

Ephesians 4:11-16

Sunday 7/30/2006

You know that when God saved the Apostle Paul, God called him to be the Apostle exclusively to the body of Christ. He reveals the body mystery. He says in that great passage, in talking about the church, he just finished talking about how God's Son went down to the center of the earth and led captivity captive. Then the Bible says that He ascended up on high and He gave gifts unto men. The gifts He is talking about there are the gift of the church and the Holy Spirit of God and all the things that come with it.

Ephesians 4:11-16

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

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

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

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

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

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

You know, that passage is so descriptive of exactly what today represents. We have been talking about the mission of this church. We have come through a number of things over the last couple of years, and each one of them has edged us a little bit more forward in understanding what our mission is. About five or six weeks ago, that mission got revealed, and nobody now in our church does not have an understanding of what our mission is. That does not mean that everybody is going to accomplish that mission, but it means that at the judgment seat of Christ, there will be no misunderstanding of what that job is.

We have been coming through, basically, the three plans that God had. We talked about God's plan for the universe. Then we talked about God's plan for planet Earth. Now we have focused on God's plan for you and for me. All are connected together, much like the Trinity—three separate plans, but yet connected together, much like God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three distinct personalities, but yet all tied together through the Godhead and the Trinity.

We have been focusing on, really, how do you and I accomplish the mission that God has for us? The only way a church gets it done is by the individual people that are in that church. A chain

will only be as strong as its weakest link. We talked about how this church, obviously, I do not believe any church is for everybody. I believe that churches fulfill two main goals for God.

1. It is a place where people go who are faced with the reality of what God wants them to do, and then either do it or not do it based on where they are at.
2. Those who choose to do it, then we find this great passage.

There are four things here that talk about what we ought to be doing. We have been studying the seven things that changed the day you got saved. The seven things that changed about you and me the day we got saved that changes everything about us and now gives us the ability to accomplish that mission. In this passage here, it talks about how we get there. It talks about, first of all, the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. That is what the church's job is. It is to perfect you. That does not mean making you sinlessly perfect. It means making you perfect for the work of God, giving you and equipping you with everything that you need for the work of the ministry. Overall, the church is in existence for one thing: to edify the body of Christ.

Then he says, down there around verse 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." That is your growth process. God has one thing that He wants us to do the day we get saved: enter into the process of recognizing these seven things that changed inside you, that now give you and I the ability to do and finish the work that God has called us to do. We do that by every day becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ in everything that we do.

The Bible says that we come "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." That verse is talking about the rapture of the church. You and I are going to come to the fulfillment of everything that Christ is the day we get our glorified bodies. Every day we are alive, here is the philosophy behind it: every day we are alive, we are one step closer to that day. Every day that we are alive and every day that we are one step closer, we ought to be one step more like Him than we were the day before. One of these days when the rapture sounds, we are going to be to the full measure of Christ.

He says in that process, in verse 14, "That we henceforth be no more children." That honestly is the hardest thing for God's people to do: to grow up. He says down there in verse 15, "But speaking the truth in love, that ye may grow up." I want you to notice, not *unto* Him. We are not in the process of growing up *unto* Him. We are in the process of growing up *into* Him, living just like Christ.

I. Defining Our Mission

We have been studying and defining our mission. This church is not a church where you come in every Sunday and get a spiritual pep rally. We are not interested in presenting the "rah-rah" where we just pump you all up and send you out with no direction. A church has to have goals. It has to have purpose. It has to have perspective. It has to know why it is doing what it is doing to fulfill everything that God wants us to fulfill. We have been looking at that, and we know our mission now.

John 14:12, we talked about it a number of weeks ago. Jesus said, "Greater works than these shall he do." What did He mean by that? He was telling His very apostles that He was the model. Jesus came down and for three and a half years He walked this earth and He started a plan. He started a concept. He started a purpose, a direction to something. For three years He gave us the absolute model of how to do it. Then He went back to heaven and He empowered us with the Holy Spirit of God. He gave us the Word of God, which the Bible says is the mind of Christ, that the Bible says we are to arm ourselves with. Then, of course, He gave us the local church, the vehicle by which we accomplish everything that He wants us to accomplish.

Our mission and our job is to finish what He started. He never got outside the confines of Palestine. He never traveled to North America, never went to Asia, never went into India, never went up into Europe. There was no need for Him to do that because He intended us to do that. For the next two thousand years in the period of time called the Church Age, your job and my job is to finish what He started. The devil's job is to get you to do something else other than that. That, in a very basic nutshell, is life on planet Earth with a 21st-century Christian.

We talked about that when you change the inward things, and I told you, the day you got saved these seven things change immediately. But they are not always apparent. You have got to grow into them. As you grow into them, you grow more like Christ, "unto the measure of the stature of Christ," and you grow up into Him in the process of time that God, within these seven things, gives you the ability. The inward, the seven inward things, change your attitude, which produces an outward change that changes your action. When you start thinking like God, then you will start doing the thing God wants you to do. If you think like the world, then you will do the things the world wants you to do. It is just that simple.

We talked about:

- A man's purpose changing
- A man's passion changing
- A man's perspective changing
- A man's patience changing

The first thing we looked at was in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that says:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Beyond that, we put to rest this idea of being a victim. We stopped right there and we talked about that the day you got saved, you no longer can blame anybody else for your problems. Up to that point, you can blame everybody. Because up to that point, you are a victim. You are a victim of your parents. You are a victim of your society. You are a victim of your education or your lack of education in both cases. Up to that point, you are a victim. The moment you get saved, "all things are passed away, all things become new." You have now within you the ability to overcome every circumstance in life. We can no longer at that point blame what we are or

what we are not on where we have come from. We talked about how important that was because you have to know and understand who you are in Christ Jesus to ever accomplish this.

Last week, we talked about Matthew 22:37 and the great verse that says:

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

We talked about when you got saved instantaneously, though it is not always apparent, you now have the ability to love God the way God wants you to love Him, where before you did not. You now have the biblical definition of love. We know now it is far different from the world. It is far different from 99% of God's people's definition of it. We found out that the hardest thing for you and I to do is to love God with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul. But not because He is holy and you are not. Because once you get saved, you have the ability then to love Him right. The reason why it is so hard to love God the way God wants us to love Him is because we, as God's people, are always trying to love Him on our terms. We are always coming to God, loving Him with our hand out, loving Him if He will give us something back. God's love for you and I was unconditional, and your love for God has to be in the same context: unconditional.

So we are learning these things. We are learning who you are in Christ. We learn that when you love God the right way, you learn to love God's people the right way, all people the right way. The pathway of loving God leads to the pathway of forgiveness and all of the things that go along with being Christ-like. Who you are in Christ. These things are immediate, but they are not apparent. Obviously, they grow you up in the fullness of Christ.

