

I. Accountability and the Word of God

We have been coming through the Word of God over the last two and a half years, really building upon the foundation of helping you understand the Bible and laying it out in your own life so you can have your own personal relationship with the Word of God. That is our goal.

I said when I was making the announcements right before the offer that that ought to be your number one goal. I know God's people today do not take the Word of God very seriously, and consequently, they do not take the things of God or church very seriously, and that is the time period that we live in.

But the truth of the matter is simply this: I am going to be held accountable at the Judgment Seat of Christ for everything I ever taught you. I am going to be held accountable at the Judgment Seat of Christ for every message I ever put together, every motive of everything that I did as far as laying out the Word of God to you. And you are going to be held accountable for what you did with what I gave you.

I said it a little earlier, and I absolutely mean it. In my personal life, with my family and all of that, if I was looking for a church someplace, I would find the church that would teach me and give me everything, and I make no bones about it. I know this church is not for everybody. I do not ever claim it to be. A lot of you will use it. A lot of you are doing right on schedule, and we have some things we are going to talk about in January of putting that all together.

But at the same time, my encouragement to anybody at all the time, and I have said this a hundred thousand times, is you need to be where you are going to learn the Bible and you are going to get what you need to get because someday you are going to be accountable for it.

II. The Seven Mysteries and Stewardship

The last couple of weeks, we started our study of the seven mysteries. When you start talking about the seven mysteries, the average Christian has no idea what you are talking about. The tragedy of that is the average pastor has no idea what you are talking about. And yet we saw in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 that the Apostle Paul, running under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, told us very clearly that we are to be stewards of the mysteries of God and we are to be faithful in our stewardship.

I do not know how much you know about the Bible or how deep your level goes, but a steward or stewardship is somebody that is given responsibility for something that is very valuable. It is their responsibility to take care of that. Typically speaking, when you think of the word stewardship, you think of the word money. That is because that is a catch-all phrase. That is the phrase that preachers use today to manipulate you into giving by talking about that you are to be a steward of all that God gives you as far as your money is concerned.

There is no question about that, but you cannot just stop there. You have got to understand that stewardship has to do with everything in your life that God has entrusted you with: your children, all the aspects of everything in your life, your ministry, your time in the Word of God, all of those things come back to your job, the way you view everything. And we are to be faithful in that. As a pastor, I am to be a steward and be faithful in teaching you the mysteries.

The greatest example of a steward in the Bible, and I am just going to throw this out so you can study it because I know lots of you like to do, is go to Genesis 15 sometime and then read Genesis 24. You will find there the story of Eliezer and Abraham. Eliezer was Abraham's steward, and he was in charge of all that Abraham had. That is the place where you want to begin to see the principle that I am talking about.

Last week, we started the first mystery. We started the mystery of godliness, and the mystery of godliness, we saw, focused on the fact that God was manifested in the flesh. We showed you and we went through and I laid out four reasons why Jesus Christ came the way that He did. Within that mystery, you now understand and you should begin to understand some of the great biblical doctrines and teachings that go along with your understanding, your relationship with God.

III. The Second Mystery: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

Today, we are going to come to Colossians 1:25-27, and we are going to talk about the second mystery. So let us pick it up there in Colossians 1:25-27.

Colossians 1:25-27

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

There is the next mystery right there. This mystery has been hid from ages and from generations, but now it is revealed with us, the church. To whom God would make known what is the riches of glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is, by definition, Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This second mystery is titled and defined in the Bible as "Christ in you, the hope of glory." This mystery ties in with the—in fact, the first three mysteries we are going to talk about all tie in together. Even though they are separate, they all go together, and what they begin to do is they begin to unlock an incredible amount of Bible doctrine and Bible teaching.

I also told you last week out of the book of Isaiah that the way a man or a woman learns the Word of God is once they lay that foundation, then you build upon that foundation precepts. Those precepts are the things that the Bible teaches, and they interlock like the bricks of a wall,

and those precepts form Bible doctrines by which you get the understanding of what the Bible is saying.

We have got the idea today in Christianity that the Bible means a lot of things to a lot of different people. No, the Bible means one thing. It has one message. It has one concept that it teaches, and if you miss that concept, you have missed it. Of course, we do not like that today because we live in a society that pretty much wants to do whatever it wants to do.

But we talked about the fact that these unlock a whole concept of Bible doctrine. This mystery was hid, the Bible says in verse 26, as we already said, through the ages and through the generations, but now it is revealed in us. Last week in our study, when I gave you those four reasons, we saw the fact that one of the reasons God came the way that He did is because He wants to fellowship with us. He wants to have fellowship with us because we saw last week that God has a plan for your life and for my life.

The success of you at the Judgment Seat of Christ is simply finding out what that plan is and accomplishing it. Christianity as life on planet Earth is not very complicated. We make it complicated because of all the other extra things we bring into it. But the truth of the matter is, the Christian life, the Christian walk, and your life and my life, and what we do, and the success that we have, is simply based on the fact that God has a plan. That plan is something that He wants you and I to do.

