

# Romans 1:19-20

Sunday 6/4/2006

Everything in the Bible is for you, but not everything in the Bible is written directly to you. When I talk about rightly dividing the Word of Truth, I am talking about the ability to separate who it is being written to and what He is saying to them. That is the issue we saw in Matthew 25 when I talked about the great doctrine of the Bible, the doctrine of eternal security. You are able to know for sure you are saved, and you find the context and divide it out by the words. We went through it last week, and I am not going to spend time going through it again because we have a lot of material today.

The thing I want you to understand is that there are three people groups addressing your Bible. God writes part of the Bible to a Jew, the Old Testament nation of Israel. God writes some of the Bible to the Gentile nations, and God writes some of the Bible to the church, the body of Christ. You know where you get heresy? You get heresy when a man or a woman that teaches the Bible, and this happens all the time, takes something to Israel and gives it to the church, or takes something to the church and gives it to Israel, or takes something written to Gentiles and tries to apply it one way or the other. Understanding the context of your Bible is simply understanding this passage, this book, this subject, this chapter is written to whom? That is what we have been showing you, and the way that you find that out is by the individual words.

I have given you, I do not know if you are counting or not, I have given you over 50 so far in the last three or four weeks that we have been together. So you are getting all of the key major words that place the context, and that is what it is all about.

## I. Similitude: The Third Way to Study the Bible

Today we are going to move into the third way. We studied contrast, we looked at association, and now we are going to look at similitude. As far as I am concerned, I do not know any single thing that has not only taught me the Bible, but continually teaches me the Bible more than similitude. Similitudes in the Bible are simply things that are similar. We are going to be moving through the Bible here this morning, so the first thing I want you to do is turn over to Hosea 12.

If you are a visitor here this morning, I would encourage you just to sit back and enjoy it. You do not have to really turn anywhere if you do not want to. I just want you to sit back and listen, just enjoy the day, just enjoy the time. But if you have been around here for a while, then turn over to the book of Hosea. We want to go to chapter 12. He says to Hosea, and He says this a number of places in the Bible. He says it in Numbers 12, Deuteronomy 4, Psalms 106, and Habakkuk 7. He uses the word that God uses similitude.

Here is what He says in Hosea 12:9-10:

*Hosea 12:9-10*

*9 And I that am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.*

*10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.*

Now, I told you from day one when we started our church, and many of you were not here then. Some of you were. Many that were here then are not here now. But I told you the very first day that the Bible is a really easy book to understand. It is simple. Our ministry is a very simple ministry based on just believing the Bible as God has given it to us. But what God does is God, even though the Bible is simple, God hides His truth from people who do not believe it. We know that we talked about this a couple of Thursday nights ago. We went through The Da Vinci Code on Thursday night. I showed you how that the Gnostics, the great minds of the Bible, so to speak, in their own minds anyhow, they always try to make the Bible more complicated than it is.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 is a very clear passage, and it is a very familiar passage, or it should be. It shows you that the main job of the devil is to corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ. God is simple to understand. The Bible is simple to understand. Every week that we spend more time in the Bible, you ought to be grasping how simple it is, and in time you will put it together. There is no mystery to it, no mystery to it at all. Because of that, God uses similitude.

## II. The Words "As" and "Like"

Because God uses similitude, two of the greatest words in your Bible to teach you the Bible are two of the most basic, simplest words you are ever going to find. You know what it is? It is the word "as" and the word "like." Those two words alone, once you understand what I am giving you today, and this is why I said, you are all going to grow up five years today if you have got any kind of spiritual base, and some of you, many of you will just grasp a lot of stuff today no matter where you are at because you are a smart guy and smart gal. But I am saying this to you: the words "as" and "like," once I lay out what similitudes are, you will never look at those two words the same way again.

I would advise you at some time in your life, with all the other things I would advise you to do in your life, which when you count them all up would take five lifetimes to do, but that is beside the point. I would advise you at some point in your Bible to mark all the words "as" and "like" in your Bible, in yellow or red, or I do not care what color, mark them so they jump out at you. That is a little bit of a task because there are a lot of them in there. But you know how I did it? I just did it as I found them, and then over the course of 10 years I had them all done. I still do not have them all done, but I know to look for it now. But "as" and "like" are two of the greatest words you are ever going to find.

Here is how it works. You are reading the Bible. You have got to understand now that the great teacher of the Bible is not me. The great teacher of the Bible is the Holy Spirit of God. When you build a relationship with the Holy Spirit of God, that is how God teaches you the Bible. It is a lot like you are reading your Bible, and it is a lot like the Holy Spirit of God is kind of standing over your shoulder just like this. And what He does, He is just like this, He is pointing things out to you, and you are reading something down through there, and God says, "Bob, do you see this?" And I say, "Yes, Lord." And He says, "Okay, Bob, this is like this." Okay? I am reading down

through there, and God will say to me, "Bob, do you see how that thing went?" And I will say, "Yes, sir, I see how that went." He says, "Bob, that thing is just like this thing." And He takes those two little words "as" and "like" and shows you by similitude things that are similar. When you are done here this morning, you are going to have it because I am going to show you some examples.

### III. Romans 1:19-20: The Greatest Verse on Similitude

Based on that, the greatest verse in your Bible on similitude is Romans 1:19-20. You know what that verse says? It says this:

*Romans 1:19-20*

*19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

That is the greatest key in the Bible, as far as I am concerned, for learning by similitude. If you can just savor this verse and grasp this verse, man, you are on your way. You know what He is saying? That is the greatest verse on similitude because it says everything that God made physically will show you something that God made spiritually. All through your Bible, God is going to use a number of things to show you what is similar, and He is going to do it 99 times out of 100 by the words "as" and "like." He is going to show you that by the things that He created physically, they all are a manifestation of something that God wants to teach you.

When you grasp that verse, you will enter into a time in your life where you will learn from God and the Word of God by everything you do. It will no longer be just relegated to the time you spend in the Bible. It will be what you do at work. It will be driving down the road and you will learn things by what you see. You will be listening to the news. You will be listening to something else on TV. You will be watching TV or the radio and you will learn by everything that is out there because that verse says everything God created is a picture of something that God wants to show us. That is similitude.

### IV. God's Pattern of Three

I do not know what you know about God, but let me break this down for you. God created everything. There is no question about that. Here is how it worked. Back there in Genesis 1, the Bible says that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. That must have been a beautiful time. I would have liked to have been there. But I kind of know how it went just by knowing the Bible even though I am not there. God walked out on a banister and a balcony of the third heaven at one point and looked down through an empty universe. God was pondering what He was going to do.

We know that God is a Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We know in Genesis 1 when God was going to make man and all those things, they had a conversation among themselves. Remember that? He says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." That is the three of them getting together. So I know that it happened that way in Genesis 1. I am sure Michael the Archangel was there. I am sure that all the angels were there. They are standing out there and they are all kind of anxious because when God is out there, God is going to do something. They all know God is going to do something because that is what God does. He does things.

