

Ephesians 2:6

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I. Introduction: The Five Changes of Salvation

We talked about your ability to love God, fellowship with God, and loving God with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul. Last week, we were in Ephesians 2. We talked about verses 18 and 19. We talked about how your citizenship changed, how you view yourself, that you are in this world, but you are no longer of this world.

Then last week, we got into Philippians 3:20, and we talked about how the Bible says that once you are saved, your conversation now is in heaven. You have seen this has almost been a systematic walk through the Scriptures to show you and help you understand better all the things that really changed about you the day you got saved.

I made the point, and I made it every week, and it is a key point you need to remember and understand: these things happen the moment you get saved, but they are not always apparent to you. As you grow, and that is the Bible's way of getting into the Word of God, letting a New Testament local church walk you through, help you learn the basic fundamentals of the Bible, and your own basic fundamental relationship with Christ. Then, through the process of that, you come to the point in your life where you really, really, really begin to understand these things, and you see them changing in your life.

When I train up a young man or a young lady, or I watch them grow up in my ministry, these are the seven things that I look for. These seven things will always be impacted by things that take place outwardly that change. Once we change on the inside, then we have the ability to change what is on the outside. The problem is, until we are willing to put the Word of God into our lives the way we should, nothing is really going to change.

Today is going to be our fifth one, and I want to turn to Ephesians 2. We are going to start reading there in just a moment. I want to preface my remarks by saying this: all of these are very important. I have seen in just the short couple of weeks we have been coming through these, how that has made a difference in many of you. We have talked about it in our one-on-one; I have seen it as you really kind of put it all together into your life. But all of these so far have been pretty straightforward. The one today is so important because it is key to understanding any other doctrines in the Bible.

Up to this point, as I said, it has been pretty easy. You just sit back and relax and you let me do all the work. But today you are going to have to think. Today we are going to stretch you a little bit. I told you a couple of months ago that I like to give you some material that you can grasp very easily. But if I do not challenge you, if I do not make you think a little bit, then you really do not go the way that you should or grow the way that you should. So you are going to have to think a little bit today and we are going to have to follow a little bit today. Because in this one today are so many other things. The rest of them all deal with issues that are very important, but this one ties into everything in the Bible. If you are ever going to reach your potential with the

Lord Jesus Christ, and that is my goal for you, then you are going to have to see what I am talking about this morning.

You do not have to get nervous about this, thinking this is some kind of test. It is not. If you do not grasp it the way that you need to this morning, come over to talk to me about it. My home is always open to you. I will be glad to break it down for you, and anything that we teach. It is of no value if I stand up here and teach and you do not understand what I am saying. I am a pretty simplistic guy; I am not too complicated. So I make things easy to understand because that is the way I have had to learn in life. But even when you get into the Bible, there is something that just takes some time. So we are going to look at this fifth one today, and then we are going to move on through and we will talk about some things, but this one is key today.

II. Key Doctrines: Church, Standing, and State

You have heard me talk over the last couple of years about a couple of great doctrines. You have heard me talk about the doctrine of the church. The doctrine of the church is absolutely crucial for you to understand what God is doing. The concept of the church from a Bible standpoint is crucial if you, as a young man or a young lady, are ever going to come to the place where God is going to use you. Because it is God's concept.

You find people all the time, and they do not want to go to church. I have found people over the years that talk about, and how many times have we all heard this? They talk about the fact, "Well, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian." Now I understand that, and that is true. But the Bible says that Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. Your absence from church or not understanding the church concept in your own life is forsaking the number one thing that God's Son loves and gave himself for. So the church concept is very vital. All the people that make those statements obviously have never grown to the place in their life where they see the church from God's standpoint. If you do not understand it this morning already in time, you are going to have to understand the doctrine of the church because it is vital in everything that you are going to do.

Then I have talked about this doctrine, and we are about ready to get into the book of Leviticus. The book of Leviticus is built around this doctrine. So if you have not got this one yet and you are in the Bible study with us, you will. But the doctrine of standing and state. We have talked about that many, many times, and you hear me make reference to it, that there are two great doctrines in the Bible: the doctrine of your standing in Christ Jesus and the doctrine of your state now that you are saved.

Romans 5:1-2 is the definitive verse on your standing.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Very briefly, your standing in Christ simply means this: it means that when you got saved, you are saved based on the promises that God gave you. You are today, as a saved man or a woman, standing on those promises. We sing the song, "Standing on the promises of Christ, my King, through eternal ages." Well, this praises ring. Your standing in the Bible is the fact that you are saved and you are standing in the promises of God. In that, God has saved you from the world.

Now your state is something else.

Philippians 4:11

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Your state is different than your standing. If you are saved this morning, your standing in Christ Jesus is sinless perfection. You are standing in Christ based on His death on the cross. Because you are standing in Christ, you are sinless as far as God sees you. This is why over in the Bible in 1 John 3, you have a verse over there that nobody knows what to do with today. Today in the theological world, when you do not know what to do with a verse, you change the verse so you know what to do with it. Well, we do not change verses around here. We just stick with the way they are, find out what they meant.

1 John 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Now all the new translations and all the way it is today, they changed the word "commit" to "practice." And it says, "He that is born of God does not practice sin." I do not understand that myself. I practice sin all my life. In fact, I have gotten pretty good at it. But your standing is this: once you got saved, your standing is that verse in 1 John 3:9. If you were born of God, you do not commit sin because you have been separated from your flesh, and your standing in Christ Jesus has separated you out. Now your state is something else. That is your day-to-day fellowship. Your day-to-day fellowship, just like my day-to-day fellowship, is good or bad based on what you do with the Word of God. But there are two great concepts that you have to understand if you are ever going to do anything for God: and that is the doctrine of standing and state. You are going to have to get that down and you are going to have to realize that.

III. The Doctrine of Being "In Christ"

Today we are going to learn a great Bible principle that is key to so many of these things. It fits right in with standing and state. When you put it all together in the book of Ephesians, you have a great doctrine that you need to learn today. That great doctrine is the fifth thing that changed about you the day you got saved.

I am going to start reading here in Ephesians 2:1. Follow along with me.

Ephesians 2:1-6

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Here is our verse today. Here is the next one: "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." The next thing we are going to look at today is the concept of you and I sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The day you got saved, not only did your attitude change, not only were you a new creature in Christ Jesus, not only do you have the ability to love God, not only did your citizenship change, not only did your conversation change, but your very position changed. Now the Bible says you are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That is what we want to talk about this morning and explain that so you understand how this great doctrine works.

Let us pray.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We love you. We ask you this morning, Father, to give us wisdom and insight into all that we look at, all that we talk about. Help us to understand this great concept. Lord, we will thank you and praise you today. We will ask you, Lord, to bless us, to help us grasp this great truth and then apply it to our lives that we may grow up unto you, Father, a perfect man, that we might be able to stand before you with our heads held high, knowing that in these last days, we finished our course and we finished the race. In Jesus' name, for sake we ask it, Amen.

The concept of being in Christ and being seated in Christ, with the right hand of God the Father, that is what we are going to talk about today. Of course, you remember a couple of months ago, we talked about, we came through in our series that we are going through, how to put all the Bible together. We talked about the key words in the Bible. I showed you in the Bible how you really break down the context in your Bible is by the key words that are in the Bible. There are certain words in the Bible that God has put in there that every time you find them, they always mean the same thing. We dealt basically with the Old Testament, and we went through all of the words, and I gave you something like 30 or 40 of them, and we went through it, spent two months going through it. But there are also key words in the New Testament. We have never gotten into those, but we are going to start to get into at least one or two of them today.

I will give you one real easy one. In your Bible, in the New Testament, you are going to find two phrases. In Romans 5:1 and other numerous places, you are going to find the first phrase: "peace with God." In Philippians 4:7 and other places, you are going to find the second phrase: "the

peace of God." When you read those things, the average Christian thinks that it does not mean anything and they are thinking the same thing. No, no, no, no. Those two phrases teach completely two different doctrines. "Peace with God" always will have the context of your salvation. The "peace of God" always has to do with your walk with Christ. You cannot have the peace of God until you make peace with God. See the doctrine?