My plan is different than your plan. Though in this church, even though they may be different, they may coincide, go together, that we can work the thing, and God accomplishes through that plan as He looks everything together what He wants. Your job and my job is very simple: get the clutter out of our lives. Get the field of fire cleared out so you can clearly see what God wants you and me to do with our lives, and then pursue that and accomplish it to the best of our ability. That is all that it is. And the devil now then brings in all of the clutter.

IV. The Problem: How a Holy God Dwells in Sinful Man

This mystery is simply this: How does God do that? How does God, who is absent—in the way most of God's people live their lives today, I do not think they know this—God has standards of holiness. God has a standard by which He judges things, and that standard is holiness.

1 Peter 1:16

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

God requires me and you to be holy as He is holy because God has a standard. I hate to keep saying this and keep bringing up this point, but the price of learning is repetition. We are so far from what we need to be as God's people today because we have a lot of misconceptions. We actually believe that we can kind of be in fellowship with God and kind of be out of fellowship with God. We really do.

The reason why we think that is, one, we do not understand the mysteries. When you understand the mysteries, and the mysteries are kept before you, you never have an illusion in your mind

that, "Well, I am not really in fellowship with God, but I am not really out of fellowship with God." When I watch television, I like Channel 59 because it has got the old ones on it, and one of my favorite ones is *The Twilight Zone*. The reason why I like *The Twilight Zone* so much is because that is where most Christians live today. They live in a world, an illusion that does not exist.

Sitting here this morning, you are either confessed up and in fellowship with God, or you are as out as anybody in the world today, because God has a standard of holiness, and you may not accept His standard, but He does. The issue today is simply this: How does God, who is absolutely holy, how does God, who is absolutely perfect, how does God, who has the absolute standard of holiness, how does a holy God live inside a sinner like you and me? That is the question, and that is the issue.

Did you ever stop and think about all the wickedness that God puts up with us? Do you realize that everything you see all day long, He sees? Do you realize that everything that you think and everything you say all day long, He hears and is part of?

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let me tell you something, I bet you sometimes in our lives God just has to close His eyes and clap His hands over His ears because of the ungodliness that He has to experience through us. How does God put up with that? Did you ever stop and just analyze that, or do you just blow through life thinking, "Well, God is just along for the ride"? Well, He is along for the ride, okay. But there is a concept in Christianity which I call God consciousness, and God consciousness is the aspect that you are aware of God that is in your life.

When I got saved, and I do not want to say this wrong, I have unsaved friends. I have people that are unsaved that are dying to go into hell, and they are friends of mine, but they are not the friends where I am going to spend a lot of time with them. I am in their world, or I recognize that they are in my world for one reason, and that is that I am to be the best testimony that I can be. But I want to tell you something, I know very clearly that the Holy Spirit of God is inside me, and I also understand and know that a lot of things that go on out there grieve Him, and I am not going to put my Lord in that kind of position.

When somebody starts to use God's name in vain and just rip off—it just infuriates me, and it infuriates me from the point not for the fact that I care. What really bothers me? I could care less what you say. I do not care what you say, it does not offend me. What bothers me? It bothers me that I put my Lord in that kind of position where He has to be grieved hearing what that person just said.

I do not want to be part of that, and not because I am any better than that person, it has nothing to do with it. I understand God is living inside me, and I understand that He hears everything that I hear, and there is some of it I cannot help. I do not watch a lot of television, but when I flip through the things—well, that is not exactly true, I do not watch the normal channels. There are some great channels on there that you can really learn some stuff. But I am flipping through

there, and I think to myself, and I have actually had Christians tell me that there was a movie on this week, and I did not watch it, and I did not watch it because I cannot afford to keep replacing TVs when I throw something through the screen.

There was a movie on this week, it was called Bruce Almighty, and there have been actual Christians that have told me that you ought to go see that movie, it was really funny. I do not see anything funny about God blowing up a woman's dress so He can see underneath of it, do you? I do not find that funny, I am sorry, and it is not because I do not have a sense of humor. I understand that God lives inside me, and I have a tough time equating anybody equating God with sinful man, because the issue with this mystery is, why in the world would a holy God want to live in somebody like me? That is a mystery.

Somebody gets up and says, "Well, I do not understand how God, a loving God, could send people to heaven." You missed the point. I do not understand how the holy God can take any of us to heaven. That is a mystery. I am flipping through the thing last night on my way over from USO's from Roswell New Evidence, and right there was Jesus Christ Superstar. Do I care about Jesus Christ Superstar any more than I do Bruce Almighty? But the bottom line is this: the Holy Spirit of God is living inside me. I give Him enough problems without automatically by choice watching something that degrades God and everything that is holy and drags Him down to a human being that wants to look up a lady's dress.

The Bible says we can grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

1 John 1:5

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.

That is the issue. Do you see what you are up against? That is what we are up against. Once you and I get saved, there is a throne in our life inside us, and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the person of the Holy Spirit of God, sits on that throne. Here is how it works: it only works one of two ways. It is not both of you sitting on the throne together. He is either sitting at the throne and you are sitting at His feet, or you are on the throne and the Lord God Almighty is sitting at your feet. There is no other way. The seat is not big enough for both of you. He is either on the throne in your life and you are at His feet, or you are on the throne and He sits at your feet, and that is the mystery.