So they are out there and Michael said, "God, what are You thinking about doing?" And He said, "I am going to create a universe. Hundreds of universes. Thousands of universes. I am going to put a plan together. I have got a plan. We have been talking about it. We are going to make a plan out there that is going to be unbelievable. I have got a plan that is going to go through eternity and it is going to start today. I am going to create a whole bunch of stuff." Michael said, "Well, how are You going to do it?" And He said, "Well, I am going to speak it into existence by the power of My word." That would be Psalms 33 for you. He says, "Oh, You have a plan." God said, "Oh, He has got a plan. You have a pattern." Always got a pattern. They said, "What kind of plan pattern have You got?" God said, "You know what? When I make all that stuff, I have got to have a perfect pattern. I have got to have a perfect plan. I have got to have a perfect pattern."

We talked about this all night last night, the three in the Trinity. And He says, "The most perfect pattern in the world is Me. The most perfect pattern in the world is God." God said, "I am a Trinity. I am God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So everything I make, I want to make it so Bob Alexander and the people in the Old Path Baptist Church can learn everything about Me. So I am going to use Myself as a perfect pattern. I am going to give them a pattern of everything based on Me. They are going to understand the things that they cannot see by understanding the things that I made."

So God did it all. God made everything physical. God was God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So He made everything after that pattern. The pattern of the creation of God and physical things will be the number three.

- God made man. God says man is not complete. So He made him a woman. He said now he is still not complete because for something to be complete, you have to have the third part. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So God made a family. A family is a husband, a wife, and a child. You are not a family till you have that third part.
- No math problem is complete without the third part. Two and two is incomplete till you get six.
- In Genesis 1, He said, "I am going to make man." When He made man who was physical, He gave man a body, a soul, and a spirit.
- He said, "I am going to make space." So space becomes length, width, and breadth.
- He says, "I have got to make things that are made out of matter." So matter is source, generation, and position.
- He says that matter can take three forms: it can be liquid, solid, or gas.

- He says, "I am going to make three kingdoms." I am going to make the animal kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, and the mineral kingdom.
- He says, "When I make the earth, the earth is going to be made up of the land, the air, and the sea."
- A little bit later I am going to give them the army, the navy, and the air force.
- When He made the atmosphere, it is the ionosphere, stratosphere, and the exosphere.
- Somebody said, "Lord, they ought to have some music down there so they can sing about You." He said, "I am going to have music and music is going to be harmony, rhythm, and melody."
- Somebody said, "Lord, You ought to give them the ability to paint beautiful pictures about You and the things of God." He said, "I am going to have art and art is going to be perspective, composition, and form."
- He says, "You ought to give them a Bible." He says, "I am going to give them a Bible." And that Bible is going to be written in Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.
- He said, "You ought to give it to the people." And He said, "It is going to go to the people and there is going to be three races: Caucasian, Negroid, and Oriental."
- He says, "Well, You ought to build a church." He said, "We are going to have a church." And a church is going to be made up of bishops, elders, and deacons in leadership.
- He said, "Well, what about the Old Testament?" He said, "The Old Testament is going to be the law, the prophets, and the writings."
- What about the Bible itself? It is going to be the New Testament, the Old Testament. Somebody said, "Well, Lord, that is incomplete." He said, "No, My Son is going to be the third one. He is the written word that was incarnate on man's earth." See that thing works? God has a pattern.
- In the New Testament, it is the Gospels, the Acts, and the Epistles.
- In the Old Testament, it is Moses, Elijah, and Elisha.
- In the New Testament, it is Peter, James, and John.

You see how it works? It works just that simple. When I teach you the Bible, I teach you your Bible is put together doctrinally, inspirationally, and historically. If I had a magic marker, I would put a line on this wall. That line has three parts. It has a length, it has a width, and if you could get a microscope, you would have a depth to it or a breadth to it. You cannot have that line without all three marks. You cannot have that line with two marks, just like your kid cannot walk with one shoe. You have got to have three dimensions on that line. If you take any one of them away, you do not have the line.

So that is why I am telling you, when you learn your Bible, when I teach you the Bible, I am teaching it to you right. I am saying there is a historical application, there is a doctrinal application, and there is an inspirational application. Any man who does not teach that is teaching you wrong. I do not care who he is. I do not even know him. Do not want to know him. Do not care to know him. I know the pattern. See, I know how it works.

Now you take time. Time is past, present, and future. You cannot take any one of them away and still have everything. I tell people all the time, as a child of God, the reason why you need to

know your Bible historically, because history is past. The reason why you need to understand the inspirational application, because history is present. The reason why you need to know the doctrinal application, because history, time is future. See how that thing works? Just like there are three parts to that line, there are three parts to time.

Let me tell you something. You know what is wrong with the Christians? The Christians have one dimension. They kind of know where they are at now. Well, I am going to tell you something. You have got to have three parts to the line, and anything in there that has only got two, and you do not have the third, you are incomplete. If you do not know where you come from as a child of God, do not tell me you know where you are going. If you do not know where you come from, and you do not know where you are going, do not tell me you know where you are at. See how it works? God is a pattern. So when I teach you about God, I follow that pattern. Any time I deviate from that pattern, I am wrong. I am doing wrong. That is the order of it.

When you go through your Bible, we talked about this the other night in Proverbs, you have got knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. See how it works? The first two make you incomplete. It is the third one that gives you the complete thing. That is how it works. So God takes the things that He made that are physical, and then by using similitudes through "as" and "like," shows you by how things are similar to understand what God made that is invisible. You want to understand God? Understand similitudes. Understand the words "as" and "like."

Some of you in time, you are going to make good counselors. You have already got a good base. I see in you the ability to handle things, plus your own things. I am telling you, in time, you are going to learn how to work with people. You know how you learn about human nature? Because that is people. The Bible will teach you more about people through similitudes of "as" and "like" than any other thing I know. I could sit down and I could give you every psychology book. I could give you every book on therapy, and every book on man's problems in the history of the world. And you know what? I am telling you, you have got a book there that God details out every problem that a man ever got into, or a woman, shows them how they got in, shows them why they are in it, shows them how to get out of it. You might know it was three. That thing lays itself out over and over again, and God shows you by the things that He made. The reason why you are a college professor, the reason why the great psychology of this world cannot ever get anything done is because of the fact they just do not go to the simple things. What kind of God would write a book that would be so in-depth and so entailed that the common ordinary man could not grasp it? Not any God that I have got. It is similitude.

## V. Examples of Similitude

For instance, let me show you there. You do not have to turn there now, but we are going here in a minute. Psalms 19, you know what it says?

*Psalms 19:1-6*

*1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

*2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

*3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

*4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,*

*5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.*

*6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

It says that the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech. Night unto night showeth forth knowledge. You see that thing? They show you something. The heavens declare, the firmament showeth forth. The day, uttereth speech, the night, showeth knowledge. Those are all things that God created in Genesis 1. It tells you that they show you something.

You know what Job 12:7 says? I am telling you, you grasp this, you will walk out of here five years ahead, when you came in today. You all picked a good day to come. Now, I do not say that so you will take the next five years off, you know, to keep on moving on this, but you picked a good day to show up.

*Job 12:7-9*

*7 But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:*

*8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.*

*9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?*

I will tell you who does not know that, every preacher in this city just about. Every college professor, every psychologist, every psychiatrist in this country does not understand that if you want to learn about God and the things of God and human nature, you learn through similitude and by the words "as" and "like," and God will take this and show you this is like this, that you put it together and understand what you are dealing with. That is how it works.

