

Philippians 3:17-21

Sunday 8/6/2006

You remember when we started this, we began talking about how that when you got saved, the inner man changed, the outer man then changes because of the inner man, and overall the end of man changes. We have been focusing on that aspect of what changed the day you got saved inwardly. When you understand that and understand the process by which then you get changed outwardly.

In the Bible, probably the greatest doctrine in the Bible, for me anyhow, it's not necessarily the greatest doctrine in the Bible for the Bible, but the greatest doctrine in the Bible for me is the doctrine of salvation. The doctrine of salvation is simply put: restoring that fallen image of Adam. Most people do not know how that happened.

I. The Image and Likeness of God

If you go back to the book of Genesis, you find in Genesis 1:26 that when God made man, the Bible says that He made man in His likeness after His image. Most people read that and never really understand what He is talking about. But when you go back to Genesis 1:26, where it talks about man being created in God's likeness, in God's image, you want to remember this, and this is tying into what we are going to talk about this morning.

The image of God will always be spiritual. The likeness of God will always be physical. When the Bible says that God made man in His likeness, it meant that God had a likeness in mind that He wanted to reveal Himself to man. That likeness was Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ looked just like, as far as the anatomy is concerned, you and me: two arms, two legs, a head, a torso. So in the Bible, when the Bible says in Genesis that God made man in His likeness, He is talking about the physical appearance. That physical appearance is manifested in time in the person of Jesus Christ.

Then the Bible says that God made man in His image. Now, the image is always spiritual. We know that when God made Adam, God made Adam a complete man. He made him complete physically, the likeness. He made him complete spiritually, the image. In fact, if you want to put a little note someplace in your Bible, Adam is the only man born in the Bible that was born again. When God made him, He made him born again. He created him that way. He gave him the likeness and the image.

Now, what happened is this, and you know the story. The devil shows up and he gets Adam to sin. When Adam sins, he loses that image. He loses that spiritual image, but he keeps the likeness. In Genesis 5, you will find that when it begins to lay out the genealogy of Adam, it says that Adam, now that he is a sinner, he produces children in his own likeness, in his own image. That image is the fallen image that puts us into the dire straits of hell and makes us sinners.

II. The Doctrine of Salvation

The gospel story and the doctrine of salvation is one simply of getting that restored. Last week we saw in the book of Ephesians 2, where I told you that an unsaved man or an unsaved woman is enmity against God. Enmity means you are God's enemy. I told you that as being God's enemy, you are destined for a place called hell and an eternity in the lake of fire. That is because Adam had the image and the likeness, but because of sin, he lost that spiritual image. The Bible says that as sin came upon one man, death was passed upon all men. There is you and I.

When you and I got saved, when these seven things took place in our lives, what transpires is the image gets restored. Christ, when He died on the cross, He gave man the ability to get that image restored. This is what we know today as the doctrine of salvation. We call it the new birth. We call it born again. We call it saved. When that transaction takes place instantaneously, now you are regenerated. The Holy Spirit of God has been renewed.

In fact, Titus 3:5 says:

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Notice the emphasis on the word "re," it has to do over again, regeneration and renewing. Now you have the ability to have the relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ because of the restoration process of the image of God. The image of God, by the way, is Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1 says that Jesus Christ is the expressed image of God's person. So when you get that image restored, when you get regenerated, when you get the image renewed in your life by the Holy Ghost, it means that Jesus Christ now comes into your life.

III. God's Plan and Purpose

We have been talking about the seven things that took place the day that God saved. Maybe it will become a little clearer, and every week I keep adding some more doctrinal stuff to this. I do not want to dump it all on you at one time, but I want to give it to you as we kind of go through. We have talked about three of the seven, and today we are going to talk about the fourth.

You need to understand, and I keep driving this thing home, that now that your relationship, it is your salvation, you have one goal in this relationship, and that is to fulfill God's plan and God's purpose for your life. We know what that is now: John 14, finish what God started.

There is a popular phrase that has been out for a while, and it is a good phrase, and I like it because it deals with a very true concept. It talks about the United States Marine Corps. The United States Marines have always felt themselves to be a little more elite than all the other armed forces, and in many ways, probably are. But their logo for reaching people is the fact that they talk about the Marines are looking for a few good men. That is exactly, they borrowed that whether they know it or not, from the Word of God, because that is exactly what Jesus Christ is looking for in you and me.

I talked last week about God just giving us 30 men and women in this church. It would be a wonderful thing if we thought, if I could even have the outside glimpse of hope, that out of our church of 120, 130 people, that everybody would get to that point where they would just

completely understand what happened in their lives and shell out their lives to the place that they would say, "Hey, you know what? The last hundred yards of this race is I am going to give God everything I have got, and everything is going to take that precedence in my life." That is not a reality. It just is not, and I know that. But as I said last week, if God will just give this church 30 men and 30 women, that is not 60, that is just 30 together. If you will give me 30 men and women that will just come to that conclusion of what we are talking about, we will get more done in these last days for the Lord than any church of four or five hundred or two or three thousand that just play the routine every week of going to church but never take the thing seriously. That is where all this is coming to. That is the design behind all of this.