How in the world does a holy God put up with that kind of stuff in our lives? I am telling you, the Lord lives inside me. As He lives inside me, He experiences all the rebellion, all the lust, all the envy, all the stubbornness, all the pride, all the covetousness, all the self-righteousness that is inside you and me, and it grieves Him. The question is this, the mystery is this: How does an absolute holy God, who has holy standards, exist in you and me in that kind of environment? That is a mystery.

Mark 7:21-23

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

How do you explain that? How do you think that Jesus said those things are in every one of us even after we are saved, and yet God, who is a sinless Savior, lives in a sinful person like you and me? Anybody want to take a crack at that? Is there any pastor in this city that wants to explain that? The Bible says it is a mystery. It is a mystery, but it is a mystery you better figure out.

We have gotten the world today a lot of wild, whacked-out Christians, and I am telling you, some of this stuff that is out there today, it is insane. But when you learn the mystery, you see, and that is what I tried to tell you before we even started, if the pastors of this city, in Kansas City, would just start and begin to be stewards of these mysteries, every one of these mysteries opens up 20-30 Bible teachings that need to be in your life to keep you from getting confused.

God's people are not hung up on the—God's people, I talked a little earlier about UFOs in the Bible on Thursday night. I make a big deal about it because it is a fun thing to do. I have got to be honest with you, UFOs in the Bible are basic Bible 101 when you know it. I am sorry. Do not believe me? 816-590-6315, come on over. I am not a mean guy. I will walk you through it. I will help you understand it. But I am telling you, we make that Bible a lot more complicated, and the reason why some of God's people are really confused today is simply because they do not know the basics.

Hebrews 6 says, "For the time to be teachers, what has to teach you again be the first principles of the oracles of God." Lean against the foundation of repentance. You see, some of God's people cannot get past the basics, and they are hung up in the basics.

V. The Solution: Spiritual Circumcision and Eternal Security

I have got to be honest with you, and I do not want to make anybody mad this morning, but I am already mad myself, so it does not make any difference. This concept today that you find all the time, a shout of God who takes the position that after you are saved, you can lose your salvation, it has got to be on the brink of insanity. It is the most insane thing. Somebody says, "Well, I believe that if you do something, God will take it away."

I do not believe He gave it to me in the first place for what I am. Why would He give it to me when I do not deserve it and then take it back because I do not deserve it later? I did not deserve it when He gave it to me. Is that just me, or am I—I do not understand. I have never figured out why some of God's people were so excited and got so excited about the fact they are dying and going to hell. I have seen God's people arguing, "Oh, you can lose it, you can lose it, you can lose it."

Let me tell you the bottom line of that analogy: if it is true that you and I can do anything to lose our salvation, the bottom line is, we are going to lose it. Who do you think you are, Bruce Almighty? The greatest, wisest, holiest men that ever lived could not keep it. You are going to tell me you are better than Abraham? You are going to tell me that we are better than Isaac, Joseph, David, wiser than Solomon, have a closer relationship than John, better than Peter, better than Daniel? The greatest, wisest, holiest men that ever lived, who tried to keep it the best they could, the devil found out their weakness and whacked them. It is insanity.

And you know me, I do not care what people believe. I really do not. What fries me is what people are spouting off all this stuff, and they do not even know why they believe it. That is what bothers me. I call them Barney Fife Christians. The Andy Griffith Show was one of my favorites. I love Barney Fife. There are two guys that are comedians as far as I am concerned, the greatest comedians ever lived. They never got dirty. They never got—they were just dumb, stupid, funny. The first one is that little guy, Tim Conway. I love Tim Conway. And him and Don Knotts teamed up there for a while. That was great.

But I remember Tim Conway in McHale's Navy. How many know that? How many saw it? Now we are all dating ourselves. McHale's Navy. He played the Ensign, Ensign Parker. Ensign Parker was second in charge, and he was an idiot. But he always wanted to pretend he knew everything. My favorite line was, he lines all the sailors up. There is a .50 caliber machine gun, Browning air-cooled. They called it Ma Deuce in my days. Big old .50 caliber sitting on a pedestal there. He wants to impress the men. So he walks up and he says, "Men, this is a .50 caliber Browning machine gun, air-cooled automatic. Man, it fires 15 million, 443,000 rounds a minute." "And that is a lot of rounds." "Whoops, well, it is. Oh, that is a serial number. Excuse me." That is him. And then he was swinging it around, and he put down a burst down range, and everybody ran for cover. Why? Because he was an idiot. He was pretending he knew what he was doing when he did not.

I like Barney Fife: little man with a big gun with no bullets. I love it. Little man, big gun, no bullets. That is not exactly right. He got to keep one in his shirt pocket. I find a lot of Christians like that. They do not know anything that they are talking about. They do not have a clue. They are a little man with a big gun with no bullets. And it is insanity. It is insanity.

And I get it all the time, "Well, you know what, you just think you are right." No, it is not about me being right. There are lots of things I do not know about the Bible. And I am not saying I know everything about the Bible. A lot of stuff I have got about the Bible, I will throw up in the air and say, "There is a lot more that know better than me." But at least I can sit down and intelligently talk about what I believe and why I believe it. And I will run you back to the book anytime, anyplace, and give you book, chapter, verse in a systematic order and leave you with a conclusion. I may be a little guy. I was bigger before I got sick. I may be a little guy, and I definitely got a big gun. But brother, I have got the bullets, and they are not in my shirt pocket.

