

1 Corinthians 15

Sunday 4/16/2006

I need to explain where I am going and what I am talking about here. You know, basically, I am not much on Easter. I will explain that here in a second. We do not have a sunrise service here, and things like that. I think a lot of times the Christian holidays become a time when a lot of people across this city drag out their spiritual clothes and go to church. To me, I celebrate the resurrection in my heart every day of my life. I am not arguing with anybody that does it the other way, but I understand where Easter comes from.

If you have been around here any length of time in our Bible studies, in fact, Thursday night at Bible study, somebody asked a question about Good Friday. We went through the Scriptures and showed you that there is no Good Friday in the Bible. That is tradition that comes in and has nothing to do with the Bible. Christ was not crucified on Friday; He was crucified on Wednesday. Mark chapter 11 through the end of the chapter details out every day for that last week from the triumphal entry.

The word Easter is the word for Ashtar. Ashtar was the pagan god of fertility. When Constantine brought all of the pagans into the church around 325 AD, all of these things came in. This is where your Christmas comes in. This is where Easter comes from Ashtar and all of that stuff, the rabbit being, she is the god of fertility. So, along with the worship of Ashtar, you had rabbits, which are very fertile. You had eggs, which is the Egyptian symbol of fertility. It is all built around, and in time, it gets built around the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It has always been a joke to me that so many of God's people have a problem with their kids going out on Halloween. They talk about it being a demonic holiday and a demon holiday, dressing up like demonic, evil things. Then they think Easter is such a holy day. The truth of the matter is, Ashtar is a pagan god. Through the process of time, you are going to find that it is all getting mixed together with the resurrection. There was no early church up to 325 AD that ever had an Easter service. The only time you find Easter in your Bible is over there in the book of Acts, and Paul makes reference to it for what it is: a pagan holiday that had nothing to do with anything connected with the Bible.

But I say all that, and I have to tell you this: this afternoon, as we get out of here, we are going home and eating. We are going to have an Easter egg hunt in our house. Barb will even put some out there where even I can find them. I am not against those things. I am not one of these preachers that gets upset as long as I understand it and am able to separate it out. I know that we live in a world that has all of these extra things that have nothing to do with the Bible, and you are beating your head against the wall trying to change it. So, all you have to do is understand it.

I do not ever emphasize anything more than God does. When it comes to the resurrection, that is something that the Bible talks about should be something that should be every day of our life. As God's people, we ought to thank God every day for the resurrection of Christ. So, what I am going to do today is break my mold. Never in 35 years of ministry have I preached an Easter message. I always preach the same message every Easter: "A Letter From Hell," because I figure that is the best shot to get at somebody.

But I am going to break from my tradition today, and I am going to preach. Call it what you want, mellowing. Maybe I am looking forward to the Easter money myself this afternoon, I am not sure. But I am going to preach a message on Easter, but it is going to be a little different because I do not like to do things just for the sake of tradition. If I am going to get up here and take your time, and you are going to give your time to come and listen to me, then I want to give you something. I want to give you something today about the resurrection of Christ that is going to help you.

I know most of you talk to people throughout the week where you work. You are involved in circumstances and situations where you get talking about the Bible. Sooner or later, you are going to get asked a certain question. I want to talk about that question this morning, and I want to show you how to answer it. I am going to give you something. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15, it says that you and I ought to be ready at any time. I am paraphrasing here, but you and I ought to be ready at any time to give a reason for the hope that is within us to anybody that asks.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

You are going to find that as you grow in the Word of God and God uses you and you become more familiar with the things in the Bible, and that is why we are doing all the things that we are doing, you are going to find that God is going to begin to use you. He is going to put you in circumstances where somebody is going to ask you the question, and you are going to have the answer. Ultimately, it may be a life-changing thing for them. It may be just the question that they need answered to really help them find Christ as their own personal Savior, or to really get their life where God needs it to be if they are already a Christian.

A man asked me one time, he said, "If you can prove to me that the Bible is right and there is a God, I would believe it in a minute. I would be the best person in your church." How many times have I been asked that over the years? I have heard somebody say, "What you do and what you believe as a Christian, you just accept it by faith." I am here to tell you this morning that when it comes to what I believe, not as a Baptist, but as a Bible-believing New Testament born-again Christian in the confines of the book of Acts for the New Testament local church, when I come to the world and I come to my Bible and I come to these issues, I want to tell you something: for me, there is no faith involved.

Now, I try to be a man of faith. I try to walk by faith and not by sight. But when it comes to the things of Christianity, when it comes to what we are going to celebrate today as far as the resurrection is concerned, and you have all the different kinds of ideas about it, let me tell you something: when it comes to God, the Word of God, and the resurrection, there is no faith to it. What I am going to do today is show you how to answer that question to every man and woman you may bump into, or maybe you have that question in your own heart this morning. I am going to answer that question without a Bible. I am going to answer that question without the Word of God.

Now, I am going to use the Bible in setting this thing up and bringing you to a point, but the answers you are going to give, or I would give, or the answers I gave this guy, had nothing to do with the Bible as far as going to book, chapter, verse, and saying, "Hey, look at that verse right there, that proves it." No, no, I am not going to go to the Bible to prove it. I do not need to go to the Bible and prove it. The greatest proof that what I believe this morning, and what all of you believe this morning, or you probably would not be here, the greatest proof for that is not found in the Bible. I want you to see that this morning. If you do not get anything else out of this morning, I want you to leave here today understanding that central issue. Maybe you will understand a little better about my position on Easter. I am not against it; I just like to know what the truth is. I understand where Easter came in. I am not someone that gets caught up in a lot of hype because I do not know what I believe. I know what I believe, and I know why I believe it. I can go to any public library in any city and get the material without even opening up a Bible to show you where Easter started and where it comes from.

At the same time, I am all for it. I know that Jesus Christ was not born on December 25th. Do we have a Christmas tree? Absolutely. Do we exchange presents? You better believe it. I look for any opportunity. I understand that I am in this world, but I am not of this world. I am to understand why this world does the things that it does, even in the Christian world. But I take that and then I use it as best I can to serve the Lord and understand exactly how it all works. So, with that in mind, I want you to look at 1 Corinthians chapter 15, and we are going to talk about the resurrection this morning. The fact is, here it is Easter, and so we are going to break that tradition, and I am going to talk to you this morning about it, but I am going to talk to you about it in a different way.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Let us pray. Father, we ask a blessing this morning. Help us to articulate all of these aspects today, Father, and to lay it out clearly and plainly. We thank You for those that have come today, and we thank You for this day that we can open up Your Scriptures. Truly, Lord, we have set aside today to talk about and to think about the resurrection. But God, after this message today, help us to understand that every day is a day that we ought to thank God for the resurrection, for without that, there is nothing. We thank You now and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. The Centrality of the Resurrection

The reason why you should accept the resurrection and really look at that every day of your life instead of this one time of the year is because, based on what we are going to look at here for just a second and based on what he said in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, the resurrection is the backbone of what you and I believe as Christians. If the resurrection is not true, if the aspect of the resurrection is not true, then nobody on planet Earth can be saved because the whole aspect of God saving us is hinged on the fact that did He come out of that tomb? You are going to find that the resurrection is the backbone of what our salvation is based on.

