

Numbers 11:4-6; Psalms 77:10-11; Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 12:16-21

Sunday 6/11/2006

We are in the process of putting the Bible together so that everybody in this church has the ability to learn the scriptures and to understand that the key to learning the scriptures is your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and what you believe about the book that God gave you. If you believe, as the Bible says, that when you receive the Word of God, you receive that as it is in truth, not the word of men, but the Word of God, that it works in you. That is God's design for it to work in you. So we have been in the process of showing you how easy the Bible is to figure out.

We have come through probably over 50 different key words in the Bible that really set up the context. Remember, I told you that the key to the Bible is getting the context. I told you last week, and I have told you this throughout our time together, that the Bible is written to three groups of people. The average Christian thinks that the whole Bible is just written to them, and so they can take anything wherever they find it and then apply it to their life. That is what gets you in trouble.

Obviously, you know there is a difference in the Bible because there is an Old Testament and a New Testament. We do not apply things in the Old Testament directly to us. So you have to understand that all the Bible is written for you. The Bible says it is for your admonition, for your learning, for your growth. The Bible is a history book, showing you the relevance of history. The Bible is a book on prophecy, so we know that all of that is beneficial for me to understand where I am at in relationship to the coming of Christ. Then we know the Bible is a book that is written for a practical application for you and me in our everyday life. That is where you have to be careful. You have to be able to separate out what is from the history side, to the prophetic side, to the practical side. That is what we are doing in the process here.

Last week, we finished up the second aspect of how you lay out the Bible, and today we are going to look at the third one. Today, we are going to study the third way that God teaches you the Bible. The third way that God teaches you the Bible is by repetition. That means simply that God keeps going over and over and over and over things.

I. The Three Infirmities

A couple of months ago, if you remember, this was on a Thursday night, I told you that in the Bible, the Bible listed three infirmities that we all have. In other words, we all have three problems. The Bible calls them infirmities. These three infirmities are our greatest challenge in life. I do not care where you are at as a Christian this morning. If you are saved this morning, I do not care where you are at. I do not care what spiritual level you are on. We have all kinds. Some of you just got saved and you are making good progress. Some of you have been saved for a while and you have a pretty good handle on things. Some of you have been saved for a long time and you have a really good handle on things. I do not care where you are at. I do not care if you just started, you are in the middle, or you are way up there someplace. These three

infirmities will be the biggest challenge for you no matter what level you are on. I have been in the Bible 35, 36 years, and I am telling you, my three infirmities are the same as yours. That is what is so great about the Bible because I keep saying this: some of you down the line are going to really work into the area of being able to work with people, help couples put their marriages back together, or work with people who struggle with things in their life. I am telling you, every problem you deal with will be dealt with in one of these infirmities, and they are without a doubt the biggest challenge we all face.

Now, I gave it to you, and the first infirmity is found in Romans chapter 8, verse 26. The Bible says that we have this infirmity, that we do not know how to pray. I am just going to touch on these very gingerly here for a moment just so you get a context, but then we are going to move on. But it is in these three that lies the great study this morning on repetition, why God repeats Himself over and over again.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Most of God's people think that prayer is like a menu at a restaurant, that you go in and you order off the menu whatever you want, and then the waiter, God, brings it to you. Of course, that is the average Christian's mindset of prayer, and they think that prayer is like a Sears and Roebuck catalog; you order things from it. Of course, we know that if you know your Bible, we know that that is not true. One of the marks of you growing spiritually in your own relationship with God is knowing what to pray for and what not to pray for. It is knowing when to pray and when not to pray. There are some things you do not have to pray about. It always amazed me that there are God's people that are praying for an answer from God and wonder why they never get the answer. You know why they never get the answer? Because the answer is in the Bible, but they are not reading their Bible.

Here is how it works: when you read your Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to Him. You have to have both. Most of God's people are asking for an answer, but they are not going where the answer is. I guess they want God to write it in the sky or something, and it does not work that way. God works through an absolute final authority, the Word of God. If you have something in your life that you are dealing with, something in your life that you are struggling with, the Bible says that the answer to that is in the Word of God. When you pray and ask God for a petition, "God, I need this. God, I am in this situation. God, here I am, I need Your help," God's only answer is not going to be that still small voice that you hear deep down inside of you. It is going to come from a book that the Bible says is the mind of God, that is going to give you God's opinion on your situation, and then it is up to you to do it. So prayer is something that God's people are totally ignorant of today. They look at it, like I said, like a menu; they go in and order God around, "God, give me this. God, give me that." It is probably one of the most foreign things, and therefore it is our infirmity.

The second infirmity is found in Romans chapter 6, verse 19. That is the infirmity the Bible says we have, the infirmity of the flesh.

Romans 6:19

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Let me say something to you: when you got saved, what God did is God divided you in two. That is the easiest way to say it. When you got saved, God made you a schizophrenic. You are now two people: you have an old nature and a new nature. The old nature is your flesh, and it wants to do the things that you are not supposed to do. The new nature is now the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, and the new nature gives you the ability, if you do it right, to overcome the old nature.

I am going to tell you right now, as long as you live, if you are saved, as long as you live, you are going to have to struggle with your flesh. There is never going to be a day this side of the rapture where you get up and your flesh is not going to be a problem. You can start out right with God in the morning, you can start out on fire with God, and the flesh can ruin your day in 30 seconds or less. There is never going to be a time in this life that you are going to be without that struggle. That is your infirmity, the infirmity of your flesh.

You can overcome that. Again, you overcome it with the Word of God. It is simple: you have two natures, an old nature and a new nature. Whichever one you feed is the one that runs you. This is why so many of God's people, when they first get saved, they do not make it. It is not that they do not get saved; it is because they do not get the training that they need to realize that you have to start feeding the new nature and starve out the old nature. Any saved man or woman, I do not care who you are, if you continue to feed your flesh after you are saved, you are going to have some real struggles in life. That is why the Bible says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." You feed that new nature, and you feed that by coming to church, coming to Thursday night, getting disciplined, letting me help you in the Word of God, or somebody else help you in the Word of God to figure out those things. You start a steady diet of the Word of God, your spiritual food, that is going to encourage you in everything that you do. Amen, sister? A little louder. Real, real loud. That is what I wanted to hear.

Our third infirmity is found in Psalms chapter 77, and I really think this is the worst one. The other two are bad enough, but I think this is the worst one, and this is where our message lies today. This is where we are going to look at the concept of God repeating Himself over and over and over. When I gave you all these things that we have talked about, you obviously have seen now, if you are doing any study in the Bible, that God keeps repeating some things over and over and over. You know why that is? It is because the third infirmity we have is that we forget what God has done for us.

II. The Infirmity of Forgetting

In a lot of ways, to me, that is the worst thing of them all. I know the first two were bad enough, but you know what Psalms 77 says?

Psalms 77:10-11

And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.

I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

In this passage, there are three things that the Bible says that we forget, and this is why God has to keep repeating things in our lives. This is why, when it comes to the Bible, God says it over and over and over and over again. You are going to see this morning, by the end of our time today, that the Bible is built around a repetitive of everything in it. God just keeps saying it over and over and over and over again because the greatest infirmity we have is that we forget God in our lives and we forget what God has done for us.

There are three things in this passage here, and our message this morning, as I said, is going to be built around these three things, and this is why God uses repetition all the way through the Bible.

1. The first thing in verse 10, he says, "remember the years." You know what that is? That is the day that "remember the years" represents the time before you and I got saved. You see, we forget. You have been saved five, ten, fifteen years, you forget how it was before God saved you. You forget all the problems you had. You forget the fact that you were on your way to hell. You forget the fact that there was nothing in your life that was of any value. You forget your life. You forget those years where everything you did did not amount to anything. If you had kept on living your life through that period of time and never gotten saved, you might have amassed a great fortune. You might have become a great leader. You might have become a great businessman. You may have become some great famous person in life, but at the end of your life, you would have died and went to hell for all of eternity.

Now, I do not know what that does for you, but I know what it does for me. Psalms 40 says:

Psalms 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

That is how I got saved. I cried out to God, and He heard my cry. He brought me up out of the miry clay. That is the sin in those old years. He had put my feet upon a rock. That is the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest thing is, He established my goings. He established, and then He put a new song in my heart, even praise unto our God. Many shall see it and fear and trust in the Lord the day God saves you. We forget those years.

