You've got to check it out, it defines it right there.

And then when you come to Genesis 14:4, you know what you find? You find the number 13 first time in your Bible.

Last week I gave you the number seven, and I showed you how that the number seven was God's number. You ever notice how that number seven is always supposed to be a lucky number? Well, what's the unlucky number? Well, if it's the number 13, you know why? Because the anti-part of that is the number 13, the devil's number. First time the number 13 shows up in your Bible, Genesis 14:4, and it talks about somebody rebelling in the 13th year. You know what the number 13 stands for in your Bible? It stands for rebellion, and it's the devil's number. Why? Because the devil rebelled against God back there in Genesis chapter 1.

You know the first type of antichrist in the Bible? You know who it is? It's in Genesis chapter 10. Its name is Nimrod. You know what Nimrod means? It means "son of rebellion." You ever studied genealogy in the Bible? You go to Genesis 10:10, you've got the first Gentile kingdom. The first type of antichrist is a man named Nimrod. Study his genealogy back from Adam, he's the 13th generation. Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah.

When the devil rebels against God back there in Genesis, what does he do? He takes a third of the angels. That's a one and a three. You ever read Deuteronomy chapter 13? You ought to. You know where Christ is betrayed in the New Testament? He's betrayed in John chapter 13. You know who betrays him? A man named Judas. In chapter 13, verse 26, two times 13, that's where it takes place. You ever studied Judas as a character? You ought to. 13 letters in his name. Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah.

You see, to me, the Bible is more than just a book that we just kind of play with. You go to Revelation 17:5, you find "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth." 13 words with 65 letters, five times. You see, it's a law, it's a law, it's a law, it's a rebellion. I'm telling you, the world runs by it. The world runs by it. We walk around saying, "Ooh, Friday the 13th," because 13th is supposed to be an unlucky number.

The Bible says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." 13, number of rebellion. So the United States rebelled against Great Britain. They did it with 13 colonies, a flag with 13 stars, and a flag that had a motto on it with a serpent that said, "Don't tread on me." 13 letters. It's a law, whether you believe it or not.

The Bible says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." Take out a dollar bill sometime, and over there you'll see on that pyramid over there, which goes back to the old Babylonian,

Egyptian, godless, forsaken stuff that comes through the Teutonic Knights into the Freemasons and gets stuck on your dollar bill: a pyramid with an all-seeing eye over top of it. Count them: 13 levels in that pyramid. It's a law, whether you believe it or not. You say, "I don't believe it." Well, you believe in gravity. We think all this pyramid power comes from today. It's all laid out in the Word of God.

Genesis 14:13, first time the word Hebrew shows up in the Bible. It's defined.

Genesis 15:2, the first time the word steward, as in stewardship, is found in your Bible. It's defined.

Genesis 22:2, first time the word love shows up in the Bible. See, this is where we get messed up. We think, "Love, God is love, God is love. Oh, I love God, He loves me, we go together under the apple tree. God, I love God." No, no. Love is defined right here in Genesis chapter 22. If you want to understand a definition of love, that's where it's at.

First time lamb is found in the Bible, Genesis 22:7. It does go along with the word love there all through the Bible.

But you see, that's the Law of First Mention. Follow the law, learn the Bible. Don't follow the law, never learn it.

Jumping over to Matthew, oh, there's so many in here, I don't have time to do it.

Matthew 28:6, first time Jesus is called Lord by the Holy Spirit of God. Now, there's people that call Him Lord, but in the Bible there's a narrative that is the Holy Spirit of God that tells the story and picks up the story when the guy who's giving the story wasn't there. The first time the Holy Spirit of God called Jesus Lord is Matthew 28:6. Brother, there is a biblical doctrinal reason for that, but you've got to pay attention, you've got to believe the law, you've got to obey the law.

Acts 6:5, first time the word Antioch shows up in your Bible. Most important city in all the world for Bible Christianity outside the city of Jerusalem.

Acts 11:26, the first time they're called Christians is in Antioch.

You see, that's a law. It's an absolute law in the Bible, and you cannot get away from it. That law, the Law of First Mention, will teach you more about the Bible and more about the things in life, because we're going to see how the laws all connect from spiritual to physical in just a minute.

III. The Law of Natural Creation

All right, let's talk about the second law. The second law is the Law of Natural Creation. Big debate in Kansas this last week over evolution versus intelligent design. You say, "Kansas won, Philadelphia lost." Kansas didn't win nothing. I'll tell you my own personal view on it is this: I don't really want some unsaved teacher teaching my kid about God. I'll teach my kid about God. When my kid goes to school, they will blow any science teacher off the pulpit when it comes to evolution versus the Bible. Now, that's my personal opinion.