II. A New Citizenship

Now we are going to look at the third one today. The third one is where our text is going to be. It is in the book of Ephesians, Ephesians chapter 2. So you might want to turn there and we are going to look at this. In Ephesians 2:15-22, we find a great passage here.

Ephesians 2:15-22

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Now, the Bible talks about the household of God. We could spend hours on it today. It is a great question for Thursday night Bible study. As you know, you can ask any question you want to ask every Thursday night at seven o'clock right in here. But the household of God is a great concept. It shows you the concept of God from Genesis to Revelation. In that concept, God has seven distinct people groups that make up the family of God. The church, you and I, are only one part of that. When you understand that great truth and you understand how it all lays out and all works out, then you have a better understanding of how the whole thing plays into your life and into my life.

I want you to know, he says down here in verse 21, "in whom all the building fitly framed together." You and I as Christians are just part of the framework of God's plan. That is what I have told you week after week, how you and I are just a part of the process. We are living in the last days before the Lord comes back. That is where we fit into this framework. We did not live in Genesis. We did not live in a time of Exodus. We did not go into the land with Joshua. We were not there when Solomon reigned or David reigned. We were not there at the first coming of Christ. The part of the church, you and me, has been there for a long time. Our framework into this family is now.

I want you to notice that it fitly joins together. I want you to notice that the chief cornerstone in this building is the Lord Jesus Christ. You know why? Because when He showed up on planet Earth for three years, He gave us the model of what you and I should be doing. This is a great passage. It talks about the fact in verses 15 and 16 that there was enmity. We talked about enmity last week, the fact that you and I were God's enemy. The fact that you and I were against everything that God wanted. The Bible said that He reconciled that through His blood. Now we are in the body of Christ. That body of Christ is fitly joined together in the whole family concept of God from Genesis to Revelation. You and I have a job that we need to do. When you come to this passage here, you are going to find out what that job is.

Now, before we go any farther, let us bow our heads and ask God to bless us this morning as we come to His Word.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Lord, we love You today. We thank You for the privilege to be able to open up the Word of God and to lay it out in such a fashion. Lord, we ask You today that You will help us put it all together. That You will help us, Lord, in everything that we try to do today, that You would have the honor and glory. Lord, I dedicate this today to the men and women who are taking that step and being baptized this morning. Lord, I know that they have no idea, most of them, the eternal ramifications of all of that and what it really means in their own life. They are doing it because they know by example that in the New Testament, every new born-again believer was baptized in a local church. We know that it

represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, that it is an outward expression of what we already have inwardly. But Lord, it goes way beyond that. Lord, they could not begin to comprehend today what all that deals with. Maybe after today, they will have a little better understanding of it.

Lord, I pray that there are so many young couples here, so many young men and women that are single. So many young men and women, Lord, and the middle-aged couples and the older couples. Truly, Father, we are fitly joined together for the work of the ministry. I pray that You will continue to grow us up, that You will bless in all that we do. Father, we will be careful to give You the honor and the praise. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

The thing that I am going to talk about with you today, the next thing that changed, is simply this: you are no longer a citizen of planet Earth. The Bible says in verse 19, the day you got saved: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." The next thing that changed about you is God changed your citizenship. I want to tell you something, the depth of this passage is more than I could ever get into today. I tell you what, I look at what we just read there and I look at that and I think of all that it contains sometimes. I know that I was putting this together this week. My dilemma was, man, you could get lost in this and see where this goes. It is unbelievable.

But I think that the thing that I want to major on today is the one concept that we need to stay focused with, and that is the fact that now that we are saved, the day we got saved, you are no longer of this world. You are in this world, but you are no longer of this world. The reality of that great truth is the hardest thing for God's people to get. It absolutely is.

You know, my biggest struggle as a pastor, my biggest dilemma, and I simply am at a loss for this. I have never seen a time in history, and in my life I have been very fortunate. We know that the Bible talks about that there are seven periods in church history. We know that those seven periods start with the time of Christ, and we live in the last period, and that is Laodicea. Laodicea means "justice of the people." Laodicea is a church age where simply the rights of God's people become more important than the rights of God. It becomes a point where God's people have lost their touch with reality in the Word of God.

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6:19:

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God's people, they do not understand that they do not have any rights. When we got saved, God saved us for a purpose. Nobody twisted your arm to get saved. Nobody made you decide to go to heaven instead of hell. But God's people today want to take the heaven part but do not want to take the service part of doing what God wants them to do. I am not too sure you can do that. I

will tell you, God has been good to me because most of God's people today, they have no reference point.

III. The Lost Reference Point

I think back in the Old Testament, I think back when the nation of Israel built the great temple under Solomon. It was one of the greatest, most majestic buildings the world has ever seen. It was at a time in history where every nation was looking toward the nation of Israel and understood about their God, whether they accepted it or not. I remember reading back there in Chronicles and how that when they built that temple, it was the most unbelievable, it was without a doubt, the eighth wonder of the world that just dwarfed all the things that man had done up to that point because it was God's temple in God's Jerusalem, exactly where God wanted it, and all the world had to come and find God through that temple.

Then I remember the destruction that took place. I remember how the nation of Israel turned their back on God, how they dumped the Word of God, how they began to add to and bring in all the other false gods and all the other false religions. In a mere 200, 300, 400 years, it absolutely devastated the nation of Israel. Right before they go into captivity in 2 Chronicles 36, they are absolutely only a shell of what they once were. They are even worse today because you add another 2,600 years on top of that, and they are really out of touch today. But back then, they did not even resemble themselves.

You know the story. They go into captivity for 70 years. They are captivated by Babylon and Assyria. Assyria gets knocked off, Babylon gets knocked off, and Cyrus, King of Persia, begins to take over and he lets them go back to the land. In Ezra and Nehemiah, they try to get back to where they were. But they do not learn a great lesson. A great lesson is they cannot get back to where they once were because they have lost the number one thing that could ever allow them to get back, and that is the Kingdom of Heaven is no longer here. Try as they would. Do all they tried to do. What you have during Ezra and Nehemiah is a rebuilding of that temple. They rebuild that temple trying to get back to what they had.

Haggai was a prophet during that time. Haggai's writing is a post-captivity book that takes place after they go back. Haggai wrote of that time. When I read it years ago, it just turned all the lights on for me because it not only showed me what the problem is, but it illuminated my greatest struggle in being a pastor. To this day, I do not know how to totally overcome this. Haggai wrote of that great time when they came back in Nehemiah and they built this temple. Sometime when you have a rainy Saturday afternoon, you ought to go back to Chronicles and find out and read the passage of where they built and dedicated the temple, and then go to Ezra and Nehemiah and see the contrast to it. This is what Haggai is referencing.

