

Revelation 2:12-17

December 10, 2006

If you are a visitor here this morning, what we have been doing is, when we started our church, we started basically a process of spiritual growth that started out with the basics and then began to work its way up into an area where everybody could really learn how to use the Bible for their own self. The goal of our church is simply to have you to the point where you can simply know how to use your Bible. I am not interested in teaching a lot of things about the Bible to you so you can parrot them back because you heard me say it. What I am interested in is you standing on your own two feet and knowing the Bible.

Of course, that takes some time, it takes some work, and it takes on both our parts. It takes a strategy for me to be able to convey that to you and a strategy for you to be able to take what I give you and apply it to your life to learn it. We have been coming through the last year or so on what I call God's systematic theology of the Bible. That is simply that God wrote a book, and in that book, He put in it exactly the structure and the way that He wanted us to learn it.

You have heard me use the example many, many times that there are two ways to get to St. Louis. You can get on I-70 here at Blue Ridge and at the stadium and head east, and you get there in a couple of hours. Or you can head west and go to the West Coast and get on a ferry and go through China and cross the Pacific and come back around the other way. There are two ways to learn the Bible: the hard way and the easy way. Ninety-nine percent of what you are getting today is the hard way. My goal is to help you see the Bible as simplistic as God designed it to be.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11, it talks about Paul's greatest fear for the church. His greatest fear for the church was that Satan would destroy within the church the simplicity that was in Christ. That is exactly what he has accomplished. My job is to try to undo that. It does you no good to make the Bible unreachable for you. It does you no good or God any good to God's cause to try to always keep the Bible out of reach. My job is to get you to see the simplicity that is in Christ and the Word of God.

I. The Seven Church Periods

We started a couple of weeks ago, a couple of months ago really, about coming through the seven series, showing you how everything breaks down around the number seven in the Bible, and that is the way that God designed it. Then we got into the book of Revelation, and I wanted to show you how the most important book in the Bible, the most edifying book in the Bible as far as what God's plan is in the New Testament, is the book of Revelation. It is the last book in your Bible, the 66th book, and it is the book that God, I always looked at it as the capstone of the Bible. It is the final book that God writes, and in this writing, He kind of recaps everything that He has done throughout the Word of God and puts it into a capsule form, kind of like a summary in great detail.

I was telling you and showing you that the key to understanding the book of Revelation, which you are told all of your life is out of reach for you. You are either told it does not mean anything, or you are told that it is too deep and you cannot understand it. But the truth of the matter is, and

I have said this already, that the book of Revelation is the easiest book in the Bible if you just follow the system and the system of sevens.

So we started coming through it, and I started to show you that the first series of sevens you find in the book of Revelation—there is a whole bunch of them, we are going to come through them all in time—but the first seven series you come through in the book of Revelation is God's message to the seven churches. I told you how those seven churches represent the seven periods of church history from the book of Acts up to the rapture of the church. It includes the church period that you and I are living right now.

When God wanted you to study the church, which is an incredible concept in the Bible, one of the seven mysteries, we talked about it when we came through that aspect. But when God wanted you and I to understand the church, He broke it down into seven compartments and showed you the emphasis on each one so that as you got them and built on those, you would get all of it together and help you put a composite of what God is doing.

Last week, or not last week, but the week before last, we entered into the Pergamos church period. That is Revelation 2:12. If you remember, I told you that, and I am going to tell you that again today, I would suggest that with so much we have got going on in here today and so many things we want to talk about, that you just do not try to get the notes down. If you really want to detail this out, I would get the CD and just sit down and go through it because I am going to give you a lot of material today. One, you are not going to be able to get it all down. Two, when you divide your attention between what you are writing and what I am saying, you are going to miss something that I say. I suggest that today you just, again, with this one, you just sit back and enjoy it. Take it in, learn what I am trying to tell you, and then go back and get the CD and then detail it out because I told you that this section, Pergamos, is the key. It is the key to why things are the way they are today in Christianity. We live in very confusing times, very confusing times.

You are going to find that the last time we talked about this, we began to lay down the background of the greatest trick the devil ever pulled. I showed you early on how all history—I do not care if it is church history, European history, world history, American history, whatever—all history breaks down into its lowest common denominator: God moving through time to accomplish a plan and the devil moving in opposition to stop that plan. That is all history is. When you get history down to two things—light versus darkness, God versus the devil—then it simplifies itself. You do not have to worry about the Hundred Years' War, the Sixty Years' War, the Thirty Years' War. You do not have to worry about the revolution of Louis XIV in France. You do not have to deal with that. All you have to understand is that there are two forces at work, and those two forces form and forge the concept of history. One of them is God; the other one is the devil. Just that simple.

When you understand that understanding history, there are two landmarks that you stay on course through history. This is in Proverbs 22 and Proverbs 23. The first landmark is the nation of Israel. Lose sight of Israel, you are done as far as history is concerned. The other landmark is the church. Lose sight of that, you are done as far as history is concerned. In fact, the Bible says in Proverbs that if you lose the landmarks, you enter into what Solomon called the fields of the

fatherless. The fields of the fatherless are basically the meaninglessness, genealogies of histories of the nations, the kings, the queens, the monarchs that absolutely have no relevance to anything. But when you get it the way I am giving it to you, then everything becomes relevant to you.

Now, some of you are going to be here this morning, and bless your heart, because you have not been through this whole thing. You are going to look at this as just maybe a history lesson. It is far from a history lesson. What I gave you when we started the Pergamos the first time, a week before last, and what I am giving you today, very frankly, is this: it is the key to you figuring out what is going on in the world today because this is where it all changed. Right here at this church period, I know you probably cannot grasp this, but right here, this is where the Civil War got dedicated out to happen. This is where World War I got all formed out right here. World War II, Vietnam, right here. Every issue that we are facing today in the Middle East got its start when the devil switched gears in this Pergamos church period.

I gave you a verse in Job 41:13 that was a great concept, and it said, talking about the devil, "Who can discover the face of his garment?" Then I told you that the devil's greatest trick down through history is to disguise himself. I showed you how the devil was a type of Christ and imitates Christ in so many ways that it gets hard to tell who is who unless you can have the playbook that shows you history. Then I showed you not only in Job 41:13 that God asked the question, "Who can discover the face of his garment," the devil? Then He turned around in Job 41:12, and God says, when it comes to the devil, "I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion." I went through those three and I showed you that the parts are the men that he uses down through history, the power are the nations that he uses down through history, and the comely proportion is how he hides himself and masks himself proportionately down through history.

We left off last week right in the middle of Pergamos for the last time, and I want to begin reading there. This is where Satan now takes the false line that has developed because of men rejecting the Word of God within the church and brings all the heresies to a focal point to establish now his church. Remember, I told you another key thing you have to remember: in the Old Testament, the devil runs the world through nations. In the New Testament, the devil is going to run the world through religion. You have got to remember those keys when you start to look at history.