Now, I am going to show you a few easy ones here. Take your Bibles now and turn over to Psalms 19. Now, here we go. Most of these you are going to see "as" and "like" right in the middle of them. Every one of them is wild. There will not be an "as" and a "like," but the similitude is so apparent it is right there. We studied Romans 1:19. We know now that the visible things of Him are seen by the things that God made, even His eternal power and Godhead. Let us put that to the test. God used Himself as a pattern. God is going to teach us by similitude. Let us look at some of them.

Psalms 19:1-6. Now, you see, that is all something God created. I just, we read that a minute ago. I showed you that in this, these things speak. These things show you. These things teach you. Now, look at verse 5. Here it comes. Now, let us see where this thing goes. Keep your finger there. Turn over to Malachi 4.

I am studying my Bible. I am just coming through Psalms 19. And lo and behold, I just stumbled on that thing. Something just struck me that I read last week. It is over in Malachi 4. So, let us all turn to Malachi 4. Keep your finger in Psalms 19 because we are coming back.

*Malachi 4:1-2*

*1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

*2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

Now, here are some of the words we already know. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven." That thing is going to get hot. I was listening to Al Gore this morning on the radio. It always does me good to listen to Al Gore before I got a priest because I get so mad, I just tear it up. He was, you know what his big stick is now? Global warming. I am telling you right now, you better watch out because global warming is going to mess this world up. But I am not talking about the same global warming he is talking about. I am talking about Iran or Iraq or some terrorist putting off in Kansas City or New York and then we will talk about global warming. That is the global warming you better watch out for.

"Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven." That is global warming for you. So, let it happen. "And all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." That is the Second Coming. We know that. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

That Son of Righteousness is the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me draw your attention to look how it is spelled. It is not spelled S-O-N, ladies and gentlemen. It is spelled S-U-N. You know why? That is a similitude. You want to understand God? Understand the sun that God made. The sun is the center of our solar system. All the planets revolve around the sun. The Son should be the center of your life. All of your activities should revolve around the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The sun is the source of life on planet earth. The Son is your source of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Bible says that the sun gives off three types of rays: Alpha, Beta, and Gamma for those of you that are technically proficient, as myself, for the rest of you idiots. X-rays, light rays, and heat rays. God is a Trinity. That Bible says that the sun is as a bridegroom and He is called the Sun of Righteousness. So God has God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The sun puts off X-rays, light rays, and heat rays. Let us see how it works.

- X-rays: They are invisible. You cannot see them. The Son is a Spirit. We that worship God must worship Him in spirit and truth. You cannot see them.

- Light rays: You can see them. Jesus Christ was the light of this world and when He showed up He was the visible appearance of the invisible God.
- Heat rays: A type of the Holy Spirit of God. You cannot see them but you can feel it.

See how that thing works? Look what He said down there at the end of that chapter back in Psalms 19, "and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." That sun is a picture of the bridegroom. It is a picture of Christ and it is a picture of God. You learn that by similitude. When you come down through it, you see it over and over and over again.

All right, turn over to Job 25:5. I will show you another one.

*Job 25:5*

*5 Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.*

"Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not." Oh, I am sorry. Why every love song I ever heard, it was about the moon shining. Well, I mean, I heard the song "Shine On, Shine On Harvest Moon." Does not the moon shine? No, the moon does not shine. You see, the sun is a type of Christ and the moon is a type of the church. The moon does not shine by its own light. The moon reflects the light which comes from the sun. As a Christian, you and I do not shine by our own light, our own glory. We reflect the light that we get from the sun. See how that thing works? It works just like that.

You know, you want to come over to my house some night, I am into astronomy. I will roll out one of my telescopes and you look at the moon up there, boy, and it is just as beautiful as can be. You look at that thing and you see it is beautiful. It is light. It is bright. The Bible says God made two great lights. The greater light to rule the day. Lesser light to rule the night. You see? The day, Second Coming of Christ, the night, the church age. That is where the light that shines in the nighttime. We are going to be right now, we, like the moon, out of light, the darkness of this earth. That is what we ought to do.

You know what happens? We know what happens a couple times a year. They have what they call a solar eclipse. You know what happens when an eclipse comes? It is a perfect picture of what happens to some of God's people because the sun, the light from the sun goes out. What happens is the earth comes in between the sun and the moon and the earth and it blocks out the light. When the world comes in between the two, the light of the sun goes out. Let me tell you something. When this old world comes in between you and Christ, your light goes out. It is as simple as that.

I have been out hunting at night, coon hunting at night, years ago down there. Boy, you will hunt by a full moon. I tell you that moon is so full and so bright that, I mean, it just casts a shadow in this old earth. That is what your life and my life should be like. But you know something else? You go out there some night and you cannot see the moon because the clouds of this old world have blocked out that light. That is a lot of God's people's lives. Too many clouds of this old world blocking out the light from God. I am telling you, that is the way it works.

The Bible says God made two great lights, the lesser light to rule the day, or the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. You do not shine by your own light. I roll out that old telescope. You look at that moon up there, boy, it is just as bright and it is just as beautiful and it looks like it is just, I am brilliant. But you know what? You put that telescope on it and you look down through there and you put about a 200 power eyepiece in it. You look at the moon and I mean, you are looking at something that is just beat up, busted up, broken up, craters, rills, cracks, ridges. I mean just an absolute mess. You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of our lives after we got saved. You have to look real close at some of you who have been saved 5, 10, 15 years to see the old world stains on you. You know why? Because the glory of God, just like it shines, you have got to really look close to see the cracks and crevices on the moon. You have got to really look close at a child of God's life after 8 or 9, 10, 12, 15 years because the glory of God just kind of makes all those things go away, does it not? That is what the picture is.

The Bible says that the judgment seat of Christ. It says over there in 1 Corinthians 15:41 that there are three glories.

*1 Corinthians 15:41*

*41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead." He says there is one glory of the moon, one glory of the sun, one glory of the star. You might know there would be three. He says that at the judgment seat of Christ as one star differed from another star in glory, so also the resurrection of the dead. Some of you Christians are going to go with the light of the sun because all of your life when you got saved, you gave God everything that you wanted. God does not count the time you did not do what is right. God picks it up when you decide to do right and then you go from there. You are going to stand there and the glory of God is going to shine through you and you are going to walk away with the judgment seat of Christ with everything God wants you to have. Then there is some that is going to shine like the moon. Then there is some that is going to shine like the dimmest star you see out there. You can hardly see their light at all. That is the way it works. That is called a similitude.

All right, now let us look at a few more. He says this, now you are going to deal with people. You want to learn human nature. You want to learn why people do the things that they do. Remember me talking about that there are patterns of human nature in the Bible. You would have never guessed that this was my source, but this is the source. You want to learn about human nature. You want to know why people do the things that they do. You want to know why they act, react, respond, lack of response. You want to know why unsaved people do the things that they do. If you are here this morning and you are not saved, do not take anything personal about this. I understand why people do what they do. That is what unsaved people do. I was unsaved at one time. There is not anybody in here that has not messed up their life someplace along the line any more than I have before I got saved. We all come out of the same mold. It is what makes the

difference is when you get saved. But if you want to help people, you want to learn about people, you want to deal with people, then this is what you learn.