In that same chapter, in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, just down a few more verses, in verses 12 through 17, he goes on and he says:

1 Corinthians 15:12-17

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised.

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

If Christ did not come out of that tomb, then everything we believe is worthless. This is why Easter is such a big deal. I know that down through history, the devil has tried to destroy everything in Christianity, and this is a lot of why the devil has mixed in a lot of pagan stuff with real biblical stuff. So now here we are on a day called Easter, which is a religious holiday, which really Easter is a false demonic god, the god of fertility, that goes back to the Babylonian Empire.

How in the world did that get mixed into our church service today? If I would stand up here in front of you and I would have a dark robe with a big high peak collar with red velvet and a widow's peak with two teeth coming out of my mouth like Dracula, and I would be walking around here, and I would appear, I would get up and I would say, "Okay," and I would draw a satanic pentagram up here, and I would start, you guys would have a heart attack. If I got up here this morning and I started praying to some unknown pagan god, you would all get up and leave. But we can have a day to Ashtar, and everybody is just fine. You know why? Because God's people do not know the difference. I do not care if we do it; I just want to know the difference.

As I said, this afternoon it will be Easter time. That Easter Bunny will be eyeball to eyeball with three dogs out in the yard. I have my 12-gauge shotgun, and we will be kicking the brush piles for that Easter Bunny. My kids will be out there, and they will be finding eggs, and they will be finding colored eggs, and there will be things in it, and it will be a fun time. But I know from a Bible standpoint where that stands and where the Bible stands. As long as I know the difference, I do not care.

This is a lot like over there in 1 Corinthians, where there was an issue over people going down and buying meat at the market that had been offered to idols. The pagan religions were taking meat and using it on their pagan day and offering up this meat to their gods. Then, after the ceremony was over, that meat would be, then the local butcher would come down and buy it back. He would take it down, and on Monday morning, you could go down to the grocery store in Jerusalem, and you could find two prices of meat. You would find lamb chops for 69 cents a pound, and then you would find lamb chops for 39 cents a pound. The lamb chop for 39 cents a pound was the lamb chops that were offered up to the gods that he bought back. The 69 cents a pound had never been offered to anybody.

The Christians saw a deal. So the Christians were going down to the market and they were saying, "Give me that 39-cent stuff." So many other Christians were saying, "Oh, how can you do that? You are buying meat that has been offered to idols. You are buying meat that was up there in that pagan altar. You are buying meat that they prayed and worshipped and sang and did all these things to some false god. How can you, as a child of God, do that? Pay the 69 cents." That is how you know they were Baptist all the way back then.

Paul says, "Hey, it is no big deal." He says, "If you want to buy the 39-cent meat, buy it." He says, "Those dumb idols do not mean anything to you. You are just realizing that here is a place that you can save some money, and if they will sell that cheaper, you buy it, because those gods only mean something if you believe them." That is a lot of what we have with some of the Christian holidays. The devil has mixed a lot of stuff into it, and as long as you and I understand that, it is where it separates out fine. You will never see me picketing against Easter. You will certainly never see me picketing against Christmas. I am not going to picket against anything because my job as a pastor is just to teach you the truth, and then you can live with it. You have to make your own decisions, and you have to separate your own things out.

II. Three Things Under Attack

Concerning the resurrection of Christ, which we now know is the backbone of our faith, there are three things that set Bible Christianity apart from every other religion on the planet today. These are the three things that are under attack and have been under attack for centuries.

1. The first thing under attack is Christ Himself. Christ was no more born and no more killed and resurrected than the issue arose: Was Christ really the Son of God? The issue rose then and is still prevalent today and has been all down through church history: the deity of Christ.
2. The second thing was the resurrection itself. You are going to find that 20 minutes after He came out of that tomb and He was telling everybody that He had arisen, you are going to find that there were people that were discounting the fact that He came out of that tomb.
3. The third thing is the Bible itself. You are going to find as you come through history, and even as you come through the Bible, that the Bible is being attacked.

The Bible teaches us, and we have not gotten to the thing yet, but when I get there, we are going to set the Bible over here, and we are just going to deal with the thing. Let me give you a little church history here. As soon as the events of the New Testament take place, the crucifixion and

the resurrection, the devil goes to work. He goes to work to discredit it and to destroy it, and immediately the skeptics show up.

Paul tells young Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:1-3 that there are going to be people that show up who are going to depart from the faith, who are going to give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, that they are going to speak lies in hypocrisy, and they are going to sear their conscience with a hot iron. In 2 Corinthians 2:17, he says this:

2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

Already in 57 to 60 AD, when it is written, there were people that were trying to corrupt the Word of God. Those three things have happened all down through history, and you are going to find that all of this stuff gets dumped in when the truth begins to emerge.

Now, there is a big flap today that is going on all across this country, and it has been going on for a while. One of the things that you find out that was popular was "The Da Vinci Code," and there are all kinds of things on television and all kinds of things going on. This is the time of year to get it because I am telling you, it is everywhere. You can get on the National Geographic Channel, and I never figured out what the National Geographic Channel had to do with Jesus, but boy, it is filled with it today. All weekend long you have "The Search for the Real Jesus." Last night you had "The Holy Grail," and today you will have something else. Last night was a thing on the crucifixion, and it showed how Jesus could not have been crucified the way the Bible said He was. It is just string after thing after thing. Now the next big flap is "The Gospel According to Judas."

All these things confuse people. They get confused with this stuff, just like they do with Easter, Christmas, and all of these holidays: pagan stuff mixed in with God's stuff. It is an easy thing to do. The truth of the matter is, let me tell you something: forget the Gospel of Judas. There are at least 20 or 30 gospels out there. I have a book right here called "The Lost Books of the Bible." I bought this book probably 20 years ago. This book was written in 1926. Now, I did not buy it new. There are 26 books in here that say that your Bible lost, and the Gospel of Judas is even in here. But you have the Gospel of Mary, you have the Gospel of Thomas, you have everybody's gospel, and you have 26 books in here that are not in your Bible. This is just the tip of the iceberg. You have probably hundreds of other books that everybody disagrees and agrees ought to be in the Scriptures and are not in the Scriptures.