Revelation 2:12-17

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Now, Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you. We thank you for all that you do for us. We pray, Father, now tonight that you will open up our hearts, open up our minds. We pray, Father, that you will just give us clarity of thought with all the things that I need to say today. Help me articulate it, Lord, and make it simple that everybody can understand it, yet take the profoundness of what I have got to say and stick it right in the middle of our hearts, Lord, and let us understand that what we are studying right now is the key to understanding what is going on in the world around us and why things are the way they are. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

II. Five Key Elements in Pergamos

In the church here at Pergamos, you are going to find five things that we are going to try to cover, some of which you have already talked about.

1. The first thing I want you to see in verse 12 is that this particular church now that is developing, the Bible says that it is Satan's seat and is where he dwells.
2. The second thing I want you to see, also in verse 14 and verse 15, now we find the word doctrine: "doctrine of Balaam," "doctrine of the Nicolaitans." We found these in the previous churches where these were ideas that were circulating around outside the Word of God, concepts of ungodly men were bringing up, the devil was using them to destroy the power of the Word of God. Now we find that they have come and solidified into doctrines. They are no longer teachings now; now they are specific teachings of a specific church connected with Satan, which is going to be, we are going to discover when we come on down through here.
3. The next thing I want you to see is the hidden manna. In the middle of this church period, and I told you that the name Pergamos means "much marriage," in the middle of this where the lights are going out and Satan's church is overtaking the world, I want you to see that there is hidden manna. Manna is a type of the Word of God, Exodus 16, you know that. Now we are finding it in the midst of all of this, you are finding hidden manna.
4. The white stone and the new name is obviously a reference to somebody getting saved, and we sing the song in our hymnals, "New Name Written Down in Glory," and "It's Mine, It's Mine." Christ is called the white stone or white in Song of Solomon 5, so you will find all of the components coming here, we are going to detail these out.

III. The Source of Truth

Now let me just say what I am about to say to you because I want to preface, because I am going to get into a lot of things here that I do not want you to take the wrong way. What I am about to

give you, the information I am about to lay out to you and I am about to give to you to help you understand where you are at. I want you to know that I have spent the last 30 years of my life detailing this thing out because I wanted the truth. But I have got to confess something to you, 90% of what I am going to give you I did not find in any religious Christian books. 90% of what I am about to give you today I found in a public library in Kansas City and Canton, Ohio. I am sure that what I am about to give you, the material you could find in any public library in any city in this country. In other words, it is not something that is a big secret. It is something that, like a guy said to me one time, he said, "Where did you get all that stuff?" And I said, "You know what? It is a conspiracy. They hide that stuff in books. You have got to read, see?"

The problem is most of God's people only want to read stuff that they feel safe with about the Bible. That is okay. But there comes a time in your life when you have got to be so firmly grounded in the Word of God that you have got to step outside that. The greatest witness for the Bible was not written by saved men, though there is some great material. The greatest witness for the Bible is written by unsaved men who record history with no idea of what they are writing. But when you know the Bible and you see history, it lines right up together. Everything you will find in a public library down here in Kansas City you are going to find in the book of Revelation and in the Word of God itself.

I did not get this out of some kind of Baptist handbook against the world, the religions of the world. I got this out of a public library in Kansas City. Before I was in Kansas City, I lived in Canton, Ohio, and I found it in a public library there. You can get it in any public library in any city in any state in the United States.

IV. The Tale of Three Cities

The first important piece I want you to have to this history puzzle is this: you need to begin to understand how three cities impact this history. In the book of Acts, Charles Dickens wrote a novel a number of years ago called *A Tale of Two Cities*, which most of you are probably required to read when you are in high school. Well, God wrote a book called the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts is a tale of three cities. These three cities are absolutely paramount if you are ever going to grasp what is going on in the world today and why. They set up the landmarks for us as far as the church is concerned and what is going on.

You know how I look at it? I look at it like this. I look, and I taught you this before, I look at the book of Genesis, and the Bible says the book of Genesis is the book of the beginning. In the book of Genesis, God defines everything that is going to go through the rest of the Old Testament so that when you get way out here in 2 Chronicles, when you get way out here in 1 or 2 Kings, when you get way out here in Ezra and Nehemiah, and you run into something and you are not sure what it is, you can go back to Genesis and find the defining factor that tells you what you are dealing with. That is really what Genesis does. It is not called the book of the beginning because it is the first book in your Bible. It is called the book of the beginning because everything that God did in the Old Testament starts right there. That is a foundational book of the Old Testament. You will never figure the rest of it out until you get the foundation down first.

The book of Acts to the New Testament is what the book of Genesis is to the Old Testament. The book of Acts is the New Testament book of beginning. Just as Genesis lays out and defines everything in the Old Testament, the book of Acts lays out and defines everything you are going to run into in the New Testament. When you get 1,000 years down the line in church history, when you get to 1400, 1500, 1000 AD, and you see this stuff happening, and you say to yourself, "How do I figure this out?" You go back to the book of the beginnings in Acts of the New Testament, your foundational book, and it defines for you. You are going to find these three cities I am going to talk to you about are the three cities that make up the two lines that are coming through the New Testament.

- Antioch
- Alexandria, Egypt
- Rome

The line you want to follow through history and the landmark of the church will start with Antioch and move right down through Antioch. Remember I told you about the Novatians and the Nestorians and the Montanists and the Manicheans and the Paulicians and those Bible-believing groups that would not go in and buy into the corruption? You know where they held onto the Word of God? You know why they stayed with it? Because they were tracing their roots just like you and I do back to Antioch, and that is the way it works. Those three cities will lay it out for you.

V. The Two Greek Texts

Now let me tell you how this thing works here. The New Testament is formed during the Book of Acts. You have the Old Testament already completed. What we have now is we have the books of the Bible are beginning to be written. John writes all of his works during the last half of the Book of Acts. John writes the last books of the Bible around 90 AD. So what I am saying is this: in the first hundred years of Christianity, your Bible, the New Testament, is complete. It is written. But I want you to understand how it is written. It is written in Greek. The Greek that it is written in is called Koine Greek. There are two types of Greek in the world at this time: the Koine Greek and the Classical Greek. The Koine Greek will be the common language of the Greek that the common people spoke at the time. The Classical Greek will be the Platonian, Aristotle mindset of the ecclesiastical Greek that is associated with the great philosophers. You want to remember that because you are going to find when your New Testament is written in the common language of the people, it is written in Koine Greek.

