

Genesis 1:2

Sunday 12/4/2005

When you leave here today, you are going to have all of those questions answered. What I am going to give you today, in its basic form, is a Bible history lesson. A Bible history lesson that will really change the way you look at things and where you are at in your relationship with God. At some point in your life, in the process of where we are going, to build your life that you may have a working relationship with God, you are going to have to get this.

You are going to have to also get it because if you are ever going to talk to people and be effective talking to people, you are going to have to know what you are talking about. You have to become—and I do not mean this in a bad way—you have to become smarter than the people that you are dealing with. I guess it comes back to what I said last week. We talked about the fact that in the Bible, there is knowledge, there is wisdom, and then there is understanding.

The unsaved world can have knowledge and can have wisdom. But only a child of God who really understands the Bible can have understanding because understanding is always defined in the Bible as seeing any situation from God's standpoint, which is one of the seven laws we talked about as we finished up the laws last week.

I am going to give you a major piece of the puzzle today, and it is going to help you put it all together. And those of you that are online and growing, you are going to see that the next time you begin to speak with somebody, whether at work or here, or this question comes up in your family, you will now have a better understanding about how to deal with it.

What we are going to do today is take knowledge and wisdom. We are going to take the history of the United States from its inception to where we are today, and we are going to put understanding to it. You are going to leave here today better understanding what God is doing.

Now you may say to me, or you may be saying it right now, "How is that really going to help me?" The way it is going to help you is whether you know it or not, if you are a Christian, you are part of God's plan. Trying to live your life without understanding God's plan and fulfilling God's plan for your life is absolutely impossible. What we are going to do is put it all together so you will be able to grasp it. If you do not have a Bible this morning, please raise your hand right now, and we will get one to you. If you did not bring one this morning and you want one, please let me know, and I will get you one.

I. Understanding Bible History

First of all, let me lay out some fundamental doctrines that everyone must see and understand. Some of these we have already talked about. First of all, here is what we are dealing with: all history of the world. I know we are going to talk about America today, but I am talking about all history of the world. Everything you learn in school about world history, American history, Missouri history, all kinds of history—all history, whether European, Far East, Egyptian, or Babylonian history—all the history of the world will revolve around two identities.

Those two identities are listed for you in the Bible. They are laid out in the book of Proverbs, and the Bible says that these two identities are the two landmarks in Proverbs 22 and again in Proverbs 23. These two identities are the two landmarks by which you view all history.

- The nation of Israel The church (the body of Christ)

In the Old Testament, the first identity is the nation of Israel. You can think what you want about the Jews today, and there is much anti-Semitism in the world today. Down through history, nations, people, and dictators have hated the nation of Israel. If that in itself would not tell you that there is something special about the nation of Israel, that they are the most persecuted and hated people in the world today, that ought to tell you. Let me just clue you in: they are the most hated people in the world today, and the world has tried to wipe them out for the last 6,000 years for one reason: they are God's chosen people.

God chose them all the way back in Genesis, and God built all the history of the world around the nation of Israel. Now you can believe that or not; it does not make any difference. I am just giving you the facts. Everything that goes on in history in the Old Testament is built around that first identity, the nation of Israel.

The second identity that all history is built around comes into being about the time of Christ, and that will be the church. If you are saved this morning, you and I are part of Christ's church. You become part of this church by being born again through a spiritual birth that puts you into God's family. Those two identities are the two plans by which God is unfolding His overall plan.

Now I am going to oversimplify this because I want you to leave here and understand it. I am not going to talk technically today. I am not going to use big words. I am going to paint a picture for you with words that anybody can understand. That is the way I have to learn it because I am not the smartest light bulb in the box. So I have to work it for myself that way, and I am just trying to help you figure it out. I know a lot of you will grasp this a lot quicker than I did when I was trying to learn it.

You are going to find that those two concepts, the nation of Israel and the church, are the two identities down through history by which God unfolds His plan. If you are going to study European history, African history, American history, Egyptian history, or whatever, you are going to find that whatever is going on in the world will always be in direct proportion to what God is doing.

Now that is a lost concept today. The concept that we have today is that man is running it all and God is on the outside looking in. That is why you are finding all the Christless Christmases today, and the war against Christmas, and truly, the war against God. That war has been going on for a long time. But we are living in a world today that wants to exclude God from everything.

Let me tell you something: long before God was excluded from Christmas, long before radio personalities were telling you to ban this store or that store because they say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Christmas," long before Christmas was ever attacked, God was taken out of history. The devil made sure that God was taken out of history so that when men studied history, as we learned in our laws, men would never learn anything from history. So that is where we are today.

And that is why what I am about to lay out for you, if you are a child of God who is trying to grow and learn, is one big piece of that puzzle today.

Now the second thing I want you to understand, and you already know this because we talked about it when we went through our seven laws by which everything runs physically and spiritually, is that God always works through history by the pattern of sevens. That is God's perfect number. And we saw that; we will not spend time going through that again.

Then we found out the third thing: that all history follows those seven absolute laws that I have laid out for you in the last three weeks. So you know now that all of these absolute things, and you see we are building upon what we have given you, so that we may individually take you and help you, mold you, and make you exactly where God wants you to be. That is my job. My job is one-fold: to take any young man or young lady who wants to do what is right, any mom or dad who wants to do what is right, and help them plug into the Scriptures so that at the judgment seat of Christ you get everything God has for you. That is my job. I do not have any other thing that I do. I do not want to do anything else. And that is the way it works.

Now once you understand all of those things that we have talked about, let me give you an instance here. I told you in one of the laws that you have what is commonly called the Law of First Mention. The Law of First Mention, very briefly again, is the first time something shows up in the Bible. It sets a pattern, a consistent pattern. Now let me show you what I mean.

I told you to turn to Genesis 1. Let us look at Genesis 1:2. Now in Genesis 1:2 you have a key place in your Bible. Most people that read this never catch it. I have to be honest with you, I did not catch it the first 40 times I read through the Bible. It took me a while as I grew spiritually, and one day I just saw that thing like a lightning bolt, and I could not figure out why for the last five, six, or seven years of my life I had missed that. But that is how God shows you as you grow.

Genesis 1:2 And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Now the first time you find the Spirit of God in your Bible is right here in Genesis 1:2. And I want to draw a reference to it because it says that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. From this point on the Spirit of God is always moving. It never stops. In fact, in the Bible, when you talk about the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit of God will always represent the work of God. When God does something in the Bible, He does it through the Holy Spirit of God. That is what the Holy Spirit of God does; it does the work.

When you got saved, do you know how you got saved? You got saved by the Holy Spirit of God coming inside you and indwelling your body. In other words, God the Son, Christ, died on the cross. He paid the price, but when you ask Christ to come into your heart and save you, it is the Holy Spirit of God that does that work in applying His death to your sins. See how it works? The Holy Spirit of God, and that is another piece of the puzzle; you have to know that. So the Holy Spirit of God is what does the work of God in your life.

And when you want to win somebody, are you witnessing to somebody, or does God want you to do something for Him? We talked about the plan of God. God has a plan for each of you. Do you know how you fulfill that plan? You will or you will not. You will or you will not simply based on what you do with the Holy Spirit of God in your life. Because it is the Holy Spirit of God that will do that work through your life that God wants to do. It is as simple as that. So you are going to find that the first time the Holy Spirit of God shows up, the Holy Spirit of God is moving. It is moving. And you are going to find that in the rest of the chapter and all through the Bible, the Holy Spirit of God never stops.

