

### I. The Necessity of Rules

I want to begin in the next couple of weeks, starting today, to talk to you about some things that have really helped me personally with the Bible. I want to talk to you about what I call the rules of the road when it comes to the Bible. There are rules that you have to follow when you come to the Bible, and these rules are absolutely key to putting your Bible together.

This should be very simple and very obvious to most people. Anyone with common sense, and anyone who approaches the Bible from a practical, everyday way of life standpoint, should know what I am about to say. And yet, I am amazed at the people who have no clue. I have never seen in all the Bible college curriculum that I have looked at, I have never seen in all my life any course on theology that just simply laid out the rules of the Word of God.

When you stop and think about it, everything that you and I encounter in life has rules to it. I do not know of anything that does not have rules. Without rules, or maybe some people call them laws, any society degrades into chaos. It becomes a real mess. If you want to see that in play, just look around you in the world today, in our own country, in our own city. It is absolute chaos.

Look at our government. Our government is just absolute chaos. There are no rules. Everybody basically is jockeying for their own political agenda. Ultimately, what we have here is somebody trying to impose their will over somebody else's will for the good of the people, us, and yet we always become the one to get the short end of the stick.

Look at the problems we have with immigration, our borders. Look at all the struggle that is going on down there. It is all because we have rules, but nobody enforces the rules. If you are an immigration officer and you see somebody who you think is illegal, you cannot go up to them and say, "Can I see your legality of being in this country?" You cannot do that. It is a lot like somebody being caught breaking into a bank, and a cop has to stop him saying, "Can I see your burglary tools?" You cannot do it. We have rules, but then we cannot enforce the rules. You know what that brings? That brings chaos.

The war in Iraq is the same thing. I do not care what your political agenda is or what your feeling is on the war. I support the men and the women who are over there. The men and women in our military, I think they are the finest young men that we have in our society today. You know what makes them good? You said you had a son-in-law in the Marine Corps. You know what makes him a good Marine? He has to follow the rules. That is right.

You know what the number one rule of being a Marine is? Semper Fidelis means always faithful. That is a rule. They have rules they follow. Break rules. Because in their organization, you do not follow the rules, somebody dies. Rules are important. Everything in society has them. Everything in society has them.

I do not care what it is. You get a job, you have rules. You break the rules, you get a reprimand. Maybe you get two reprimands, but sooner or later, they are going to fire you because you have

rules. In families, you have rules. One of the things you do when you have your kids and you start to work with those kids, you set up boundaries. You can do this, you cannot do this. Do not touch this. Do not stick your tongue in a light socket. You have to have rules. Rules very basically begin to lay down the baseline for discipline. You have to have them. You have to have them.

In school, going to school, you have to have rules. You know what is wrong with our public school system today? No rules. I hate to tell you one of these stories when I was growing up. I used to walk to school in the snow, uphill both ways. I hate to tell those kind of stories. I hate to hear those kind of stories. But some of us old enough know what I am talking about.

When I went to school, there were rules. We had a girl in our math class one time that she was a bad girl. She was not a good girl. She was the, every school has one. I will never forget, she was always in trouble. Our math teacher used to be a Marine Corps drill sergeant. He was tough. He was a tough guy. Hank Miller, oh, Hank Miller was a tough guy. He was your old-time coach. He was a football coach, old-time coach. Hank Miller, tough guy.

Coach Miller was out doing something down the office. You know how when the teacher is away, the mice will play. This girl, there was chaos. We were so stupid. He leaves the door open. All the other classes are quiet. The halls echo like the Coliseum. Every little pin drop echoes and it had to be horrendous. He walks in the room just as this girl throws a penny up in the air and smacks it with her ruler and breaks the window. Hank comes over, grabs her by the hair, drags her out of that seat and drags her, drags her now by the hair down to the office. She is cussing and screaming and Hank just beating the fire out of her. Try that today.

They had corporal punishment back then. It was the biggest thing in school. When you knew somebody was in trouble, everybody got quiet because they all kept it. We did not have air conditioning. All the doors were open. It was deadly silent and everybody was waiting for the rifle shot. Hank Miller had a paddle that was about that wide, about that long. He was also, to our dismay, the wood shop teacher. I just thank God that he was not in the metal work. You know what you do to make the paddle even more of a sting? You drill holes in the paddle. It gave new meaning to reach over and grab your ankles. That is what Hank would say, "Reach over and grab your ankles." We would be dead quiet. All of a sudden you would hear. We knew somebody had just been executed down there.

Hank was a football coach and the wood coach, he was the golf coach and he had a swing. But you see, there were rules. You broke the rules, you paid the price. We do not have that in school today. I look at things like in Raytown South with old, what is his name? Bud. Getting chewed out and almost fired or fired because of the fact that he acted into a little discipline with those guys. What in the world is wrong with us? That is exactly what kids need today. They need a role model that is tough. They need somebody that holds the line. Rules are absolutely important.

When it comes to sports, there are rules. You have rules you have to play by. All this stuff with the steroids. I know about steroids. I took them. You break the rules and nobody wants to, I mean, these guys have worked hard at hitting all these home runs and doing all this stuff. I do not follow baseball. I go to the Royals game and I just marvel why all the umpires have to be named

Al. I do not know how they find so many guys named Al in the umpire. They have the name on the hat, Al, every time you see him.

There are rules to everything. You break the laws and the rules of society, you go to jail. It is that simple. Rules are absolutely necessary in every fabric of life because they represent authority to us.

I do not know much about sports. I really do not. I like watching sports. I enjoy doing that stuff, but I do not. But you take baseball. John brought these in. John does a lot of refereeing. Here are three rules. This is all in basketball. This first rule here is the rules of basketball. There are a lot of rules and no pictures. That is the rule of basketball. Book two is how to interpret the rules of basketball. No pictures at all in here. This one here is being in the right position to make the right call in refereeing basketball. If you are going to be a ref, you have to learn these rules. Baseball is the same way.