They did not have a New Testament. Sometimes I think we think that when they are going through the New Testament and they are up against something, they are running over and looking up in the Bible and see what they are supposed to do. All they had was an Old Testament. As Paul began to write his letters, he writes them in Koine Greek. But they are not in any kind of form of Bible. They are in letters, in Koine Greek. Those letters are being circulated and copied to the churches. By the time we get past 100 A.D., the Bible, as we know it, is

complete as far as the writings, but it is not complete as far as in a book. It did not get put into a book until two or three hundred years later. During this time, they have got the paper, and it is written on a cheap paper like newsprint. They have got these scrolls of them, and each scroll represents a letter that Paul wrote. We know it as a book that Paul wrote. When we look at the book of Romans, when we look at the book of Thessalonians, Corinthians, we know it as the book of Romans. But in actuality, when he wrote it, it was not a book to a church, it was a letter to a church. That is why in all of his writings, he greets the church. It is very obvious that he is writing this to them. He is writing to a specific church, but then this church got it and starts sharing it with another church and passing it around because everybody recognized what Paul said was important and from God. In time, they formulated what became the New Testament. Every Christian knew what was legitimate and what was not.

When all these gospels of Judas started coming in, or the gospels of Mary, or the gospel of this or the gospel of that, that is why those early men said, "Uh-uh, we know that we started with Antioch, and we know Paul first showed up at Antioch, and we know that he was the apostle to the Gentiles, the only one. And we are not accepting anybody's writings that are not part of that concept." So when all this other stuff started coming in, the true line held fast to it, and all the other guys started to go to the classical route. We already see that during this time, we talked about this, this is when the heresies are beginning to be developed.

I will say it again: all history is nothing more than God moving to accomplish a plan and the devil moving to stop it. So we see in the book of Acts, God starting a plan, the New Testament local church starting in Antioch. We see the devil then moving in opposition to start it from Rome and Alexandria. It is the same way in your life. If you are saved here this morning, God has a plan in your life. It is as simple as that. God has something He wants you to accomplish. It is not complicated. The same thing that God is doing with the churches and the nations, He wants to do with you. He has something He wants you to accomplish in your life. He saves you for that purpose. You know why many of God's people today who are saved have never fulfilled that? I will tell you why. Just as the devil moved out of Alexandria and Rome to stop the church out of Antioch, he moved against you as a New Testament Christian to stop your spiritual growth. Just that simple. You know what? The answer in both cases is the same: stay faithful and true to the Word of God. That is all. Every problem you and I have today is simply a problem, no matter what it may be. It is a problem based on the fact that we have either never learned or we never accumulated or we never identified with or we never applied to our life the basic principles of the Word of God that shows you how to live your life and accomplish what God wants you to live. It is just that simple.

VI. Alexandria and the Rise of Heresy

This is where you begin to see this thing work. From around about 30 BC to about 200 AD, Alexandria, Egypt was the most knowledgeable city in the world. Alexandria, Egypt gets its name from Alexander the Great, who named the city after himself during his conquest when he literally conquered the world. It was the Greek Empire that even to this day is noted for their wisdom, for their knowledge. The Greek Empire so impacted the world that even in the Roman

Empire, when Rome comes over, he tries to emulate everything that the Greeks did. To this day in colleges, the girls' sororities and the men's fraternities are called Alpha, Beta, Kappa, whatever, Sigma, Greek letters because to this day the Greek symbolized knowledge and wisdom. The Greeks' impact on the world through Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, my favorite was Aesop. But some of his stuff was hard to swallow. But anyway, these guys impacted the world to this day.

Every psychologist on the face of this planet, now this is when you learn this, when you learn what I am giving you, this is not a history lesson. This is a lesson if you want to survive in 2006 and beyond, and you want to figure out what is going on around you and understand the keys to unlocking why things are, that is why I am showing you and that is what I am telling you. Every psychologist, every man who is connected with psychology, psychiatry, or whatever the case may be today, saved and unsaved, bases his root theory on something that Aristotle, Plato, or go back to the Greeks. Now, do I mean that he has a book up there when you go in and sit down with your depression problem or you have got this or you have got that, that he pulls out the writings of Plato? No, no, no, no, no. He is not that smart. No, he has been taught by about 40 or 50 guys down through his lifetime who use the books of 40 or 50 other guys who all mask and under new names, under new concepts because the game of the devil is to change the face of his garment. But it is all base root. You are still the same. A base root is simply this: you are your own God, and you are a victim of your own self. So therefore, you are not responsible for it. It is always somebody else. That is the base root for it. That is why in all these situations, it all goes back to this.

From about 30 BC to about 200 AD, Alexandria was the most knowledgeable city in the world. The library of Alexandria had never been surpassed in the history of the world. It was the greatest library the world had ever seen. You are going to find that about the time of Christ, around 30 to 60 AD, its influence changed. Up to about 30 BC, up to about Christ, two men were in charge of this great vast university at Alexandria. The first one's name was a guy by the name of Philo, from which we get our word philosophy. The second guy after Philo checked out was a guy by the name of Pantaenus. Those two men were unsaved, Greek worshipping God that worshipped all the pagan things. Their gods were Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato, and the great new age that they were going to bring in. They were viewing all the world and teaching all of the people through the great concepts, as they saw it, of the great Greek minds that just come up with all of the ideas of not only from science to medicine to philosophy to life to music to art. You see it in the architecture, you see it in the paintings, it is in everything.

Now when Christ shows up and Christ dies on the cross, we get into, you know, around the time of Paul, we see this thing change. Here is how the devil, and this is where he begins to do his work. I get accused many, many times of being anti-Bible college. I am not anti-Bible college, I am just pro-local church. But I know that the book of Acts is my foundational book, and I do know there is not anywhere, any place in the Bible—now I am not saying it is wrong, I am not saying that, I am just telling you what the Bible does not say—there is no place in the Bible anywhere where anybody was ever told to get an educational system outside the church to train young men and young ladies for the ministry. You could not find it if your life depended on it.

You could not substantiate it from the Scriptures if your life depended on it. I am not saying they are all wrong, I am not saying they are all right. I am just telling you, when you get into that scenario, you are into something that you were never told in the Bible was part or should be a part of your spiritual growth. Now if you want to go to a Christian college someplace to get an education because you do not want to be hanging out with the fornicators of the other places, that is absolutely wonderful. But if you want to learn the Bible, if you want to learn how to build a church, if you want to learn how to be a pastor, if you want to learn the Word of God, then God's program for that is a local church under the pattern of Paul and Timothy. That is your model. Where does Paul and Timothy come from? Antioch, Acts 16. You cannot beat the book. It goes right back to it.

The first Christian college found in your Bible is Acts 19:9. It is a school that was founded and had its roots in Alexandria. Because around the time of Christ, Alexandria, Egypt, and the school there, embraces this new faith. Now the school is run under two guys. First is a guy by the name of Clement of Alexandria. He is a pastor in Alexandria, Egypt. The second one is a guy by the name of Origen. This will bring us up. Origen lives about 180 up to about 200 something. But these two guys, they embrace Christianity. They are in charge of this most unusual university in Alexandria, Egypt. Here is what they do, and you need to understand it. I am trying to simplify something that took me probably six years to get down. But just bear with me.