Haggai 2:3

Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

You know what he is saying? He is saying, "Boys, you do not understand. You think you have got something now? You do not know. You were not there. You have nothing to compare it with." When Solomon built that temple and they dedicated that temple, it was the greatest period in the history of the world. Nothing can compare to it. The gold, the building, the sacrifices, 100,000, 500,000, 10,000 sacrificial animals. When he came back in Ezra and Nehemiah, it was like building a Walmart. It was like it was nothing. He says, "You think you have got something now? You have no idea of what God was doing in the great days of God. Because you, Israel, are deep in apostasy and you have no comparison today."

I bring that right over to where we are at today. I feel sorry for most pastors today. I really do. I feel terribly sorry for most of God's people because they have nothing to compare it to. They think what we have in churches today is what Christianity really is. It is just as foreign today to God in churches today, most churches, if not all churches, as it was in Ezra and Nehemiah compared to the glory. The problem is pastors have no comparison.

I talked to a guy on the phone this week and he was asking me some Bible questions. He is a pastor. He began to come out of, I mean, I thought he had just finished a marathon Twilight series on TV. I had no idea where he was coming from with what he was trying to go to teach. I asked him, he went on for 15, 20 minutes, and I asked him, I said, "Do you not, when you start to put something in the Bible and you start to get it ready to teach and you start to look at that, do you not get, do you not start at some point and get a historical perspective of where you are at? Do you know that in the history of the church, nobody has even begun to talk what you are trying to dig out of here? I have never heard that in my life." The problem is we have no point of reference.

I was talking to Danny, my son-in-law. He was asking me about some things of how do you become a good preacher. I told him, I said, "You know how you become a good preacher? You become a good preacher by studying good preachers." Preaching is an art. It is an art. You know how you become a good painter? You go to those boring museums and walk up and down with little magnifying glasses and look at the detail of this guy and this guy. Then from all of the great painters that were successful, you take a little bit of everything and then you make your own style, your own personality, and you become a great painter. They do the same thing with preaching.

When I was growing up, I had a great advantage over 99% of pastors today and just about all of God's people. I heard some great preachers. I studied. I had a burden in my heart to preach the Word of God so badly I could not sleep at night. I remember sitting there and listening to those great men like R.G. Lee, John R. Rice, Harold Sighthler. Names the average Christian today do not even have an inkling of who they are. I remember hearing some of the great preachers preach back in my day, and I sat there just dumbfounded. I could not believe how they delivered the message. I could not believe how they made it flow, how they used that crowd to bring everything about them. An absolute masterpiece of an oral presentation of the Word of God. The Spirit of God flowed through them, and they tied it together. They used everything at their disposal. They absolutely, I watched them move the crowd. I watched the Spirit of God just come

down and turn the lights on. I remember saying to myself, "I want to preach. I want to preach just like that."

But you just do not get saved and then grow up someday and walk out and say, "Okay." You have got to study those guys. You have got to watch how they did what they did. You have got to watch how they delivered what they had. You have got to listen to the way they said it. You do not just take one. You listen to as many as you can. Then you find things that work. You never, never substitute who you are. You build into your life that God can take your personalities and take the best of what God was doing and make another great artist, an artist of truth. You know what a good preacher does? He does the exact same thing that a good artist does.

That is what I said. Most churches are pep rallies. A guy gets up, he pumps you up. You just go to the gas station and stick the hose on your big toe and just fill yourself up. That is all he does. He "rah-rah" you. "Char, char, char! Let us hit hell with a squirt gun!" Whether it has got any water or not. That is all it is. No, no, no, no. Preaching is an artistic form based by the hand of the Holy Spirit of God with a book that God gave you, just as a great artist takes the paint and the colors and he takes himself and he paints a picture on a canvas that somebody looks at and gets the idea. A preacher takes the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and gives himself to God. Then he paints the picture in the message that God wants him to have.

I do not know how to get that across, do you? I do not know how to do it. I do not know how to get you to the point where you see that everything out there today is absolutely worthless. I am not saying that this church is the only church in the world. I am not saying that at all. I am saying this church stands on the Word of God exactly the way they did in the book of Acts. That is what I am saying. I am saying if you do not, you are in a mess. You are in a mess. Christianity, just like the nation of Israel, has lost the image of who it was.

Now we are going to churches today and we think that all this stuff, all this stuff of dragging the world into the church, is really what God is at. We think that all this stuff that we are doing is really what God is all about. I am here to tell you, there was a day, there was a day, there was a day when the Spirit of God moved through preachers and God changed people's lives. Brother, when J. Frank Norris came to town, when Billy Sunday came to town, the bars were closed, the whorehouses were closed, the gambling industry was closed. When any evangelist comes to town today, it is just a great fun time. When they leave town, nothing changes. God's people say, "Wow, we had a great revival last night!" What happened? "One-legged man gave up dancing." Wow, that is good. Give me a break.

I remember as a young man, I tell you, and I am telling you, I will say this to you this morning, one of my greatest dilemmas is, my greatest dilemma, and I am probably worrying about nothing, but I am a worry wart, especially when it comes to the things that God gives me. My greatest dilemma, if Jesus does not come, is leaving this planet without having a young man who has the fire and the passion to carry this work on. That is the number one thing I worry about. That is the number one thing that is in the back of my mind in everything that I do.

I am telling you, I will tell you why it is hard to get a good preacher today. Some of you young men, listen to me. I am going to tell you why it is hard, because you want somebody to do it all

for you. I had a guy say one time, "Well, what can you do to get me prepared for the ministry?" Forget me. What are *you* going to do to prepare yourself? See, it always comes back on somebody else. That is the spirit today. We all want it now. We all want it quick, and we all want it the way we want it. I am telling you, if you ever get there, it will not be nearly what I do for you. It is what you take when I give you and you prepare for yourself.

You know what the definition of passion is? It is what you prepare in your heart after you get it. No passion. Some of you got enough notes from Thursday night Bible study and nothing. Some of you have not grown an inch in 10 years. Some of you do not preach any better or any worse or any different than you did 30 years ago. Some of you just do the same stupid stuff over and over and over. What is the deal? Some place in your life, we have got to say, "Hey, I am in this world, but I am not of this world." You have got to come to the point where you get a reality in your life of what God did and then do it like He did it.

I remember those late nights. I remembered how I knew and I understood that if I was ever going to do and be whatever God wanted me to do and be, that I was going to have to get a point of reference. I knew that I was going to have to find out my roots. I will tell you, that is another problem. The problem is today, you sitting in this room, bless your heart, most of us do not understand where we came from. You know why it does not mean anything to you and I that was of our Christianity? You know why we are so flippantly want to live our lives, live like hell during the week and then come to church on Sunday? You know why Christianity has lost its act where it does not really mean anything? It is not special anymore. It is because God's people do not understand the price that somebody paid for you to hold that book in your hand this morning. That is why.

I am telling you, I am telling you. I remember reading and understanding that I was going to have to understand where my roots were. I knew that I had no business going any farther. I had nothing to say if I did not have some historical basis to tie it back to. I remember those days of going through church history, getting the books that I could find and the material I could get my hands on. God brought some great stuff to me. I remember as I was reading through, around the 1600s, 1700s, I began to read about a man that probably no single person in church history has ever given me more of a mooring and a position of latitude that I know where I am at, where I am going.