When it comes to rules, rules represent authority. None of us like that, but it does not make any difference. When you go to a baseball game, you have one authority. Here is the umpire. He enforces the rules and you may run from third to home and you may think you made it, but if the umpire says you are out, you are out. It does not matter what you think about it. It does not matter how bad you thought the call was. The authority, the final authority who is calling the game, says you are out. That is the rules. In life, you have a final authority that tells you when you are in or when you are out.

I do not understand why everybody understands there are rules everywhere in this world, but when it suddenly comes to the Bible, there are no rules. I do not understand that. Why would the Bible be any different? Did you ever see that you cannot have two authorities in anything? Could you imagine, even in, and I am speaking out of school here, but I think this is the way it works. I have seen football games where one umpire called something, but they have a rule or something like that. If another umpire sees it from another angle, he gets a better view. He can override that. But the guy that overrides it, he can see that a guy who just said, "I saw it from this angle." And then if they have a problem, they go to the thing and look at it because you see the chaos of a baseball game. If two umpires got in a fist fight over the call, the chaos rules.

The world runs by it and the bottom line is this, the Bible is not any different. The bottom line basic fundamental concept of the Bible is an issue of authority. Always has been, always will be. Through the course of the Bible, through the course of your life and my life, there are two authorities that are at force here and at work. One of them is God, one of them is the devil. One of them is light, one of them is darkness. One is the center of heaven, one is the center of hell. One deals with truth, one deals with error.

The problem you and I get into is the fact that we are faced sometimes with one or the other. You cannot have in your life as a Christian, two authorities. You cannot. You cannot have a pastor who says one thing and a Bible that says something else. You cannot have a Bible that says one thing and a pastor that says another. Can I go one step further? You cannot have two Bibles that say two different things. Where do you get that at?

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

There has to be, if there has to be one authority in everything in life, then there has to be one authority in the world of Christianity. I am telling you, there are rules to you learning your Bible and I want to help you with these rules. The Bible has its own set of guidelines, rules that if you follow them, you lay out the Bible. This is a lot more complicated than the Bible. Here are three books and you have to find all this stuff out. You have at a minimum, a maximum, 15 or 20 rules that if you get them down in your Bible, you have the Bible. That is all there is to it.

You have to learn to use them. I have watched John Hill who umpires and I just watched the sports games on television because John Hill is usually running up and down the field. I just look at John, he never says, "Hi, Bob." He just runs up and down the field. He umpires and some of you do that and you do different things like that. I watch those things, and watch those games and watch how it all plays. I am telling you, life, the game of life is just like any sports event you ever went to. You have to follow the rules. John had to spend a lot of time to learn that. I am telling you, you can learn the rules of the Bible very quickly.

John does not have time or anybody else out there when he sees something go down, he does not have time to pull out the rule book and look at it. You do not have time to do that. If he did that, everybody would think he was not a very good umpire. He has to have the rules automatically in his mind and when he sees it, he knows how to call it. That is what you have to do with the rules of the Bible. Same thing. These rules have to become automatic. This is why I am giving them to you now. We are going to take one or two a week depending on how we do it. I am going to not only give them to you, I am going to break them down. I am going to show you how to use them because that is how you learn.

## II. Running Lawfully

My Bible says over there in 2 Timothy, and we are not going to write yet, but in a minute, we are going to start moving through the Bible here. If you do not have a Bible this morning, you get one or you can just listen to me. It does not make any difference, no problem.

*And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*

I know what that verse says. That verse says a man strives to serve God and strives to do what is right. But the Bible says that if he does not play by the rules, he does not get crowned. That crowning there is the judgment of Christ. He is not crowned because he did not do it by the book. There are rules you have to follow. If you are going to learn the Bible, you have to learn the rules. Then you have to learn basically what those three books that I was amazed that when John showed me those three books this morning, because you have to learn the rules, then you have to learn to apply the rules. Then you have to come to the place where you learn how to put yourself in the right position to interpret the rules. It is that simple.

When I was a kid one time I went to the circus. Back in my day, we lived down the road from the railroad tracks. We were on the other side of the tracks. Literally, we lived in the southwest part of Canton. But I remember when I was a little kid, five or six years old, the circus came to town.

Right up, not a block from my house, was the train tracks. I remember that big old Barnum and Bailey circus train coming in there, when they still did it by train. What they would do back then is, and this was still steam locomotives, guys, this was not the, this was, they still were puffers back then. That thing came into town up there, and they got all the animals off the hump and all the kids and all the, they were up there. They would have a parade all the way to the parade ground. The elephants and everybody. My mom and dad took me to the circus under the big top.

We were down there, and I will never forget, I watched this guy, and it amazed me, how all they have, all the guys that do all this stuff, this guy had five plates on sticks, you know, how they spin them on sticks. He was keeping all five plates going. Then he was juggling. While he was juggling, he would spin the things and spin every one of them and keep them going. He had perfect eye and hand coordination. He was keeping the plate spinning, keeping the balls going and never dropped one. That impressed me more as a little guy than anything I can remember.

Years later, now that I am in the Bible and I look at all the Bible has and all I am trying to give you and I talk about balancing the Word of God, you know what it is like? It is just like that guy. You have to learn to balance five or six things at the same time while you are juggling four or five other things. But it can, hey, if some guy who is going to probably lost and dying and going to hell can learn to spin five plates and juggle six balls, you ought to be able to do it as a Christian when it comes to the Word of God. It can be done. Do you think he just woke up one day and said, "I want to be a spinner and a juggler," and walked out and did that? No, he had to learn how to do it. That is where we are at right now. You learn by learning the rules. I am telling you, you have to run lawfully. You have to run lawfully.

### III. Rule Number One: The Profitability of Doctrine

Last week I preached to a mission on Christian insanity based on the last baptism, the baptism of fire. I want to show you very basically what is wrong with Christians today in most cases. I want to show you how this rule number one, now we want to turn to this one. It is in 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16, a very familiar verse, but we are going to look at it from a little different light today. I am going to show you that when we get to, and I have talked about this verse in general teachings and terms, but I want to talk to you specifically because this is rule number one in learning your Bible.