You have got to remember, by 100 AD, these letters that I told you about that were written in Greek have been translated in many languages. They are in the Old Syriac. They are in the Old Latin. They are in what they call the Georgian in Russia. They are in the Italian in Italy. They are everywhere. Because God's plan was to take the Bible and the Gospel to the ends of the earth. So they are translating them from Antioch and all these other languages. A set lands down in Alexandria, Egypt. A set of the New Testament books of the Bible in Koine Greek wind up down in Alexandria and are circulated among the Christians. Now Origen and Clement of Alexandria, they take these in and they bring them into their school. The school now has embraced Christianity. Let me explain that. The school embraced Christianity in this sense: Christ was a great philosopher like Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato. So what they do is they bring in the writings of Paul into the school of Alexandria. Now Origen, and before him, Clement of Alexandria, go through this, and where they do not believe what the Bible taught compared to Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato and their Platonic mindset, what they do is they simply change the Scriptures to go along with what their beliefs are.

You know what Origen believed? Origen believed you got to heaven by being sprinkled as a baby. You know what Origen believed? He believed that God and the devil were brothers and they got into a fight, and someday the devil is going to be restored. That is what Origen believed. Origen then believed that Jesus Christ was God for 15 seconds. Now in my Bible in John 1:18, it says this:

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

You have got a King James Bible, that is what it says. If you have got any other translation in the world today, here is what it will say: "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten God." See? Now you read that and you say, "Well, this one here says begotten Son, this one here says begotten God. What is the big deal?" you ask. Well, the big deal is that Origen did not believe that Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God. He believed he was a deity. He believed he was another God. He believed he was a God begotten Son, like the Jehovah's Witnesses believe. That is where they get their doctrine from. So when Origen read John 1:18-19, he did not agree with that. So he changed it from "begotten Son" to "begotten God." Now when all the new Bibles come out there, you have got God being a deity unto Himself, Christ being a deity unto Himself that was not even part of the Trinity.

Over there in my Bible in the Gospel, when Christ had died on the cross, you know what it says? When there are two thieves, remember those two thieves? That thief looks to Him and he says, "Lord, remember me today when I am coming into that kingdom." Is not that what he says? That is what my Bible says. You get a new Bible in the market today. You know what it says? It said he said unto him, "Jesus, remember me when I will come into the kingdom." Somebody says, "Well, what is the big idea with that? That is not a big deal." That is called Docetism in the first century. You know what Docetism was? Docetism was the teaching that Christ was God up to the point when He went on the cross. Remember when He got nailed on the cross, God left Him, and He was not God's Son anymore. He was now just the man Jesus. That is called Docetism in the first century. Now you will not get that on American Idol. You will not get that on 24064693. You will not get that on Nip and Tuck. You get that by getting into a book and finding out what is what. So in all the new Bibles, it says, "Jesus, remember me," because Origen changed it because he did not believe on the cross He was Christ. In fact, ladies and gentlemen, Origen changes the text at Antioch in over 60,000 places. Now you know what you have got? You have got two corrupt texts. I mean, you have got a corrupt text. You have got two. You have got one that is true, and you have got one that is not.

When he rewrites it, he writes it in Classical Greek. Let me tell you the difference between Classical and Koine in a basic illustration. If I was going to teach you about man today, I would get up and I would say, "I am going to teach you about man." That is the Koine. If I wanted to do the Classical, it would be anthropology. If I want to teach you about angels, I just say, "We are going to study angels." If I wanted to be Classical, I would say, "We are going to study angelology." One of the funniest times I ever had in my life, years and years ago, I was down in some place in Alabama. I mean, this place was so far back in the sticks, I mean, I do not think they thought the Civil War was over yet. They had a guy down there that was a Bible school graduate from someplace. I will never forget. I got up and just laid out the Bible, you know, and taught the Word of God. It was this guy's turn after my turn. He got up there, and it was the funniest day. I have in my life, it was the greatest example of what I can remember as Classical to Koine. I do not remember what I preached on, but it was basic, and it was hot, and it came right down to you like right across the plate. I do not remember what it was. He got up. Here is what he started. I remember it like it was yesterday. He says, "All I want to speak to you today on the exegesis of the book of Mark." Now exegesis means I want to lay it out for you. Right in the front row was some hillbilly guy that probably did not have any teeth. But he had more

smarts than the kid from Bible. He raised his hand, and the guy says, "Yes, sir." And he said, "I do not think we need to be talking about any extra Jesus." You think that is good when the guy got the hammer or nudics instead of her, her, her nudics. It went downhill from there. I remember that like it was yesterday. It was the funniest thing in my life because here was somebody who was educated way beyond his intelligence, who had, it was obvious, did not have the ability to reach the common man on the common ground because he was coming at it from the Classical approach instead of the Koine approach.

I could say, "Now I am going to talk to you about being saved today." And then I would say, "No, I am going to teach you soteriology." But you see, if I had a school and I talked angelology, eschatology, soteriology, pneumatology, hermeneutics, and all that stuff, I could charge you \$60,000 a year. If you came in and I said, "We are going to study angels, man, and we are going to study the Holy Spirit, we are going to study this," I could not get 10 bucks out of you. It is not mystery enough. That is the Classical versus the Koine. I could never understand why a guy went to Bible college to talk like Jesus never talked when He is supposed to be our model. Did you ever see Jesus on a mountain feeding the 5,000 and say, "Okay, boys, eschatology for today?" No. You know what He used? He used common ordinary things that any hillbilly down there in Jordan can understand. You ever notice how He always uses animals in comparison to man's lives? Because most of the people He was dealing with understood animals because they raised them for a living. He never came at them from where they were. He came at them from where they lived. That is the key to teaching the Bible. I do you no good impressing you out of your mind and coming to the point where you do not understand anything when you leave.

Origen at this school revises at over 60,000 places. All the issues dealing with the deity of Christ, all the issues dealing with salvation, all the issues dealing with the nation of Israel. He thought God was finished with the Jew, all the issues of death. Hell, he did not believe in hell anymore than Jehovah's Witnesses do. He was into Gnosticism. He did not believe the blood of Christ saved you. So he takes all the references of the blood out of that corrupt manuscript that he puts out.

I told you about Philip Schaff. This is volume two of the history of the church by Philip Schaff. He wrote eight volumes, just that thick. Every Bible college on the face of this planet uses Philip Schaff's Bibles, books for the critique of church history. It is the standard operating procedure in 99.9999% of the Bible colleges. Philip Schaff, who writes, the young men and young ladies who are going to pastor churches and going to lead churches and win people to Christ, Philip Schaff, when he died, split hell wide open. He was a baby sprinkling Episcopalian who did not believe one thing about the death of Christ on the cross and His blood covering your sins. Now, how did a book like this get into Bible-believing educational systems and teaching godly saved men and women about church history from a non-biblical standpoint? Would anybody here accept the pastor of this church that was unsaved? Why? Well, the obvious reason why. Why would you then accept the current time of church history from an unsaved man?

