

Mark

Sunday 4/17/2005

Mark

For the Book of Mark. As you know, last week we entered into the New Testament proper, so to speak. We actually started a book the week before that. We kind of laid out how the New Testament all kind of flows. Today we are going to focus on the next book, which is the Book of Mark. Where Matthew really laid out for us the first coming of Christ and really showed us Christ as the Jewish Messiah, the King to Israel, Mark really began to show us the aspect of Christ as a servant.

Now I know that when we talk about different aspects of the ministry, and you hear a lot of terminology sometimes, and sometimes you do not always understand the terminology, or maybe it gets a little confusing. I know I have used the terminology about the aspect of ministry, and then you turn around and you talk about the aspect of service in the ministry. I am sure a lot of God's people think they are the same. I am sure a lot of people and a lot of preachers use them interchangeably to mean the same, but the Bible is its own book of definitions.

When the Bible defines ministry, it defines the ministry as dealing with people. The ministry in the Bible will always be teaching somebody the Word of God on some particular level. This is why we are working through the program, and just in a couple of weeks, there are a number of you that are going to start coming through the very basic classes of how to teach somebody the Word of God, and that is going to be an ongoing thing, not something we are just going to do one time.

Now that we have come to the point after about a year and a half, we are ready to enter into that realm where we have got a good foundation built in many of your lives, and now we are going to work from there as God brings men and women in and they become part of our ministry, then we will incorporate them in where we need to for all of the things that we are going to try to accomplish. You are going to find that ministry is defined in the Bible as teaching somebody the Word of God, laying out the scriptures for them in whatever capacity or whatever level they are on.

But service in the Bible has to do with your attitude of heart. It has nothing to do with what you do, but has everything to do with how you do it. Mark, to me, has always been one of my favorite books in the Bible, because the Gospel of Mark really shows me the aspect of Christ as a servant. That is something that many times we lose sight of. In fact, I think the Book of Mark is probably one of the most incredible books of the Bible.

You would not think of this, but normally, when we look at the Body of Christ and the sad state of affairs that Christianity is in, we go to the Book of Revelation, or we go to some of the other books that prophetically show us the end time and the way we know we are, as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man. But really, from a practical standpoint of what is wrong with Christianity, and why Christianity has lost its power, I do not know of a better book in the Bible that shows that and lays that out, other than the Book of Mark.

Yet, personally, for me, as a minister, someone who does not just do the ministry, but someone who understands both aspects: the ministry, what you do, and the aspect of you being a servant, how you do it. The Book of Mark is an incredible book. It focuses on what Christ does more than what He says.

I. The Mind of a Servant

In Philippians 2:5, and really, I think it is 5 through 11, you find a great passage there that really lays out the Book of Mark. Even though it is a long way from the Book of Mark (Paul wrote Philippians, John Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark), and even though there is a great distance between the two in time and two in authors, yet the Holy Spirit of God brings it together that if there is ever a passage that really lays out what Mark is, it is this passage.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Father, we thank You today for what You have for us. We pray, Lord, that You will continue to lay out the Word of God as we go through it. Help us to learn the great lessons of this great book. If there was ever a time when God's people ever needed the message of today, boy, it is now in the time that we live in. We thank You, Father, for all that You do and what You are going to do. I will just praise You for all that You have done for us in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

This morning, I want to make a statement before I preach this message. Because I want this statement to be permeated in your minds, and I alluded to this a couple of weeks ago, but I want you to understand this statement in light of what I am going to preach this morning. I have been in the Bible now for 34 or 35 years. For much of that time, I have been dealing with people and dealing with looking at the world, and most of you have been around me for a while. We have had some great studies that encompass a worldwide concept, like the Middle East, like we did on New Year's Eve, and we have done a hundred such things, all the way down to showing you who was behind the assassination of JFK. Who would ever think that is in the Bible? But it is in John, that is who they shot, chapter six. No, I am just kidding.

Anyway, the Bible lays out everything for you. You know that. Through the years of observing and watching people, and really watching the church, obviously knowing what the Bible says in the Book of Revelation, and how we are in the Laodicean church period (if you do not know that, you need to know that, and all the characteristics of that period). We are in the last period of the history of the church before Christ comes back, and it is the worst period in church history.

I want to make this statement. I firmly believe in my mind, in my heart, based on what I see, based on the way I see God's people acting and reacting or not acting, I firmly believe in my heart and my mind as we stand right here, that the only thing that will keep the Body of Christ from lining up with the Antichrist is the rapture of the church.

I made that statement a couple of weeks ago, just in passing, but I want to preface the Book of Mark with that statement today, because I believe the Body of Christ is a mess. I believe that most of God's people are a mess. I believe that we are so confused on truth, we are so absolutely messed up in our minds on reality. I deal with people all week long. I talk to people all week long. I have never in all my years of dealing with people, seen God's people so totally out of whack when it comes to the reality of the situation versus the la-la land that they live in.

God's people today are living their lives like they have got the rest of their lives to live. They are living their lives like the Judgment Seat of Christ is a long way off and you have plenty of time. (It is a pertinent thing that I am loosening my tie.) When I come to the Book of Mark, the Book of Mark is a personal book; it shows me why I believe the statement I just made. And you, if you are honest this morning, will come to that conclusion too, based on simply what the scriptures say, based on where God's people are.

Now we use Philippians 2:5 where it says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." That is one of our great verses that we talk about the Bible being the mind of Christ. Paul makes another reference to this where he says, "We have the mind of Christ." Here he says, "Let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus." Now we take that and we use that as the Bible is the mind of God; therefore, you need to do everything in your life by the principles of the Word of God. That is true, there is no question about that. And that does not do any harm to the text. But in the context here, the mind that he is talking about for you and I to have is the mind of a servant. That is the real issue in the pointed part of Philippians 2. The mind that we should be in is the mindset of a servant.

Christ could have done the first coming of Christ any way that He wanted to. Christ chose the way to do it based on what He wanted to accomplish. I know that there are all kinds of role models in the Bible. David is a great role model, Moses is a great role model. The list is endless. But every one of them is a man who has an old sin nature. Every one of them fails many times, multiple times. Even though they are great role models, God wanted to give us one role model that was perfect. That role model is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted on all points like we are, yet the Bible says, "without sin." Because of that great concept, we have before us a role model here that is an incredible role model for you and for me based on Philippians 2 of what our attitude of heart should be toward ministry from the aspect of a servant.