Probably it'd be expressed, I don't want any teacher teaching my kid about evolution or about creation. I'll deal with that. The teacher believes it or doesn't believe it, it doesn't matter to me. You think I care? The Kansas school system doesn't teach the fact that God did anything. Whatever anybody in the Kansas school system even believes in God anymore. David said it, we were running the other day down in the nursery, "You know what? When I went to school," he says, "they just suspended you when you used God's name in vain. Now they suspend you when you just talk about God." See how it went? So it's gone.

I don't want some teacher up there coming in there and saying, "Let me teach you about God in the Bible." That is my job as a parent, and it's your job as a parent. Your kid goes to school, and a teacher gets up there and starts it. Now, if there's any questions about evolution, little Johnny, little Jack will put his hand up and say, "Yeah, I've got a couple questions. There's some holes in this thing, brother." "Now, Jack, what did you learn?" "I learned that from my Uncle Bob. I sang with him up front for many, many years. He'd never steer me wrong. And my mom and dad got that from him, and they taught it to me. And you know what? I believe them over you." "Jack, we're going to suspend you. You don't have any drugs, you don't have any guns, you don't have any knives, and you're not a terrorist, but you believe in God. Get out of here, Jack." That's where it's going to go. That's okay.

But you see, it doesn't make any difference. It's your job, it's my job. I heard somebody saying in Kansas last week, "Well, I think it's in everybody applaud. I think it's the school's job to teach evolution, and I think it's the church's job to teach creation." Everybody went, "Ooh." You know why churches won't teach creation? You know why they can't teach creation? It's tough to get up into your congregation and say, "God didn't evolve anything, or nothing evolved. It is God created and God made it perfectly," when every Sunday you get up in the pulpit and say, "You've got a Bible that keeps evolving. There's been 356 translations from 1900 to the time we live in today, and everybody gets up and says, 'This is better than this one, this is more accurate, this is more clearer, this is more better.'" If that ain't evolution, I don't know what is. You see how that thing works?

I'm telling you, the Bible teaches that God is a creationist.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

God's a creationist. You know, I told you Thursday night when Adrian asked that question, how I got into this and why I believe what I believe, and probably because of the way it happened, it probably hit me a stronger dose than the average Christian, given my personality, which is weird anyhow, and given what I got dumped on with and how I responded to it. It probably speaks for a fact of why I'm so the way I am when it comes to the Word of God. I don't ask any quarter, I don't give any quarter.

But I've always marveled. I never was someone that wanted, at that point it took place in my life, I never was someone to ever question the Bible again. I may not have understood it, and there

may have been things way over my head, but I came out of that time in my life and I said, "You know what? That's the book. That's the book. I'm not going to waste the rest of my life trying to correct it. I'm going to take the rest of my life and let it correct me and teach me in the process." And here I am, good or bad, here I am.

But I always marveled at that first verse in the Bible. I always marveled how that man would spend hours and hours and years and years and millions and millions and billions of dollars and generation after generation to try to get rid of God, and God only has to make one statement, gets rid of everything man does. You ever analyze Genesis 1:1?

In the beginning God...

There goes atheism, communism, and socialism right out the window.

In the beginning God created...

There goes evolution, cosmology, there goes the Big Bang, the encounter of theistic evolution, and the steady-state theory, all out the same garbage can.

In one verse, it stated that God created, and He wiped out the whole opposition. You know, every scientist in this world today believes that there are five properties in science. Science is built on the five basic properties of science. If you went to KU, if you went to MU, if you went to wherever you went to, they all would teach you the same thing: there are five properties of science. They are time, they are force, they are motion, they are space, and they are matter.

All right, let's test the thesis I just told you now, that the Bible is the book. Let's see if it works. We've got time, force, motion, space, matter.

In the beginning - there's time.

In the beginning God - there's force.

In the beginning God created - there's motion.

In the beginning God created the heaven - there's space.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth - there's matter.

You've got every five properties of science in the first verse of your Bible. That wipes out the opposition. Now, this is why I never took, I never really took evolution seriously once I got to that point in my life. We talked about this Thursday night when a kid asked that question. But along the line, I started, I told you a couple of weeks ago, once I got saved and once I really got the Bible into me, that nothing was going to shake me, nobody was going to rattle what I believe. Then I embarked in that second goal in my life of digesting everything.

One time I read a book by a guy, Dr. D.M. Watson. D.M. Watson was one of the most eminent scientists, physicists, in cosmology and all things. He is, but in his book, reading his book, suddenly the light came on of what the problem was. He said in his book, "We believe that evolution is true, not because it can be proven," and I'm quoting what he said, "but because God

is the only alternative, and that's not scientific." When I read that, I said, "That's the whole crux of the whole issue right there. That's it. That's it."