When it comes to Origen, oh, I love this. What is this? Now, he thinks Origen is, he thinks Origen is Jesus. This is his exegesis right here. "Origen was probably baptized in childhood according to the," now this is the guy who founded all of the concepts by which the second line

runs with. Origen is the foundational guy by which when the devil gets the church running here in a few moments, you are going to see they go back to his stuff. "Origen childhood according to Egyptian custom which he traced to apostolic origin." Now, how in the world do you get an apostolic origin out of Egypt? If that was not bad enough, listen to this. I love this. Where is it at? Oh, here we go. Oh, here it comes. Origen's, I get emotional when I read this. Origen's, oh, I love it. "Origen's greatest service was an exegesis." Now, the exegesis is laying out the Bible. "He is the father of critical investigation of scripture and his commentaries are still useful to scholars for their suggestiveness. He had received from God the greatest gift to be an interpreter of the word of God to men." See, I missed this. I thought that was the Holy Spirit of God's job. Now, take that in light and get this. I love this. Talk about God not having a wrench to fit every nut in this world. Watch this. Now, he is the greatest interpreter of the word of God, and that was his greatest gift to men. "And his mode of life during the whole period was strictly ascetic." Ascetic. That means ascetic. That means he did not go to movies, he did not smoke, chew, and go with girls. That is what that means. "He made it a matter of principle to renounce every earthly thing, not as indispensable a necessity." In other words, he is starting to be a monk. "He refused the gift of his pupils," something I will never do. That is literal. Size 16.5, 33. "He refused the gift of his pupils and in literal obedience to the Savior's injunction, he had only one coat, no shoes, and took no thought of tomorrow." Now, see, that taught Matthew to the Israel in a tribulation period. You know what else he makes the mistake? Now, this is the greatest diviner of interpretation of the Scriptures to man. "It is youthful zeal to get holiness. He even committed castration on himself, partly to fulfill the literal, mysterious words of Christ in Matthew 19:12." So what Matthew says, you know what he says in Matthew 12? He says, "If your right eye offend thee, pluck it out. If your arm offend, your leg offend, you cut it off." So here is a guy who did not want to be tempted with immorality, so he castrates himself, thinking that he is doing the Bible. Now, I do not know how far that went, but he is always a great interpreter who is teaching the Bible. He really kicked off, if he went to that Bible study and followed Paul's advice, he also do unto me like I do unto others. That is what is called the great, oops, Bible study in history. Oops, wrong dispensation. Excuse me, wrong dispensation.

You say you are making fun. Oh, you are perceptive. My goodness, you are perceptive. That is lunacy, man. Absolutely. And yet, he is held up, even today. You know what Origen counterfeits a little bit later on? I do not have time to get into his life this morning, but when he is, he counterfeits what is called a Septuagint today. The Septuagint is a phony Greek Old Testament that Christ was supposed to be using in, it was supposed to be around 200 years before the birth of Christ, and Christ preached from it, and every Bible scholar and every preacher in his city, every Baptist preacher in his city, without probably exception, believes the Septuagint. If you would ask that guy where it came from, who wrote it, and when it was wrote, he could not tell you. You know why he believes it? Because it came out of Origen, and Origen is Alexandria, Egypt, and that is where it comes from. Everybody wants to be like that. You are in the wrong line. I know where it came from, and I know who wrote it, and based on what the Bible says, the Bible tells you why it could never be legit. I do not have to worry about that stuff, because I have got a book that is a foundation of what I am going to believe. When I get way down in history, and somebody tells me, "Oh, you ought to read this, this was of God, Christ was using this."

When I go back to my book and says He was not, I do not get confused on those things. And you do, I do not.

VII. Constantine and the Rise of the Roman Catholic Church

Here is how it comes. This is it. By 325 AD, Pergamos, it is all set, much marriage. A complete system now of anti-biblical theology, which has destroyed the New Testament. We now have a pseudo-religion floating around that has nothing to do with the Bible, just looking for a church to drop it in. Now we have a set of manuscripts that are just as corrupt as the teachings that are backing up the false teachings that is in direct parallel against the Greek text out of Antioch. We are dismissed in the last part in 313 AD. The last part comes into play. Oh, and this is masterful. I love this. This is my favorite part in history. Right now we come to the last pagan Roman emperor, Constantine the Great. He is born somewhere around 288. Nobody knows for sure. He dies in 337 AD. He is called by Philip Schaff and every other writer of history, the last pagan emperor of Rome.

You have got to understand, at this time, Rome is a vast kingdom. It spreads everywhere. The devil is trying to keep control through Constantine. Of course, Constantine is one of the great types of the Antichrist down through our history. We find where he is having a tough time. Not only that, the devil knows history. He knows that Rome now has been in existence for, what, 300 or 400 years? By this time, she is absolutely corrupt and immoral. She is absolutely decaying from within where she once was a great military power because of all the godliness that has sustained that nation for 300 years. All of the filth and all the violations, the old principle, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," is coming home to roost on Rome. She is about to collapse. Not only that, we have got the Vandals, we have got the Visigoths, we have got the Huns, we have got Attila, and then later on his son Attila, who is going to come down and sack Rome. It is all ready to crumble. The devil knows that he is going to lose power of the world because the end of great nations has come. So what he does is change the face of his garment. What he does is one of the greatest strokes of genius the world has ever seen. It is missed by every commentator of history. It is missed by 99.9% of God's people. It is the reason why everything is the way it is today. It goes right back to this point right here. At this point, the world changed as drastically the wrong way as it changed drastically with Christ the right way when He showed up.

Now Constantine is out there, and he is fighting a battle called the Battle at Milvian Bridge. He is up against some tough odds. The story goes four or five different ways. You know how it gets told, but here is the gist of it. Some people say he saw a vision. Some people say he has a dream. But in this vision of this dream, and he is greatly outnumbered, he sees a sign in the sky and hears a voice, and it is a sign of the cross. He hears a voice that says, "By this sign thou shalt conquer." He gets up the next morning, rejuvenated, calls his commanders together and says, "God is going to fight for us." So he had crosses painted on all the shields. The horses had crosses on their heads. You will find that he puts, and he holds a big flag that goes before the army with a big cross on it. You know what? He wins the Battle of Milvian Bridge, 312 AD. He

beats them. Now to give honor and glory to God, I mean, he says, "We just won the battle. God is on my side. I am a Christian." Okay.