I am sorry if that offends you. I am sorry that I am not like most of God's people or most pastors in the world today who just talk about the Bible but do not know the Bible. I confess that to you. I took it seriously. I take it serious today. And the fact that somebody else does not, I do not care.

It is beside—I do not care what a man believes. I do not care what a woman believes. You can sit down with me, and you can believe whatever you want to believe. I do not care. But it bothers me when we sit down after you are shooting your mouth off, Barney, about what you think and what you know, when somebody throws a Bible in your lap, you suddenly cannot find your bullets. Well, the one in your shirt pocket is your suicide, because that is what you are committing.

You have got to learn the Bible. And when you learn the mysteries, if pastors would be faithful and true to teaching those mysteries, if you as new Christians were grounded, and a pastor spent time with you one-on-one, giving you what you needed, you would not be as confused as some of God's people are today. I do not know what else to tell you. You get a better deal than that, go for it. I have a job, and at the Judgment Seat of Christ, I—me, not you, me—am going to be accountable for these mysteries.

If you do not like the fact that I believe that, I do not know what to tell you. There is nothing to me more hilarious in all the world than some Christian trying to shoot off his mouth or her mouth about what they believe when they do not even know why they believe what they believe. It is like a three-year-old Eskimo trying to explain nuclear fission. These mysteries teach you the basic. These mysteries connect, and it tells you and makes you understand from the Bible that Christ in you, the hope of glory, is the reason you cannot lose it. And when you understand that thing, you will laugh at the Barney Fifes of this world. The answer is Christ in you, the hope of glory, not "I hope I am saved," but the only hope to be saved is getting Christ in you.

Here is how it works. You are going to get it today, after today, in this group anyhow, if you are paying attention, there never should be another day you doubt your concept of eternal security. It does not get any plainer than this. It does not get any simpler than this. You say, "Bob, you really got a really neat way of breaking it down so I can know." You do not give me too much credit. I just know where to go where the Bible lays it out as plain as a blind man could see. It is not complicated. You allow men to complicate your lives. You allow people, preachers, pastors, to complicate, stipulate all kinds of things. You allow that each in your life all kinds of things that have nothing to do with the Bible, and then throw you a few scraps on the way out the door.

Colossians 2:8

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

I could take that verse right there and preach on every church in this country, but I will not do it because we do not have time this morning, but there is the problem.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

You see, stupid Charismatics—I know what they teach. They teach when you get saved—you say, "You should not use the word 'stupid'." Give me a better word, and I will use it. The word I

wanted to use I cannot because I am a Christian, so I will use that one. Let me tell you something. When you understand, you are taught this. This is what you are taught: when you get saved, you do not get all the Holy Spirit of God you need to get. You get a sliver of the Holy Spirit of God, and then at some point later, you get the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When you get the baptism of the Holy Ghost, all the rest of the Holy Spirit of God drops on you, and now you evidence that by speaking in tongues and all the great powers, and that is where they get it from. See, that is what they teach.

Now look at your Bible. Bible book like this. Look at your Bible. It is a black book with a black cover with gold pages. Remember the Bible? The Bible. We sang about it, B-I-B-L-E, the book for me. There it is.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

When you get saved, you are complete. You got it all. Throw that doctrine out. Throw that bad teaching out. Nothing like a Bible to straighten out a Charismatic's heresy. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. God has got it all. When you get Him, verse 10, you are complete in Him. End of the story.

Here comes. Here is how it happens.

Colossians 2:11-15

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Okay. Here it comes. The Bible says you are complete in Him when you get saved. Here is the process. You want to know how a holy God can live in somebody unholy like you and me? Here it comes. And it will fix forever the doctrine of you losing your salvation. It will fix forever some hoopy-boopy person going out and saying, "Oh, there is an unpardonable sin. You commit that sin." The only unpardonable sin I ever found in the Bible is being charismatic.

Look at verse 11. Here it comes. I am going to explain the process. First of all, let me tell you that I have got to give you this part. When God made man, God made him a trichotomy. If you

are sitting here this morning, you are a trichotomy. You are a trichotomy because you are made in the image of God, and He is a Trinity. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God has a body, soul, and spirit. So when He made man, He made man as a trichotomy. You and I have a body, soul, and spirit.

We do not have time to get into those things today, and 99.999999% of the teaching out there today and every book you get off the wall when describing them. You want to get it together, do two things.

1.) Thursday night, seven o'clock, ask your question, I will lay it out. That is what it is for.

2.) Or if you want to do it privately, it is 816-590-6315. I will sit you down, work you out, show you how that thing goes, break it down. You can ask any question you want. You can get it down. You walk out of my house, you will say, "Wow, I understand a great concept. I now know what my body is. I know now what my soul is, and I know what my spirit is. Never again will I be confused."

God gave you a body, soul, and a spirit. The best way I can illustrate it is like a football. A football has got a pigskin cover. That is your body. Inside that pigskin cover, it has got a black liner like an inner tube. It is the exact same size and shape as the outward. That is your soul. And inside it is air. That is your spirit. You take that football without any air in it, try to bounce it, it falls flat. Why? No air in it. No life. A dead football. An unsaved man has a body and he has a soul, but he has got a dead spirit. He does not have any life.