You know what He says in Job 12:7? "Ask the beasts, and they shall teach thee." Now who in the world would have thought that if you wanted to study man, women, human nature, the problem that you would ever study animals in the Bible. Animals are similitudes. You see God did not waste any space when it came to the Bible.

- A dog in the Bible is a picture of an unsaved man. When you get that picture of an unsaved man, one of the greatest messages I ever heard, I never heard a guy preach it because he died before I was born. But I read the message and one of the greatest, my favorite preacher in reading his sermons is a guy by the name of Robert Shuler. Now I am not the idiot out in California. Robert Shuler I am talking about lived back in the 1850s and he was an old circuit riding Methodist preacher. He did not pull any punches. He preached the message out of 2 Peter 2, and it was a message where he talked about some dogs I have known. You know what he did? I got the message in my Bible, I preached it before, it is worth stealing, man. What he did is he went through the types of dogs and related to the types of men. He showed you that there are men that are stout men with great character, with great perseverance and likened to a German Shepherd. Then you got some were weasel eyed like Barney Fife, like a Chihuahua and everything in between. It was one of the greatest sermons I ever stole. I mean I read, it was great because it says over there in 2 Peter 2:22:2 Peter 2:22

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. Now ladies, this is going to get a little crude now so if you want to put your hands over your ears, I am not trying to be crass or crude but I am just preaching the Bible. I did not put the word vomit in there. If you do not like it, get it in NIV, it says upchuck. I am a dog lover. I love dogs. I have got three labs. I have got five now, I am watching a friend of mine. I have got five dogs. I will tell you what, it is a three-ring circus. I love them. I love dogs. But I have got to tell you something. Dogs, I know dogs. Dogs as they may be man's best friend but dogs are the dirtiest animals in the world. I mean they are. They do not, I mean I are. I got my dogs are special. I got the only labs in the world that cut their own fingernails. They chew their fingernails and my brown one, his fingernails look like they are manicured. He will sit there and chew. I am watching television and I hear three dogs chomping on something. It is a treat to watch him do his hind legs. That is what is good. He gets it up, puts his one arm around it and gnaws on it. He trims them suckers. I keep watching him. I think he has got a little yardstick where he is measuring those. I mean they are perfect. I keep laying my hand out hoping he will chime on that.

We had a dog one time, Barbie. We had a cat. Remember the cat Skipper? The one that mysteriously disappeared? Kidnapped cat. Done pictures on milk cartons all across the country. I did not kill that cat. No, I did not. He accidentally got hit with a sandbag from the top floor. Anyway, we had a dog. You know what his deal was? He held the cat down and chewed the whiskers off the cat. Remember that? It is a true story, is it not? You thought, you know, cats use those whiskers for balance, you know? You thought that he would be stuck. The cat loved it. The dog would lay down there and gently put his hand to hold the cat and he

would just trim them up. Then the cat would lay on the other side and he would trim them off. I mean, I have had some weird dogs. I know dogs. I know dogs. And I know the dogs. Every dog I have had, I have loved them. They are like kids to me, man, I just have a ball. The reason somebody says, why do not you raise labs and sell them? You know why I do not? Because I never sell them. I cannot get rid of a dog. I cannot. I mean, I had to come up and somebody said, I will give you \$5 million for that dog. Uh-uh, sorry. I will keep the dog. See? I just cannot. So I just, I have, you know, I just, I have them fixed so they cannot have kids. Dogs, I could not deal with it. I mean, I cannot. I mean, I am a fair guy and I try to keep bouncing my emotions, but I get emotions when it comes to dogs. I do not even watch Lassie. I do not watch K-9 Cop. Somebody said, I do not watch Animal Planet. I cannot handle it. I cannot handle it. I cannot handle it. I come up with he is like, oh, this is his dad's son, but he is like, this guy is like, oh, I have got to get off this dog story. I have got to get into this. You know, he takes me up, man. Takes me up. I like cops, especially when they send a German Shepherd up on the attic to get the guy that is hiding up there. Oh, I love that. Nothing greater than a dog, boy. You have a dog, do you not? Did you have a police dog? Did you have one? Oh, thought you had one. Anyway. Nothing better, man. I love police dogs.

He is back to a sin. When I was in the Army, I never drank. I had never been drunk in my life. I probably a blessing I missed, but I had never been drunk. I had never done drugs. I never smoked. It is not because I am any better than anybody else. When I was in the Army, I was drinking, smoking, cut down my wind so I could not win the PT contest. Drinking, you know, made you bleary eyed. I had my problems, you see, but that was not one of them. There was a guy in marijuana, you know, was big back when I was in the Army, you know, I never messed with him. My goal was fit on being a career military man, and my goal was to split your head nine times out of 10 or 300 meters with M14. That is what I wanted, see? That stuff did not interest me. But I had to hang out with the guys that did.

I got locked out in the Army. I used to play the trumpet in high school, so when they found out they made me the post bugler. I loved it, because I got to travel all around New England blowing taps because everybody got killed. I did a general one. I did a two-star general, got killed in Vietnam one time. Got a commendation for it, you know. They lined up 21 cannons behind me. Boy, I could take a lifer of 25, 30 years, you know, they had so many hash marks and so medals on them that looked like an Army Navy store. I could take those big tough guys, and they would stand there, boy, and when I would blow taps, I would blow taps, you know, and then I would turn around and they would do what you call an echo. You would blow it the other way. It sounds like the taps were floating over the hills coming back. Oh, those big old 25, 30, 40 year guys just crying like babies, man. I had first sergeants, I had majors, I had colonels. I would give them me commendations all over the place. You know what, if I would not have got in the Army, I would be a general right now, just based on my trumpet playing. But anyway, that is another story.

I tell you what, they come up, I had a big old sergeant come up one time, and he just blows the greatest stop fire and I heard my life, and I tell you what, I was into it, I was into it. I could do it. I got to travel all around, and I will tell you what, because I was the only guy, what we do is we take two vans, we would have the pallbearers in one deal, and then we

would have the rifle squad in the other, and we would drive someplace. After the thing, the VFW would take everybody over and get you drunk as a skunk. I mean, we would just get smashed. I mean, not me, but they would. They always asked for me to go, and it was good and bad. They always got me to go because I never drank, and they always knew they had somebody to get them back home. Because if I did not drive, we would wound up in Korea or Vietnam someplace and not have any orders to be there. But I will tell you what, by the time we got back, that van was so full of puke from one end to the other. I am not kidding you. I mean, these guys were terrible. When they got the drunker they got, I actually saw them over there hitting up on the widow that we just buried because they were so drunk they got out of it. I would drive that thing home, and they would be back there, and they would be singing songs, you know, "I have got to be an airborne ranger," you know. You know, those things, "Oh, we kicked the general down there and drank the Colonel's beer." I was singing those songs back there. I am driving home, and they are, bah, rah, over the place, you know. You know what, they would go out of that thing, and they would be staggering down there. I mean, when we stand inspection, they were spit polished up one side or the other. When they got out of that thing, there was puke and vomit all over them. They are tied off, they could not find their hats, they could not find their this. I will tell you what, and they walked out of there. You know what, and the next time we went, it was the same thing. You know why? Because the dog always returned to his vomit. An unsaved man just has an appetite for sin, whatever it is. That is why the greatest hell raisers on this planet are men. They really are. The greatest hell raisers on this planet are men, not women. Now every once in a while, you find a woman who can really tear it up with a guy, but that is not the norm. The greatest hell raisers on this planet are men, because the Bible says they are like a dog that just keeps going back to it. I mean, how much, I mean, getting sick and throwing up every night and heading in the morning and then doing drugs or whatever, you know. I had people that came that close to dying of an overdose and three weeks later, back up, shooting up again. You know why? That verse tells you. You want to understand why unsaved people do what they do? There it is.