Then I watched that. I told you, man wants to be God. He will not be satisfied with God being God. He wants to be God. So he will get rid of God however he can. When he has another alternative, and the other alternative is God, and the position in his holdings is ridiculous, he will take it every time just because he hates God. That's where it works.

So I took that little piece of information and worked through it, and boy, I began to study some things. I remember one time I was watching a thing that said, and this is the big thing today, "What killed the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous period? Dinosaur life seemed to quickly, abruptly end. Now we are left with a couple of theories that are supported by the archaeological digs of our time. Never before in the history of man has archaeology come to such great understanding of the elements of which we don't understand, but we grasp in great truth, even though we don't know what we're talking about, at the end of the Cretaceous period."

Now, I'm listening to this. "The dinosaurs died suddenly." I watched a guy one time go for two hours and 45 minutes. He showed me how that here we have in these fossil studies, fossil studies, "What are fossil studies, doctor? Well, in the different strata levels, we find different fossils. And how do we know that? Well, you see these fossils here are the Cretaceous period. How long ago was that? That was 100 million years ago. Well, how do you know that that Cretaceous period and that strata is 100 million years old? Because look at the fossils we found in it. Well, how do you know that those fossils are 100 million years old? Well, young man, look at the strata we found it in." See how it works? In other words, "I'm as stupid as a post, and I don't want you to figure it out, so I'm going to verbize you with my verbiage. I'm going to use words like 'Cretaceous period.' I'm going to use words like 'paradox.' I'm going to use words like 'Triceratops,' and I'm going to use words like 'Velociraptor,' and I'm going to just impress you to pieces, so the fact that I'm speaking stupid passes over your head."

He said, "Now, here's an interesting thing." Oh, strata. I remember one time down there, it was about 1964, documented. They're digging down in Biloxi, Mississippi, to a strata level, and the scientists are saying, "We're reaching places where we've never reached before. We're now down at the 400 million year mark." Somebody said, "How do we know that?" "Look at the strata. That strata is 400 million years old." "Well, how do you know that?" "Look at the fossils we found in it." They dug down another 30 feet. "We've now entered into 500 million years ago when planet Earth, and now we're about to uncover some great discovery." The next morning they were digging down there, and clink, clink, clink, clink. You know what they dug up? A five-horsepower Johnson outboard motor. So much for your strata theory.

I began to watch these guys. I heard a guy say one time, "Well, here's a Velociraptor and a Triceratops that were locked in battle, and suddenly they were just wiped out, and they found them in their fossils still locked, engaged in combat." Somebody said, "Only one thing it could be: a meteor hit this planet, killed all the dinosaurs." Somebody said, "Now I'm reading all this." See, I'm reading all this. I'm walking along. Somebody's saying, "We found a woolly tooth mammoth. We found him up there frozen in the snow. He still had the stuff that he was eating."

That mammoth is 60 million years old. We found him in that strata, and that mammoth got in..." Somebody says, "Well, how did he die so quickly?" Somebody says, "Oh, I know, Dr. Feinsein, what do you think?" "I think that that mammoth was grazing, and he was overtaken by a glacier and frozen fast in the glacier." Somebody goes, "Dr., Dr., Dr., that's so good!" I'm reading, I'm saying, "Hmm, the fastest glacier in the world on record goes eight inches a year. That's a slow-moving mammoth, wasn't it?" See how it works?

Somebody said, "The sun is losing four million, excuse me, four billion, six hundred million tons of mass a second." I was in a class when a guy said this. "The sun, as we know it presently speaking, is losing four billion, six hundred million tons of mass a second. Now, the sun has been here, based on our ecological studies, and we know about evolution, at least 400 million years." Everybody goes, "Ooh!" Not me. You know what I do? A little pocket calculator. We don't... He said, "Four billion, six hundred million tons of mass a second, and it was for 400 billion years." You know what you get when you get done with the thing? Your calculator burns out there, you've got to go buy five sets of batteries. But you know what you get in the end if that's true? You get a sun that is bigger than our universe.

See, nobody says, nobody ever holds them accountable. Nobody ever brings them back to reality. It's just, "Oh, Dr., Dr., Dr.! Oh, thank you, Dr., Dr.! Oh, Dr., thank you! Oh, thank you, Dr.! Oh, we're both doctors! Oh, you're so smart! Yes, I am. You're not as smart as me. Oh, I know what I want to be." That's how it works. That's how it works. I'm telling you, that's how it works. They were going around that thing, and everybody was trying to do everything but say a flood. What would stop a Velociraptor and a Triceratops dead in their tracks? How about water coming down 775 feet a day? Genesis chapter 6. What would stop that old woolly mammoth dead in his tracks? How about water coming down six inches a minute, 42 feet an hour? "Oh, no, no, that's not scientific." Oh, I see. When your only alternative is God.

