

1 Timothy 3:16

Sunday 12/11/2005

I. Introduction to the Bible Believer Series

I wrote a whole series of Bible teaching messages which I called the Bible Believers Series. It was basically a systematic walkthrough of all the material that we are getting here now. Those of you that remember those days, remember we started out with the "How to Study the Bible" material. I brought you through basically how to lay the Bible out and how to put it all together. That is where we are at today and what we are trying to do here, not just today, but where we have come from in the last time of our church together: the importance of really trying to lay out the Word of God and help you get a grasp on it.

One of the things I want to talk to you about and I want you to think through here is, in learning the Bible, you have got to come to the point where in your own personal time, you begin to really focus on some strategic aspects of the Word of God. I meet with a lot of you throughout the week and we get a lot of things done. It has been a good litmus test, so to speak, for me to see how you are progressing. Some of you are still in discipleship; that is great and you are doing really well. Some of you need to be disciplined and that is great and we will get that taken care of. But some of you are ready, and even the ones that are being disciplined at this point, some of you are ready for that next step.

I ponder this and ponder this and ponder this. I thought to myself, "How is the best way to do this?" The Lord has put on my heart a unique way to help. My goal is this, and this is impossible, but this is my goal: My goal is to spend quality time with every one of you in helping you put the Bible together. I know that that is not logistically possible, and maybe with your schedules that is not possible, though we have contact in everything that we do. You come Sunday morning, you come Thursday night, and through those two things, many of you start to put it together.

But I had to think of a way and I got it worked out. I have got it. Come in January, I am going to talk to you about a program for everybody that wants to begin to really get a systematic way of putting the Bible out. We are not just going to be potholding it from here and here and here and getting concepts. We start together and everybody works together on this and I will begin to show you how to lay that Bible out so that every month you make a sustained progress in putting your Bible together, in addition to what I am giving you on Sunday morning and what I am giving you on Thursday night. It will work. I have got a few test cases out there and it looks like everything is going just the way I want it. I am just going to take the rest of this month and then we are going to open it up in January for those that want to do it. It will not be one of these things one time only; it will be something that we will do on a regular basis because it is going to be so easy to do and yet it is going to be absolutely profound in what it does in your life.

What I will do is this: In the beginning of January, or sometime into this month or beginning of January, maybe we will start New Year's Eve, I do not know. But what I will do is I will get a list of people that are interested in doing that. I will have you over at the house. I will explain the process. If we get a bunch of people, then we will have two meetings and I will explain the

process. Then we will start from there, those that want to do it. I think it will be an absolute thing that is missing. I say this all the time and you tell me this all the time: When you sit down to read the Bible and study the Bible, many of you are lost for what you are looking for. You just do not have the understanding yet and that is what I want to give you. We will talk about that more as we go through and I will show you how we are going to do it.

Now I am going to tell you right up front, it is nothing that is supernatural. It is just a simple process that I have thought through that will work. I took a lot of things that I did in my own life. I looked at where we are at today and I said, "You know what? If you tweak this here and you shave this off here and you build this into this thing here, this thing will work." And that is what we are going to do. It will be something that anybody, no matter where you are at, can begin to get that process done. Otherwise, you are going to spend the rest of your life just grabbing something here, grabbing something there, and it will help solidify where we are going as a body of believers. So that is where we are at.

II. The Importance of Doctrine

Well, today we are going to start another important study. Last week, you remember, I brought you through and I talked to you about the seven great awakenings and the seven counterfeits. That was a major piece of the puzzle of your spiritual life with God and being able to deal with people. That one aspect right there will give you more insight into why things are the way they are. We took a very, very steady pace in it. We laid it out very methodical and came through it. That material now forms the basis from which you are going to build on the rest of your life as far as understanding why things are the way they are, especially in America. If I had the time, I could take that same format and I could show you that same process through the continent of Europe. It is a natural process that goes all through history. Obviously, we localized it last week and showed you America because that is where we live. For you to work with people and deal with people on the level that you want to get to, you have got to have that material. So that is, but you could do it anywhere, and in time we will get to all of that.

But today we are going to start, and up to this point now, it has pretty much been a foundational thing. It has been giving you some background, giving you some insight, giving you some things that you needed. And now today we are going to start the bulk of our study as far as teaching you the great doctrines of the Bible. We are going to start the study of the seven mysteries today. I cannot emphasize how important this study is and the rest of the studies that we are going to take. I call this, as I said earlier, my Bible Believing Study, the Bible Believer Study on the Seven Mysteries.

The process of learning the Bible and learning Bible doctrine, that is the key. You have heard me say many, many times, you have heard me quote 2 Timothy chapter 3, verse 16 and 17, so you are probably sick of it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

You have heard me say that over and over and over again. The main ingredient that you and I have to have, what we have to have in our lives, what we have to have first, is doctrine. Doctrine has to be the foundation from which everything else is built on. Doctrine, you have heard me say it many, many times, and I do not mean to belabor the point, but doctrine is simply the Bible laying out for you and for me what is right versus what is wrong. Doctrine is the key to your survival.

Doctrine has been taken from the body of Christ today. Doctrine has been put as a secondary or a third, certainly a side issue, because we are interested in building churches. We are interested in getting large groups of people together in buildings that we look at and we talk about how we are in competition with everybody else in the community to build big churches and all of that, and fill them up with people and all of those concepts. So what we have had to do to accomplish that, we have had to lessen our preaching. We do not preach on hell anymore. We do not preach on the great doctrinal things that will separate people because we want everybody to get together. We have learned from our study that God's main function is not getting everybody together. God's main function is dividing everybody out, then taking the remnant and doing something with that.

So at the get-go, you need to understand that Old Paz Baptist Church is going to be on the outside looking in as far as the norm is in Bible Christianity, and it is. That is where I want to be. I do not want to be in the mainstream. I want to be the oddball out. I have always been an oddball out and I continue to stay that way because it is nice out there. You will like it after a while.

But the process of learning Bible doctrine is simple. In Isaiah chapter 28, you do not have to even turn to it because that is not where we are going. You can write it down and look it up later. I just want to give you some of these things. Isaiah chapter 28, verses 9 through 13, shows us the process. It says this:

Isaiah 28:9-13

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

The process is simple. The process of learning Bible doctrine is easy. You lay a foundation. That foundation is the day you get saved. You look at your life as a temple of God. A temple has to be made with building materials, in other words, building blocks of the Christian life. The building blocks of the Christian life will be the precepts of the Word of God. Notice it talks about somebody starting and being weaned from the milk. That is where young Christians start. Young Christians start with discipleship. Young Christians get the basic concepts of the Bible. But we wean you from that in time. Then we build upon that foundation, precepts. Precepts are Bible teachings. When you take a number of Bible precepts and put them together, you have Bible doctrine.