II. The Flight Plan of the Holy Spirit

Now, I am going to tell you what the key to figuring out history, God, the Bible, and your life is. Do you know what it is? It is simply this: First, understand God has two identities. We already talked about that. Those two identities are: 1.) the nation of Israel, and 2.) the body of Christ.

Once you understand that, then you understand the next piece of the puzzle: that God is going to do the work of those two identities. By the way, if you are saved, you are in the second identity. See? God has a job for this church; you are in this church. And as you are in this church, this church accomplishes the work. Do you know how we do it? Through the Holy Spirit of God.

Now, if we figure out the first identity and we figure out the second identity, there is only one last piece of the puzzle we have to have to figure this whole thing out. That is, which direction is the Holy Spirit of God moving? If we are going to find God, we have to find His flight plan. You see, we think God deals with things like we do haphazardly. We think God flips around the universe and the Earth and does things flippantly, like we do. What are the things you are going to learn about God in His concept of His consistency? And we have already seen this in the laws that God is an ordered God. He has a plan for everything He does. Everything.

And when the Holy Spirit of God, in Genesis 1, the first time you find it, when He began to move, He filed a flight plan. And if you want to find out where God is at in history, you have to have identity number one, the nation of Israel; identity number two, you and me in the body of Christ; and then we have to find out the flight plan. Which direction is the Holy Spirit of God moving through history? And when you figure this out, you have it. Let me show you what I mean.

That movement in the Bible and the flight plan in the Bible will be from east to west. That is the movement of the Holy Spirit of God down through history. You cannot miss that if you begin to take time studying the Scriptures. For instance, we are talking about right now, around Christmas time, and we always traditionally celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. And if you go over to Matthew 2, you will find that the story there of the Christ child is played out many, many times this time of the year, and many pastors are preaching on it.

But you will find there that the Bible says that the wise men who came to find Jesus at the first coming of Christ came from the east. In other words, they started in Ur of the Chaldees, and they went from east to west, and that is where they found Him. The star of Bethlehem had led them; they saw it in the east, and they followed it as that star took them east to west and stood over

where the Christ child was. Why? The direction of the movement of the Holy Spirit of God in your Bible from Genesis 1 down through history will be from east to west. That is how it works.

Think I am making it up? All right, let us see it. In Acts 16, you have the beginning of the Gospel going to the church and going out through the world. Do you know where it starts? It starts in Antioch. And do you know where it goes? It goes east to west. I am going to break it down for you here in just a little bit and show it to you. But it moves east to west.

In Genesis 12, when God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, and He said, "Abraham, I want you to go to a land that is going to be the promised land that I am going to give you." Hey, read it for yourself in Genesis 12. Do you know which way Abraham travels? He travels from east to west.

In the book of Numbers, when the nation of Israel had been wandering for 40 years, you can read it for yourself. God is getting ready to bring them into the land. The straight route would be coming down through here, and they would come in this way. Do you know what God does? He gets to that border, and He brings them all the way around the other side and brings them in east to west. Every time you find it. Every time you find it. You just cannot miss it.

When the Jews return after the captivity, they go into the land from east to west. When you find that when Jacob got right with God in Genesis and came back to God, he travels east to west. You are going to find that when the high Old Testament priest went into the tabernacle, and he went from the second compartment into the Holy of Holies, he went from the east to the west. That concept is so prominent that down through history, all the preachers, your mama, your daddy, have told you that when you get saved, God puts your sins as far as the east is from the west. It is a concept when that Holy Spirit of God, and you have to know this to figure out history. And you are getting a major chunk of the Bible and how this thing is going to work just in this study.

You are going to find that when Christ comes back in the Second Coming of Christ, He winds up at the Mount of Olives. And when He goes to the Mount of Olives, He takes a journey from that Mount of Olives through the Eastern Gate to sit down on the throne of Jerusalem. Do you know what direction it is? East to west. Every good move in the Bible will be a movement from the east to the west.

Now, if that is true, then all moves west to east in the Bible ought to be bad moves. And you know what? They are. In Genesis 3, when God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden, read it for yourself, they went west to east. When Cain left the presence of God in Genesis 4 because he got his nose bent out of joint because God would not accept his sacrifice, and he went away from God, he went west to east. When Jacob backslid and ran from God, he went west to east. When David ran from Absalom, he went west to east. When the Jews go into captivity, they go west to east. And it is just as simple as that.

Here is how it starts. In the New Testament, the Gospel starts in Jerusalem. And then it moves northwest to Antioch. And then from Antioch, Paul has three missionary journeys. Those missionary journeys go from east to west. They go from east to west, and they move into Asia

Minor. Then they move into Africa. Then they move into Corinth. And then they move east to west into the continent of Europe. And then it goes east to west and winds up in the United States. That is the progression of the Holy Spirit of God doing His work.

Now, you want to find out where God is at? You have to get that flight plan. You have to find out in history. You have to know what that is dealing with. When that Holy Spirit of God hits America, the Holy Spirit of God moves through the next 200-plus years, from the inception of our country with our Plymouth Pilgrims in 1620, right up to 2005-plus. It moves across this country east to west, and seven great revivals, or seven great awakenings. And if you do not figure that out, you will not figure God out and not figure out what God is doing. It is as simple as that. It moves east to west through history. All right?

III. The Law of Human Collapse and God's Remnant

Now, we have already talked about the Law of Human Collapse. The Law of Human Collapse is simply that men left to themselves will collapse. They will get away from God. They will leave God. They will leave the concepts of God. And that is why every period of church history, every nation on planet Earth, everything on this planet starts out good and then winds down and winds up being a mess. That is what is wrong with America today. America started out being right and has now wound up 200-plus years later in a mess.

The nation of Israel today, if you would go back in your Old Testament and look at the nation of Israel, you would see them at their greatest moment. And that greatest moment would be 1000 BC when David was on the throne. At that point, Israel is at the pinnacle of their greatness. There is never a time that they are closer to God, they are greater with God; there is never a time that they are any better than they are right then. And yet, if you would look at the nation of Israel today, they do not even look, they do not even smell, they do not even resemble the nation of Israel back in that Bible in any way, shape, or form. And you see, the average Christian does not know that. And you try to win people to Christ who are Jewish; you try to understand what God is doing in this world without understanding that; that is why you do not get anywhere.

I will tell you something else. You go to the book of Acts and you will find in Acts 11 where they are first called Christians. You study the church in Acts and study it down through the history of the church, and you are going to find that the period of time when the church was the most unbelievable period of time is a time right around 1600 to 1900. And you are going to find that that church right there is as close as the church ever gets to exactly what God wanted it to be. From 1600 to 1900, ladies and gentlemen, three-quarters of the planet Earth was saved and had Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. And we do not have a clue of that today because of what we have today.

Just like the Israel back there does not resemble the Israel today, the church today does not in any way, shape, or form resemble the church back there. Do you know what is wrong with you and me? And I love you, but do you know what is wrong with you and me? We do not know that. We look at this stupid, silly little game that churches play today and pastors play today. We look at this absolutely asinine, stupid, ridiculous little flurry fluff we play with called church, and

because we have no idea of what the church really was, we think we have one today. We do not even resemble what they did back then.