I do not care where you go, that is something you want to remember. When you come through the book of Romans, or you come through the book of Galatians, or 1 Corinthians, wherever you go, when a verse says "peace of God," or excuse me, "peace with God," it will always be dealing with salvation. A man makes his peace with God the day he gets saved. After he is saved, he has experiences of the peace of God. That is one of those little phrases that you are going to learn that sets the context for you just like that.

Now, I am going to tell you another one. Another one is going to be the little phrase "in Christ." That little phrase means as much in the New Testament as the Day of the Lord does in the Old Testament. Those of you that remember that study know that that represents the second coming of Christ, and you find it throughout the Bible. I want to draw your attention this morning, and we are going to preach on verse 6, and I want you to understand it, that "He hath raised us up and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." I want to talk to you now about the concept of you being in Christ and what that means. This is a great doctrinal concept that is going to help explain the church to you.

IV. The Devil's Two Plans

I have said this before, the devil has two plans. Life on planet Earth is not tough; it is real easy if you just break it down. God has His plan, the devil has his plan. God's plan is to accomplish the spreading of the gospel throughout the world. The devil's plan is real simple: it is to stop the spreading of the gospel throughout planet Earth.

The devil will stop you two ways. He has two plans. He does not have three, he does not have four. When you open up the playbook of the devil, he has got two plays in it, two plays. That is all he needs.

1.) Play number one is to get you to stay unsaved and die and go to hell. That is playbook number one. It is all he has got. He knows that if he can get you to never trust Christ, never believe the Bible, never hear the gospel story or reject it when you do hear it, that the fact that God had you be born, the fact that it is no accident that you are here this morning, it is no accident that you are walking around on God's green earth for your lifespan or your lifetime. God had a plan. The devil's plan one is to cancel that plan by getting you to not trust Christ as your personal Savior, die in your sins, and then spend eternity in hell. That is his first plan.

2.) The second plan is even simpler than the first. The second plan is some of you have gotten saved. Plan one did not work. Some of you have gotten saved. So the next thing is this: the devil's second plan is the fact that now he cannot get your soul in hell. But what he will do now is just try to keep you from growing. So he will put everything in your life to try to... the devil's main goal is to get you in hell. That just pleases him beyond no comparison. But the second thing that

pleases him almost as much after you do get saved is for you to try to keep one foot in the world and one foot with God. That pleases him almost as much as going to hell.

You say, "Why?" Because I am not going to hell. No, you are not. But because you have got one foot in and one foot out and you never really commit, God will never use you. Though he will not get your soul in hell, he may get your mother, he may get your father, he may get your brother, he may get your friends. He will get all the people you would have reached. But now you are not because you are going to stay just like this. It is just that simple. Plan one is to get you in hell. Plan two is to keep you from ever fulfilling what God wants you to do.

We see it in this church like you see it in every other church. You have people that come to church. You have people that get excited for about three or four weeks. Because they never make the break with the world, because they come in with all of the baggage and they are not willing to just dump it all, then what happens is after three or four weeks, maybe a month, maybe two months, maybe three months, maybe four months, they finally come to the place where the world drags them back down in and they never really do anything for God. It is the same old story over and over and over and over again. That is his plan. If you do not get and understand the internal concept of "in Christ," you will never grow past that second phase.

I will tell you something else. The world just does not use the things of the world to keep you from growing. Oh no, no, no. He will use everything out there, even the good things in life, to keep you from growing. We are going to talk about the church, and we are going to show you how you take the Word of God and by understanding this doctrine of being "in Christ," that you have the ability to withstand anything the devil is going to throw at you because your job and my job is to make sure we get the job done.

V. The Book of Ephesians and the Church

To understand this concept, we have got to understand the book of Ephesians just a little better. We are going to stay in Ephesians for the most part of the day. So just flip back to chapter 1. Let me say this to you: the book of Ephesians is written by Paul. I know I have said this before, but I want to say it again. We have got new people here, and besides that, the price of learning is repetition.

The book of Ephesians is written by Paul. Here is what happens; this will help put the New Testament together for you a little bit. Paul gets saved in Acts 9. When Paul gets saved in Acts 9, God takes him up to Mount Sinai in Arabia and He shows him what God wants him to do. Paul is the one single man by whom God entrusted the mystery of the church. Paul had one job, and that was all. Paul was not a pastor; that was not his calling. Paul was an evangelist. As an evangelist in the New Testament, what he did is he took the message of the church that God gave him, started churches, implanted that message of what the New Testament church was, raised up a pastor, went on down the line, started another one, started another one, started another one his whole life. That is what he did.

The books that Paul writes are written to churches that he started. He takes three missionary trips in the book of Acts. On those missionary trips, he has one goal: he starts New Testament local

churches, trains up men and women in the New Testament, just like we are training you up. Then what he does, he moves on someplace else and he plants churches all over Asia Minor and even up into Europe. That is what he does. When he writes his books, he is writing to those churches. When he writes to those churches, he is telling those churches how they are to conduct themselves. In fact, every book that Paul writes is written to a church or a New Testament Christian that is in a church. He gives them the instructions of what the church should be, what the church should do, and how Christians should handle everything that goes on in those churches. That is what it is.

But when he writes the book of Ephesians, the book of Ephesians stands apart from all the other books because the book of Ephesians is the book by which he describes, defines, and lays out the concept of the church. You see, the church is not a building, and we have lost that today. Men think that they have got to have... back in the Dark Ages, the reason why the Roman Catholic Church built great cathedrals is because their theology taught that God did not live in you, God lived in the church because they thought a building was the church. So they built great cathedrals. You see them over in Europe to this day. You see them in the cities in this country, not to the same grandeur, but it is the same way. They built great cathedrals because their theology taught that God did not live in you, but God lived in the church.

Now where they have messed up in their theology is that there is no building in this world that is the church. You are the church. Instead of having a great building that when people drove in I-70 from any direction or come in 435 or 470 or whatever, we have this humongous church with a gigantic spire, and I know what we will do: we will put some searchlights that go up in the sky so everybody can find our church. That is not how you illuminate the church because the church is not a building. I would rather get you on fire for God, send you out all across this city, and everybody ask why you are smoking today. I do not mean that way, I mean the other way. Why are you on fire? A guy said one time, "You know how to build a church? If a preacher will get on fire, the whole town will come and watch him burn." I believe that. Jesus said it, "Let your light shine. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." God never intended us to build a glorious monstrosity of a church that everybody saw and said, "That is where I want to go to church." That is not the church. If you are sitting here this morning and you are saved and you are in Christ, you are the church. You are the church. It does not matter where we meet; the building is not the issue, it is the men and women that are inside. It is not how godly this building is, it is how godly the people in the building are. That is the key, that is the church. That is what he begins to lay out in the book of Ephesians.

I want to read the first chapter, just 10 verses, but it sets the theme where we are going. Now let us see how smart you are. See, I have to pick things up here.

Ephesians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

I do not know if you men found it or not, but when you start to read the book of Ephesians, what he is doing is this: he is beginning to lay out the book, or the book that lays out the concept of the church. What the book of Song of Solomon is in the Old Testament to the church, the book of Ephesians is in the New Testament to the church. I mean, they are both that very intimate concept revealing the body mystery. I do not know if you picked it up there or not, but coming through the first 10 verses, you find the phrase "in Christ," "in him," six times. In fact, in the first three chapters, you find the phrase "in Christ," "in him," "in whom," some reference to something being "in Christ," 20 times in three chapters. You will never find it that many times in any other book of the Bible.

You know what the theme of the book of Ephesians is when it comes to the church? It is this concept of "in Christ," and you better grasp the concept of "in Christ" or you are not going anywhere. That second thing will trap you, and you will wind up coming to the place in your life where the devil slows you up, stops you dead in your tracks. The book of Ephesians talks about the body mystery explained. Because it is without a doubt the most spiritual book in the Bible as far as I am concerned. Because it is one of the most spiritual books in the Bible and one of the deepest books in the Bible, you are going to find that it is the home base for one of the two greatest heresies that plague the body of Christ.