2. I will tell you something else. He said, "remember the works." I will tell you something else we forget. We forget the day God saved us. You see, we forget the day God brought us out of that pit. We forget that glorious day, brother, when God put a new song in your heart, but brother, it was a joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart that God saved you. You know what? I

appreciate the singing here, and the majority of you really sing well and make a stab out of it, but I never understood God's people that did not want to sing. I have never understood why God's people did not have a chance to sing, that they just lift the roof off wherever they are at, because your singing really tells whether you forgot about that day or not.

Now, when I got right with God in 1971, when I made my peace with God in 1971, I will never forget. I was a wayward guy, and I was living at home, and my dad had just died, and I was living with my mom, and I was still out in the world and doing my own thing. Then God got a hold of my heart, and I will tell you what, I came home from church that Sunday, and I told my mom that I got right with God. My mom was skeptical, and my mom was not doing right either. I found a great lesson in that thing, a great lesson I never forgot that. I thought my mom initially would be excited. She was glad because now she did not have to put up with all my stupidity, and maybe she was looking at a glimmer of hope that there was some salvation in her son and he would amount to something.

I will never forget, so it was, and I remember I told her, I told her I went down, and I went for the whole enchilada. I just did not make it right with God, no, not me, no, no, no, no, no. I have always been the guy that I am either 100% in or I am 100% out. I do not have any middle ground. I mean, when I went forward that day, I do not know if I was saved or not because I was supposedly saved when I was five years old, but I just made sure that day. But I went for the whole thing. I mean, I went for the whole five courses. I got saved, I surrendered to preach, surrendered to the ministry, and whatever else God wanted. That person down there that dealt with me that day, they had their hands full. I figured, you know what, I am going to make a big bust out of this because if I do not just make a fool out of myself, I will sell this thing out. So I went the whole route, and I went down there, and I said, "What are you coming forward for?" And I said, "Well, first of all, I need to make sure I am saved. Second of all, I want to preach. Third of all, I want to learn the Bible, and I want to turn my life over to God." I went down the whole laundry list. He said, "Well, we have quite a little deal going here, do not we?" Yeah, we did.

I went home, told my mom all that. You know what she told me? She said, "You will never be able to preach." You know what I said to that? Nothing. I just said inside, "Watch me. Watch me." I said, "Watch me." You know what? I started going to church. Back then, we had church on Sunday morning, Sunday night, we had Wednesday night, and we had Thursday night Bible study. I went to everything. I mean, I went to everything. You know what? One day my mom was worried about me being out in the world. You know what she was worried about from that point on? Me overdosing on the Bible. I never figured that out. Now, my mom, bless her heart, and I love her. I do not hold anything against her because I know where she was at and I know what. But you know what she said to me? I come home all fired up, and you know this is how the devil uses things. She said to me, she says, "Oh, you," she says, "she says, I said, 'I am,'" she says, "Why are you always reading your Bible now?" Been there, have you? "Why are you reading your Bible now?" And I said, "Mom," I said, "it is the greatest book in the world." But she was not reading it. Then she got on me for being at church every night because I was not doing things around the house. Truth of the matter is, I have never done things around the house.

Then she did something, said something to me that probably had the ability to cancel my ticket right there. You know what she said? She said, "Bobby," she said, "you never lasted anything in your life. You are not going to last in this." Now, my mother was right in a lot of things, and she was a wise woman, but you know what she was wrong in? She was wrong in that. You know the difference is me? I know some of you think that it is my ability to know the Bible that makes me have a better relationship with God, and maybe you think yourself or somebody else. It is not that. It is not that at all. I am no smarter or dumber than. There is one difference between me and the average Christian, one difference and one difference only. It is not my ability to know the Bible. It is not how many years I spent studying the Bible. That stuff is nothing. There is only one difference between me and the average Christian out there: in a sense, he got over the day he got saved. I have not ever got over mine, and I am not getting over it ever, ever, ever, ever. When He saved me, brother, He brought me out of a life of sin, and I, the rest of my life, I remember the works. When I feel like going down the dumps, and I feel, and I never go there because people do not throw stuff away like they used to, but I remember going down in the dumps and wanting to quit. You know what? I would always go back to the day that God saved me, and that would pull me out of anything in my life because I realized that God saved me for a purpose. I realized that God Almighty, God Almighty, loved me enough to die for me personally, and then with all He had to do, with all that He is as God, He reached down and He saved me. I never got over it. I will not ever get over it.

3. Then the third thing he says down there, he says in verse 11, "remember the wonders." You know what other God's people do? They forget the miracles God has done for them. Some of you young boys, I am going to tell you something. I watched you when you first got saved. I watched when you first got saved when you did not have anything. I watched you when you got saved that you did not have nothing, and you struggled, and you scrapped, and you did this, and you needed that. You know what? You did what was right with the book, and you did what was right with your family, and you did what was right with the Word of God, and God blessed you, and God took care of you. You know what? There is a great blessing in that, but there is a real danger in that because you grow up to the point that you forget what He did for you. There is a real danger that you think that you have something to do with that instead of Him. That is where it is at.

Every child of God this morning that is out there in the world, that is out at a fellowship, out living in sin, I am telling you, the number one problem that started them down that road is every one of them forgot the years, they forgot the works, and they forgot the wonders. That is why God keeps going over and over and over. Basically, that is why you come to church on Sunday morning and you come to church on Thursday night, and you are in your Bible over and over, and it is all the same thing. It is God talking to you, talking to you. I do not care where I preach, I do not care what I say, when you walk out of here today, wherever you are at in your spiritual life, you have it stated for you by God exactly what He wants your heart to have, and you need that this morning. You know why? Because our greatest infirmity is we forget. We forget. We get going through tough times in life, and we forget. The devil puts the whammies to us so we will forget. The devil puts all kinds of things in it and makes us afraid so we will forget. I am telling you, that is why all through the Bible you learn the Bible by repetition.

You know, there is a rule I follow in the Bible, and it has been one of the greatest rules I have ever followed, and I never put it simply this: I never put more emphasis on something in the Bible than God puts on it. I never do. I never, never minimize what God maximizes, and I never maximize what God minimizes. I never put more emphasis on anything more than God does. I see it all the time. We have people in this world that like to believe in speaking in tongues. I do not fight what you do. I do not care. I could care less. This is not a message geared against that. I am using it as an example. You have the average, you have people out there that all they want to do is talk about, "I speak in tongues. I have this great power. I have this great power speaking in tongues." You know, there are 27 books in your Bible in the New Testament, and tongues are only mentioned in two books and a total of four times. You know that? I mean, the issue of tongues is found in two books a total of four times out of 66 books. God mentioned it four times in two books. Yet, when He comes to First and Second Timothy, which is a book that was written to a pastor, not a mention of it. When He wrote to Philemon, which shows you how to be a servant, no mention of it. When He wrote over there to Titus, but it talks about stewardship, no mention.

Now, I am going to show you how this thing works. You have someone over here who says, "Tongue, tongue, tongue, tongue, tongue, tongue," four times out of 66 books and only found in two books. In the Old Testament alone, you have the Second Coming of Christ listed over 1,000 times, and you ask the average charismatic man or woman who speaks in tongues to give you 10 of them, and they could not do it. Now, what is wrong with that picture? You know what they have done? They maximize something that God has minimized, and they minimize something God has maximized. It is that simple. That is how it works. The Second Coming of Christ is over 1,000 times in 39 books of your Old Testament, and you ask somebody to give you 10 of them. Go ahead, try it sometime. I have done it, and you will see the problem. The problem is that most of us, we emphasize the things that God does not, and we under-emphasize the things that God emphasizes, and that is what gets us in trouble.

III. The Infallible Cycle of History

I am going to tell you, all history runs the same pattern. So when I see God, when I see something, whether it is in the Bible, whether it is in history, whether it is in my own life, when I see something repeating itself over and over and over and over again, I just got in my brain, I am onto something because I have learned that God shows me by repetition. I know that my biggest deal is I forget. I know my biggest deal is that I lose sight of what God is doing, and I just, we all as human beings have that problem. I know that God keeps going over and over again and again and again. I am telling you something, I do not care whether it is your own personal life, I do not care if it is the prophecy of the Bible, or I do not care if it is the history of the world, it all follows the same pattern.