IV. The Moravian Example

There was an old guy by the name of Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. He was born in the 1700s in Dresden, Germany. He was greatly influenced by a man by the name of August Hermann Francke. Now everybody knows Count Zinzendorf, well, not everybody, but many, many people know Count Zinzendorf. But I am going to tell you something, you could not find five guys. You could not find one in here that knew who August Hermann Francke was. You see, behind every great man that God uses, there is some little nobody over here that does something that never gets recorded that God uses in somebody else's life.

Francke lived in the 1600s. I think he died in 1722. When he comes to the point in Germany, he sees that the problem, he sees that there were homeless children everywhere. The Crusades, the Black Death, and all the things that had swept through Europe early on had just decimated. There were literally hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who lived on the street, who had no home, who were street beggars. Francke had a great concept. He opened up an orphanage and he took those children in and he made that orphanage a Bible-centered, Bible concept. When he took those little ruffians off the street and put them in that orphanage, he had one goal, and that goal was to take them and train them in the Word of God. In 200 years of that orphanage, long after his death, he turned out over 15,000 pastors and missionaries that the world had discarded.

Oh no, no, but the cultured Christians of the day had nothing to do with them. They were at Oxford. They were at Cambridge. They were at Halle. They were in Switzerland. They were in the great learning places of this world. They wanted nothing to do with the little dirty, snotty-nosed kids on the streets of Germany. But Francke took them, used them, put them together, and trained over 15,000 missionaries and pastors.

It was this that Zinzendorf, as God moved in his life as he grew, around 1720 in that period of time, the Germans, the Pietists, the Lutherans, the state churches were giving the Waldensians and the German Baptists all kinds of problems, persecuting them. Count Zinzendorf owned a lot of land and he allowed them to build a little city on his vast estate. It was called in German Herrnhut, which means in English, "the Lord's watch." He saw within what he was doing after the same concept of August Hermann Francke. He saw the great missionary concept that in time became what is known today as the Moravian Brethren and the Moravian Church, and the greatest period in the history of the church with the Moravian missionary movement.

Count Zinzendorf, he was just like Francke. He was ridiculed by the cultured Christians of the day. Oh, they are busy in Basel. They are busy in Halle. They are busy over there in Cambridge. They are busy over there in Edinburgh. They are busy over there in the great seminaries studying the great things of God while the world dies and goes to hell. Here is a man that does what God wants you to do, and just like today, the world ridiculed him about it. But I will tell you, my friend, in 20 years, he did more than the cultured Christians of his day did in 200. So powerful is the hand of God to this day. It is unbelievable what the men and women accomplished.

I am telling you, they understood what I am trying to get across to you today if you are saved, that you are no longer a citizen of planet Earth. Once you get saved, your citizenship changes. You are, yes, you are in this world, but you are no longer of this world. We see them take the greatest concept, build on one man with his orphanage, and send missionaries to the West Indies, to Greenland. It was the very Moravians that came over into New York and Pennsylvania.

We talk a lot about John Wesley. What a great preacher he was. You know that John Wesley was hearing about the great revivals over in America. Now he is in England. John Wesley had heard about the great revivals of Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. He wanted to get in on the action. So Wesley takes passage on a ship to come all the way over to America. Now Wesley is not saved yet. He comes over here, falls flat on his face. Now mind you, this is going to be the greatest man that whenever you look him up in church history, John Wesley, Charles Wesley, his

brother, are going to be side by side as the great, great, great men of history. He comes to America, he is lost. He falls flat on his face preaching in America because he is an unsaved man. Discouraged, broken, and beat up, he takes passage back to England. On his way back over, you know who he bumps into in a late night walk around the deck? A Moravian missionary. That Moravian missionary opens up the scriptures, and that is where Wesley got saved. He goes back to England and leads England through some of the greatest revivals. We all know Wesley's name. What was the name of that Moravian missionary?

You see, we always put the emphasis on how big it is, do not we? We always put the emphasis on how grand it is. The chandeliers. Look at the organ. Look at this, look at that. Look at the stained glass windows. Look at all this. It is never about those things. Zinzendorf's motto was simply this: "He and he only." You know why? Because he came to the place that he realized the day he got saved, he was not a citizen down here any longer. That is why.

I remember reading that and I remember looking at there. There is not one missionary program in America or the world that I know of today that follows the greatest missionary program in the history of the church. You know how they got their support? They went out and got a job, supported themselves, and went out and did the ministry from that aspect, just like the Apostle Paul did as a tentmaker. In fact, the reason why they are ridiculed so much by the cultured Christians, their first two missionaries they sent out went to Greenland as gravediggers. Pretty good job if you want to win people to Christ. Try to get them before they get to the part where you have got to dig the grave, but do what you can do.

Zinzendorf's coat of arms. His coat of arms was an altar with an ox on this side and a plow laying up against the altar with a motto underneath that said, "Ready for either." They were ready to lay their lives on the altar of God or they were ready for God to hitch them to the plow and plow the fields of this whole world, sowing the gospel seed. There were Moravian missionaries, ladies and gentlemen, who want to talk about Christian rights, want to talk about the Christian coalition, you want to talk about the immoral or moral majority, you want to talk about all the politics that go in Christian world today, you want to talk about your rights as a child of God, why you do not serve God because you think you have got some rights. There were some Moravian missionaries who sold themselves into the black African slaves of the day in Africa to reach the slaves as missionaries, and that is the only way they could do it.

When I saw things like that, I am saying, "What is going on today? What is wrong with us? How does that compare with the 20th and 21st century Christian, the Christians, the pastors, the churches today?" The Moravians understood the great principle of God changing their citizenship. They understood that from this time on it was different. I am telling you, there is going to have to come a time in your life. I do not know what else to tell you. I do not know the answer to this. I wish I had a pill I could give you. You are going to have to get it on your own. I do not know. Most of you probably do not have the determination to do it. You do not have the self-discipline to do it. I am sorry to say that.

My prayer, my prayer every day of my life is for God out of this church, "Just give me 30." I am not under illusion with what we have got today. I am not under illusion that what is going on

today that we are ever going to, I just, I am not under, if God, if You will just give me 30 men and women who will say, "I am in this world but I am not of this world." Just give me 30. Let the rest go for the ride. Just give me 30. God, just give me 20 who come to the place in their life where they see they are no longer a citizen and they see America for what it is. They see their politics for what it is. They see their job for what it is. Their family for what it is. Their Bible for what it is. The Spirit of God for what it is. The church for what it is. Your purpose in life at that point becomes crystal clear. Crystal clear. Crystal clear.