Now I have got to say this to you too. Now I am going to give you a piece of advice here that this is good for you and you can take this home. This is actually, I will have to pay for this. The biggest problem you had before you got saved, guys, will probably be the biggest problem you have after you get saved. I am just going to give you that. Now that is not always true, but it is true many, many times. You take a guy that is prideful before he gets saved, he gets saved, God saves him, but you know what? He does not watch it, he has the tendency to be prideful about the things of God. In other words, there are things you have got to work on.

My dad, the classic example, my dad died when I was 20 years old, he was 55 years old. I am 55. Do you not know I think about that? Not about dying. But I think about my dad, what he could have done with the rest of his life. I am 55 years old in my life. What we got here, what God is doing, man, I feel like I got another 30 years to give God if the Lord does not come or some tragedy does not befall me and I am going to give it to Him and I got. But I think about my dad coming to 55 years old and then dying and then never going any farther with it and right there he stops. When you get 55, you think about those things. When I was

young growing up, I used to read the comics. I used to look what was on the movies. You know what I do now? I read the obituaries. I want to know who is dying out there.

My dad died of lung cancer. Now my dad was a smoker. My dad smoked probably four packs, maybe five packs of cigarettes since he was 13 years old. They were raised back in the hills of Maryland. I know this is one of these stories you think where you walked up the school two miles, you know, hill both ways, you know, in the snow. My dad was born in a log cabin. Five brothers and two sisters. Had no electricity, had no indoor plumbing. His daddy was a coal miner, my whole family is coal miner out of Maryland. They were down there, you know, I saw the log cabin when I was a little kid. His dad died when he was young. Mom raised him. All the brothers, maybe even more. They are all just about dead now too. But they, you know, they were growing up. They had no real, they had no real, they had no real training about anything. They just grew up as good old boys, you know. My dad smoked four, five, six packs of cigarettes when time was 13 years old. They moved to Ohio back in about during the war because they could not get work in Maryland and all the steel mills was opened up. My dad worked in the public steel for 25 years, 26 years of his life. He died when I was 20 years old, he was 55. He died of lung cancer.

I will tell you what, you know why I never smoked? I never smoked because I watched my dad who was a strapping six foot man, 200 pounds, I watched him eat away because that cancer got into his lungs and it got into his heart and it got into his esophagus. I watched a man who was 200 pounds and when he died, I could pick him up with one hand and carry him from one bed to the other. That cancer had eaten into his lungs. That cancer got into his heart. He laid there and died literally starving to death and I remember my mom taking, he could not drink because it had eaten his throat out. I remember my dad, my mom taking water and just putting it on his lips so he could get some kind of moisture. I thought to myself right then, I may die, I may get shot, I may get killed, I may get killed in the car wreck, I may die of something else, I am not dying of lung cancer. It was the most horrible thing I ever saw in my life.

But you know what? My dad, when they diagnosed him with lung cancer, you know, it was a bad deal and they had to do surgery on him. They took my dad's whole lung out, they cut him like a watermelon from his crotch right up through here and across there. They took out one whole lung and a quarter of the other one and just passed him up and said, he only got a year to live. And he said, what you do with yourself from this time, maybe you will get another couple of months, it is terminal, but maybe you will get longer out of it if you take care of yourself and you do this. You know what? I love my dad and I miss him. But you know what, I will tell you something. When I got home out of the army and we were down there and we were back home and I was taking care of my dad. You know what I caught my dad doing? Down in the garage having a cigarette. He just could not kick it. He lost a whole lung, quarter of an element. Here he is at 55 years old, which we call the prime of life now, and he is going to die. He is going to die. He just cannot let go what was killing him. I am telling you, some of those things get a hold on you. I am not just preaching on cigarettes today, it is anything. I am using that because it proved my point. My dad was a saved man. When he came up to Ohio, right across the street, they built the Canton Baptist Temple. My mom and dad went there. My mom and dad went down and got saved. My dad did the drill

there, but he fought that thing all of his life and it finally killed him. People ask me all the time, cigarettes send you to hell if you are a Christian? No, it will just get you to heaven quicker. That is what I did to my dad, see? When I saw that, I said, I am not dying that way. I am not dying that way. I mean, I maybe get shot, I maybe get killed, maybe I do not know, but I am not dying that way. I am not going to. Boy, I saw that thing and I thought, wow. So when you come to the Bible, a dog is a picture of an unsaved man, and he keeps coming back to the same old sin, over and over and over again, and if you do not break that chain, see? That is it.

- Now an ass in the Bible? I mean, the four legged kind. An ass in the Bible is a picture of an unsaved man. Here is another picture of an unsaved man. Job 11:12 says:Job 11:12

12 For vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt. I talked to a little farmer one time and once I saw that, I was back in Ohio. We were down in Brown Hall hunting one day and this guy had a bunch of jackasses and mules and all those things on his farm and he let us hunt on his property and I had just learned that truth. I said, "I said, this is great." I said, "You sell mules?" He says, "I will sell them to the circus." Yeah, you know, old guy, you know, "I sell them to the circus. Yeah, we sell them out, sell them mules. People use mules, you know, they are cheaper than horses and you know, and they will pull, they will plow, all those things. We raise them, we sell them. They are going to make a, be a mama, make a good life." I said, "Tell me about jackasses, mules and those things." And he says, "Well, what do you want to know?" I said, "I do not know." I said, "Tell me about them." He says, "Well," he says, "I like raising my mama, does not like raising them." He said, "You know what? Until you cannot, we cannot sell them to be used until they get broken. Because till you break a mule, it is worthless. You cannot sell it someplace that just goes nuts all the time." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "No, no." He said, "I will tell you something else. My mama, me and the mama, missus don't, she does not like them much because some of those jackasses out there, they will have all night long, just braying and just braying and just braying all night." And I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Nothing, nevermind." He said, "I will tell you something else." He said, "Some of their mothers are wild too." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Nevermind, nevermind, nevermind." You know what he was describing to me? He described me an unsaved man.