You go to churches today, and you know what? The preacher preaches 15 minutes past the time, and everybody is mad and wants to split the church. Back then they started in the morning and went all day long. But you see, back then, when they had a revival back in the 1920s and 1930s, when Sam Jones, Bob Jones Sr., and Billy Sunday went into a town, they said, "We are going to have a three-week revival." They went in there, and Billy Sunday, one time—we are going to talk about him in a minute—one time he went into a Texas town for a three-week revival, and that revival wound up being six months long.

Do you know what he preached on? Every night he preached on the same subject: Hell. And do you know what happened at the end of that revival? It happened all down through there. The bars closed, the whorehouses closed, the gambling establishments closed, people got saved left and right, and when they left that town, that town was clean. Ninety percent of them were saved. A revival had hit. You can pick out Arrowhead Stadium down here and bring in the biggest evangelist that you can find, and two days after it is done, it will be business as usual in Kansas City. Do you know why? The Spirit of God has moved. See? He has moved.

Now if you do not understand those two, you are as lost as a golf ball in high weeds, pal. You cannot get it. You will never figure it out. You will get trapped; you will go to these big churches, and it has all of this frivolous stuff, you see. They have dancing girls in the aisles. They have all this stuff, but nothing ever gets done. Do you know why? There is a difference. There is a difference.

Now here is what you have. When you start to study America as all history, here is what you have. I am going to pull it all together for you. Put all the laws working for you. Here is what you have. And I told you this. The whole history of the Bible about those two identities runs like this: God filed His flight plan back in Genesis. He is going east to west. See? That is the movement of all revivals. That is the movement of all discoveries. That is the movement of all technologies. That is the movement of all history. God takes a step this way to fulfill His plan, and the devil steps in this way to stop that plan. That is all it is about. That is all that it is.

All of history is about two identities: the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, the church in the New Testament, and then God and the devil. God fulfilling His plan through those two identities, the devil stepping in to stop that plan. I will tell you how it works. Make it real simple for you. When you first got saved, you were all excited about God. Oh, you were going to do handstands. Oh, you were just going to do everything for God. Do you know what? You do not feel that way this morning. Okay? You do not feel that way this morning. Why? Because you get all fired up, and you get all excited, and you get all ready to go, and then the devil steps in to block what God did in your life. Down you go. It is as simple as that. That is why some of you are defeated this morning. Why some of you have the problems you have this morning. That is the way it works.

It goes back to those laws, and the Law of Human Collapse is the law that destroyed America. And you are going to find that as God moves across this country and God begins to move down through history, you are going to find the devil moves to counterfeit what God is doing. And the

study of American history with understanding is really easy. It is real easy. God having a plan for America. The devil stepping in to stop that plan because of the Law of Human Collapse. And then God, through the seven revivals that moved from the East Coast to the West Coast across this country, injecting Himself into America down through history, and then God taking the faithful remnant that was left to do the work.

Now I have to give you this too. Boy, this is coming at me too quick here this morning. I have to give you this. You have to get this principle. You have to understand this. Another principle that works all through the Bible is this: God's faithful few will always be the remnant. It will always be the remnant. It always will.

Somebody said to me one time, "Well, you know, you think you are right and everybody else is wrong." No, I know I do not. But it is a nasty job, but somebody has to do it. But no, I do not. No, I do not think I am right and everybody else is wrong. I just believe what the Bible says. I believe, "Let God be true, but every man a liar." How is that for you?

Somebody said one time, "Well, you think you are right." No, just because I am a Baptist does not mean that I am right. I know lots of Baptists that are absolutely idiots, and so do you. But the bottom line is this: when you come to the Bible, the Bible has to be the final authority. And when you come to that thing, when you look at it and you realize that somebody says, "Well, you know what? You believe one thing, and everybody else out there believes something else." A guy said one time, he said, "Do you know how many millions of people do not believe what you believe today?" And I said, "Yeah, in Noah's time there were 5.5 billion on planet Earth. Only eight of them got on the ark." You know, God's faithful few has always been the minority.

You come over to the book of Judges. They are down there fighting, and Gideon goes out there to fight the battle of the Midianites. He has 32,000 guys. Good size army. God says, "Too many." He says, "What do you mean, too many? We are already outnumbered; we are going to take a fortified frontal assault position." "What do you mean we have too many?" God says, "You have too many." "How many? All but 300." "What? All but 300." Why? Because God's faithful few is always the minority. It is as simple as that. It is as simple as that.

You know, the average Christians that are doing the job today will not be the majority. You realize it will not be the big TV evangelists that you see out there. It will not be the big, cathedral-like churches you see out there. Do you know who gets the work done today? People just like you. People just like you who love God, love the Bible, and just want to do what is right and let God use you with no politics involved. The problem with Christianity: everybody in Christianity wants to be the big. We have big, beautiful churches that look like big cathedrals, and everybody in those churches wants to be the main chandelier in that beautiful ballroom called church.

You know, God does not need any more chandeliers. He just needs a few light bulbs on the back porch. He just needs some Christians that will let their light shine, that will do the work without the applause, without the bows, without the stage lights, without all of the phony stuff. He is just looking for men and women that will get in there and will do it when nobody else will do it, and that is how it works. That is how it works.

One time back there in 1 Kings 19, the nation of Israel, which was running now, what? I do not know. Eight or nine million people. They all went after Baal worship. Every one of them was caught up in Baal worship. Elijah is down there, and he is saying, "Oh God, I do not know what to do." God said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "You know what, Elijah? I have some news for you. While you look at the nation of Israel and they are all in apostasy, I have 7,000 men that have not bowed the knee to Baal yet. They will get the job done." Why? Because God always does it by the minority. God's faithful few has always been the minority. Always has been.

In the Revelation, in the Tribulation period, you know what? It is 144,000 out of all the Jews that do what is right. In the Church Age, down through the history of the church, it has always been the "nobody" remnant that has done the work. It is the same today. Do you know why God does it that way? He does it that way so that nobody can glory because of all your money and all your greatness and all the things you have, that you can take God's glory. God chooses the base things in this world to confound the wise. That is why. That is why.

So if you find yourself in that minority, you have to thank God for it. Not the easiest job in the world, but you have to thank God for it. When they criticize you and they persecute you—and they will, trust me—when they come after you, they lie about you and they try to destroy you—and they will, you know what? Count it all joy. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Simple as that. It is as simple as that.

And I will tell you what, a verse you better get down in your life and you better hang on to it if you are going to be successful is, "They meant it for my evil, but God means it for your good," because God is going to use you. And He will use you outside the norm. But that is just one of those principles you have to see. So you are going to find that as God pours Himself into this country down through history, the devil moves in right behind Him. And as the devil moves in right behind it, he destroys what God has done. And out of that destruction, out of all of that stuff that happens, you know what? God has a remnant that always stays faithful. Every period of church history in Revelation 1, 2, and 3 ends in disaster. But out of each one of those disasters comes a faithful remnant that holds the line all the way to the end. That is as simple as that. They recognize the flight plan that God revealed and God set forth.

IV. Four Kinds of Churches in the Gentile World

All right, let me give you this. With all that as a base text, now we have to look at this great study and trace the Holy Spirit of God as it moves through America. Let me break it down for you. In the Gentile world—America, Europe, not Asia or Asia Minor, but the Gentile world—you are going to find four kinds of churches. And you need to know this. Here we go. You are going to find four kinds of churches.