*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

I told you last week that the Bible is the only book in the world. When you start to read it, it starts to read you. Your attitude of heart has to be 100% on the money when you get into it or it is going to take you in your own and deceive you in your own heart.

Rule number one is simply this:

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

This is rule number one. Rule number one is simply this, if the Word of God first and foremost is profitable for doctrine. You have to see it. The first thing that Bible was given to you for, and is profitable to you for, is doctrine. You know what doctrine is? Doctrine is the teachings in the Bible of what is right.

When I talk to you and tell you that the job of every Christian is the longer you walk with God, is to make God's thoughts your thoughts. When I talk about last week, the Bible being the mind of Christ and you learning everything, as a matter of learning everything from God's standpoint and seeing it from God's standpoint and making that your opinion, that is exactly what I am talking about. It is simply you come into the place that when you get the Bible and you learn doctrine, you learn God's thinking process on everything that is right on planet earth that God wants you to know. The first thing it is profitable for is what is right.

Now, let me show you how this thing works. Notice what it says. It says it is profitable for doctrine, then for reproof, then for correction, then for instruction in righteousness. All right, let us put it together. That Bible, the first thing it is profitable for is doctrine.

1. The first thing the Bible does and the foremost thing in importance is it teaches you what is right.
2. The second thing that it is profitable for, the number two thing, is it is profitable for reproof. The Bible not only shows you what is right, then the Bible shows you what is wrong.
3. Look at the third thing, correction. The Bible not only shows you what is right, it shows you what is wrong, it shows you how to fix what is wrong.
4. Now, look at the last thing, instruction in righteousness. The Bible not only shows you by doctrine what is right and then shows you what is wrong and then shows you how to fix it, but the Bible shows you how to keep it fixed.

See that thing? That is your Bible, but doctrine is number one. Doctrine is what the Bible teaches that is right and it is the number one rule of the Bible. If you do not have right doctrine, nothing else will work for you and the job of the church, as you are going to see here in a moment, is to teach you right doctrine. That is my job. My job as pastor is to understand the number one thing.

I learned a long time ago that when it comes to the Bible, one of the rules that I follow, and we will get into this later, but here is one of the rules I follow. When it comes to the Bible, do not overemphasize anything more in the Bible than God does. And do not under-emphasize anything more than God does. When God puts a main emphasis on something, then you put the main emphasis on it. Do not overemphasize what God under-emphasizes. You get into trouble. You know how you keep from doing that? Learn doctrine. Doctrine is the teaching of what is right in your Bible from God's standpoint.

## IV. The Absence of Doctrine and Its Consequences

The absence of doctrine in the body of Christ produces this. Take your Bible and turn over Ephesians chapter 4. This is where we are at today in Christianity. This is why we have the

problems that we have. This is why I work as hard as I can to make sure you do not have those problems or keep them to a minimum or showing you the way to get out of it by following what we have here.

Ephesians chapter 4. You know already from our marriage enrichment classes and from our studies and everything else that we have done many, many times, we know now that the book of Ephesians is the book that is where Paul reveals the mystery of the body of Christ. We know that everything in this book shows us the intimacy of our relationship with God and what we should be and what we should do. We know now that this book is a crucial book. The book of Ephesians is where he unleashes all that the church is.

He just finished saying here in chapter 4, and I do not want to read the whole chapter, but he just finished saying here in chapter 4 that Christ died, went down into Abraham's bosom, came up, and then he says he gave gifts unto men. Those gifts that he gives the men are the gifts that he gives to the church.

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

This church exists for three reasons, other than getting people saved. For a believer, this church is here. I am here as your pastor for only three reasons:

5. The perfecting of the saints. I am to perfect you, not make you perfect, but perfect you for the work of God that it has for you. I take all of the things that you have that are good, and I work through with you all the things that are no good, and the Word of God will perfect you and me together for the work of the ministry.
6. And through that, you and I in the body of Christ get edified. You see how it works?

*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

That is the rapture. This is the job of the church from Acts chapter, wherever, to the rapture of the church. The church has a threefold purpose for believers: perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, edifying in the body of Christ. The church should never do anything that does not edify you. The church should not do anything that does not perfect you for the work of the ministry. That is what our job is, and that is what this church has to do.

Look at verse 14. Here is what happens.

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Now I want you to look at verse 14 there, verse 12, it says, "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, edifying in the body of Christ." Verse 14 says that we are not to be children, tossed to and fro. Now you want to mark that word "to and fro" right there, and you want to run that thing back to Job chapter 1 verse 6 and 7 and find out where that shows up. That shows up with the Lord talking to Satan back there in Job chapter 1, and the Lord says, "Satan, where have you been?" Satan said, "Oh, I have been down to earth going to and fro," showing you that the devil wants to introduce bad doctrine, and when you get bad doctrine, you go to and fro, and you are blown about by every wind of doctrine.

You know what that means? It means you do not know why you believe what you believe. You get the average Christian today and ask him to take the Bible and show you how he got saved. He could not do it. Take the average Christian today and throw him a Bible and said, "Now these are somebody that claim to go to heaven, or in church every Sunday," and they ask them to show you how that you could never lose your salvation. Could not do it. You ask the average Christian and threw a Bible in their lap and said, "Show me why tongues are not right." Could not do it. You ask somebody, "Show me the rapture verses in the Bible." Could not do it.

You see? You have to go to church every Sunday. It is not about just going to church. It is about getting taught when you go to church and you learning how to grow in your own Bible and learning how to put these things together. The bottom line is that most Christians are children. They are blown about by every wind of doctrine and they do not have any spiritual stability of being able to discern for themselves what is right and what is wrong. You know why? Because doctrine is not being taught today.