Bible doctrine is just like any wall you have seen. Any cement wall that you ever saw a Mason put up, he never put the bricks in a straight line. He interlocks them with the other bricks, and that makes the wall stronger. What the seven mysteries do, along with the seven resurrections, along with the seven judgments, along with all the other seven series that we are going to go through, what they begin to do is interlock the precepts. It forms a safety net, a Bible doctrine from which you will never fall through.

This is what is wrong with American Christianity today. If you ask the average Christian that has been saved five years or longer—you know, I always give everybody five years—but if you took the average Christian five years along, if you took the average pastor, any pastor in this city, and asked him what the seven mysteries were and what the importance of them were to the church, he would have no idea. The average Christian has no idea. The average pastor, pastoring and preaching in his pulpit this morning in Kansas City, who has been charged with the responsibility of systematically teaching his people the Bible, has no earthly idea of what the seven mysteries are to the body of Christ.

Yet in light of that, the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 4, verse 1 and 2, it says:

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

He is talking to somebody who needs to be accountable as a minister of Christ. You can put everybody in the pulpit in Kansas City in there today, and he says, "and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." What he is saying in that verse is that if you account yourself as a minister of Christ, someone who is a pastor, someone who teaches, we are admonished and told to be stewards of the mysteries. And of course, here lies the problem. We as pastors, we as teachers of the Word of God, are to be stewards, and we are to be faithful stewards in teaching the mysteries that are laid out in the Word of God.

Here lies the problem: As far as I am concerned, based on what the Word of God said, it is the unfaithful stewards—the pastors, the teachers, the preachers of the Word of God—that have been unfaithful in these concepts, that has led to the demise of not only Christianity, but the demise of every country on the face of planet Earth.

Now, you saw how last week I gave you the seven great awakenings, and how God moved across this country. We tied in the laws that I already gave you: the law of first mention, the law of human collapse. I showed you through all that process how that man, you and me, left to ourselves, will always wind up on the bottom. If God does not inject Himself into us, into our church, into our country, into society, what you are seeing in America today is a country that has basically been left alone by God, and she has been left to her own devices. Yet you hear a lot about God, you hear a lot about Christianity, you hear a lot about this and a lot about that, but none of it has anything to do with the Bible.

The demise of every country, no country on the face of this planet, in the light of what I showed you last week that has happened in America, no country on the face of this planet ever went Catholic, ever went communist, ever went liberal, ever went into humanism, until the men that were entrusted with the Word of God to preach it, departed from that book and went somewhere else. When that takes place, doctrine goes. Doctrine goes. This is the reason why there is so much confusion with Christians in the Bible today.

I know Christians, I know Christians that today, bless their heart—and if you are one of these, I am here to help you, and I am not really talking about you because you are here—but I know Christians that have been saved all their lives, who still today have a troubled time in their life with their eternal security. Now, I just have to say this to you: Eternal security, knowing that you are eternally secure when you are saved, is probably the most basic, fundamental teaching doctrine in the Bible. The kids down there in our Sunday School class, when they hit nine or ten years old, understand that concept. Why are God's people so absolutely confused about it? I will tell you why: Because if you do not go through and understand the mysteries, the study of these systematic seven series forms a safety net of Bible doctrine that you grow up never being confused about the basic issue.

I want to tell you something: If you are not sure you are saved, you are never going to do anything meaningful for God. The whole crux of your serving God has to be based on you are absolutely sure if you get a bullet in the head, you are going to heaven. That is why all these great religions—we talked about them last week—all these great religions, all these American cults that get into these foreign countries, and immediately when the country goes into civil war, immediately when the country goes into, you know what these churches do? They pull out every one of their missionaries. The Mormons pack up and head out. The Jehovah's Witnesses suddenly decide they are not part of the 144,000 anymore, and home they come. The only ones that stay in those countries are the preachers and the teachers who understand that if they get killed in the process of preaching, that is what it is all about. Every other of those religions do not believe in eternal security. They do not know for sure. They all think they can lose their salvation. So when push comes to shove and the communists come in and they start rounding up Christians and they start putting them up against the wall, they head for home. You know why? Because what they have really does not carry them through to the end. What you should have, what you have, should. It should.

Of course, that is the difference. This is why so many people are confused about baptism. They are confused about tongues, healing. They are confused about how to view the nation of Israel, or

the deity of Christ. They have no clue about what is amillennialism versus postmillennialism. I want to tell you something: These are the basics of the Bible. They are not deep. When you teach doctrine, and you teach doctrine from the Bible right, from a young Christian getting saved, bringing them right through the process, these are the things that you learn and understand. They are key. This is why seven American cults gain so much ground when they are so absurd in their concepts and what they believe, because God's people today do not have a clue who they are, why they believe what they believe, and in many cases do not even know what to believe.

We make a lot to do about the Catholics. We talk about how the Catholics, and Baptists are forever blasting them and saying, "Well, you know what, them Catholics are so stupid, those people. How could anybody just believe what any man gets up there and tells them? How stupid it is to think that they worship Mary, or they do this, or they do that. How can somebody be so dumb?" They are dumb the same way most Baptists are dumb. Baptists do not open up their Bibles and study it for themselves any more than Catholics do. That is why it may be two different religions. One may be right and one may be wrong, but the end result is the same: confusion, confusion, confusion.

I understand why all this is. I understand. My job is to cut down the confusion level as much as I can. But I understand why it happens. I also understand how to fix it. I know that if you are ever going to be what God wants you to be, it is going to have to come from the aspect of you beginning to learn doctrine. You learn doctrine by coming through the natural series of sevens that God has put as theology, systematic theology, in His Bible. God has given you seven mysteries. Those seven mysteries will put together all the basics that you need to know. You are going to see those seven mysteries begin to lay out a doctrinal line like this, then another doctrinal teaching like this, and then another doctrinal line is going to come down here, and then one is going to come sideways, and one is going to come at an angle. When you are done, you are going to have 30 or 40 Bible doctrines cross-crossing themselves and laying themselves out, showing you how they work together. The end result is you come away with a safety net of Bible doctrine.

III. The First Mystery: The Mystery of Godliness

The first mystery we are going to look at is found in 1 Timothy chapter 3, verse 16. So take your Bibles and turn there. While you are turning there, I am going to pray.

Lord, I pray You will bless us today as we come to Your Word. We love You. We ask Your Father to give us wisdom and insight into all that we have to do today. Help us to learn this mystery and help us to apply it to our hearts and our lives. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for the sake we ask it. Amen.

Now our first mystery is found in 1 Timothy chapter 3, verse 16. Great verse. This is mystery number one. There are seven of them. I am told as a pastor to be a steward of these mysteries. That is why I am teaching them to you. Four or five years from now, I will teach them again. Four or five years after that, we will go through it again. You see, I understand that I am to be faithful in that. That is my job. My job is to take you through and lay these things out. I have

done it with a number of you individually, and now you are going to have to sit through it again. I know it is an agonizing thing, but you are going to have to do it.