This is a lot like you see in the NFL, where the guy makes a touchdown and he gets down on his knees and he points to God like God is cheering and He is glad he made a touchdown. See, this is all the same stuff. It is like God gave me the ability to play football. It is okay that I have got 29 illegitimate kids out there and 16 women running around that I am not fathers to. I mean, guard to God, I have got the power, and I have got it, and he points to Jesus, and he now is down and points to Jesus. And God is supposed to be up in heaven going, "That is my boy." And the angels are going. No, God could give a flip. God did not, hey, whatever you do well, you may be a good ball player. You may be a good golfer. You may be whatever you are good at. God did not give you those arms and legs to do that. God gave you those arms and legs for Him and His use to go out there and win the world to Christ. I am not saying anything wrong with it. I am just saying, just do not get confused here. That is what Constantine did. He set the pattern. Now everything is Christian, and he enters into one of the greatest soul winning campaigns in the history of the world. He goes through the land and he says, "I will give you \$20 to become a Christian." No thanks. "All right? If you do not become a Christian, we are going to kill you." Oh, here what? I hear that heavy heart. "Lord, I am coming home. I have got it. I am under conviction." Needless to say, soul winning revolts were astronomical.

His form of getting saved, you understand, was being baptized. Constantine did not ascribe to anything that was out of Antioch. He is caught up in the middle of all this stuff that is going on, and it is now, as Pergamos says, "where Satan's seed is and where he is dwelling," and is fast becoming the religion by which the devil is going to take over the world because the nation of Rome is not going to be able to sustain it anymore. It is real easy, folks. He passes something called the Edict of Milan. The Edict of Milan was intended to give intelligence to Christians because Rome had been persecuting them, but what it basically does, it opens up the doors of the floodgates, and every pagan out there comes into the church at Pergamos. That is why it is called Pergamos: "much married." He marries the church to the world.

We talked about this Thursday night for those of you that bothered to come. That is a good question. We are going to talk about it again. I already got a heads up. There is going to be another question. I did not finish this coming Thursday night, but this is where your Christmas comes in. Now, I am going to say it again because it is only a week away, and I am all for Christmas. I am not anti-Christmas. I am not your holy witness. I like my Christmas. I like presents. I like time with the family. I like those things, but I understand that before this time, no Christian in any church ever recognized Jesus Christ's birthday. He was not born December 25th. If you know your Bible, you know what? You get it in Genesis 1. Genesis 1 tells you He was born September, not in December. But you know who in history of Babylonian history born on December 25th? Baal the Sun God. We went through this Thursday night. See? Easter bunnies? Sunrise services? The word Easter is the word Astarte. Astarte is the God of fertility, hence the bunnies. Have two bunnies. You do not own for an hour. You have got nine bunnies. Go out of town for a month, and you know what? Find another place. Colored eggs? Eggs. It has to do with fertility. It all goes back to the pagan Babylonian junk that was out there that Constantine

brought in, and then his church moves it and brings it and shells it and repackages it and then brings it out and says, ties it into Christianity. That is what happens. I do not have time to get into it. Oh, we will get into it. I am sure Thursday night.

Along with this comes the, you know, comes the religious procession, the prayer for the dead, the sacraments, the infant baptism, the holy water, the pagan incense now changed into Christian incense or nonsense, however you want to look at it. And off it goes. Philip Schaff, the great noted historian of the Christian church in volume 3 on page 157 says this: "Under the great Constantine, under his great leadership, we see the end of paganism of Rome and the start of biblical Christianity." Well, let me ask you, Phil, where have you been for 300 years? You see, in his mind, the other ones do not matter because they are not classical. They are common. You know those guys I told you about at Antioch, the Manicheans, the Paulicians, the Novatians, the Montanists? Their line goes back to Antioch. You know who Philip Schaff says they are? Heretics. If you are a Baptist this morning and a biblical Baptist, not some of that weird old crowd is out there of illusionists, but I am talking about if you understand who you are and you understand where you came from and you understand why you are called a Baptist. And you understand where your lineage goes back to. You can walk right through history based on that book and run your lineage right back to Antioch. If you are sitting here this morning as a Bible Baptist, you are a Montanist. You are a Nestorian. You are a Manichean. Those groups later on become what we know as the Lollards, the Paulicians, the Waldensians, the Huguenots. The first Baptist Church in the United States of America was in a Providence Road out in 1628 by a guy by the name of John Clarke, who was an English Baptist and a Waldensian.

Who won American Idol again? I missed that. You know what your problem is, folks? And I love you to death, but you only get out of this what you put into it. How dare you know more about the Chiefs winning record or some baseball game or some song or some this or some that more than you do the living God of the living world. No wonder we have got the problem we have got. Job 41:13 says, "Who can discover the face of his garment?" Well, Phil Schaff cannot. Overnight, before Rome was pagan under Caesar, now she is Christian. Overnight, before Rome had an emperor who was a god. Now he has got a pope who is God. Do not tell me you, hey, do not get mad at me. He is called the Vicar of Christ. That means in Christ's name. Before Rome had a Senate. Now it has got a college of cardinals. Before it had an imperial governor. That was like Herod. Now it has got an archbishop. Before it had a provincial government. That would be Pilate. Now it has just got bishop. Before it had a civist who were little guys who ran around and kept the neighborhood in control. Now we call him parish priest. The Roman Colosseum now changed into a flea market. Pagan temples become Christian churches. All the 500 plus gods of the Roman Empire now become the great saints. Bartholomew, this, that, and all the great saints that now they are. It just changes. Overnight. 99% of God's people and the writers of history failed it because I am telling you, God said, "I will not conceal his parts, his power, nor his comely proportion."

Where once pagan Rome killed Christians because it was sport. And because they would not worship the gods of the Roman Empire. You understand that is where the word Christian came from, do not you? Christian means little Christ. The Roman Empire, the pagan Roman Empire

had over 500, 600 gods. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Nobody in the Bible ever called Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. That is Roman. They are gods. You know why it is called Sunday? Sunday is because that is the day they worship the sun. The months are the same way. January, February, March, April, you know, that thing goes. You know, "30 days has September, April, June, and November," and it only has 16. And grandma rides a bicycle. I do not know how it goes. But it all is Roman. You do not come in the Bible and they say, "And on Tuesday, he went into Jerusalem." It is the first day, the second day, the third day, the fourth day, the fifth day, the sixth day, and the seventh day of the week. It is Roman. Now, I have got a calendar, and it has the Roman names on it. My point is this, a while back, I will never forget this. Some of the legalistic brethren that were running around, they were so afraid that having your kids have a Cabbage Patch doll, this has been a number of years ago, were so wrong and so satanic. I heard a thing out a couple of years ago about how Bob Spongepants was demonic. We get caught up into these things. I do not know what to tell you. I am not even sure what Spongepants are. And I do not think I want to know. But I know this. If it is, tell me what in this world that we are living in is not connected with Satan someplace along the line. "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." You are in this world, but you are not of this world. What is the matter? You quit reading?

I almost forgot the biggest difference. Where pagan Rome killed the Christians who would not accept their hundreds and hundreds of gods and only believed in one God, so they laughed and said, "That is a poor man's religion. You only have one God. And that God is living inside you? Well, in His name is Christ? Well, you are a little Christ, are not you?" Christian. First called Christians. Where? Antioch. Now, the big difference is where pagan Rome killed them because they would not become to Rome in pagan Rome. Now, Rome is going to kill them because they do not become Catholic. Got Fox's Book of Martyrs? Read it. I am not getting into it. I am not getting into it.