VI. Heresies Against the Body of Christ

Let me talk to you about heresy for a minute. Heresy is bad teaching. Heresy is teaching that will lead you astray. Heresy is likened to leaven in the Bible. Leaven is like when you make bread, you put yeast in it, and the yeast gets with all the bread and it makes the bread rise. Leaven is like that yeast. In fact, in the book of Galatians, leaven is likened to bad doctrine. Bad doctrine has a way of getting in and destroying something just like yeast gets in and rises the bread. In

fact, in the Old Testament, when the nation of Israel had their feasts, many of their feasts, because of what they represented, had to be feasts that were eaten with unleavened bread. They could not have any leaven in it. Now some of the feasts had leaven in them, and there is a reason for that. But the feasts that had to do with the sacrifices and the feasts that had to do with the holiness of God and the things of God could have no leaven in it.

When you get over to Matthew 13 or you get over to Galatians 5, you are going to find that it was the leaven that the devil mixed into the church that wound up putting the church in today. The church today is nothing more than a big kneaded mess of meal that has leaven from one end to the other, and leaven in the Bible is bad doctrine, heresy.

Now heresy comes in two forms, and you need to know this. There is heresy that will send you to hell like a bullet. You say, "What are those?" The fact that the heresy, if you get taught that you have to be baptized for salvation to go to heaven, will send you to hell like a bullet. Heresy comes in two forms. You have the heresy that says you have to work your way to heaven, which will put you in hell like a bullet. There are two kinds of heresy. One heresy will teach you that you have to do something or it takes away from the gospel or it will preach something else about the gospel that is not true, and you as an unsaved man or woman believe that, follow that, and it will send you straight to hell because that is the devil's plan, see? Plan number one was to get you in hell. So the first reason for heresy is to get you in hell. Real simple.

The second plan for heresy: there is heresy that is in the church. You see, there is heresy that unsaved people get, which sends them to hell. Then there is heresy that gets in saved people's lives that does not send them to hell, but keeps them from growing. See how it works? Those heresies, well, they are many. But the devil uses those two aspects.

Paul takes an interesting take on it. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:19, you see, we look at heresy as being bad. Well, it is from the standpoint, if you go to hell, it is a bad deal. And it is from the standpoint, if you messed up on bad doctrine as a Christian and lose your rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. But for me, as a pastor in a church that teaches and believes the Bible, and for you as a Christian who believes the Bible is the Word of God, Paul says, heresy is a good thing. You know why it is a good thing? I will tell you why it is a good thing.

1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

He says, "There has got to be." Because Paul knew how the devil works. Paul knew the devil has two plans: one, get your soul in hell; two, if you are saved, keep you from growing. The only way he can do that is to put heresy out in two forms: one, heresy for an unsaved man; two, heresy for a Christian. One puts you in hell, the other one keeps you from growing. He says, "But there must be also heresies among you that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." You know what he is saying? He says heresies are good. Because heresy shows you who is right and who is wrong. Once you understand the concept of the Bible and how it works, heresy is something that sticks out like the proverbial sore thumb.

Remember last week I told you that there are two concepts you have got to have for whatever you do in the Bible. One is a historical baseline. The other one is a biblical baseline. If you take the historical baseline and the biblical baseline, the historical baseline being where it is at in history, the biblical baseline is where it is at in the Bible. Those two have to match. Heresy will never line up with either one of those.

The problem today, and the reason why so many of God's people are confused, is because one, they do not know church history. Two, they do not know the Bible. So they are left to their own decision-making process in areas that become absolutely crucial in their life. They do not go to church. They do not have, they do. They do not have a pastor that teaches in the Bible. They do not have any access to truth, and they want to do what is right, but they just get, as the Bible says, blown about by every wind of doctrine. They go to church, they tithe, they never miss, they work in a nursery, they will do whatever you ask them to do, but they just do not have a clue of what the Bible says. That is a dangerous position to be in. Dangerous position to be in. Doing all the things you are supposed to do as a Christian, but not learning your Bible will not work for you.

I found that at the first coming of Christ, at the birth of Christianity, you are going to find that there are four people groups listed in the New Testament. This is part of the consistency of the Bible. These four people groups match up to the exact four people groups we have got today.

1.) You know who the first group was? It was the common ordinary man. The 12 apostles, when Christ picked them to do the world work around the world to start the infancy of Christianity, there was not a Bible scholar in one of them. There were fishermen, there were tax collectors, there were the basic common ordinary people. You know who the ones that grabbed the Lord when He showed up and recognized who He was at the first coming of Christ? Common ordinary people just like you. The only people in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that shows you that are people above common people, that ever grasped was a guy by the name of Nicodemus, who was the ruler of the Jews. He had a tough time getting it. But the common ordinary man, the common ordinary woman, like Lazarus, like Mary, like Martha, the common ordinary people like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Zacchaeus, the common ordinary people who had no status in life, who had no degrees in theology, who were just good old people trying to make a living in a bad time in the world. They are the ones that found the Lord Jesus Christ, what everybody else missed it. It will always be the common man that God does the work through. It always will be.

2.) Then you had a second group. The second group, we are going to list these two together. The second two groups would be the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Now they are interesting people because the Pharisees and the Sadducees, they are not biblical at all. There is nowhere you can go back in the Old Testament or even the New Testament, where you find that part of the Old Testament structure, there was anybody called a Pharisee or a Sadducee. They are not existing. They are not in the Bible anywhere. You could not find a Sadducee and a Pharisee in the Old Testament structure of the nation of Israel. You know where they come from? That 400 years between the captivity and the first coming of Christ, when it all got political, some religious guy looked around and says, "Hey, let us start two religious concepts that are not found in the Bible so we can get an edge on the people." So up popped the Sadducees and up popped the Pharisees.

Nowhere in the Bible, anywhere, shape or form. You could not find them anywhere. They are man-made religious concepts for the purpose of getting political power so they can jockey themselves for position to control the people. By the way, both groups were against the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pharisees hated Him and the Sadducees hated Him. It was the Pharisees and the Sadducees that moved the people with indignation that they might crucify Him.

3.) Where the common man represents you folks that just want to do what is right, the Pharisees, they represent the big churches today. If you wanted to put them into a context, they would be the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran, the Presbyterian, the Anglican, the Greek and Russian Orthodox, and all of those people that come down through there. You find Him in Matthew 23, the Pharisees, they like to walk around in long black robes being called "father." What they believe is exactly what the Protestant churches believe today, which all come from the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation. I know you do not know anything about the Reformation, but that is not my fault.

4.) The next group, the Sadducees, they would match up to our Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses, the Church of Christ, Seventh-day Adventists, the Unity. They do not believe there is any resurrection. They do not believe much of anything. You are going to find at the first coming of Christ, there are four people groups that exactly match up to the four people groups right at the second coming of Christ where you and I are living right now. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were phonies. They had no basis for being. You could not find Him anywhere in the Bible, and they were absolute made up by man for the political purpose of running what they wanted to run.

Then you have the last one. The last one were the scribes. Now the scribes were a legitimate organization. The scribes were given the custodianship of the Word of God back in the Old Testament. The scribes were the men that had the task of keeping the Word of God pure. They are the only ones that could write the books of the Old Testament. To be a scribe simply meant that you spent all of your life writing, recopying, laying out, and laying out and writing and rewriting again the Old Testament Scripture. That was their job. At the first coming of Christ, the scribes, who are a biblical group, you find them in the Bible, they had the truth. The Old Testament Scripture. But they no longer believed it was true. Here is where I am going with this. They had the truth. They just did not believe it was truth anymore. They had added everything they wanted to add, and they did not recognize Christ, but yet they have the Old Testament Scriptures. They are just like the churches today that have the Bible, claim to be biblical, but do not believe anything about the Bible. It is out of those that last group that we find the heresies that are going to destroy the body of Christ. It all comes back to not understanding the concept of being "in Christ."