But he says in verse 15, "But speaking the truth in love may grow up unto him." You see, doctrine is the truth that grows you up. Now I want you to look at that word. It does not say grow you up unto him. It says grow you up into him because you are supposed to be more like Jesus Christ every day of your life. You know how you do that? Right teaching. You know what right teaching is? Doctrine. You know what doctrine is? It is authority. That is where it starts. It is simple. I do not know why I am even saying this. I am probably boring most of you to death. This is so simple.

But here lies the problem. God's people are blown about by every wind of doctrine and they do not know what they believe. That is why the body of Christ today is so reliant. If you can write a book about something about Christianity, God, or something, you will be a millionaire in a week. Because nobody wants to get it from God anymore because they do not know anything about doctrine. So they rely on man's writings and man's book to give them what they cannot get from God anymore because no church is teaching how to get it.

If there is one thing that sets this church apart from every other church, and I say every other church, you know how I mean it. The majority of churches in this world is this thing here. We do not take any other book but God's book. Now I do not mean that you should not read other

things. I read everything. I am not saying you cannot learn about that. But in my mind and my heart, I know that my authority and my doctrine is one book. In that book, I use to judge everything anybody else ever wrote in the history of the world. That is the way it has to be. That is what has got the body of Christ in the mess that it is.

Every book, every chapter, every verse in your Bible is profitable for doctrine. In other words, that book is filled with God showing you sometimes by verses, sometimes by stories, sometimes by chapters. We talked in our story when we were coming through Genesis and most of you coming through there. I told you how Genesis is 50 chapters, but Genesis is just nine or ten, I forget how many, eleven or twelve stories. Each one of those stories taken is a doctrinal teaching on what is right, what is wrong, how to fix it, how to keep it fixed. Simple as that. You can take that verse in 1 Corinthians 3:16 and apply it to every chapter, everything in the Bible. That is what it does.

God wants to take a story about Joseph, a story about Abraham, a story about Jacob, a story about Lot, a story about Elijah, a story about Elisha, a story about Solomon, a story about David. He wants to show you what is right. He wants to show you what is wrong. He wants to show you how to fix what is wrong. Then he wants to show you how to keep it fixed. In the New Testament it does not work through story. The New Testament works principle. So what you do is you take the principles in the New Testament and then you line them up to the stories of the Old Testament. It is not hard. Not when you just understand it as simply as I can lay it out to you.

I am no genius. I am not a Bible scholar. I am a Bible student. I am not a scholar. There is nothing scholar to be able to help me. I am a student of the Word of God. As a student, you see, when you are a scholar, you give the impression that you have ended your studies and you know it all. When you are a student, you give the impression that you are still studying. I am still learning. My wife yesterday, we had marriage class and I taught the book of Song of Solomon. My wife afterwards she says, "I do not have all that you gave to that this morning in my Bible. Where did you get all of that? I do not have that. You never, I mean, I did not get that the last time you taught this." I said, "Honey, do you really think that I do not learn every day too? Are you buying into Barb's propaganda?" The reason why you do not have everything I gave today is because God shows me every day things that I do not ever see before. I am learning. I am a student. I am not a very good student. I tell you, for years and years and years, I have told you this and I continue to tell you this, I am not the smartest man in the world. I do not ever claim to be. My only claim to fame is I am the smartest one in the slow class. That is where I am at. But that book, every chapter, every verse is profitable for doctrine. It shows you what is right and what God's opinion is on everything in the Bible.

## V. The Real Enemy of Christ: Religious Leaders

Last week I told you that the Bible was God's mind. I told you that the biggest problem that the Lord faced, if you remember, I made a reference to this. I told you the biggest problem the Lord faced when he came to planet earth was not the world. You would think that is what it would be. What I am about ready to show you is one of the most amazing things. This is going to help you put a lot of things on perspective for you. Sometimes it just takes a simple basic study like this.

Notice I have not ranted and raved yet, probably not going to today. I have not screamed and yelled. I am saying that because I do not want to give less of the impression and you the impression that I am really a nice guy. You were here last week with Iran and Raven. You liked it though, did you? My kind of girl right there. She liked it. You can always tell when you get into those modes where you just start preaching the Word of God, who likes and who does not. I just want to simply show you some things that are going to really help you today. I am just going to show you. This will all put it together.

I told you that when the Lord showed up last time, that the first time that it was not the world that hated him. You would think that is the way it is. I will tell you something else we think. We think it was different back then than it is now. That is something you have to get over. You get over that by understanding the book of Ecclesiastes, which said there is nothing new under the sun.

You would think it was the world that hated him, would not you? You would think it was Rome, because we hear the story. Next week is Easter, is not it? Our Sunrise Service for those of you that want to come will be at 10:30. You are going to hear, all across this town next week, how that Christ was crucified. You are going to hear the story about the Romans putting their nails in his hands, in his feet, and the Roman soldier put the spear in his side. You are going to hear all of that stuff. You know, you are going to hear messages of how that the world hates Christ. That is why that, in our public school system, and in our government, and almost everything in our fabric of society that Christ is removed. When I was growing up at Easter time, we had an Easter ceremony, and they invited a preacher in and that preacher preached in our assemblies on the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Try that today.

You are going to be told next week, I am just preparing you, not by me, but you are going to be told next week, your friends, your relatives, whatever, all your buddies are going to be told next week that it was the world that hated Christ and wanted to get rid of him. Or it was Rome that killed him. I want here to tell you this morning, and I am going to show you emphatically, that is just not true. It is not true. It was the biggest problem Jesus had was not with the world. It was not with Rome. It was with the religious leaders of his day. Now you have got to see that. I am going to show you what the problem was. When you leave here today, you are going to walk out of here. When I say goodbye to you, you are not going to say goodbye. You are not going to say, "I love you, Bob." You are going to go, "Wow." Because I am going to show you something today that is where the real issue is. You think it is different back then than it is today, the same issue. I am going to show you what it is.

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

That is Israel. When He came to earth the first time, it was not Rome, it was not the NSA world. It was the very religious leaders, the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, and the high priest that claimed to love God, that were doing the work of God, and claimed to believe that God had a son that was His biggest enemy.