Now here is what we have got. It says this:

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

All right. The first mystery is called the mystery of godliness. "And without controversy," you see, there is no controversy about this. "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness." Now this mystery of godliness is the first mystery we are going to look at, and it is simply this: God becoming man. God becoming man. This deals with the fundamental base of the whole Bible: the deity of Christ.

The first thing that the devil attacked, the first thing that the devil attacked when Christ showed up, was His deity. If there is one major malfunction the nation of Israel had when Christ showed up, it was the fact that He claimed to be God. Every time He claimed to be the Son of God, they went through the roof, because the claim of being the Son of God would make Him equal with God and would make Him the fulfillment of the prophecy that God would come to the nation of Israel. They could not handle that. The devil had done his work. The devil had done his work.

Now you might be already saying when I said this, "Well, you know what, Bob, who does not know that? Who does not know the fact that Christ came down and became a man?" Well, I will tell you something. I am going to tell you. Here is what you have got to know: If you have any other Bible than the King James 1611, God is taken out of that verse. The deity of Christ is the foundation. Let me just tell you something, boys and girls: If Jesus Christ was not God in the flesh, then we are wasting our time. If He was not God Almighty, come down and manifesting Himself in the flesh, let us get out of here and go do something else. It is the greatest doctrine of the Bible. It is the number one doctrine of the Bible. Without that, nothing else matters.

You said, "Well, I thought the resurrection was the number one." Hey, if He was not God, the resurrection is a farce. If He was not very God Himself, then we have no greater claim than the Buddhists do. We have no greater claim than the Muslims do. We are in the same boat. The difference between what you have in your Bible with God and His Son Jesus Christ is that God Himself became a man and came down to planet Earth. The greatest attack and the first attack was getting God out of that. So when the devil comes up with his Bible, you will not find God in 1 Timothy 3:16 in all the new translations. They take God out and they put "he" or "he who" in. They take God out. It will not say "God was manifested in the flesh." It will say "he who was manifested in the flesh," but no God. The clearest verse in the Bible that tells you about the deity of Christ is altered and changed because they want to get God out and put "he" in.

Now maybe "he" is not significant to you, but those of us that know our Bible, we know that the Bible tells us that there are two Christs. There is the devil's Christ and then there is the Lord's Christ. You take out God out of that verse and you are free to put in any Christ you want. That is

exactly what it does. When the RSV came out in 1881, the first misrepresentation of the Word of God, that was the first one. In 1881, the RSV came to America. By 1888, the Southern Baptists in Sarasota, Florida, at their big yearly convention, dunked the King James Bible and took the RSV as their standard text. That was the first inception of the devil's Bible into our country.

You know what the RSV says in Isaiah 7, verse 14? Your Bible, in your King James Bible, it says that God was going to give them a sign. The sign was going to be that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a child. That is a pretty good sign. When the RSV came out, they took out the word "virgin" and they said, "The sign is going to be a young woman bringing forth a child." Well, what is a big deal about that? It happens a hundred thousand times a month in Kansas City. But a virgin conceiving, that is something else. You see, from the very beginning, the devil wanted to take out the deity of Christ. Through every new translation that comes on the market, he systematically deletes God, the verses that have to do with the deity of Christ, and destroys the fundamental concept. That is why God's people today have no idea about this mystery.

My question is this: How in the world did soul-winning, premillennial, independent, fundamental, Baptist preachers accept the book that attacks the number one fundamental doctrine in the Bible, that the Bible and your religion is worthless without? Because they take out the doctrine, you see. The number one doctrine they attacked is the doctrine of the deity of Christ, and that is why the mystery, the first mystery, God being manifested in the flesh, I need to be a faithful steward of teaching you that. Because, take my word for it, you will go to 98% of the churches in this city, in this country, and you will get "he who" instead of "God." That is just the way it is.

Every one of the seven American cults, we talked about them last week, every one of the seven American cults have one thing in common: Every one of them reject Jesus Christ as the literal Son of God. Every one of them. Years ago when I first got saved and I really got plugged into the Bible, God put some unique men in my life. I look back on it, 35 years after the fact, and I think to myself, "Wow, God was really good to me." Not only did I get some of those old Philadelphian boys that still had the gunpowder that was not damp, God put me with some guys that really helped me.

One of the greatest events in my life was when God hooked me up with a man by the name of Glen Mays. Glen Mays was a converted Jehovah's Witness. I have never met a more godly, spiritual man than Glen Mays. Glen Mays had one burden in his life: that was to reach Jehovah's Witnesses. I was in church back then, and I was doing some things and I was learning and growing. Old Glen came up to me one night after Sunday night church and he says, "Bob," he said, "you know what?" And I knew his boy, his boy and I were in the same youth department together. I was probably 20 years old at this time. He came up to me and he says, "Bob," he said, "you know what? He says, I really like the way you do things and I really like who you are. Would you like to come out with me? Every Tuesday night I go out witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses." He told me his testimony, how he was a Jehovah's Witness. Let me tell you something, for the next two years, every Tuesday night, I went out with Glen Mays and we knocked on the doors of Jehovah's Witnesses. They think they knock on our doors? Oh, we knocked on some of theirs. I will tell you what, I never really said anything in those two years,

but boy, did I learn some things. I watched one of the masters. You never, never, never, never know how to win somebody from another religion until you understand the religion as much or better than they do. That is why I tell you all the time, if you want to reach Catholics, if you want to reach Muslims, if you want to reach Jehovah's Witnesses, whatever you want to reach, you have to know more about their religion than they do. That was Glen.

You know what he told me? I do not know if you know this or not, that the Jehovah's Witnesses use a Bible called the New World Translation. That New World Translation came out in the 1950s. Glen told me, he said, "You know, I was a Jehovah's Witness. He said, I grew up in my family with Jehovah's Witnesses. And he says, for all my life, he says the Jehovah's Witnesses, they used the King James Bible." But he said, "You know what?" He says, "Around 1950, he says, they stopped using it." And I said, "No." He says, "Because the King James Bible preserved the deity of Christ too well, and that is their big stick. They do not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. So they came up with their own translation that took out all the verses that have to do with the deity of Christ. And they produced a New World Translation." That New World Translation is void of all of the verses and the concepts that says that Jesus Christ was God because they do not believe it. You know where all the new Bibles come from? They come off the same manuscripts the New World Translation came off of. Same thing. None of those cults believe that Jesus Christ is God.

In fact, I gave you this verse before in 1 John 4, verse 3, where it talked about that we are to try the spirits. One of the ways you try the spirits, it simply says that if any man, anybody, confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, he is not of God. So anybody who denies the deity of Christ is not of God. Can we take that one step further and say any Bible that denies that is not of God too? Would that be a safe assumption, or am I just frivolously going on here? Amen.