You come to the point where you see what God has given you. The chance you have in these last days to really make a difference. I am telling you. When you come to the point in your life that you get to this point, you see yourself and what God wants to do with you. Everything becomes crystal clear.

I have known for many, many years that my calling of God is not to pastor. That is not my calling. I am not a very good pastor in a lot of senses. A lot of things I am not a detailed person in. Well, I should correct that. A lot of things I choose not to be a detailed person in. You know what? When it comes to planning today, do not count on me. But I know my limitations. I know that God has put a lot of people around me to do things better than I do.

No, I have two options. I can walk around like some big peacock letting you think that I know how to do everything. And you walk around saying, "Wow, he thinks he does everything." Or I can use the people that God has given me. Canoe trip coming up. Boy, if we all have flat bottom boats, if I was in charge of that, I want nothing to do with it. I want to go down, get in my canoe and paddle off somewhere. Softball. I want nothing to do with it. I only do one good thing in life better than anything else besides pitching. I know my limitations.

I had a guy, we had a couple leave the church here a year and a half ago. I forget when it was. One of the main reasons behind the scenes, because I told this guy, I said, "You know what? You better get into your head about pastor because you are just not a pastor. You have got some great things to do, but you are just not a pastor." Now he took offense to that. He got mad because he wants to be a pastor despite what his calling is. This guy does not have the tools to be a pastor. He got mad. You know what he is doing right now? He is trying to prove me wrong that he is going to pastor. He really thinks that getting a bunch of people coming to hear you preach is being a pastor, not being a pastor.

My great strength is not being a pastor. It is not. I have to pastor for God to do the great strength and the calling that He has given me. My calling is not pastoring. God has given me one ability better than anything else that I do in my life. One calling, one ability. I just have to pastor to be able to do it. You know what it is? It is taking young men and young ladies and teaching the Bible one on one. That is my calling. My calling is to take a young man and a young lady, take any young man and young lady that says, "Bob, I want to do what God wants me to do and I want to be used of God and I want God to use me," and then take them and put them in a scenario and make it work for them. That is all I do.

You know what? If I spent all the time orchestrating this and orchestrating that and doing this and deciding what color, hey, you know what? I do not know that we are ever going to build a

building. Maybe someday we will. I do not even know. But I know this. You do not want to ever come in any building that I designed. You do not. I would have a baptism right inside the foyer. You would all get baptized as you came in. So you know what God did? God gave me men who know how to build. God gave me men who know how to put buildings up. See, I am not so arrogant or stupid that I think that that is my gift. The pastors want to get in and say, "Well, we need to do this, we need to do that." No, you need to shut up and go do what you do. "Well, I do not know what that is." There is your problem.

I know what I do well. It is taking you men and women wherever you are at in life. I do not care if you are 20. I do not care if you are 40. I do not care if you are 30. I do not care if you are 100. It is taking you young men and young ladies wherever you are at and helping you become everything that God wants you to do and give you that book. My biggest dilemma is trying to get you to see what was real versus what is phony, make the connection, and then be what is real. It is tough. It is tough. It is tough.

I remember years ago, years ago, I was preaching in a church down in Alabama and I was preaching on the pulpit. The pastor, getting ready to preach, and the pastor leaned over to me and he said, "You are going to be on in just a minute, Brother Bob." He said, "We have got a little presentation we have got to give tonight." So just bear with me. He said, "Hey, your church, no problem. I am not going anywhere to go tomorrow morning to get back on the plane. Whatever you want to do."

What happened was this. This is my example. They had a couple in that church, a dear sweet couple, a dear sweet couple, been married 65 years. The church wanted to honor him and recognize him that night. They had him stand up, had a little reception for him and a little cake. It was a big, nice deal. Please do not misunderstand that. I am not fighting that. I am not saying there was anything wrong with that. But get my point. That same afternoon, the pastor asked me to sit in on a counseling scenario that he had with a husband and wife. They had been married five years and she did not want to be married to him anymore. He did not want to be married to her anymore. They were breaking up. So I had sat through that in the afternoon, and then I am right before I preached. They had this thing here, and the pastor leaned over to me and said, and I did not think about this at the time, the pastor leaned over to me and said, "Well, you get some good things in the ministry," meaning this, "and you get some really bad things in the ministry," meaning this afternoon.

I just sat there and that thing just kind of landed on me. I thought to myself, so after the deal, I went down there and I put my little investigator hat on and I started talking to the dear, sweet man and woman. They were a lovely couple. Been in that church all their life. It was very obvious as I talked to them. In fact, he came up to me after my sermon that night. I will never forget it. I really, I really, really took the paint off the wall that night. He came up to me afterwards and he said at the reception, he said, "You know what, Brother Bob?" He said, "I am 80 years old," or however old he was. He said, "I wished I would have heard that message when I was 20." I looked right back at him, and that answered my question there. I looked right back at him and I said, "Well, Brother, I appreciate that. But let me ask you a question. What are you going to do with it now that you have heard it?"

I got on a plane next morning and it hit me like a ton of bricks. This is the problem with Christianity. We think that a young couple that gets married, gets divorced after a few short years, what a tragedy. There is an old dear, sweet couple, been married for 65 years or 60 years, whatever it was, and stayed together, paid their bills, loved each other, hung in there through thick and thin, and here they are. We look at it as one is failure, one is success. I say to you under the authority of the Word of God, my friend, that they are both a failure. They are both a failure. You know what? Where did you get the idea that the failure is success with whether you got a divorce or stayed together? The failure or success is, did you finish the mission that God called you to finish? That is the issue. We lose sight of that because we do not have anything to tie it back to.

We think that a husband and wife that stays together and lives together and raises kids together is a great success, and all the failures out here of marriages do not get together. Let me tell you something. God saved you, He ordained you, He gave you your helpmeet to finish that mission, and I do not care if you are married for 150 years. If you did not do what God called you to do, you are a failure. If you are saved, it is not about failure or success whether you get divorced or stay together. It is that you stay together and accomplish the mission. We have lost it. We do not understand it. We do not understand we are up against a whole different set of priorities.

I am telling you, give me some men and some women, just 30 of them, God, just 30 of them. You know when Paul talks about all this stuff, he always likens it. He always likens it to a race. He says over in Hebrews 12:1:

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

We are in a race. When I look at the household of God and I see from Genesis to Revelation, I understand the household of God and how it is fitly joined together under one holy temple. I understand a little bit better where you and I are at in this race. It is a relay race, and in a relay race, you know what? You want to put your fastest guy at the end. Everybody else do the best you can, run as hard as you can, stay even, do not wear yourself out, get a little bit ahead, certainly do not get behind, but the anchor man is the last man who gets the handoff. He has got 100 yards to go, and when he gets that handoff, he runs for the finish line. Like I said, last thing he has to do in life.