You know in the Old Testament under the law back in the book of Exodus that you had to redeem an ass with a lamb. If the ass did not get redeemed by the lamb, you know what you did? You broke its neck. You know why? Because it is a similitude. That has a wild ass's colt. You do not get saved. You are going to wind up breaking your neck. It is just that simple. Job 5:7 says:Job 5:7

7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. Amen. You bet it does. It does. I am telling you, that is why when Jesus in Matthew wrote into Jerusalem, and He is done with the nation of Israel now, you know what He wrote on? He wrote on a wild ass's colt. You know why? Because you cannot use an ass until it has been broken. When you broke them, then you have got to ride them. God wants to break us so He can ride us to where God wants us to go. See how that thing works? I mean, similitude.

- Now it says there, "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." Now a dog, picture of an unsaved man. An ass, picture of an unsaved man. But a sow in the Bible, picture of an unsaved woman. We see, I do not know if you have noticed or not, but dog and pigs like to roll in two different things. There is a great lesson of human nature in that. I am not kidding you. My dog loves to roll, all my dogs like to roll in dead things. I mean, I do not know what it is. Maybe it is a shampoo I use. I do not know. I give them a bath, which I just quit doing. They smell better without a bath than they do after I get a bath, they are rolling something. I will walk them out there, you know, and the next thing I will know, I will feel a little tug of the leash. And here is a big old 125 pound lab, laying on his back rolling in something. I do not even want to know what it is. Another thing, you take them out at night. I do not like to walk them at night, but you do, they pick up something and they will not give it up. You know it is not nothing good. You know it was not five bucks that he found and he wants to keep it. It is not, it is something dead. It is something that stinks. It is something that you have got to put your hand in his mouth and pull out and you do not want to. Because you know if he does not, he is saving it. He is saving it so he can go back and take it in there and he can say, "Hey, guy, look what I got. Let us all have a roll on it." You know what I am saying? That is how it works. Dogs like to roll in dead things. Pigs like to roll in mud, dirt. I am telling you, he said over in Proverbs 11:22, another great one, oh, it is another great one. Proverbs 11:22

22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. You ever notice how that the thing of the A is no jewelry? Now that is another thing. I do not understand that. How do you get that little bolt on up there? I mean, I saw a gal the other day, I know she thought I was trying to pick her up. I just try to look up her nose. I could not figure out. She had a thing on there that looked like there was a hundred carrots. I am thinking to myself, that is got to hurt. I saw a guy the other night, someplace we were all at, and he had his ears looped all the way down and spacers in him. I am saying, wow, that is got to hurt. I went to the grocery store the other day and the guy was checking me out and he smiled and he had a big can of tongue. I know I am out of touch, but I do not understand that. Well, you have got to put something through your tongue. I do not get it. I am dumb, I am stupid. I am not preaching against it. I just want somebody to tell me why. I do not understand that. I mean, how do you do that in your nose? I mean, I know they pierce your ears and they take needles and they put them through. They put that through their nose. You go somewhere and he got a dremel and he just says, "Sit back, this is going to hurt, but we will get it done." I do not understand that. How do you get it on? You got a little thing in there, you put the thing in, you got the bolt in, zoop, zoop. I mean, I do not know. Is it one of those NASCAR thing that they do the bolts on the wheel, bloop, bloop, bloop, bloop, bloop, bloop, bloop. I do not know, but I will tell you what, I do not get it.

Now that verse is telling you there, you know what he says? You can dress up an unsaved woman all you want. She is still an unsaved woman. She will still go back to the mire. You see, the greatest hell raisers on this planet are men. That is their deal. The greatest gossippers in this world are women. My wife just quit her job. She worked at a place with a hair plate. You know what it is called? Rumors, good casting. I will tell you. I will tell you

what, telephone, telegraph, tell a woman. I am, I am, I do not know what to tell you. I am not talking about you guys, you know. I mean, I am just, I am giving you some of you. You want to learn human nature? You learn this. I mean, you guys are here because you are here. I mean, I am a you, but I am telling you. You want to learn, you learn similitude, that is how you learn. You see people, you see the similar truths, that is what you do.

I will tell you what, it is all the time. A woman, that a woman, that unsaved woman has no discretion. Because she has no discretion, she cannot determine what is real and what is not. So she thinks that she paints herself up, she sparkles herself up, and I am not saying there is anything wrong with that. I mean, I like the way my wife dresses, I like the way she fixes her hair, I like the way, I like the things she wears. I mean, there is nothing wrong with that. I mean, I am not one of these guys that say a woman should not wear makeup. Do not go there with me. I think you ought to look nice. I think you all look lovely. You all do. Well Liz, you need to work on a few things, but other than that, everything else is pretty good. I mean, Bob Jones, I mean, Robert Schiller, another thing he said. He said is the barn door needs paint, ladies paint it. I am with that. I think a woman should look, I do not have a problem with that, but my point is this, that verse is saying, it is not being an exalting, it is saying that the real beauty of a woman, a saved woman, is on the inside, not the outside. I am not saying you should not have your hair done, my daughter needs the money. She owes me a lot. I am not saying you should not go to Mary Kay parties. I am not saying you should not go to buy perfume, you know, Obsession, Holstein. That is a cow, is it not? Whatever it is. I am not saying those things are fine. Those things are great. I am saying that is not where the real beauty is, you see.

Now, you know what? It just comes over into Christian women. Years ago, I grew up with a guy. Him and I were contemporaries in Ohio. He is an evangelist today and he is a great, good preacher. I have given you some of his books. I am not going to tell you his name because it is immaterial. But his wife was the biggest gossip in the world. She lived for one thing. Now he is in a situation where he goes from church to church to church to church. They run the cycle, you know? Her job was one fold. He was a great, and she was a nice gal, but she just could not get past this. You know what? She would get there and she would try to find, I mean, she would try to get every piece of dirt on everything she could. Then take it to the next place. She would go around, you know, and she would get to the ladies in the church and she would start finding out who is what, doing this. Then she would start pumping for information. The funny thing of it is, she thought, oh, you talked to her. She was the most spiritual thing in the world. What was even funnier is everybody thought, she thought everybody thought she was spiritual. You know what everybody called her? They called her the bone collector. They called her some other things too, but I cannot, vacuum cleaner was one of them. But I am not going to get into that either. They called her the bone collector because she was always opening up closets and trying to find every church's skeleton. That is all she did. Her husband had a great ministry. Yet on one side, he was great preacher, had a great preacher, had great substance, had great things. You know what? His ministry was compromised because that here is a situation where obviously that was the problem she had before. She just could not use the discretion to do what she needed to do. It is a thing where, you know, everybody says, they would talk about, "Well, so and so, yeah, he is a great

evangelist. He coming to your church? Yeah, he is coming to our church. You will have a great meeting. Watch out for the bone collector." What a terrible thing to have to say. It is incredible. But that is what happened. You want to learn about why people do what they do? Similitude.