If you are going to be part of the 30, see, boy, I will tell you what, that was the greatest thing I ever said a couple of weeks ago, because you know why? It took the pressure off my preaching. Because big crowds make me nervous. I have my mindset right now: I am only preaching to 30 of you. I am only preaching to 30. You decide who that 30 is, not me. So whatever I am saying, I am saying to the 30. Now you are sitting out there and you say, "Well, I am part of the 30." Somebody else says, "Well, I am part of the..." Hey, praise the Lord. But I am telling you this, I asked God, told you, I asked God every day of my life when I pray for you guys and pray for this

church, I simply say, "God, just give me 30 men and women who will change their life, sell out for you, and give it everything they have got till Jesus comes back to help this church accomplish what God wants to." I know it is unrealistic to think that everybody is going to do it. It is not about your circumstance. It is not about, "Well, my husband is not saved," or "my wife is not saved," or "I got this job," or "I got that job." It is simply about your... God will use you at whatever circumstance you are in.

Do not get into Moses syndrome. God wanted to use Moses in a great and mighty way. It was Moses that gave the alibi. He is the one that said, "Well, I cannot speak very well." He is the one that said, "Well, you know what? You are not going to laugh at me." He is the one. Hey, you know what God finally said? Moses is there going saying, God speaks to him through the burning bush, and the bush is burning, out of that bush God starts talking to him, and Moses starts talking back to him. I bet that was a wild scene to see. Some guy talking to a burning bush who was talking back to him and they are having this conversation. God says, "I want to use you, Moses. I want to use you and I want to send you to deliver My people." And Moses made every alibi in the world. That is where we get the phrase, "beating around the bush." Because that is what Moses did. You know what God finally said? He said, "Moses, you are so worried about your ability. You are so worried about what you can or what you cannot do." He says, "Moses, what do you have in your hand?" You know what Moses had in his hand? He had a shepherd's crook. That is a staff, a shepherd's staff. You know, one of those things that comes up and goes around like a hook, to bring the sheep in. God says, "Moses, what do you have in your hand?" Moses says, "I got this shepherd's stick." God says, "Then that is what I will use."

You know what he did? When he took Moses before Pharaoh, when he did all the plagues, what he did is he changed that shepherd's stick to a rod of judgment. When the waters turned to blood, it was because Moses stuck that stick in the water and it turned to blood. When Pharaoh was doing her Pharaoh and God said to Moses, "Hey," and he would not listen. And Moses is trying to say, "God has got some great power," and Pharaoh is laughing. Moses says, "Now what do we do?" God says, "Remember that stick you had in your hand?" "Yeah." "Throw it down." So Moses threw it down. And that thing turned into a big King Cobra snake. That is some stick, which I can find that stick. What did Pharaoh do? He threw his, got his guys to come out and they threw down their sticks and they turned their age. You see, the devil always imitates what God does. They read the story. God's stick ate their sticks. God always prevailed.

I am going to tell you something. I do not know a lot about Moses or what I would like to know, but I think in Moses' case, the hard part was not throwing that stick. I could just see Moses throwing that stick down. Moses always worrying, throws that stick down, but that big old King Cobra comes up out of that thing and Moses stays and looks at that boy. "Yes, sir, we are showing him, are not we God?" Well, it was time to go. God said, "Okay, pick up the snake and let us go." "Well, wait a minute, Lord. I want to pick up the snake." "Okay, you get his head over here and I will grab his tail." He just picked that thing up, boy, straightened that thing out. It was a stick again. See, the point is this: God does not ask you to be anything. He asks you to be willing. God will take what you have got in your hand right now. If you are willing to use that, God will take it. He will take you from there. He does not ask you to be a Bible theologian. He

does not ask you to know all the things about the Bible. You will learn that. He asks you to be willing to do whatever God wants you to do. So I am telling you, if you are part of the 30, you need to get this. You need to get this. Because if you do not get the concept of "in Christ," you are not going anywhere.

VII. Refuting Heresies: Calvinism and Charismatic Movement

There are two heresies that destroy the body of Christ. This is not heresy outside; this is heresy in. That is what we are talking about. They are built on the concept of whoever believes it does not understand the concept of "in Christ." So that is what we are going to deal with.

1.) The first one is a thing called Calvinism.

2.) The second thing is a thing that everybody understands called the Charismatic Movement.

We are going to take for just a few moments and we are going to look at these two heresies. Both of these two heresies survive in the body of Christ and mess up God's people because of the fact that they do not understand the phrase "in Christ." We are going to talk about it and I am going to show you. If you have always wondered about what Calvinism means, what it taught, you hear it all the time, then today you are going to go out of here with a big piece of the puzzle. If you do not care, just close your eyes, sit back and nod off for a couple of minutes and then you can pick it back up on your way out.

VIII. Refuting Calvinism

Here is what you have got. Calvinism, as we know it today, it is not called Calvinism anymore. Calvinism is called Reformation theology today. Calvinism starts out of the Reformation in the 1520s. It starts by a man named John Calvin, hence Calvinism. It kind of had its heyday. There have always been people who believed in Calvinism. We call them Calvinists. But in the last 30 years, as we approach the coming of Christ, it has resurfaced by another name now. All the great Bible teachers on the radio are all now Calvinists. John MacArthur, Calvinist. Kennedy, Calvinist. They have all adopted what they call Reformation theology.

Now, what they do is this. Let me talk to you about Calvin for a moment. Calvin was a man who, when the Reformation took place, and the Reformation very simply was Martin Luther, who was a German, breaking from the Roman Catholic Church, which threw the world in disarray because the Roman Catholic Church was the church. When Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church in the early 1500s, he started what is commonly called the Reformation. Reformation means reforming. What happened was that up to this point, there were two groups of people. There were the Bible-believing Christians and there was the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church for sport was killing all the Bible-believing Christians. That was their job because they looked at them as heretics.

When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door in Wittenberg, Germany, and broke with the church, he immediately, the Roman Catholic Church, fragmented. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds, if not thousands of men and women, left the Roman Catholic Church and became part of the Lutheran Church because Martin Luther started the Lutheran Church. Out goes, it is real easy. All right, when Luther started the church, that was in Germany. But the Reformation cracked all through Europe. In Scotland and in France, they felt the reverberations of it, and John Calvin, John Calvin took the chance of the Reformation and he formed from that what we know today as the Presbyterian Church. Calvin starts, when he breaks off of this thing, John Calvin then starts the teaching that we know today as predestination and the concept of Calvinism.

Here is what Calvin did. Calvin built what he taught or what he believed on five principles. Here is what a Calvinist believes. A Calvinist believes that way back in Genesis 1:1, before that, God walked out on a courtyard of heaven, looked down through eternity and saw everybody that was ever going to live, much like this. God has some of you over here, some of you over here. God saw this crowd, God saw this crowd. In God's mind, every man and woman that ever was going to live on the face of this planet, when Adam and Eve got here until the Lord ends it all in Revelation 22, was in two sections. You know what God said? He said, "This section is going to heaven. This section is going to hell." Now, if you are in this section, there is nothing you can do to keep from going to heaven. If you are in this section, there is nothing you can do to keep from going to hell. Calvin taught that God, before Genesis 1:1, chose before the foundation of the world, who was going to heaven and who was not. That is what he taught.

Did he get that in the Bible? No. You say, "How do you know he did not get it in the Bible?" Because it is called Calvinism. It started with Calvin. Calvin lived in 1500. That is 1590 years after the death of Christ. Nobody believed what Calvin believed before Calvin believed it. Nobody, except the Roman Catholic Church. That is where he got it from. Calvin goes into the book of Ephesians, as do all the Calvinists today. Remember I said the book of Ephesians is a really deep book. He comes through there and they grab words like "election." They grab words like "foreknowledge." They grab words like "predestination." They grab phrases like "chosen in him before the foundation of the world."