Somebody said, "Well, we know that this fossil is 50 million years old because of the carbon dating 14 by which we use." "Well, let me ask you something, doctor, how does that work?" "Well, we know that carbon has a dating, carbon has a half-life, and based on the composition of the atmosphere, it decays at a steady rate. So once we check that, we know how far..." "And so you're telling me then that carbon 14 is based on the atmosphere?" "In simple layman terms, yes, that's correct." "If there's any time that the atmosphere has ever been changed, wouldn't it throw it off?" "Well, certainly so." "Well, in my Bible, it's been changed four times since we're here right now, back to Genesis 1." That's why one time when they did a Pepsi bottle cap they found someplace, they came out to be 400 million years old. But then it is the real thing with Coke, I guess. You've got to just take those things what they are.

I'm telling you, I'm telling you, I'm telling you, you learn that kind of stuff, you get understanding. I'll tell you something else. Maybe you heard this this week, this week on the news, a big discovery in Megiddo Valley, Armageddon. What they found. I heard him on the news. They found, they probably, the oldest Christian church. Prisoners that were digging up here doing something, they uncovered a... and all the news media says, "This could be the most religious find since the bones of John the Baptist. This is going to be just an absolutely fine." And here we are, and it showed up in this big tile floor. And he says right there, and you know

what? You're watching it, you're a Christian, you kind of get your ear, and then you get the two kickers that tell you right where it's at. And I gave you the information. I don't know how many times, you know, the thing from what's in that thing up there, and I've got one ear turned to it, you know, and I'm listening to that thing, and as soon as I heard those two points, I just went, "Haha!" Turn it over to a spaceman from Galactica 2-1 or something like that.

It said, "We found the oldest Christian church. All Christian world is standing on edge just waiting because of some new revelation." And he said, "Yes, this church goes back to the third century, and right in the middle is an image of a fish that was used by the early Christians." Sorry, you just took that early church and showed me it was one of Constantine's fakery's that he put down there in 313 when he was coming down there and trying to make Jerusalem Christian because he wanted to make the Roman Catholic Church the kingdom of the world. So we'll throw that right out the window. See, those things are laid out for you in the Bible, just as the laws. They fit. You can't get away from it.

Now, when I say the Law of Natural Creation, I mean this:

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

You know what he's saying? He's saying that God made everything after Himself. Here's how it worked. Break it down simple for you. Before Genesis 1:1, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were having a little time out, and God was saying, "I'm going to create. Here's my plan." And everybody said, "That's a great plan." So they walked out on the balcony of heaven, looked down through the endless eons of space, and God says, "Well, we're going to make this thing today, boys." And a couple of angels were standing around there and said, "Well, Lord, you've got a plan." "God's got a plan." Somebody said, "You've got an architectural plan, or you just going to kind of wing it?" God said, "No, I've got a perfect model and a perfect plan."

"Well, the angel says, 'Well, God, if you've got a perfect pattern and you're going to make this thing perfectly, and you're going to make it after a pattern or something that is perfect, the only thing I know is perfect, God, is You.'" God said, "You get some 20 points. You've got some friends in purgatory, we'll get them out this afternoon because of that statement." He said, "You know what? That's right. I'm going to make the universe after a pattern of Me." And what's God? God the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

So number three in your Bible is the order of natural creation. Everything that God makes, He makes by a system and a pattern of threes. Everything God made it all naturally after Himself as the pattern. Let's see if it works.

So God gave us time. You know what time is? It's past, present, and future.

God made man. Man is a body, soul, and spirit.

God made matter. Matter is source, generation, position.

He made reality. That's time, matter, and space.

He made the earth. The earth is made up of three things: the land, the air, and the sea.

He put three kingdoms: animal, vegetable, and mineral.

He made a sun that gets off of three types of rays: X-rays, light rays, heat rays.

Electricity is positive, negative, and neutral.

Music is harmony, rhythm, and melody.

A family is a father and a mother, but it's not complete till it gets the third part, which is the child.

And the answer is yes, maybe, or no.

And every problem in math is not complete till it gets the third part, because three is the number of completion in your Bible, the order of creation that God made it.

Let's see if it works in the Bible. When God gave you a Bible, He gave you a book of 66 books. It breaks down chapters, verses, and words. That's how it goes. Your Bible has three applications: inspirational, doctrinal, and history. Historically, you have an Old Testament, a New Testament. "Ah, it's incomplete." No, no. John chapter 1 says, "He was, and He was, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." There's an incarnate Word, that's Christ. He makes up the third.

Old Testament is broken down around the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

New Testament broken down by the Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistles.

The Old Testament has Moses, Elijah, and Elisha.

The New Testament has Peter, Paul, and John, or Peter, James, and John.