Then you come up, and the great point this book makes, it is not a great point, but it is a great point from the world's standpoint, he says he leaves you with this thought: that the Bible is not the only book of truth, that there are other books out there that have truth in them and not in the Bible. Of course, that is where it all begins. I am telling you all that to tell you this: you are going to find that after the events of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the book of Acts, the devil floods the market, so to speak, with other writings, and those writings come in for the one purpose of confusing God's people.

I could not believe it. You talk about me teaching you right stuff. I was watching this thing on the Gospel of Judas the other night, and it was a two-hour deal, and I thought it was pretty good because I like to get all these things because you have to keep up on them to know what they are coming out faster than you know what to do with. I was watching this thing, and I thought to myself, "Boy, I wish everybody in my class, everybody I am working with in the Bible, was watching this, because this is absolutely proof that I am teaching you what is right."

They said there are 20 or 30 other Gospels. The Gospel of Judas, the one they got, was written about 300 AD, but it shows and it says that an early church father in 180 AD, his name was Ignatius, wrote a letter scathing the churches for accepting the Gospel of Judas. They said that Ignatius was telling them that there are only four Gospels, and they are the ones in the Bible. Then they dropped the bomb: they told you who Ignatius was. Ignatius was a pastor at Antioch. How many times have I told you that Antioch is the hotbed of Bible Christianity? It was Antioch that stayed true to the Word of God when everybody else started to depart. There he is on the National Geographic Channel, amen brother, thank you, praise the Lord, telling me and confirming that it was Ignatius from Antioch that held the line with four Gospels when all the great Gnostic world was saying there is a bunch of other ones. I have told you that a hundred times. I have shown it to you in history a hundred times, and of course, that is exactly where we are at.

No event in the history of the world has changed the course of the world like Christianity. You want to know what separates what you have as a Christian from all the other religions of the world? Let me tell you what it is: it is one simple thing. You can be a Buddhist if you have Buddha's body laying in front of you. You can be a Taoist if you have Tao's body laying in front of you. You can be a Muslim if Muhammad's body is laying in front of you. You can be a good religionist in any of those religions with the author of that religion's body in your possession. But you cannot be a Christian if you have a fingernail of Jesus Christ, because the key to what we have being real is the fact that He did not stay dead. Finding a grave that is Muhammad's or Confucius's or this guy's or that guy's only proves the fact that that is what sets apart what you and I have, because without the resurrection, what we have is worthless, absolutely worthless.

Of course, that is the issue, and I am going to show you without a Bible that if you are a Bible-believing New Testament born-again Christian, how you and your faith are absolutely right, and everything else in the world is wrong. Notice again, I did not say Baptist. I am not preaching this message from a Baptist standpoint. I am preaching this message from a Christian standpoint. You have Christianity, and you have all the other religions in the world. Now, you may be somebody here this morning that you think that all the religions are good, and they are all going to get somewhere. I do not know what to tell you about that; we will get to that, maybe I can help you down the line someplace. But I am telling you, the real issue today is Bible Christianity: is it real? Is it true? Versus everything else that is out there.

My position is simply this: Bible Christianity is laid out in the Bible in the New Testament. It is God's program to lost men and women in this world. Every other religion outside of Bible Christianity is accounted for to Satan to get your mind off of this one, to damn your soul to hell

with this one. Now, that is my position. That has been a traditional position of preachers down through the millennia, all the way back to the time of Christ.

III. Skeptical Objections to the Resurrection

The first thing I want to do before we get in there, I would be unfair if I did not give you the skeptics' viewpoint of the resurrection. They have some objections, and the skeptics who do not believe in the resurrection, they are skeptical, and I want to tell you how they are skeptical so you can understand. You say, "Who are these skeptics?" I will tell you who they are. You would think they were unsaved people, and maybe they are, but you would think they would be drunks, they would be dope addicts, they would be all what we classify as the bad people of the Earth. Of course, everybody is bad, but in reality, they are the divinity professors, they are theology professors, they are the pastors and teachers of liberal teachings and schools of thought who simply do not think that you have to have God to have a religion.

Probably most of you have never been to Europe at any length of time, but if you would go to Europe today and you would walk into a church in Europe, pick any town in Europe you want: Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, it would not make any difference. It would not make any difference what denomination it is. You could go into the Lutheran Church in Germany, you could go into the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, you could go into the Roman Catholic Church in Italy or France or wherever you wanted to go. I spent a lot of time in Europe working with missionaries and working with churches in Europe, from the Soviet bloc countries right on down through, and I have been in every country in Europe other than Spain and have talked to missionaries and talked to people through that over the course of my life, so I know what I am saying is true. I have not even read this in a book someplace; I have had this told to me at least a hundred times.

The conversation that we have in America when we talk about church, you get together, maybe you are going to have lunch with your family today, and they are going over here to First Baptist, and you came here to Old Paths, and somebody else maybe went to whatever, and you sit down and you talk about the sermon, and you will say, "How was your church today?" And they say, "It was fine." And you will say, "Well, what does your pastor teach, or what does your church teach, or what do you believe?" You just have a nice, gentle conversation back and forth, find out what it is all like. In Europe, here is what they talk about. The issue in Europe is, "Hey, I went to church today down here at the First Lutheran Church on Wagon Swagon Street down here, and we had our service." And the person would say, "Oh, really? Let me ask you, does your pastor, is he, does he believe in that there is a God, or is he an atheist?" Now, that is the issue in Europe.

Europeans have no problem having church, having church services, and having pastors and having services where he opens up and he talks about things, and yet he does not believe that there is a God at all. He is an atheist. That blows our minds in America, but in Europe, that is standard operational procedure. The question is, "Does your pastor believe there is a God, or is he an atheist?" In Europe, they do not see a problem with a man being an atheist and being a pastor of a church. Now, I cannot get that. That is like me going to the gas station to get gas without taking a car. I do not get that. I cannot get there.

But in Europe, religion has reduced itself down to social issues, and you do not have to believe in God to deal with social issues. So what we find in Europe is a whole bunch of men who profess to be divinity professors, they profess to be theology professors, and what they argue about is, "Is there really a God or not?" And of course, "Is there really a resurrection or not?" So I am going to give you the skeptics' arguments, and I have heard these all of my life. I have debated men in Europe, talked with them. I would go into their churches, and I would dialogue with them, and I would talk to them, and I would ask them because I was trying to get the concept of how in the world can you take this position, and I would ask them many, many questions, and here is what I would get back. There are six basic objections the skeptics have.