Calvin built everything he said on five principles. Here they come.

1.) The first thing that is limited atonement. That means you guys are going to hell. The atonement, death of Christ, blood of Christ, salvation is limited. It is limited to these guys, not you. So I guess in the Calvinist churches, in our church, when we get up on Sunday morning, down in Sunday school, we train our kids, right. They are down there singing right now. I heard them. "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so." Calvinists just cannot sing that. They sing, "Jesus loves me, sorry about you. You are not one of the chosen few." That is how they sing, okay. I cannot help you. That is what he taught. He said that the atonement of God was limited. "Love you, buddy. You are in hell. Sweet little girl in hell. Hate to see you there. Liz, you will class the place off. I got two for you."

2.) *The next thing he taught was irresistible grace. You know what that means? That means you guys are irresistible. Because God chose you and gave you His grace, it is absolutely irresistible for you. You have to get saved. Just as they are limited in the atonement, you are irresistible.*

3.) *Next thing is unconditional election. Unconditional election means that this crowd over here that got unconditionally elected to go to heaven.*

4.) *The next crowd over here is total depravity. That simply means that this crowd over here, no matter what you can do, you are totally depraved, you cannot ever get out of it.*

5.) *And the last one is perseverance of the saints. That really means, and they do not know it today, but when Calvin taught it, Calvin taught it, it meant that you have to persevere to stay saved. That is exactly what Calvin taught. I read what Calvin wrote. I know what he wrote. He wrote two basic concepts, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* and *The Principal Point of View*. That is where he laid out these five points.*

When it comes to Calvin, all you have got to do is match it up. Calvin has no baseline in history. Nobody in the history of the Roman Catholic Church believed what Calvin believed. That is where he got it. His favorite theologian was Augustine of Hippo. That is the great writer of the Roman Catholic Church in 400 AD. That is where he got it from. There is no Waldensian or Albigensian or Huguenot that believes in predestination. It starts with Calvin. Even the guys today that want to distance themselves from Calvinism, so they do not call it Calvinism, they call it Reformation theology, they call it "back to the Reformation." You know what I am called? I am called a Christian. You know why I am called a Christian? Because they were first called Christians in Antioch, Acts 11, that is why. I go all the way back to the Bible. A Calvinist can only go back to Calvin.

He starts the Presbyterian church. What Calvin wanted to do was this, bar none. Calvin did not like the Roman Catholic Church. He did not like the system of the Pope. You know what Calvin wanted to do? He wanted to set up his own religious system for the Presbyterian church. I do not know if you know it or not, but the Roman Catholic Church is built on five systems: Mass, Eucharist, Sacraments, Catholic, and Orders. Those five things are the pillars of the Roman Catholic Church. Take any one of them or all of them, you have got no Roman Catholic Church. Bottom line is none of those are found in the Bible. You know what? Calvin built his thing on five things too. I just gave them to you. They are not in the Bible either. See, what Calvin wanted to do was real simple. He wanted to be the Pope of Protestantism, just like the Pope was the Pope of Catholicism. That is all he wanted. The Roman Catholic Church killed Bible believers. So did Calvin.

Now you want to know a real trick on these Calvinists today? This is, and I love it. I absolutely love it. If you are a Calvinist or you believe in Calvin, you are one of two things: you are either just dead post stupid or you are dishonest beyond belief. If you have a King James Bible sometime and you turn over to the dedicatory in your King James Bible, you will read that dedicatory. You will find that the King James translators wrote that King James Bible against two groups of people. One of them is the Roman Catholic Church, "Pope's persons." The other one is "conceited brethren." That is the Calvinists. And they do not even know that.

You see what Calvin, now here is what Calvin and his boys teach: through foreknowledge. Let me explain foreknowledge. Because we are going to come through these words. Foreknowledge simply means this: God foreknows everything. Three phrases in your Bible you have got to learn: Omnipresent, God is everywhere. Omnipotent, all powerful. God is all power. Omniscient, God knows everything. Three phrases you have got to know and ascribe them to God. God is omniscient, God knows everything. Now God knows exactly today who will get saved and who will not. He is God, He knows everything. He knows the ultimate outcome. But God, Calvin's problem was he thought God chose and he takes out free will. He puts in sovereignty of God. I never find a phrase, I had a Calvinist tell me one time, "For you believe in free will, I believe in the sovereignty of God." You know what I did? I showed him 17 times in the Bible where it said "free will." He could not show me one time where it said "sovereignty of God." Now what am I going to do? 17 times something in the Bible, and a guy says something and it is not in the Bible. Now Lord help me, help me decide this Lord. Who do I take? Lord help me with this. This is the big question. I have a man over here that tells the sovereignty of God. I do not find it anywhere in the Bible. He says free will is wrong. I find free will 17 times in the Bible. God help me, this is the big decision. Who do I believe? You are laughing about that, but they do it. See, I am a Bible believer. To me, "Let God be true and every man a liar." I believe the Bible. When I find "free will" 17 times and "sovereignty of God" no times, some things you do not have to pray about folks. That is just the way it goes.

Calvin, God knows everything and He has foreknowledge. God looked down from the banners of the heaven before Genesis 1:1, He saw everything, knew everything. He saw you, He saw me, He saw us here today. He saw me hit that home run last night. You missed it. Only one in my first one of my life, Joe, it was good. You should have seen me. I tell you what, never hit one before, never hit one again. God saw everything, everybody, and He knows the final outcome of everybody's eternity. But you know what? It is your choice. He stays out of that part of it. He does not decide for you. When you get your children and you raise your children, you teach your children right and wrong, but the bottom line is the ultimate choice is theirs. You cannot make them do what is right, and God will not make you and I do what is right because He takes away, you do that, free will is gone. Calvin was an idiot. He missed, hey, let me tell you something. Calvin nor any Calvinists. You see, I do not mess with it. I really do not. Somebody says, "Well, I am a five-point Calvinist." I like the debate, but no, I will not even give you the, I will not even give you, you have no baseline in history. I will tell you what, if you want to talk about Calvinism, just explain three things to me.

- 1.) *Explain to me the doctrine of standing and the state. Never heard of it. Never heard of it. I mean, explain to me the doctrine of standing and the state. Never heard of it.*
- 2.) *Explain to me the doctrine of spiritual circumcision in Colossians 2. Never heard of it.*
- 3.) *Explain to me the doctrine of church in Ephesians 1. Has no concept of it.*

So, you know what I believe? I believe Psalms 127:1.

Psalms 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

If your foundation is in the book of Acts and the Bible and what you believe, you are wasting your time building anything on it. That is what I believe. I am a Bible believer. Calvin could not get it because they had no doctrine. The people today, they do not get it because there is no doctrine in their lives.

Now I am going to read you Ephesians 1:3-4. We are going to begin to explain this. Now that we have laid out Calvinism to the place as far as we need to, we do not want to spend a lot of time on it, but here it is.

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

See that word, "heavenly places"? Those are the same heavenly places Ephesians 2:6 says you are seated in. They are the same. "Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places." Here it comes. "In Christ Jesus." Verse 4, "According as he hath chosen us." Here it comes again. "In him." "Before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him." "In love." Mark that word "in love." Remember a couple of weeks ago, we talked about how does God love an unsaved man? I blew the myth out of the water about how we always say, "Well, God hates the sin, but He loves the sinner." No, He does not. No, He does not. He hates the sin and the sinner. God is holy. I am a sinner as an unsaved man. He cannot love me. How does He love me? We talked about it that day. You know what we found out? We found out that the only way God can love an unsaved man or an unsaved woman is He looks at them through the blood of His Son. That is how He loves them. It all comes back to the cross. It all comes back to Christ.

Here is what you have got. Real easy. God put everything spiritual, all spiritual blessings. That would be salvation. That would be the Bible. That would be everything spiritual. Back before Genesis 1:1, God put everything spiritual in His Son for you and me to get them. You know how we have got to get it? We have got to get "in Christ" to get it. That is salvation.