The world is made up of Jews, Gentiles, and Christians.

And in the book of Revelation, you have a new heaven, new earth, and a new Jerusalem.

And I think the expression is, "Third time's the charm." You see, creation in the natural order of creation is a law. It's an absolute law, and it builds on it. The Bible is the greatest scientific book the world has ever seen.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus wanted to go out and find the new world. Nobody in his own country would do it. He finally found Queen Isabel and King Ferdinand of Spain. The reason why nobody wanted to do it is because the greatest scientific minds back then were teaching that the world was flat. Of course, they were using the same circular reasoning that they use for the strata. "Here's the strata, 400 million years old." "How do you know what it is?" "There's the fossil." "How do you know that fossil for you could the strata?" So here's what they were doing, great scientific endeavors. They were walking out to the beach and they saw the end of the water and they were saying, "You see how flat it is out there? You keep sailing out there, you're going

to go right off the edge." That was a great scientific world, that was a great scientific theories of the world during that particular time.

And you know what? The writer of Isaiah in Isaiah 40:22, 800 years before, excuse me, 1800 years before that took place, told you the Bible was round. See, Ecclesiastes 1:6 talks about the wind going about by circuits. They didn't even know that till 1800. Now we've got a weather Wally and a weatherman and Brian Busby who make their life by talking about the circular wind patterns and talk about the area of it's not at the airport that will tell you the prevailing circuits of the winds, which the wisest man that ever lived in Ecclesiastes 1:6 told you in 1000 BC.

In 1800, they defined, they decided and figured out what the water cycle was, that is, condensation, evaporation, and all of that. Solomon laid that out in Ecclesiastes 1:7. You know the FBI found out about fingerprints? They found it out back there about 1900, and what the FBI didn't, but they started to work with it. The FBI perfected it, and a guy back around 1901, 1950, began to figure out that maybe man's fingerprint was different. Job 37:6 told you that back there in Abraham's time, 1998 BC. Also told you every snowflake was different.

I mean, it was Job that talked about the fact that you found fresh water in the sea. They didn't know that till 1900. It was Job that talked about the light never stopped, that it's always moving. They didn't know that till they got the theory of Einstein with the theory of relativity and the speed of light. Job 38 talked about a spectroscope that laid out the different part of the light. They didn't know that till 1920. Job, book of Job, down around Job chapter 38 talks about something looked like a telegraph and a telephone, somebody picking up and sending lightning to talk.

You know, back in the medieval time, when you were sick, the first thing they did is let blood out of you, and when they let blood out of you, it killed you. They called it bloodletting. Their doctors back then, when you went in to see them, he said, "Doctor, I don't feel good. I've been really feeling good for the last month." You know what he said? He said, "You've got bad blood." So what they did is they, every doctor kept a big old bowl of leeches, and they put four or five leeches on your arm. Leeches sucked out the blood, and that's how they thought you would get better because your blood was bad. You say, "Which is true, your blood is bad, that's why you're dying." But somebody came along about the middle 1800s and says, "Hey, I read in the book of Leviticus, 'The life of the flesh is in the blood.'" And that's where we got blood transfusion from this old archaic dead book that isn't very scientific. Everybody in the hospital that goes into the trauma unit right now gets their life saved because of blood transfusion, gets saved because a Bible believer back there figured it out in Leviticus 17:11.

I mean, it just doesn't... You've got high cholesterol? Check out Psalms 119:70. It'll fix you up. It's all in there. Why? Because that Bible, that natural creation, is an absolute law, and you can't get around it. God made it after an order of Himself, a perfect orderly system. Evolution doesn't enter into it. Evolution is absolutely ridiculous when it comes to it, and it comes at a place where it doesn't even figure in. You know what the alternative to evolution is? God. And no man who hates God and hates the Word of God and hates the things of God because he wants to be God is going to buy into that. That's what you've got.

Now, when you understand that the second law is the Law of Natural Creation, it opens up the whole scriptures. It shows you that everything, everything that God did, He did after a simple pattern of three, because He's the perfect pattern. That's why you've got three heavens in 2 Corinthians chapter 12. That's why God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

That's why Malachi 4:2 says that at the second coming of Christ, "the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings," talking about the second coming of Christ. But in Malachi 4:2, it's not son S-O-N, it's spelled sun S-U-N. You know why? Because when God made that sun, He made that sun as a perfect picture of Himself. You know the sun gets off three types of rays: X-rays, light rays, heat rays. X-rays invisible, you can't see them. God the Father, God is a spirit, we must worship in spirit and truth. Light ray, Jesus Christ, He was the visible appearance of the invisible God. Heat rays, can't see them, feel them, type of the Holy Spirit of God.