The Bible says that in Philippians 2:8, "being found in fashion as a man," Christ set the pattern. What Christ did was very unique. Most of God's people have no clue of this. But what Christ did is that God looked down through the annals of time way back. You find this in Proverbs 8. God knew what He was going to do and God knew that He was going to have, when He made man, He was going to have to have some kind of relationship with man.

Now God in His biblical form is light. There is no way that man, I mean, put into your mind for just a moment if you walk out on the hottest day in July with a cloudless sky and the sun right there about blowing about, you know, just 110-degree temperature heat index, you know, off the wall and the sun beating down, just try imagining standing up and looking at that great ball of fire, which is 93 million miles away by the way, and trying to carry on a conversation with that, or even just looking at it. Obviously, there is no way logically that you can do that.

Well, the sun is a type of God the Father, and God the Father is much bigger, much brighter. In fact, the Bible says when He comes back in Revelation and His light and His glory lights everything in the second half, we do not even need the sun or the moon anymore. God knew that if He came down with a big light, shining it in our face and said, "Hey, Bob, how are you doing?" One, I would be heading off in the bushes someplace. And two, I could not stand in the presence of that light in a sinful state.

So you know what God did? God fashioned Himself as a man. In fashioning Himself as a man, He did a number of things. One of the things He did, He set a role model for me. Because when Christ stepped out of the Trinity and became a man, even though He is still God, there are things that the earthly man Jesus forgot that He knew as God. Now that is tough to track. Can you imagine Christ who is God stepping out of the Trinity and then choosing to forget some things that God knows, but because He is coming as a man, He chose to have to forget them so He could be like you and me? Now that is a hard concept to get, but God can do anything.

That is exactly what He did because there are places in the Bible that talk about the separate coming of Christ that say only the Father knows, the angels do not know, and in one place it says the Son does not know Christ. Why? Because in His earthly form, there are some things that He chose not to know so He could fulfill that role model. Because I do not know when He is coming. You do not know for sure when He is coming, though I believe He is going to be before I finish the sermon this morning. He separated Himself from God.

Then what He did, He took on the role of a servant. This is God playing out the role model of a Son, and He becomes obedient to Himself in everything in ministry, in life, in everything that He does, so you and I would have an absolute, exact, perfect, infallible role model, no questions about it, of how we should be in our relationship with God. It is incredible, absolutely incredible. Giving us an example of our being a servant by Him becoming the perfect role model of a servant unto His own Father, even though He is God. Wow.

What Mark does in his account of the first coming of Christ, he shows you the major theme of Christ being a servant, and that is His work, and shows you behind the scenes the attitude that He has. He shows us the mind of a servant, which is laid out for us as He gave in Philippians 2, where He comes, makes Himself, even though He was God, even though He was deity, even

though He was everything, the Bible says that He made Himself of no reputation. He took on the form of a servant in the likeness of man, and He was fashioned as a man, and He was obedient to His Father unto the death of the cross.

II. The Structure of Mark

Now the breakdown of the Book of Mark is on this theme. Here it comes, I told you last Thursday night, when I gave you all that good stuff of how to begin to make your Bible a reference Bible, I told you that from this point on, as I have already done, I am going to begin to mark for you the places where you have to get these breakdowns in your Bible about each book of the Bible. All right, simple.

- Mark-10: The Servant Presented
- Mark 11-16: The Servant Promoted

Let me just say this by the way, those chapters are the greatest chapters in the Bible that show you something that we need to believe as Bible believers. We are going to get to that when we get there. Mark 11-16 talks about Jesus Christ the Servant promoted. You will find that all of the book covers the same material as Matthew does, except there is a different emphasis on things as I want you to see as we start to come through here. I will explain those as we go.

In Mark 1, we have no genealogy. I told you this last week in the Book of Matthew, you have a genealogy of His kingly line. In the Book of Luke, you have a genealogy of His earthly line. In the Gospel of John, you have a genealogy from His deity line. But in Mark, there is no genealogy because He is portrayed as a servant, and a servant has no genealogy. He is bought with a price. He does not have any rights. Nobody cares about where He came from because He is in service and He is a servant.

You will find out the story of John the Baptist, much like you will in Matthew. It is scaled down. You will find in Mark 1:15, the temptations of Christ like we saw in Matthew, but they are very scaled down because that is not where He is putting the emphasis. The emphasis in Mark is going to be with His attitude of heart toward dealing with people because it is going to define for us the difference between being a minister and being a servant. I know a lot of preachers who are ministers, but I do not know many who are servants. They all live like kings and you are the serfs and the smurfs that live in their little kingdoms that do their bidding.

In Mark 2 and Mark 3, we see Him putting the emphasis on His servanthood to man, and He begins to deal with the needs of the people of the nation of Israel. This is the great chapter in Mark 1:41, where He is moved with compassion because in Mark, you are going to see the inner Christ. You are going to see His motivation for helping people. In that, we are going to get a great, great, great example and role model of how to be a servant and then also how not to be a servant.

In Mark 4, we find He breaks into the parables. This is interesting. I gave you last week in Matthew where there are 13 parables. Mark spends so little time on the Jewish side of things that

He only talks about the parables in one chapter and then He only gives you three out of the 13. There are 10 that He does not even mention in Mark. You know why? That is not His emphasis. His emphasis is people. He is showing us in Mark that the key to ministry is not just teaching people the Word of God, but the attitude of heart you have in giving them the Word of God.

Mark 5, we find Him dealing with people again. Now we find that the great stories here, now we find great detail. The great detail about the maniac of Gadara. Of course, we saw this in Matthew 8, but in Mark, it is different. Mark shows you that there are two sicknesses that are legitimate. All this stuff about somebody having a nervous breakdown, all the stuff that psychologists put out is a bunch of bunk when it comes to the Word of God. God teaches that there are two kinds of circumstances you find yourself in: people who are mentally retarded and people who are demon possessed. You are going to find that the Bible does not recognize anything else.

So when you have all these people come back around and saying, "Well, you know what? They are a victim of this and that and society made them this way." Bible does not recognize that. Bible deals with the fact that we are sinners, and because of our sin and not doing it right, we are accountable, good or bad, for what you have done with the Word of God in your life. I do not know what else to tell you.