Let me talk to you about the scribes. You know who they are? The scribes were the Old Testament custodians. This is something you want to get. I am going to give you the definition of scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and high priests.

*Scribes: The scribes were the men in the Old Testament that were the custodians of the Word of God. Anything that was written in the Old Testament had to be written by a scribe. A scribe's job was that he recorded and was the custodian of the Word of God. Nothing could be written or would be accepted by the nation of Israel as viable from God, unless it was written by a scribe. You will find back there Ezra, in the book of Ezra, the Bible says Ezra was a ready scribe. That is what a scribe did. By this time, the scribes had corrupted themselves. We know that in 606 B.C. that God quit dealing with the nation of Israel as far as giving them anything. So basically, the scribes are out of a job. By the time Christ shows up, you know what you find? It is very obvious when you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the scribes who were the custodians of the Word of God had added all kinds of other things to the law. The very men who were tasked with keeping the custodianship of the Word of God had not only taken it and kept it, but now had added to it, had rewritten a lot of it, and have added things to the laws, and all of the things that you have going on here are all evident that the scribes had built into the law that God never put into the law. At the first coming of Christ, the scribes are as far out of line as you could ever get in your life. And yet they are supposed to be by God, the custodians of the Word of God. God gave the scribes that job, and at the first coming of Christ, the biggest enemies he had were the very guys that God gave that job to.*

*High Priest: Then you have the high priest. That was an office that God gave. That office of a high priest was given all the way back there in the Exodus. You will find that Aaron was the first priest, and then it goes down through the sons of Aaron. You find it in the book of Leviticus, you find it in the book of Exodus, it is a great line. When we get into Exodus and Leviticus in our Bible studies, I will walk you through those lines and help you understand them so you can get them into your Bible. But it is those kind of men right there that God said, "Okay, you are to be the real leaders of my Israel." At the first coming of Christ, the high priest had so corrupted themselves that they are in line with Rome. It has risen from a religious thing, which is now a political thing. Sound familiar? Where they were given to be the caretakers of the spiritual side of Israel through Levi, they now become the political arena. You know how I know that in the Old Testament, the way God did it, that God did not authorize that because there is never a king from the tribe of Levi. It is as simple as that. It does not take a lot. They have completely corrupted themselves and now they are way out of whack. Here are the very ones who would translate for us today as the religious leaders that you see on TV and in every big church. They are the ones that God entrusted the leadership and now they are the very same ones who hate Christ.*

*Pharisees & Sadducees: Then you have the next group. The next two groups would be the Pharisees. You see the Pharisees are not biblical at all. There is no place in your Bible in the Old Testament where God ever authorized the Pharisees. The Pharisees is a non-biblical group who come up and come into power after the captivity of 606 B.C. for the purpose of politically and religiously running the nation of Israel. They are like unions. The Sadducees are another group just like them. There are no Sadducees in the Old Testament. That was not an office. Obviously the priests and the scribes were two offices that God gave that got corrupted. But the Pharisees and the Sadducees, God never authorized them at all. There is no place in the Bible that says this is where a Sadducee is or a Pharisee is. These two offices came into being after*

*God was finished with Israel in those 400 silent years. They came to power in a vulnerable time of Israel to control the nation of Israel and to ruin them. They are all connected with Rome. They have their religious things that they do. Listen to me now. They have their religious things that they do, but they like the lifestyle of Rome. Sound familiar? They want to do the religion of God, but they want to live like Romans. Sound familiar? One more time for the slow class. They want to do God's work, but they want to live like the Romans.*

That is what you are up against. Now I want to show you the real issue with Israel and Christ at the first coming. I want you to understand that what I am about to show you is the exact same reason that we have the same issues with the church in Christ today. Maybe this will clear up a lot of things for a lot of you. I am going very slow, very methodically, and I am just trying to help you to see this because you guys Saturday or Friday night really motivated me. You gave me a clear direction and I really appreciate it. So this is your reward.

I want you to see that just as the religious leaders who led the majority of Israel, the scribes, the Pharisees, the high priests and the Sadducees, missed Christ and rejected him and only a small remnant of the nation of Israel recognized who he was. You know who got the first coming of Christ? Once you get past that it was not the world that was his enemy or Rome that was his real enemy, once you see the fact that the real enemy that Christ faced, oh, we have not got into it yet. Just stay with me here. I have not, you are not ready to say, "Wow," just yet. Once you get past and you see that what the real issue was, then you see this. It was the common ordinary man that got him at the first coming of Christ and recognized who it was.

You know who missed him? Scribes, Pharisees and the Sadducees. You know who got him? Commercial fishermen, tax collectors, harlots, drunkards, common ordinary people. That is exactly the way it is today. There is a consistency between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ that is unparalleled in your Bible because the same issue that Christ faced then of rejection when he came unto his own is the same thing he is facing now today when he is coming unto his own. It was not the world that was against Christ. It was the religious leaders of this world who claimed to be his children, who claimed to love God, who claimed to hold the oracles of God, Old Testament, that wound up killing him.

Did you ever see why they killed him? Did you ever see what the real frac breaker was? This thing is incredible.

## VI. Doctrine as Authority: The Cornerstone

Now, I want you to take your Bibles and I want you to see this. I want you to take your Bibles and turn over to Matthew chapter 7. Now watch me. What I am about to show you is comparing, you know, we have not went to another book yet. Notice I have not opened up Vine's Greek New Testament of archaic words. I have not pulled out Matthew Henry's Bible commentary. I have not got John R. Rice's, "This is how you figure out your Bible." We have opened one book because in this church we have one authority and it is not me, it is not you, it is the book. I tell you a hundred times a day, a thousand times a week, and I am given to exaggeration at some point. The moment I quit teaching you from that book, you find someplace else to go. The

moment I deviate from the one authority, you are in trouble and you better find you someplace else to go. I am telling you that right up front, telling you that right now. I will continue to tell you that because you need to know that.