1.) The Roman Catholic Church. That is in a league all by itself. And the first church you are going to find is the Roman Catholic Church.

2.) Protestant churches. Now Protestant churches broke out of the Roman Catholic Church in about 1500, what we commonly call the Reformation. I am going to give you the churches that

come out of that. You are going to get it all today. You are getting a humongous piece of the puzzle, and you are going to understand and find out where you are at.

Out of the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church had had control of everything for nigh on to 1500 years. And when the Reformation breaks loose, these are the Protestant churches. Do you know where the word Protestant comes from? It comes from the word "protester." These churches protested against the Roman Catholic Church. They came out of the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, they are called Protestant churches. Now here they are.

- The Lutheran ChurchThe Presbyterian ChurchThe Congregational ChurchThe Greek Orthodox ChurchThe Russian Orthodox ChurchThe Church of EnglandThe Anglican ChurchThe Episcopal ChurchThe Methodist Church

Now out of those come some more splinter groups that you will find are what we commonly call today the Amish, the Puritans, the Mennonites, the Dunkers, the Pietists. Those are all splinter groups that come out of those churches. That is your second group.

3.) The Bible-believing line. They will be the line that comes right back out of Antioch. You will find this line down through church history identified with these following names:

- The WaldensiansThe AlbigensiansThe HuguenotsThe LombardsThe LollardsThe PauliciansThe HussitesThe Anabaptists

They are the groups that have never come out of the Roman Catholic Church. They are groups that have never been connected with Rome. They are not Protestant. They are Bible-believing. They were never connected with the Roman Catholic Church. They never came out of any reformation in any way, shape, or form. That is your third group.

4.) The American cults. The American cults would be what we know today as the Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, Christian Science, the Church of Christ, the Jehovah's Witnesses, Unity, and the Charismatic Movement. You are going to find that these American religions are born in America. And you need to know this because you are going to come up against them in every way, shape, or form.

Now let me just take a minute and explain how this works to you. Now, when you learn your Bible and you get this thing to the place where it really begins to work for you, then you are going to see this thing, and maybe you cannot see it this morning, and you have to understand I have named a bunch of churches. I am not attacking anybody. I am just giving you the facts. I do not care. I mean, it does not make any difference to me what you believe about this or whatever. I mean, these are the absolute facts of history.

You notice, other than opening up in Genesis 1, I have not opened up my Bible this morning. That is a strange thing for me to do, is it not? You hardly ever know Bob Alexander doing anything with you that does not open up the Scriptures. I have not opened up, since Genesis 1, I have not opened up my Bible one time. Do you know why? Because what I am giving you this morning is not in the Bible. It is, but it is not. I am giving it to you from going down to the public library and digging out about 15, 20, or 30 books. And what I am giving you this morning is not

a Baptist concept. It is not Bob Alexander's heresy. It is what you can find in any public library, in any town, in any city in America. Is it me? People get all fired up, you know, "I am just attacking people." I am not attacking anything. I am just telling you the facts. And this is what you have. And these are the way the four churches break down.

Now, when you are going to come, you know, I have to say this, and I am not talking about any of you because you are obviously here. But I have to tell you, Americans are the most gullible, stupid people in the world. I have never seen, and I have been all over the world; I have been around the world four or five times. I have been in just about every country on this planet. I have preached, I have talked, I have worked, I have done, I have been around. I am not somebody who just fell off the turnip truck. I have been around the block three or four times to get run over by the turnip wagon. I know what I am talking about.

And I am telling you, Americans—and maybe it is because of all that we have, I do not know. Maybe when you go hungry, and you are cold, and somebody is trying to kill you, maybe you do not become as stupid as we do. Maybe your affluence has ruined it. I do not know what it is. But Americans are the most gullible people I have ever seen in my life. I do not understand it. I just do not understand it. I do not know why. The average American, when it comes to figuring out God in the Bible and history, cannot simply put two and two together and get four. I do not know why, but they cannot. They cannot.

My Bible says in Psalms 127:1, it says this:

Psalms 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:

It says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." God built, when God built Christianity, He built it from the foundation up. And when you look at any religion, I do not care where it is, when you look at any religion, you are going to find that it has to have a foundation. I have talked to Mormons, I have talked to the Church of Christ, I have talked to Jehovah's Witnesses; I have talked to them all. If you ever want to just throw them into a tailspin, because each one of these churches—and here again, I am not fighting them and I am not criticizing them, I am just telling you the facts—each one of those American cults that I gave you believes that their church is the only way to heaven.

And if you are not a member of their church—Mormon, Seventh-day Adventist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of Christ, you go down the list—if you are not a member of their church, under their church authority, you are not going to heaven. They believe that their church is the only true church on planet Earth. And it is just as cool as that. They all hate each other. They all hate each other. And they all look at the other with disdain. And they all believe that their particular church is the only way to heaven.

Now I am going to tell you something right now. I do not believe there is any church that is going to get you to heaven. If you get to heaven, no matter what you are, you are going to get to heaven by putting your faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross and His blood. And there is not any other way you are going to get it. You can join a Baptist church until you cannot even stand up. You know what? You are going to die and go straight to hell. Any

church cannot save you. There is no true church other than the spiritual church of Christ that you get born into when you become a Christian. It is not a Baptist church. It is not a Methodist church. It is not a Lutheran church. And you know what? This is what I mean.

Now I do not want anybody to die and go to hell. I spent my whole life trying to keep people from dying and going to hell. But you know what? You are not going to get them all. And I look at it, and after a while, it kind of gets to me; it is part of that stupid American thing, you know. I mean, I can see somebody who is in one of the European churches. Now you know, all the European churches that came out of the Reformation are all dead now. They all teach you have to be baptized to go to heaven. They all, and you know what? But I can see somebody buying into that. I can see somebody buying into that because no church has been around for 1,500 years. I can actually see somebody raised up in those countries where when you were born, you were born into that church. You did not have a choice in it. That is all you ever heard in your life. I can understand how somebody could grow up in that and just buy into that.

But I have to tell you the truth. I do not know how anybody, anybody, anybody could buy into one of these American cults. I just do not know how they could. I just do not know. I do not know why. I mean, do you realize that all these American cults only go back to the 1800s? And now here is a church. And take your pick; I do not care which. They say, "Well, we are the only true church." "Where did you start?" "Well, we started in 1800."

Now, I do not know if you know this or not. I figured this out. I had it figured out for one time. Of all the world's population from the beginning of the Bible up to 1800, where all these churches start, from 1800 to the year we live right now is less than one millionth—less than, listen to me, one millionth of one percent of the world's population in the history of the world has lived from 1800 to 2005. One millionth of one percent. You are telling me that only one millionth of one percent from your religion, when it started, got the truth. Everybody else from 1800 on was, "Jesus loves me. Sorry about you." I do not believe that. I do not believe that. I am smarter than that. And I am pretty dumb.

Hey, I looked down there. I could not even find my pilot light this morning. I am dumb. I could not even follow the instructions when I did find it. I had to call Steve. I am dumb. Now, if a dumb guy like me can figure, I could not figure this thing out. I was down there looking at things and said, "Where is the pilot light?" Well, I found out how to do it. Turn the gas on and light a match. It shows right up. And that is another thing. I am down there trying to figure it out. My three dogs, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, they are all over my shoulder. Big old Brown is rubbing the side of my neck. They think it is a fun time. "Oh, daddy is sitting down on the floor. We can all go be with him," and a little yellow one is sticking her head in through here, and the black one is over here, and the old brown one has his head up here licking. When that thing flamed, they all departed from the faith. Man, they were gone. Left me all by myself. That house would have burned down and blew up. They would have been in the truck with the key on, trying to get out of there and never even cared about me. No dog business tonight. They are out. But if a dumb guy like me can figure it out, hey, come on.