4. The first thing they say is, "Jesus was not real. He was a mythological figure." I had a guy tell me, he says, "Well, Jesus really was not real. He was a mythological figure." He says, "There are a lot of writings out there that really question the fact that did he ever really exist? I mean, it has been 2,000 years later. How do we know that this man named Jesus really existed 2,000 years ago when you have so much other mythological figures out there?" They made a movie about King Arthur, remember that story? King Arthur, Lady, and Sir Lancelot, Merlin. We all saw the movie. I did not see it, but a lot of people saw the movie. Arthur, King Arthur, has permeated the stories and the minds of people. But the truth of the matter is, there was no King Arthur. There was no Sir Lancelot. There were no Knights of the Roundtable. Those things are mythology; they are not real. There was no King Arthur. That is a story that formed back, maybe back, nobody even knows when it started. The earliest writings that hint about a King Arthur go back to 1,000 AD. It was not real, but look how he has impacted our life today to a certain degree. They say Jesus was the same way; He never really existed.
5. Then the other thing the skeptics say is that Jesus was just an ordinary man. He was just one in a long line of religious leaders that came along. History is filled with them, hundreds of thousands of them. All down through history, you find men that have showed up, claimed to be something, and have some kind of religious order, and then they die or they get killed, they pass off the scene. They say Jesus was just one of those.
6. Then the skeptics say that there is a good chance that Jesus's followers were so devoted to Him that they simply made all this up after His death. They wanted to keep the idea of Christ and His teachings going, so they simply made up the fact that He resurrected from the dead, and the whole thing was an elaborate scheme to carry on His teachings.
7. I had a skeptic tell me one time, he said, "Well, the real problem is, from his standpoint, is that the witnesses were just not reliable." There was a lot of emotion at the time. People are under emotional stress all the time, and certainly there must have been a lot of stress at His crucifixion. If the witnesses were just not reliable, he says these things get added to. I will give you another example. We all celebrate St. Patrick's Day. If there is anybody in history that got elaborated through history and got added to, it is St. Patrick. If you go over to Ireland, a little town called Downpatrick, you go, I have been there, you go up the little thing up there, road, there is a little church there, and in the back of that thing, there is a little old gravestone, and on that tombstone, it simply says this: "Patrick, the Apostle to Ireland." We think of St. Patrick as somebody that wore green, drank green beer, and has prayed every, and we have added so much to it. St. Patrick called all the rats out of wherever he was, and all the children followed him, and all that stuff. Stuff gets added to it. The truth of the matter is, St.

Patrick was a Bible-believing Christian who preached the Word of God every day of his life. He was literally the Apostle to Ireland. He was incredible, and he believed the same thing that you believe if you are a Bible believer. He was not a Roman Catholic. He was not even a Roman Catholic saint until four or five hundred years after he died. But they said Jesus was the same way; His story just got added to. The witnesses were not reliable, and they added to the story.

8. Then somebody else said one time, "Well, the Bible account, the New Testament, is unreliable." The Bible is just a book written by man, and look, you cannot even get Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to agree on all the events. Matthew says there is one guy in this story. The same story is in Luke, he says there are two guys. Then you read the same story in John, there are three guys. No, which was not. Of course, they have no clue how the Bible goes together, but they see that and they say, "See, the Bible itself is unreliable, so we do not even know if the events are true." This is where they come. I am just being honest with you. I do not want to just give you what I have without showing you the other side. I am a fair guy.
9. And then the last thing that many of them say is the fact that the resurrection simply does not matter. How important is the resurrection anyhow? It is just another religious martyr dying for his cause, and there have been thousands of them like Him.

Now, that is their objections, and that is what the skeptics say. If you would go downtown here tomorrow and you would go down to a place called KC Bible College, which has been around for probably a hundred years downtown, and you would go down there and you say, "I want to study theology," that is what they teach you. If you would get a member of Midwest Bible College, which is another one, has been downtown for hundreds of years, it might be over in Kansas, but anyway, when you enroll there, that is what they will teach you in the theology department of Dallas, Princeton, Yale, North Carolina, Dartmouth, Southern Baptist University, or Rockhurst, or Harvard, or Cambridge, or Union Theological Seminary, or University of Pennsylvania. Those were all colleges that originally, when they were started back in the 1700s, were started as training grounds for American missionaries to the American Indian. Today, they are vast state colleges. They still have a theology department, but in the theology department, you will find that the skeptics have taken over. They teach no resurrection. They teach Christ was just one of many religious leaders, and they discredit everything that you believe. That is how it works.

IV. Skeptics' Theories for the Resurrection

When they are faced with the facts, and I have had some of them where I just pinned them down, when they are faced with the facts, then they offer four theories. Here is what they will say: "All right, maybe He was a real guy, maybe it was, but certainly, certainly it was no resurrecting from the dead."

Another good one last night was right after the crucifixion, and what they did is they took cadavers, dead people, put the nails through their hands, and hung them up on crosses, and they kept waiting for the body to keep ripping through the hand, it kept falling down. So then they put

them through the wrist, then they got them to stay. This whole big elaborate thing on, "Well, the Bible is not right, He had to be crucified this way."

Then the next thing was the splitting of the Red Sea, and that was worth watching because now I know it was a gigantic wind that separated those things. I watched this guy last night. This guy has got five PhDs from four or five different religious seminaries or cemeteries or whatever. Anyway, he said, "We know the Bible was written by man." Let me show you how the mind of God fixes these guys. He says everything in the world to take away the supernatural part of the Bible. He says, "Now we know when it came to the Red Sea that the Bible was written by man, and we know now that they did not cross at the Red Sea, but somebody mistranslated it, and they put R-E-D when it should have been R-E-E-D, the Sea of Reeds." He said, "The truth of the matter is, all this hype about God coming down and miraculously splitting the Red Sea, we know that that could not have happened." He says, "The plausible explanation is that it was a Sea of Reeds, and the water was no deeper than five or six inches, so the wind blew, and it made the water maybe then just two inches. So it was not this Red Sea; it was the Sea of Reeds. It was not a sea that is at its deepest, shallowest point 200 feet deep. It was a sea that when the wind blew, it only was two inches deep, so there was no great miracle." Everybody applauds, "That is great."

You see, you cannot get out of the miracles of God. Either the miracle was that that sea was 200 feet deep at its shallowest point, and God's hand came down and said, "Split," and it did like the Bible said, or the other miracle is it was the Sea of Reeds, there was only two inches of water, and all of Pharaoh's army drowned in two inches of water. You pick. I do not care. You cannot get around it. You just cannot.

Here are their theories when it comes to the resurrection, and they are all the same as the Red Sea.