Don't tell me, man. I read your books. I read your thesis. I read your great spiritual scientific dissertations. I know all about it. You ain't going to kid me, man. I know that when God built this sun and put it in the middle of the universe, the sun's a source of life for this planet, and I know that God the Father is a source of life for this planet.

I'll tell you something else. You stand out there and somebody says, "Oh, there's a great look at the moon. The moon, how bright the moon is tonight! Boy, the moon is really shining." The moon doesn't shine, it reflects light. Sorry, Job 25:5. You see, that moon's the type of the Christian. That's a type of the sun, the type of God the Father. You don't shine by your own glory, you reflect the light of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Science says, "Aren't you excited? Big eclipse coming up next week!" What's an eclipse? That's when the earth comes in between the sun and the moon and the moon goes dark. No, no, no, no. That's a picture of a Christian out of fellowship. Anytime the world comes in between you and your Father, your light goes out. Sell it to somebody else. I know there's some laws, and those laws are natural laws, and those laws work.

IV. The Law of Natural Division

All right, the third law will be the last one we'll get today. We're in good shape this morning. The third law, the Law of Natural Division. Now, this is the law that when violated, basically... Now, the first two we've looked at will teach you a lot about God, and of course, if you violate them, you won't learn anything about God, and it's why the world runs the way that it runs and why all the weird concepts are out there. But this one, this is the one that this will stop God's people dead in their tracks, and this is called the Law of Natural Division. We've seen the Law of First Mention, we've seen the Law of Natural Creation. Now we're going to look at the Law of Natural Division.

Now, in this law, when it's violated, as I said, it stops you and me dead in our tracks. You don't go very far in your Bible till you see this truth. Genesis 1:4 says it's the first time you find the word "divided" in your Bible. Law of First Mention, going back to the previous law, see how these laws work together? First time you find the word "divide" in your Bible is Genesis 1:4, and

Genesis 1:4 it says, "God divided the light from the darkness." You know what? That's the theme of all mankind, the theme of the Bible from that point on.

Now, that light and darkness isn't sunlight, as I said earlier. The sun's not even created till the fourth day. No, no, this is something else. This is two people's glory. One of them's God's glory, the other one's the devil's glory. And the Bible says, "The light shineth in darkness," or that God divided the light from the darkness. That theme is all the way through the Bible.

When John writes in John chapter 1, he says this:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Genesis 1:4. See, when he wrote 1 John chapter 1, he says:

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Right back to Genesis 1:4. You see, the first thing God divided was Him from the world, Him from the devil, light versus darkness. That's a law.

So, don't you know that God... I mean, all the way through the Bible in Matthew chapter... and this is our problem.

For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

He says that when Jesus came, He says, "I didn't come to put everybody together." He said, "I came to divide everybody out." You know what Hebrews 4:12 says? The seven things I gave it to you last week the Word of God does for you. First thing it, one of the things it does is divide the soul and the spirit. God never can put anything together till He first divides it. That's a law.

Now, some of you show me you have unsaved husbands or unsaved wives that don't want to come to church with you, and you struggle with that, and I know that's true. I tell you what, it's not because they're not good people. They are, they're good people. They're just going to have to take some time to settle in. Maybe this is all new to them. Maybe they never had anybody really love them or teach them the Bible. Maybe they're a little afraid. It doesn't make any difference. They're good people, and we keep praying for them, and all I want to do is show them that I legitimately love them and I'm here for them to help them. I know how life is tough. I know how tough it is. But there's one that can even be a better friend to them than me, and that's the Lord Jesus Christ, and I just want to show them that.

But let me say this to you, this is when I tell you, when I say that sometimes God has to divide it before He puts it together. Sometimes you have to go home to your husband or you have to go home to your wife and you have to say, "Man, I had a great Bible study." And he'll say, "Well, I don't know why you've got to keep going to that stupid Bible study." "Well, I don't know why you've got to spend all your time at church," and you're not. But you see, you know what the Word of God has done? It divides. And God always divides before He puts it back together. That's a law. That's a law.

When I got saved, God had to divide my thinking from the way I thought to another way to think. And once I started thinking that way, He made me complete. I said it over and over again, you may be the greatest, you may be the only person in your marriage or your family or whatever, you may be the only person that God can reach down inside and get that person saved. And you just got to understand that before God puts it together, He divides it. And He does that for a reason and for a purpose, because in doing that, it makes a person think.

You see, many, many times—and you learn this over the years—many, many times when you deal with people, one of the things to get people to think in rational terms is to make them mad. Because in getting mad, they're forced to evaluate their position, and they're left with a conclusion how stupid their position is. And that's how God does it sometimes. It doesn't work for everybody that way, but there are people that it does. And you just got to realize that when those things take place, it's part of the dividing process. God has brought Christianity and the Word of God into your family. Your wife or your husband is not for it at this particular point, and God uses that point of conflict to break them down to show them the difference.