V. The Seven Great Awakenings in America

Now let me show you how this thing works. We have seven patterns of the Great Awakening, the revival. The First Great Awakening. Here is how it works. Let me give you some background. Our Plymouth forefathers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. You know, in the next 20 to 40 years, over 40,000 people came to America. They came to America. And that is where the original 13 colonies were set up, from which came the United States of America. They are the original.

Now, I do not know if you know that or not, but they came to this country because they were being persecuted in Europe. The church-state churches of Europe—the Lutheran church in Germany, the Roman Catholic church throughout Europe, the Church of England—they were persecuting everybody. And Europe was locked in. There was no way to run. And they were killing them and putting them in prison. And so when our Pilgrim Fathers came over in 1620, they came over for one reason. They were looking for religious freedom so that they could teach the Bible, preach the Bible, and raise their family the way they believed the Bible.

By the way, when they came over, they came over with a forerunner of your 1611 King James Bible. They came over with the Geneva Bible. And when they came over, they were looking for religious freedom, to be able to preach and teach the Bible and teach their families the way they wanted to. And of course, you are going to find that as those groups came over, you are going to find that some of those groups that came over were the Pietists, the Puritans, the Separatists, and the Baptist groups. And they all came over from Europe, and they all were looking for freedom, and yet when they came over here, some of those groups began to persecute the other groups. They tried to set up their church-state system right here. But America was a lot bigger, and they could not do it. And off they go.

And boy, I mean to tell you what, the Holy Spirit of God moved down through these countries. It raised up some great preachers. And by 1790, there were 42 Baptist churches in Georgia alone, 18 in Tennessee, and 10 in Kentucky because the Holy Spirit of God was moving. You know what? The first Baptist church started in America was in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1639 by a guy by the name of John Clarke. John Clarke was a Waldensian. And we begin to see how the Spirit of God comes to this country and how the 13 colonies were forged on the Word of God.

They wrote what they called the Mayflower Compact. A little bit later on, America got its first constitution. I am not talking about the one in Independence Hall. In 1638, the first American constitution, a hundred years before the other one, called the Fundamental Orders, was written. And all of the colonies accepted that. Do you know what it said? It said that this country was based on the fundamental principles of the Word of God, that this country was established so men and women could find their own relationship with God and learn God from the Bible. It was set up right along those lines, and this country was based on the principles of the Word of God. And that is where it started.

Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth—all those colleges today we know of as secular colleges. Yale is the great law college. Princeton. All of these places are the source of all humanism and secularism today. You know what? In the beginning, when the 13 colonies were set up, they were

Bible colleges. They were set up to train men and women to go to the American Indian as missionaries.

But as time moves on, the deadness moves in. That old law that I gave you last week—man, movement, machine, and monument—that old Law of Human Collapse begins to unfold on itself. And it all begins to fall apart. The educated class begins to take over. They talk about the refined sensibilities of how that preaching, and you know, the rough preaching, and the men and women who are getting up and just tearing up the country with preaching, and the pulpit is uncouth. And they bring in all the culture, and this country begins to go asleep.

And long about 1730, as you find in historical records, you find the first stirring of the great revival called the First Great Awakening. It was in Northampton, Massachusetts. And it breaks out. The men that were leaders during this period of time were:

- Jonathan Edwards (called the leader of the Great Awakening) George Whitefield William Tennent John Wesley

They are great men. Jonathan Edwards was a great preacher, and he preached his famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." And boy, I will tell you what, the revival, the Holy Spirit of God came down, and men were shaken. The colleges—Yale, Princeton, and Dartmouth—came back to God. There was a great purging in this country.

George Whitefield was a great preacher. He preached, brother, and I will tell you what, he is called the "Prince of Preachers." He preached seven times a day. He preached until his throat bled. One time in Boston Common. He preached; in fact, I found it when I was preaching a revival back there many, many years ago, and I always knew it was there. And I was asking all the park people, and they did not know where it was. I asked one old boy, he showed me where it was, right there in the middle of Boston Common. Big old park. There is a little plaque, and it simply says, "On this spot in 17[XX], George Whitefield preached, and 30,000 people accepted Christ." Whoa, now that is a revival. That is a revival. 30,000 people.

Ben Franklin said one time he heard him preach at night, and he said, "I walked back," and he said, "I paced off one mile away." And he said that one mile away I could hear every word of his message distinctly. Do you know why? The power of God in his life. I am telling you, when God's Spirit comes down, there is no question that it is a revival. When God's Spirit comes down and does something, there is no question about it. God shook this country. God shook this country.

I told you, all history is God moving this way, and then the devil moves in this way. And our first false religion, our first American cult that only starts in America, comes right after the First Great Awakening. Around 1800, the devil counters with a religion called Unitarianism. Now we know it today as Unity, and it resurfaces itself a little bit later on in the 1920s, but back in the 1800s it was simply called Unitarianism. And it starts in New England. In fact, the first church in 1800 by James Freeman.

Do you know what they teach? They teach there is no hell, there is no heaven, and no such thing as sinners. We are all going to heaven, and they would have this nice big pie in the sky, and what

the devil did was counter the preaching of these men. The devil gave them another religion. It is an American religion. Has no foundation anywhere in history. It did not come over on the Mayflower. You could go back in the fifth century, the eighth century, 1000 A.D. You could not find anybody that believes what these guys believe from 1800 on because the devil started it to stop what God was doing.

And then we move as the Spirit of God moves east to west. We know now He moved southwest, moving to the west. We find the Second and the Third Great Awakenings taking place. The second one is in 1800 in New York and Pennsylvania. The third one is called the Cumberland Valley Gap Revival in Ohio and Maryland around 1820-1830. We see the Holy Spirit of God move southwest along the East Coast into the Southern states during this time. The men were:

- Charles Finney Christmas Evans John Peck Peter Cartwright

These are men that literally during this time captivated and just took hold of all the souls. And I mean, revival was just everywhere. And then we see the second and the third cult pop up. And God, I am telling you again, you better learn it. God has a direction in history, and when God takes a step in that direction, the devil is always going to take a step to stop it. It is true in your life. It is true in history. And this is what you have to see when you see the Seven Great Awakenings. And this is where these churches come from.

The second one was the Mormon Church, started in 1820 by Joseph Smith. He later dies, and Brigham Young takes it over. And of course, today we know them as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because someplace after the 1820s they split. And really the latter group, which we have in Independence—that is where their headquarters is—and the other group is out there in Utah. And the Latter-day Saints, which is in Independence, they follow Joseph Smith's son, and then Brigham Young takes the rest of them out there in Utah, and that is where they get split today.

Somebody says, "Where did they come from?" Well, they started in 1820. You could not find a Mormon in the history of the world if your life depended on it. In fact, I have a standing offer. I have a standing offer. I will pay anybody \$100,000 in cash. You only have to pay taxes for it. I will not tell anybody. You do not have to tell anybody. I will pay you \$100,000 in cash. What do you have? Checkbook. \$100,000 in cash. \$100,000 in cash. You show me one of these churches before 1800. Want to get \$100,000 in your pocket? Come and show me. Somebody said one time, "Well, you know what? He is talking big." "He does not have \$100,000." I will get the money together before you find where they are at. They are not there. They are not there. They are not there.