There is an infallible cycle in history. If you are going to learn history, and as a Christian, at some point you are going to have to, but if you are going to learn history and you want to make history easy to understand, and history is no more harder than the Bible because the God of the Bible is the God of history. If you want to understand the history, then you have to understand

that there is an infallible cycle of history, and all history runs that way. I do not care if it is nations, I do not care if it is a religion, I do not care what it is, or your life, I do not care what it is, it always goes through a four-point cycle.

It starts with a man, then it runs to a movement, then it moves into a machine, and then it winds up being a monument.

Every nation on this planet started with a man. I do not care about Babylon, I do not care if it is Egypt, I do not care if it is Assyria, I do not care if it is the Roman Empire, or I do not care if it is the USA. Every nation of this planet started with a man. In Egypt, it was the Pharaohs. In Assyria, it was Sennacherib. Over there in Rome, it was the Caesars. In Babylon, it was Nebuchadnezzar. You are going to find that each nation down through history starts with a man. That man develops that nation into a movement, which develops its own country, its own lifestyle, its own philosophy. As long as that nation, movement, man situation never moves past that movement and stays right there, you are okay. It never does. It moves into the machinery, and that is where it gets political. That is where all kinds of moving parts, that is where you have to do this to do that, and everything gets complicated, and it loses its purpose, it loses its goal.

You know what America is right now? America is a prime example of that. America is the greatest country on the face of this planet. It has more technology, more, it has more money, it has more people in it with brain power. It has everything. The problem is, America has lost its purpose. It is like a gigantic machine with a hundred billion moving parts, but nothing ever happens. That is what has taken place. Every empire, Rome, Greece, Babylon, they all get to that machine point, and when it gets to that machine point, it gets so complicated and so political, and pretty soon through the process, they dump God, and they all wind up being a monument. That is why there are no ancient nations on this planet today. They are all in the dust of the Middle East, except one: the nation of Israel.

You see it in a movement. We talk about the Salvation Army. Most people do not know the Salvation Army was started in the middle part of the 1800s by a guy by the name of William Booth, General William Booth. General William Booth was a Confederate General in the Confederate Army, a saved man. After he got out of the army, he started the, he realized a great concept. He realized that God did not call him to be in the Confederate Army or the Union Army; God called him to be in His army. So he started the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army, from the end of the 1800s up to about the 1920s and 30s, was one of the greatest soul-winning organizations the world has ever seen. I mean, to tell you what, there was never more fervor and soul-winning power in any organization than it was in the Salvation Army. It was absolutely the premier object that God used to win in this country and over in England and over in Europe, absolutely millions and millions of people to Christ. You know what it is today? It is a monument. They do not even believe salvation anymore. Their big job now is not winning souls; their big job now is passing donuts out at disasters. There was a time when they went in and they gave out the gospel and they helped relief people, but they gave them the gospel first, and hundreds of thousands of men and women came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Every mission in this country, every mission in this country for the homeless back in the early 20s, was

started by the Salvation Army on the basis of bringing to the place where they brought the truth to the issues of men and women who had those needs. It is unbelievable.

You know how it went? It started with a man, General Booth. It went to a movement, the Salvation Army. Then after his death, it got big time. It got federal grant money. It got this, it got that. It got everything that it needed, and somewhere in the process, it lost its vision and it lost its purpose, and today it is a monument. Nobody believes the gospel. Nobody believes in salvation. They are a relief organization. I am not saying they do not do good, but I have to preface by this: what good is it to help somebody in a natural disaster, to pull them out of the tough time they are in, and then they wind up dying and going to hell for all of eternity? I do not see the purpose in it. It was designed at an intent to win the souls of men and women who were lost while you help them with their needs, and of course, that is where it is at.

Look at the Reformation in 1600 with Martin Luther. He broke out of the Roman Catholic Church. After the Reformation, he started a movement that rocked the world. He started the Lutheran Church. He started a Lutheran Church based on the aspect of the Roman Catholic Church was teaching that you had to be baptized to go to heaven. Martin Luther, who was a Roman Catholic monk, got reading in the Bible in the book of Romans. He found out that the just shall live by faith, and he broke from the Roman Catholic Church, started a Lutheran Church that said a man is saved by the blood of Christ, not by baptism. I will tell you what, I will give you \$500 to find me any Lutheran Church in this city today that believes you get saved by the blood of Christ. They do not. They went right back to what the Roman Catholic Church is teaching. You know why? Because it started with a man, Luther. It went into a movement, and then it got in the process of becoming a machine, and today it is a monument. It all works that way. I do not care if it is a country.

Your salvation is the same way. That is why you forget. God saved you. God made you a new creature in Christ Jesus. That is the movement. Then you got smarter than God, did not you? You thought you could shortcut the principle. You thought you could do it this way. You thought, "Well, I do not need to do that. Well, I do not have to do this. I got the Bible down. I know enough now to get me by." That is why you are deader than a doornail this morning, and you are a monument. You are never going to come to the place where you ever really do anything for God because of the fact that you have went through that pattern of history, and it destroys you.

Now, where you learn that is in the book of Ecclesiastes. We do not have to turn to it this morning, but you learn that in Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verse 3 through 11.

Ecclesiastes 1:3-11

What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlwindeth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full: unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

In Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verse 3 through 11, it tells you one thing: it tells you that all history repeats itself. It says, "there is no new thing under the sun." My famous line is simply this: the only thing men never learn from history is the fact that men never learn anything from history. They never do. So therefore, we are bound to repeat the mistakes of history. You know what? As a Christian, what our biggest problem is? We do not learn from our mistakes. We do not because society is telling us that there is no longer sin in our society. We are victims. Everybody is a victim today. Nobody has any personal responsibility for their sin, so then there is no personal accountability for your sin, and we are all victims. Of course, the Bible says that that is why Christians keep making the same mistakes in their life over and over and over and over again. You are going to see the Bible says that, as he says there in verse 11, that "there is no remembrance of the former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of the things that are to come with those that shall come after." Man forgets.

I am telling you, the biggest problem we have is we forget. Our biggest infirmity as a child of God is we forget. Our biggest problem as a nation is we have forgotten what God did for us. I mean, when did we become a nation? 1776. That is a little over 200 years ago. When they first got the Declaration of Independence and they looked at it, they sent it back to Thomas Jefferson because they did not have enough references to God in it, and they said, "Take it back. We cannot ever have a country that is not built and recognized as what God." You see, they wanted to remember what God did. So Thomas Jefferson took it back. He put in three more references to God, and he brought it back. Back then, everybody understood what God did. Try to find out in your government today where God is at. They have forgotten. You see, they have forgotten. They do not understand that the price of learning is repetition. You have to keep going over it and over it and over it and over it and over it. Christians make that mistake. Countries make that mistake. America has made that mistake.

Now, I am going to tell you something, and I am not a prophet nor am I a son of a prophet, but I am going to tell you this, and you know my stand on this because we have laid it out from the Bible very, very clearly very many times. We are not going to win in Iraq. I wish we would. I wish we could. I wish we would, but we will not win in Iraq. We will not win in Iraq. Listen to me. I do not care. I am glad we dropped two 500-pound bombs down Zarqawi's smokestack last

week. I am all for it. I would drop four or five more just to make sure we got anybody else in 200-yard range. I am glad of that, and I have the most highest respect. It is not our military's fault. Our military is the finest military in the world. We have the finest equipment in the world. We have the finest dedication. We have the finest leadership in the world. We have the finest trainers in the world. We have the finest weaponry in the world. Hey, if you have a jet that you can fly at what, 25,000 feet, look down through a little peep scope and see that thing down there and put that crosshairs on there, and I will tell you what, and drop them suckers, and they go right on bottom within three or four feet, that is some technology. Well, that is a long way from being a foxhole, putting a hand grenade out and said, "Here it comes," and hope you get somebody. We made some ground, but you know what? It is not a problem with our technology. It is not a problem with our soldiers. You know what the problem is? We will not win over there because we did not learn the lesson of Vietnam. You know why we did not learn the lesson of Vietnam? Because we did not learn the lesson in Korea. That is why. You see, once politics get in it, you are not going to win a war.