10. The first thing they say is, "The eyewitnesses hallucinated." They are under duress, stress, mass hysteria. They just all hallucinated, and they thought He came up from the grave.
11. The second one is, "He really did not die on the cross; He just passed out." This is called the swoon theory. I have heard this talked about. I sat in a class one time, audited a class, heard the guy say this. He said, "When Christ presumably died on the cross, we know that He really did not die because we know that nobody can come back from the dead, and Jesus was not the Son of God. He was just another religious leader. But all of this hype around the resurrection of Christ can be explained by this one simple fact: on the cross, when He was hanging there, because of the excruciating pain, He passed out. He is taken down off the cross, and He is taken into this cave. The cave, laid out on a rock, was very cool." He said, "Have you ever been in a cave? The constant temperature of the cave is around 64-65 degrees; it is very cool." He said, "Laying out on that slab on the coolness revived Him, and He came out of being passed out, and then He woke up and walked out, and everybody thought He had died and He had resurrected." That is what they teach.
12. Another thing they teach is, "His body was stolen by His followers."
13. My favorite of all is simply that with all the confusion and all the things that were going on in that night, "They all went to the wrong tomb." It was two down on the left. They went to

the wrong tomb, and they thought He had resurrected when in actuality He was two tombs down in there, and they went to the wrong tomb. Oh, I love it.

I used to go into some colleges years ago when I was just a young guy, and I would do this thing on evolution. I am going to give you my testimony; it will not be for long. Before I got saved, I was not always a Baptist preacher. I was not always a preacher. For a short time of my life, I was a military man. That is where I learned my self-discipline. That is where I learned my self-confidence skills. I was going to make a career out of it, but God showed it other things. But the bottom line is, I spent part of my life doing that. Another part of my life, I was a dyed-in-the-wool evolutionist. When I was coming up through school, and I was up to about 18 or 19, 20 years old, I was an evolutionist. I was into astronomy. I liked astronomy, and I believed in the Big Bang Theory, the Nebula Theory, the Encounter Theory. You give me the theory, it was all plausible to me.

So, I have not always been some Bible thumper, so to speak, that just believed in a Bible. I believed a lot of other things before I believed the Bible. I did. Once I got saved, boy, I headed back to some of those schools, and I sat in those college classes, and I got a chance to talk to the students, and I would watch those college professors get so mad at what I was saying. I watched the veins in their neck. I thought some of them were going to have a heart attack. I remember one college class I was in, and I was debating the class over Christ and evolution, and I was coming through that and writing up, and a college professor could not say anything because between me and the class, he would break the rule. But he was so red, he was absolutely livid. About halfway through it, I said, "I believe the Bible is the absolute standard for everything." The college professor could not stand it anymore, and he jumped up and he banged on the table, and he says, "There is no such thing as an absolute!" The place got just as quiet as it did right now. I was not smart enough to think this on my own, but God just kind of put those things in my mouth. I looked over at him and I said, "Wow, that was a pretty absolute statement." I used to get into it. I saw a guy spend 40 years of his life getting a higher education so he could get out of the conviction that some little pipsqueak preacher like me put him under by opening up that book and sticking him with it. That is where it goes, and that is what you have.

V. Four Proofs of the Resurrection (Without the Bible)

All right, now I am going to prove this thing to you, and I am going to put my Bible over here. Now, I am going to use a couple of verses here just to kind of make my statement, but the answer I am going to give you to prove what you have has nothing to do with the Bible as far as opening it up and going to a passage.

14. First of all, I know that what I believe as a child of God and what I have as a New Testament Christian is absolutely correct, dealing with the resurrection, because at that time, listen to me, a day was declared. When Christ came into this world, died, and was buried according to Scriptures, the whole world changed. The whole world was never the same again, never. When Christ came out of that tomb, the world changed, and you could not explain that if your life depended on it. Let me tell you something: from that day forward, the Bible says in Acts chapter 20 and Mark chapter 16 that a day was set forth, and that day was called the first

day of the week. We know that as Sunday. I have been around the world. I have talked to people in every country. I promise you, you could not find anybody in this city who is just in a church today someplace, you could not find hardly anybody in this city, you might find one or two if they are married to somebody, but you could not find anybody in this city that would tell you the most important holy day of Islam. Anybody here know the most important holy day of Taoism? How about Rastafarianism? You know what their day is? How about Buddhism? Confucianism? Anybody in the world know the day that they have set aside? But I am telling you, everybody on planet Earth knows that the first day of the week, we know it as Sunday, is the day you go to church. I have never met a Buddhist or a Confucianist or a Taoist or any other faith that did not know that Sunday was a holy day for Christianity. I have never met a Christian that knew what the holy day was of one of their religions. You know why? Because when He came out of that tomb, it changed the course of planet Earth, and a day was set forward, and that day stuck, and it hit every country, it hit every nation, it hit every tongue of people, and there is not any place on the world today that you do not know the first day of the week has to do with the resurrection of Christ and going to church on Sunday. You could not explain that to me if you stayed up all night. Let me ask you a question. A couple weeks from now, or a couple of months from now, we are going to get a holiday. It is called Memorial Day. Yet if you ask the average person why we celebrate Memorial Day, you say, "Well, it is a memorial for what?" The average person in Kansas City does not even know why we do Memorial Day, but you do it. Coming up after that is the Fourth of July, Independence Day. Fourth of July, 1776. We celebrate it. Was anybody there to know it actually happened? No. You get in a history book and you read that we signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, or we declared independence, and from that day, you take it by faith that that is the day, and we have celebrated that for over 200 years, never questioned it. Coming up November 11th, Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a day, it was not always called Veterans Day. For a while, it was called Armistice Day. You could not find 20 people, some of you older guys and gals may know it, but you could not find 50 people in Kansas City that knew what it was called and what the armistice was that was signed for that day, but we all observe it. In other words, we have days that we set aside that we could not prove that those days happened, and we do not even know what happened on those days, or we do not even know how they affected, but we observe it, and we believe it because it is in our history and in our culture, and we accept it based on that. I have news for you. There was a day declared when He came out of that tomb that changed the course of this planet, that in every country and every nation under every tongue and every race, no matter where you go, they know Sunday for what it is, because when He came out of that tomb, a day was declared, and that day was the first day of the week, and everybody on planet Earth knows that is a special day. Now, how come they do not know that about Buddha? How come they do not know? Why is it about one man and one day, and all the other great religions of the world, you could not find 20 people in this town that knew what their holy day was? I will tell you. There is a great story over there in Acts chapter 26. You do not even have to turn to it; I will just read it to you, and it is not part of the proof; it just goes, it is a great story. It says this: Paul is preaching, and he is preaching to Festus and King Agrippa, two unsaved men. Here is what he says: he is too bold. Now, keep in mind, he is in jail. He is brought before

Festus and King Agrippa, and Paul is making his defense of the gospel, and here is what he says: Acts 26:22-28

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

For the king knoweth of these things, before whom I also speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. He knew it. The whole world knows, and you cannot get around it. There is no plausible excuse for a man not to understand that when He came out of that tomb, it set a special day apart that has resounded down through the next 2,000 years of history, and every nation and every land. There was never a time in history when it was not observed. It changed the course of planet Earth, and all the other religions in the world cannot even come up to it.