Now, I will tell you what. The Mormons, they basically believe you can baptize for the dead. If you died and were not saved, no problem. We will baptize for you. God has many wives. Satan and Jesus were brothers. God is on one planet near a star called Kolob, and He is producing children. And if you want to get real technical, the children He is producing show up on Earth. There are all the white people, and the devil, he is on another planet by another star, and he is producing children. Do you know who they are? All the black people. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Next time they come to your door, ask them about that and watch how fast they head off down the

road. They do not like to talk about that publicly, but when you study them out, you know what they have. You know what they have.

And you know what, they do not believe in any literal resurrection of Christ. They did not. Here is how it worked. Joseph Smith is living on a farm, I think it is in New York, out on his farm someplace he finds some golden tablets. In those golden tablets, an angel appears to him called Moroni, and that angel tells him this is the truth of life. You know what? Sorry about everybody else, but Joseph, you are going to have a great job. From now on, you are going to take the truth of God to only one millionth of one percent of all the world. Everybody else is just out of luck. So Joseph Smith gets those things, he says, "Oh no, I am a Mormon." It was "moron," but he changed it because everybody was looking at him. He said, "Now I am a Mormon." And he takes those things, and he goes around, and pretty soon the people are, you know what the devil is doing? The devil is counteracting what the Holy Spirit of God is doing.

Now they themselves are getting a little split down the line, and the other groups are right down the road here. You ever see that building? I do not know if you know this. You ever know that big spiral tower they have down there? Do you know what that is for? Because all these groups believe that God is done with the nation of Israel. They all believe they are taking the place of the nation of Israel. So do you know why they build that spiral? Because they believe, now if you and I believe our Bible, let me ask you a question. Where is Jesus coming back to? Jerusalem. They think He is coming to Independence. I would not want God to come to Independence. I have been to Independence. No offense if you live in Independence.

And I will tell you something else. Do you know why they have that big spiral tower? Because that is the temple. We know from the Bible, Zechariah 14, and 5,000 other places that Christ is going to go in the temple in Jerusalem. They teach He is going to go to the temple right there. So they build a big tower with a big red light on it so when God comes back He can find it. I have something else for you. If your God needs a big tower with a red light on to find where He needs to go, I do not want any part of Him either. Now you are laughing. Do you know why you are laughing? Because it is stupid. I am sorry. It is stupid. But why? Why? Because the devil countered out of the next one.

In the 1830s we find another church called the Church of Christ. The Church of Christ comes from two guys, Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone. Now these two guys were part of the Presbyterian Church, got their nose bent out of joint, and they broke from the Presbyterian Church to start their own church called the Church of Christ. Do you know why it is called the Church of Christ? Because they teach it is the only true church in the world. So it is called the Church of Christ. You are going to bump into these guys like you do the Mormons. They are all over the place. They temporarily believe that there is no other church outside them. No salvation outside them.

In both cases, the Mormons and the Church of Christ—sometimes they are called Campbellites—you are going to find that they both teach baptism for salvation. But they all teach it differently. A Campbellite says that you cannot be saved unless you get baptized. The blood of Jesus Christ gets applied to your sins in the public water system of a baptismal in a Church of

Christ baptistry when a Church of Christ preacher baptizes you. The blood of Christ comes through somehow. It is one of those new filtration systems, and it comes in there, and that is how you get saved. How you get saved. As far as I am concerned, we need to take that idea and put it on top of that pinnacle over there so He can find them all when He comes. Because that is about where it is at. There is no salvation outside their church. They reject the book of Revelation. I wonder why? Because the book of Revelation says He is coming back to Jerusalem, you see. And it is all that concept. All of that concept. All of these people, all these cults, are the way it works.

Now the Fourth Great Awakening, remember now, the Holy Spirit of God is moving from the north up to Massachusetts, coming down the East Coast as it moves westward, and then it breaks into the Southern states in the 1860s during the Civil War. That would be Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, and as it moves west. To this day, this great awakening made such an impact on this country, even today. The Southern states are called the Bible Belt. There are more Bible-believing Baptist churches on every street corner down South than anything you ever saw in your life. They make a real impact.

You know, one of the things that most people do not know about the Civil War and all those things that took place is that when this revival breaks out, 90% of the Civil War generals—we are talking about Hill and Stuart and Johnson and Forrest and Hood and Longstreet, Lee and Jackson—they are all born-again Christians. They are all saved men who really love the Lord. So we find a revival breaking out. And we find men like:

- A.B. Earle Dwight Talmadge C.I. Scofield

Somebody have a Scofield Reference Bible. Do you know where that Scofield Reference Bible comes from? It comes from C.I. Scofield. Do you know who he was? He was a Civil War general on the Southern side. Got saved, became a great preacher, and wrote a reference Bible that to this day is one of the best reference Bibles you will buy. And we find that during this time, all these men are preaching, and a great revival breaks out.

Remember now, as the Holy Spirit of God moves, the devil moves in to try to kill that revival. At the end of every revival, it ends in disaster because of the Law of Collapse. But there is a remnant that to this day stands true to the Word of God. Now, when this revival breaks out down here, the devil counters. Do you know what he counters with? He counters with the Seventh-day Adventist. Seventh-day Adventists start with a guy by the name of William Miller in the 1840s. His followers are called Millerites. Again, you want \$100,000? Find me a Seventh-day Adventist anywhere in history before 1840.

William Miller, he comes to the idea that he gets over there in Daniel 8, and he gets fooling around with those 2,300 days over there, and he comes up with 2,300 years. He predates the prediction for the Second Coming of Christ in 1844. I forget what the date was. And all of his followers the day before were giving away everything they had. Boy, don't you wish you lived back then. They were giving away their car. They did not have cars. They were giving away their horses, giving away their buggies, giving away everything, giving away their clothes. They did

not need it. And they all went to Miller's farm, and they sat around there holding hands, singing "Kumbaya," waiting for the great revival to come because Miller had figured it out.

Now, the next day, they are all still sitting there. Somebody said, "What was the first thing that went through their mind?" It was, "How do I get my buggy back?" It did not come. So, Miller, being undone, goes back in and figures it out again. He says, "Oh, I missed it by three weeks." It did not come. It did not come. Still has not come, but He is coming. Miller just did not have it. Well, it starts to fade out a little bit, and then a gal by the name of Ellen White picks it up, and she turns it into a spiritual healing type of thing, a medicine, and off they go. And we find that Seventh-day Adventism with that counter right there.

Then the Fifth Great Awakening heads northwest into Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio. And this great awakening is by guys like:

- D.L. Moody from Chicago William Booth (who starts the Salvation Army) Charles Haddon Spurgeon (who did not live in America, who was a preacher in England, but the impact of his writings and his messages)

You realize that during this period of time, in every daily newspaper—you would go by a Kansas City Star, New York Times, I do not care where—every newspaper you would buy, they would print in its entirety these hot, fire-and-damnation preachers, their messages in entirety in the newspapers. I mean, people were reading it. I am talking, it was a revival. It was a revival.