And you know what? It just simply is, you have to be faithful and pay that price to reach that person for Christ. You know what? It doesn't stop there. Once you get your husband saved or your wife saved and you start learning the Bible and they start seeing how Christianity is everything in life, then you're going to go out and start witnessing to your friends. You know what it's going to do? It's going to divide you from your friends. You're going to go to work the next day instead of having a Playboy magazine, you're going to have your Bible. You know what it's going to do? It's going to divide you. You're going to do this, you're going to do that, and you're going to start to tell people the story of Christ, and the first thing it's going to do is going to divide you.

And it simply is that God always divides it before He puts it together. And while He divides it, you're the person that He wants to put in there to hold the line, and you've got to take the hit. You say, "How do you take that hit?" You understand the hit that He took for you when God divided Himself from His Son on that cross, and He took the hit for you. That's the way He does it. He divides it before He puts it back together. So take the hit. Learn to take the hit. Learn to take it. Learn to take it.

And that's the problem we face. That's the problem we're in as Christians. As Christians, we're in a world that wants to get everybody together, and we're preaching a Bible that wants to divide everything before it gets together. That's the controversy. This whole thing of "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, just all get everybody together, and all the faith get together, all the religion get together,

and everybody's saying, 'Hold hands, sing around a fire, Kumbaya,' and it's just all get together." It will not work. It's light versus darkness, light versus darkness.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

You can't. You know why? Because it's a law. It's a law. The greatest example that... Now here's another key: when you find a law in the Bible, you'll find an example in the Bible that supports the case law. Like going into a trial, here's a law, so what do you do? You go back and you find a case that proves the law. Okay, Bible does the same thing. And the case that proves the law in this case would be the study of the life of Abraham and Lot. Genesis chapter 12 through Genesis chapter 19. At a net store, you find where God called Abraham out. He says, "I want you to go to a land that nobody's ever been before. I'm going to sustain you in it, but I'm dividing you out. Abraham, leave everything and everybody behind. Come out of that system. Go with Me. Leave everything else there." He didn't do it. He brought Lot with him. Lot was a source of contention all the way down through it. Why? "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" It's a law. It's a law. It's a law.

The law is you can't have one foot in the world and one foot with God at the same time. It's a law, and God's people for the end of eternity think they can beat that law, and you can't. You know another word for the word "divide" in your Bible is the word "sanctified" or "sanctification." I mean, you can go through 1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:2, a thousand of them. And that concept of sanctified or sanctification means that you and I, the day we got saved, got set apart. What do we get set apart from? Light and darkness. Genesis 1:4. The day you and I got saved, we got separated from light and darkness. We sing the song, "Out of the darkness into the light, Jesus I come, Jesus I come." That's the division.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Now, traditionally we use this as that saved people should not marry unsaved people, and that's true. Somebody says, "Why is that?" Because it's a union of light and darkness, and if you're going to try to fulfill for Christ and you marry somebody who is not, you're going to have trouble because the devil is going to get into the details, and you'll see, it won't work.

But it goes beyond that. It says, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Now there it is. Now what? He breaks this down. "Fellowship hath righteousness,"

there's God, "with unrighteousness," there's the devil. "And what communion hath light," there's God, "with darkness," there's the devil.

Now he gets more specific. Verse 15: "And what concord"—that's an old English phrase, means "together," we use the word "concourse," bridges one to the other—"and what concord hath Christ with Belial?" Old Testament name for the devil, out of the book of Judges and Samuel. "Or what part hath he that believeth," there's a child of God, "with an infidel?" Unsaved person. "And what agreement hath the temple of God," there's your body, "with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore," because of everything I just said, verse 17, "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

And I'm telling you, the day you got saved, God sets you apart, and you have been divided from light to darkness. This law and the violation of this law will destroy you as a Christian. It'll make you naked at the judgment seat of Christ. It'll come to the place where it will absolutely destroy your relationship with God. You know why? Because the law says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" You can't serve God and mammon. You just, "No man can serve two masters." You've got to decide, it's either going to be God or it's going to be the devil. It's as simple as that. It's as simple as that.

I'll tell you what, I've sat down with a young person, and you know, that gotten saved, or young man or anybody, and I've said, "Look, son, look, sweetheart, you can't hang out with that crowd anymore. You can't hang out with that crowd anymore. That crowd is going to tear apart everything God tried to do. That crowd is going to... I'm going to see you on Sunday, and I'm going to see you on Thursday, and I'm going to give you Bible principles, and then you hang out with that group, you know what they're going to do? They're going to pickpocket you of every principle God gave you all the rest of the week, and you're going to wonder why at the end of the week you are broke spiritually." I'm telling you, it's a law. It's an absolute law.