- I will tell you something else. You come through your Bible, you will find unicorns and you will find satyrs. Unicorns are the horses that have the thing on their head. They are the ones that missed the ark because they were playing little, silly little games, you know, while the green alligators and long, everybody now, green alligators and long-neck geese, the humpy back camels and the, forget it. The unicorn did not get on the ark because they were playing silly games, the song says. They were a unicorn. There are also satyrs. Satyrs are half man, half goat. They are in the Bible. You will find them in the Bible in Job 39, Isaiah 34, Deuteronomy 33, and Isaiah 13. Wherever you find those, those are similitudes of demonic activity, always will be. So you see, you got, it talks about the fishes. Excuse me, it talks about the beast. So you got the unicorns and then you got oxen.
- You know what oxen is a picture of? Oxen is a picture of a Christian. You know that oxen are not born oxen. You know how an ox becomes an ox? He gets an operation to transform him from what he was to being an ox. Oxen are not born. They have to go a transformation operation that makes them from a bull to an ox. You know, Christians are not born. You have to go through a transformation operation that makes you from an unsaved man to a saved man. That is why oxen in your Bible, like in the Christians. You know, oxen, I studied oxen one time. You know, oxen come to the place where they, when you use them, they were bred to plow. That is what they were bred for originally. They were bred to plow. You know that oxen work best plowing in pairs. You know that they actually help each other. You know when two oxen are plowing and they come down to a farmer told me this one time, two oxen are plowing and he got a plow behind it. When they come to an obstacle, they cannot get around. You know what both oxen will do? They will kneel down in front of that obstacle and wait till you clear it. That is what two God's people ought to do in their marriage when it comes to an obstacle. You get on their knees and pray through it, see. You know that thing works? You know in the Old Testament, it was a violation of the law. Yoke an ox with an ass. It was a violation of law in Deuteronomy. You know why? Because an ass is a picture of an unsaved man and an ox is a picture of a Christian. The Bible says you and I are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. So that thing works. It works just like that.

I mean, it is just that simple. You know what? The Moravian missionaries were great missionaries. They were back in the 1600s and there are not no Moravian missionaries that were like those, no missionaries today. The Moravian missionaries were a group that in Germany by a guy by the name of Zinzendorf in Spangenberg. What they did is they took common ordinary people just like you. They trained them into where to God. I do. When they got to a place in their life, they were ready to go out and do something for God. They gave them a one way ticket to the mission field. Many of them were even the missionaries sold themselves into slavery and the slaves of Africa. So they could be missionary to the black slaves. That was their commitment. They had a coat of arms. On that coat of arms was an ox. On that coat of arms under that ox was an altar on one side and a plow on the other. They had a motto. You know what the motto said? It said ready for either. Their motto was as an ox of God, they knew their Bibles. I am willing to be

hooked up to the plow and plow these for old fields for God and put the seed down or I am ready to lay my life on the altar of God and give it for that sake. Moravians, where is that at today? You do not find it anywhere today. Great studies on why men and women do what they do. They will tell you what, want to study lions in the Bible? Lion is either a type of Christ, Revelation 5:5, or is a type of the devil, 1 Peter 5:8. Human nature, you study the beast, they will teach you. They will show you.

- Then he says in Job 12:7, "the fowls of the air shall teach you." You know what a dove is a picture of in your Bible? Genesis 8:8, Matthew 3:16. It is a type of the Holy Spirit of God. You get over there in Matthew 3:16, when it talked about that dove coming down, you know what it says? It says like a dove, "as" and "like." You come through your Old Testament, you find birds of prey, the cormorant, bittern, they are like buzzards, the raven, the crow, the owl, you know what they all have in common? They all eat dead flesh. They all eat dead flesh. You will be driving down the road, there will be a dead possum on the road, dead raccoon, dead deer, dead dog, dead something. You know what? You will see crows all around it. You will see the big old vultures, we call them turkey vultures here. They are called bittern and cormorants over in the Far East. You will see them down there eating that dead flesh. You know what they are likened to? They are likened to unclean demonic spirits, wherever you find them.
- Then you got an eagle. You know what an eagle is a picture of? Two things. In Deuteronomy 32:11, an eagle is a picture of God. It is a picture of God fluttering His wings over the nation of Israel, protecting Israel like a mother eagle protects her baby eagles. When you get on to Isaiah 40:31, the other thing is this. It is a picture of a child of God plugged into the Word of God. It says in Isaiah 40, and I keep trying to tell you this in everything I do, but: Isaiah 40:31  
31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. You know what is a picture of? Second thing, first thing is a picture of God, the Father with Israel. Second thing is a picture of me and you. An eagle soars high above everything else. An eagle has eyes that can see a rabbit movement at 400 meters. An eagle can see everything that goes on. You go, why? He is elevated. He is an eagle. He is paying attention. When you get plugged into the Word of God, you are just like that eagle. You are high and lifted up and you got special understanding and viewing because you got the Word of God you are looking through and you see everything around you that is going on. We called it a couple of weeks ago with the Air Force Navy pilots landing on a carrier, SA, situation awareness. That is what it is. Similitude, some of the most practical material you will ever get in your life.
- All right, he goes on in Job 12:8, and he says this. "Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee." Now the earth got a lot of things to say and you will learn a lot of things about planet earth from similitude. I grew up being an evolutionist. I bought into all the theories of evolution. I mean, I did. Then when I got saved and got understanding, I saw the thing for what it is. You know the greatest witness that the Bible is true is the earth itself. You know that there in the science in this world can explain the Grand Canyon. You know what they say the Grand Canyon happened? They say it happened by a glacier. You know, they go down there and they get up there and they start finding these mastodons, you know, down there and they find them trapped in the ice, you know, and some of them even got the same food they were

eating. I mean, they are preserved perfectly. And the scientists get up and he says, "Well," he says, "they were up there feeding in the glacier. Then a great ice age to hit America that did all this terrible stuff and moved these mountains and did all of this and cut out all this. Those mastodons, they got trapped in that glacier and that is why they are there," really. Well, I will tell you what, they are in a glacier on a face of this planet that moves more than eight inches a year. That is some slow moving mastodon you got there. No ice age, no ice age. You know what they find when they get up in the mountain? Cracks and crevices, they will get into those caves up there. You know what they find? They will find lions, tigers, bears. They will find birds, they will find chicken, they will find ducks, they will find human bones, all in the same cracks and crevices. You know what they are all trying to do? They are trying to get away from a flood. I mean that flood, when that water came down, if you know your Bible, that water came down, I mean, it is come down six inches a minute, 30 feet an hour, 725 feet a day. I mean that water came down and them guys are heading for high ground and nobody is, the lions are not worried about eating people. The bears are not worried about eating people. Nobody is worried about eating nothing. They are worried about getting to high ground because the water coming up and when they find them, they are all in the same crevice. They are with fish, they are with animals and they are all animals that do not generally get along. But you know what? They made an agreement so they would not have to kill each other because they are trying to get the dry ground. There was a flood, there was a flood, there was a flood. I am telling you, the earth itself is the greatest proof.

- Then it says the fishes, the fishes will tell you. He says, "Speak to the earth and it will teach you and the fishes shall declare unto you." You know what Jesus said? He said, "I will make you fishers of men." That is a great clue. Then to back that up, the first three apostles He chose were commercial fishermen. You ever see that thing? That is the way it works.