IV. Why God Came as Man: Understanding God's Love

Now the average saved man and woman in America does not even have a clue why God did salvation the way that He did. Have you ever stopped and pondered? I mean, think of this: God can do anything. Why did God do it the way that He did it? Now, I know that most of us do not approach the Bible this way, but for a moment step out of the natural and come with me into the supernatural. Let us just assume for a moment that everything in the Bible is there for a purpose. I know that is stretching it, but let us just take it for a second. Why did God do it that way when He could have done it any way? Why did God decide to bring the gospel to you and me the way that He did?

I mean, hey, you know you have people out there that say, "You have got to be baptized to go to heaven," and you are going to bump into them all the time. You have people that say, "Oh, you have to be a member of my church before you can go to heaven." Somebody else says, "Well, you know what? You have to live a good life, and you have to do good works. You have to work your way to heaven." Somebody else says, "Well, you have got to help your fellow man, and you have got to do all of these things, and all the..." Hey, let me ask you a question. I am just a stupid, simple individual, but let me ask you a question: If all of those things get you to heaven, then why did He come down and go through the agony, the death of the cross that He did to save us?

Why did He just say, "Big signs on the freeway of God, go to this church"? Why did He just say, "You know, get baptized"? Why did He just say, "Live a good life"? Why did... if those things are true, why did God's Son come down and do what He did if it had nothing to do with your salvation? If you get your sins washed away by being baptized, why did He just say, "Jump in the tub"? No power in the blood, power in the tub. Why did He just do that? Why did He go to such great lengths and such agony, He could have spared to shut all of that if it was just, "Go join the Old Paz Baptist Church. You will get to heaven? Bob is a great guy. Go be with him. He will get you to heaven." Why did it happen the way that it happened?

God could have chosen to give us eternal life and present the gospel to us any way that He wanted to. He is God. He chose the way that He chose for a reason. That is the key to understanding this mystery. It lays down the basic Bible doctrines of you and me, fundamentally beginning to understand how this thing applies to you and to me, because for the most part, most of God's people do not.

Now the first thing, the first myth I want to dispel is, I want to tell you this: The Bible was not written to mankind. I know that that is what you hear today. The Bible is not written to mankind. The Bible was written to Christ's Church. You and I are to take the Bible to mankind. God wrote it to you. The things that are in there ought to be absolutely personal to you. It was not written to the human race. The Bible was written to God's people, you and me, who are supposed to take the Bible and His teachings to the human race.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

The Word of God was not written to mankind. God did not give the Bible down to the human race. God gave the Bible to His people. From that, God had some secret things that He wanted to reveal to you that He will not reveal to an unsaved man. That is why the Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verse 14, it says:

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

An unsaved man cannot understand what we are talking about today. That is why so many of your friends think that the preaching and the teaching of the Bible is foolishness. They think you are going to church, or your going to church is foolishness. Now see, I used to get upset with unsaved people and want to argue back with them, and then I realized that it is not their fault. They are doing what unsaved people do. They look at church, the Bible, God, and look at it as foolishness. That is the way, because they do not have the discernment. In fact, the Bible says over in John chapter 9, verse 31, that God does not even hear an unsaved man's prayers. Of course, we know why. John 8:44 says:

John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Every unsaved man, every unsaved woman on planet Earth today, spiritually speaking, their father is the devil. I preached that message one time, and afterwards a guy came up and he said, "Well, brother, I want you to know, I was offended by what you said." He said, "I do not appreciate it and told it. My family members, my family heritage is the devil." And I said, "You know what, pal? I did not like it either. And I got offended. You know what I did? I changed families. You do not like it? Change families." He did not like that either. He was having a bad day too. But that is where you are at.

This mystery, I am going to tell you, this mystery is the key to being more Christ-like. I am not just talking about salvation. We know that Christ came down to die. That is given. But I want to talk to you about this mystery. I want you to understand the mystery of godliness, why God had to come down in the flesh. I am going to explain to you four reasons, and when you understand these four things, it will get you closer to God. It will make you more Christ-like. It will make you come to the place where you love Him more than you do. That is the goal. I tell you this all the time: My goal is to love God and the things of God more tomorrow than you do today. It is a process. It is not always an easy process, but things like this make it easy.

Now I am going to talk to you about four reasons why He did it the way that He did it. In this lies the mystery that the body of Christ needs to be held accountable, and me as a pastor need to be a good steward of. Because if you do not know these four things—now there are lots of other things doctrinally that go along with so many ramifications—I am talking about four things to you. Deuteronomy 29:29 said that the secret things belong to God, and when God gives them to you, they are yours and your children's. All right, here come four. We are not going to go to some abstract doctrine that comes out here. We are going to take it down where you and I live every day. When you do not feel like getting up and coming to church next Sunday, it will be these things that will get you up.

You know what Paul says? Paul says, "Preach the Word, be instant, in season and out of season." You know what that means? It does not mean summertime and wintertime. It means when you feel like it and you do not feel like it. You know how when you do not feel like going to church, you go anyhow? You know how when you feel like you can find a million other excuses but you really know you ought to be there? You go anyhow? It is understanding these things, you see.

Now God came the way He did for four reasons.

1. To help me understand the love of God.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 8, verse 3:

1 Corinthians 8:3

But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

If you love God this morning, you do not have to get a 55-pound King James Bible and hang up a 30-pound cross around your neck and walk around looking spiritual. Everybody knows it. Because you are not in your hole there than you look. If you love God this morning, it shows. Because true love always identifies itself with the object. The first thing God did, or the first reason God did it this way, is to help me understand the love of God. Now I know that sounds simple, but I will promise you something: If there is any deficiency that we have, it is not knowing how to love God.

In the world that we live in, love is such a cheap word. The word "unconditional love" is unheard of today because there is always a condition about everything. You go to most Baptist churches, the pastor will tell you he loves you because he wants to get in your backpack and get your money. Everybody has an ulterior motive today. Everybody. Except somebody who just simply loves God. Everybody else has some reason for wanting to be your friend. I only have one reason for loving you. I only have one reason for wanting to be your friend. I only have one reason for wanting you to be part of my life and wanting to be part of yours: it is because of what God did for me. Because, you know what? Outside of that, you would be my enemy. Outside of that, I would have some ulterior motive for being your friend. This book keeps you without any ulterior motive because you have got to open it up every day and read it. That is why a lot of God's people, when they start to stray, the first thing that goes is reading it. You do not like what you see.

Somebody says, "Can you break that down in better terms for me so I can understand it?" Yeah. You go look in the mirror and you see how ugly you are, so you break every mirror in your house. How is that? Grasp it. You look in that book, it shows you how ugly we are. We want to go someplace else. We hang around with people to tell us how good we are. We have got little "mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest people of the mall," you see? We hang out with friends that will say, "Oh, you look lovely today." And the insider is saying, "Who did her hair, the North wind?" You see, when we hang out with people that tell us what we want to hear, we get into trouble. You have got to hang out with people that you know love you for the right reason and tell you the way that it is, not how you want to hear it. That is what the Bible does. Not talking about me, I am talking about the Bible.