You know what? I look at this thing, and you know, I hear all these poor guys over there, and all the, I mean, I would hate to be a soldier in the middle of combat over there, and all these different, you are going to have a checklist of rules of engagement before you can shoot somebody. It is not like in the old days where they wore different helmets, different uniforms. It is if they do not wear uniforms today because it is political. You see, it was the same way in my war in Vietnam. It was the same way in your daddy's war in Korea. In Korea, they had to, they could come out of North Korea, they could come down and bomb and strafe, do whatever they want. They would raise the jets, our jets would go after them. You know what they do? Our jets get right on their tail, they fly over the Yalu River, and they have to break off. You know why? Because politics dictated we could not finish the job. You know what it was in Vietnam? They brought them down from the Ho Chi Minh trail. They brought rockets down. They brought weapons down. We could watch them coming down at night, and then we could not do a thing about it. We knew in Hanoi that they had every weapon that there was killing our boys with, and we could not bomb it because of politics. That is what the problem is. We did not learn those lessons.

In World War II, you know what the British said? "The only way we are going to wipe the Germans is to bomb them off the face of the map." You know what they did? They did nighttime bombing. You know what their goal was? Destroy everybody and everything they could. Bomb that thing, burn it down. We did the same thing in the daylight. Bomb it, bomb it, bomb it, bomb it, bomb it. Now, boy, I am telling you, when they hit Dresden, it was a firestorm that killed 40,000 people. I mean, in Schweinfurt and wherever you want to go. Somebody said, "Oh, we just cannot do that. We just could not do that, killing all those poor people over there." Hey, hello, did you see? We won that one. I would hate to be President Truman in 2006 if he was still alive and we were fighting World War II. We would all be speaking Japanese. Why? The way he just could not drop the bomb. I am telling you something, the rules of engagement taught in the Bible are simply this: kill them all, let God sort them out. If you think that is not true, you do not know very much about your Bible. In the Old Testament, God is going to kill them all, and in Matthew chapter 24, 25, He is going to sort them out. But you see, "Oh, that is just ludicrous." I

will tell you what, we are going to lose over there because we did not learn the lesson of Vietnam. We lost in Vietnam because we did not learn the lessons of Korea. You cannot fight a limited war. If you are dumb enough to go to war, then you better be stupid enough to do whatever you have to do to win. You cannot say, "Okay, you can shoot at me, but you have to shoot five times before I can shoot back." That is not going to work. We do not understand that we are Japhethites up against Hamites. That is a big difference.

You know what? I will tell you something. We did not learn the lessons of history. I could tell the President of the United States, if he would have me over for coffee, I would not need dinner, coffee would be enough. I can tell the President of the United States in 15 minutes how to end that war in six weeks over there. But who are they going to listen to me? Who am I? I am some raving radical out here in Kansas City. But I can end that war in 15 minutes. You know why? I learned the lessons of history. You realized that before we had to fight, and the British had to handle them for 200 years, 250 years. You know how when they, when they come up there and they used to, the British had the same problems that we had. They did not like British rule any more than they like us. The British were living over there and dominating them and occupying their country. You know what? They uprise and they kill people. You know what the British did? They just brought in about 400 pigs, got about 20 or 30 terrorists that night, took them down in the square, wrapped their dead bodies in pig skins, and let them down there. They ended that thing in four weeks. You see, when a Muslim comes in contact with a dead pig, he loses his soul. He does not get his 40 virgins. He does not get to go to Allah. It is not worth fighting for. Honest to goodness, pig's blood is just a skin. Oh, you want to get him to talk? Just bring in an oinker and just say, "Hey, pal, you want to talk to me, or do you want to just sprinkle some of this, cut this pig's throat and hang it over?" And then when you shoot, we are going to wrap you in this big old mama's sow over here, and you are going to lay in that thing, and he will tell you everything you want to know. You know why? Because to him, he cannot lose his soul.

You know why they cut our heads off over there? You know why they cut off over there and decapitate us, besides the fact they want to unnerve America? You know why they do it? They believe when they do that to the enemy, they separate his soul from his body. And to him, religiously, what our country, oh, could you see if we, could you see the liberal press? Could you see Hillary Clinton? Could you see Bill Clinton? Could you see any of them if we killed those poor people over there and took the next 25 terrorists we found? Could you see if when you saw the dead, all they did was show you the dead pictures of Zarqawi this week, and we were talking about being violated of the Geneva Convention? You cannot show dead people. Wrap them in a pigskin, show that, watch the world go ballistic. You say, "Do not you know that the world hates us?" Do not you know they already hate us? Do not you know our boys are dying over there, and because they can shoot you and run into a mosque, and you are going to say, "Okay, we cannot shoot you." I would level every mosque over there. Every terrorist I found over there, good thing I am not president. Yeah, I would wrap them in pigskin, put them down there, and say, "Oh, boys, hey, you know what? It is one thing to say, 'Bring it on,' when you say, 'Bring it on,' and you know what you are going to do about it, and that thing in a week is not going to happen." You know why? We do not learn the lessons. We are trapped in a political war. We are trapped in the quagmire of Vietnam all over again. We are trapped in the quagmire of Korea all over again.

It is rules of engagement: you shoot me, but I cannot shoot you. I used to hear the radio traffic coming back over there when they were coming in there and blowing mortars in, and coming down there, and there were guys down there in those fire bases. They were on the phone asking for permission to return fire, and they said, "No, it is not hot enough yet for you to return fire." Many of your brothers and some of your dads got killed over there because they were waiting for an okay from some general who was sitting in an air-conditioned office eating his pork cutlet while our boys out there are paying the price. Politics, politics, never learned it, never learned it, never learned it. The price of learning is repetition.

IV. Repetition in Scripture

You see it in history. You see it in everything. It is like my life in the Bible. I showed you when we came to Genesis, remember when we started Genesis in our study? I showed you in Genesis that there are eight times that God says, "These are the generations of." Every time there is a different subject. One time it was heaven, next time it was Adam, then it was Noah, then it was the sons of Noah, then it was Shem, then it was Ishmael, then it was Isaac, and Jacob. Eight times He says the same thing over again throughout that book of 50 chapters, and every time He says it and repeats Himself, He shows you another great key to the book of Genesis. Repetition. It is the key to learning about everything.

In the book of Exodus, we are going to see this when we start coming up here with some of your groups. The book of Exodus runs 40 chapters. The first 34 chapters, He gives them everything they need to know. He lays out every concept. You know what He does in 35 through 40? He goes over the same material over and over and over again because He knew they would forget. He knew they would forget.

Ever read the book of Deuteronomy? You know what Deuteronomy means? It means "deutero," we get the word "duet," two. Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law. He gave them the law the second time. You know why? Because they forgot it the first time. That is how it works. I do not care if you are the United States, I do not care if you are the greatest country on Earth, I do not care if you are some little piddly Christian sitting out there just trying to struggle through today, the key is learning the lessons of life over and over and over again and knowing why God repeats Himself.

Everything that you do, everything that I do, I mean, ever study the writings of the Old Testament prophets? You have major prophets and minor prophets. People think that the major prophets are more important than the minor. No, that just means the shortness of the books. The major prophets are like 20, 40, 50 chapters. The minor prophets maybe run two or three or four chapters. So major, minor based on how big they are, not how important they are. You know what? Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, it is all the same stuff. If I did not know what I am looking for in the Bible, I would be so bored with those books, it would not be funny. You know why? It is the same stuff over and over. It is all negative. It is all destructive. It is all over and over the same material: blood, sweat, and tears. You are going to get it if you do not do what is

right. You better do what is right because God is going to come and clap you. Every book over and over and over and over, it is all the same.

You know why? Israel had forgotten. When He writes the prophets and the minor prophets, they are in deep Baal worship. They are so far from God, they are so far from God, they are never going to get back. They have forgotten everything that God did for them. They have forgotten every miracle that God did. They have forgotten where God had brought them from, what God had done in their life, and where God was taking them. So He sends these prophets, and these prophets say the same thing over and over again: "Get back to God. Get right with God. God is going to judge you if you do not." They never listen. They never listen. They never listen.

People have the idea that things in the Old Testament, you know, because they happened. Well, you take back here in the book of Numbers, that is always one of my favorite places. Turn over to Numbers chapter 11. I want to show you something. You want to see human nature? You want to see what the nature of Israel's problem was? Numbers chapter 11, verse 4 took place 3,500 years ago. You want to work with people? You want to know what is wrong with me? You want to know what is wrong with you? You want to know what our biggest infirmity is? I am going to show it here. A passage written 3,500 years ago, this event took place 3,500 years ago, and it is the same human nature then as it is now, and it is your problem, my problem, the same problem now.