When you get saved, the football bounces. You put air in it, it bounces. When you got saved, God's Holy Spirit came in and quickened your spirit and made it alive, and now you are alive in Christ Jesus. See how easy it is? Now, how did that happen? How did that process take place? How did that work out? How does that happen?

Let me explain it to you. An unsaved man: you have a body, you have a soul, you have a dead spirit. The difference between an unsaved man and a saved man is your body and your soul. They are stuck together. That is why in the Old Testament you will find the word body and the soul used interchangeably. You will not find it in the New Testament. That is why it says back there in the Old Testament, "the soul that sinneth, it shall die," because it is stuck to your flesh. You are like an ice cube in a tray. You take those ice cubes out, just turn them upside down, they just stick there. Why? They do the process of being frozen. They have stuck themselves to the tray. From the process of your sinfulness, your soul is stuck to your flesh. And just like you want some ice, you have got to twist that thing, bang on it, smack it, or whatever your deal is.

When you got saved, if God was going to—God who has standards of holiness, God who is holy, who has to live inside of you and me for fellowship and to fulfill that plan—for that holy God to live inside somebody that is a sinner, He had to make a way that He could do that. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God indwelt no man, no matter how good they were. Their soul, that is their spiritual eternal element, was stuck to their flesh. That is their physical body part.

You will find in the Old Testament that the Spirit of God comes upon men for a short period of time and then it leaves. We see it in a number of cases. We see Saul had it, and then Saul lost it.

We saw David had it, was afraid he was going to lose it, and asked God not to take it from him. We see in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God operates differently.

I told you before, your whole Bible, your whole Bible is built around two identities. It is the thing that all history is around. It is the thing that all doctrinal teaching is around. It is the thing that everything on planet Earth, whether it is in heaven, under heaven, spiritual, physical, revolves around. One is the nation of Israel, the other one is the body of Christ. Everything in your Bible will revolve around one or the other. You figure that out, you are halfway home. Do not let them confuse you. It is that simple.

I do not know of one subject in the history of the world. I do not know of one war. I do not know of one dictator. I do not know of one country. I do not know of one circumstance of anywhere in the history of man that does not revolve around either one or the other. It makes it real easy. The process is overly simplified. In the Old Testament, no man was indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, no matter how good he was. And that is why you find in the Old Testament, the body and soul are used interchangeably, like in Ezekiel 18:4 and a thousand other places.

The New Testament comes along, and it changes. Now we are going from one identity to the other. Now in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit of God comes to stay. He is never going to leave again. We are going to find, in the book of Ephesians lays out the great teachings of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. When you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God now lives inside you. You get all of the Holy Spirit of God there is at the exact instantaneous moment Christ enters into your life, and He now sets up His throne. How in the world does He do that when you and me are so sinful? How in the world does He do that? That is the mystery. That is the mystery.

God now has to find a way for Christ in you, the hope of glory. Do you know the way? It is found in Colossians 2. It starts in verse 11. Look at it.

Colossians 2:11

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Now this is what we commonly call in the Bible teaching realms, spiritual circumcision. I do not know what you know about the Bible, but in the Old Testament you had something that was called circumcision in a physical sense. And circumcision was given to the nation of Israel. It was given to the nation of Israel as a sign to them. It was given to them to make them different from everybody else on planet Earth. In fact, when the nation of Israel or God or the leaders of Israel in the Old Testament make a reference to the Gentile nations, what do they call them? They call them the uncircumcised Philistines. In other words, the uncircumcision of their flesh set them apart from the circumcision of Israel's flesh in a physical way. And so God said, "I want you to take your male children and I want you to circumcise them physically. And when they do that, I want them to be different than everybody else in the world."

I do not know if you know this or not. We went through some of the studies in the Bible, and I showed you that numerology means different things. And I laid out for you, and we never got to this one exactly, but we went through seven and showed you all that. But the number eight in

your Bible, the number eight in your Bible is the number of new beginnings. It is the number of new beginnings. Man is going to be on this Earth for 6,000 years. The Lord is going to show up the second 7,000 year, Revelation 20, and then in 21-22, you are going to get to the eighth day, and that is going to be the new beginning. New heavens and new Earth, just that simple.

The Bible says if any man be in Christ, when you got saved, you become a new creature. All things are passed away, all things become new. Do you know what that is a picture of? In the Old Testament, they circumcised those children, male children, no women, male. There is a reason for that, on the eighth day. On the eighth day. Do you know why? Because in the Old Testament, it is a physical picture of the spiritual circumcision to come that was going to make you a new creature in Christ Jesus. All things are old, all things become new. So they are circumcised on the eighth day, number of new beginnings.

Did you ever notice the way they are circumcised? They are circumcised with a knife. They are circumcised with a knife on a part of their anatomy that has to do with their flesh and has to do with their seed. So the Bible says that you were circumcised with an operation of God made without hands in that same passage. Years ago, I heard an old boy preach this, I must have been, I do not know, just a young Christian, I heard him preach a message on this. And I heard somebody behind me in the thing they are saying, "Well, how in the world can somebody have an operation without hands?" Well, you can today. It is called laser surgery, folks. That Bible has always been 600 to 1000 years ahead of everybody on this planet. Anybody in science, in math, in history, in whatever.