Here is what your issue is. Matthew chapter 7. You know what the real issue is? The real issue is a common man with a common Bible. That is the real issue. God always used a common man. That is why when he picked his twelve, he did not pick any big time boys. You know the hardest guy in Christ dealt with everybody. You know the hardest people that had a tough time to get it. Remember old Nicodemus? He could not get it for his life depending on it. Remember the rich young ruler that came? He could not get it. You remember the young lawyer that came? Did not have a clue. You know who got it? Some old guy out there throwing out fishing nets and pulling them in. Some old guy out there that is just a rotten scoundrel, a tax collector. You know who got it? Some old harlot. You know who got it? Some old drunk. That is who got it.

Now I want to show you something. I want to show you what his problem was.

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

*And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:*

*For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

See the problem? Now you get two things out of that passage. First of all, I think I want you to see is look up here in verse 24 it says, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine," these sayings of mine are like a man who builds his house upon a rock, then his sayings are the rock. You know what his sayings are? Bible doctrine. That is the rock. God gave you a book that has bedrock in it and that bedrock is what you build your faith on and that bedrock is your doctrine. Now you know we have got the next piece to the puzzle. You know what your doctrine is? It is your authority.

You know why the scribes did not like Christ? Because they did not like his doctrine. They did not like his doctrine. They did not like the fact that he was a final authority because heresy and all kinds of devilment exist when you have more than one authority. How many authorities do you have here in Israel? You have at least four, maybe five. The main ones I already gave them to you. You have the scribes. That is one group. You have the Pharisees. That is another group. You have the high priests. That is another group. You have the Sadducees. That is another group. And there are four or five splinter groups we have not even talked about today. They all believed

different things and they all were their own authorities and that is what put Israel into chaos. What they did not like, even though they believed in God and they believed in the oracles of God, Word of God, Old Testament, what they hated about Christ was the very one they were supposed to love, the very one that they were supposed to follow showed up teaching them something that they did not want to believe. It was not Rome. It was not the world. It was the religious leaders of his day that could not stand that he was teaching something different than what they wanted to believe.

You have no doctrine. You have no right or wrong. You have no authority. Then what you do is you get dual or multiple authorities and you have the breakdown of the New Testament church just like you had the breakdown of the nation of Israel. His doctrine was his authority. No doctrine, no rules, no authority. See how easy it is?

We are not done yet. Turn on to Matthew chapter 22. I want you to see this.

*The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,*

*Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.*

*Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:*

*Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.*

*And last of all the woman died also.*

*Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.*

*Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

*For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

*But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,*

*I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

*And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.*

The same day came to him the Sadducees, our boys, which say there is no resurrection and ask him, saying, "Master," see that thing? "Master, Moses said," see, they have a Bible. They are quoting Moses. "Master, Moses said." Did you ever notice the little things in the Bible? You never noticed that old Judas was hanging around. Judas never called him Lord. Judas always called him master. That is a little thing in the Bible you want to mark. Judas refused to call him Lord. He only called him master. Scribes and the Pharisees are claiming to follow God. They are claiming to believe in Moses. They are claiming to be in the thing, but they will not call him

Lord. You know why? Because they will not accept him as the final authority. Am I helping you this morning? Are you glad you did not stay in bed this morning? I am telling you guys, this is easy. This is easy stuff.

Saying, "Master, Moses said, if a man die and having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren. The first when he had married a wife deceased and having no issue left his wife under his brother. Likewise, the second also in the third under the seventh and the last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven for they all had her."

I love these things. This shows you how the scribes and the Pharisees and the great, it shows you how dishonest they are in the bottom of their heart. They care nothing about whose wife she is going to be in the resurrection. They have one thing. They have one agenda, one goal. They have to discredit him with what he is saying because there are two authorities that take here, his and theirs, and they are not going to bend their chains to his. So they are going to have to discredit him. So they come after him over and over and over.

I love his answer. His answer is the greatest answer in all the Bible. You know when he says, "You do greatly err, not knowing the scriptures." Yes sir boy. Takes it right back to the book. You know why? Because the book was his doctrine. The book was his authority. See where it goes? Always take them back to the book. It is just that simple.

*For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

*But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,*

*I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

*And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.*

Now look at this. Common ordinary people. When the multitude, common ordinary people, when a common ordinary people heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine. But when the Pharisees had heard it, had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. See that thing? Sadducees tried to set him up like they always did. They did not care about the answer. He said, "You do greatly err, not knowing the scriptures." And of course the common ordinary man were astonished at the doctrine. What do the Pharisees do? They just huddle up. They call a huddle up. They are going to get another game plan. They are going to try to block him left or right again. It never changes. Never changes.

You see the problem was authority. The problem was that they did not want to change what they had been taught and they wanted to believe versus the very Son of God showing up saying, "Boys, that ain't right. I am the final authority." God gave them a final authority. Now you think the final authority was Jesus, do not you? Because that is what you are taught.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

You see, you think that God gave him Jesus. So you think there is a difference between today because Jesus is not here. All we have is a Bible. You think there is a difference between that and this but the Bible says in John chapter 1 verse 14 that the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us. There is no difference. You have just as much today Jesus being here if he was back there in his body, he is coming in the volume of a book. That is what you have. Same authority. He just is not here in a bodily form. He is here in a book inside you.

God's people Israel under the leadership of the scribes, the chief priests, the Sadducees, the Pharisees and all the great Bible scholars, they represent for us all the great religious TV evangelists, the radio preachers, the big shot pastors with all their big houses and all their big cars and now here they are want to kill the Son of God because his doctrine, what he teaches, what he is right did not line up with what they wanted to believe. Brother if that is not a case of Ezekiel chapter 14 of God taking somebody into their heart, I do not know what is but that is what you have.

## VII. Doctrine, Power, and the Laodicean Church

Luke chapter 4. Let me show you another one. Jesus again. Now watch how this thing keeps building for you.