Now, everybody knows this verse. It is the greatest verse, probably one single verse, everybody in the Bible, if you ask the average person, "What verse do you know?" Everybody knows John 3:16.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Wow, what a great verse. You see it at football games in the end zone. You see it on bumper stickers. You see it on T-shirts. That is probably for a society the way we are. That is a safe verse. It talks about the love of God. It talks about all the nice things. But you ever notice that verse really does not define it? It just makes a statement. You know that John 3:16, you know there are two John 3:16s in the Bible. Anytime I find out there is another book called John, I always go

back and see if the important verses in the one John line up. You know there is John 3:16 in the Gospels and then there is a 1 John 3:16 back in the Epistles. You know what the second 1 John 3:16 does in your Bible? It explains the first one. That will throw them off at the end zone of the football game. Now you have to have two of them.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

1 John 3:16

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Ah, He defines it there. You know what you get when you get 1 John 3:16? The second one, you get perception. It is not just God coming to the place where God so loved the world that He gave. You understand in a greater depth and you begin to perceive that God came down and laid down His life. That is what you and I are to do. I am to be Christ-like. You notice how many of God's people claim to love God but they are not Christ-like the way they deal with people? You know what the breakdown is? The breakdown between John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16. They talk about it. They talk about the love of God. They just do not perceive it. They do not perceive it. God came the way that He did to man, God being manifest in the flesh, so I could perceive and understand God's love.

Do you have any idea how much God loved His Son? I mean, do you ever go back in the Old Testament and read back there where the Bible talks about Jesus Christ as the apple of God's eye? Do you ever go back there and see and understand like in Matthew when it said, "This is my beloved Son, hear him"? Do you ever go back in those passages and read how it must have ate God's heart to turn His back on His Son when He was on the cross? I mean, did you ever just put yourself in that position? We have the most fruitful church in the world when it comes to kids. Can you even conceive taking your little child, boy or girl, and offering them up for somebody else? Could you even basically conceive? We have a lot of brave young men over in the Far East over there, and some of them are giving their lives for their country. It is always interesting to see how their parents perceive it. It is a terrible tragedy. I think it is a terrible tragedy when any young man dies. But you know what? It is one of those processes that has to happen. Somebody has to die for somebody to keep on living. It is just a part of life. Those young men and young ladies make sacrifices over there that you and I cannot even comprehend.

During the Vietnam War, there was a black boy from Alabama. His name was Private Corporal Johnson. Corporal Johnson won the Congressional Medal of Honor. You know how he won it? Back in about 1968, 1967, somewhere over there, in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, him and about eight or nine buddies were down in a little foxhole, a perimeter foxhole. They were down there and they were eating lunch and having eaten their C-rations, whatever the case may be, and a Viet Cong that snuck up and threw a grenade right in the middle of that thing, which was going to surely kill all nine boys. You know what Private Johnson did? He jumped on that grenade without even thinking about it and gave his life and blew himself up, and eight of his buddies went home and Private Johnson did not. Now that was in 1967, I think, maybe it was 1966. But I

will tell you this, I do not know where those eight boys are today. They are all grown up now. Probably got families of their own. They are probably in their 50s and their 60s. That was my era. But you know what? I promise you, they lived to be 105, they will never forget what Private Johnson did for them in that foxhole back there in Vietnam. There is not one of them today that would not tell you, "I would not be here today if it was not for him." Not one of them. Because that young man who unselfishly, that young man that won the Congressional Medal of Honor for laying his life on the line so eight of his buddies could go home and he stayed—he went home, but he went home in a body bag. He gave his life. Those men, till they lived to be a thousand years old, will never forget that day and that hot day and that sun when that old grenade came whizzing in and while everybody else looked at it, Private Corporal Johnson landed on it. Every one of them on that plane home, going whenever their tour was done, knew and understood that they would not have been going home if it was not for one man.

I want to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, you know what bothers me? I can see it on your faces. That bothers you more than God giving His Son. You tell that story to God's people at a church, someone will cry. You get up and talk the story about God giving His Son, it will be, "Oh, ho, home, when is he going to be done?" That is what I am talking about. That is what I am talking about. Hey, I know how much He loved Him. I know by me understanding that and God revealing to me that mystery and showing to me the mystery of godliness that God was manifested in the flesh, I am telling you, it will change your perspective of how you look at things. If that alone will not get you up on Sunday morning when the devil wants you to roll over and go back to sleep, if that alone will not get you there on Thursday night when you have got a million other stupid things that you could have done earlier or later or never even have to do, I do not know what else to do for you.

But God came the way that He did so I could understand and perceive that the love of God is God giving Himself and His Son for me. Then on top of it, back in the Old Testament of Genesis chapter 22, He gave me one of the greatest personal stories of a type of God to father Abraham, who God said, "Take your son Isaac and take him up there and put him on that altar." Oh, Abraham, who loved God, but he waited for 99 years for that boy. I want to tell you something, Abraham loved that little boy just like you love yours. He loved that little boy just like God loved His Son. Now you want to talk about baby dedication? There it is. Do not give me this junk about going down and standing in line and somebody is proving a prayer over. You want baby dedication? There it is.

Oh, I think of Him hanging on that cross and I think of Him up there. You know what? I know God loved Him. I know He was the apple of God's eye. He was the only being on planet Earth that God loved that was totally obedient in everything, and He was God's Son, and He loved Him. I am telling you, if you do not know this, you better go back to square one. When He is on that cross and man is spitting on Him, whipping Him, laughing at Him, making fun of Him, and ripped His back with His cat-o'-nine-tails while He is hanging there, I believe God had enough. I know what the theologians say. They say when He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," that He was talking about Israel. Maybe so, doctrinally. But I know my Bible. One night back there in 1 Kings 16, God killed in one night 186,000 men. Oh God, what it had to

do was one legion of angels could wipe humanity off planet Earth. I believe that when God looked over the banisters of heaven and saw the apple of His eye, His precious Son, His obedient Son, the most perfect man that ever walked on planet Earth that God loved like you love yours, I believe when God saw man, His creation, defiling His Son, that God in one moment put His hand up to call down a legion of angels to wipe out planet Earth. And God's Son looked up and said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." If you send those angels down, by the Alexander O'Dynah, go to hell. Oh my friend, it may be blasé to you. It is not to me. I am telling you.