Constantine's mother, her name is Helena. Oh, I love her. Helena. She goes down to Jerusalem. Guess what she finds in the garage sale? The original cross that Christ was crucified on. 320 some years later, she found it. Used only once. I love it. Now, let me show you how this works, folks. This is not a history lesson. You may think it is, and if it is, I suggest you just snooze out for the next 20 minutes because you are not going to get it. You know what she does? She finds the cross of Christ. Hurries home to her little boy. You know what he does? He runs back to Jerusalem, and he builds a church on the spot where she found the cross. This church today is called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It not only is the place where he was crucified, it also has the tomb that he was buried in. Now, it never seemed to bother anybody that the Bible says in Hebrews 13 that he was crucified outside the city. Because by this point, the Bible does not matter anymore. It is what works. If you go to Jerusalem right now today on your pilgrimage over there, you know, I do not call it the Holy Land. It is not holy that he comes back. You have got to get your Bible straight. If you were over there right now to Jerusalem, you would find them willing to take you, and for all dumb Christians, they will take you to both sites of the crucifixion. If you are one persuasion, they will take you to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. If you are the other persuasion, they will take you to what is called Gordon's Calvary outside the city. You know why it is called Gordon's Calvary? I will tell you why. Because in 1917, the

British Army and England took over Jerusalem. A guy by the name of General Gordon was a British general and a Bible believer reading a King James 16 authorized version, found the place outside the city like Hebrews 13 says it was, and found the spot outside the city on Golgotha. So from that time on, it has been called Gordon's Calvary based on what he found and what he believed in the book. That is how it goes. You have got to know those things. Why pay to go to two places? I mean, which is it? Is that the way it is? But you see where that leads? If you can go to Jerusalem and you can find two different places that does not matter where he was crucified, then it is just a half a step that there are a lot of different ways to heaven, and it really does not make any difference. Where does it end? This is not a history lesson. Not at all.

We have got this whole thing set. Constantine's mother brings back the cross. Constantine starts, this is where all the emblems come in. This is now where birds are associated with Christianity, you know? I mean, you know, you see them all the time. You know, I do not fight it. I do not fight it. I do not care. I do not fight it. You know that little six-pointed Star of David? Everybody talks about the Star of David, and they are on the Israeli flag, and you see Christians wearing it. I had one lady some one time, she said, "I said, 'Well, you have got that on for?'" She says, "Oh, I am a spiritual Jew." I said, "That is good. I am glad." I said, "Where did that six-pointed Star come from?" Is it six or seven? Six. "Where did that six-pointed Star come from?" She says, "Oh, that represents Israel." I said, "Where are we at in the Bible?" She said, "Somewhere in the Old Testament." I said, "Well, we have got about 20 minutes. Could you show me?" She could not find it. She looked for about 15 minutes. She could not find it. I finally helped her find it in Acts 7. The six-pointed Star of David is called the Star of Remphan. It is a demonic god that Israel brought in that represented by six-pointed Star that stupid God's people wear around today like they think they have got something on Christian. I do not fight it. Do not fight it at all. Could care less. You know what? I know the difference. Do I have a Christmas tree in my house? You betcha. The dog has not torn it down yet. Do I have a six-pointed Star of David? No thanks. No thanks. You see this thing? All this stuff. All this stuff. Now, this is how you figure it out, you see? This is how you figure it out.

Did you hear last week how that they had that big conference over there in the Middle East, and the Pakistan and all those guys got together, and they come with a great announcement? You know what the announcement was? That there was no such thing as a Jewish Holocaust. Hear that? Or were you too busy on 6-4-1-3-1-2-1-9-0? No such thing as a Holocaust. That is the big thing now. Now, I do not know what have you read in life, but you ought to read the memoirs of Dwight Eisenhower. You know what Eisenhower said? When he liberated the camps over there in Germany at the end of World War II, he had a documented photographic thing of the whole thing, everything done in photo. You know what he said? You know why he did it? Somebody said, "What in the world do you want all these gruesome pictures for?" You know what he said? He said, "I want it documented because someday somebody is going to say it did not happen." You know who Robert H. Jackson is? Of course you do not. He does not pitch for the Royals. You know who Robert H. Jackson was? He was a head lead attorney at a Supreme Court that ran the Nuremberg trials in 1945 at the end of World War II of 1946-47. Before he died when this Holocaust did not happen. Somebody said, "Judge, what do you think?" And he said, "You know what?" He said, "I prosecuted the top Nazis, and every Nazi that was sent to death, and even

when they were not there," he said, "and I talked to every one of them." He said, "You know what I heard?" He said, "I heard this." He said, "Some of them said, 'I did not know what was going on.'" Some of them said, "I was just following orders." Somebody says, "I am just a low guy in a poll with higher up the chain." He said, "I heard at least 35 different excuses, but never one time did I hear it did not happen.

You know why it is going on over there right now? Do you know why that they are, you know, I know, I know you think, and I hear this all the time where you have got the Catholic Church over here and you have got the Muslims over here. You know what the one common bond between the two of them is? You know why that Saddam Hussein worshipped Adolf Hitler? You know why that they are over there right now at that little meeting last week? You see, this is not a history lesson. This is not a history lesson. This is why we are where we are at and where it is going, and you better get on the bus. Do you know why right now there are all the Muslim leaders over there are anti-Semitic, and they hate the nation of Israel, and they say there was no Holocaust? I will tell you why, because the connection is between them and Adolf Hitler. You realize Saddam Hussein's grand, his uncle, his uncle was an SS group and Fuhrer under Adolf Hitler who raised up Muslim SS troops to kill the Jews in Russia, and he raised him? See, you are blinded. You look at all the things out there. You hear Rush Limbaugh, you hear this guy, you hear that, you hear all the great commentators, you hear all these guys, and the bottom line is somebody says, "Boy, there is a big difference." Let me tell you something. You know what? There is difference between the Muslims themselves, the Sunnis and all those guys fighting among themselves, and they will go on all day long. They always have down through history, but you know what? They will get together on one issue, and they will put aside their differences, and that is killing and wiping out the nation of Israel. Oh, excuse me, and you. You know what the common denominator is between the Roman Catholic Church? Adolf Hitler was Roman Catholic. You do know that. His 12 men like the 12 apostles were Roman Catholic. I told you that Constantine fought under a sign of a cross or Romans fight under a sign of a cross. Hitler called his realm the Third Reich. You know what the Second Reich was? Wilhelm in 1917. You know what the First Reich was? Holy Roman Empire, Constantine. Constantine put a cross on, see. Did you ever see them panzers going across Poland? You know what is on the side of them? They call it a Balkenkreuz. It is a cross. You know the highest award the Nazis got? It was called a Knight's Cross. You know when they did something pretty spectacular, they got an Iron Cross, First Class, and something that was not so spectacular, Iron Cross. Romans always fight under the sign of a cross. But you see, we are too busy catching survivors. Who is going to win the million bucks?