Now, Proverbs 8. You want to get a glimpse back before Genesis 1:1, sometimes go to Proverbs 8. Proverbs 8 back there, I will have the chapter to the end. Calvin had no clue about Proverbs 8, neither does anybody else that teaches it. They do not know the Bible. They know what Calvin taught. They like it. So that is what they do. What happens is it confuses God's people because, "Well, what is the point?" You see how Calvinism destroys the church? Calvinism will destroy every church and every Christian in it. You know why? What is the point? Why should we go get somebody saved? Why should we take up an offering for missionaries? Why should we go out and witness if you are going to get saved and you are lost? Why should I do that? Why should I spend the time, the money, and all the day to worry about you, preach to you, give an invitation,

try to get you saved? If you are part of the elect, you are in, and if you are not, you are out. See what it does? That is exactly, and so you know what they do? They spend all their time talking about the deep things of the Bible. They lose their evangelistic edge. They do not ever want anybody to Christ. They just walk around thinking you are part of the elect and you are not, good for you, sorry about you, and nobody does anything. Hey, you know what? They die and go to hell. I mean, the people that do not reach die and go to hell, and the devil goes out the door laughing.

Let me show you what God decreed before Genesis 1:1, which is in Proverbs 8. Let me show you, and I will break it down. Here is what He decreed. He decreed something for sure, but it was not what Calvin got because nobody before Calvin knew what Calvin was talking about. Now here is what God decreed. If you are one to ever get this down, you better get this. If you are ever going to get the book of Ephesians down, you better get this.

God decreed before Genesis 1:1 that He would send His Son to die for the sins of mankind, all mankind. So what He did is He put all the spiritual blessings, everything that is spiritual, salvation included, in Christ. We read it in Ephesians 1:3-4. His Son, then He decreed that any sinner, any sinner, Romans 10 says, "Whosoever shall call," not you or you, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Whosoever. You know what Calvinists teach? That "whosoever" is this crowd or this crowd, not this crowd. You could not be the "whosoever." Why? Because of Calvin of the teachers, you did not get chosen. No, you know who the "whosoever" is? It is the "whosoever." Bible says God is not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance. You know what Calvinists teach? "Well, that 'all' does not mean 'all.'" What does it mean? "It means the elect." You are an idiot. It is "all." I am going to prove it to you before we are done. We have got to move through here.

All right, the next thing He decreed that any sinner who would appropriate the death and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Son, to their sin, He then would put them in Christ. Why do you have to get in Christ? That is where all the blessings are. God has chosen all men to be saved through the blood, but God puts salvation in His Son. So man has to choose Christ to get in Christ, and then he gets the spiritual blessings.

Now somebody says, "Well, the Bible says, I heard him say that you are not part of the elect." All right, let us talk about election. There are two elections in the Bible. The first one is the nation of Israel, they are God's elect. The second one is the body of Christ, you are God's elect. Now Calvin would have you to believe, and his followers would have you to believe that you were elected back there before Genesis 1:1. Now let me show you how the Bible shows you that will not work. Your election did not take place in eternity, but rather in time, the day you got saved.

1 Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Hey, you know what the sanctification of the Spirit and the sprinkling of blood is? It is the cross. You were not elected until you got in Christ, and then when you got in Christ, you are the elect.

Not because you were chosen back there, you got elect through the sanctification of the Spirit and the sprinkling of the blood and the obedience of Christ to the cross. You were not part of the elect one second before you got in Christ through His blood after the day you got saved.

Now, let us talk about the next big word. Once you are in Christ and now you are elect, by choosing Him after He chose you before the foundation of the world in Christ, the Bible says you now are predestinated. Oh, that is a nice big word, predestinated. Ooh, gives me goose pimples just to say it. You find the word "predestinated" or "predestination" four times. Now the Calvinists would have you to believe that back there before Genesis 1, when God elected you and did not elect you, that God predestinated you to go to heaven and God predestinated you to go to hell. You find predestination four times in your Bible, twice in Ephesians, two in Romans 8, and none of the four times, I think, it would do with being saved. You are not predestined one... well, let us just go down here and read Romans 8. Do not take my word for it.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Hey, that is not salvation. I am predestined after I get saved. I was not predestined to be saved, but after I am saved, I am then predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. What does that mean? Once I get saved, then I am predestined to get a body just like Jesus Christ. Any Calvinist you want to ask the fourth question to, explain Romans 8. Romans 8 has nothing to do with salvation. Romans 8 is the greatest chapter in the whole Bible on your resurrection body. It has nothing to do with your salvation.

So here is what you have got. God through His foreknowledge, knew who would get saved and who would not. God in His foreknowledge, looked down through the centuries and the thousand years and all of that stuff. He put everything that God was going to do in His Son, the Lord Jesus, salvation, every spiritual blessing. It is in Christ Jesus. So if you want to get saved, you have got to get in Christ. That is why the book of Ephesians 20 times in the first three chapters says "in Christ," "in Christ," over and over, that you get it, salvation is you getting in Christ. He put, He chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world because God is not willing that any should perish, but you have to choose Him to get in. When you get in, then you are the elect, then you are predestined not to be saved, but to get His body someday, Romans 8. Now that is what you have got. That is what you have got. It has nothing to do with salvation. Simply put, God put everything in Christ and you have got to get in Christ to get in and that God has for you.

Now let me show you the two monkey wrenches that just take Calvin and to the dump and leave him. Again, Calvin taught, Reformation theology teaches, "This crowd is going to heaven, this crowd is going to hell, you have been preordained, you have been preordained, you have been chosen, you have been not chosen, you have got total depravity, you have got irresistible grace," on and on we go. Let me show you how this thing really works.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

It says, "But there were false prophets also among them, the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you who privately bring in damnable heresy." I want you to see this. The context here is false prophets. And false teachers who are teaching the heresy that is going to damn you, damnable heresy. Everybody see that? Look down at the end of the verse, "and bring upon themselves swift destruction." These guys are going to hell. They are going to hell because they are teaching damnable heresy, they are lost, unsaved teachers and false prophets. All right, let us read it. Now that we have got that settled, let us read it again. "But there were false prophets also among the people, there shall be false teachers among you who privately bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them." God died even for the false prophets and the false teachers. What are you going to do with that if you are a Calvinist? You know what you are going to do? You are going to ignore it. Because the Bible is not your final authority. That verse tells you on no uncertain terms that these men are teaching damnable heresy, they are false teachers, they are false prophets, their destruction is coming. It also says that God bought even them. No choosing to it.

I will tell you the greatest way, you know, and it is the simplest, Matthew 25:40. Here is what he said. All right, Calvin teaches that this side is going to heaven, this is going to hell, and God chose it, right? Let us find out if that is true or not.

Matthew 25:40-41

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

"And then shall he say unto them, which are on the left hand, watch it very carefully, 'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire,' this is hell now, 'prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Wow, where is the group that was predestined to go there? You see, the greatest proof that Calvin was off his nut and Calvinists or Reformation theology are idiots is the fact that when God created hell, He never thought you would be there. You know why? He saw you in Christ. God did not create heaven and God did not create hell for you and me. He created it for the devil and his angels. You have got to make the choice to go there because God already chose you in Christ. It does not get any easier than that. Like I said, you are dealing with a Reformation theology or you are dealing with a Calvinist, you are dealing with somebody that is either just as dumb as a fence post or you are dealing with somebody just as honest as a... you have got to, but I mean, it is very clear.

IX. Refuting the Charismatic Movement

Now let us talk about the next one. The second heresy you are going to find has to do with the Charismatic movement. Let me explain to you, let me talk to you about, and this is the misleading word. The Charismatic, the word Charismatic is a Greek word, it means "gifted." It comes from the classical Greek, not the Koine. You are going to find that your New Testament was written in Koine Greek. The common, ordinary street language of the common, ordinary people. You are going to find that Codex Vaticanus, the ones that come, all the new Bibles come from, is written in a classical Greek. The word Charismatic comes from the classical Greek word, which means "gifted." It is like the word Catholic itself. The word Catholic means "universal." It comes from the classical Greek, and when the Catholic church took that name, they wanted to take it because it represented for them that they were the universal church, the only true church, and if you wanted to get salvation, you had to come through them, much like what Calvin taught later on.