I think of old Abraham walking up there and putting that boy on the altar. I am thinking about the three days that it took till he got to Mount Moriah, when Abraham knew what he was going to have to do. He sat around that campfire. Him and that boy would talk. And Abraham knew in three days he is going to kill him. In two days he is going to kill him. Tomorrow I am going to kill him. He would sit around there and as he would say, "Daddy, what about this? Daddy, where are we going here?" And the old man, trying not to be angry but not wanting to talk about it, wanted to be lost in his thoughts, would give him the best answers that he could. On that day when they walked up there, and Isaac carrying the wood on his back just like Christ carried the cross on His, and they are walking up to the land of Moriah, right where Christ was crucified. The young man stood there and he said, "Daddy, Daddy, here is the altar. Here is the wood. Here is the fire. Where is the sacrifice, Daddy? Where is the sacrifice?" Who in their right mind at that point could say to their child, "You are going to be the sacrifice"? Oh, Abraham. Oh my friend. No wonder he is the friend of God. You know what Abraham said? He said the right thing at the right time. He looked at that boy and he said, "Son, I do not understand this. I do not know what is going to happen in the next 20 minutes. But son, I know this: God Himself will provide a lamb." And he took that little boy and put him on the altar. Took that knife and raised it up. If God's hand would not have come down and stopped his hand, he would have plugged that knife into his chest. And God did. The reason God did is God did provide a lamb.

Oh, glory to God. I will tell you what. I will tell you what is missing today with God's preachers. I will tell you what is missing today with God's Christians. There is no passion. No passion. I have got to tell you. This is not a criticism. Because I understand it takes time. I watched you boys all last year down the City Union Mission preach. Great training, man. Greatest thing in the world. John did a great job. You all did a great job. All your sermons were great. I cannot fault one doctrinal thing that you said. Everybody was right on the money. Everybody laid it out. Everybody had it right down the line. I come away from there every week saying, "He has got it. He has got it. He has got it." But I have got to tell you. There is one thing missing for most of it. I cannot expect it right now. And I do not expect it right now. But I am telling you. It is going to have to come. Because as you grow to love God, it has to come. That is passion. You guys get up there and preach the six o'clock news with Brian Busby. Passion. When you are, if any man love God, it is known. The passion of God's love when you understand it. Man, I mean, I want you guys to softball and volleyball and the Chiefs game. And wherever you go. You go crazy because you have got passion that is exuberant. Well, at some point in your life, you have got to get that way about what God did for you. Why? Let me tell you something. If you had to get people to believe that your God is real, just on the passion you have got, they would never believe you.

I will tell you what, folks. I am not perfect and I am a long way from perfect and I never claim to be. But I am going to tell you something. I have got one thing down in my life. I understand to the best of my human ability with my capacity. I believe what He did. I understand why He came. I understand why He came that way. One. So I could identify and understand how to love Him based on how He loved me. Every day of your life. Every day of your life. He says in Romans 5:8:

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He was the righteous man that ever lived and He came down. He died the way that He died.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

He did it the way that He did it. So you and I would understand, as the second 1 John 3:16 in your Bible says, you would perceive what God's love is. There is no perception without understanding. It was a sacrifice involved. He came that way to show you that you and I might understand His love.

V. Why God Came as Man: God's Plan and Fellowship

2.) He came to show you that God has a plan.

That plan He wants to fellowship with me now and on through eternity. You know, I do not know if you know this or not. God's original plan, God's original plan which got postponed because God wanted to make sure some other thing, but it will be picked back up again here in a while. But God's original plan was to have a universe full of sinless beings that wanted to love Him and fellowship with Him. In fact, I do not know if you know it or not. Ephesians chapter 2, verse 4 and 7. It says:

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

God has three plans in the Bible and they are all enveloped in this overall plan. God has a plan for the universe. No action and it is all out there. God has a plan for this Earth. He put this Earth right now in a special place in this universe because God is fulfilling a plan on this Earth. On this

Earth, God's third plan is for you and for me because we live on planet Earth. It is as simple as that.

The Bible says God is a spirit. How do you fellowship with a spirit? The Bible says God is light. Why back in Exodus chapter 33, verse 20, the Bible says:

Exodus 33:20

And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

God everywhere He is laid out is this gigantic, absolute bright light. I mean, if God did not cover the heavens up there with that deep that keeps that light out, the light from God's glory, the light from heaven, the third heaven, would just—we would never need the sun or the moon. But God blanked it out because God is not ready yet. But how do you fellowship with that?

You know, I do not know if he is even dead now. Paul Harvey was always a friend of mine. I always liked to listen to him. I remember one year he told this story of every year at Christmas. I heard this five, six, seven, eight, nine years ago. I have not heard. I do not even know if he is alive today. But he told the story. It is a great story. It illustrates how God came the way that He did. He said there was a man that was an atheist. His wife and his children were Christians. On Christmas morning, the mom got the kids up, was hoping dad would go to church. But dad, like always, refused to go. He said, "No, I do not, I do not, I do not need a God. I do not believe in a God." So mom bundled up the kids and off to church they went. Dad sat down at the kitchen table, was looking out the window. You could see the backyard, had a picnic table right there. As he looked down there, he was drinking his coffee in the morning. He saw a little bird and that little bird had been injured somehow. It was freezing outside and that man began to be transfixed with the little bird. He thought, "You know what? If that bird could just get out of the cold and could get some nourishment for a while, that bird would be okay." So he opened that window up, hoping the bird would fly in, even put some bread in the windowsill. Bird never moved.

The guy just went on for 20 to 30 minutes, and we have all been there in some little ridiculous situation that has grasped our attention. He is doing everything that he can. He is feeling the frustration of why in the world, why in the world will not this bird, who this man knows is hurt, needs to come in. Why will not this bird do what he said? He even tried to throw some bread and lead a little trail up that the bird would eat it, eat it, eat it, and then fly up to the window. He had a little cage there from the canary they had. He was going to put him in there and let him be safe till he healed him, put him back out for an hour and a half. He could, and the guy was so frustrated. Finally he came to the place and he says, "You know what? I do not know what to do with this." He said, "You know what the real issue is? How do you get a bird to understand that there is something wrong with him?" It struck him. He said, "The only way I could ever do that is if I became a bird myself." And right at that time the church bells rang. The Holy Spirit of God took the thing right to his heart and said, "You know what? That is exactly why I came the way I did, because man would never understand that in Me was the safety and the feeding from a cold old world that he needed." That man fell on his knees right there in that kitchen and came to Christ. Oh, hey, that is why He came the way He did.

How are we going to fellowship with light? God came as a man. He identified something that we understand. He identified with something that we can figure out. He wants to fellowship with us right now. He wants to have that fellowship that God in our relationship we can walk together and talk together. Right now when we get saved, He, to the person of Christ—we are going to, this is another mystery we will get into, see how this works—He comes inside and He lives inside my body and I fellowship with Him. Otherwise, how do I understand God? Isaiah 55 says His ways are not my ways, His thoughts are higher than my thoughts. I am like that little bird out there on the picnic table freezing to death, hurt, wounded, starving to death, and something out there is going to get me unless somebody saves me. If God would just come down as a big old bright light, He would just scare us like you would scare the bird. No, no, no, no. He chose to become one of us. By coming one of us, He said this: "Come, let us reason together: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." He came as one of us, that we might be able to have fellowship with Him.