15. I will tell you something else. I know this whole business about God, Christ, the Word of God, the resurrection happened because when you come down through this thing and you look at it, you are going to find that not only was a day declared, but a name was given. My Bible says in Acts 4:12, after the resurrection: Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Philippians 2:10-11 says: Philippians 2:10-11

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

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Now, what do you think about that? A name was given, and it was not Buddha. It was not Muhammad. It was not Allah. It was not K.O. It was not Confucius. It was not Buddha. It was one name, and that name was Jesus. The greatest proof that I have that what I believe is right and everything else is off the wall is you could find any five, go down, we are going down to the mission tonight, do a little examination. Go pick two guys out of that mission who were drunks, who were dope addicts, who were skid row bums, who have all of life turned against them, who have lost and rejected just about every fabric of society, and ask that guy, "Name me five things about God that you know." He will do it. Ask him five things about Buddha; he will not have a clue. You go to any place on this planet, any place, any nightclub where all the unsaved people hang out, just grab you an unsaved man or woman at random and say, "Give me five things about Jesus Christ or God," and he can do it. About Buddha, he could not give you two things. You know what Tuesday was this week? Tuesday was the 11th. You know what Tuesday was? It was the birthday of Muhammad. Why do you

not know that? Why do you not have a celebration? How come December 25th we all celebrate it? Nobody in this place, nobody in this city outside of a practicing Muslim, ever even considered the fact that Tuesday was any different than Monday or Wednesday. It was the birthday, supposedly, of one of the greatest religious leaders that the world has ever seen. How come we did not know that? I will tell you why: because there is one name, one name, one name, one name given among men. It is not Buddha. It is not Confucius. It is not K.O. It is one name. I will tell you something else. When a man and a woman in America, in Europe, in Germany, in France, even in the Middle East, when a man or a woman wants to add authority to what they say, they use one name. Now, let me talk to you about cussing here for a moment. The word "cussing" comes from the word "cursing." The word "cursing" means to curse. When we cuss somebody out, we curse them. Americans do not know how to use the words sometimes. You hear it "cussing"; the proper word is "cursing." When you curse, you curse something or somebody. I just want you to know so when you do it, you understand what you are doing. When you curse somebody out, you are putting a curse on them. I am telling you, the reason I know that what I believe is right, and on this day of Easter when we are talking about the resurrection of Christ, the reason I know it is true is because every unsaved man on this planet, when he wants to add weight and authority to what he says, he picks on the one name to curse something with. When you want to damn something, it is "God damn it." When you want to damn somebody, it is "God damn you." I had an unsaved man one time when I used to work out in the world. He was the most foul man we met in my life. We were out there one time, and something went wrong, and he let off to the top of his voice, "Jesus H. Christ!" I went up to him, I said, "Hey, I asked you a question." He said, "Sure." I said, "What is the H stand for? I want to know." He thought, "Well, Holy, I think." Pretty good, brother, amen, right on the button. Even an unsaved man knows that He is holy when he says it. I have been cussed out many times, more times than I like to admit. I have cussed out people sometimes, more times than I like to admit. I am not above doing it if you push the right button. But the bottom line is this: I have never cussed anybody out in Buddha's name. I have never been cussed out in Buddha's name. You ever try to go out and have a good cussing in the backyard with Buddha? It just does not carry the same weight. I mean, you ever go out and just want to flail off on Tao? Does you ever go out and just want to Allah somebody in the face? Why are they all asking God to damn it? Why are they all saying, "God damn this"? I had a friend of mine years ago that was a pastor now up in Connecticut, got a good church up there, and years ago we grew up in ministry together and learned our training together, and he worked at a hospital back in Ohio, and he was a kind of like a nurse type, assisted in surgery. He had a doctor he was always a great witness to, and his name was Jim Lake. He was in surgery one time, and he told me he was in with this unsaved doctor, being a witness to, and this doctor was doing an operation, and something was going wrong in the operation, and the guy started cussing and using God's name and asking God, you know how they do it. Finally, the guy thought he was going to be smart, and he looked over to Jim and he said, "Hey, buddy, Jim, you are supposed to be such a good Christian, why can't you get God working on this side? Why do you not start praying?" You know what Jim said? He said, "Brother, I have been praying. I am asking God to bless, and you are asking God to damn it. We are at a stalemate. Why do you not get on my side?" I

would have hated to be the guy being operated on when he said that. He probably got zigzag stitched on that one. But I am telling you, that is a true statement. No Buddha, no Allah, no Muhammad, no Confucius. Why all these other members of all these religious leaders, why do they get a free pass when it comes to an unsaved man? The greatest witness that I know that the Bible and God is true is that every unsaved man on planet Earth. I worked down here in Lewisburg. I used to stop down there and get gas for my truck when I came back and did my paperwork, and there was a little Indian guy in there that had come over from India, and he had taken over working a Quick Trip, him and his wife, and she had a little caste system in her forehead. I started talking to her and witnessed to him, got to be good friends, and I would witness to him, and I would go in there, and he would bring me dinners from India that he would want. He was a nice guy, and I really liked him, liked his wife, and I would go in there, and he was like, "Hey, bub, hey, bub, hey, bub, here, hey, bub." We had a great time together. I would go back behind the counter and sit with him, and he would make me this kind of turkey soup. It looked like it was made out of rat guts or whatever it was, but it was pretty good, kind of spicy. I would sit down there and I would talk to him, and when he would cuss, and he did not cuss very often, when something went wrong, he would cuss, and he would cuss in God's name and Jesus. I asked him one day, I said, "Hey, buddy, let me ask you a question. Are you..." He was Hindu. I said, "What if we live in the U?" He said, "I am Hindu." I said, "Are you a good Hindu?" And he says, "I am a good Hindu." He says, "I have been in here," and I said, "I was raised, I said, we came over from India," and he says, "I have been raised, and my family is Hindu. My father is a Hindu person, and my mother is a Hindu person, and my uncle," you know how they get going off on this. I said, "Oh, that is good." I said, "Well, can I ask you a question? I said, 'Are you a Christian?'" He said, "No, no, no, I am a Hindu. I am Hindu. My wife, you remember, caste, caste with him, she has got a caste." He said, "I am a Hindu. I am an Indian. I am a Hindu. I am a Hindu." Nice little guy. I said, "Well, that is good." I said, "But I have a question. If you are a Hindu and you believe in Hinduism, I said, 'Who was the start of your faith? Was it Hindu?'" I do not ever get that together. I said, "How come you are not, how come when you cuss just now, you cussed in the God or the Christian? How come you did not, when you said, 'Go blank this,' why did you not say, 'Hindu-e-husta-dista?' Why did you pick on God?" He did not have an answer. He did not have a clue. He did not have a clue why he was a Hindu, did not believe in Christianity, but when he wanted to swear and put a curse on something, he picked the one name. I know why: because the Bible said there is only one name given under heaven among men. There is only one name. I do not have to get into my Bible to know if there is God. All I have to listen to is every unsaved woman and every unsaved man out there take my God's name when they want to add weight to their authority, what they say. The very fact they do not pick on Brahminism or Hinduism or Confucianism or Muhammadanism, or they do not bring up Allah, it does not make any difference to me. I know that there is an absolute standard of truth, and there is one name. I am 55 years old. I have done my share of cursing. For part of my life, I was around some of the most ungodly people you ever met in your life. There is nobody more ungodly than US military infantrymen. They are the most ungodly, foul-mouthed people that say anything they want to say and think they earned the right to say it. I have heard every word, every cuss word. I have heard women. I used to work with a gal