You know what happened? God brought them out of Egypt. Oh, what a glorious thing that was. We are going to study this when we get to Exodus. We are going to show you how that in Exodus chapter 1, 2, and 3, they are in terrible bondage. Pharaoh, a type of the antichrist, a type of the devil, he is just beating them up one way or the other. You know what he has them doing down there? He has them making bricks. He has them making bricks down there so he could build his pyramid. In other words, he has the chosen people of God making bricks for his ungodly kingdom and everything in it. You know what? They have to have them make bricks. They are going to have straw, and they have to have mud. He starts making them bricks, and I mean to tell you, they are building the pyramids, all that stuff done by slave labor, God's people. What a picture that is of the bondage of you and I in this world that before God saved us, and he is a hard taskmaster. There are many of those people that died while they were there and watched their daddies and their mamas die building them pyramids for somebody else's glory, making those bricks in a brick kiln every day of their life, dying, another generation coming, them die for 430 years. Never got out. Never had a day off. 18-hour days. And out of amusement, when Pharaoh got ticked off, you know what he did? They had to have a certain number of bricks every day. You know what he did for fun? He took out as much hay as he gave them one week and gave them half of what he gave them, but they still had to have the same amount of bricks. That is what the world does. That is exactly what it does to you: rip you up, stomp you down, and put your face in the mud, and then laugh at you, and then beat you up some more. That is the picture.

Then what did God do? Oh, God sent them a deliverer. The Bible says they cried, and God sent them Moses to lead them out. Oh, boy, when He let them out, wow! When He let them out, He just did not say, "Come on, boys, let us go." When He let them out, He let them out by some

incredible miracles. Pharaoh did not want them to go. I will tell you something else, when you decide to leave the world, the devil does not want you to go either. He does not want you to go. Your problems, you know what? When you get saved or you decide to do what is right with God, your problems for eternity are over, but your problems in the flesh are just starting. The devil is going to come after you with a two-by-four. He did them, and God, God through Moses, did all the great miracles, all the great miracles He did. He did right then, and He brought all the great miracles, the fire from heaven, finally wound up killing all the firstborn. Finally, Pharaoh says, "All right, get out of here. You can go." And God took them out. Moses led them. They got to the Red Sea. Pharaoh is coming behind them. What did Moses do? I will tell you what the children of Israel did: they wanted to go back to Egypt. First sign of problems, "Let us go back. Let us go back." You know what God did? He kept doing miracle after miracle after that. He got to the Red Sea. He touched that sea. It split back. They went. You know what they did on the other side? "Oh, God, thank You! Oh, thank You, God! Oh, You are so great! You are so great!" Two weeks later, they are out there. They do not have any water. You know what they are doing? "Let us go back." You know what they did? They forgot what God did at the Red Sea. When they got into the wilderness, they forgot God. God did when He needed water out of the rock. When He got to the place with the manna, they forgot what God did back here. Their whole life is nothing more than your life and my life. You know what it is? Hey, I will tell you what it is. I mean, you may be tall, short, fat, thin, you may be balding like myself, or you may be whoever you are, we all have the same problem: we forget. We forget. We forget the years. We forget them. We forget the works. We forget the wonders. I got out there in the wilderness, and the first time I did not go right for them, "Wow, wow, wow, I want to go back."

I am going to show you human nature. I will show you this thing because it is no different 3,500 years ago than it is with me and you. We have the same problem. That is our infirmity: we do not know how to pray, our flesh, and we forget. We forget. We forget. I do not care how strong you get. I do not care how spiritual you become. I do not care how many times you have been through that Bible, how many times that Bible has been through you, we all have that same infirmity. You get scared, and you forget. You forget to look back at what He did. That was the children of Israel.

Now, I want to show you this. I love this. I love this. God brought them out. God did tremendous things. Here they are in Numbers. They are in the wilderness, and they are up against another tough time: no water, bad situation, hot, dusty, dry, and they are murmuring, just like God's people do. Oh, I love this. Look at verse 4.

Numbers 11:4-6

And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Oh, here it comes. Oh, I love it. Here it comes. Here comes you. Here, hey, forget 3,500 years ago. Cut this out of your Bible and put it right down where we are at today. Here is you and me. Here we are. Here we are. Tough time. Here we come. Oh, here we go. "Oh, we remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely, the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic, but now our soul has dried away. There is nothing at all besides this manna before." Hey, that manna is a type of the Word of God. That is what God gave them to get it through. You know what they are looking back to? The things they had in the world, and they are looking at the Word of God, and they are saying, "Oh, I have this just old Bible. Oh, I remember the way it was back there before. Oh, yeah, in the world. Oh, yeah, the margaritas and all that stuff." You know, "I remember all the fun times we used to have." Look at it. You want to see them forgetting? Watch what happens. Look at this thing, verse 5. "We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt." Here is the key word: "freely." What is wrong with you? Freely? They whipped your back. They crushed you under the stone. They buried your mama and daddy in the mud. Freely? For 430 years, Pharaoh whipped you, beat you, killed you, every despicable thing that he could. Now you are on the other side, and you look back, and you say, "I had all that stuff freely." You see, they forgot. They forgot. They forgot. Numbers chapter 11, verse 5 said, "We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, the garlic." That stuff gives you gas, man. Oh, Numbers 11:4. Oh, okay. Mine is 20:4. You do not have the wrong Bible. I do not want to tell you. They thought they got that stuff free. They paid the most unbelievable price for it for 430 years. You see what happened? They forgot. They forgot how rotten it was before they got delivered. They forgot how all the terrible things that happened to them before God came into their life. They forgot all the great miracles that God did. They forgot. They forgot. They forgot.

That is what happens to you and me. We forget. You know what? It does not stop there. When you finally get to the New Testament, you get the same deal. He gives you Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, four repetitive accounts for the first coming of Christ. You finally get to the last book, the book of Revelation. You know what you get? You get four repetitive accounts of the Second Coming of Christ. You see, the great truth is, the price of learning is repetition.

I will tell you something. You have been saved. You have been saved 20 years. Now, I always let you young Christians out of this thing. You have been saved 20 years or less. You should have been through your Bible 40 times. 40 times. At least 10 chapters a day. I will put you through two times, two and a half times here. 10 chapters a day, 10 measly little chapters a day will put you through three times a year. That would be 60 times through. I have given you 10 of those just for the fact that you have some bad days. 10 chapters a day, 20 years, you ought to have been through your Bible 40 times. 40 times. 40 times. Now, I know there are a lot of God's people that say, "Hey, well, I do not know why you have to keep reading it, reading it, reading it, reading it." Because the law of repetition, you have to keep going over, keep going over, keep reading it, keep reading it. The price of learning is repetition. Saved 20 years, you should be through your Bible 40 times, or you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Absolutely ashamed of yourself.

You know what? Bill Bradley was a great basketball player. I am not much on basketball. I heard him give a talk one time, and he said he was a great shot. You know what he said? Somebody

asked him one time how he became such a great shot. He said, "You know what? For every game," he said, "I probably practiced 5,000 shots for every game I play." He said, "I would go out there when I was a kid in the wintertime, when I would scrape out the snow, my dad would park the car with lights on, and all night long I would practice those shots. I would practice those shots. I would practice those shots. I would practice those shots." So when he gets in a game out there and the pressure is on, you know what he does? He has done it so many times, it becomes absolutely automatic. The price of learning is repetition.

You ever watch the Chiefs play? You ever watch them when they get into that two-minute drill where they are down there in the end zone, they have two minutes left, they have to score? You know what? I heard a guy say one time, they practiced that two-minute drill 500 times a season. 500 times they line up in that situation with the clock running in two minutes with the opposition there. So when they get out there and they get under pressure of the clock, the TV, and all the game on the line, nobody has to worry about the pressure. Everybody just automatically knows that two-minute drill because they have been through it 500 times. Nobody thinks when they snap the ball. The quarterback does not think what he does with it. Their ends do not think what they do about it. Everybody has done it so many times, it just happens. So it ought to be with your Bible. You ought to be those principles so many times. You ought to be through that book so many times. You want to lay those things out.