VI. Why God Came as Man: God's Mission for Us

3.) He came the way that He did because God has something that He wants us to do for Him.

He has a mission. Remember now, God has a plan for the universe. God has a plan for the Earth. You and I live on this Earth. God has a plan for you and for me. God has something that He wants me and you to do for Him. Look, God had His Son come to this Earth. Live His life to His 33 years old and then He stopped it there. Why? I mean, let us go back to our original preface here that everything in the Bible means what it says. Why did He not live to be 50? Why not 40? Does not life begin at 40? Why did He not let His Son live the... Why did He not just live His whole life and die out there or God take Him up to heaven like He did? Why did He let God's Son, why did God come down in the form of a man, live for 33 years, get it all taken care of and then leave? Kind of like the end of the Bible. You get to Revelation chapter 22 and it is all good and going. We are ready to rock and roll with God and then He shuts it down. He does not touch anymore. Though He does. Why did He let Him live to be 33 years old and then suddenly take Him? I will tell you why. The answer is in John chapter 14, verse 12:

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

The reason why He did it that way is because He wants you and I in our lifetime to help finish what He started. It is as simple as that. I am sorry. It is not more spectacular. He wanted you and I to finish what He started. The reason and the purpose of you being born, being called by God's Spirit, receiving that call, being saved, being placed where God has put you in Kansas City, your job that He has given you, the church that you are in, the pastor that He has given you, the friend that He has given you, so that you can get in on what God wants you to do and you can accomplish it. You see, life is real easy. I know the psychologists and the Christian real estate agents make it complicated. Here is how easy it is:

1.) *If you are unsaved, you have two choices: You either get saved or you do not get saved.*

2.) *After you get saved, you have two more choices: You either figure out what God wants you to do and do it, you understand what He did for you and you give back to Him, or you do not.*

Life is no more complicated than that. My job is to help you when you say, "I do. I want to learn." And you know what? That is what He does.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

He saved you for a purpose and for a reason. You know, I sometimes I just, I look at the world. It is more fun than any video game or any anything you have ever played in life. Just to walk out and look at America and look at the world the way that it is today in respect to the Word of God. It is incredible. You know what? We are getting ready in a couple of weeks to celebrate the birth of Christ. We do it every year. It is one of those things where churches will be packed on Christmas, as it will be on Easter. The two times a year that people get really close to God and want to get close to God always amaze me. The one time of the year He is a little baby, so He does not pose a threat. The next time everybody comes to church, He is dead. Nobody, He does not pose a threat.

You know what? Somebody says, "Well, you know what? There is a war on Christmas. We have got in America." Let me tell you something. The war on Christmas started whenever the first idiot came up with the idea that He was born on December 25th. It has been going downhill ever since. You know what? Every day in your life ought to be Christmas if it is based on the birth. You think God cares about the fact that you set a day today that everybody wants to call it Christ Mass? You want to even stop and ponder where that phrase came from along with December 25th? You cannot get it out of the Bible. You see, but the devil would just be glad. He would just be as pleased as punch. If you would traditionalize yourself so much that you just forget about Christ every day of the year. Just take one day and remember it. Because in that day he can get your mind off of that true issue. Because nobody today, nobody today when they have Christmas, thinks about it the way I just laid it out to you. It is about family and it should be. It is about friends. It should be. It is about gifts. It should be.

You know what the gift has to represent. I am going to do this with your children on Christmas morning. I am buying each one of them a gift. Now we are all going to sit down together and I am going to take those gifts and I am going to use it as an object lesson to talk about God's real gift. Because I do not want anybody ever in this church, especially our kids, growing up thinking that Christmas is a time to get. No, it is a time to look and understand this great mystery: God was manifested in the flesh. He came down. He came down because He had a plan and the plan was not Christmas trees on December 25th. But God's people do not have a clue.

You know what? They never cease to amaze me. God's people get married and they never sit down either before the marriage or after the marriage and say, "Honey, let us put a plan together to build the right kind of marriage." They never do. I will tell you something, if you are going to marry somebody as a prospective person at some point in your life and that person will not sit

down and discuss it with you, I would think long and hard before I would marry him. But that is just me. I am telling you, it is one of those things where they sit down there. I have seen them have kids. I have seen a mom and dad go through the intimacy of having kids and bring those kids in the world and never one time sit down together over the kitchen table and say, "Honey. Let us put a plan together to make sure we do our kids right. Let us get on the same page here. Let us, let us focus and let us have a plan." I have never seen it. I am sure it happens. But it does not happen. It should happen naturally.

I mean, I have seen people get saved and live their lives and never one time sit down and say, "God, help me find a plan that You want me to do." It is always about what I want. Never about what God wants. You know why? Society does today. Somebody said when, years ago when our country was based on the Word of God, Patrick Henry got up and he said, "Give me liberty or give me death." In the 1800s and early 1900s, the society that grew up then, the generation grew up then, changed it and they said, "Give me liberty." So we fought about all the civil rights. Now today in 2005, it is not "give me liberty or give me death." It is not "give me liberty." It is just "give me, give me, give me." The average Christian looks at God and says, "God, do not tell me what You did for me yesterday. What are You going to do for me today?" It is not what can I do for You. It is what You can do for me. That is just the way it is.

Christmas and New Year's are the greatest time of depression. Any counselor, his appointments go up for the greatest time of depression of the year is around Christmas and New Year's. Now you have got every kind of psychological thing that you can describe it with and everybody can say whatever they want to say. But I will tell you, in God's people's lives, I will tell you why it is: because they have come to reality and then the year and they are going to face another year without God in their life and the Holy Spirit of God just has to be grieved. You know why? Because He put that Holy Spirit of God in you to accomplish that plan and when you do not do it, it grieves Him. If you think the grieving of the Holy Spirit of God cannot transcend into physical problems, medical problems, and spiritual emotional problems, you do not know very much about your Bible.

VII. Why God Came as Man: A Perfect Role Model

4.) Finally, God came the way He did to give me a perfect role model in everything in my life.

You know, one time I had a Jehovah's Witness, and this is their big argument. There are all kinds of stupid people in the world. You are going to get somebody's arguments that are ridiculous. I had a Jehovah's Witness one time and he said, "So you are a Baptist?" And I said, "Yeah, I am a Baptist." And he says, "You believe in the Trinity?" And I said, "Yeah, I believe in the Trinity." He said, "Well, how in the world can you believe in the Trinity? How can a person step out of himself and be another person? That does not make any sense." I said, "You ever study chemistry?" He says, "No." I said, "You know in chemistry if you take a test tube of water and you put enough gas in a closed environment and you put the temperature just right, you know what happens? It is called a triple point of water. The bottom part of the thing turns to ice, the middle part turns to water, and the top part turns to gas. You explain that to me." He said, "No, I cannot." I said, "Well, I am not explaining your question to you then." I said, "The bottom line is

this: You drink milk. How can a brown cow eat green grass, give white milk?" I get simpler now if you need it. Will that help you?