down south there when I was down there, and she could cuss any man under the table, and she was just a little bitty gal, and she was just as cute as a button, but boy, I will tell you what, when that mouth opened up and she got going and you pushed her right buttons, she would cuss you under the table, and she could rattle them off. She sounded like a machine gun going off. She would rattle them things off, and she could put up with any man any place. She was just as good or not better as my first sergeant. Boy, he was something. She would put him under the table, and she was not afraid of anybody. She would get a little gal, she would get up in somebody's face that did something stupid on the job, messed her day up, and she would rattle them things off, and I had sometimes I just had to hold my ears. I could not believe what she said. I have been around cussing. I have been around cursing. I do not want to brag, but I could do a pretty good job myself. All my life, 55 years of my life, I have never heard any other name used than God's name and His Son. You tell me I do not need a Bible to know that God is true. I do not need a Bible. Back there in the book of Acts, there is an unclean spirit. The unclean spirit said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, who in the world are you?" Even unclean spirits know who He is.

16. I will tell you something else. I know this whole thing about God, Christ, the Word of God, resurrection happened not only because a day was given, not only because a name was given, but I will tell you something else: a year was given. For just a minute, you want to either turn to this or just listen to this. Psalm 65:11, a great verse. You know what it says? Psalms 65:11

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. Then Luke 4:19 says, and this is a quotation from Isaiah 61:2: Luke 4:19

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. When He came out of that tomb with the resurrection of Christ, not only a day was set, not only a name was given, but a year was set down. All through the Bible, that year is talked about. In Isaiah 34, it is called the year of recompense. In Isaiah 63, it is called the year redeemed. In Jeremiah 11, it is called the year of visitation. In Ezekiel 46, it is called the year of Liberty. The theme of that Bible is Christ coming back, and when Christ comes back, He comes back at a time in history that the Bible says that we date all history from. If I did not know that Jesus Christ and the Bible and the resurrection was true, I know it was without ever going to a Bible, that man dates all his history around one man's birth. Before Christ, it is BC, Before Christ. After the crucifixion, it is AD. AD is a Latin word, it is like Anno Domini, and it means "in the year of our Lord." You know what that means? When every unsaved man says, "It is 2006 AD, 1945 AD, 1900 AD, 1850 AD," that means 1850 in the year of our Lord, meaning that may be the year the Lord comes. That is the acceptable year that is preached in Isaiah 63 and in Luke chapter 4. All history is built around the birth of one man, and history is dated before Him, and then history is dated after Him, that this might be the year that He comes back. How do you explain that with no apology to Buddha, no apology to Allah, no apology to any skeptic? The very skeptics that deny the resurrection, that deny that Christ was real, that deny it all happened, when they pick up and they date in their daily planner, they have to go either before His death or after His death, "in the year of our Lord." You could not get around it, for the whole civilization is based on a day and a name and a year, and you could not get around that if you stayed up all night trying to figure it out. God gave us a day, the first day of the week. God gave us a name above any other name, that is the name of Jesus. Every knee shall

bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Then God set it down in a year, and He took all of man's history from the first recorded history, from the first things that man wrote down in the records, in the annals of history. Before the crucifixion was BC, Before Christ, not Buddha, not Muhammad, not Allah. After the crucifixion, it is "in the year of our Lord," focusing on that this may be the year He comes back. The whole concept is based on that. I am telling you, you cannot explain that. No Allah, no Muhammad, no Joe Smith, no Mariah, no Buddha, no Confucius, no Taoism. One name, "in the year of our Lord," means that this might be the year that He comes back.

17. All right, we have so far, we have a day, we have a name, we have a year. Now I am going to bring you back to the Bible here, and I am not going to use the Bible in any verses and such, but I am going to use the Bible itself. We have a book that was written. The Bible itself is the greatest proof of what it claims to be, not because of what it says. I do not know the Bible is right, and I do not believe it is right because of what I read. I believe the Bible is what it claims to be, and I figured it out on a computer. You do not need the Bible; all you need is a computer. The Bible makes a tremendous claim. The Bible says, "For when you received the Word of God, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God." Forget that. Go get you a laptop. Go get you a laptop computer, or go home this afternoon and get on your own home computer. I have read through the Quran two times. Not going to go through it a third time. As I said the other night, there are no pictures in it, not worth it. I read it through two times. I read through the Offman and the Brahmana universe and all of the stuff that goes along, the Book of the Dead. I am looking at all that material, but over the years, I have been through it all, and I have never found a book by any religion that makes the claims and does what the Bible does, and you do not have to believe it. All you have to do is get a laptop computer and sit down and take some things out of that Bible, and you can prove it scientifically without any shadow of any doubt that the Bible is what God claims it to be. It is as simple as that. You know how I got saved? I was a young man, just got out of the military, and I remember I was attending Kent State University, and I was sitting at Kent State University there, and I was in Ohio, and I will never forget it. I was sitting in a sociology class, and I was sitting back there, and I had the world by the tail, just got out of the military, and I had my GI bill, and all these things. I will never forget it. I was sitting there, and I was sitting back in the class, puffing a big old cigar. I have always had a passion for cigars. I do not like to inhale them; I just like to smell them. But you give me a big old cigar, boy, and I am happy as a pig in mud. I remember sitting back there puffing on that big old stogie, and a couple of guys came up and sat down, and they said, "Hey, what is your name?" And I said, "My name is Bob Alexander." And they said, "Hey, my name is so-and-so, my name is so-and-so." And he says, "Are you a Christian?" And I said, "Ah, I am not a Christian. I do not know if I am a Christian. I do not think I want to be a Christian." I said, "Are you Christians?" And he said, "Yeah." I said, "Oh my, I went to church when I was a kid," and gave him the standard line. He said, "Well, we would like to show you something." I said, "Well, sure." He said, "We have about 20 minutes before class starts," and he says, "If we could prove to you the Bible is right, would you believe it?" And I said, "Well, yeah." I said, "I have to tell you, I am an evolutionist." Watch the smoke ring. I was doing good. Nothing is more offensive than cigar smoke. You want to get rid of somebody who is your