And I will tell you what, when this revival starts to get on, and the devil wants to counter this one, he counters with it in 1879 with Mary Baker Eddy and the Christian Science Movement. The Christian Science Movement teaches basically that there is no heaven, there is no hell, there is no death, there is no judgment. It teaches that Jesus really did not die on the cross, or Christ did not die on the cross, but a man named Jesus did. They teach the fact that Jesus was God only temporarily, and while Jesus was on the cross, then Christ left him and the man Jesus died, and that is why you have to get your salvation through being baptized and all the other stuff that goes along with it, and they move in, and that is where they come from.

And boy, I will tell you what, every step of the way, every step of the way, the Sixth Great Awakening heads into Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, into the Midwest, under the preaching of guys like:

- Sam Jones Bob Jones Sr. Bob Shuler J. Frank Norris Billy Sunday (the most notable guy)

Billy Sunday was a ball player, played professional ball, went to a revival meeting one night, got saved, hung up his cleats, put away his glove, and for the next 50 years of his life, brother, he tore this country apart for the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He was an incredible preacher, and I am telling you what, I mean, when we brought Prohibition in in the 1920s—Prohibition, by the way, for those who do not know it, was the outlawing of alcohol that was brought in by bootleggers. And Prohibition was the outlawing of alcohol in this country, which was unprecedented. You could not buy liquor anywhere, and that Prohibition came into being for one reason. That was the preaching of one man, Billy Sunday, and brother, when he got into that pulpit, he tore the place apart.

When he died, his body lay in state, and two million people filed by his body in that open casket, and a New York Times reporter stood there recording the event, said, "Without exception, every man, every woman that filed by that casket, with tears running on their face, looked at him and said, 'I am in heaven today because of that man's preaching right there.'" He rocked his world. Three million converts are estimated in his preaching. I am telling you what, and he was just one of them. He was just one of them. But I mean to tell you what, he was an on-fire preacher, and he tore this country apart. And I am telling you, it was an incredible thing.

Bob Jones Sr., Sam Jones was a great evangelist, but I have to talk just a minute about the old Texas tornado, J. Frank Norris. J. Frank Norris was an incredible guy. J. Frank Norris is basically, and here it is, this is where you and I get into it. J. Frank Norris is why you and I are here today preaching. If it would not have been for a man by the name of J. Frank Norris that held the line and stayed true to the book, you and I would not be having church this morning. We would not have the Bible that we have this morning.

During this time, we find that the cycle of history begins to unfold. We find that God brings this great revival, and the devil begins to counteract it. We find that during this time, we find that the great teaching of the Jehovah's Witnesses show up. And this is where in 1884, with Charles Taze Russell and Joseph Franklin Rutherford, we find in the Watchtower movement, we find the religion of Jehovah's Witnesses taking over and coming in to try to undo it. But during this particular time, let me tell you something about old J. Frank Norris. Old J. Frank Norris had stayed true.

During this time in America, there are only three groups of Baptists in America. There are the Southern Baptists, which are the absolute, humongous biggest. Then there is what we call the General Association of Baptists. And then there are the American Baptists, and they are two smaller groups. And they are the only Baptist groups in America. And by the time we get into the 1900s and the 1920s, all three of them are deader than a dead fish in the sun. I mean, they are absolutely dead.

The Southern Baptist Church has like 48 or 58 seminaries all across this country. They once believed the Bible. Now what they are teaching in the 1920s, they are teaching the theory of evolution. They are teaching that Jesus Christ was not God. They are teaching that the story of Adam and Eve and Noah's flood was a fable. They have totally, completely rejected, and they have raised up five or six generations. That is what killed the Southern Baptist Church. To this day, they are split down the middle. They have the conservative side, they have the liberal side. And they are in a mess. And they are in a mess because of what happened when the apostasy crept in.

J. Frank Norris was one of their fair-haired young preacher boys. And he preached in his church in Texas. He preached in his churches down there against those things, and it kicked him out. And when it kicked him out, he said, "No problem." And he started what we know today as the fundamentalist movement. I am here today preaching to you out of a King James 1611 authorized version for one reason. Because when I lived in Ohio, I went to the Canton Baptist Temple. And the Canton Baptist Temple was pastored by a man by the name of Harold Henniger.

Harold Henniger died two years ago. And about a year ago, Harold Henniger was one of J. Frank Norris's boys, taught by J. Frank Norris when Norris left the Southern Baptist Church and started the fundamental movement to stay true to the Word of God.

J. Frank Norris, do you know how he got saved? He got saved listening to these old preachers. It was either Sam Jones or Jasper Ray or one of the ones that he went through a revival here. But he heard and he preached. How many of you turn in to listen to the old Grand Ole Opry down there? Do you know where the Grand Ole Opry is? The Grand Ole Opry is down in Nashville, Tennessee. I think the building is down there in Nashville, Tennessee. Do you know where they hold it? Ryman Auditorium. Why, there are people that pack that place out and listen to Conway Twitty and all those people. And I have nothing against country western. Really cannot figure it out. But I have nothing against it. You know all that stuff. But you know what? I love that stuff, and I love to watch those things.

Here is, I do not know how many people are sitting down there in Ryman Auditorium and are down there listening to Grand Ole Opry and all those things. All those great country singers, and there is nobody sitting in that place that understands that the Ryman Auditorium was built in the 1920s after an evangelist hit that town by the name of Gipsy Smith that tore that town upside down, and a millionaire got saved that night and built the Ryman Auditorium for Gipsy Smith to hold his revival services in all down through the 1920s and 1930s. And anybody who knows that today. I know it. Do you know why? I am not getting left in the dust. I am not.

And we see that the reason why you and I are here today is because of J. Frank Norris. And then we find the Seventh Great Awakening. And you have to remember that each one of these awakenings does not have the impact that the last one did, and it does not last as long. The first one lasted about 20-30 years, and then as the devil moves in and he brings in all of the humanism, and he brings in all of the stuff that comes over from Europe, and in addition to that, the American cults that come on the scenes. We find how it just absolutely destroys quickly as it goes down through.

And the last great awakening starts on the West Coast in the 1950s with a young man by the name of Billy Graham. Billy Graham got saved by hearing one of the great old preachers out of the preceding group. Billy Graham went to Bob Jones College—it was not a University then, it was Bob Jones College—when Billy Graham got out of that college, do you know where Billy Graham went? Billy Graham joined a Baptist church down in Texas, which was Norris's old church. Billy Graham, starting out, was a Baptist. He was a Baptist and identified with the Baptists because they came out of that movement.

And when you begin to watch that thing, and you begin to watch the last great awakening come down through history. This is where you find the great men during this time like:

- Tom Malone Bob Gray Harold Henniger (my pastor in Canton, Ohio) Mel Subaca (the man that taught me the Bible one-on-one) Peter S. Ruckman (who taught me the Word of God) Dallas Billington in Akron, Ohio John R. Rice (the great Southern evangelist) Art Wilson from Massillon, Ohio John Rawlings from Cincinnati, Ohio J. Harold Smith Jerry Falwell

Every one of them today trace their roots back to this last great awakening, which we have today, the remnant of every one of them. When Billy Graham starts out, he is Baptist, he is preaching, he is preaching the right Bible, he is preaching the right message, he is doing everything that he is supposed to do, and then as the cycle of history begins to revolve, it all begins to collapse on itself. It always has, always will.