There are lunatics, Luna, the moon. That is where the word comes from, Luna the moon, because your body is made of 95% of water. You people are nurses. Do not they have more babies on full moon nights than they do? You know why? Because the moon affects the tides. Your body is made up of 90% of water. So if you go into labor on the full moon, you are a lunatic. No, that is how it works. What I am saying is that is where the word comes from. We are affected by the moon. That is why in all the Wolfman stories, in all the scary stories and all the Friday the 13th stories, there is always a full moon hanging over there. Have you ever noticed that? Because we are affected by the moon. The moon is a type of the church. We do not have time to get into all this, but we will never get done. But it is a trail that goes all the way down through this thing. We will come on the other side. You are sure there will be a lunatic, but anyway.

So when He goes through the maniac of Gadara there in this chapter, He gives great detail on how to deal with people that have those kinds of problems. Then we find in Mark 5:22, the great story raising of Jairus' daughter. We find in Mark 5:25, the woman with the issue of blood. And then of course we find a great story in Mark 5:35, the ruler who had a dead daughter. Jesus makes the great statement, "She is not dead, but sleepeth," and gives you the greatest key of Christians dying in Christ. But, you know, like the people who were around Him, God's people laugh at it too and then missed a great principle. But everything in those chapters points to His compassion, His dealing with people.

III. The Danger of Losing a Servant's Attitude

Then we see in Mark 6, we see the first great lesson on the danger that we find in the ministry of losing our servant's attitude. I have noticed it, I see it all the time. I have noticed it for years, and I know the answers to it. It bothers me, but I know the answers to it. How many times I have seen God's people who were really good people, who really had potential, who really had come

to a point where they really were beneficial in the ministry and really had the wherewithal to do something. And for some reason, they quit growing. They just stopped, dead in their tracks. It is like, "I worked hard to get here, but I do not want to work any harder."

I have seen parents do the same thing when they have had multiple kids and they worked hard to raise those three kids or two kids or whatever. And then a fourth one comes along, a third one comes along, and suddenly they are worn out and tired, and they do not do with the last one what they did with the first three, and they lose that one. It is a thing where we get to the point where we begin to see it here, where we begin to coast.

Let me tell you the story here in Mark 6, because it is a great story. We see the first lessons here, as I said, in the danger of ministry and losing your servant's attitude and losing the power of God and trading it for a program. Because in Mark 6:7, He sends out the twelve. When He sends out the twelve, like He did in Matthew, but with a different aspect, we are seeing the service and an attitude. The Bible records here that right after He sends out the twelve, we have the great feeding here of the great multitude that are hungry. We find that story in Mark 6:35, 52, after they go out and preach and come back.

Once they come back, there is a difference and there is a change in the apostles. Because now they have been ruined by success. Now they have been ruined by the power of God that they had in their life. I have to say to you, it would be a tough thing. Here you are, a common ordinary fisherman or a tax collector or whatever, one of the twelve. And suddenly God sends you out and gives you power. I mean, you have seen Him raise the dead. You have seen Him unstop deaf eyes. You have seen Him unstop deaf ears. You have seen Him cast out demons and devils. And suddenly you have the power.

You are going out, and when you are going out there, you are going up to somebody who is wailing and weeping over the fact their son died. You are saying, "Hey, I am hearing the name of Jesus Christ. Watch this." And that guy stands up, and you give the glory to God, and off you go. And you start to do those miracles that Christ did. Well, let me tell you something. I will tell you what happened with the apostles. Because I have seen it happen with God's people. I will tell you exactly what happened. You got ruined by the success of the power of God in your life because you lost the attitude of a servant. And you actually think (they thought) that they were really part of the plan of the power of God instead of the instruments. I will show you how this thing went.

I am going to tell you something. If there is any chapter in all of the Bible that lays out where the Body of Christ is today, it is Mark 6. Because they go out and they do those miracles and they come back puffed up. Now the Bible says in Mark 6:52 that their hearts have been hardened. The Bible says in Mark 6:52 that the first thing happened in their life, which is what happens in your life and my life. You know what it is? The Bible says when they come back and they saw this great host of people that now needed to be fed, they did not want to mess with them anymore. You know why? Because there was no personal glory in it.

All they liked going out there and everybody running up and said, "Oh, are not you the guy that did the miracle over here?" And you would say, "Yes, I am. Are you the Lord? Are you the Lord?" "Well, no, I am not the Lord, but the resemblance is there, is not it? Are you one of the

twelve?" "Yes, I am one of the twelve, but I am really closer to the Lord than the rest of the twelve. And you are fortunate today that I happen to be here instead of one of the other eleven." Have you ever been there? I have, I have seen it. You betcha.

I am telling you, these people, this great multitude had nothing to eat. They are a picture of the starving masses of God's people. And because there was no personal glory in it, what did they say? "Send them away; let them fend for themselves." You see, that is exactly what happens when you begin to lose the attitude of being a servant. You think you are more important than you really are. And you think now because you know some Bible, you have some things down that, oh, you are the answer to everything. And you lose that attitude of the servant.

The first thing Jesus says down through here that they had not considered the miracle of the loaves and the fishes. The first thing that happened to them is the first thing that happens to every one of us. When you get into this mode, you quit looking at the miracles that God has done in your life and you start looking at your own personal involvement in the circumstances. You take God's power out of it and put yourself into it. And you come to the place where now you just think that God cannot get along without you.

When this happens, the Bible says God deliberately sends them into a ship in the midst of a sea. And a great storm ensues. What a picture of that is of where the Body of Christ is today, because the Body of Christ is operating just like, hey, if God were to die tomorrow, Bible Christianity in America would go on. You know why? It does not need God anymore. You have your own Bible, you have your own program, you have your own motives, you have your own goal. You do not have the power of God and have not had it for 75 years. And you do not need it. That is what the Laodicean Church says. He says over there, "You are rich, you are powerful. You have goods, you have buildings, and have need of nothing," including the power of God. Why? You keep pumping it up.

The Body of Jesus Christ today is on life support system. It is being force-fed to keep it alive. You say, "How do you know that, Bob?" I know that from this story. Because that is exactly what happens to God's people. Here they are, Mark 6:45-52, in this little boat tossed about on the sea of life. It is a picture of the church today. The winds are blowing, the winds are howling.