You all been fishing. You know how you fish. I do not know why pastors cannot figure this out. You know how you fish. You go catfish, you find out what they are biting on. I mean, if they are biting on whatever they are biting on and you got something else, you can fish all night long. You are not going to catch nothing. I mean, I am not much of a fisherman. You know what? My way of fishing is a hand grenade. Boy, you get all kinds of stuff that way. I am not patient. I am not, I could never fish. I was never a good fisherman. My dad was a great fisherman. He loved to fish. I could not. My dad, he would just, so he would take me out in the boat. You know, we are out in the boat. My dad is a serious fisherman. We would be out in the boat 15 minutes and I wanted to go back in and go to the bathroom. Then he would try to get me to stand up and go over the back of the boat. Oh, that is a disaster with me at nine years old. I could not fish. I would sit there, you know, and you got, I do not, you have got to be quiet. Like why? They got hydrophones on down there? I would be quiet. You know, he would say, "You cannot talk." "Well, you cannot talk." I thought it was bonding time, dad. "You cannot talk. We have got to catch fish." You know, and he is out there and he is. You know, he was great. So he bought me my first spinning rod, you know, and you know, when you throw it out and you cast it all in, you know what, and I am getting caught and everything. I mean, I am cutting the trees and everything. He cannot fish. He had one time a Northern pike on the hook and that sucker was that long. I am not kidding. This is not a fish story. This is a true story. This fish was that long. I mean, it came up to the side of the boat and I am just a little guy. I am 12 years old. This thing,

we were in a place that was stocked with Northern pike. My dad had got, it was as long as the boat. I am not, I know I was a little guy then. I am probably exaggerating a little bit. It was, I mean, it was big. It was as big as, it was big. It was coming out of the water, you know, and everybody on shore had seen it, you know, and I mean, I am sure they called channel five and all those, and I mean, everybody was lined up. We were about a hundred yards out. That thing went, coming out of the water. My dad was standing up, you know, this thing like this and I am in the back of the boat and the boat is rocking, the fish is coming back and under the boat. I looked over the boat and it came by the boat. I am not kidding. It either was a fish or we got missed by a torpedo. It was big. That fish went down and back out and my dad is playing it for everything it is worth, you know. Then, you know, I am thinking, wow, how is he going to get this in the boat? About that time he says, "Get the net." Well, guys, our net is this big. It is like a tennis racket with some extra string on it. I mean, catch butterflies in it, no problem, but this fish is not going in. Then he says the famous word, and I love this kind of talk, "Get the gaff hook." I love when people talk like that. I love commanding things. I like when he says, I wish he said, "Get the gaff hook." Well, the gaff hook is a long thing with a hook on it. You know, when you get this gaff and you have got to get it in their mouth and get it in their gill and then you pull them in the boat. He is saying, "Get the gaff." And I am get the gaff, you know, and what am I going to do with the gaff? I do not know what to do with the gaff, you know. So this fish comes up to the boat and everybody is on shore. I mean, they are watching this thing, you know. I know much my dad's 15 minutes of fame. I lost that fish for him. I did. I did. I lost the fish. It was one of those moments when you wanted to say, dad, can I have a peanut butter sandwich? I just go kill myself. You know? My dad was cool about it. Cause my dad was, he was one of the greatest easy going guys in the world. He really was. My wife, no, he was a great guy. He never got mad at anybody but my mother. And it was. And we were okay. And you know, I felt terrible. I did. I cried, you know, I cried. I will tell you what. And, and, cause I got down there to get it. What I did is I missed it and I caught his line. I just gave that fish enough slack that he spit the thing out, see. It was gone. I know at the moment, I did not want to look up cause I am thinking, oh, that tackle back is going to hurt along the side of my head. You know? My dad just wheeled in his rod. He said, "Ah, it is okay son. No problem." So he was a good fight and I felt terrible. I felt terrible. But fish teach you stuff, see. Taught me something that day. I have not been fishing since.

But if you want to win people to Christ, you have got to use the right lures, okay. You know what is wrong with the church today? Now everybody should be saved. If you are here this morning and you are not saved, this is not some trap. I am being honest with you. You need to be saved. You need to be saved. You are going to die and go to hell someday if you do not get saved. It is as simple as that. But this church is not one of these church that try to trap you. We do not get you in here, you know, under one pretense. But I, you know, I think the problem with most churches today that they do not know how to fish.

It just, it just, I use my military experience for my preaching. If I got something I want to say and I want everybody to get it, I load it with shotgun shells and I will spray the crowd. If I got somebody out there that needs a little kick in the pants, then I put my shotgun up, I get my 30 out of six, got telescopic sights on it, put that sucker right between your eyes and let you have one, right? That is how you preach. Sometimes you wear two six guns in case they overwhelm you.

You can shoot everybody, you see. But preachers do not, they do not know how to do it today. Winning people to Christ is like fishing. You have got to have the right bait. You have got to, you know how to know what the fish are looking for. I think churches today, they are all about one thing. They are about themselves. They do not care about people. They do not care about people at all. They want you to come so you can fund their program. They do not care about you. That is a terrible, tragic thing to say. I am a pastor. I am talking about my own profession. But it is a truth and it is a terrible thing. That is why I do not have anything to do with them. I think they are all, I think they are all terribly, terribly, terribly going to pay a price at the judgment seat of Christ. But I know this, if you want to win somebody to Christ, you have got to get on the same level where they are at. You have got to take them where they are at. You have got to love them where they are at. You have got to be their friend where they are at. It is not somebody's a pastor standing up here looking down at the masses saying, "Hey, all you people, get on up here and be like me." No, you know what you have got to do? You have got to walk down those steps, put your arm around and walk. You have got to know how to fish for them. You have got to know what bait to use. Many times they are wearing on their forehead, "I will be caught with a big worm." It is not hard. I was fishing with that easy. I would take it up again. I mean, what would you like to go if you went into a lake and all the fish were going out with little signs just below above the surface saying, "Catch me on this, catch me on that, catch me on this." You saw the biggest one. He says, "Catch me on a rubber worm," put a rubber worm on, bang, you got him. Would not that be easy? Well, that is the way people are. But you just have got to look beyond what is there. You have got to use the similitudes. You have got to see where their nature is. You have got to see what their problems are. Then you have got to be willing to love them where they are at. Christianity is too superficial today. Pastors are too unreal. Now I am going to tell you right now, most churches do not want a perfect pastor because there is no such thing. But you know what they do want? They want a real one. That is all. They want a real one.

You know what churches need to be? This is not going to be a perfect church. Never will be. When you get any two people together, wherever you got movement, you got friction. That is just the law of the law though it is. Job of the church, keep the friction to a minimum. But you are going to have it. You know what? That is just the way it is. But there is no perfect church. I do not think people are looking for a perfect church. They are just looking for a real one. A real one. My job is to make sure this is as real as the Bible can get. You know what? In the military you lead from the top down. In the church it is the same way. You have to lead by example. You have to build that in people as you go through. All these things are similitudes. They will show you everything about every aspect. You learn, God will show you, "Bob, do you see this? This is a dog. Do you see it?" "Yes, I see it." "You see that guy over there? You know why he does what he does? He is like this. See that woman over there? Causing all the problems in that church?" "Yes, I see that." "Okay, she is like this. This is why they do what they do. You need to understand that because Bob, you have got to help them. I am not showing you that to hurt them. I am showing you that so you can help them. Because you have got to understand it before you can help them." That is where it is at. So you are going to have to understand that.