People ask me why I preach the way I preach. People ask me all the time why I do the things that I do the way I do them. You know why? Because I know that is the only way to stop it from happening in this church. It is the only way to keep it from transcending down and destroying this church like it has destroyed not every church, but most of them. Most of them get so big that they get so powerful, they get so this, they get so unaccountable that they just lose their whole perspective, and that is what happened.

I will tell you what, you know what? I like Billy Graham. Now most Baptists, both Baptist preachers, hate him. I like him. I think of nothing else, he is at least the only preacher in the world today that morally has not... I mean, you cannot argue with a guy. I do not like what he has done. I understand why he has done it. You know what his downfall was? He wanted to reach the masses. You know what he did? He lined up with a bunch of liberals that had the money behind him that would do it, and Billy Graham sold his birthright, so to speak, and they put him in the places to preach all over the place, but the people pulling the strings behind him were the people that had the money, and in time they dictated what Billy would preach, and that is a terrible thing, but that is what happened.

I do not have any argument with him. If he is on television, I will listen to him. I like his boy. I am not fighting it. I am not fighting anybody. I just know who I am and why I believe what I believe. That is all. That is all I know that I understand it. You know what? It came to the point, take it in 1980, on October 7th, you know what? Pope John the Second came to the United States. They asked Billy Graham to write an article in the Saturday Evening Post. He did. In February of 1980, he called the Pope the greatest religious leader of the modern world, one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of the century. He called him a bridge. Listen to me now, he wrote, and go get it off the internet, he called the Pope a bridge between man and God. My goodness, I thought I read somewhere that was Jesus. I thought there was no mediator between man and God, which is one Christ Jesus. What is a Baptist 20th century firebrand preacher doing in the world saying that there is any man, whether it be a Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or even a Baptist, that is the bridge between God and man? I do not understand that. Yeah, I do, I do. The seeds began to fall. They began to fall.

In the 1990s, the Catholics came up with what they call the Catholic Evangelism Accord, which was Catholics and evangelicals together reaching the world for the third millennium. And of course, the men that signed it were some of the notable charismatics: Carl F.H. Henry, Pat Robertson, Bill Bright, J.I. Packer, and of course, our old buddy Billy Graham. In 1994, Time Magazine made Pope Man of the Year. Graham wrote, "He will go down in history as our greatest Pope." Oh, timeout. "Our greatest Pope"? I do not think so. "As our greatest Pope, he has been a strong spiritual concern champion of the whole Christian world."

And you see, this is where it goes. It begins to implode on itself, and the religion that the devil brings up to counter all this is called the Charismatic Movement. The Charismatic Movement starts in 1900 on the West Coast with a woman, Aimee Semple McPherson, at the Azusa Street Mission. It moves into the Full Gospel Business Men's Association in the 1930s and 1940s, and then becomes what we know today as the Full Gospel, telling you that the gospel you believe is not enough; you have to get the full gospel. And of course, the Charismatic Movement is a fleshy, a very sensual, a very no-doctrine movement.

And this is where it all goes, and that is why today what we have is a Christianity that has been shot through, that there is no doctrine. You compare the revivals of Billy Graham with the revivals of J. Frank Norris or Billy Sunday. I mean, if you do not know the difference, you missed a big thing out of life. I mean, you watch the Billy Graham crusade, and you watch when he gets up and he is seeing the invitation. Hundreds of people come down. Do you know who those hundreds of people are? They are the workers. Do you know what their philosophy is? "When we start to sing 'Just As I Am,' you all people get up and you start to move down because if you start to go down front, it will help other people feel comfortable, and they will get up and they will come down front."

You know what happens when you have a church that lines up and you say, "I want to be part of your revival"? You have to go to little meetings. The first thing you are told is, "Don't tell anybody about doctrine." If somebody comes down and they are screwed up on a religion or a church or baptism, you are not allowed to talk to them about anything about doctrine. All you can do is win them to Christ. You see, my Bible says the most important thing of all the Bible, and it is for doctrine. But you see, that is where we are at today. That is the world we are in today. Nobody wants to take a hard line. Nobody wants to take a hard stand. We all want this marshmallow in the sky that God is some big cream puff up there that just goes along with everything in life, and that is not the God of the Bible, and that is not reality, and that is not the way it works, and that is the problem we have got today.

You are going to find that America is in the mess that it is in today because down through the history of this country, where it was started on the Word of God, founded on the Word of God, and brought through step by step, that as the laws of collapse, as the seven absolute laws began to descend and unfold on this Earth, on this country, just like it does in your life, we talked about the last couple of weeks that this began to erode. Yet in it all, God has His faithful remnant, and today the job is getting done not with the big churches, not with a great television evangelist. It is getting done with a little guy just like you, the gal just like you, that every day slug it out nine to five, that you have to, you work for a living, and you are out there telling people the story one-on-one, winning them to Christ, telling them the story of Christ.

VI. The Pastor's Dilemma

Now I want to tell you what my dilemma is, and then I am done. Here is what I struggle with more than anything else. You see, I watch faces when I preach, and this is not a criticism. Some of you looked at me today like a mystified owl, and maybe I am, but I understand that. You know

what my biggest dilemma is, and I am not kidding you, my biggest struggle as pastor of this church is this:

You see, I grew up knowing those guys. I grew up with a pastor that actually heard Billy Sunday preach, that actually sat and talked to J. Frank Norris. I rubbed shoulders with men as a young man coming up in the ministry with guys that really were the last remnant of those days when the Holy Spirit of God came down, brother, and it was there. And my greatest dilemma is how to convey that to young men and young ladies today that do not have any idea what I am talking about.

My greatest tragedy, I think the greatest tragedy in this city today, is you have preachers trying to preach, workers trying to work, good Christians who are trying to do the best they can, and they have no point of reference to what they are doing. They hear somebody say, "Oh, we had a great revival over at so-and-so's church," and they think, "Wow, a great revival!" And in saying that, they have no idea as a point of reference what revival is. No point of reference. They have no idea of what it means for God to come down and stir some place where not just one person gets saved or some real retreads get resaved, but I mean the whole town shuts down and the whole town wakes up three months later serving God. They do not have a clue. They do not understand.

And my greatest dilemma I see for me, you see what I did is when I saw that, when I knew those guys, when those guys would tell me the story just like I am telling you, it excited me to the place that I said, "You know what? If that is what is real, if that is the way it really was, if that is what God was really doing, if that is the way the Holy Spirit of God was moving, I want to be part of that." And I went back and I investigated every part of those men's lives. I wanted to go where God was.

Back in Ohio, in Canton, we had a guy in our church back there that everybody laughed at and made fun of, and he obviously was not exactly all together. He was not severely retarded, but it was very obvious that he got confused a lot and he did a lot of dumb things, and a lot of people would laugh at him at church. I always liked him. I always thought, and I still think to this day, you know, that people that are born that way, that God just takes... I really believe that God somehow gives them some kind of special relation that maybe we do not even have.

And everybody laughed at this guy. I cannot even remember his name. One day I came out of church, and it was late, and everybody was gone, and he was standing over here by the side of the building, and he was down on his knees, and I thought he fell. And he was down on his knees. He was down there, and he was like this, and I thought he fell, and I walked over to him and I said, "Are you okay?" He did not answer me, and I looked down there, and I got down next to him, and I put my arm around him, and I thought he was sick then. And then I saw that right there in front of him was a little dead sparrow.