A guy said to me one time, "Well, I just don't know if I can leave my friends." You know what? You just start living what's right, you'll find out who your friends really are. They'll leave you. And I'll just put it to you as best I know how: any friend in this world that you let rob you of what God got you at a judgment seat of Christ and Him being a better friend, you're an idiot. And I don't like the word idiot, but I'm using it. I have many a gal is going to wind up at a judgment seat of Christ and lose everything she got because she traded that for Bozo the Clown. Yeah, I don't have any regrets. I tell him, "Dump him if he's not going to do what's right. If he's not going to be your spiritual leader, drop him like a bad habit. Don't trade everything God's got for you for him." Same way with a gal, a guy for a gal.

And I'm not being cruel, I'm just understanding there's a day coming. I know what the Bible says.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

End of sentence. That was written in 1000 BC by the wisest man that ever lived. Walk with wise people. Iron sharpeneth iron. You know, I like all you guys. You know, I like hanging out with you guys because when you love God, you love the Word of God, we just help each other. And I know you think I don't need help, but I do. I know you think I'm above struggles like you go through, but I'm not. When some of you guys come up and put your arm around me or I put my arm around you and we just tell each other we love each other, or I see you for the first time and you brighten my day, let me tell you something, it's an encouragement to each other because iron sharpeneth iron.

You see, this church isn't about that, you know, "I'm the pastor way up here and you're way down here, and you're just a bunch of little microorganisms, you know, all you do is feed the system." No, we're in the last days of the last great battle of this last desiccated church age. We're all in the same foxhole. We all eat the same mud. We all carry the same weapons. We all cover each other's back, and we all hang together. And either we die and we stand for God together, or we're going to die one at a time.

We're like, we're all on a great pleasure cruise. We're all having the fun of our life, holidays, and then you know what? A great iceberg just sank our luxury cruise. So now we're all in the same lifeboat. Survival isn't based on, "I'm going down to the kitchen to see what's in the smorgasbord." Boat survival isn't based on, "I'm going down to the kitchen to see what's in the smorgasbord. Oh, tonight is steak and crab leg night." Those days are gone. We're in a lifeboat. We've got one thing to digest and feed on, this thing right here. And you know what? Everybody has to row. Everybody has to watch out for the other. When somebody goes overboard, you've got to jump in after them. You've got to do everything you can do. We don't have the luxury in these last days because the devil as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

And that's why from day one I told you, I don't care who you are, I don't care what you are, I don't care where you've been, I don't care what you've done. If you want to learn that book, jump in my foxhole, I'll show you how to survive. But I need your help as much as you need mine. It ain't a one-way street. We're in this together. But it's a law. "How can two walk together, except they be agreed?" You can't.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

He's not talking about people there, he's talking about the works of darkness, the things that unsaved people do. Oh, I'm telling you, my friend, that's where we're at today, and this is the law. If there's any law that will mess up a child of God and a young Christian quicker than anything, it is the violation of this law because you don't understand it.

I have unsaved people that are friends. I have unsaved people that are my close friends. But you know what? There's a line drawn, and I don't cross that line. I stay on this side of the line. I'll be their friend. I will love them. I will do what I can do to help them. If they're moving, I'll help them. If they're doing this or that, if they've got something in their yard that needs fixed, I'll help them. I'll do whatever I can, but I won't cross that line. Somebody says, "Why not?" It's a law. And I know I'm not invincible. I know that no man or no woman is. And I know that when we think we are, and we think we can keep one foot in the world and one foot with God, it will not

work. And you're going to find out in a stark reality at the judgment seat of Christ when you look back and you see what you traded for what He had for you, all because of the violation of law.

And in that day it won't be, "Oh, gee, gee, Bob, how this happened? She preacher, I don't understand it." No, no, you'll understand exactly how it happened. You'll understand exactly how it happened. You'll see Him with the nail scars in His hand. You'll see Him with every lance on His back. You'll see Him with everything, and you'll understand in its full entirety everything that He did for you, everything that He paid for you, the price that was paid, the mission that He had for you, the calling that He had for you, the blessing that He had for you. And you'll look at your life in a minute time with everything that God did for you, everything that God has for you, everything that God wanted to do for you, and then suddenly the reality of what you traded it for. Like I said Thursday night, some of God's people are going to trade the King of Kings for the king of beers. Don't understand it. I'm telling you, it's a law. It's a law.

We get this funny idea, you know, that we can keep... You know what the Bible says in Matthew 12:30? Jesus Himself said:

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

It says, "If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 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."

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

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.

You see, it's a law. It's a law. Well, every head bowed and every eye closed. Those first three laws. We've got four more to go. We'll be into them next week. Already you can see how they work. Already you can see the absoluteness of them.