Let me tell you something. God's people, I have never known a day in my life where God's people know absolutely nothing about the work they claim to believe. I do not understand it. Now, you know, I give you five years when you get saved. I do not even think about you for five years because it takes that long, maybe sometimes to figure it out. But you give me a child and God's people have been saved 10, 15, 20, 25 years and they still have not figured out the basic things of the Bible that some of the kids over there in the nursery today understand.

Every wind of doctrine that blows, like that little boat on that ocean, "Oh, this blows in, oh, I am going to believe this." And then this blows in, "Oh, now I am going to believe this." And then somebody else goes, and you say, "Oh, look at this truth." And you are blown back and forth, why? Because you do not understand what that Book says yourself and you are too proud to learn. So the Body of Christ is tossed back and forth, and you know what else?

Christ finally comes walking on the water, and you better mark it, because He comes on the water to them in the fourth watch of the night, which matches up to the rapture of the church. When He comes to them, walking on the water, His own disciples, whom He just sent out, who had everything with Him, they did not even recognize who He was. They thought it was a what? A spirit. You know why? Because Christianity has become, "Ooh, feely." "I feel God wants me to do this. Oh, I feel, Brother Bob, that this is the way it is. Well, Pastor, I believe this. Bob, I feel this. I feel it." I do not care what you feel. What does the Book say?

The Body of Christ today is on life support. They cannot even recognize Christ anymore. I made my statement. I stand by it. The only thing that is going to keep the Body of Christ from hooking up with the Antichrist is the rapture of the church because we cannot even discern who Christ is anymore. We cannot. We cannot.

Now I am going to tell you why this happened. First, they lost sight of the miracles of God, and now the hardness of their heart. Here they are in a little boat, and that is what He does. He puts them down in that ship. A picture of the storms of our life. A picture of the spiritual condition of the Body of Christ being blown back and forth to and fro. The wind of the world is howling, and every doctrine of the world is coming down on top of them. When Christ shows up, they did not even recognize Him. In fact, you better watch the passage carefully. They did not recognize Him until they got to shore. And that is a picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

You can say what you want, you can believe what you want, and you can do whatever you want to do. But you know what? I am telling you something. I told a guy this week, I was talking to him on the phone. This guy exasperates me, and I love him. Finally I just said, he said, "Well, Pastor, what kind of advice do you have for me?" I said, "Lose 20 pounds and then go down to the tanning salon and get about 20 or 30 sessions down there." I am kidding you. I said, "Lose 20, 25 pounds, go down to the tanning salon and get a good tan." "Well, Brother Bob, what kind of advice is that? How is that going to help me?" "Because at the Judgment Seat of Christ, when you stand there naked, you will not look as goofy as you are going to do right now." I do not know what else to say.

My God, people, the Judgment Seat of Christ is coming. We are down here in this little boat being blown left and right, everything that comes around. "Well, now I believe this, now I believe that." We lost sight of the miracles of God. We are in this little boat being tossed one end to the other. When Christ is there, we do not even see Him. We do not even look at Him because we are too busy reading the last book we read on how to solve your problem with the spiritual counseling of secularism. We do not even find Him now because we cannot see through Dr. Phil and all his advice to get the right answer. We have come through everything where we go everywhere first except the one Book that God gave you that tells you everything about life you need to know.

IV. The Problem of Modern Christianity

In Mark 7, we see how this problem really got going. There are two kinds of people in this story all through Mark: one are the scribes and the Pharisees; the other are the apostles. The scribes

and the Pharisees represent for us all the modern-day religions that we are part of as Baptists. This little group of these apostles represent the so-called fundamental crowd where we place ourselves.

Mark 7 shows you the real problem. For in Mark 7, Jesus begins to talk to the scribes and the Pharisees, and here is what their big doctrinal kick is. Mark 7:1-5, you know what their big issue is? "Well, your disciples did not follow traditions of our Baptist fellowship. They ate with unwashed hands." You see, that is where Christianity is today. Who cares washing hands was not part of the law? Who cares? You could not find washing your hand before you eat as anything religious with a laser beam and a flashlight the next 25,000 years you have to search through the Bible. Who cares about that? It is what we want to believe as Baptists. We always believe it this way. The fact that it is not in the Bible, it never came into the thing. This is what it is. And they start judging the people of God by an unscriptural judgment that has nothing to do with anything in the Bible anywhere. Have you been around there? I have.

You know what Jesus says? He says, "You have laid aside the Word of God, and now you are making up your own traditions." He says in Mark 7:7, "You worship in vain." You want to have fun sometime, just ask the average, the next Bible Christian, Baptist you find for a Bible definition of worship. It is the funniest thing in the world. I do not watch cartoons anymore. Not because I do not like them. Daffy Duck is a favorite of mine. Wily Coyote is out of gas compared to some of these boys in the gas they are putting out.

I had a guy today, I watched it this morning. I usually do this in the morning when I am getting the dogs ready, getting everything cleaned up downstairs, and well, just flip it on for a little while. I heard today somebody say, "Thank you for being here today for our worship service." I heard another guy say, a little bit further along in the service, "We are going to worship God today with our tithes and our offerings." And I thought to myself, well, there are two bozos right there. I do not have a clue what the Bible says about worship.

You think you are worshiping God here this morning? Well, if you are, you are in a backslidden condition. If you think you worship God when you come here and then you turn off the worship button and go out of here and do your own thing, let me tell you something: worship, true worship (John 4), is to worship God in spirit and truth. It is a 24/7 thing in your life. When you are here this morning, you are not here to worship God. You are here to add the Word of God to what you have been worshiping all week long. It never stops. A worship service, what is that? Worship God with your tithes and your offerings, what is that? Spirit and truth, spirit and truth. Spirit lives inside you; the truth is in a Book. That is where your worship is. But you know what? They are probably right, because most of them turn it on and turn it off whenever they need to. That is the problem.

The scribes and the Pharisees of Jesus' time are no different than the scribes and the Pharisees of our time. I will tell you something else. The apostles and their hardness of their heart getting all confused and screwed up and losing the aspect of the ministry is no different than you and I. And Jesus said, "You know what, boys? I have some bad news for you. You are worshiping in vain."

I am going to say to the Body of Christ this morning, not necessarily you folks, but I am telling you, the Body of Christ this morning, you are in that little boat being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Your life is upside down. You will not know the first thing, why you believe what you believe. You have been saved for 35 years and you are worshiping in vain. You have something that is Christian and something that is spiritual, but it is neither biblical nor scriptural.

I will just say this to you. You can put all the material in your Bible on Thursday nights you want to. You can walk around and show everybody how good a note taker you are. Some of you older Christians can walk around showing everybody how you already have it worked out. And you know what? If you do not live it, it is worthless. It is worthless. What good is, "Boy, look at this, Jimmy. Oh, you do not have very many. Look at mine. Look at mine. Look at mine, boy." Then the first time something bad happened in my life, it is, "Oh, where is Jesus? Why are they persecuting me?" "I, well, what good is it? What good is it?" I will wait here for an answer. What good is it? You are right. I am telling you.

You know what they did in Mark 6? They lost sight of the miracles of God. You know what happened in Mark 7? They lost sight of the Word of God. Now we are making it up. "Who cares it is not in the Bible? It is what I like. It is what I feel. It is what I think."

Mark 8. Now Mark 8 for me personally. So I am just going to preach to myself in this chapter and you can just get whatever you want out of it. But this is to me. This is the greatest story ever found anywhere in the Bible on me and my being a servant. Because in this chapter, we find another great feeding of a great multitude. There are 4,000 people here this time (Mark 8:9). This is where He feeds them with the seven loaves and a few fishes.

Now the twelve, they have not learned a thing. Success has gone to their head and they cannot see it. Like a lot of God's people. But oh, they have their notes in their Bible. Oh, they have everything. Oh, they have walked with Jesus now. Oh, they have rubbed shoulders with Him time after time. Oh man, they have hung out with Him. But you know what? Inside their heart is His heart. You say, "How do you know that?" Well, let me just give you the story here and let me stop preaching for a minute.

You know what they have done? They have traded the power of God for a program. The subtitle of that is: The day you and I stop growing. You see, when I get you saved and I start to work with you or whatever you come in, wherever you are, my job is to take you and help you grow. But there is a danger in that. Everything in life is a balance, you know that. And there is a danger in even the good things of the Word of God, because you become so satisfied, you get lazy, you get complacent, you get fat, and you get to the place where you just do not grow anymore. And then you just exist on your eroding glory.

Look at Mark 8:14.

Mark 8:14

Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.

Well, somebody brought a loaf. I call that verse, "Leaving your Bible at home." You say, "Oh, I have mine." I was not talking about you bringing it. I am talking about in here, the day you quit growing. You see, nobody thought to bring any bread. Why? Because they all had other agendas. And when you get to the point that you think you are something special, you quit getting into your Bible. You do not do the old things with the Word of God that keep you in line that you used to. You know why? Because you are who you are now. That is exactly what they got. They had all been hanging out with Jesus. They all did the great miracles. They all experienced this power. And now they traded that power. Life is a trade-off. They traded that power for a program.

Here they go out to do the ministry. And only one guy brought a Bible. One loaf of bread for twelve. I am going to tell you something. That is what a lot of God's people do. They just hitchhike off the guy whose spirituality brings the bread. But they do not bring the bread anymore because they quit. They just go to church and they hear the sermon that Bob preaches or one of the other guys preaches and that is what they live off of. They buy the CDs and they go home and listen to them. And that is what they live off of. But they do not bring any bread to themselves. They do not get into the Word of God on their own. They would not know how to figure out a tough passage in the Bible if life depended on it. They are too busy being blown from side to side in a boat by all the wind.

Now here is what happened. You kind of have to get all of the Gospels together to put this in. But oh, it is worth the trip, man. First thing I told you about is how they had lost sight of the miracles of God. Second thing I told you is they lost sight of the Word of God, and now they have lost God. Still saved. I mean, did you ever put this thing in a practical application? They are eating with Him, walking with Him, sleeping with Him, talking with Him 24 hours a day. The Lord Jesus, the God of glory, the King of heaven. They are fellowshiping with Him like I am looking at Jimmy and talking to Jimmy or Scott or Phil and having a relationship and talking all day long. I say to Jimmy, "Jimmy, how is your day going? What do you think?" Would not that be the most wonderful thing in the world? I mean, would you mind walking from here to Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus if you could just all the time there say, "Well, what do you think about this? What do you think about that?" "What do you think about this? What do you think about that?" You know what? It would be the greatest thing in the world in the midst of all of that. They lost Him. They lost Him. They lost Him.

Watch this. Mark 6 shows you the indifference of God's people when they lose the miracles of God, the Word of God, and they lose God, and yet they are still going, they are going to church. I am not talking about people who come to church. I am talking about people who are deacons, pastors, teachers, leaders. And boy, you get to the point where you just coast for a while.

If you go over to Luke 9:40, which kind of further enhances our study, because at the same time, you will find that right after the feeding of the 5,000, right after the event that tells you that they have a hardness in their heart, you know what they come up against? And God does this. They come up against a man with a demonic spirit that they cannot cast out. Remember reading that story? Well, the reason why is because they have lost the power of God because they traded it for a program. Life is choices.

Now they have come to a place where they had a wrong attitude of heart at the feeding of the 5,000, this great multitude. They want to send the people away. They do not care about people anymore. They are concerned about their status in the church. How men view me. Look at all my notes. Look how much I know. "Well, I have been with Bob for, oh, I do not know, a hundred years." Now they come up against a man who is demon possessed and they cannot cast out the demon. Why? They traded God's power for a program.

So Jesus shows up. Jesus shows up and wow, He is casting out the demon. What do they do? They are arguing about who is the greatest among them. Nobody is concerned why we could not cast him out. While Jesus is doing it, we have a little huddle over here and we are deciding who is going to be the head deacon. Who is going to be Bob's right-hand man? Who is going to really be the greatest? You see?

Then Luke 9:49, they come back and they see somebody else out there doing what they ought to be doing. And you know what? They do not like it. You know what Jesus does? He sends out 70 more just to tick them off. That is a great lesson. If you are ever a pastor, you get somebody that quits growing and they get that baby attitude, just find out what they do not like and then do it just to tick them off. See how they respond to it. I cannot give away all my secrets here this morning.

In the midst of serving God, they have lost the serving attitude. They take no bread, they have quit growing, they get mad because somebody else is, and while the real ministry is going on and Jesus is doing it, they are arguing about which one is greater. That is us. That is us.

Mark 9, the Mount of Transfiguration, much like it is in Matthew 17, then right back to people. In Mark 9:14, He deals with the deaf and dumb. In Mark 9:33, He teaches His disciples to be humble. While that is all going on, you find in Mark 9:33, they break into another fight of who is greater, who is going to get to do what? "Well, 'You got to do this and I did not get invited to do that, so I am mad, wah, wah, wah, wah.'" That is where it is. That is the way it is. That is the way God's people are when they stop growing. That is the way it is. I do not know what else to tell you. Yes, I do. Lose 25 pounds or gain 20 pounds in some cases, get you a tan.

All right, that brings us to the first half. We are in trouble now because we are, no, we are good. We do not have to be the mission to 6:30, I forgot. In the first 10 chapters of Mark, Christ is my role model, the Servant presented. He lays out my attitude of ministry to be a servant to the people of God, and then shows you the dangers of what happens. It shows the scribes and the Pharisees as the modern-day Christianity and all the things that they are about, which has nothing to do with God. And then shows how we get affected by that, that we trade the power of God in our lives for a program, that we start complaining, we start wanting to send the people away. We actually start thinking that we are something special and God just could not get along without us. You lose the attitude of a servant.

You see, I do not care how good you do the ministry. Listen to me, you young people that are growing up to be leaders, I do not care how good you minister. It is your attitude of heart about how you minister that I look at. You do not have a servant's attitude. One of the reasons why I love this place when we got it, it had such wide doors for everybody to get out.

V. Refuting Good Friday: The True Crucifixion Timeline

Now in Mark 11-16, you have the Servant promoted. This is where we see as Philippians 2:8 took it all the way where He is obedient unto the cross and unto His death. Mark 11-16 is one of the greatest places in the Bible that details out for you and me, the Body of Christ, for anybody who is a Bible student. The last week of Christ's life before He is crucified, it records the events from Palm Sunday up to His crucifixion and settles once and for all the aspect of the foolishness of this concept of Good Friday.

The tragedy is, most of God's people think Good Friday has something to do with something in the Bible. I am telling you what, I do not know how to tell you. Sometimes I feel so inadequate. Sometimes I feel like I just do not have the ability to communicate to your heart. How big a mess the Body of Christ is in. I have never seen it in all my life. I have never seen it all my life.

What would you think if I told you that there are some of God's people who you probably know, who are saved on the way to heaven, who worship demonic spirits? Would you be shocked at that? What would you do if I told you that there were some of God's people who you probably know, who get their direction straight out of the pit of hell? Would that shock you? And yet we hear things like that and we think, "Oh Bob, where are you coming from? I just do not know how you can, I do not know how you can come to that conclusion."

Yeah, I know, you know why? Because you are in that little boat and you are just getting kicked six ways from Sunday. And the best of thing is, brother, you know what? You could not define where you are and why you are a Baptist if your life depended on it. I mean, you are just, you are who you are because you are who you are. You do not know why. If I asked you who started the first Baptist church in America and when and where and what Bible stock he was from, you would look at me like I was a tree for owls. So I am telling you, lose 20 pounds, gain 20 pounds, get your tan; best I can give you, sorry. You do not want the Bible, best I can give you.

I preached this message something like this one time and I told them, I said, I told the people, when I started, I said, loosening my tie, and they all laughed like you did because I knew the people. After I had done the preaching, the boy came up and said, "Boy preacher, you should have taken your whole shirt off. You should have taken your whole shirt off." Ha ha ha. God's people have no clue of why they believe what they believe. I am ashamed for some of God's people. I really am.

Again, I am telling you, if you are somebody that just got saved or you are just plugging in, that is one thing. But I watch, man, I watch, I watch, I watch all the things that go on. I watch all the things that the churches do. I am firmly convinced. The only thing that is going to stop the Body of Christ from lining up with the Antichrist is the rapture of the church. I believe with all my heart. I believe with all my heart.

Now, it is important for you to understand these Mark 11-16. I was a Bible believer because you get bombarded with everything. It is in these chapters where yes, He talks about being obedient to the cross. But in Mark 11-16, we also find Him dealing with the last week from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday. And completely puts to rest the demonic teaching of Good Friday.

Now, Good Friday, let me just start with this. Good Friday originates with the Roman Catholic Church. In Greek and Roman paganism, you have a demonic female goddess of fertility and love. Her name is Freia, sometimes pronounced Fri-a. But believing in Freia will certainly fry you, if you understand what I am saying. She is the Greek and Roman goddess of fertility and love, a female deity. Our day, Friday, is named after her.

Do not let that upset you. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are all named after pagan gods that come out of a Greek and Roman Empire. And Sunday today is the day that they worship the sun. So it is the Sunday. In other words, you gave all their gods their days, and then on this day was the Sunday. See, so you know that.

She being the goddess of fertility and being fertile, she represents the fish because fish lay millions of eggs. So in the pagan teachings, her sign is the sign of a fish. You see it sometimes, you know? That is her sign. And of course, she has a counterpart; Venus is her counterpart in another religious culture. And then you have Aestar from the Roman calendar, which is the word for Easter.

Truth of the matter is, you do not find, you find this stuff in the Laodicean Church, you did not find it in the Philadelphia Church. You never found the Waldensians or Albigensians or the Huguenots or the Paulicians or the Bogomiles or whoever. You never found them messing with this stuff for five minutes. No, no, you have to get cultured and educated and stupid like we are to get this in. The rabbit is picked because he is also fertile, she is fertile, and you know, the rabbit and the Easter eggs and all that stuff all goes together. You find that all put together in Acts 19:35 with Diana, you know, there are all kinds of composites down through this thing.

Now here is what you have. You say, "Thanks for the history lesson, Bob, but what does this have to do with me?" Oh, nothing, nothing, nothing. Other than someday you are going to stand next to a Waldensian and Albigensian that gave his life for what he believed, and you are going to have to look him in the eye, not to mention the Lord. And you are going to say, "Judgment Seat of Christ, five more for me." And that Waldensian will look up and smile and say, "Yeah, I am sure glad you are you and I am me."

Okay, here is how it goes, boys and girls, a basic lesson. We will call this class Stupidity 101, because anybody can get it. Around 313 through 325, the last pagan emperor, his name is Constantine. Constantine is a phony. Constantine starts the Roman Catholic Church. Every hellish and damnable little heresy that comes into the Body of Christ starts with Constantine. In Revelation 2:12, this period of time is called the church period of the Pergamos. Pergamos means "much marriage." It is a time when the church gets married to the world.

What happens is that old Constantine, he pulled together where he wanted to consolidate his political kingdom, so he turns religious and he puts it all together. What he does, he brings all the pagans into the church. And when all the pagans come into the church, he allows them to bring all their ungodly stuff and everything that comes in with it. You begin to find that that is when this brand of Christianity, if that is what you want to call it, begins to reverence Easter. This is where you begin to find the concept of Good Friday.

You see, Freya was the fish goddess. So when the Roman Catholic Church gets up and running to worship her on her day, they do not eat meat. They eat what? Fish. If you ever see the Pope's hat when he was laying there stinking in the sun over there on the television screen, his hat that looks like a miter, that is, you know why they get that? That is because it is shaped like a fish that comes out of Judges 5 with Dagon, half man, half fish.

You see, Bob, I just go, "Ooh, what are you getting all this? What are you getting? I do not know about this, I do not know about this." Yeah, I know, it is a conspiracy to hide all this stuff in books that you could go to any public library and get in 20 minutes. But oh no, we are not going to do that. When all this thing comes together, all this stuff pulls together, we find that Friday becomes the day of the Roman Catholic deal with the fish and all the things going with it. So when it comes down to crucifixion, they make Christ be crucified on Friday.

I do not care, the Roman Catholic Church, like it or not, has always put above everything else, female deities. That is why when you go to a Roman Catholic Church, every picture of Christ, every statue of Christ, Mary will always be higher than He is. That is why when you go to a Roman Catholic Church right behind the altar, it is a great big sunburst. Because in Judges 18, Judges 17, and a hundred other places, they worship the sun god on Sunday when the sun was right overhead. Elijah had an encounter with those boys back there in the Book of Judges. You have to study it sometime. Marvelous, marvelous, marvelous.

Overnight, we came from the pagan emperor, became the Pope; the gods became saints; the pagan temples became churches; the temple prostitutes became nuns; the black-robed priest out of Baal worship became black-robed priest of the Roman Catholic Church. With all the worldly stuff and the devil worship stuff coming in, Christianity now that would meet the masses had everything it needed. You could come in and believe whatever you want to believe and bring all your junk in: Christmas trees, Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, little fish symbols, little crosses, all that.

You will never, and I do not care. You know what, I do not care. I do not care. But you know what, you will never find any Waldensian or Albigensian, anywhere in the Body of Christ, ever wear a crucifix around their neck, never. Bible says in the Book of Romans that the cross was a curse. "Cursed is he that hangeth on a cross."

Barb and I were going someplace Friday night, driving down 350 highway, remember that? There along the road was this guy carrying his big cross on his shoulder. I mean, the cross looked like it was 20 feet long, and he was walking down the side of the road like this, and people were honking their horn, and he was walking down like this, and everybody was honking their horn because they say, "Well, there is a man that is giving us the example of bearing your cross for Jesus." You know what I saw? I saw that is exactly the way Christians do it. He had wheels on the end of his cross.

I told you, when I was nine, my mother gave me the Vulcan mind melt. I have never been the same since. I see things totally different from everybody else. I mean, everybody else is honking the horn. I tried to hit the sucker. I just saw him too late. But I am looking in the rearview mirror. Here he is down there, everybody saw he is waving, you know. Strong thing for Jesus, and I am

thinking to myself, everybody is saying, "Oh, well, huh, huh, way to go, brother. Praise Jesus, praise the Lord." And I am thinking to myself, "Yep, that is exactly the way modern 20th century Laodicean Christians do it. Put wheels on the cross so you do not have to bear the burden. The wheels do it." Oh boy. You really want to bear the cross? Drag it on the ground like He did. I know, I know. I am weird. I know, but you know what? I do not care until hell freezes over. I will stick with the Book. I will stick with the Book.

I know the way God's people think. I know the way they think. I am telling you again, I am telling you, brother, if it would not be for the rapture of the church, the Body of Christ would buy into the Antichrist in 10 seconds, you know why? Because they do not know who the devil and God is anymore. The whole Body of Christ took the devil's Bible in 1900. We have God's people wearing little devil demonic pins on their lapels, and they come to the place where they have the devil's music. And then we have Baptist churches when the greatest type of the Antichrist and the church that he is going to come from dies in Rome. Baptist Bible-believing churches lower their flags at half-mast to salute the Antichrist.

Hey Jared, where is Jared? Stand up, stand up, stand up, Jared, stand up. Jared is one of the greatest tile men that you will ever find in your life. Sit down, Jared. If you ever go to his house, look in his bathroom, his tile, he has great monograms. He can do anything, can not you? I want to be your manager. We are going to get Christians and we are going to put satanic pentagrams in their showers. We will sell a million of them. We will tell you, "It has four points, north, south, east and west, Jesus is the very best." They will buy it just like that. You see, you know what the real tragedy is? You are laughing and I am laughing and it is funny, but God's people do not know the difference. They think one is bad and one is good. They do not have a clue like that, did you, Scott? Bring me a couple of little chicken things next week, okay, if you love your preacher. No, I am telling you, I am amazed. I am blown away.

So now I am going to show you how there is no Good Friday, but it is bad Wednesday. Because I am going to walk you through this thing. Here we go, the last week. You know what, it starts out day by day and then it goes hour by hour, and when you get down to the last chapters, it goes minute by minute. You could not miss a thing.

All right, now you are going to have to just kind of put your notes down and do not take this note and just walk with me here so you can see this. I will go over this with anybody one-on-one you want to go over with. I really will.

All right, just go to Mark 11. Mark 11:1. From Mark 11:1 to Mark 11:11, you have Sunday or what we commonly call Palm Sunday, one week before He is crucified. He goes into Jerusalem on the wild ass of a colt, which is an interesting study in itself. This is where they lay the palm leaves down, and He goes into Jerusalem. Look at Mark 11:11. Mark 11:11 says that "Eventide," that is six o'clock in the evening. He stays in Bethany. So now Mark 11:1-11 gives us all Sunday, all that Sunday, which is commonly called Palm Sunday, and it winds up in Mark 11:11 at six o'clock in the evening in Bethany.