Of course now, when it comes to the Charismatic movement, that is a big umbrella. Let me show you how it works, as best as I can remember. The Charismatic movement as we know it today, was not always called the Charismatic movement. That name got added to it down over the last 30, 40 years. When it starts, it starts in the 1920s and it is called the Pentecostal church. It is called the Pentecostal church because the early people back in the 20s, it started out in Los Angeles with a woman by the name of Amy McPherson Simpson. Before that, around 1910, it broke out into Topeka, Kansas over there at the Bethel Bible College and then it moved out to LA. When Amy baby got the thing going, she likened it to Pentecost in Acts 1 and 2. So it became known as the Pentecostal church or it became known as Pentecostal. By the time they got to the 30s and the 40s, it had branched out and they are now teaching that if you are a common ordinary person who just believes what you believe, that because you do not have the truth, you did not get the full gospel because you do not speak in tongues, handle snakes, drink poison stuff and all that stuff. So now they call themselves the full gospel churches. Talking about the fact that you and I do not have all of the gospel, they have got it. So now they are the full gospel faith. That is where it goes. Then as it comes down through time, it breaks off into what we call the Assembly of God, Church of God, Full Faith, Church of Love. You are going to find they are called now, every screwball named church of faith of Jacob's upside down water well ladder, fire truck office way to Acts 3, whatever. There is no continuity to it anymore. It is fragmented as it is.

Now I have got to tell you, in all defense, not all Charismatics are idiots. I have met some good people, but the longer it goes, the worse it gets. They come in different branches. I have known some Church of God and some Assembly of God that were godly men and women. They are messed up on some doctrines, okay. But they love God and I can appreciate that. Then you have got the guys that handle the snakes on the other end. I mean, they run the gamut, like Baptists do. I mean, but I am just saying. I am just giving you the overall thing. Now they are messed up on a lot of doctrines, messed up on a lot of doctrines. But their main blowout that we are going to talk about today is eternal security.

Remember, I told you that these two heresies are what will destroy the church. They are both in the church. These two teachings will not send you to hell, but they will get a lot of other people

there because you will not grow. The first one was Calvinism, we know why: "Why should I bother? You are chosen to go, you are chosen not to go." The second thing is this: if you do not know for sure you are saved. If you do not, I am not even going to get into the tongues. I could care less about that. I am talking about the number one fundamental doctrine of the Bible for the New Testament Christian after you are saved is this: Are you saved eternally or are you not? That is the issue.

I am not even going to get into the fact that the Charismatics have no baseline of history. I will give you five, in fact I have got a list right here. I did not know where I was going to deal with this. There is a list of 60 people right there. That list of 60 people starts in 35 AD and comes up to 1900 AD. That Charismatic movement starts in about 1910. I picked 60 guys. I could have taken 600 guys. I just picked six because I did not know if I needed this or not, but I just picked 60 guys down through history. You know what? I could take this and give it to any Charismatic. He could buy books and read volume to take the rest of his life to sort of lie to these men. You know what? At the end of the day, and we are done, I could give him these 60. I could give him 600. And he could not give me one who believed what he believed in that time period. You know why? Because they are not there. They are not there. Nobody in history believed what they believed today just like nobody before the Reformation believed what Calvin did. But when you do not have a baseline of history, then you lose it. That is why you are susceptible to it. People do not know their root. They do not know where they came from.

Now I am telling you something. If you do not understand and do not come to the place in the early, you could not find a Charismatic that could lay out the standing and the state or the spiritual circumcision or the doctrine in Christ. It was like dependent on it. But I have got to say this. These two groups today are the fastest growing churches in America. Now the Charismatic thinks that is good. Calvinists think that is good. Let me tell you something. No one can I know about the Bible. No one can I know about Revelation 1-3 and the Laodicean church. I do not want to be the fastest growing church in a Laodicean church period. I just do not. That means you are doing something wrong somewhere because the true church and the Laodicean church is going to be on the outside looking in. The reason is real simple: the truth, there is no doctrine. It is just experience. Of course, when you look at the Charismatic movement, if you know your Bible, Solomon in Ecclesiastes 1:16 critiqued that in 1000 BC and told you what it was. But you have got to understand if you do not get down what it means to be in Christ, seated in heavenly places, sealed with the Holy Spirit of God, you will never do anything for Christ. This theology, this teaching, this heresy takes from you that very concept.

It tells me that after you get saved, there is something that you can do to lose your salvation. Years ago, I had a friend of mine who was a missionary in Ethiopia. His name was Barkley Faunestok. Barkley Faunestok, I do not know what happened to him. I have not seen him for 20 some years. Barkley Faunestok was one of the, in my mind, was one of the great soldiers of the faith. He was in Ethiopia. He was in Ethiopia when the communist takeover took place. Many of his church members were assassinated on the way to church. He told me one time that they huddled in there. They lived in a, over there. They lived with where the people were in villages. He told me one night, how about them huddled on the floor while somebody out there, where

they were running through the camp and somebody took a machine gun at waist high and just got through the house. His wife and kids were all on the floor by the bed. Those machine gun bullets just went right across, right over the top of their heads. He put up with some stuff. He stayed through Ethiopia through the whole thing. He stayed till they kicked him out. Finally, the communist got so fed up with him, they booted him.

But you know what he told me? He said, "It was a wild thing." He said, "The first week when it all broke loose, and brother," he said, "it broke loose." He said, "People would come to church and they would find the deacon of the church's head on the church post out there where they decapitated him and stuck his head on the pole to keep you from going to church because the communist did not believe in God." He said they would take people would disappear. He said they were taking missionaries. He said it was only by the grace of God. He said, "But you know what, in the first week," he said, "the first week when it all broke loose, he said the Jehovah's Witnesses all pulled out, the Mormons all pulled out, the Seventh-day Adventists pulled out, the Charismatics pulled out, and they all pulled out." And I said, "Why was that?" He said, "Because none of them believe you can keep your salvation." The only ones that stayed were the guys that believed you were eternally secure.

You see, when push comes to shove and you are ready to be dying, if you do not know for sure you are saved, you are not staying. I would not. You are going to tell me you are going to out there when it really push comes to shove and you have got a chance now you are going to get killed, that you are going to stay there not knowing for sure if you die, you are going to go to heaven. I mean, what about the time you said the guy shot you in the leg? You know, you are running there and the guy shoots you in the leg. You know when it hurts, it hurts getting shot. It hurts. I mean, you are going to die. And before, just out of a reaction, you say, "Oh," you know, "you lost it." I mean, I do not know too many people to get shot and say, "Praise God, that feels good." No. If there is any time my old sin nature is going to pop back out if you shoot me, it is going to. It is not going to be, "Bless you, brother." It is not going to be.

But could you imagine, could you imagine being saved and hold right up to the line and somebody shoots you and you are walking away saying, "Oh, you lost it." Thank God, take that chance. You have got to know the difference between standing and state. You have got to know that the difference between being "in Christ" and what it means "seated in heavenly places" that, hey, let me tell you something. If you went up to heaven right now, if you could go to heaven right now, you know what the Bible says in Hebrews 1? It says that Jesus Christ is seated on the right hand of God the Father. If you walked up there right now, you know what you would see? You would see Bob Alexander sitting in Him with Him. I had a preacher one time. He says, he says, "Oh, when you get to heaven, there is going to be Jesus." Bible says we are seated in heavenly places. And he says, "Oh, there is Jesus. And He is sitting by the right hand of God the Father. And there are some big bleachers right there. And there are all the saints sitting with Him." You are not, nothing about bleachers. It did not say sitting with Him. It said "in Him." I am in Him. You know why you cannot lose your salvation? Because you are in Him.