*And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.*

*And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.*

Now there it is. Now we built this thing. We found out that Jesus taught doctrine. Doctrine is what is right. The doctrine is your authority on what is right and now we find out that not only is the doctrine in the Bible the authority on what is right but it is also the power for you to do what is right. Now that thing lines up with that first verse I gave you. All profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness. That is it. It is not only the authority on what is right but it is your power to do what is right once you recognize the authority. No Bible, no authority. No authority, no right or wrong. No right or wrong, no power. Enter Laodicean Church and the insanity that I preached last week is God's people playing church with big shot pastors who are playing the game and they think that they are really doing everything that God does. But the bottom line is when you talk about one authority over their scholarship they will kill you just as fast as they kill Christ.

When God's people do not have an authority they get blown about by every wind of doctrine. There is a book out last year, last two years which you all probably have read or you should have read anyhow called The Da Vinci Code. The Da Vinci Code sold 40 million copies. Now I know that everybody that read it here for the most part would read it under the understanding of wanting to find out how it is wrong with the Bible. But you know how many, and I know probably most of you work with people, you know when people that took that Da Vinci Code just thought that was the absolute gospel truth. Well if it sold 40 million copies I would say probably 35 million. I am telling you, you know why that is? No doctrine. They do not know what they believe. They do not have a clue.

They actually think that when Michael, you know what The Da Vinci Code is, you know the fact that the teaching that Jesus was married and had children and he married Mary Magdalene, you know. And when Leonardo Da Vinci painted The Last Supper, Leonardo Da Vinci, if you look at the picture, he has got Jesus and then sitting on his right is John and John is painted in an effeminate way. He almost looks like a woman. So down through the years, people look at that and they think, "Well, see there," and all this conspiracy stuff starts to come on and they think, "Well, there, see there Jesus," and that story has been going around for a long time. That was not something that The Da Vinci Code came out with. That goes back to the Holy Grail and the blood of Christ and how that Mary was smuggled out of Jerusalem by Joseph of Arimathea who begged the body of Jesus, went to Scotland and took the Holy Grail that caught the blood of Christ and put it down into the base in Scotland which is called the Church of the Holy Grail. And people go over there with metal detectors trying to find it because you can find the Holy Grail and you drink of it, you get eternal life.

How easy it is. And of course they are so stupid. First of all, you have a Bible that gives you the exact events and gives the record of who everybody is. Laid out. And then, oh yeah, when Leonardo Da Vinci painted that picture Last Supper, yeah, yeah, he had the original photograph. You know how we all get together for group photos, the softball. Well this was the Last Supper, they called in Joe's photograph, and he came up and took a big picture, and everybody around over there. And kind of like a little group meeting. And then Leonardo Da Vinci, he found out, he said, "Oh, I have to paint this." No, give me a break. Leonardo Da Vinci was a Roman Catholic. He did not believe the Bible was the final authority any more than anybody else does around in the world today. He was a Roman Catholic. And when he painted The Last Supper as a good old Roman Catholic who worshipped Mary, he just had to get a female deity in there some place. So he stuck John as a woman over there because of the fact that that Roman Catholic Church has to have a female deity and put it right in there. The average person could not get that today if their life depended on it. They do not have an authority, they do not have an authority.

So you have God's people around. Now the next one coming out, it is coming out now, The Gospel According to Judas. Sure. Judas did not betray Christ. Forget the fact that you have a book that lays it out detail by detail. You have these ignoramuses over here who find these dead manuscripts and now Judas, there was a Gospel according to Judas and Judas really did not betray Christ. And he was not the bad guy that he was portrayed to be. Jesus went to Judas and said, "Hey, look, I have a plan here. I need you to help me out. Would you betray me this afternoon?" You know what the world will do? They will buy into that and you will have saved people in this city that are in churches this morning and they will sway back and forth every wind. "Well, maybe he did. Well, maybe they did not. Well, what do you think? Well, I do not know. Well, I heard this and I heard that and well, I do not know. I am kind of worried because, well, wind of doctrine." You know what they believe. Well, you know what? All you had to do is listen on that and you found out it was written 300 A.D. from Egypt and you knew where it was. I want to tell you something. Walk down this hall. We have kids down in that nursery who understand Alexandria, Egypt, 300 A.D. better than most scholars do today. It does not take a rocket scientist. No Bible, no authority. See, that is the problem. No authority.

You know, we make Mary an apostle now, you know, we put all these things together and it just shakes the thing and the crafty church rattles. It gets all nervous and defends it, and the people over here that do not know what they believe. Their faith is challenged and now they are staggering back. Oh, and women are rising and saying, "Yes, sir, we can be preachers. Well, the apostles were the women. Come on, ladies. Christian soul. Come on. This march down the street. Take over the churches."

What do I do as a Bible believer? Somebody said, "What do you think about that?" Let me tell you what I think about this whole thing. You know what I think? I think if you want to get a big turkey on the first day of turkey season, you have to get in the woods before the sun comes up and you have to get down into a valley because a turkey will come down, but he does not like to come over anything. If you want to get your turkey on turkey day, first day of turkey season, that is what you have to do. Then try to get a mouth call because those little suckers have really little beady eyes and they will see you 20 miles away and you make that little quack, quack, quack, quack. And he will say, "Sounds like Jacob, but it smells like Esau." When I think, I think the whole world is nuts. That is what I think. I do not give that stuff five seconds.

What I love about living in 2006 is that God has been so good to me. I did not worry about whether they got a rolling roof on a stadium and I am glad the Chiefs are staying. I am glad the Royals are staying. I am not into that, but it is fun, and I enjoy it. People like to go. I was hoping basically, if it did not pass with the down good side of it was on game days, you would not have trouble getting to church. You just ride right on in, but it did not work out that way. It is okay. It is all right.

But you know what? I do not care about that. I do not care who wins the Super Bowl. I do not care who wins the World Series. I do not care who wins the hockey league. I do not care who wins NASCAR. I like all that stuff and it is all around me and I will watch it. I think sitting in the stands and hearing when that guy says, "Gentlemen, start your engine," and boy, 40, 50, 900 horsepower, big old engine, just throttle up boy. And just rumbles. I think that is the neatest thing in the world.