You know what I tell people about memorizing scripture? Everybody needs to memorize scripture. Somebody says, "Well, I just never could memorize very good." That is not beside the point. What has that got to do with anything? I mean, if you took that attitude, you would not be walking. No, you are kidding. You would be a little kid, and mommy would say, "Come on, take a few steps." You say, "No, I have not walked ever." What kind of attitude is that? Where would you be if you just stopped because you have never done it before? Would you drive a car? God knows some of you do not need to, but would you drive a car? Would you fly a plane? What would, I mean, if our whole life, "Well," but you see, when it always comes to the thing of God, that whole thing comes up, "Well, I cannot do that." That is what Moses did. He said, "Well, I cannot go before Pharaoh. I just cannot do that." That is what we do. That is what we always do.

When you look at that and you understand it, I tell them, I say, "You know what? Get your three by five cards. Put your verse down. Three by five cards. Have eight or nine or ten of them. Put them in your pocket. Every time you have a problem at work, or every time you have a problem with your particular problem, pull those cards out. Just go through those verses. You go through them over and over and over and over again." I have had people go through those verses 500 times a day. I mean, they have looked at those things in the morning. They get up. I used to, when I was driving and I wanted to memorize scripture, I would put those little three by five cards all over my, on the other window and around wherever I was looking. I would see the thing, and it would keep going over and over and over and over and over again. You have to do it. That is how you memorize. You do not memorize by sitting down and saying, "I am going to memorize this," unless you are some kind of genius. You do not memorize. You have to keep going over and over and over. Your Christian life, that will be like the Chiefs' two-minute drill. You ought to be so ingrained with the Word of God that when the pressure of life comes on and

the game of life is on the line and you have to do something, you do not have to think about it. It becomes automatic because you have been there 500 times before. That is how it works. Just that simple. Anything else will not work.

You know what I love about what I have here, and this is good for some of you guys that are working with people? You better learn this lesson. I learned this a long time ago. You know why I like working with people? My week last week was 25 people. 25 people, probably 35 by the time it was all done. 35 hours last week of people coming in and around and sitting down and asking me all different kinds of questions about the Bible. I do that every week. Now, you think I probably do that because I want to help you with the Bible? Forget you. You are on your own. I mean, you can get what you want, but you see, I have a selfish motive in this. You know what you do for me? You take me through the same thing over and over and over and over. I got saved in 1971. You know what? After the first 20 years in the ministry, I have never been asked another question about the Bible somebody has not asked before. Somebody said, "Do not you ever get tired of that?" No. You know why? Because the price of learning is repetition. I have four coming in on Monday. I have three coming in on Tuesday. I have two or one coming in on Wednesday and also Saturday during the day, and all times through the week during the day, they come over. You know what they say? "What does the Bible say about this? What does the Bible say about this?" And every week it just keeps going over and over and over and over and over and over. You do that for me. You guys that are discipling people, you let those people do that for you. They keep you sharp in the Word of God because they keep asking you, and it forces you to go over the Bible over and over. Hey, you know, one time, one week, I had five people ask me the same question. Now, you think you would get discouraged with that? You think you would slap them alongside the head and say, "Why do not you read something else?" No. You know why you do not? The price of learning is repetition. That is why you take it, and I promise you, by the time you ask me the fifth time, hey, you know this is true. You know it is true back there. You know those things we did in Genesis? How many groups did I do Genesis that I come through? I have some bad news for you. The last group got a lot more than the first group. In fact, some of you picked up on it. Some of you are not as dumb as you look. Some of you picked up on it. Some of you snuck somebody in to tape the last one because you knew I had lots more on there than I did the first time. You know why? You know what the answer to that is? The answer obviously is that I am so astute when it comes to the Word of God and its sensitivity to the Holy Spirit of God that I just see. The answer is, I am so stupid, it took me 500 times to get through it, and every time I did, God showed me something else. Every time I would come away from the first group, and I would say, "Oh, I never saw that before. I will put that in the second one." I did a second one. I got five more things I got from the first one, so I put those in. But I got to the third one, I got four more things. Now I know what you are all going to do. You are all going to wait till the last. But you know what? As I went through it, I saw things. I redefined things, and I will tell you what, that is how it works. You have to do it that way. That is how it works. You want to learn the Bible? That is how you learn it. You want to memorize scripture? That is how you do it. You want to get it into your heart? That is how you do it. You want to maintain it? That is how you do it. You get people in your life that want to learn the Bible, and then you just let them have everything you want, and you keep learning as they learn, and you learn. You learn from me. I learn from you. I do not know how many times when you come up to

my little upstairs office up there, which is the Holy of Holies, you go through that veil, and over there, you know what you will see on my right hand over there? You know what you will see? You will see a little notepad with a pen. You know that notepad is for? When I reach over and write something down there while you are still talking, I guarantee right now, you just showed me something I did not see. I do not want to forget it. I do not want to forget it. Hey, you know me, I know you. We forget. We forget. How many times somebody has come to my house and said, "Well, I had a bunch of questions I want to ask you, but I forgot what they were." I always say, "Well, do not you write them down?" "Oh, yeah, I need to know to, I need to, but I just do not." I do not either. That was my biggest problem before I started writing them down. I do not remember. You could teach me the greatest thing in this world. I will be driving down a road. Now, here is some quote on a radio that is just absolutely great, and I say, "Well, I can use that." By the time I get home, I will have forgotten what it was, and I will be mad at myself all day, kick the dog, beat the wife. I mean, it just ruined my day. I will tell you what, you have to go over and over and over and over, and you never get tired of it.

V. The "Little While" Principle

Now, let me show you a couple of things here, and then we are going to be done. I want you to get two passages of scripture. I want you to get Hebrews chapter 10, verse 36, and I want you to get John chapter 16, verse 16. Now, hopefully these two references are correct. We talked a while back. I am going to show you how it works in your Bible for a minute, then I am going to come back to the practical. We have looked at the historical. I showed you how it works through history, through nations, through kings, through everything. Now, here is how it works for you and for me. Now, watch this. You are going to find a little phrase in your Bible. I did not give this to you when we came through the other stuff because I was saving it for now, but you are going to find a little phrase in your Bible, and that little phrase is called a simple little phrase. It says, "a little while." Three words: "a little while." Now, wherever you find that phrase "a little while," the context is always going to be the Tribulation Period. I did not give you that before because I was saving it for now, but I want to show you this thing.

Look at Hebrews chapter 10. Go there first. Now, I am going to show you how God teaches you things by repetition.

Hebrews 10:36-37

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

He is talking to the nation of Israel. Now, we know that receiving the promise is the Millennium. We know that. Look at verse 37: "For yet a little while." See that thing? Tribulation. He says, "You are going to get the promise, but yet for a little while." You have to go through the Tribulation. "And he that shall come," Christ, "will come, and will not tarry." You know what He is saying? He is saying, "God has the promises for you. You are going to get those promises in

the Millennium, but you have to wait a little while." That little while is seven years, called the Tribulation Period.

Now, let me show you something. Turn over to John 16. I will show you how God takes these things and shows you. John 16:15. Watch this now. You are reading over here sometime, and if you are paying attention, watch this play on words.

John 16:15-19

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

Now look at it. Look at verse 16: "little while, little while," two. Look at verse 17: "little while, little while," three and four. Verse 18: "little while," five. Verse 19: "little while, little while," six and seven. Seven "little while" for the seven years of the Tribulation Period, because "little while" in your Bible is the Tribulation. See how that thing works? That is how that thing works.

VI. The "Seven Thunders" Principle

Want to see it again? Want another one? These are like, I do not know what your favorite candy is. Mine is Fireballs. I used to throw them up and catch them in my mouth, but I brought two teeth out with them. I do not do that anymore. Want another one? Come to Revelation chapter 10. I will show you another one. Now, sometime go out and get you a commentary on Revelation. They are all about the same. Revelation chapter 10, verses 1 through 4. I am just happy with myself. I got the last two references right.

Revelation 10:1-4

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

Here it comes, watch this. "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven." Here are all your key words, here we go. "From heaven, clothed with a cloud and a rainbow was upon his head. And his face was as it were the sun and his feet as pillars of fire." You pick up all those key words so far: cloud, rainbow, sun, fire. See all those things? We know the context is the Second Coming, do not we? All right, here we go. Verse 3: "And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth." Ah, there it is. Now we know it is Christ. There is Christ, the Lion. Here it comes, watch it, watch it, watch it, watch it. "And when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices." Seven thunders uttered their voices. "And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write." Here it comes, get spooky now. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, 'Hey!'" I am going to catch your attention here. Here is what he said. "Voice from heaven, saying unto me, 'Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not.'"