In an operation of God made without hands. The Bible says down through there in verse 11, "In whom also you are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ." The Bible says we are born again not by corruptible seed, but by incorruptible seed, by the word of God. So in the Old Testament, on the eighth day, number of new beginnings, a man, male child, was circumcised on a part of his anatomy that had to do with his flesh, that had to do with his seed, that gave birth. Do you know why? Because there is a spiritual circumcision coming that is going to have to do with your flesh and the incorruptible seed of the word of God that is going to give you new life. That is some book you got there. Why do not we change it? That is some Bible you got, man. I mean, that is something special.

Here is what you got. In the New Testament, when the Holy Spirit of God comes in, look at verse 13.

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

How did He do that?

Colossians 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Not water baptism, that is the baptism of Ephesians 4. Buried with Him in baptism, wherein He also arose with Him through the faith, faith, faith of the operation of God. That operation of God is made without hands. Do you know what He did? Here it is. So easy, so simple. This is why you cannot lose your salvation. This is why some insane Barney Fife out there rattles off all this stuff, is more confused than he could ever get hope to get out of. He has not got a clue why. Somebody in his life never taught him what I am teaching you. They never sat down and said, "Barney, read my lips. This is why you cannot lose your salvation."

You cannot lose your salvation because of this operation with God, because the problem was, and the mystery is, Christ in you, the hope of glory. How in the world does a sinless Savior live in a sinful person like me and you? How could He do that? Here it comes. I have set you up. Here is the process. So basic, so simple, illustrated by physical circumstances in the Old Testament, laid out in Colossians 2 by the New Testament spiritual circumcision.

Bob Alexander is unsaved. My soul and my flesh are stuck together. My physical sinfulness is connected to my spiritual soul. Therefore, my soul is in sin. And when I die, my body, because it is sinful, is going to go down to the ground, and the worms are going to get it because it is under a curse. My soul, because it is connected to that, is what fell back there in Genesis with Adam and Eve. And because it is connected to my flesh, it is sinful, and it cannot go in the presence of God, so it is going outside the presence of God to a place called hell. Follow me. It is called Bible 101. It is real easy.

So I hear a preacher, a great preacher, man getting up and laying out the Word of God in a way that just I have never heard before. A preacher, much like myself. Somebody, I have got to humor myself, Rob. He gets up there and he lays it out. The invitation starts. I hear Danny singing, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, O Lamb of God, I come." I am sitting in the back row, right where John was kept sitting. Why are you sitting in the back, John? What is your deal? I am sitting in the back row. I did not want to come to church that morning. Somebody invited me. So I said, "I am not going that crazy about the church. They handle snakes. They speak in tongues. They run around the building. They say hallelujah. They say praise the Lord." I am with my crowd. I like the devil's crowd. We just damn God and everything He does. We do not praise Him. See, I like that.

I am sitting back there, and suddenly the Holy Spirit of God puts a stake right through my heart, and I see my need. Do you know what I do? I get out of that thing, and I walk down there, and I come up to the preacher, and I said, "Man, I am lost. I need to be saved. I do not know what you are talking about, but I need what you are talking about. I need God in my life. I am a mess." Some old boy puts his arm around me, takes me over there, and shuts me down or kneeled down in that altar, opens up that Bible, the Word of God, the incorruptible seed. Here it comes. Here it comes. The operation made without hands is about to take place.

My problem is my soul is stuck to my flesh. I need something to put off the body of my sins from my spiritual side because God wants to live in me. He wants to fellowship with me, and He

cannot do it the way I am. He has got to fix something. I get on my knees, and he takes me through the Romans road and then he runs me down the Matthew Highway. Then he takes me down the Achtern Pike. Then he takes me over to the Revelation thoroughfare. I mean, he lays the whole thing out for me, and he gives me what I need. And I, in that moment, I say, "God, I am a sinner, and I need to be saved. Holy Spirit of God, please come into my life and save me."

At that point, at that exact moment, an operation of God made without hands, the spiritual circumcision, God, with that powerful, sharp, two-edged sword, the Word of God, the incorruptible seed, does an operation made without hands, spiritually circumcises my flesh from my soul, separates it. The Holy Spirit of God comes down, Ephesians 4, and seals my soul, and now I have a new nature, and the new one is sinless, and that is where God dwells.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

See that thing? Quick. See that thing? What are you not looking at? Hear that word? Quick. For the Word of God is what? Everybody in unison. Quick.

Now look at Colossians 2:13.

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

There it is. See how it is connected? When I get on my knees, I got saved, that sharp, powerful, two-edged sword, that is what it says. For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. Piercing, piercing, even to the dividing asunder of the soul, there is my soul, and the spirit, there is my spirit, and the joints, and the marrow, there is my body. He divided me out. He separated my flesh from my soul.

Now when this operation takes place, in a millisecond, my soul was now separated from my flesh, and then the Bible says in Ephesians 4:30, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Do you know what He does? He just simply, in simple terms, He takes my soul from my flesh, takes my soul, puts it in a Ziploc bag, seals it, and says, "Nothing get in, nothing can ever touch it again," and it is sinless because the Holy Spirit of God is in there with me. Any other way, He cannot fellowship with me. Any other way, it does not work.