I one time went to an opening ball game back in the seventies and I like when they had the opening day here, and they have the flag down there and they are singing the Star Spangled Banner. Everybody is feeling patriotic and boy, that big old B-2 bomber comes flying over that thing. I was at a ball game one time, it was an opening game in St. Louis one time with a friend of mine and it was the most profound thing in my life. They had the opening day and they had the ceremony and they had the military guard, big old flag. Then they played the Star Spangled Banner. When they started playing the Star Spangled Banner and we were done with it, they immediately went into the Stars and Stripes Forever. You know how the end of that story goes, and it goes, and it goes, and it breaks down. When they hit that point, there was time perfectly four F-4 Phantoms, one at a time afterburners on, sounded like screaming banshees, came right across that thing 400 feet off the ground. I will tell you what, it gave me goose pimples like I never had in my life. I never forgot. Anything coming across that big, the band playing, the flag waving, everybody screaming and yelling. I will tell you what, I was the most euphoric time of my life. I never forgot that.

But you know what? I do not give a flip about any of that stuff. You know what? I have a 50 yard line seat right over home plate of the destruction of planet earth. I am having a ball watching it implode. I listen to talk radio. It is like when I was a kid growing up, it is Bugs Bunny, heckling Jekyll and, and all that. It is just comic relief. Man has no answers. Man has more problems. He knows what to do with and man is too stupid because he will not accept the authority that needs to be accepted. That is the authority of God and his word. It is the only answer to this life on planet earth. You made it America. This world is an insane asylum run by the inmates. I am just so thrilled to death. In these last days I got a front row seat to watch it implode. That is where my joy is. I am just happy to be here today. Watching the whole thing crash.

No Bible, no authority, no right or wrong, no power, enter Laodicean church. The insanity I preached last week as God's people playing church, as I said, with big shot pastors who played a game and think they are God's church.

*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

They think that they are rich and they are increased with goods and they have need of nothing. And do not even know it. The lack of doctrine has killed the church and God's people that they do not even know what they believe today.

I had to laugh. Something Nikki told me this week. You always know your kids are getting the right stuff and they are growing up with the right perception of churches. She called me this week we were talking about something else. She said she had the funniest thing in the world. She said we were somewhere and she says one of my girls, it was Lauren, one of them, me with both of them, they were walking someplace and they saw this little white building like a model like in a store someplace, a little church with the stained glass windows and the bird or the steeple on it, and the roof on it and the white little doors. And she says, "Mommy, is that a birdhouse?" Yeah. And every Sunday morning, the pastor comes out and goes, "You betcha." Doing something right, kids doing something right.

## VIII. Boldness Through Doctrine

Now I want you to see this. We are almost done here. I want you to look at this all the way through. You are going to see this turn over to Acts chapter 4. Here it is again. We are almost done here.

*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

Total oneness. Power of men, power of God in men's lives because they are preaching the Word of God, boldness to which we now know is their authority and their power.

Now look at Acts chapter 4, verse 13, back up just a bit.

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

Here is all the people. When they saw the boldness of Peter, John and perceived that they were ignorant, they were unlearned and ignorant men. Look at that thing, see? They say these guys are not scribes and Pharisees, these guys are not Sadducees. What separated the great learned men from the ignorant men and the unlearned men? What separated these unlearned and ignorant men from the scribes and the Pharisees that had no doctrine, who had no authority and had no power? What was the one thing that separated them? Read on. "And they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." There it is. They had been with Jesus. See? You hang out with him, you get the authority. You get the authority, you get the power. That is why the scribes and the Pharisees killed Christ. That is why they did not like the apostles in the book of Acts. That is why they are not going to like you today.

Rule number one is simple. The number one thing the Bible shows you that it is profitable for is doctrine. Without that, you have no authority and no power because you do not know what is right and what is wrong and do not know what to do with what you do have. So therefore, you have got to rely on the gimmicks of man and her Laodicean church. When we studied Ephesians chapter 4, we saw that there was one faith, one spirit, one Lord, one God, one Jesus, one baptism, one body. What in the world makes you think there would be two authorities? I just do not understand where you are coming from. Oh, I forgot you are insane.

## IX. Final Charge: Preach the Word and Doctrine

One last thing. 2 Timothy chapter 4, verses 1 to 5, greatest passage in all your Bible to you young men and young ladies who want to serve God, want to be used of God. It is the last charge that he gives young Timothy before Paul goes home to be with the Lord. One of the greatest charges in all the Bible. Every young man, every woman that wants to serve God, ought to see this and know this and put this in your heart someplace.

*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

*And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

*But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

"Preach the word of God." There it is. "Be instant in season, out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Why? "For the time will come when they will not

endure sound doctrine." Here we are today. It is no different today than it was with the scribes and the Pharisees.

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

He ran lawfully. See, there it is. Preach the word. Be instant in season, out of season. Keep doctrine because there is a time coming when they will not endure sound doctrine.

One last verse and I am done. 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 13. I do not even need to turn to this. Friday night when I went over to Marion's house to do his thing there, I saw the nice little house and asked if I could look around, walk around and they said, "Sure, go ahead." So I got checking things out. You never know when people leave change laying around. They do not know they did it. I was walking around, looking at things and went downstairs, and how it was laid out and I was walking in there and looked at the little weight room, and look at all this stuff that he had. I walked back out and there was his computer and coming across his computer screen was this verse. I thought to myself, son, if there is any verse that any young man or young lady needs to have constantly coming across their mindset, that is the verse.

*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

You know what he says in that great verse? He says, "Till Jesus Christ comes back, give attendance," not attention, "attendance. Do it. You read the book, reading, exhortation, you preach the book and the doctrine, but you have got to know the book." That is the key. That is what I want to do in helping you put all this stuff together.

The first rule you got today is that rule. That rule is that your Bible, number one, is profitable for doctrine. That is the first thing that you want to look for and find out is what is right in your Bible.