Now, everybody ever read on Hebrews says, "No, this is where Hebrew gets really mystique. Oh, some things were sealed up here. And these seven thunders, we know their voices, but we do not know what they are." "Oh, I read a commentary last night when the guy said, 'Only time will tell when God reveals this great truth what these seven voices really are. They are like in the seven thunders. Oh, the mystique and the mysterious book of Revelation. Oh, if these things were only opened.'" You see, everybody takes the position that when he said to seal it up, that means he was not going to tell you. Nobody ever takes the position that he told him to seal it up because they already told you what they were someplace else. Hello.

Come back to Psalms. Want to see them? I will show them to you. Psalms 29. Now, we know the seven thunders are the voice of the Lord. And they are called seven thunders, seven times. God says something about the Second Coming of Christ, but the details are not given. Details found in Psalms chapter 29, verses 1 through 11. Oh, yeah, oh, yeah, oh, yeah. Nothing like a Bible to clear up a seminary education. See, when I see God repeat something over and over and over and over again, you are onto something.

Now look at Psalms 29. Here we go. I will clear your seatbelt.

Psalms 29:1-11

Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.

The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Here it comes. "The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn." There is a little unicorn from last week. "The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. The LORD," Second Coming, here it comes. "The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever." There is the Millennium forever. "The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace." There is the Millennium. All right, let us test it. Verse 3, there is one. Verse 4, there is two and three. Verse 5, there is four. Verse 7, there is five. Verse 8, there is six. Verse 9, there is seven. See that thing? Seven times you find the voice of the Lord. What you have here is the voice of the Lord of the seven thunders. It is laid out in detail in Psalms chapter 29, what was not given over in Revelation chapter 10, verses 1 through 4. The way you find that out is seven times repetitiveness. He says, "the voice of the LORD thundereth." Seven times, seven times, seven times. That is how you figure out your Bible. That is how you figure out your Bible.

VII. The Root Cause of Forgetting: "Self"

All right, now we are going to go back to the practical. We are going to close with this. This is going to hurt. That is what the doctor said before he gives you the shot. This is going to hurt. But you have to get it. I do not want to tell you. I hate it as much as you do. In fact, I have a big line here in a little note that said, "If we can get out of this and run out of time, please do so." But I have time to do it. I hate this. I hate it. You see, you guys think, you see, I love the Bible, but I do not like everything in the Bible. Because some of it points back to me, and I do not like that. But you know what I have learned to do? I learned what the Bible says in the book of Psalms, or the book of Proverbs. It says, "He is in love with the honeycomb, even the bitter things are sweet." You love that book so much, you like, the bitter stuff is just as good as the sweet. Because you know what? I know I need it. You know why I need it? Because I have an infirmity. You know what my biggest problem is? My biggest problem is I forget what He did before I got saved. I forget the day He saved me. And I forget what He did afterwards. That is my biggest problem. And that is your biggest problem.

You know what the biggest problem is in forgetting God and all those things? It is one word, one word. I mean, you might think it would be a great study to take in the Bible, it is not. I mean, it is a study nobody wants to take. But you want to see human nature? You want to see human nature in the infirmity you do not pray, in the infirmity of your flesh, in the infirmity of your forgetfulness? You want to know why we forget God? It is so easy. We forget God for one little word, one little word. And it is true in my life and your life. One little word. There is no great ecclesiastical study. It is one little word. One little word is the word that I define for you and for me why we forget God. I do not know who you are. I mean, I know who you are. I do not know where they are going to push you. I do not know what goes on in your heart. I do not know what your struggles are. I know what my struggles are. I know you have struggled. We all have them. Sitting here this morning, everybody is in various positions in your relationship with God. Some good, bad, some indifferent. Some trying to get back, some not wanting to get back. Some here because somebody invited, you did not want to make a fuss for not coming. Some of you sitting down here to gobble everything up. You like the good things and the bad things. Well, thank you for three or four of you. I appreciate that. But you know what the biggest problem is? One little word: "self." Itself.

Now, I am going to show you how this thing works. You like repetitiveness? Here it comes. Want to learn about human nature? Here it comes, here it comes. Now, take your Bible and turn it over to Isaiah 14. We are going to start with the devil and work back to you and me. While you are turning there, let me give you a little insight on the devil. Him and I being so close, I could give you a lot of insight on him. There was a time in your Bible when the devil was not a devil. Of course, you know that if you have been around here long enough. The Bible says back in Ezekiel chapter 28 and Isaiah chapter 14, the Bible says that he was the anointed cherub that covered the throne. He was something in God's original creation that, as we know from the Bible, in time, he led a revolt against God. And all in God's timing, all in God's plan, nothing surprised God. But when it all came down at the end of the day, you had the devil and you had God. And then our history picks up from there. That is why we have light versus darkness, heaven versus hell. In fact, if you are here this morning and you are unsaved and you never trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, the good news is God never prepared hell for you. The Bible says in Matthew chapter 25 that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, not you. But if you go there, it is because you choose to go there. But anyway, that is another message.

But look at Isaiah chapter 14. Now, here are the verses that deal with his folly. Then we are going to look at why he fell. Now, if you would go over to Ezekiel chapter 28, I do not want you to turn to it yet, but if you go to Ezekiel chapter 28, sometime turn over there, maybe this afternoon, and read verses 1 through 17. You are going to find that when he was in his pre-fallen state, now we are going to read about his fall here. But in his pre-fallen state, the Bible said he was the most beautiful being that God ever created. The Bible says that outside the Godhead, he was the most knowledgeable and wisest being that God ever created. The Bible says that he had all the power of God at his fingertips. In other words, basically it was God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and then God had given Lucifer control of everything. He had everything. The Bible says he was perfect in beauty. The Bible said he was perfect in knowledge and understanding in the sum of all wisdom. He had all power. He had everything at his fingertips. And there lies the

beginning of the problem. Because when you come over here in Isaiah chapter 14, where we are going now, let us look at his fall. Let us see the reason why he fell. You are going to find that the basic reason why the devil fell is the same basic reason that you and I as God's people have the infirmity of forgetting.

Isaiah 14:12-15

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning? How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations? For thou hast said in thine heart." See that thing? Where it starts? Always starts in the heart. Let us see what it, let us catch the repetitiveness of here. "For I have set in thy heart, I will ascend into heaven," one. "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God," two. "I will set upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north," there is three. "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds," four. "I will be like the most High," five. See that thing? You know what his problem was? It was self. You know what? He got focused on his beauty, his wisdom, his glory, all that he had, and five times you find out that he had a bad case of the "I"'s. I, I, I, I, I. Forget God, forget God's glory, forget God's wisdom, forget God's majesty. It is me. That is the most important thing in his world. That was the devil's number one problem.

Now, let us take that, show you a man on planet Earth, have the same problem. Stay in Isaiah, come back to Isaiah chapter 10. Now, this is the king of Assyria. This will be Sennacherib in history, 589 BC, thereabouts. The great king of Assyria. Now, the king of Assyria was an unsaved man. You are going to find that the biggest problem the devil had will be the problem of man in general. That is standard course of human nature. You are going to find the devil's problem, that will be man's problem, it will be pride. It will be arrogance. It will be his self. All right, let us look at the king of Assyria, verse 13. Here it comes.

Isaiah 10:13-14

For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man:

And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.

"For he saith," king of Assyria, "by the strength of my hand." See that thing? I. There it is. "Have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent, and I have removed the bounds of the people and robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man, and my hand hath

found as a nest the riches of the people, and as one gathereth eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth, and there was none that moved the wing, nor opened the mouth or peeped." You know what he is saying? He says, "I am the most important guy in this world. I am the one that does it. Forget God. It is I and my. It is me. I am the one." He is stuck on himself. Self. Now, he is a politician, see. Now, that answers a lot of questions for you. That answers a lot of questions that men love power. Men love power because with power comes arrogance and pride. That is why a man will spend \$28 million to run in a campaign to be a congressman or a senator that only pays \$150,000 a year. You ever figure that out? You have a four-year term, you get paid what, \$200,000 a year, and you spent \$28 million to get there. You know why? Because it is about power. A president gets paid what, \$200,000, \$300,000 a year? The last president, they spent about \$600 million to get that thing. One of them lost, one of them won, and he only makes \$300,000 a year for four years. What is the deal? That is not a good deal to you? Would you go try to get a job at Walmart or get a job at some store someplace and pay them \$60,000 so you could get a \$10 an hour job? Hello? You know what it is? Power. You know what it is? "I get in that position, people will see me. It will be CBS, NBC calling me. They will put me on Nightline, Dateline. They will put me on Fox Four. They will put me on this, they will put me on that. They will be asking my opinion. People will see me. I will become popular. I will become a world-renowned figure." Because you know why? Because it is all about me. Where it goes.