witness coming to your house knocking on the door, just light up a cigar, get that thing puffed up there, boy, and I will tell you what, when he says something, just say, "What did you say?" He will be out of there in five minutes. I am there puffing on that big old stogie, and they walked me through it. Let me tell you, that Bible in the Old Testament makes 800 prophecies about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The year that we talked about just a few minutes ago, you know that 300 of them have already been fulfilled. There are 500 prophecies in the Old Testament that have yet to be fulfilled. There were 800; 300 of them were fulfilled already. There are 500 left. Now, these 500 prophecies are in great detail. We are not talking about "Jesus is coming." We are not saying that when He comes, it will be day. No, these are specific things. These are specific places, specific times, specific localities. They have specific details. Do you know what the chances are? What we have in science is what we call statistical mathematical probability. In statistical mathematical probability, here is what you do: you take events, you run them into a computer, and you figure out what will be the chances of these 500 things coming to pass in one day, 200 to maybe 2,000 years ahead of time. What would be the chances of these 500 things happening exactly at the same time that it says it is going to happen on the same day with all the events in the right order? What would be the chances of that? Of course, when you come up and you put that thing into that computer, which they did, you are going to find that the chances against that, the chances against all of those things happening, are 10 to the 895th power. Let me tell you how big that number is because we have no idea. You would be a lot like this: you would have a better chance if I got on a plane this afternoon and flew out to Indonesia someplace on one of the beaches, dug down 20 feet in the sand, took one grain of sand, just one grain, put it between two pieces of scotch tape and held it up, and I got one grain of sand. Then I flew another four, five, six thousand miles to another undisclosed beach, dug down 30, 40 feet in the sand, put that scotch paper, that one down there, covered it all back up, came back to Kansas City, and then said, "Go find it." You would have a better chance of finding that. You would have to dig up every beach on planet Earth. You would have a better chance of finding that grain of sand. The chances for you finding that grain of sand are better than the chances against those 500 prophecies. That is how minute this thing is. Absolutely incredible. Now, when you come to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, 1 Corinthians chapter 15, when I sat down in that college, these boys said, "We want to show you something," and they took 48 prophecies, 48 prophecies about one man, His name was Jesus Christ. Those 48 prophecies were given 800 to 2,000 years before He was born. They were given in exact detail. They are covered throughout the Bible. They were places like Numbers 24 that said He would come out of Israel. Genesis 12, He would come out of Abraham. Genesis 49, He would be the family of David. Isaiah 11, He would be a son of David. Micah 2, Bethlehem would be His birthplace. Isaiah 7, He would be born by a virgin. How He would be crucified, no bones broken, vinegar given on the cross, nails in His hands, in His feet, given 800 to 2,000 years before He was born. When they brought that thing up and it showed me that the chances against those 48 prophecies were 10 to the 157th power. Now, that is only 48 prophecies, but let me tell you how big that number is. There are not 10 to the 157th power electrons in our universe. There are not. You know what? You get a little straight pin, a little head on the end of that thing, you get 200 million electrons on the head of a pin. There are not 10 with 157

zeros after it electrons in our known universe. That was the chances against all those 48 prophecies coming to pass. You know how you figure that out? You figure that number of electrons in the universe by you figure the number of atoms, which you can figure out to a square inch. Then you take that number of atoms per square inch and you multiply it by 150 million light years, which is the size of the universe, and when you get all that computation done in your computer, the number comes out will not have 157 zeros after it. That is something. Every one of those prophecies came to pass at the first coming of Christ, right on time. It is not about the Bible. It is not about the Bible. It is about the fact that the unsaved world itself is the greatest proof. When I saw that as a young man, when I saw that as a young college kid back there, it rocked my world. I had to come to face with the reality of what I had been taught, what I believed, or what I wanted to believe, and how am I going to take that over the odds against something more than anything? I knew about the universe. I knew how big the universe was. I knew about electrons in the universe, and brother, I was faced with a situation that what do you do with that? I am telling you, I took it, and I got saved. I did not have any other thing to say. When you look at that thing, that the thing against it is more than the electrons in the universe, and then it comes to pass at that time, you have four things: a day was given, a name was given, a year was given, and a book was given.

I told you a couple of weeks ago that if I did not know the Bible and Christianity was the right thing to believe in and the right thing to do, any other way, I know it was because it is the only one thing everybody wants to get rid of. You will never get rid of that day. That day is here. You could not explain it with anything in the world. You will never get rid of the name. You will never hear anybody, next time you curse yourself or you hear somebody out, give a good cursing out, you understand that it is in His name because there is only one name. Every time you look at a calendar, recognize that that calendar, all time in the history of man, is built around one man's birth: BC or "in the year of our Lord." That is the year He is coming back. Every writer of history has to be faced with "this may be the year," "the year of our Lord," when he writes whatever he writes and dates it. It is as simple as that.

Then God gave you a book. God gave you a book that the chances against everything in that book taking place for the prophecy about the resurrection of Christ are more than the electrons in the universe. The ones about all the second time in Christ, the 500, are incomputable, absolutely incomputable with what we have, and yet every one of them came to pass. You know why? Because you have the right book.

I gave you a couple verses a while back to talk about the fact that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. We get the idea in America, and all unsaved people get that, I had the same idea before I got saved, we get the idea that we have a choice whether we are going to accept Christ or not. We really do. We get playing with the idea that we have a choice of whether we are going to trust Christ as our own. We are going to accept Christ or not. We really do. We think because we live in this world and we are in this world and we have control of things in this world that we have control of that, and the truth of the matter is, we do not have control of anything.

Let me give you a little thing to do this afternoon. It is a nice day today. After you eat, get your stomach full, take a little nap, walk out in your backyard. Your backyard is like my backyard. You are going to walk out there, and if you just look very carefully this time of year, all the ants are out, and you are going to look back in your little property back there, and you are going to see down in the grass, and you are going to look at all these little ants building all these little castles and all these little deals. They are so articulate in what they do. They are so exact in what they do, and they are building that thing down there, and those ants are oblivious to what is going on around them. They have no idea that right up in the apartment spot two blocks away is a drug house. They have no idea that right down here a house burned down yesterday. They have no idea that up here the dogs are barking, going nuts. They have no idea that there are kids playing. All they know...