We have had three years now where we have laid a good foundation as far as I am concerned based on that. It is time now to build some leadership with men and women who understand these concepts and building a church. You do not do it by... I got a thing in the mail last week. I was going to bring it, I forgot it. It was a stack of three by five cards about that thick. Every one of them was a different, and they all came in one packet. It probably came to the pastor of Old Path Baptist Church. I get them all the time, and I keep them because they are hilarious, and I use them for props sometimes in my sermons. But this one was, it had to be a hundred three by five cards. Everyone printed differently by a different organization, somebody selling something to make your church a success. As I flipped through these things, I just could not help but believe, could, was over, I was just amazed of how that what this Christian world looks for today, because I know that just me looking at it, for as stupid as it is, there must be a hundred thousand pastors that are busy writing out checks because they think this is the answer.

One of them had to do with, if you want to really build it, your church will only be as successful as the sign that you have out front. Another one was about the stained glass windows, and it had a reference to how does the light of God, how does God's light shine through your into your church. It is all about setting an atmosphere. There was not one thing in there about the Bible. It was all about aesthetics. It was all about how things look. It was all about how beautiful it was. There was a thing in there about, you know, they had pulpits that were called cutting edge pulpits. It was a pulpit that was completely made out of some kind of whatever that was transparent. There was some cute little saying that went along with that. I thought to myself as I looked through that, that is where the body of Christ is today. They have not got a clue of what it really takes.

You do not build a church with a sign. You do not build a church with a pulpit. You do not build a church with anything that looks good. You build a church with an old book that is bought and paid for with the blood of a hundred million saints. Then you take that book, and then you take couples, individuals, one at a time, and you build them to have the qualifications that the Bible says they have to have to understand what took place the day they got saved. That is what we are going through. That is what we are looking at. Your relationship, my relationship, once we get saved, has one goal: it is to fulfill God's plan. It has nothing to do with the, nothing to do.

You know, I got thinking about it, how different the contrast is. In the Old Testament, before they got into the land and before they built the temple under Solomon, the most beautiful expression of God that the nation of Israel had was the tabernacle. Now that tabernacle was a temporary

deal. It was taken down and put up every time they traveled somewhere. They took it down, put it up, took it down, put it up. If you would look at that tabernacle from a distance or just from the outside of it, it was just, you could not tell it from any of the other tents that were being made. Anybody had it, it looked like an old camouflage net. It was made out of badger skins and goat skins, and it was this plain Jane, and it was just unbelievably. Nobody would, nobody would look at it and think that is one beautiful tent. The beauty of that tabernacle was not what was on the outside. The beauty of that tabernacle was what was on the inside. That is the way it has to be with churches. It is not about how beautiful the building is on the outside. It is about what is beautiful about it on the inside, and the beauty of the inside are the things of God that every church either has or does not have. That is where the church needs to be.

The tabernacle was in a period of time in Israel's life where they were wandering to get to a place where God wanted them to be. The church age is a period of time where the church is wandering, getting to the place where God wants us to be. The beauty of this church should never be on the outside. The beauty of this church should never be in the aesthetics that make it look like it is some Taj Mahal someplace. The beauty of this church should be and always will be what the Word of God is and what it does in people's lives. That is the way it has to work.

IV. The Seven Changes of Salvation

So far, we have examined in our study three of the seven, and today we are going to look at the fourth.

1. We looked at 2 Corinthians 5:17, and we talked about how that when you got saved, you were a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, all things become new. With that one, we took away your victim status. No longer can you blame what you are or what you are not, or your problem, whatever they may be, on somebody else. Now you have to realize that you have the ability to be everything that God wants you to be.
2. The second week we looked at Matthew 22:37, where it says, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy heart, with all thy mind, and all thy soul." From that, we learn we have the ability to love God and, more importantly, or just as importantly, to love the things of God.
3. Then last week we got into Ephesians 2, and I showed you in verses 18 and 19 that the next thing that changed as far as God was concerned was your citizenship. We built that on the concept that now that once you are saved, you are in this world, but you are not of this world.

These three things, as the rest of these seven, changed the moment you get saved instantaneously. But as I have said every week, through the process of spiritual growth, we do not always see it until we grow into those things. My job, and the job of this church, and when I talk about building men and women one at a time, when I talk about God giving me 30 men and women that will stand, that is what I am talking about. Just give me 30 men and women who will understand these things, put these things into your lives, and then let God, let God do something with it. That is what God wants to do.

V. Our Conversation is in Heaven

Now the fourth thing we are going to look at today is found in Philippians 3. If you turn to Philippians 3, we will start around verses 17 and 21. While you are turning there, let me just tell you about this. The church at Philippi, which is called the Book of Philippians, was a great church. Of all the churches that Paul writes to, it is probably the greatest church that he had. I know that we have talked about this before. John in the Book of Revelation writes to the seven churches, and we know they represent the seven periods of church history. But if you study it, Paul writes to seven churches. If you would take the time, and we have done this before, you can actually match up the seven churches that John writes to with the seven churches that Paul writes to.