What I am about to say next, I am going to make some of you mad. That is my spiritual gift. But let me show you how this thing works. I am going to show you why the body of Christ believes

what it believes today because it has had no doctrine for so long. Nobody knows what is true anymore. How many times I have heard a preacher take John 10. John 10 is that great passage where it talks about that Christ is in the hand of God. And I am in the hand of Christ. They take that as eternal security because the Bible says no man plucketh out of my hand. Now that sounds good. That sounds good. Christ is in the hands of God. I am in the hands of Christ in the hands of God. Boy, eternal security is that if I am in Christ's hands, in Christ's and God's hands, then no man can pluck me out. Hey, I have got news for you. I am not in His hand. I am His hand. You know how God, you know how I lose my salvation? He cuts His arm off. He cuts His leg off. I am part of His body.

You want another one? This is really going to tick you off. I love it. How many times I have been in somebody's home. Oh, this is going to tick you off. I love it all. Oh, I love this poem. I love poems. I am a poet. I am a Christian. Christian poems just do so. It is like Christian music. How many times I have seen this, I have read this. "Footprints in the Sand." Oh, I love this one. This one makes me cry. I mean, I will get through this. Let us see if I remember how it goes. "One day, I walked along through life. I walked out on a beach. And there on the beach, drum roll, two sets of footprints in the sand. I followed them for a while. And I began to realize that this beach is like life. And there I was walking through life. One footstep mine, the other footstep Jesus. And me and Jesus were walking through life together. So I follow those footsteps. And oh, there came a time when there was only one set of footsteps. I walked on. And I walked on. One set of footsteps. Oh no, and then I met Jesus and I came to Him. And I said, 'Jesus, I saw the beach. And I saw the two sets of footsteps. And then suddenly Jesus, there was only one set of footsteps. Why Jesus? I have got to know why. I have got to go, I have got to know, I have got to know. Why, why, why did you leave me?' Jesus looked down, 'My sad son. Those two sets of footsteps when we walked side by side. When you saw one set of footsteps, I did not leave you. That is the time I carried you. That is the time I carried you.'"

Now, this is going to make you mad. Every time I do this, somebody leaves whatever church I am in. In fact, the last one I left. But it sounds great. And it is so beautiful. But you know what? It just is not true. He does not walk beside you. He does not carry you. 1 Corinthians 12 says you are in one body. He is in you and you are in Him. Now, please do not get mad at me. But the bottom line is this. When you start putting things that are not doctrinally right, I have had people after I did that, would not talk to me. It did not matter that what I said was right. It was the matter of what am I going to put on the wall now in my bathroom when that thing is. I kid you not, I am telling you. The number one thing the Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine." The purity of this church will only stay as pure as the doctrine. When you start to listen to some stupid song or somebody's preach or some stupid poem that suggests that you are not in Him, that you are walking together hand in hand, and there are two sets of footsteps in the sand, it leads to heresy that you do not know you are seated in Him. No question about it. That is the mark of the Laodicean church. No doctrine. "I do not know what it means, Bob. You just offended me because I have got it in a nice frame. Now what am I going to do? Now, what am I going to do? Am I going to go home and rip that off the wall? What is my family going to think?" Oh, hey, who cares? The bottom line is truth is truth. Leave it up. If you

really want to do good, leave it up, go home, get a magic marker, write on the wall with an arrow down, "This is wrong. Ephesians 4. You are seated in Him."

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

You are in Him and He is in you. Right now, if you are saved and you have got a seat, you are in Christ. It is not what Calvin taught. It is not thought that you can, how can you lose your salvation when He is, you are in Him. I have got to tell you, there is one story I like in the Bible and that is not exactly right, but it is right in the rest of when I like it. So what Aaron Matthews, the story of the one in 99. You know the story about the shepherd? He is out there and he cannot, he has got all 99 of them in and he is missing one. He goes and looks for that sheep. He looks up and down for that sheep and then finally finds it. Now I like this. It is not doctrinally the way it is, but it is right on the money. You know what, he finds that sheep. Now the shepherd is Christ, we are the sheep. He finds that sheep that is lost. Bible says that he takes the front two legs and the back two legs. Now he has got all four legs. Shepherd takes that sheep, puts it over his shoulders, carries it back to the fold. Now I like that. I am going to write a poem about that. I like that. You see, because now if you are the sheep, which we are, I cannot fall off this way because he has got my front feet. I cannot fall off that way because he has got my back feet. Now there is only one way I can fall. That is that the shepherd falls. And my shepherd is not falling.

Remember that thing I gave you a while back said, "Faith, Fact, Feeling." Faith has to be in facts, produce the right feeling. Faith is what you have. Facts is the Word of God. Feelings is what you have got to watch out for. Charismatics have faith, they are saved, have no facts, they just have feeling. I keep my feelings based on the facts connected to my faith. Now that is an easy way to remember.

X. Conclusion: Saved, Sealed, Seated

I am going to give you another one. You want to think about eternal security? You want to make it real easy? Here it is. Saved, sealed, seated. Saved, sealed, seated. You got saved. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:30.

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

He says in Ephesians 1:13.

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

I am saved, I am sealed, and I am seated in Christ. Somebody says, "Well, what about if you sin? What about, you want a worst case scenario?" And we are done now with this when I do this.

Come over to 2 Timothy 2:12. If you are in Christ, you have got to understand you are saved, you are sealed, and you are seated, and there is no way out. Does everybody do what is right? Certainly not. That is the doctrine of standing and state. What was I predestined before the foundation of the world? No, that is Ephesians 1, 20 times in the first three chapters. Now you understand it, you are in Christ, seated in heavenly places. Can I lose my salvation? No, you are saved, you are sealed, you are seated.

Now watch this, 2 Timothy 2. No way around it. Paul talking to young Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:12-13

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

He says this, "If we suffer," paying the price down here, "we shall also reign with him." "If we deny him," we do not suffer. "He also will deny us," stay in the context, deny what? The reign, okay? You do not, you suffer now, you reign there. You do not suffer now, you do not reign. He denies you the reign. Now look, verse 13 is your salvation. "If we believe not," there is somebody that is now saved that says, "I do not believe anymore." How many times I have been asked that question? What does God do with somebody who says they are saved and suddenly wake up one day and do not believe? Well, here it is, here it is. You want to know? Here it is. "If we believe not," if you get up tomorrow morning and you say, "You know what, I do not believe in God anymore, I am an atheist, I do not believe in God anymore, I am an evolutionist," and it happens, it happens. He says, verse 13, "If we believe not," look what happened. "Yet he abideth faithful." Why? "He cannot deny himself." You know why He cannot deny Himself? Because you are in Him and He is in you. You are seated in heavenly places, there is no way out.

Let me tell you something, and take this for what it is worth. The day you got saved, God is going to get you home to heaven. God is going to get you home one of two ways. But He is going to get you there. If you are a saved man and woman this morning, God is going to get you home to heaven one way or the other. He is going to get you home to heaven, and He is going to get you there by taking you through life and getting you through all the things in life. You falling in love with that book, making that Bible number one thing in your life, investing the rest of your life, and God is going to just bring you through the tough times and the hard times. He is going to get you going to heaven that way. Or if you are somebody who dumped God playing a game or want to live your life the way you want to, He will get you home in an iron lung, in a car wreck, in an airplane crash, in a casket. But He is going to get you there. He is going to get you there. You deny Him, He cannot deny Himself. Why? Because you are in Him and He is in you. That is the doctrine of standing and state. That is the doctrine of the Church of Ephesians. That is the doctrine of the fact that you are saved, you are sealed, and you are seated. That is the doctrine. That is what happened the day you got saved. You got saved, you got sealed, and you got seated in Christ Jesus, and you are not ever getting out. It is that simple. You have got to learn that. The heresies in the body of Christ are many. Those two are one of the two most prevalent you are going to come up against. That Calvinism stuff will kill a church faster than anything else. This thing here, if you are not sure you are saved and you are not sure of your

eternal security, you will never put your life on the line for Jesus Christ. Sometimes coming up, you may have to. You may have to.

Let us pray. Father, thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Father, thank you for.