VI. Addressing Misconceptions: "Losing Salvation" and "Practicing Sin"

Here it comes. Here comes Barney. Here comes Pastor Barney. He turns over there to 1 John 3:9, where it says, "He that is born of God does not practice sin." That is what all your new Bibles say. "He that is born of God does not practice sin." I do not know, I practice it every day. How about you? How about you want to—well, maybe you do not, I do.

But you see, when you do not understand the mysteries, when you do not believe what the Bible says anymore, when you have a pastor that would stand up and say, "Well, the NIV says we do not commit sin because we commit sin is—we know that that is not true because we all commit sin, so we cannot be right. So that is a mistranslation in your Bible." "Thank you, doctor." "So we have got the more modern text." "Well, thank you very much." And the modern, modern text says, "Well, we do not have a Christian modern text say that that word should not be 'commit sin,' but it should be 'practice sin,' because we all know that we all sin and we are all sinners, but we also know that that word does not fit, so it cannot be 'he that is born of God does not commit sin.' It has to be 'he that is born of God does not practice sin.'" That is what you find in your new Bibles, and that is what every priest, every preacher in the pulpit of this city is preaching this morning. You buy it, buy it.

Do you know what the problem is? They do not understand the mysteries. Somebody said, "Well, Bob, you explain to me how in the world you can be saved and not commit sin." I have got news for you, my body did not get saved. My soul got saved. It says, please read it, there are one-syllable words, Barney, "He that is born of God does not commit sin." My flesh was not born of God. It is still going to sin. My soul was born of God. That is why the verse stands as it is in your King James 1611, and everything else, throw it away. See how the Bible puts your weight up against a choice?

Now there it is, boys and girls, there it is. What are you going to do with that? You either take what the Bible says, and now you leave here today understanding why you can never lose it, why He had to do the way He did to live inside you, and now you understand why you do still sin in your flesh, but you do not still sin in your soul. And the bottom line is, in Romans 7 and Romans 8, that is called the doctrine of the old man and the new man, the old flesh, the old nature, and the new nature. Nothing like a Bible, nothing like a Bible to figure it out.

I am telling you, I spend my whole life trying to unravel the confusion in God's people's lives that pastors have put in because they are not willing to follow that book. So do not even go there with me in your mind. I am not somebody out there just ranting and raving because, let me tell you something, I have spent my whole life trying to undo the damage that was done in God's people's lives because they have been taught bad doctrine. That is the hallmark of our church today. You want it? Take it. Judgment of the Seat of Christ is right around the corner, I will meet you there. That is what you are up against.

VII. The Vital Importance of Knowing the Mysteries

Now you should understand now, no question about it, the importance of this mystery. Let me tell you something, if you do not have this down, you are not going anywhere in the Bible. This is a bedrock fundamental concept. This is something that in time you have to learn. It is non-negotiable. You have to understand how it works in your life. How in the world are you going to build an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ when you cannot even explain to me or anybody else or your kids what transpired, what was the process that a holy God lives inside, what is the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory?

I am telling you, it is that simple, He separated your flesh from your soul, and then, my friend, He sealed your soul, and now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things were passed away, all things become new, and He that is born of God does not commit sin because your soul is sealed, and if your soul is unsealed, you are not saved, and if you are not saved, there is no fellowship.

You want somebody to confuse God's people? Just let them grow up not understanding how they got saved and the process involved. Give it 10 or 15 years, watch how the devil gets to know details, watch how you become more loyal to a man, to a building, or to a church than you do the Word of God. Watch how you never get the independent of me. You need to come to the place where your goal in life is you do not need me anymore. You do not need me to hold your hand. You do not need me to show you what is in the Bible. You do not need me to walk you through those things. You stand on your own two feet that you can face whatever opposition is out there, hand in hand with your wife and that open Bible, and know why you believe what you believe. So get mad, you care.

I would rather have you mad at me today than stand before the Judgment Seat of God and God say, "You cut it short, son, you did not do it the way you should have done it." Not on your life. That is what is wrong with some of God's people. You hang out with your friends who are godless. You hang out with people that are absolutely upside down when it comes to God, and you do not want to leave them, lose them, or leave your friends, or do this or do that because you do not want to hurt their feelings. No, you would rather hurt God's feelings by letting Him listen to that damn double stuff you listen to every day. We are insane people. We are absolutely off the wall as God's people. I am telling you, God, and that is why you have got to learn the mysteries. That is why they are vital, and you have to understand why you believe what you believe. You have to, you have to, because you are never going to do anything for God till you know the process, and somebody is always going to be talking you out of it, always, always.

And I am going to say it again, I am the last guy in the world who thinks he knows everything about the Bible, but I will tell you this: I know what I believe. I know what I believe, even if it is wrong. I know why I am where I am at and why I believe what I believe. Do you? That is the issue. That is the issue because they are going to beat you up six ways from Sunday. You hear the most unbelievable stuff all the time. I heard a guy on the radio or on the television this morning getting up and defending the fact and telling probably 8,000 people how Jesus was born on December 25th. I just got there, and everybody in the crowd looked like they were just sheep going to the slaughter. They did not have a clue.