The greatest church that John wrote to that really got the job done was the Philadelphia Church. You might have already guessed by now that one of the seven churches that Paul writes to, the church that matches up to Philadelphia, is the church at Philippi, or the Philippian Church. There is more intimacy in the Book of Philippians than any other of the books that he writes as far as to the people. Paul loved this church, and this church was the kind of church that was a model for everybody else.

In verse 17, here is what he says:

Philippians 3:17-21

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Now Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we love You. We ask You, Father, today to open up our hearts, give us wisdom and insight into everything we look at today. We will thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We will thank You and praise You for Your Word, and help us, Father, each one of us look in our hearts. We are all going to have to make the decision: I am either going to follow what the Word of God says, or I am going to follow what the world says. Lord, we love You. Thank You, Lord, for all that You do now in Jesus' name, for sake we ask it. Amen.

In this church, we see the next great thing that changed, and it is found in verse 20, and it says, "For our conversation is in heaven." Before you got saved, the Bible says in Romans 3 that

everything that comes out of our mouth is vile. In fact, the Bible likens our throat to an open sepulchre. Now a sepulchre is a tomb. Remember back in the Gospel, Jesus talked about the scribes and the Pharisees, and I think it was about Matthew 23. He was coming down through there, and He was showing them all the things that were wrong with them. He talked about how that the fact that on the outside, the scribes and the Pharisees looked like whited sepulchres.

Now a whited sepulchre is a very beautiful thing. We call them mausoleums today, and people do not use them much anymore because they cost a lot of money. But back in the 20s and the 30s, probably up into the 40s maybe too, when rich people died, it was not good enough just to be buried in a hole. They erected little buildings, and those little buildings sometimes were built back into a hill. Back in Canton, Ohio, there is a, we have President McKinley was from Canton, Ohio. President McKinley was President of the United States. He was assassinated back in the early 1900s, and they buried him in Canton, Ohio, up on a hill. It is a beautiful, big, big domed, it looks like a big observatory, a big dome building, and in there is, you know, you walk inside, it is a mausoleum. You have him, you have his wife, and then his kids are buried in the wall around him, and it is a, you know, it is a very beautiful thing.

If you would walk back through that seminary cemetery, and I used to get pretty close, seminary cemetery, I used to run through there because it has a nice, and it is a beautiful, it is an old cemetery, been around for since Canton was, you know, and back in the old section, there are just lines and lines and lines and lines and lines of mausoleums, little buildings built back into the deal. You know what, they are beautiful on the outside, they really are. They are pretty. They all have ornate sculpturing and little things on them, and they have doors on them. I guess, you know, I would go up and look in. You know, I am fascinated by that stuff. I remember going as a kid, and there were always places to sit in there, and that always bothered me a little bit. I mean, who needs a place to sit? Then my mother explained to me what it was for, the people that came to visit the dead people that were buried in the crypt. I mean, and that bothered me a little bit more. But now, you know, everybody probably associated with those families is gone, and now they are beautiful on the outside. But if you go up to them, the glass is broke, they all have bars on them. I have seen stray cats running out of them. I mean, you go up and you look inside, and it is pretty obvious it is not a place that you want to hang out a lot.

Jesus said about the scribes and the Pharisees, "You are like that. You are like whited sepulchres because you are beautiful on the outside, but when you go inside, what you have is dead men's bones." That is the way He likened the scribes and the Pharisees, and that is the way we are as unsaved people. We dress ourselves up on the outside, but the Bible says that your throat is an open sepulchre. The Bible says that under your lips are the poison of asps. That is a snake, a viper, over in the desert of the Middle East. As you come down through there, He talks about that under your tongue is deceit.

I say all that to say this because I think the greatest witness that a man or a woman has gotten saved, to me, I mean, and you do not always see a lot of change. Sometimes you have to take a while to get through some things. I am going to tell you, if you truly got saved, I am going to tell you one of the first things that changes about you, even though maybe it does not change right away. You know what it is? It is your mouth. Your mouth. Before, it never bothered you to take

God's name in vain. You just say, you just rattle it off like it was nothing. Suddenly, once you get saved, to me, the greatest witness, and you may have all kinds of other problems you have to work through, but the earliest evidence of a man or a woman really getting saved is their conversation, what comes out of their mouth. When you understand that, I think it is one of the greatest witnesses that you find. It is an amazing thing to watch that transition from what he was or what she was after they get saved.

I will tell you why that is, because John 8:44 says, as an unsaved man or a woman, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." So an unsaved man, an unsaved woman, not only does the lust of the father the devil, they talk like him. You notice how an unsaved man or an unsaved woman will always use the words hell and damn in connection with Jesus Christ and God. Now let me tell you why that is. That is because they are speaking prophetically. Their father is the devil. They are going to spend an eternity in hell, damned, without God, without Christ, and they are going to stand down there for eternity, and they are going to scream their lungs out saying, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Because they are unsaved and they are of their father the devil, they just say what an unsaved man is supposed to say because that is where they are headed.

Now the moment you legitimately get born again, the moment you get legitimately born again, the first time that word comes out of your mouth, you are going to know it was the wrong thing to say. Now you may not be able to fix it all, and it may slip for a while. I have been saved for 30 some years, and I still slip every once in a while. But you are going to know the instant, the moment that those words come out of your mouth, that it does not feel the same way that it did before. You know why? Because you are not going to the same place anymore. An unsaved man, unsaved woman, will talk about the things where they are headed in eternity. A child of God will talk about the things where they are going in eternity. For an unsaved man, it will be hell and damned. For a saved man, it will be amen and glory to God. That is just the way that it works all the way down. I think one of the greatest, greatest, greatest, greatest witnesses of how a man or woman has truly gotten saved is because the first thing that affects them outwardly that you see, that did not bother them before, is what comes out of their mouth.

VI. Walk and Conversation Equal Lifestyle

Yet this verse sends up a tremendous concept that is taught really throughout the whole Bible that it takes it even deeper. It is found over in Luke 6:43. Back there in Philippians, it talked about the fact in verse 18, it said, "For many walk." Then in verse 20, it says, "For our conversation." You know what the great concept is, and you need to learn this if you are ever going to work with people? The great concept is that your walk and your conversation equal your lifestyle.

In the world, we have lots of little phrases that we use that are cute, and people like to use them. Most people do not understand that those phrases have their originality in the Word of God. How many times have you heard over the years the little phrase, "If you walk the walk, you got to talk, or you talk the talk, you walk the walk?" Now that is a cute little thing, and most people use that as a cliché, and they use that in a cute little scenario someplace. But most people do not know that that is exactly, that concept came from the Word of God. When he says in verse 18,

"many walk," and then he says in verse 20, "our conversation," he is showing you that your walk and your talk have to line up as a child of God. When it does not, then you have some problems.

Now Luke 6:43 takes us a little farther, and he says this:

Luke 6:43-45

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

See that thing? Now I gave you a couple of weeks ago the counseling concept of attitude versus action, and I showed you whatever your attitude of heart is will translate to your action. That great principle is based on that verse right there in Luke 6:45, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Whatever is in your heart will come out of your mouth because whatever your conversation is will dictate your lifestyle. This is why the Bible says in Matthew 6:21:

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

When your treasure is the world, when your treasure is the things of the world, when your treasure is all the things the world has to offer, you know what? You are going to speak like the world. When your treasure is the things of God, and you focus on the things of God, then your conversation is going to be in heaven. Of course, Proverbs 23:7 says:

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

It all comes back to lay out the great concept that you and I are what we think about, and our walk and our talk has to match because conversation in your old archaic King James 1611 Bible, the word conversation back then meant lifestyle because the King James translators understood and knew the great concept of what the Bible lays out, that you are what you talk about, and you cannot separate the two. That is why I told you many, many, many, many times, it is absolutely impossible for you as a man or a woman, saved man or woman, to fake true Christianity. It is impossible.

You will find in counseling scenarios many, many times of husband and wives are having a relationship problem, you know, there is something going wrong there. Let me tell you something, you have to be stupid as a fence post to buy into some of the stuff that women say to their husbands and men say to their wives, because I guess maybe it is this, I guess that we get to the point where we want to believe the person is doing right so much, we just cancel out, we just

cancel out the fact that the biblical principle says what I am hearing and what I am seeing are two different things. That is something that as somebody who is going to work with people, you cannot do. People will do some what they are, and they will say what they are, and if you watch what they do and it does not line up with what they are saying, then you have a problem, you have a problem.

This passage then brings the verse 46, which to me is the greatest question in the Bible, and the greatest question in the Bible for Christians, as far as I am concerned, once you are saved, as far as I am concerned, this is the greatest single question in the Bible that you and I have to answer, and it is simply this in verse 46:

Luke 6:46

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

You can rationalize your lifestyle. You can rationalize your not coming to church. You can rationalize, and you can blame your problems on everybody else in this whole wide world, and you can just your whole day and make your checklist of how you are going to get out from under your personal responsibility and blame it on somebody else. But at the end of the day, or if Jesus comes back, you still have to answer this one question, and it is the question that will nag you to the day you die or you hit the judgment seat of Christ, and it is simply this: "Why call me Lord, Lord, and then turn around and not do what I tell you to do?" That is the greatest question that we all have to face, and we all have to face it. That is the number one fundamental problem.

The answer is going back as we saw in Philippians 3. He says in verse 18, "For many walk." Verse 20, "For our conversation." Those men and women whose God is their belly, like they talked about in Philippians 3:19, will always walk and talk like the world. They have their treasure down here. It is in their big homes. It is in their money. It is in their cars. It is in their friends. It is in their loved ones. It is in the nice places they get to go. It is in all the fun, all the parties, all the things they do. It is all right here. Education, religion, and science have now become their savior, and in those three identities, they can find the justification for living their life the way they want to live. That is where their heart is, and that is what they talk about because the Bible says that we always walk the walk just like we talk the talk, and it will be one or the other.

For the child of God, the Bible says our conversation is in heaven. Our Savior is there. Our home is there. My inheritance is there. My millennial reward is there. My treasure is there, and many of our loved ones are already there. Why should not that be the central focus of our conversation? It should be. It should be.

I gave you a great verse a couple of times in the last couple of weeks, and it keeps popping in here, and I keep wanting to drive it home. It is 1 Corinthians 8:3:

1 Corinthians 8:3

But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

You know why that verse is so true? I will tell you why, because we are exactly what we talk about, and what we talk about all of our time is what we really love. I am telling you, when you find you a new girlfriend for the first time, and she is everything you wanted, you cannot keep your mouth shut from blabbing all around about her. Why? You go out and you get something you finally want, and you find some great deal on it, when you got, you got it half price, you tell everybody about it. I mean, we are what we talk about, and what we talk about is where our treasure is, because the Bible says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

I am telling you, when you want to find the greatest picture of where our heart should be, you need it in the person of David. I told you before that the book of Psalms is really the heart of God, and David wrote much of the book of Psalms. But if you ever want to see and get an understanding of where our heart should be and how our talk should line up with our walk, just walk through some of the things that David says.

Psalms 71:24: "My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long."

Psalms 77:12: "I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings."

Psalms 105:2: "Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."

Psalms 145:11: "They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power."

What is the conversation around your dinner table? What is the conversation in your car driving back and forth? What is the predominance of the conversation with your children? What is it all built on? What is it all based on? I am telling you what it is based on: it is where your treasure is. If whatever excites you more than anything else in this world today is where your treasure is.

Now I talk about God giving me 30 people, and I have talked about that, and we will continue to talk about that and bring that to the forefront. But I have got to be honest with you, those 30 people only come into being when they come to the point in their life that the things of God become more precious to them than anything else in this world. Now you know me, I have as much fun as anybody in this world. I can do anything with anybody and have a great time, but those are always secondary things to me. You and I will not be best friends because we both like baseball. You and I will not be best friends because you say, "Let us go to I-70 Speedway." You and I will not be best friends because we like to fish. You and I will not be best friends because you come up and you say, "Oh, Bob, you are into astronomy, I have always wanted to do it, can I come out with you?" I would say, and all those things, "Sure, come on, and come, and you can go out with me anytime, and I spend time with you, and we talk about things." But you know what? If you want to find, if you want to get wherever I am at, maybe you do not, I do not care. I am not saying it so you will, I am just telling you, you have to get where I am at if you want to have a piece of me, and where I am at is in this book. I do not care about anything else in this world other than what is in this book, and yet I care about a lot of everything else, but my treasure is one place. I will never want to go do this more than I want to do this.

I hate even to say what I am about to say, hate to say this because then I, once I say it, I am afraid that you will not do it anymore, and one of you is not here today, so it will not bother me. But you know what? Yesterday, I tried to get a little nap before the ballgame because when you get

my age, shuffleboard in the morning wears me out. You see the neat shoes I got, got the Velcro straps on them. I laid down, phone rings. It is somebody wanting to know about a Bible question. They are studying it right now. Answer the question, laid back down again, dog got comfortable again. I think the dog bothers the dog more than it does me. Phone rang 20 minutes later. Somebody else, Bible question. Went to go back to sleep again, phone rang again, four times in two hours, only had our, I was 15 minutes. You know what? When I laid there after the fourth one, I did not get my nap. My wife knows I can be cranky if I do not get my nap. She is really cranky when she does not get a nap. That is why she sleeps all the time. No. I laid there, my eyes closed, knowing I was never going to get a nap, and I had a smile on my face, and my heart was just bubbling over thinking that there are four people who probably got a good candidacy of making the 30. I will tell you what, there is nothing I am into that I will not stop, even my nap, that I would not stop in a heartbeat if I know you are in the Bible and you need some help with that book. That is where it is at. You know why? Because that is like you just call me on the phone and saying, "Bob, you are not going to believe it." Now if most Baptist preachers would not want to be bothered with that, see, they would not want to bother that. But if you call them up and say, "Pastor so and so, Pastor Smudge Face, I just want to be there. I just won the lottery and got 75 million dollars. I want you to, I want to bring in my tithe." He would say, "Oh, wake me up for that." You do not have to call me about the money, call me about the Bible. That is what my treasure is. All I care about, there is nothing I do throughout the day or throughout the night that is more important than that.

If we are ever going to get to the place that we ever do the ministry together, hey, I spent 35 years getting where I am at in that book, and I have got a long way to go. I am not puffing myself up in any way, shape, or form that I have arrived. I have got a long way to go. But I am saying this, if we are going to be a single as a mind and heart, you are going to have to get in that book, and you are going to have to love it as your own treasure. I know most of you, many of you do. I am just telling you, that is where it has to be. Because where your treasure is, where your heart is going to be, and where your heart is going to be, but what you speak about.

Now after I just said this this morning, I fully prayed about it. I knew, I thought about it because I know now at this point in my life, I will never get a nap the rest of my life. That is okay. My point is this, you have to have that time in the Word of God together. The thought of you sitting home and taking those things and laying them out in the Bible, and I could just close my eyes and watch you sitting there. I put myself in that place so many times, so many years ago, where I would sit there and be studying that thing out, laying that thing out, trying to find that thing, putting that thing in there, and in my mind, I was just, it gave me the greatest, warmest feeling knowing that there are men and women in this body that want to learn that Bible better than anything else in the world, and that is where it has to be. That is where it has to be. That is where it has to be.

I am telling you, you are going to have to learn as you grow that where your heart is, there will your treasure be also. If any love God, the same is known of him. If God loves truth, then you are going to have to love truth. Truth is going to have to be the centerpiece of every. A guy asked me one time, he said, "Where did you learn all this stuff about history? How come you can just quote

things down through there, and you can remember this, you can remember that?" I will tell you what, at the same time, I do not know anything, anything else in life, not a thing. I just know this, as a young man, once I got into the book, I knew it was truth, and I wanted truth. I have spent my whole life looking for truth, embracing truth, keeping truth. Like I said last week, I am not like my mother. I have got a collection of truth like she had a collection of salt and pepper shakers, but I use mine, she never used hers. Some of God's people, you get it Thursday night, Sunday morning, all the time we get together, and you do absolutely nothing with it except collect it. It has not changed your life. I have been through church history with some of you 50 times, and it is still to this day, you could not lay out church history with your eyes blindfolded, your hands behind your back, and I would say, "Start. Start with Revelation 1 and run me through and give me all the detail." You would be blue with that. Would even a way out, Revelation is the last book in your Bible, write that down, that is important. All Revelation has 22. You could not because you do not live there. You have to come to the place that history, the Bible, and everything with God is your treasure.

VII. The Art of Listening and Baseline of Truth

The art of listening is a great concept. I like to listen not to what people say, but I listen to how they say what they say. James 1:19 is a great verse. It says:

James 1:19

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

So when somebody is talking to me, I am listening, and I am not listening just what you are saying, I am listening how you are saying it. Because from not only what you are saying, but how you are saying it, once I understand that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, that is going to give me the perspective from where you are coming from. Now I do not use that so much with you folks because we know each other, and I know where you are coming from, and I know your perspective. But that James 1 says that we are to be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, but swift to hear. I have learned over the years that people listen but they do not really hear. That is why over and over again in the book of Revelation 1, over and over again in the book of Revelation, you know what the Spirit of God says to John? He says, "Let that he that hath an ear, let him hear," because people listen but they do not hear. It is true, a Sunday morning, you are listening to what I am saying, but you do not hear all what I am saying. Now that is why you go buy a CD because you want to hear it, because the human brain is impossible. If I sit down and listen to somebody preach something, I am going to get one or two things out of it that really, I really like. I want to remember it all, but I know I am not going to be able to because we concentrate so much on listening that sometimes we do not hear. So you go buy the tape, you sit down, and then you can hear as you listen, and that is just what you have got to do. People listen but they do not really hear, and you always get a perspective where a person comes from.

I will give you an example, and like I said, this is basically with new people, it is not so much you, but I am telling you so you know how to understand the concept. A man said one time in a

Bible study, he says to me, "I have got a question about Calvinism." I said, "Okay, what is your question?" Now when a new guy comes in or a new person, and they come to Thursday night Bible study, see, I do not know what I have. Because a lot of people come from different, so you do not know what you have got. So if you will notice, I really listen intently. Now some of you ask me a question, I will listen, but I know probably because we know each other, I know. But if somebody new comes around and they raise their hand and I call on them, I will very intently listen, and I do not know if you can see it or not, but my ears will move in their direction because I have got all my radar defenses up because I am not just going to listen what they are going to ask, I am going to listen how they ask it because that is going to tell me what my perspective is.

A man said one time, "I have got a question about Calvinism." I said, "What is your question?" He says, "Well, I have been coming to Bible study in Oak for a couple of months now, and I get on the Internet and found all kinds of information that says Calvinism is true, and it got me to thinking that maybe what you are teaching might not be true or not, not be right." Now that is a very telling question. It is telling just by the way he asked the question. You see, because by the way he wants to go about finding truth, in a way he stated the question, it shows you exactly what you have here.

Now people come in two categories. Now you take really three, but the third category is somebody who really knows how to deal with the Bible. You have got two kinds of categories with people. One, somebody is intellectually dishonest because they are unteachable, and you cannot teach them anything. They always have the answer, and they are always right, and you are never going to get truth, is never going to penetrate their mind of what they believe is what they have got. Then you have somebody that is intellectually dishonest because they are just ignorant, then they will know they are teachable, but they do not know. So you see by the way somebody asked the question, one, I know I have got somebody now who is intellectually dishonest, but I do not know in which category falls yet. But I know the fatal mistake that he has made. He has already taken the position that the Internet is the source of truth. Because he found on the Internet, see, he did not go to the Bible first. He went to the Internet first. If he went to the Bible first, said, "I have been studying the Bible," he would not have been able to say, "And I found a bunch of verses that kind of prove Calvinism," because the Bible verses in the Bible do not prove Calvinism. But you can go to the Internet and find everything you want.

Now his subjection was, "Because I found a lot more verses for Calvinism than against Calvinism, then Calvinism must be true." Now I could take that same thing, and I could say that pornography, you know, there are six hundred million porno sites on the Internet, and there are only a hundred million Christian sites on it. Now by that standard, pornography is wrong, and Christian pornography is right, Christianity is wrong. If we are going to take that stand, if the Internet is going to be our standard by how much is on versus how not on is what is right and what is wrong, we are all in trouble. It is the Bible that you have got to go to. It is the Bible that you have got to start with.

Mark Twain one time, I love it, he has got some of the greatest quotes. Mark Twain said one time, "It is not the things that we do not know that get us in trouble, but rather the things that we know for sure that just are not true that get us in trouble." Brother, that is great wisdom. That is

great wisdom. You see, you must always start with a baseline of truth. That baseline of truth will always be the Word of God. The Bible is my baseline. It is where I start. I do not care what books. I do not care what you find on the Internet. I do not care who you read. You cannot start that. If you start there, now I will tell you something else.

I asked this guy, I said, "Well, I think you started at the wrong place." I said, "You never go to the Internet for your baseline of truth." I said, "You have got to start with the Bible." Then I hit him with my question that is going to tell me where he is at. I said, "Where do you go to church?" And he fell right into my trap. "Oh, I do not go to church. I study the Bible on my own." Now once he said that, he put himself right into the category that I know what I am dealing with because the bottom line is this: the way God intended for you to learn the Bible is not on the Internet. The way that God intended to learn the Bible is to find a church with a pastor that will let you wake him up in his naps, and then bug him to death to get everything and prepare yourself and start with a New Testament local church who by God's design is the place that you get your baseline of truth that you can judge everything else. You see, when you start over there and try to come back to the line, you are never going to make it. You have to start with the baseline of truth, and the baseline of truth is that book.

That is why the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 2:13:

1 Thessalonians 2:13

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

If you start with the Bible as your baseline, you are not going to get farther off down the line. Two baselines you have got to have: one is the biblical baseline, the other one is the historical baseline. They have to match. You know how I know that charismatic movement is off the wall? You say, "Well, I can find it in the Bible," but you cannot find it in history. It does not match. You know I know Calvinism is wrong? Well, duh, Calvin, Calvinism, Calvinism. You know why they call you Christians? Because it goes back to Acts 11 where you are first called Christian. You know why they call the teaching Calvinism, Calvinism? Because it goes back to Calvin. You know where Calvin lived? 1500. You know why they did not call it anybody's name before Calvin? Because it was not taught before Calvin. It does not take a rocket scientist to figure it out. It started by the man's name that it followed. He did not live until 1588. So they start the teaching with him.

Somebody says, "Well, I believe I get on the Internet, found out Calvinism, and I found a lot of stuff that you do not teach, and I think Calvinism may be right." Why do not you believe that? The reason why I do not believe it is because it does not line up, one, with the Bible, and two, historically, it does not start until John Calvin. Nobody in the history of the world believed Calvinism before Calvin. I do not know how simple it can get. You know why they are called Mormons? Because he met an angel named Moroni. In 1830, Joe Smith kicking around the alley is looking for some stuff that people threw away for a garage sale, and he is out there walking down, and he meets this angel, and his name is Moroni. He says, "Hey, Joe, I have got some

golden tablets." Now keep in mind, this is 1830, 1820 somewhere in there. Jesus died 1830 years before. Church has been around for a... Oh no, do not worry about that. Go with Moroni the angel. Get them golden tablets. Get the truth that nobody else had for 1830 years. You know why they are called Mormons? Because they started with a Moron. I do not know what to tell you. It is just, you have got to have a biblical baseline of truth and a historical baseline of truth. I mean, the early church had to believe something. Find out what they believed, and that is what you are supposed to believe.

People are so dumb. Most of them are in the unteachable category. I had a guy tell me one time, now this guy was a doctor of philosophy. He was a psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed by the state of Missouri, claimed to be a saved man. I do not know if he was or he was, but he gave me some great information on the way, and this was a guy that when he began to talk, you just, you got volumes of material by what comes out of his mouth. He said to me one time, he said, "You know what?" He said, "I appreciate your ministry," and he said, "I really get a lot of the Bible from you, but," he said, "my position is this: you think that the Bible is the source of all truth." He says, "I believe the Bible contains truth, but," he says, "I also believe there is truth in other things that are not found in the Bible." Now that sounds good, but let me tell you, if you take that thing the next step, let me tell you, if there is, if the Bible is not the source of all truth, and there is truth outside the Bible, then you are only a half a step away that there is salvation in the Bible, but there is also salvation outside of the Bible. See that thing? There cannot be. The Bible has to be what it claims to be, or it is nothing. If history and your Bible do not line up, and when you get it to line up, you do not get caught up in the stupid stuff that is out there.

A guy called me on the phone a couple weeks ago asking me some Bible questions, and at this thing he wanted to run by me, and I said to him, I said, "Does it not bother you?" And he is a pastor, saved man. I said, "Does it not bother you?" And I could tell he was getting a little defensive when I kept shutting the door and saying, "That is the stupidest thing ever in my life." I can tell, and finally I said, "Does it not bother you that what you are going through and want to teach your people and are calling me about, does it not bother you that nobody in the history of the church, not Larkin in 1900, C.I. Scofield in 1880, not in that Penderfield, anybody, nobody, anybody in the history of the church has ever even animated what you are trying to teach? Does that not bother you?" You know what? He had never thought about it. What is even worse, I do not think he thought about it two seconds after we hung up the phone. You know why? Because he wants to believe what he has.

I learned something about human nature years ago. Now, boys, I am going to tell you something. You want to learn that book, you are going to have to put a lot of sweat, blood, and tears into it. You are going to have to burn the midnight oil. When you are tired, you are going to have to get things and put a system to your putting it together, or you are just going to nitpick around the Bible the rest of your life and never learn anything. You are going to have to discipline yourself to sit down and say, "Okay, I am going to get this, I am going to get this, I am going to get this, I am going to get this," and it is going to take a long time. It is not going to be easy, it is going to be hard, but that is the only way to do it. If you are not willing to do that, and most young men today are not, here is what you will do. It will happen. You will come up with some new

cockeyed, absolutely stupid thing that comes up that you have made up that sounds good that you will find people who are dumber than you are to believe it, and you count yourself as a Bible teacher. That is where it is today. Nobody has a baseline of truth. Nobody.

When you listen to somebody ask the question, how they ask it, and analyze what they are saying, knowing what you should know, you will come back to the great truth that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Walk the walk, talk the talk. If you are going to say you believe it, talk like you believe it. Do not tell them to believe the Bible and then come up with some cockeyed concept that is not anywhere. Do not say, "Well, I am a Christian, but I am a charismatic," when that is stupid. If I was a charismatic, I would not tell anybody. If I was a little kid growing up and my mom said, "Tell everybody you are charismatic," I said, "No." "Better tell them you are charismatic." "No, I am not going to do it." "I am going to put that dress on you." "What size you got? What colors you got?" There has to be a baseline of truth. That baseline of truth forms your treasure, your attitude, that you understand how to discern things, that you do not get caught up and blown about by every wind of doctrine that somebody gets up and just says something absolutely stupid that has no reference to anything historically or biblically. The only reason that stuff gets by is because God's people are dumber than the people that are putting it out. That is just the way it is. Education does not always equal common sense.

VIII. The Tragedy of Inconsistent Living

Lastly, and I see this as the real tragedy. Going back to Luke 6:46, keep in mind now, your conversation has changed. You do not talk the way you used to talk because you have had a heart change. Now your treasure should be the Word of God, and out of the abundance of that treasure, your mouth should speak. You should not talk like the world anymore. You have to come to the place, if you have been saved four or five years, that truly and without any reservation, your conversation and your lifestyle is heavenly. But we all go back to Luke 6:46, that great question: "Why call me Lord, Lord, and not do the thing which I say?"

A couple of weeks ago, I asked a great question, and that great question is, to me, is the question of this, of the latest in church. That question is this: "What is a sinner today? What is a sinner have? What is a, what is a sinner have to do to be marked as a sinner?" See, when I grew up, it was real clear. I told you, I was lucky, I grew up out of the back end of the Philadelphia church age. I remember guys like R.G. Lee. I remember guys like John. I remember guys like Ken Melton. I remember guys that really, that bridged that gap. I remember guys like Tommy Thomas. I remember guys that really understood. When I grew up, it was very clear what you did and what you did not do as a child of God. The music was clear. All the concepts of drinking and drugs and fornication and cussing and all that stuff, they go with it. It was, it was so clear growing up because the Bible had an absolute concept to it that everybody knew right from wrong as a Christian. Those are gone today. Those are gone.

I remember years ago, you do not have this anymore. I remember years and years ago when, I do not even think they are around anymore. Remember the real satanic rock groups that really broke in back in the late 70s or early 70s? You know, they painted their face up like demons. They tore chickens' heads off with their teeth and all these things, and everybody, all the parents were

saying, "Well, you know, it is okay. You know, it is, and they are Christians." I remember some smart Christian. I do not remember, I do not even know who it was. Some smart Christian. I do not know where he got this idea, but he took their music, and this was the very satanic stuff. Our culture was beginning to crumble, and in crime and teenage crime, it was a mess. They took this stuff, and back then, I do not know what they called it, I do not know if they even do it anymore. Back then, it was called backmasking. You took a record that was one of these records, and instead of playing it forward, you played it backwards. Believe it or not, when you played it backwards, there was a message that came clear playing it backwards. It was a message that had to do, when you played that thing backwards, it would say something like, "Kill your mother. Kill your mother. Kill your mother. Hate your father. