

Galatians 1-6

Sunday 6/12/2005

This morning, let's turn to the book of Galatians. We have been working our way through the New Testament, as we have been really working our way through the whole Bible, trying to lay out and give you a good understanding and perspective of each book of the Bible so you can kind of correlate it into all else we are doing here. We are on a probably year and a half study in everything that we are doing to try to get everybody up to speed as best we can.

I know that there is no way that you are going to be able to do it, and I also know that you can teach the Bible until you are blue in the face. I can teach you the Word of God twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and it would be an illusion for me to think that everybody is going to do what they need to do with it. I learned a long time ago, as far as the ministry is concerned, all you can do is do what you can do. You preach the Word of God, and those that will get it will get it, and those that will not get it will not get it. It is a process by which you just have to keep being faithful to preaching the Word of God. So that is what we are looking at today.

We are going to start in the book of Galatians. Let's have a word of prayer and then we will get going today.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We pray, Father, that You will help us focus now, Lord, on Your Word. We pray, Father, that as we come here today, we will really look forward to just opening up the Scriptures and having what You have for us. We trust You, Lord. We know that this book is Your book. We ask You now to put all the things out of our mind. We pray You will quiet our hearts and all the things that busy schedules of the week that will just open up our hearts and minds now to this book, and that, Lord, You will be able to speak to us. That when we leave here today, we will be a little smarter, a little stronger, a little closer to You, Father, on our walk, and that is what we want. So help us today, Father, in all that we have got to say and all that I have got to try to accomplish. Give me clarity of thought. Help me to keep focused. Help me, Lord, to really convey to these Your people what You have in my heart that You have given me to give to them. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

I. Introduction to Galatians

The book of Galatians, as far as I am concerned, is another great book. Once you get into Paul's writings, as I said earlier, once you start to get into the writings of Paul, you start to get a tremendous amount of material written to you and I as Christians. I have said this before and I want to say it again because I want to keep emphasizing it: when you get into the Word of God, obviously, and we have said this many, many times, not all the Bible is written directly to you. All of the Bible is written for you, but you are going to find that there are some things in the Bible that God wrote to either the nation of Israel or to Gentiles in general that you can apply to your own personal walk with God. But much of the Bible is written directly to you that you and I can take what it says and put it into our lives. Nowhere is that more true than in the books that

Paul writes. I have said the same thing about five different ways to try to make sure we all get the concept of it.

The book of Galatians is another great book to learn something because here is what has happened: another issue has arisen in the church, another problem. The date of the book of Galatians is somewhere around 57 A.D. You could put it around Acts 19:20, somewhere in there. Paul writes this book based on a doctrinal issue which has arisen. I remember the church at Corinth, and the church at Corinth was a church where they were totally off the wall when it came to biblical truth. They were a church full of babies that were having all kinds of personal problems. This is not the same situation that we have in the church here in the book of Galatians. This church is a good church. This church is trying to do what is right.

But here is what happened: as many times, a false teaching has crept into this church. Somebody has let down their guard, and now we are being faced with another issue that a church has to deal with. Now, that is all great stuff for us because in studying this, we learn all of the things that we need to learn about in our own personal lives.

Something I want you to make note of, and I know we talk about the corruption of the Word of God today. We talk about how that really the issue today is the authority of the Word of God, and do we have the Word of God the way that God wants us to have it, and can we trust it? I have talked to you many, many times about the two lines of Bibles and the corruption in those lines. But if you would turn back, and you do not have to do it right now, but jot this down and go back and look at it later. If you jot down 2 Corinthians 2:17, you will find that Paul makes reference to that even at this time. Christ has only been gone, dead, resurrected, and back to heaven now for twenty-some, twenty-five years. Paul is in the middle of the ministry, and he is dealing with all these churches, and even then, Paul is telling us that during this time, an underlying theme is happening of corrupting the Word of God. There are men even at this time. The devil did not miss a trick.

Of course, I told you that the study of history is nothing more than studying God moving in a direction to accomplish His plan and the devil moving in a direction to counter that. That is what we are looking at right here in the book of Galatians. We are finding that again, that somebody has already started to corrupt the Word of God, and we see it coming into the church. If you remember when we studied the book of Acts, we had a similar group problem back in Acts 15. Back there, we had a group from Judea, and they are called the Judaizers. What they had done in Acts 15 is they were going into the church and they were saying, "Sure, you get saved by trusting Christ as your own personal Savior," but then they were saying, "But you have to keep the law too as part of it." In other words, some of the people during this time are taking and accepting the Old Testament teachings, but they are trying to tie it back to the Old Testament also and saying, "No, you have got to keep both."

Of course, the New Testament teaching is that once Christ died on the cross, the Bible talks about this in Colossians 2, that He nailed the ordinances of the handwriting to His cross. What does that mean? It means that when Christ died on the cross, the Old Testament law was done away with, and there is no more law that you and I are under. But here we begin to see the heresy

creeping in, that we are still under the law while we are still under grace. We begin to see that the church in Galatia here has this problem, and that is what is taking place. Somebody has come in and said, "Okay, you can be saved by trusting Christ as your own personal Savior, but what you have got to do is you have got to keep the Old Testament law to stay saved." It is confusing them, and this heresy has come into the church, and Paul writes this letter to deal with it.

Now, in doing so, saying all of that, in doing so, Paul gives us tremendous insight into the aspects that you and I have to deal with because the cults are around today, even as it was back in this early time. The devil has not missed a beat. He never takes a vacation. He never takes a day off. Twenty-four/seven, he is trying to do everything he can do to confuse you, to stop the work of God, and of course, shut down Christianity as best as he can. So as Paul writes this out, we see some tremendous insight.

One of the great things we see here, and understanding it when you study it out and run it back to Acts 15, you begin to see how a cult works. I do not know if you know this or not, but if you are here this morning and you believe the King James Bible is the absolute and infallible Word of God, you are classified in the world of Christianity as a member of a cult. Because today, we have come to the point where anybody who believes the Bible is the absolute Word of God has to be a cult because Christianity just does not believe that. Now, if we were having this conversation 120 years ago, it would not be an issue because everybody believed the King James Bible was the Word of God, and anybody who did not was a member of a cult. But see how times change, and times change, but the Bible never changes. That is why when you learn the principles of the Word of God, then that is where you are at.

We find that cults, they come in two brands. You have cults that are unsaved people who get into cult relationships within a church that are totally unsaved. That would be like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and all that crowd. Then you have cults that are within the body of Christ. In other words, saved people get messed up on the Bible, and they come to the point where they become cult-like in the way they approach things.

Let me tell you what you find out in this great book. Let me tell you the difference between and how to tell between something that is a cult and something that is real. A Bible believer, a born-again, Bible-based man or woman who believes the Bible is the final authority and operates on the Bible, here is how they work: they will read the Bible, they will study the Bible, they will let the Bible interpret itself, they will use the Bible as its own dictionary, as its own commentary, and they will take from that, comparing the Scriptures, and they will get Bible truth. That Bible truth that they get from the Bible then forms the format by which they build their church and build their individual lives. That is the Bible way.

Here is what a cult does: a cult will come up with what they want to believe first. They will get their preconceived ideas of what they want to believe first without ever getting into the Bible. Once they get their mindset that this is what I want to believe or this is what the teaching is, then they go to the Bible to find verses that support it. Let's face it, you can make the Bible say anything you want to make it say. If somebody wants to push the case for that it is okay to take drugs, you could take the fact that the Bible said that Jesus got high on a mountain, so you could

take that and prove your point. If somebody wanted to believe that drinking was okay, you can go back to the book of Psalms and say, "The Lord is my shepherd, he shall not want to make me lie down by the still," and you can stop there. Or if you wanted to fabricate a lie, you wanted to use a Bible for, we could say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want to make it meet up lie." So you can go anywhere you want to go with it.

Now, you are laughing at that, and that is kind of stupid, I know that. But the bottom line is all this stuff about The Da Vinci Code and all this stuff about all the stuff of Christ being married, that is exactly how they do it. They take exactly what they want. Who cares about the Bible? Oh, and by the way, coming up on Thursday night, when we get into the body of Christ, we get into the church, studying the church, we are going to tackle The Da Vinci Code, and I am going to show you that The Da Vinci Code is right. Christ was married. We will talk about that on a Thursday night coming up. They are half right. We just cannot get it all in perspective. But anyway, we will get into it when we get there. But I am saying that is how you do it. If you are a cult, you believe what you want to believe first, and then you take it from the aspect that where you go with it, you find a few Bible verses to pull it off as the real thing, and that is exactly how cults operate versus somebody that bases it in the Bible.

The book of Galatians and the book of Romans go hand in hand, and they are really good books to study together because here is what Romans teaches, and we already know this because we studied the book of Romans: Romans teaches that a man is saved by grace through faith plus nothing. Romans teaches that a man or a woman is saved by grace through the faith of God or what He did on Calvary's cross without any works whatsoever. The book of Galatians goes hand in hand with that because the book of Galatians teaches that a man or woman who is already saved is kept by faith through grace plus nothing. Those books go hand in hand. One shows you that you are saved by grace through faith; the other one shows you that after you are saved, God keeps your salvation through faith and grace plus nothing. That is why the book of Galatians is such a great book because when Paul begins to deal with this issue, that is exactly how he comes at this issue, and that is exactly how he deals with it.

Now, let me give you a breakdown of the book of Galatians, real easy. There are six chapters in Galatians, and this is the outline we are going to follow today as I break it down for you, this little book chapter by chapter, and it leads to some great principles.

- Chapter 1 and Chapter 2: Paul begins to lay out the authority of the gospel.
- Chapter 3 and Chapter 4: Paul begins to deal with and lay out the superiority of the gospel.
- Chapter 5 and Chapter 6: Paul begins to talk about the liberty in the gospel.

That is simply how the outline goes, keeping in mind that he is dealing with the church, writing a letter to the church that he has been introduced to a false teaching. So his attack on that false teaching is to come back, and he writes this little book: two chapters dealing with the authority of the gospel, then two chapters on dealing with how the gospel is superior, and then two chapters dealing, showing you and I, how that once we are saved, we have liberty in that gospel. Wow,

there is some great material in this book that we are going to try to flesh out of here as we go through.

II. The Authority of the Gospel (Galatians 1-2)

Now let's look at Chapter 1. In Chapter 1, as I have already stated, Paul begins to deal with this heresy that has crept into this church by laying down and establishing the authority of the gospel. The first thing I want you to see is in verse 8 of Chapter 1, where he says this:

Galatians 1:8

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

The first thing he says is if somebody else or even we come to preach another gospel to you, what you have not heard of us, you let that person be accursed. I hope when he said it originally, he said it better than I just did.

Now here is what has happened. We know that in 1 Corinthians, now watch how all this stuff starts to come together. We studied 1 Corinthians a couple of weeks ago, and in 1 Corinthians 15, the gospel was defined for us. We know that 1 Corinthians 15 is a definitive passage. In fact, I brought you through Thursday night and I showed you the six gospels in the Bible and how that these six gospels lay out through the Bible in a dispensational sense. What he is talking about here, he is talking about the fact that during the church age, during this period of time, if somebody comes and preaches another gospel that is not laid out and preached in the Bible, you let that person be, or put that person to be, accursed. Do not have anything to do with it. So we saw in 1 Corinthians 15 very clearly that the gospel is defined for us, and we know what it is.

Yet the mark of any heresy, and here you want to learn this, the mark of any false teaching will always be leaving the Word of God and coming up with something else that is authoritative other than the Word of God. In this case, they have got another gospel. You are going to find every false religion on the face of this planet will take the Bible and use the Bible, but when they want to prove their cultish ways, they will have either another book, another set of writings, another teaching, or in this case, another gospel that is not found in the Bible that they will hold as just as authoritative as the Bible, even though it is not. Cults cannot never survive on just the Bible. They never have been able to, and they never will be able to because the Bible is true.

The Jehovah's Witnesses for years and years and years used the King James Bible. Suddenly, around 1940, they saw a great problem that they had. The Jehovah's Witnesses, who do not believe that Jesus Christ was God, who like to go door to door, were knocking on doors, and they were getting their tails backed up one side and down the other by Bible-believing people, Baptists, whatever, who were simply taking their King James Bible and beating them to pieces because the King James Bible teaches Jesus Christ was God, and they were just slicing them like diced meat. Well, what did they do? They got in a little huddle down there in New York and Manhattan where the big old thing called Watchtower is, and they came up with a new translation. That new translation is called the New World Translation. In that New World

Translation, they took all the references out of the Bible to Christ's deity. Why? Because they wanted to prove what they believed, and of course, when they were faced with the Bible that proved what they did not want to believe, they had to come up with another book. Of course, that is exactly what he is saying here, and that is exactly what is taking place. Another gospel has been introduced to this church.

Now, they put that in a New Testament thing that we can all understand. I do not know any other way and any other organization that illustrates this great truth than the one I am about to use. Across this country today, you see them on television, you see churches on almost every street corner, and these churches all of them, all fall under the umbrella of what we commonly call as the Charismatic Movement. Now, I am not fighting anybody, I am really not. I know people sometimes think that I am a very close-minded individual. That is because you do not know me very well. If you would spend a little time getting to know me, buy me lunch eight or nine times, buy me dinner, spend some time with me, you would find out that I am one of the most open-minded people you have ever met in your life. The problem with me is I do not buy anything at first sight. If there is one verse of the Bible, and I know I screw up the Bible a lot like we all do, but if there is one verse in the Bible I got down, it is the verse that says, "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good." I know what that verse means, and I know as a child of God, that is my job from the Word of God to prove all things. So I am not against anybody.

Let me tell you something, if I thought being a Charismatic would be the way to go, that is what I would believe. I do not have anything that I just have to believe today. I will believe whatever truth is. If you prove to me that being a Jehovah's Witness is the way to go, I will be knocking doors with you all the next week. If you prove to me that the Church of Christ is the way to go, I will be walking around and you take the word "baptized" and making it "baptized," and I will be "bup bup bup bup bup baptized" everybody. I have no problem with it at all. If you prove to me that being a Mormon is the way to go, I will be with you all the way down the line. If you show me that being a Seventh-day Adventist is the way to go, I am with you. I do not have any prejudice about anything except that book. That is all. I will sit down with anybody, anytime, anywhere. You can call me a heretic for believing my book anytime you want. You know what you will never do? It is sitting down across from a table from me because after about fifteen, twenty minutes, we will find out who the heretic is. I mean, I told you before, a child of God needs to be somebody that only believes what he believes but understands why he believes it. That is why you do not have to be, and I am not against anybody, I am really not. So do not take my remarks that I am about to say as being cruel. I know in this society we live in, if you look crosswords at something, you know you have got a hate problem or an anger problem. I know I have an anger problem, but I do not have a hate problem.

The Charismatic Movement, now let me just talk to you about this. It is across this world. If you would ask the average Charismatic where they started, where they began, they would not even know. I have never met a Charismatic in my life that ever really knew their Bible. I have never met a Charismatic anywhere in the world who knew church history. I have never really met a Charismatic who ever thought beyond his own emotion. I watch great healers like Jimmy Swaggart, Oral Roberts. I watched them sit down there and I watched them preach and preach

and preach and talk about how God can heal and how God can do this and how God can do that, and you do not have enough faith if God cannot heal you. I have had them talk, talk, talk, talk, and in the middle of the sermon, right before they get done, I have watched them both pick up their glasses and put them on. Well, wait a minute, why do you not have perfect eyesight? I do not understand that, I really do not.

We played softball a number of years ago with a Charismatic church group, and they were nice guys. I still like the guy, but he was always on me because we did not believe in the sign gifts, and he would make fun of us, and it was good, light fun. Well, we were playing softball one time, and it was our team against their team, and we were batting and they were fielding, you know, all that stuff. Somebody threw a ball in and popped the ball, and somebody swung the bat back and hit the catcher right in the nose. Well, blood squirted everywhere, and he is, "Ugh, now he broke my nose!" And I am worried because now they think we just hit them because they are Charismatic, and that was not the truth. The guy came running into the field, and he said, "What is the matter? What is the matter?" This guy was spurting blood everywhere, nose was bent sideways, it was a mess. And he says, "Anybody got a cell phone? Anybody got a cell phone? You need to call an ambulance here, this guy." And I said, "Why? I do not understand. It is just 'Ring Around the Rosie' here and fix his little nose. What is the problem? I do not understand. You have yelled at me, made fun of me because we do not believe in what you are believing out here. Here is your chance. Here is your best friend with a busted nose, bleeding all over everything, and you want an ambulance? Fix it!" I do not understand things like that. I do not know why they do not question things like that. I do.

I question it even farther. The Charismatic movement started in 1900 out in Los Angeles. Now, before 1900, there was not anybody on the face of planet Earth that believed what the Charismatics believed. I will give you five hundred of the greatest preaching men down through the last two hundred years, from 1900 back, that tore this world up for Jesus Christ, and not a one of them spoke in tongues, not a one of them healed. I will show you a hundred great missionaries that went into the interior of Africa, South America, India, China, and everywhere else, and they were medical doctors because they were not only preaching the Word of God, but they were fixing the problems that people were having physically without any healing. You cannot give me one Charismatic. You know why? Because it did not start in 1900. When they started, it was started with a woman, Amy Semple McPherson, out of the Azusa Street Mission. From Amy, in two short years later, came something called the Full Gospel. Now, the Full Gospel simply means that they have got all of the gospel, and us poor deluded Baptists do not have any of the gospel, or we do not have the full gospel. My question to Amy is, "Where is the Full Gospel in the Bible?" It is not in the Bible. It was made up. The Bible says clearly that if anybody comes preaching another gospel, he is accursed. When you come to me with a Full Gospel, when I do not find the Full Gospel in my Bible, and I find the gospel defined in my Bible, I do not have to pray about what I am going to do with it because it is another gospel.

Now, the Full Gospel went into an organization called the Full Gospel Businessmen's Association. Then it got perverted from there to what is sometimes called the Four Square Gospel. Then it went from there that you see this in the country's Christian music field, they call

it now Southern Gospel. Like, is there another gospel for the South than there is for the North? What is Four Square Gospel? What is the Full Gospel? How much fuller can you get than what the Bible says? You are already complete in Him the day you get saved in the book of Colossians. In other words, the bottom line is Paul defines for us the gospel and shows us that just as another gospel came into this church in the book of Galatians, there are other gospels out there today, and the thing that keeps you from getting entrapped in those, believing in those, is just simply following what the Scriptures say, and it is as simple as that.

Now, the next aspect that you find down through here, Paul shows how absolutely he is God's man when it comes to the gospel, and he says in verse 12, we get a lot of great insight into this. He says in verse 12:

Galatians 1:12

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

No man taught it to him, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Now, remember last week we looked at 2 Corinthians, and I showed you in 2 Corinthians about the humility of the minister, how that Paul was taken up to the third heaven, and he was showed great revelations in the abundance of revelations, and what God showed him, that is what he is talking about here. What he is saying is this: Paul got the gospel of the grace of God for the church. He did not get it from a man, nobody taught it to him. He got it directly from God. Paul is saved in Acts 9. Somewhere along the course of his life after he is saved, he is on the road to Damascus someplace, or he is somewhere and he is doing something, and suddenly he gets taken up to the third heaven, and God shows him and explains to him what He wants him to do.

Then we find in Galatians 1:15-19 another piece of the puzzle because he says in verse 15:

Galatians 1:15-19

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia; and returned again unto Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

You know what he is saying? He says when I got saved, sometime after, whenever God, he did not tell us the time period, whenever God thought it was appropriate, whenever God, when it pleased God, he said, "I did not go down to Jerusalem and look out the apostles. I did not go find Peter, James, and John and find out what was going on." He said, "No, I went into Arabia." Now, why Arabia? "Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me, but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem."

He is in Arabia for three years. What is in Arabia? Mount Sinai. It was Mount Sinai where God met with Moses. It was Mount Sinai where God met with Elijah. It was Mount Sinai where God did everything He did in the Old Testament. When God saved His man, the apostle to the Gentiles, and wanted to reveal the body mystery, because this man was going to carry it to the ends of the earth, even affecting us today because our church, in a long history going back to the Bible-believing church, goes right back to Antioch, which goes right back to Paul. When he wanted to do that, He took Paul into Arabia, put him on Mount Sinai, and gave him three years of educational training based on what he already knew in the Old Testament and where the body mystery was going. When Paul hit the ground running, then where is the first place he goes? He goes down into Jerusalem. Who did he look for? It says, "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother." Why does he go to Peter? Because in the process of his Bible education up there at Mount Sinai, he found out that Peter had the keys to the kingdom for the nation of Israel, so he wanted to meet with him. Then he wanted to find James. Why James? Because James, the Lord's brother, you know what he wanted? He just sat down and James said, "Look, you were His literal brother, you grew up with Him. Tell me everything you know about Him. Tell me everything you experienced with Him. Tell me everything He did in the human sense." He wanted to find everything out that he could after he got everything he could from God. Great principle. I am all for reading other books. I am all for studying other guys' material, only after I get everything I need to get from God. See how it works? That is a pattern, that is a pattern.

So we see his three years in Arabia is where God introduced it, and this impacts his life so much. I gave you this Thursday night when we came through the Gospels, that we find in Romans 2:16 that Paul calls the gospel that he is preaching "my gospel." I have actually heard preachers say that Paul should not speak that way, that he was speaking arrogantly when he said that. Of course, they do not know enough about the Bible to put a left eye of a blind back. They cannot figure the thing out that their reference to "my gospel" was based on this passage right here, that he did not get his gospel from any man, nobody taught it to him, he got it directly from God. Anybody that got the gospel had to get it from Paul. So any other gospel was the wrong gospel. The gospel you have got to get has to come from that book with Paul. Any other gospel, the wrong gospel, full gospel, out the window, gone, as simple as that.

Then we come to Chapter 2. In Chapter 2, he continues to lay out his authority as it pertains to the gospel and showing that the gospel that he has got is the only authoritative gospel. In this chapter, he deals again with the events that we talked about earlier in Acts 15. This time he talks about, he takes Paul, Barnabas, and Titus. In verse 1, they go to Jerusalem, they meet with Peter and the apostles, and what comes out of that meeting is very, very, very, very instructive because when they go down in Chapter 2 and have that meeting because of the heresy that has arisen, they confer Peter and Paul for the first time, and they lay out and understand where each other's ministries lie. Paul recognizes in verses 7 and 8 that Peter is the apostle to the Jews. He figures something out that ninety-nine percent of the Bible scholars cannot get: Peter was given the keys of the kingdom in Matthew, therefore he is the apostle of the Jews. They recognize also that Paul is the apostle of the Gentiles, and when they leave there, they understand that Paul has got his job

to do, approved of God. Peter has got his to do, approved of God, and off they go, and it is as simple as that. In the process, they realize and understand that a man is now saved by grace through faith, and the law has nothing to do with it.

But I cannot leave this chapter without giving you a salient verse. Remember, I started cataloging salient verses for you, verses that are absolutely crucial to your spiritual survival. Well, most of you already know this one, but I will give it to you anyhow. Galatians 2:20. What a great verse.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

That verse is a great verse that we always use in our lives to talk about the fact that we are crucified with Christ. Great verse, applied directly to you and me. Now look at the verse in the context. The context of that verse is in the issue coming up over law versus grace, and that verse clearly shows you that once you got saved, you are no longer under the law, and that is how the verse was really meant, even though we use it in a great personal way, which is absolutely true because if you are saved here this morning, you are crucified with Christ. You are dead, but you live, and that is the whole liberty concept of the gospel, which we will get into just a little bit.

III. The Superiority of the Gospel (Galatians 3-4)

Alright, now Chapter 3. In Chapter 3, he changes themes, and he changes themes from the authority of the gospel to the superiority of the gospel. Now he has taken two chapters and he has laid out how that the gospel is authoritative through him. Now he is going to talk about how the gospel is superior, and he starts out in Chapter 3, verse 1, and he says:

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Then he says in verse 3, this verse sums it up:

Galatians 3:3

Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

You see the issue? He is saying, "Are you guys so stupid that you cannot see that you got saved and started out by believing Christ as your own personal savior? Now you are allowing somebody else to come back in and put you into the law." It would be a lot like you guys that have just got saved in the last year. It would be a lot like you coming down and getting going about there and somebody winning you to Christ, and then you come back to church and we say, "Well, glad you are saved, praise the Lord. I am saved, yeah, I know, boy, and God is great, death and the cross is great, but you know, you have got to keep the Old Testament law now to stay saved." How stupid is that? That is what he is saying. He says, "Hey man, you started out in

faith, do you now going to be made perfect by the flesh?" Of course, that is what the Galatians have been fooled by. They have gotten saved by grace through faith, and now another gospel has come in that has entered into their world and says, "Now you have to do something to keep it. Oh yeah, you are saved by faith and grace, but you have got to keep the Old Testament law to stay saved."

Of course, in this great chapter, he explains that. He talks about how that as a New Testament Christian, the law is no more effect on me. In fact, he says in verse 24 that the law was likened to a schoolmaster that brought me to Christ because it was the law, Romans 3, that showed me I needed a Savior. He said the law is our schoolmaster that brought us to Christ. Then he goes in verse 6 and he talks about Abraham. He goes back to Abraham and he shows how Abraham in the Old Testament was saved by grace through faith, and how that Abraham believed God, it was counted to him as righteousness. He began to lay the groundwork for the superiority of the gospel, how that the gospel is superior because it is based on faith, grace, plus nothing. There is absolutely nothing you and I could do. You and I got grace from God when we did not deserve it, just like Abraham got it when he did not deserve it.

But I have got to give you verse 8. Verse 8 is another one of those salient verses. Verse 8 is one of those verses that the mind of the Holy Spirit of God put in His book that breaks the neck of every Bible college professor and every person in the world that thinks they are smarter than God's Word. Every man that hates that King James Bible, every man that marks you and I as a cult member because we believe in one infallible book, breaks his neck right here, and there is no way around it unless you just change it. Look at verse 8. Now, keep in mind he is talking about Abraham, and in verse 8, he makes a great thing. Look what he says:

Galatians 3:8

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Just look like a harmless verse. It says, "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." Somebody says, "Well, what is the big deal, Bob?" Well, the big deal was that could not happen. You know why it could not happen? Because Abraham did not have any scriptures. Abraham did not have any scriptures. Moses wrote the first four books and five books of the Bible. He writes them a long time after Abraham. When this verse takes place, as it says it takes place, it could not have happened. Why? He had no scriptures. The scriptures could not preach to him. In fact, when you go back to Genesis 12:3, when it quotes the same verse in the right context in the story, it does not say, "And the scriptures foreseeing." It says, "And God foreseeing." You know what Paul did? Paul was a cultist. Paul was a bibliolater. He worshiped the Bible. You know what Paul thought? He thought the word "scripture" and the word "God" were interchangeable because they were the same. That is what I believe. Paul had no problem changing the word "scripture" for "God," "God" for "scripture." You know why? Because he knew a great truth that ninety-nine percent of God's people do not know today: the Word of God and God are the same. Just as God does not change, the Word of God does not change. So he is

perfectly right saying, "The scriptures foreseeing." Scriptures foreseeing for something to foresee, they attribute to something that is alive. How can a book? I will tell you something else, he did not have the scriptures, but he had God, and God is the scriptures. John 1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

You find some great truths here that the average Bible scholar is going to miss, the average Christian is going to miss it because they do not believe the Bible anymore either. That great truth is scripture and God are used interchangeably. I mean, there are some pitfalls in the Bible that God put in there to slow up somebody that had a prejudice against His book that will just, I mean, if you do not, if you read this book, you spend any time with it at all, it does not take long to see there is a mind behind this King James Bible that is not too apparent to a Greek and Hebrew scholar.

I will show you another one. Look at verses 26, 27, and 28. Watch this now. I am going to read Chapter 3, verse 26. Stay with me here:

Galatians 3:26-28

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Absolutely one hundred percent doctrinally right on the money. Now, remember when we came through Romans, I showed you in Romans 1 about Gentiles. You know, we have got an America today, a nation that was founded on the Word of God, a nation that once believed God and the principles of God, a nation that once infused God into everything from its educational system to its government, to its state constitutions, to its Declaration of Independence, every facet. A nation that believed on the concepts of God. I mean, I cannot tell you how this country was built on that. Well, we have come to the place where we have changed now, and the way that we have changed is the exact way I told you that Romans 1 laid out how Gentiles change because I showed you in Chapter 1 of the book of Romans that when God reveals Himself to Gentiles, the first thing, next thing that Gentile does is they reject God. Then they rise up in their own wisdom, in their own arrogance, and then they replace God, and then in the process of replacing God, they wind up reviling God and hating God, and at that point, God gives them a reprobate mind. We studied it. That is what you are seeing in America.

America is a nation that God came to, and I have told you Thursday night, only two nations in the history of the world that are started at their beginning, in their inception, with God and the Word of God. One of them is the nation of Israel, the other, the United States of America. Only two nations on the face of this planet. I showed you that what has happened is America has rejected God. God revealed Himself to America in time. God rejected America. God, when he rejected His Word, they replaced God, and now America hates God. America wants nothing to do with Jesus Christ. We will tolerate to some degree the vague concept of God. When you go to Alcoholics Anonymous, that great God is now called your significant person that you pray to. We

take God, but we make some kind of supreme being that is in a general sense that no matter whether it is a telephone pole or God of the Bible or whatever, it all fits in.

I had a friend of mine one time that was all excited because he was a buddy with a state congressman, or a Washington senator. When Congress convenes, they always open in prayer, and if you have got the right kind of political buddies, they will get you in to open the prayer of the Congress or the Senate because they always open their hearing with prayer. So it is a little political thing, and you give enough bucks to somebody or you let him come before your church and say enough things to get him reelected, he will do you a favor. He will call you up and say, "Hey, Pastor, you know what? We would like to fly you out to Washington next week because we are opening up the Congress, and we would like to have you open up in prayer." Well, that is a big prestigious thing. I mean, when you talk about that, the fellowship for a long time. So my buddy, he was all excited about it, and he had about a week to go, and Secret Service comes in, checks out all that stuff, make sure you are not going to carry a bomb. Little do they know the bomb that you are carrying in is a black back sixty-six that will blow the work top off the world one of these days, but do not tell them, let them figure it out on their own.

So my buddy comes down there and he gets this thing in the mail, and it says, "We are so happy that you are going to pray and open up the 101st Congress, whatever it is, and we are so thankful that you are going to come and help unite us. We have a few things you have to go. First of all, in your prayer, you cannot name the name of Jesus Christ. You can talk about God, but you cannot talk about Jesus Christ. You cannot close your prayer in Jesus' name. You cannot make any reference to Christ, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, anybody named to the Son of God. Talk about God, thank God, God bless you, God bless America, God." Did you ever notice how even the president does that? He says, "God bless," and "God bless everybody." He will never say Jesus Christ. You know why? The minute he does, he has lost about a hundred million votes. It is not going to happen. You know why? Because this country somewhat will tolerate God, they will not tolerate Christ. What this country has done is taken Christ. You can make God anybody. You can make Jesus Christ anybody. That is why he has always been a stickler. The world system hates Christ. The devil hates Christ. The unsaved world hates Christ. And now God's people are hating Christ.

Oh, yeah, let me show you what you have got here. Great verse: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." That is what the Bible says. Let me show you what the world comes up with when you take Jesus Christ out of everything. Now I am going to read the same verse, except I am going to delete all the references to Christ. Here is what you have got:

Verse 26: "For ye are all the children of God." Just take out "by faith in Christ Jesus." Now we are all the children of God. That is exactly what the world teaches. I heard Emanuel Cleaver a while back, and I am not ever the big issue over the gays, and he was down there Gay Pride Week, and he got up there and he says, "He was courting the votes, and he said, 'You know what?' He said, 'I believe we are all God's creation. I believe we are all God's children. I do not believe God made no junk.'" In other words, if you are a homosexual, you are a lesbian, you are

because we are all the children of God. He could not make that statement if he put in "in Christ Jesus." Leave out Christ, make it whatever you want, and that is what they do. "For ye are all the children of God."

Verse 27: "For as many of you as have been baptized." Say that thing, nobody is going to get upset about being baptized in water. Well, you leave Christ out of it. Why? Everybody in the world will go around baptizing people. Another one that is a nice religious symbol as long as you leave Christ out of it.

Verse 28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one." Leave out "in Christ Jesus." You have got the "we are one." That is hold around singing "Kumbaya," "We Are the World," because that is exactly what the world thinks. We are all one. There is no difference. You see that thing? "There is neither free nor bond, there is neither male nor female." Same-sex marriages, step right up to the plate, we are all one. You take Christ out of it, and you have got what the world system has: a system without Christ that makes everybody one, be baptized, we are all the children of God. That is where it comes, that is where it comes, and it is one of the most incredible things. If you did not know there was, I mean, all the races are the same, all the religions are the same, we are all one, we are out of the world. Everybody is going to get along, we are all the children of God. Why cannot we get along? Why cannot we do this? It is peace, peace, peace, peace, peace.

The greatest example today we all can identify with is Reverend Jesse Jackson, my hero of the faith. He goes wherever there is trouble, and when he goes, he brings God with him. Right now, the trouble is out in Santa Ynez, California, with Michael Jackson. He is down there saying, and people are people in the world today, or the dumbest people in the world. There are no dumber people on planet Earth. We have got fifty million dollars a month being pumped into a scientific organization down in Southern Texas. If you drive down there, there are arrays of radio telescopes that are lined up, connected together, twenty here, twenty here, twenty here, fifty million dollars a month operate them. We are all tied in together, and they are all pointing out there looking for stars or galaxies, and they are all trying to find, answer the same question: "Is there life in our universe? Is there intelligent life in our universe?" Turn them back to the cities, and you will find out there is no intelligent life on planet Earth. Do not worry about outer space. The question is, "Is there any intelligent life left on Earth?" I do not think so. Give me the fifty million dollars a month, and I will just tell you, you are stupid.

I mean, it is easy. He is down there, and he says, they say, "Well, I am the official spokesman for the Jackson family, and I did not want to tell you that yet, that he is under tremendous a lot of pressure right now, but his faith in God is sustaining him, and he appreciates all your prayers." Now, it was just two weeks ago that we found out really molested the kid or not, and beside the point, I do not care. I do not know if he did, I do not care if he did, it does not make any difference. You know what somebody here is a word you think about Michael Jackson, is he going to get off this time? He may, he probably will. But you know what a Bible believer knows a great fact? There is a higher court, and it is Revelation 20, and I will be the jury on that one, so will you if you are saved. This guy is up there, "Well, you know, Michael Jackson, he has had his, his faith in God is sustaining him." Two weeks ago, we found out that his bedroom was

ringed with pornographic material, but his faith in God. You see, we do not see a contradiction in terms of that anymore. We think it is okay. Why? Because we are all one, we are all the children of God. There is no sin involved with Jesse Jackson, there is no sin involved. It is social issues. He is a social pastor. He preaches a social gospel, and he has taken Christ out of the aspect that we are all the people, everybody gets along, we are all fine, there is no problem with it. Of course, that is exactly where we are at today.

IV. The Liberty in the Gospel (Galatians 5-6)

Alright, look at Chapter 4. He continues on with the superiority of the gospel, and in Chapter 4, as he continues his theme, he lays out four great principles you need to know about this whole book and as it fits into you. First of all, Christians, born-again men and women who were saved by the grace of God through faith, are not under the law anymore, and this was clearly laid out in the book of Romans. He says in this great chapter, you do not have to put yourself back under the law now that you are saved to justify yourself. The reason why you do not is because the day you got saved, Christ justified you through grace through faith by His blood, and he says, "Now you are free from the law." But what this chapter begins to bring into focus is that you have to balance your liberty, and this goes back to Romans 14, that no man lives to himself and no man dies to himself. There is always somebody watching your life, and he says, "You have got to balance that, you have got to balance that."

In Chapter 4, verse 14, we find another great key, and this key found here in Chapter 4, verse 14, is the great key that:

Galatians 4:14

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Now, there is one of the cleanest verses in the Bible and a definitive verse that tells you that the Angel of God in the Old Testament, or the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament, is Jesus Christ. You are going to find that Christ shows up in a pre-incarnate form in the Old Testament and manifests Himself as the Angel of the Lord, and Galatians 4:14 tells you that that is Jesus Christ, no question about it.

Then Chapter 4, verse 16, a great principle for anybody that is going to work with people. I love this verse. This verse is one of them verses that God teaches you a lot of times the hard way. He says in verse 16:

Galatians 4:16

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

What a great verse. He says, "Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Verse 17 says, basically, he says, "You know what? The people that are lying to you, they will beat you, kill you, they will get you to judgments either Christ and strip your naked, you lose

everything you have got because they are lying to you, but I tell you the truth, you get mad at me and embrace them." What is wrong with this picture?

I have a message I have never preached to you folks. I preached it a long time ago. I preached it to myself most of the time. I have to get it out sometimes regularly. The name of that message is "The Day I Shot My White Horse." When I went into the ministry, I was under a delusion. That delusion was that everybody was going to really be excited about preaching the Word of God. The night I got saved, I walked down there, I mean, I thought I was in the presence of angels. If somebody would have told me that those men and women around me were arguing with each other, and some of them were not doing what is right with their families, and some were not doing what is right there, some would not tithe, and some of them were arguing, hated this person over here, I would not believe it. I thought when I got saved that everybody just loved God as much as I did. Boy, it did not take long for that to wear off.

Once I got into the ministry, I thought everybody wanted to do what is right, and I thought that it was just a glitch when somebody did not want to do what is right. I would, when I heard somebody in my ministry did not want to do what is right or would do what is right, I just thought they wanted me to come over and say, "Hey, you know what? You are not doing what is right." So I would saddle up a white horse that was a beautiful horse, and I would ride into the midst of that controversy, that horse prancing up, turning around in the circle, looking at him, and I would say, "Hey, well if I will say, you know what, boy, I got my tail feather shot off."

I remember one time years and years and years ago, I got a phone call one night from a couple of high school kids, and he said, "Johnny so-and-so is over here, and he is giving us all kinds of problems, and it started out he is really whacked out, and he says he is going to do all kinds of things, and we need to have somebody over here." Well, I was the youth pastor, what did I do? So Saturday night, my wife and I, and Kelly was just probably had big game, he was just a forethought, she was not even anywhere around yet, she is not anywhere around today either, but she went around and we see how she is out there. What did I do? I walked over, my wife said, "Honey," she looked up and she said, "I will get your saddle, honey." I went out to the garage where I kept my white horse, stroking down along that big beautiful mane, and said, "White horse, we have got a job to do. Needs to be restored." He snorted out that nose, he pawed in the garage, and I let him out into the driveway, and he is dancing around already, and I am saying, "Whoa, big fella, whoa, big fella." My wife brings out that gold and silver saddle. I threw that saddle up in the middle of that saddle, and that horse looked back at me and knew justice, integrity, the gospel was on the way. I searched that old horse, boy, and he is looking at me and he is prancing around, you know how horses do, he is going around in a circle, he is so excited, and I get one foot in the stirrup, and he is moving around, I am on that horse, and he rears back, and I look at my little wife and little Kelly there, and Kelly is saying, "Daddy, Daddy!" And I said, "Do not worry, darling, Daddy is off to solve the world's problems. I will be back." And I slapped the tail of that horse, and down the driveway he went. As I rode down there, it was dark, and my wife told me later, "Honey, I could see the sparks off those hooves on that pavement as you rode into history with the righteousness of God to solve man's problems."

I went into that situation, took that kid home, and the moment his mom and dad came to the door, I knew I was in trouble. They did not like the way I handled it because they were very superficial, high-archy political people within the church who now everybody knew that their son was not a very good boy, and they were going to reflect bad on them, and they made sure for the next three, four years I paid a tab for that. Not the smartest guy in the world, but I am the fastest one in slow class. Remember, the pastor called me in nicely, but one side, shoot me up one side, down the other for embarrassing this good family in the church. Never mind the fact of what the kid was doing. I was wrong because I expose sin. We are supposed to cover these things up so these people can maintain their respectability within the church. That is what I told, "Hey, no problem, understand. I can play the game. Come on, big fella." You know, we spent many years together, rode down many trails, solved many problems, but it has come to an end now. I shot that sucker dead in the garage. Some years later, we sold our house, still up on Kentucky and 83rd Street. If you went into that garage right now, and under that cement floor, there is a dead white horse, I promise you.

You would think that when you told God's people who were saved by the truth, were supposed to love the truth of truth about things in their life, that they would appreciate it, but they do not. I operate under whole different rules now. Rules I operate under are very simple, very basic. You come to me and you say, "Hey, look, I have got a problem. I do not understand how to deal with this. I am struggling with it." I am in the world to help you. You come to me, you play in the game, it is obvious you are playing a game, I will not say a word. Do you know why? But I am not going to ride my horse into your world that I know the truth about God's people. I preach it from the pulpit as hot as I can, as straight as I can. You come to me with any problem, I do not care what it did to me, we were working through the book, but you want to do the Baptist two-step, you do it by yourself. My horse was shot many, many years ago. I drive a Ford Ranger now. I am telling you that is a great verse. That great verse says, "Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Boy, you want to find enemies in the Bible Christianity, just start preaching the truth. We live in a world of Bible Christianity where nobody wants the truth. I have had people come to me and said, "Bob, you can tell me anything you want to tell me my life anytime." You know what? Some people are good, I am not saying they are. Let me tell you something, most of them do not mean that. Most of them, that is the after it for the moment you do, you are in trouble.

Well then, in Galatians 4:22-30, boy, another great principle. We talked about this Thursday night a couple weeks ago, so I will not get into it again. We have dealt with it on New Year's Eve. That is in Galatians 4 where he makes the illustration about Abraham and Hagar and Sarah. Hagar puts forth Ishmael, who is an Arabian, and of course, Sarah brings forth Isaac, who is the promised seed. He likens those two between the old nature and the new nature as an illustration of how you are dead to the law and how that Israel is a picture of the law. Isaac is a picture of the New Testament with promise. At the end of the chapter, he says, "Cast out the bondwoman and her son." Law is no good anymore. In doing so, he gives you the Bible's perfect understanding of God's perspective on the Middle East. Go down there on birth, very simply says, "What sayeth the scriptures?" You can listen to CNN, ABC, CBS, everybody want to listen to, get Time, Life, Look magazine, everybody in the world, "Well, what is going on in the Middle East? Who thinks

what?" When it comes down to it, it is, "What sayeth the scriptures?" You know what the Scripture says? Kick out the Arab, put the Jew in. Kick out the Muslim, put the Jew in. We covered it a couple of Thursday nights ago when we went through the aspect of it, Genesis Chapter 6.

V. The Law of Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6)

Now in Chapter 6, he begins to define our liberty in Christ, continuing showing us, and this one is a great concept here. We want to see this. So last chapter here, he says in 6:1:

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

What we have got here is a picture of the fact that the job of the church, and the job of the church as I said last week, is restoration. My job is to restore God's people in any way, shape, or form. I do not care what you have done, I do not care where you have been, I do not care as a material. That is not part of the process. None of us look too hot for style in a moment you start categorizing sin in somebody's life and judge someone. But is not that you better go take a good long look at your life? All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. He says, "If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual," that is Romans 15:1, "restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Now let me just say very quickly, an unsaved man needs to have his image restored. We know the doctrinal teaching is that in Adam, he was made in God's likeness, in God's image. When Adam sinned, he lost that image, and the material says, "As sin passed upon one man, all men have become sinners." The reason why you and I are sinners is because Adam sinned. Adam lost the image of God, and that put man in a fallen state. When a man gets saved, that image gets restored. What Adam could not do as the first Adam, the second Adam is Christ, fulfilled and did what Adam could not do. We all know that. So when I win somebody to Christ, when you win somebody to Christ, when I preach the Word of God, somebody gets saved, it is simply a matter of that person gets saved, that image gets restored. The job of the church is restoration.

Now I take a saved man, saved woman, saved young man, young lady, it does not make a difference, and they start to have problems in their life for whatever reason. The job of the church is to restore them to fellowship. That is the job. We only have two jobs here: one is to restore unsaved people's image back to the original image that Adam had by being made in the image of Christ through salvation, grace, and faith. The other one is to take saved people who are already saved but are out of fellowship with God, to show them how to restore that fellowship with Christ on a daily basis, not salvation, but their daily walk with Christ. Two aspects: when you got saved, then you enter into fellowship. You can lose your fellowship after you are saved, but you cannot ever lose your salvation. The problem with God's people today that are saved, are out of fellowship, is the fact there is no fellowship with Him that can be restored. You do not have to get saved again, you just have to get back walking where He is at and get the principles of God in your life, which we are going to look at here just a moment. That is the job of the

church, very simple, very basic. We restore people. We are in a restoration business. You take an unsaved man, there was a time in Adam that Adam walked with God, that had God's image. He lost it, and death was passed upon all men, for all have sinned. So when you get saved, that image gets restored. That is why it is called regeneration in the book of Titus. Had it and lost it, now we get it back in Christ. Somebody who gets saved is somebody who just gets out of fellowship. Then we take the Word of God, we show them how to restore fellowship, and they go on from there.

Then verse 7, this is the last thing I want to talk to you about. This is probably the greatest thing I could ever say to you today, and verse 7 is one of the, Galatians 6:7 is one of the great laws in the Bible. There are seven laws in the Bible, seven absolute laws. Some of them have to do with your personal life that are absolute, just like gravity is. I mean, those seven laws in the Bible have to do with your life, it is just like this, I hold the book up, it hits the ground. Why? There is an absolute law called gravity that cannot be interfered with, and it will fall to the ground. Seven laws in the Bible, those seven laws are absolute. Some of them deal with the way the whole spectrum of the universe and purpose operate. Some of them deal with gravity in particular. Some of them deal with your personal life. Some of them deal with things that you and I can do, but it is all based on seven absolute principles by which, as the world turns so to speak, it operates by the seven laws. They are undeniable, unchangeable, they are immutable, and the seven laws are the absolute laws by which everything that God created, including you and I, operate. One of those laws is the law of Galatians 6:7, which simply says:

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

That is called the law of sowing and reaping. That law is a salient verse. That law is one of the most absolute verses that you will ever find anywhere, anyplace, anytime in the history of the world. I wish that God's people, I wish when you raise your kids, you could get them to understand this law by the time they are fourteen or fifteen. The problem is most parents do not get it until about fifty or sixty, and it is way too late. This verse, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You find it in relationship to the nation of Israel in a great parallel for Hosea 8:7, talking about the nation of Israel, it says:

Hosea 8:7

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind:

It simply means this: there are certain principles and guidelines that life on planet Earth operate by. Those principles and guidelines were found in the Word of God. I will give you some examples: your children. There are certain principles taught in the Word of God about you training up your children from the time they are born to the time they get to be, a possible seven-stage period of growth. Here is something you always want to remember, just a little thing that I keep in my mind, I say it to myself forty, fifty times a day when I see circumstances: if it starts wrong, it ends wrong, unless God intervenes somewhere in the middle. If it starts wrong, it ends

wrong. Sowing your wild oats as a young man and then praying for crop failure when you are forty does not work. It starts wrong, it ends wrong, simple as that.

God gave you a book that told you exactly how to take a child, whether it is a little boy, little girl, and train that child up, to discipline them. You know what? You either find out from the Bible, find out from me, find out from somebody, get in the Word of God, make it happen, or you go by your doctor's spot book, go by this, go get your homespun method, go by this book, get up your own concept in your mind, make up your own parallel of the delusion in your mind why you cannot do what the Bible says, and then when they are fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen years old, you sit out and scratch your head and say, "Oh my goodness, why?" The reason is, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." You violate the principles, you will pay the principles later. It is as simple as that.

Marriage is the same way. God gave you absolute principles by which a marriage is going to run. Now, you do not take the time before you get married to look at those, do not scratch your head and wonder why your marriage fell apart five years later. Now, I am not saying there is not something you can do. The question always is, "When will you?" Not, "Is there?" The question is, "When will you stop deceiving yourself? When will you step down at your pride blimp that you are flying over the world in and simply say, 'You know what? I need to start operating by biblical principles?'" When will you do that? That is the only issue. That is the only question. The older you get, the more violated principles that come into play.

I mean, any guy next week, we are going down to the City Union Mission. You are going to meet guys down there that are whacked out on drugs and alcohol who will never turn their life around. They will never change it. They get into the program, they do their best they can, maybe they get one or two that make it, but for every one to make it, there are five hundred who never make it and never will make it. You know why? Because they have deceived themselves. You know what the deception is? The deception is found by the wisest man that ever lived in the book of Proverbs. He started out by Ecclesiastes 4:12 by making a little statement, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." Oh yeah, take a little piece of thread, just a little piece of thread, just something that your mom and dad or you sew with, puts in your little needle and does a little thimble work and put in your little sewing machine, and just a piece of thread. Wrap it around those two fingers, and big strong man that you are, you can pop those things just like that. Wrap it around two times, wrap it around five hundred times, and you will never get out of it. You know why? Because that little thread is likened to sin. You may do it once, twice. You may smoke it once, you may drink it once, you may drink it, but you come to the place after ten, fifteen, twenty years, and you think you are going to wake up someday and now you have seen the light and you are going to stretch and flex those big muscles here, say, "I am going to live for God," and I will tell you what, that old thread that has been wrapped around you flesh for the last twenty, fifteen, thirty years is going to say, "No, you are not."

Great study in the Bible, the New Testament. Three people got saved. First person got saved, the little girl. She was dead, and when she was dead, Jesus brought her back to life. The picture of getting saved: you were dead in trespasses of sin, and you got come alive in Christ Jesus. So all the dead people in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, even though they are literally dead, they

come back to life, and they picture Israel. They are a picture of you and me before we got saved. We were dead in trespasses of sin. We met Christ. The little girl met Christ, she comes back to life. The Bible says immediately she gets up and she goes. This case is a guy about nineteen, twenty, twenty-five, maybe thirty years old. He did picture, but I am a safe person. Christ brings him back to life. They have to help him up, they have to help him walk. You get the third person, John 11, Lazarus. Lazarus is eighty, ninety years old when he comes back to life. Picture of man getting saved older in life. He has to have a lot of people unwrap the grave clothes that are around him before he can ever get out. You know why? It is a picture of the longer you go, the more you wrap yourself up in your sin, the more you deceive yourself, and the harder it is to break free and do what God wants you to do. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind.

I will tell you what, there are a lot of parents today that scratch their head and say, "What happened?" You deceive yourself. God gave you principles about raising children. You either do or you do not. It is not like, "Well, I am going to do some." You either do or you do not. You either find out how, or do you operate in your own spiritual world with your own little ideas? The Bible said by doing that and violating the principles, that is where you mock God. God gave us the principles to live by, to operate by, and when you think you know more about it than God does, that is mocking to Him. He said, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that will he also reap." Mocking God in your life is simply you by your own principles of life following those instead of following the principles of God, or never taking the time to find out how.

Proverbs 5:22

His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Alice, I am glad you are here today. I told you earlier, Barbie, I am glad you are here today because you have to be, Troy, you can bear witness to this. Most of you can remember the old Bible conference days up at Old McDonald's Farm, and we would go through there, and about Thursday or Friday night, I think it was Friday night, the cooks, and Alice was one of my cooks, Grandma was a cook, Penny helped out, Barbie was a cook. They were good all week long, got up early in the morning, worked hard, sweat all day in that hot kitchen, cooked food, breakfast, three meals a day for two hundred some people, worked just barely in there. So on Friday night, I have got to cut them some slack. Friday night at the old Bible conference days, it was food fight night. Now I am talking food fight with a big F. This place we were at was probably as wide as this whole thing to the parking lot and all the way down to the end. It was a huge place. The kitchen was in the back, and after the evening service, I would be out walking around checking things out, and I hear these high-pitched screams and giggles coming from. I knew it was on. Three women and anybody else brave enough to get into it had a power and a half. Have you ever seen your wife at twelve thirty in the morning with pancake grease, eggs, bacon? I cannot explain what it was, it is the most horrifying thing I have ever seen in my life. Not only that, the food was everywhere. It was absolutely in the sound system, it was on the stage. If we had tables, which there was a chair or table for three hundred people, there was food everywhere.

I know they had to blow off steam, and I know that that was their deal, and that was fine. I did not care. The first time they did it years ago, I participated in it because I thought this sounds like fun, I will get in it. The cooks have had a hard week, they are going to have a good time, I will play along with that, we will have fun. You know why I never got in again? The food fight went, and it went for an hour and a half, and I mean it was food. I mean food. I mean they saved up food throughout the week. They had it in their face, in their hair, in their clothes, everywhere. I mean they were covered. They looked, I mean it looked like "Night of the Living Dead Part Three, Four, and Five." I mean it was incredible. Food was everywhere, and I got along with it, and then after it was over, we are all talking about how fun it was, and it was great laughing and giggling, and everybody was just funny. Everybody laughed at how funny everybody looked, and the whole camp gone to bed now. We are laughing, and then something hit me. What took an hour and a half food fight, having fun, took four hours to clean up afterwards. That was my first and last food fight. But you know what? The fun of the food fight was not as fun as the cleanup afterwards.

We all have our food fights in life, and the food fights in life are the messes we make, and we all make them. The bottom line is this: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." You are part of the food fight, you are part of the cleanup, and it usually takes a lot longer to clean up the food than it did to throw it on the floor and get it in your face and get it in your hair because the principle is it is easy to get into that stuff, but when you take that cord and wrap it around you time and time again, it is tough to get out. I do not know why this is. I have seen this in young people, I have seen it in middle-aged people, and I have seen it in older people, and I do not know why this is. I mean, I do know why it is, but I do not know why it is. It is an enigma to me, but I see this thing that people think that that verse means for everybody else and not them. People come to the conclusion, and I see this in young people, that they think no matter how bad it gets, instead of getting right with God and doing what is right, you can beat the odds.

I talked to a state trooper one time down Southern Kansas when I was working down there because every year they get young people killed around spring break time or in June when school gets out. I talked to one time, and it was every year there would be two or three kids killed. He told me, "You know what?" He says, "Kids just think that they are invincible. They think that it cannot happen to them." That is the mindset that we get, that the principles are for everybody else except me. "I am the exception to the rule. I will beat the system." No, you will not. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that will he also reap." Is there ever anything you can do? I do not know of any situation you find yourself in, whether you are fifteen, twenty, thirty, fifty, sixty, seventy, or a hundred. I do not know any situation you find yourself in that there is not an answer and a process to get out. But the answer is simply this: how long it takes you to get out, that is how long the food fight has been going on before you decide to clean it up. It shows that the book of Galatians is one of the greatest books in the New Testament that focuses on our liberty in Christ, but it comes down to the end, and that is the last chapter where