A guy said one time, "Could God do anything?" And I said, "Yeah." "Well then, can God make a rock bigger than He can pick up?" You know the Bible says, "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit." So I said, "You know what? There is one thing that God cannot do." I just came to that conclusion. He said, "What is that?" I said, "Make anybody dumber than you are." The Jehovah's Witness says, "Well, how can God, how can somebody step out and be a son to themselves?" Well, first of all, Genesis 18:14 says:

Genesis 18:14

Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

God can do whatever He wants. I mean, this, come on, give me a break. Somebody said, "Well, why would He do that?" I have an idea. How about being a role model? How about as an example? I mean, role models are really important. There are some great role models in the Bible: Paul, David, Daniel. We call them character studies. Peter, Moses, Joseph, Noah, John, Abraham, hundreds of them. But you know what they all have one thing in common? They are all sinners. Now you know what that thing, if God is a perfect God and you know if that book is a perfect book, then God was going to have to give you a perfect role model. I mean, that just is, that is just as simple as 1, 2, 3, ABC. I mean, I do not know how much easier it gets.

I am to be a servant. Christ was my role model as a perfect servant. I am to be a son. Christ was the perfect Son. I am to have perfect obedience to my Father. Christ was a perfect obedience. Christ was hated. He is my model. They are going to hate me too. They are going to hate you. Christ was beat up. They are going to beat you up. Christ was lied about. They are going to lie about you and me. Christ was tempted. You and I are going to be tempted. He is the perfect, ever study His name: Lord Jesus Christ. To get the complete title, you have got to have all three parts. Lord, that is Jehovah. Jesus, that is the earthly man. Christ, that is Christos, that is the anointed one. You know what those three represent? His perfect balance. You know what you and I need to have in our life? Perfect balance. Now you get that perfect balance, you understand who the Lord is, Jesus is, and Christ is. Just that simple, man. I am the smartest man in the world, you are right.

He is the model for my ministry. How is that? In the Bible, a man is not a man till he is 30 years old. Now I know our society takes that difference and I go along with society, but the model is the same. When He was 30 years old, He started His public ministry. You know what He did before He started His public ministry? He got baptized. That is a model for me. Somebody says, "Why do you baptize people?" Because I understand what it teaches and I understand what it represents. Baptism manifests something. Before He started His public ministry, He got baptized as a good conscience toward God. That is why somebody says, "Well, how is He a model for obedience?" Because we come to the idea that we think that sacrifice is what, if we do something, that is obedience.

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

You know what? His obedience was to the Word. You never find Him deviating, violating, stepping out of line with the Word of God. It is right on the money. He was a servant. He lived His life for others. He fulfilled Romans 15:1:

Romans 15:1

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

He is the model for my Bible teaching. He is the model of a Bible teaching. He took plain. He talked plain. He did not talk. You never find Jesus getting in before a crowd and talking about eschatology, soteriology, apologetics, hermeneutics, anthropology, all of those things. No, no, He took common everyday things. He took common things that you can identify with. He never spoke one time out of the step line of where the common man was living.

Now let me ask you a question. Why do we have men in the pulpit today? Why do we have men that teach the Bible today? When they are done talking to you, you do not understand a thing they said. Then you go out of there saying, "Wow, he is really godly." Let me tell you something. Did Jesus ever speak that way when He ever had a feeding of the five thousand? Did He get up and say, "Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, today we are going to talk about the five points of eschatology"? No, He came to them in their own tongue, in their own language, laying it out in things that they could understand. He took this and He said, "You see this, this is like this." He made comparisons with things that He made and He showed them as a perfect model. If you want to teach the Bible, the name of the game is communicate the Bible. Do not try to impress people with what you know. Take the common things and make it on a level that when everybody leaves, everybody understands.

He is my model for people. He came to the common man. What is the deal today in our churches? That you have a pastor who does not ever talk to people. What is the deal today that you have all these other hirelings out here that deal with all the problems and all you do is sit in your golden basilica up here and you never counsel anybody, you never talk to anybody, you never deal with anything with anybody. You just step up on the pulpit on a Sunday morning, everybody gets on their knees and goes, "Oh, oh, oh, oh," and you get up and disperse all the great wisdom and knowledge you have. Let me tell you something. Did Jesus do that? Was there ever a time that He did not go wherever the people were? He was hanging out down at the old City Union Mission with the sinners down there. He was down where the common man was. He never thought of Himself better than anybody else. He was where people were. That is how you reach them. That is how you reach them. It is not a concept that you get to the place where you get so big that you do not have time for people.

I knew an evangelist one time that got so big and so successful and so important that he would not consider coming to your church if you could not guarantee him that there were going to be

10,000 people in attendance. Why? Because his ministry was too valuable to waste it on anything less than that because he had to reach the masses. You know what? The most amazing thing, preachers fell right in line behind that and that just lifted him up even higher. But man, that is what success is. "Oh, yeah, this man is so important." Hey, let me tell you something. I come over to Acts. Remember the Bible. It is a black book like this. It has got guild edges on the thing. You open up. It has got a lot of chapters in it. My Bible says over in Acts 8, there was a revival going on in Samaria, a revival. Hundreds of thousands of people. The evangelist was Philip. God picked up the main evangelist, took him to the backside of the desert where one African man was, and gave him to him. You see, that is what I mean when I say I am a Bible believer. It is not just some catchword I use. It is not some catchy phrase. I believe the examples in it. When I see an example, that is the way it works.

The most perfect role model and example I ever had was the Lord Jesus Christ, the way He came to this Earth. God looked down there and He said, "I am going to judge Bob Alexander someday, and I am going to judge him on being a servant. I am going to judge him on being My Son. I am going to judge him on all of these areas. Oh, I have given him a perfect book, no question about that. But that is not enough. That is not enough. I have got to give him a perfect role model. Oh, I know he has got all the men in there, but they are sinners. I have got to give him somebody that was tempted at all points like he is, yet without sin." And He gave me one. I love Moses, love David, love Joseph, love Daniel, love Abraham, love Isaac, love Jacob, love them all. But not like I love the One who overcame everything. Not like I love the One that God came down because He loved me enough to come down Himself to show me the way out. In every way, my role model, in every way, this mystery, the mystery of godliness, why God came down in the flesh. You see, when you understand what I just gave you, I just do not know. Maybe you cannot. I do not know. I cannot speak for you. I do not know how you can walk out of here after hearing what...