You and I need to understand that in 1900 we got the handoff, and I am telling you now, on the authority of the Word of God, the finish line is just 100 feet away. Run, run, run, everything you have got. All the weights that so easily slow us down in this race. No, because we have nothing to tie it back to. I want to say to you, my friend, you young couples, you young Christians that are sitting here, especially those that are being baptized this morning, that you have come to this point in your life. I am saying everything you can understand and realize. I am saying be one of the 30. Say to God, there has to come a point in your life. There has to. There has to be a point in your life when you look at the world and you say, "I am done with it. I have got a race. The

finish line is 100 feet away. I am going to run with all my might. I do not care if I am 20, 30, 40, 60, or 90. I am going to run with everything that is in me."

Nowhere, nowhere, nowhere in the Bible is this laid out in a greater book form than the book of Exodus. Many of you, you know, we have come through our Exodus time and you know how we are coming through the Bible book by book. So many of you understand what I am saying. The greatest single book in all the Bible that illustrates what I am saying is the book of Exodus. That book breaks down and shows you from before you were saved, when you were lost and you cried out for God, and then God sent you a deliverer. That deliverer came down and brought you the message of God, and then God saves you. Then you started on a journey, and every chapter focuses on another part of the inward change in your life, from the fact that you get baptized, which is today, to your sanctification, to your relationship to God in prayer, to the Word of God, to all the aspects. Those first chapters from chapter 1 to chapter 18 all deal with the inward things.

I want to say one other thing to you. I know they came through chapter by chapter, but they all take place instantaneously in your life, just for the sake of studying it. God put it out that way. I want to tell you this. You might as well get it from me now. I have got some good news and bad news again. The good news is you got saved, you are on your way to heaven. The bad news is in this great study, the day they got baptized was where their struggles and their trials really began. So you might as well understand, boys and girls, men and women, you might as well understand that that is why God puts you here. You have got a church that believes the Book, that stands on the Book, a church that if it ever goes any other way, the New Testament, you find yourself another pastor. Or if I go the other way, you find yourself another pastor.

But the bottom line is this. You have to understand that it is a battle and it is a race, and the thing you have to do is get the stupid weights, the little "wah-wah" things off your ankles that keep you from ever being the man or woman that God wants you to be. The only way you do that is to understand the day you got saved, you are not in this world, you are in the world, but you are not of this world anymore, and now you have got a new mission, and that mission is to run that race, to put it into perspective, to give God everything you have got for the last hundred-yard dash.

V. Four Men, Four Changes

Then we get into chapter 18 and chapter 34, and now everything turns outwardly. Up to that point, everything is inward. Now when you get to chapter 18 through 34, it is all outward, and now we have the great lessons on the ministry, people. Now you see Moses struggling with people. You see all the different ramifications of the things that he has got to put up with, exactly what you are going to put up with in the world, exactly what you are going to put up with when you start dealing with God's people.

I want to tell you something. You come to chapter 33 and chapter 34, there are four men in your Bible that illustrate what I am talking about today, four men in your Bible. Remember I told you when you got saved, your purpose changed, your passion changed, your perspective changed, and your patience changed. Four men in your Bible that God brought them to a point in their life,

and at that point, everything changed about them, and they never were the same again. Two in the Old Testament, two in the New Testament. Four men in your Bible that when they come to this point in their life, which is where every child of God sitting under the sound of my voice this morning should get to. If you grow right, if you get into the Word of God, if you use the things that God has given you, and you come to the place where you stay on track, and you get rid of the sins and the weights and the stupid stuff that slows you up, cancels you out, takes you out of church, takes you someplace else, and ruins your life and ruins everything about it because now you have got this and you have got that and I have got all of this, but I just do not have a church that preaches the Bible. What good have you done? You just cut yourself off.

In chapter 33 and chapter 34, brother, comes a point in Moses' life that needs to come in our lives. The great pivotal chapter where Moses has grown. You have seen him from a feeble, fumbling, not speaking well man who is afraid to face Pharaoh, where now he is leading the people of God, and he comes to the place in his life that you and I need to come to, that he says, "God, show me Your glory."

I want to tell you something. Exodus chapter 33, something changes. Something is different. The Bible says that Moses has many times met God face to face and spoken with Him as his friend, but this time when he does it, there is something different. Moses goes up on that mount, and this time he meets God face to face, and he says, "Show me Your glory." God puts him in a cleft of a rock, and He passes by, and Moses' life that day is never the same again. When he comes down off that mountain, and he had been up on that mountain with God many times, this time when he came down, something was different. His face shone like the glory of God. You see, all the other times he had been with God, but he never experienced the glory of God. There is a difference between just living your Christian life every day, day in and day out, then experiencing the glory of God that changes your very countenance.

When he came down, while there were people down there in the camp, they are looking up there in that old Mount Sinai, saying, "Whoa, was that a UFO? What is that up there? Hey, guys, look at that. What is that light moving down? Oh, it is coming this way. Wow, look at that thing. I do not know, man. Maybe we better call NORAD. That is weird. You know, I have heard about swamp gas. I do not know if that, it is not no swamps up. I do not know, man, that is so wild. I do not know. I do not know what that is." It kept coming, and it kept coming. Got a little closer. Somebody got their binoculars out, looked at it and said, "Hey, that is Moses. That is Moses. Moses is glowing. Moses, that is Moses." When Moses came down, because he had been with God and experienced the glory of God, never again was his life the same. He shone the glory of God.

You know what it did? The common ordinary Christians, the common ordinary people were afraid of Moses. Because Moses did something wrong? Because Moses was a bad person? No, simply because Moses had been with God by his own choosing, and they had been with the golden calf by their own choosing. It made them afraid. Now you might as well get used to it. Having the power of God in your life is going to separate you from family. It is going to separate you from some people you thought were your friends. It is going to make people afraid. Sometimes God's people. They are going to look at you and they are going to think, "Wow, what

happened to him? What happened to her?" Oh, nothing. There is a fact that you came to that pivotal point in your life where you say to God, "I am not ever going back. I am not going back to this world. I have got to be in it, but I am not going to be of it. I am not going to be part of it. I am not going to talk like it. I am not going to smoke like it. I am not going to drink like it. I am not going to act like it. I am not going to do anything. I am going to see what God wants me to be. And I am not ever going back. There is nothing going to get me out of the life that God now has called me because I now know what God wants me to do."

You know who the second one is? Four men. The second one is Isaiah. Over there in Isaiah chapter 6.