Now, do you think I care if He was born on December 3rd or not? No, I do not care one way or the other. But do you know when He was born? I do not think you probably do. Most of you do because you are hanging around here long enough. But the bottom line is this: you have got to—you sit down there and you hear that stuff, you listen to that stuff, and it is the same guy that next week in the new year will be taking 1 John 3:9 and ripping it out of your Bible. It will be the same guy that will be over here teaching you some other heresy, and because you do not know the Bible yourself, they are going to confuse you, and then you have got your guts to get out at me because I am trying to help you not be deceived. It is okay. I said it before, I will say it again, it is about the Judgment Seat of Christ with me.

Certainly, I love you more than you ever know, and you know that. To know me, I spend hours and hours and hours a week with everybody in here trying to help you put that Bible together. Do you think I do it because I just want—I do like to do it. Do you think I do it because I want to get something out of you? Do you think I do it because I have got some ulterior motive? I do it for one reason, and maybe you do not understand it: there is a Judgment Seat of Christ coming, and I will tell you something else, some of you have got little kids that you may skate into heaven, and when you stand there, your little kids are going to burn like a torch because of your ungodly ways. I care about that. I do not want that to happen. But I am telling you, you better get your head out of the sand or wherever it is at and understand there is a Judgment Seat of Christ coming. It is not some figment. It is not something that preachers just talk about. You are going to stand there, and the devil, as we speak, is after your wife, after your husband, after your marriage, after your kids, and nobody stands between heaven and hell than you. But that is where it is at.

That is why you have to know the mysteries. That is why I have to be a steward of the mysteries. That is why I have to do with them what I say the Bible says I have to do with them. I told you last week that is my passion. I go to a football game, and I just sit there with my arms checked. I would not care who made how many touchdowns. I watched the Chiefs play yesterday. I was more injured in the big stack of nachos that I had in front of me. The only comparison to what I was eating and what they were doing was the salsa was red, and so were their jerseys. And at the end of the game, I had just as much red on my gray T-shirt as they had on theirs of spilling the salsa. But that is where it ended. Careless, careless, careless.

And I am not saying that is wrong. I am saying, where is your passion? Where is your passion? Where does the desire of your heart lay? Where is it? Because where your treasure is, there will your heart be also, and that is the bottom line. I cannot speak for you. I take it so seriously that someday I, as your pastor, am going to give an account for everything I teach you. You leaders in this church, as you grow up and take responsibility, I will hold you to the same accountability that I hold myself to, and God help you if you do not do it the way it needs to be done.

There are no excuses. We are not playing some Monopoly game. We are not playing Parcheesi. We are not playing a quick game of chess or checkers. When the game goes down, people die and go to hell. When I fail with parents, their kids die and go to hell. When you fail as parents, your kids die and go to hell. It is a real-life game, but our passion is everywhere but where it needs to be. I am done. Said enough, probably said too much.

But I am telling you, this is why you have to learn the mysteries. This is why you have to get with me one-on-one. Let me get you lined out in that book. This is why. Have I got the systematic Bible study for everybody that wants to get that Bible down? Have we got it? We have got it. We got it, and I am telling you, it will work. It will work. And I am telling you what, in January, I want to help you put it together. And I am telling you, you want to learn the book, you want to get it down, we are ready to roll. And some of you will not do any more with that, or you will start it, and it is all where your passion is. But my job is done. I promise you, I will give you the best chance I can, best chance. It is my job.

Do you know what an infantry commander does? Do you know what a first sergeant does? Do you know what a staff sergeant does when he is in combat with his troops? He is supposed to be a professional. Maybe the other guys, he is not, are draftees. He is supposed to be a professional. The company commander is supposed to be a professional. The brigade commander is a professional. They have got 20-30 years in. They are going to make a career out of it. They are not just in for three or four years, and they get to go home. They have chosen their vocation as a life to be a warrior and to take men into battle. And do you know what their number one job is? Give those men that are under you the best chance they can of going back home. That is my job. Giving you the best chance at the Judgment Seat of Christ. That is the job of every preacher.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Father, I thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. I thank You, Father, for Your Bible, for this great mystery. And I, Lord, I thank You for the privilege of every week laying these things out, helping us, Father, to learn more every week. Now this week, Lord, there are three or four, five things that they ought to go home with today, and they ought to understand, and they ought to be able to put it together. Never again should they ever be beat about by Barney Fife or Tim Conway. They ought to be able in these basics. And Lord, as we build week upon week upon that foundation, line upon line, precept upon precept, add here a little, there a little, as we build Bible doctrine, and build these men and women strong for Your work.

Help them to see that this church stands and is in existence for one reason: that is to collectively fulfill God's plan. It is not about building the Taj Mahal. It is not about running around and doing all. It is about getting down in the trenches where the men and the women are dying and going to hell, where marriages are on the rocks, where kids are on their way down the road, and to begin to turn things around by a book that You gave us that will change the world if we just believe it. Help us to raise up men and women who in these last days will not be ashamed to stand up and take their stand for God. And Father, we will thank You and we will praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask, amen. God bless you, you are dismissed. Shake hands with somebody this morning.