Now, you want to see it down to the practical level? Here it comes. Luke chapter 12. Number one problem you and I have is we forget the years, we forget the works, and we forget the wonders. We do. That is a terrible thing. I have to struggle with it just like anybody else does. I will tell you what, I never point my finger at anybody because we all have the same mess. In this one here, we are all guilty, all guilty. The only one thing you can do, and that is to commit suicide. That is the only answer to this, committing suicide. I will show you how we are going to do that in a minute. They are making a punch down the street down here. They are going to bring it up to us. No, I am serious, you think I am kidding. The only one way out of this, commit suicide. I will show you how we are going to do that in a minute.

Luke 12:16-21

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

You thought this was a cult, now you know for sure. Well, do not run out the door just yet. We have guys out there who will shoot you in the parking lot. Here we go. Luke chapter 12. Now, here it comes. We saw it with the devil, then we saw it with a king. Now, let us go down just to a little good old guy that is like me and you. Verse 16, Jesus speaking. "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully. Now here comes human nature. And he thought within himself." You see where it started with him? The same place it started with the devil. Catch that. Started the same place with him as it started with the devil. The devil said, "I said in my heart." This guy said, "within himself." It all starts the same place, folks. The bottom line with us is when we think we get too important, we get too important to this world, that we think all that God gave us was for us, instead of for God, we are in trouble. "And he thought within himself saying, here it comes, What shall I do? See, what shall I do because I have no room where to bestow my fruit?" He just got so much, he does not know what to do with it. You see, God blessed him. He had a lot, and he got thinking that he had something to do with it. "What shall I do because I have no room where to bestow my fruit? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, I will build greater and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods and I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much good laid up for many years. Take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry." And I think the rest of that goes, "for tomorrow you die." Look at verse 20, God has different ideas. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee. Then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself and is not rich toward God." See that thing? Self, self.

Now, he is talking about a rich man here, but he is not just about money. It is not always about money. You do not need money to be prideful. You do not need money to get unself. Well, I have seen kids on the street riding skateboards. I have seen girls that do this or kids that do that. It does not take money. You read that verse, you think, "Oh, that is just talking about rich people." It is not always about rich people. It is talking about you and me thinking that you and I are better than what we are and that we have some control over life. You know why I come? Because you forget. You forget the years. You forget the day. You forget the wonders.

Now, that is what is wrong with the church. That is what is wrong with the church. The mark of the Laodicean church in Revelation chapter 3, verse 14, is simply found in verse 17 where it says:

Revelation 3:14, 17

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

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:

"Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable, poor, blind and naked." The church today is totally about self. "We have this magnificent building. We have this great complex. Oh, let us call it a campus. We have this magnificent staff to serve you. We have a \$200,000 organ. We have a

\$400,000 multimedia presentation. We have beautiful stained glass windows. We have bells and those people so we could have bats. We have all this great. We have a restaurant. We have Starbucks. We have, we are going to do everything to feed your flesh, but when it comes to feeding your soul, sorry, we do not have anything." You see what the Bible says? I mean the church of God, He says, "knowest not that thou art wretched, thou art miserable." God's people are the most miserable people in the world today. I mean, I am telling you, we are the ones that are supposed to have the victory. We are the ones that are supposed to have the joy. We have more problems in our lives as God's people. You know why? Because the bottom line is we are wretched and we are miserable. We have let the world run over us. We have lost the true riches. We do not have anything we know about the Bible, but we know everything about everything else in life, and I am telling you what, we have lost the true riches, and He says down here that you are poor, spiritually poor, blind. You cannot get anything out of the Bible, and you are naked, and that nakedness goes to the judgment seat of Christ. You see?

VIII. Conclusion

God teaches you by repetition, kids, and I am telling you, that is why He keeps going over it again and again and again and again. That is why when it comes to your Bible, you have to read it over and over and over and over. That comes because you forget the years. You forget the way it was before you got saved. You will forget the day God saved you. You will forget the great wonders that He did to bring you where He is at. I do not know how many times a young man has come to me and he struggled. I had a guy one time that was getting ready to go out into the ministry, and he came to the point when he came in to see me and he was frazzled, and this kid was a good kid, and he had done everything by the book, and he came in and he was all frazzled because he said, "You know what?" He said, "I am really afraid." He said, "I just do not know." And I know he was stepping out for the first time and out there all by himself, and I told him, I said, "Hey," he lost sight of it. He lost sight of it. He lost sight of the fact of the day before he got saved, and then how God saved him, and how everything in his life from that point, God brought him to this point. And I said, "Hey, pal, do you think God saved you back there, put you all through what you went through to bring you here to fail you now?" You see what we forget? I do not care how good you are. I do not care how spiritual you are. I do not care how smart you are. It has nothing to do with that. It has to do with the price of learning, its repetition, and you better get it in your head. You better get a relationship with God. If you are going to know that book, if you are going to do what God wants you in these last days, then you are going to have to get into a program of over and over and over and over and over because that is how God does it. Because God knows inherently that our infirmities, that our greatest infirmities, we do not know how to pray. We are stuck with this flesh. But the most terrible thing is we forget. We forget what He did before He saved us. We forget the day He saved us. How could you ever, if you truly got saved, how could you ever, I do not understand, how could you ever go back to that pig path called the world? How could you ever forget the day God reached down over the banisters of heaven and jerked your soul and my soul out of the pit of hell, cleaned me up, gave me His righteousness? How could you ever forget that? We do. And all that God has done for you. Sometimes we look at all the events that God orchestrates in our life to bring us to one point in our life, though God

can do something with us, and we miss that. And because of self, we focus on what we do not have and miss what God has for us.

I am telling you, that is our problem. As a church, that is our problem. That is why we will never have stained glass windows. There will be no bells in our belfry. There will be no sound system. I told you before, our claim to fame is the jungle gym down the hallway. It will not go any farther than that. Because we are not ever going to forget. I am not ever going to forget how we started. I do not ever want to get so big and so professional with all the stuff that we forget about the little guys out there that are struggling like some of us are right now. I do not ever want to get to that point. As a pastor, I do not want to get to the point where I am living up here and you are down here. That I am paying all my bills and I am just breezing through life, and some of you are sweating out gas payments, car payments, house payments. Some of you have none at all. Hey, we do not ever want to get to that place. We do not ever want to get there. I will tell you what, when you start in your heart that you are thinking that all that you have got, God gave you for yourself instead of doing what God wants you to do, you are on your way. You are on your way.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. We are going to be done here in just a second. Now you know that God teaches you by repetitiveness. History goes by it. Your own personal life and my life goes by it, and you saw some examples in the Bible go by. Let me ask you a question. Every head bowed and every eye closed. No one looking around. Now, maybe you are here this morning, and like I said earlier, I said when we are done with this today, the beauty of the Word of God, the beauty of the Holy Spirit of God is everybody knows exactly where you are at and what you need in your heart and your life today. Now, let me just ask you this. If you are here this morning, and every head bowed, no one looking around, and God spoke to your heart, and you would say to me this morning, "You know what, Bob, boy, I do not understand everything you said today, and boy, I tell you one thing, God got one thing true to me today, and that is simply this: there has never been a time in my life, there has never been that work in my life, there has never been that day. Bob, if I was to die right now, I do not know for sure that I would go to heaven to spend any time with the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not know. I do not know for sure that my sins have been forgiven." You know the Bible says that you can know.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

You can know today. So with every head bowed in the last few moments before we are finished, would you let me pray for you? If you are a young lady here this morning, or maybe a young man, or a mom, or a dad, and you have been coming for a couple of months or weeks, or maybe this is your first time here today, God spoke to your heart.