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips: and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Let me tell you something. You see Moses, Moses represents the first thing that changed in your life, and that is purpose. You know what Moses' purpose was? His purpose was to get the children of Israel to the promised land. Now here is the kicker. You know, Moses did not get to go into the promised land. That really was the test of Moses' real purpose, was it not? How many of God's people start coming to church and then something does not work out the way you like it? Somebody makes you mad. You get your nose out of joint about something. You know what you do? You quit coming. You know why? Because your real purpose was not the right purpose. You see the test of Moses' purpose was the fact that God called him to get everybody in the promised land, which was what everybody wanted. But Moses did not get to go, and after Moses found out he did not get to go, he was okay with it. You know what? Because he found out getting to be with God instead of getting to do what God wants you to do is still better any day of the week. Oh, our purpose is so screwed up. I do not know how to get God's people to see that. I do not. I struggle. How do I get you to take your purpose today and line it up with Zinzendorf and the Moravians? How do I get you? You know what? I will tell you all. God, just give me 30. I cannot do everybody. I cannot. I will waste the rest of my life that God has given me. I will waste the rest of my life chasing people who do not want to get caught, trying to help people who do not want to learn. God, You just give me 30, give me 20. If I only get 10, give me 10, 15, 20, 30. That will just say, "I will give it all." Then we will run the race with that. I do not know what else to do.

Moses' purpose. You know what Isaiah got? He saw the Lord lifted up high and His glory filled the house. He says in verse 5, "Woe is me." You see, the second thing, when you see the glory of God, it is perspective. When you see the glory of God, you see how insignificant we really are. He saw the glory of God and he says, "Woe is me." I will tell you something. The way up is down. You want to get close to God, get down on your knees. You want to fix your marriage, get down on your knees. You want to fix your life, get down on your knees. You want to get rid of the weight that does so easily beset you, get down on your knees. The way up is down. Isaiah gets his perspective changed. You and I need a perspective change. It only comes when you see the glory of God. Isaiah's mission was to the nation of Israel. It was a hard one. He had to keep it in perspective. The best way I know to keep it in perspective is to see who He is and understand who you are. That is what I talked about. You have got to know where your limitations are. You have got to know what you can do and what you cannot do.

I am telling you something else. You have got to know that it is not about what I can do to prepare you. It is what you do on your own to prepare yourself. You will never be... Hey, let me tell you something. Most of you guys that do a mission, you do a good job. Adequate job. But I am going to tell you right now, 10 years from now, 15 years from now, you will be stumbling around doing the same dumb things unless you find a way to perfect your preaching. You do not do it by listening to me every week. You do not do it by going out and doing all the things you want to do and then coming home and slapping a sermon together over the next couple of weeks, you know, and putting a few things in here. You do it by finding and studying the artistic ability of delivering the Word of God.

You get on the Internet, I guess they are on the Internet, and you find recordings of these great old boys. I will tell you what. You can get on TV right now and listen to some of the stupidest, dumbest preachers that are on their way to hell in a handbag and still find out how they use language to move people even though the message is wrong. Because I will tell you, if a guy like Joel Osteen can get on TV and pack a place out with 50 million people in it and he is not preaching anything, and when he goes on to somebody's show and they say, "Joel Osteen, does the... You really believe the Word of God really fixes everybody's problem?" "No, believe me." He is up every night. You guys watching probably a lot of you. You think he is the greatest thing in the world. People out there, and when he is asked on Larry King if he really believes the Word of God has all the answers to people's problems, you know what his answer is? "I hope so." If he can move that many people by teaching the heresy that he does, what can you do? What can I do with the truth?

See, the problem is your delivery of the truth. There are two aspects. You can have the truth, but if you do not know how to get it out, you are not going anywhere and you have got to never be satisfied with where you are. If you are not constantly perfecting yourself, if you are not constantly critiquing yourself, if you are not constantly reevaluating yourself and keeping your perspective where it needs to be, you will be the same you are now 15, 20 years from now. Great guy. I will love you to death. I will use you where I can, but let us face it. You are not any better now. You are more anybody than you are now. I do not know what to tell you. You will not know any more about the Bible than you know. Oh, you get a few little things here from Thursday

night Bible study. Oh, you get this and you get that. But you know what? It is just like collecting salt shakers.

My mom growing up, she had more salt shakers, salt and pepper shakers. Everywhere we went, her deal was get a salt and pepper shaker. We had salt and pepper shakers from everywhere in the world. I mean everywhere. You know what? We never ate at home. We never used them. You know what else? She did not want you to touch them. She had them locked up in glass cabinets. She had everything Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck. She had Porky Pig. She had, you name it. Every place we went. We went to Washington. She got salt and pepper of the Washington Monument. We went down to Atlantic City. We had two from Atlantic City. We had, everywhere we went. We went to Ohio. We went up to Cedar Point. We had them from there. It was everywhere. I mean they were everywhere. You walk in the house and they are everywhere. You know what? I always ask myself, "Why do we have so many salt and pepper shakers? We do not even eat here." You know? I mean I cannot touch them. She liked to collect those things. Never use them. Just liked to collect them. You know what? Some of you like to collect truth. I walk into your brain, you would have all kinds of truth stored just like she had salt and pepper shakers. You and my mom are just alike. You never use what you have stored.

I do not know what to tell you. I do not know how to fix that. I do not know how to make you do anything with the Word of God. Once you make the commitment, I know how to do it. But I do not know how to get you over that hump. I do not know how to get you over that hump. I do not know how to get you a perspective of where it was when it was real and how fake it is today. And you seeing what this is and then taking a stand against it the way that it is and then getting to where God wants you to go. There is a hundred feet left in this race, folks. We are arguing about, "Well, you do not like me. I do not like him. Well, she said this and she did that." The race! My God, people! The race! Men and women are dying and going to hell and we are worried about our little weight that does so easily beset us.

Then the next one. Paul. Acts 9. Paul gets saved. He gets saved in a glorious way on the road to Damascus. Wow, what a great thing. But you know what? When you study the book of Acts, you will find that he gets saved in Acts 9, but you lose touch of Paul for Acts 10. You do not find him again until around Acts 11, Acts 12, when he goes out on his first missionary journey with him and the boys. I know that is just one page in your Bible that you turn over, but in time, that is somewhere between 9 and 14 years. He is gone. Now, I know in your Bible it is just one page, but now we know that three of that he spent in Arabia, Galatians 1. We know that God had a mission for him. So God prepared him for that mission by taking him up on Mount Sinai, right where Moses was in the Old Testament, and gave him what He wanted him to do.

But that is not what got Paul going. Sometime after that, the Bible does not say when. The Bible does not say where. Sometime after that, it is recorded in 2 Corinthians 12, where Paul is caught up to the throne of God. He himself does not know if he died and went up, or he is in a trance and went up. He does not know himself. But what he does know is what he sees, what he hears, and how it changes life. He saw and heard things that you and I cannot hear because it is unlawful. Then God took him and threw him back down on that dusty road, brought him back to life or whatever. Then the rest of his life, if you want a model for passion, Paul. He had the

greatest education of his day, taught by Gamaliel, one of the greatest teachers of his day, Acts chapter 4. He was born a Jew, but he was a Roman citizen. He had everything going for him. Yet the Bible says that in Philippians 3:8, he compared what he had here with what God gave him now.