Now I need to tell you this so you keep it straight. Remember the key here is on how the Jews take their day. Our day as Gentiles starts differently than their day. Their day starts from six

o'clock in the evening to six o'clock the next night. You have to remember that. Now the Jewish day is from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. So now we have come to the first day, He is in Bethany at 6:00 p.m., which is Sunday, all right?

Look at Mark 11:12. There is a paragraph mark there. Mark 11:12-19, you have Monday. Up there He says Monday morning in Mark 11:12, "on the morrow," that is Monday. This is where He curses the fig tree (Mark 11:13). This is where in Mark 11:17 He goes in and He says, "My house is made a den of thieves," and that is an interesting study. He goes into the temple two times. Once the beginning of His ministry and once at the end of the ministry. First time He goes in, He says, "My Father's house." Second time He goes in three years later, He says, "My house." Oh, is there a study in that? But not today. So we see there from Mark 11:12-19, we have Monday morning. Come on down to Mark 11:19 and there is what it says, "Monday night at even," 6:00 p.m. (Mark 11:19).

Now Mark 11:20 at the paragraph mark, Tuesday morning. This is going to be the longest day recorded in our week because from Mark 11:20, where it says "on the morrow" or Tuesday morning, all the way over to Mark 14:17 is all the same day, Tuesday. When you come over in Mark 14:17, which is Tuesday night at even, that is 6:00 p.m. Tuesday night.

All right, Mark 14:18 begins Wednesday, the day of the Passover. Mark 14:18 carries us through that night and the next day when Christ is crucified. This is Wednesday, not Friday. This is Wednesday. 6:00 p.m. started Wednesday.

- Mark 14:18-25: You have the Last Supper, sometimes after six.
- Mark 14:26: He goes to the Mount of Olives, after that.
- Mark 14:32-42: His agony in the garden.
- Mark 14:43: Judas betrays Him.
- Mark 14:50-53: Everybody forsakes Him, the twelve.
- Mark 14:67-72: Peter denies Him.

Then it comes to Mark 15:1. Look what it says, "in the morning." Now this is Wednesday morning, it is six o'clock. We have had half the day, which started at six o'clock the night before. And now we are going to get the last half of the day. And this is the day that He is crucified.

- Wednesday morning at six o'clock:
- Mark 15:1-2: Before Pilate.
- Mark 15:15: He goes the issue with Barabbas.
- Mark 15:17: The robe and a crown of thorns.
- Mark 15:21: On His way to the cross, this is where Simon the Cyrenian carries the cross for Him.
- Mark 15:25: He is crucified, the Bible says, "the third hour," that is nine o'clock in the morning, on Wednesday.
- Mark 15:33: "sixth and the ninth hour." That is 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. That is when God turns His back on His Son. That is that terrible three hours where He pays the price for you and for me in hell.

- Mark 15:34-37: He dies Wednesday afternoon, sometime around or shortly after the ninth hour, three o'clock.
- Mark 15:42: "even," six o'clock, the end of the day. Sometime after that, He is taken down off the cross by Joseph of Arimathaea. He is put in the tomb.

This brings us up to His Wednesday at six o'clock, the 14th day of the month, which is exactly what it tells you it is going to be in Exodus 12 with a sacrificial lamb. But we do not have time to get into that, okay? He is dead now, He is off the cross. He is taken down off the cross. Wednesday around six o'clock in the evening.

Now, the Bible says in Matthew 12:40 that He has to be in Abraham's bosom three days. Let us count them. We are at Wednesday. All right, Wednesday from six o'clock to Thursday six o'clock is one day, Thursday six o'clock to Friday six o'clock is two days. Friday six o'clock to Saturday six o'clock is the third day. He comes out of the tomb Saturday night after six o'clock even, which is Sunday, the first day of the week. And He appears to everybody Sunday morning around six o'clock. Every day, every hour, every minute is accounted for.

There is no Good Friday, just like there is no Star of David, just like there is no fish god, just like there is nothing that God's people believe in because they have lost the miracles. They have lost the truth. And third, they do not know where God is if they had to find Him for their life. They cannot. And that is where you are.

VI. Conclusion: The State of the Church and Sticking with the Book

Mark 16, you get the great commission, given to the apostles for the nation of Israel. And it talks about their signs and wonders. Oh, by the way, your NIV, your greatest, most reliable Bible, if you go down in the footnote there around Mark 16:9, they will tell you the last 12 verses really should not be in your Bible. So for all of you that are NIV lovers, we have zip-go cutters that when you pick one up on your way out today and just rip that verse right out, those verses right out of your Bible. Your scholarship says God did not know what He was talking about when He put them in. You will never go wrong sticking with a Book. Anybody who tells you different is a crook. I am making that into a rap song. "You never go wrong sticking with a Book. Anybody tells you that they are a crook." All right, I can do it.

All right, here is what you have:

- Mark 1-10: The Servant presented, working in life, obedient in ministry, obedient in service.
- Mark 11-16: Servant promoted, working in death, obedient in death, obedient to the sacrifice.

Of course, my role model is a servant. Most important thing in this whole Book is to see, you know what, I am telling you something. It does not matter how much you know. It does not matter how educated you get with that Bible. It does not matter how godly you think you are. God's people quit growing. I want to get grown just like the apostles, and they fall right into that trap where instead of being servants to other people, you that are strong off the barren infirmity

of the weak, you begin getting your nose bent out of joint because you do not get your glory. And that is the Body of Christ.

You know what? I am going to tell you something. This Book will keep you straight because this Body of Christ, I am going to say it for the last time today for them to commit to my mind. The only thing to keep the Body of Christ (they have the devil's Bible, they have the devil's trinkets, they have the devil's concept of the crucifixion). They do not have a clue, and the only thing that is going to keep the Body of Christ... I guess that is why Revelation 4:3 talks about the fact that it is the only church that does not have a representative angel before the throne of God. Because I am telling you what, if it would not be for the rapture of the church, the great Baptist churches in this city along with all the other mess of churches in this city would just line right up behind him and just say, "Boy, he is here, is not it great?"

I am telling you something, stick with the Book. Stick with the Book. Some of you do not like me for what I said today, some of you may be angry, but you know what? I am going to tell you what, I really do not care. I would rather have you be upset with me and tell you the truth, but at the Judgment Seat of Christ, just look over my way, I will give you one of these. And my advice to you is lose 20, pick up 20, get you some tanning beds, because it is coming.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Now I am going to be through here in a...