Now, I am going to tell you something. Here is how it works. Constantine, once he gets it all together, he calls the Council of Nicaea, 325. The Council of Nicaea is a religious council, your first one in the Bible or not in history. The Book of Acts tells you they are all bad, too. We do not have time to get into it today. It is called the Council of Nicaea. Now, you have got to remember, his Roman Empire was vast. It probably represented 30 million people. You know who shows up? 300 preachers. And 300 men decide the fate of 30 million Christians. You know why? That is called the Doctrine of Nicolaitans. 300 bishops show up to set the course of history, and they thrash out all the deals. You know what happens? Constantine goes back to Byzantium. It is

modern day Istanbul. It is called Constantinople back then, Constantine City. When he goes back to the outside, he leaves a guy on the throne in Rome. Sylvester I, they argue about who it is. But when he goes back, there is your first pope. In the next 50, 60, 70, 80 years, that thing rises up and becomes the Roman calendar.

Oh, I forgot to tell you this. In 1888, two pagan, unsaved Roman Catholic scholars called Westcott and Hort brought up Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, the two manuscripts that come out of Alexandria, Egypt, and formulated a new critical theory on text. In 1883, the RSV came out, and every new modern translation after that in Italy, right up to your NIV, comes off of Jerome's Latin Vulgate out of Alexandria, Egypt with Origen. You put a King James Bible on this table, and an NIV, ASV, RSV on that table, and you compare them critically, you have got a Bible that has got 60,000 changes. One is out of Antioch, the other is out of Alexandria, Egypt. Somebody said, "Well, I will tell you what, all the modern scholars, you are in the minority on that, brother." You know what? Noah, in his day, there were four or five million people on the earth, only eight made it on the ark. Do not tell me about minorities. See, when it comes to things like this, not as far as an old Chinese proverb. If 50 million people believe a foolish thing, there is still a foolish thing.

VIII. The Example of Antipas

Now you want to know what is wrong with me? I will tell you what is wrong with me. One of these days, I am going to teach you probably the greatest thing I could ever teach you. I am going to teach you, and I do not know when it will ever be. I have got about 400 of them right now. It will be something to go on until Jesus comes back. I have got a book that I have kept since the day I got saved on the greatest thing God ever taught me to change my life. They are things that altered my course and my direction, the way I perceive things, the way I saw things, the way I conducted myself in things, and the way I looked at the Bible and things. I have got over 400 of them in there probably right now. I add to them almost weekly because God has really expedited my spiritual growth here in the last eight or nine years and showed me some things that I get older and put all things together. I am going to show you probably, as far as my walk with God, I am going to show you the—and I have only shared this with three people. I shared it with my wife. I shared it with Joe. I am going to betray our confidence, Joe, and I shared it with your dad. But I want to show you something that changed my life. I have never preached on this. I fact-promised my wife that I would never tell anybody. But it looks like everything else, I can never keep a secret.

Look over here, Revelation 2:13. Strangest thing in the Bible you will ever see. The best thing you will ever see in the Bible. Changed my life. I must have read this thing through 500 times. Never caught it. Never caught it until God was ready for me to catch it, and then it, like everything else when God is ready for you, it changes your whole direction and direction. You want to know why and the way I am? This will help you understand why I preach the way I preach. So I understand how my attitude is. I am a very tolerant person. I can just go along with about anything. Because I understand that is the way you have got to be. But the bottom line is I have a bottom line that I do not go past.

Now I want you to see this.

Revelation 2:13

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

I know who Antipas is. You never find him any other place in the Bible. You get a book on who is who in the Bible? He is not listed. I have never read anybody in the history of a world that ever talked about Antipas and never said anything about it because there is nothing else about it. But I want you to see what he represents. Antipas represents you and I. He is in a time when the church is being married to the world, and yet he is faithful. He is faithful unto death. Antipas represents every young man and young lady that is up against the opposition of the day of the Classical versus the Koine. The higher educated Gnosticism to the common ordinary man. I have told you before the greatest enemy Jesus ever faced was not the Roman Empire. It was the scribes and the Pharisees who were the religious leaders of His own faith. It will be the same today.

Antipas is my model for ministry and my model for life on planet earth, and yet there is nothing about him. If you were going to say what could be the model for me being a pastor, I would tell you Timothy, you go back to 1 and 2 Timothy and Acts, and you could find a ton of material. Somebody say what is the model for me to study how to be a servant, that would be Titus. What is the model for me to be this or that? I could give you every place on it. Antipas is my model for one thing. He is a man that stands in a time when all of Christianity was going to the world, and yet he was faithful as a martyr unto death, and what I get from him is one little thing when there is not one thing else in his Bible. You know what the name Antipas means? It means "against everything." Against everything. He lived in a day when Christianity, the real Christianity, was greatly subverted. He lived in a day and age when the falseness was just taking over it, and people were being lied to. The Bible was being quenched. The spirit was being quenched. The church was being persecuted. A great monstrosity church had just risen up that was taking over the world spiritually, and for the next two thousand years, it was going to run the gamut of the world, and it was going to infiltrate and infest the world with Satan's teachings and heresies and damn millions and millions of people sold to hell, and here is a man right in the mix of it just like you are today, and God does not tell you anything about him because you do not need to know anything about him except one thing, what his name means. This old boy stood up in the face of the greatest adversity of his day and was against it all. Courage, folks. You young men, you young ladies, it takes guts to stand up and tell people what I told you today. It takes courage because you are going to be blasted by the Origenes, the Clements of Alexandria, and the Constantines of this world. The men who want to rise up above you and take you over and run the world and run everything in Christianity and all the ones that want to make all the policy for everybody out there, the bottom line is this, this little guy, all you get is his name, but that is enough. He stood in the face of the much marriage of the church of Pergamos, the wickedest church period in the history of the world where Satan pulled the greatest trick in the world, and

99% of them missed it, and Antipas did not, and he was faithful unto death, and his name means, "I am against it all."

Every head bowed and every eye closed. You just got the greatest end of the greatest period in the history of the church. It is the reason why, as you can obviously see now, things are the way they are today. It is the reason why there is so much confusion. From this new church that now has been solely integrated comes every other church on the face of this planet today, and we are going to talk about it as we go through it. You are going to see it happen, not because it is a history lesson. You can well see by now why you need to know what happened. The landmarks, ladies and gentlemen, I said it when we started the study of Revelation. If you do not know where you have been, please do not tell me you know where you are going, and if you do not know where you have come from as a Christian and you do not know where you are going as a Christian, do not insult my intelligence and tell me you know where you are at as a Christian. They are all connected together. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you. Thank you, Father, for today and for what you have given us. We pray, Father.