Philippians 3:8

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

He said, "It is dung compared to what I have got with God." I am going to tell you, when God shows you the unsearchable heavenly riches and God begins to, you see the glory of God and you come to the reality that your citizenship has changed. You are no longer part of this world system. You have got a higher calling. I will tell you what, pastors today and Christians, they like to compare themselves with God. For the Apostle Paul, how many times have I heard in some church, some stupid deacon get up and some stupid board member get up and thank God for their pastor. The pastor, you know, comes up like some kind of bubble gum, you know, and stands up there. Everybody bow down and applaud because, "Oh, we have got a pastor just like the Apostle Paul." What is your reference point? Paul did not live in a house like he did. Did he drive the cars he did? Why, this, we have got 401ks, we have got honeymoon funds, we have got all this. Hey, the only stocks that Paul had when he died was on his hands and his feet. No comparison. We lost the point of reference. We think the bigger we have got it, the better it is, the more godly it is. Those poor people back there in the Moravian time with Count Zinzendorf, they had nothing, but they had everything. We have got everything and we have got nothing.

It was Paul that said in Philippians 1:21:

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

He never lived his life the same ever again.

Lastly, and I am done. You have got John in the book of Revelation where Moses represents the purpose, Paul represents the passion, Isaiah represents the perspective, John represents our patience. In fact, in Hebrews 12:1, that verse I read you a little while ago, it said, "run the race with patience." Many times in the book of Revelation written by John, you will find where he tells us to have patience because in this race, in this world with all we have got to do, you have got to have patience. He said in Revelation 1:10:

Revelation 1:10

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

He saw the glory of God and he says, "I fell at his feet as one that was dead." That is where we all need to be. At His feet as dead. You know what that represents? The end of self. It is the end of you and me as we are and come to the point that we just say, "God, I do not know how long I

have got left. God, I am 80. God, I am 60. God, I am 40. God, I am 30. God, I am 20. God, I am 18. But I am going to give You the rest of my life. I am done with this world. I am going to get shed of those stupid weights that hold me down. I am not going to let anybody, any person, anywhere, keep me from running that last hundred feet to that finish line with everything I have got."

I wish I could say that would be all for all of you. I am sorry. I wish it was. I would do anything in the world. But it will not be. It will not be. I know it will not be. Yet, when I say that, I do not have anybody in mind. I just know the odds. I just know the odds. I am realistic. I am not a pep rally guy. This is not a pep rally message. This is meat and potatoes, pal. This is get in or get out. This is make up your mind. You are going to go one way or the other. You cannot have one foot in the world and one foot with God. You may think you can. You may try to do it and you will bust your full neck. You cannot do it.

I am telling you, I have asked God every day of my life, "Just give me 30. Just give me 30. And God, if You cannot find 30, just give me 20. And God, if You cannot find 20, just give me 10." But God, in all of that, "Give me a young man. Give me one. Give me one young man. Just give me one." You know what? I have got one, maybe two. Now, you have no idea who you are, but I watch every move you make. I watch everything. I watch everything. See? I watch everything I do around here is to put you in a position to see how well you do with my people. I am telling you, I watch you in everything you do. I watch when you disciple somebody. I watch when you work with somebody. I watch when you captain a volleyball team. I watch when you captain a softball team. I watch everything you do. I look at scenarios that come up in your little areas that you work with. I watch if you take the easy way out, or you pull everybody together and make the thing happen. That is what it takes. I just say, "God, with whatever I have got, just give me one. Give me one guy who will get the purpose, the passion, the perspective, and the patience. Give me one guy. If I cannot have anything else, do not take me off the scene until You give me one guy who can stand in the gap and make up the difference, that he will take that thing and run all the way to the end to it."

I am telling you, and you know what it is going to take? It is going to take you preparing yourself for that task and getting everything else in the world in your life in perspective. With most of God's people today, that just is not going to happen. That is not going to happen. You see, you are running this race, but you are looking at the hurdles. You are running this race, but you hear somebody up there saying, "Bob, Bob, run, Bob, run." And you slow up and look and say, "Yeah, I am running. I am doing good. Look at me. Woo hoo. I am running. Oh, yeah. Yeah." And they are going by. Yeah. No. You know what Paul said? He finished his course. He finished his race. You keep your eye on the finish line for me and for you, the finish line, the judgment seat of Christ. That is all. That is all. That is all.

Hey, I love life as much as anybody. I am no stickler. I am no legalist. I am no buddy. I can laugh and have fun. Do things like everybody else. You know what? I never lose my purpose. I never lose my perspective. I never lose my passion because everything else means nothing. That means everything. I will do you no good as a pastor. I will do you no good as someone who teaches your Bible if I just flit around in life like all the other Christians. I just let everything pull me

down. There are things that bother me. You will never get past it. You will never come to the place where you do not feel things. I feel things. I feel things for people. I hurt for people. There are people that I see go through things. I look at their kids or I look at them. I look at their circumstances. My heart aches inside. It does. But you know what? I cannot let that stop me from finishing the race. I have the wherewithal to fix any problem you have. Not by my own, but by that Book. It is up to you to want to fix it.

I could turn you into the best preacher you ever had in your life. That is what I do. But it is up to you to do the work. You are just like my mom. Wow. Look at the salt and pepper shakers you have got. Whoa. Monday, Thursday night, Sunday morning, look at all the truth you have got. Whoa, you have got some truth, man. Yeah, and it is all locked away because you have got other agendas in your life. I do not know how to fix it. I gave up a long time ago. I just asked God to give me 30 young men and young ladies. Just 30. If I cannot get 30, give me 20. That will quit being a thumb sucker and get up and run the race. Get shed of the weights that slow you up. I just want to get 30 across that finish line. I would like to get all of you. I would. I would do anything in the world. But I know it is not realistic. It is just not. Some of you are never going to let your foot out of this world. I love you with all of my heart. I would do anything in the world for you. But you know you are not. You just have not ever bought in to totally be in what God wants you to be. You will never see yourself as lifted out of this world and a new citizen. You will never see yourself as you are in this world. You have to live here. But I am no longer of this world. I know if I can do it, you can do it, because I have got more problems than you have got. I struggle with the same things you do. But you know what? It is about purpose. It is about passion. It is about perspective. It is about patience.

So you that are getting baptized today, I have got my money on you, every one of you. God did not bring you here for a reason, for no purpose. God brought you here for a reason. God brings everybody here for a reason. Many of them move on legitimately. Many of them move on because we really do not want to do what is right. It is just easier to go somewhere else. The way it is going to be, I told you last week, this church is not for everybody. It is for the 30. It is for the 30. Boy, would it not be great if I had 40. Would it not be great in these last days that God just came down and dumped all heaven on us and gave us 150? Who imagined around the world, around this city, what we could do for the glory of God if everybody would just get it figured out in their head of what it once was and what it is now and say, "I want to get back to that. I want to get back to what is real because that is only what counts."

Every head bowed and every eye closed. Father, we love You today.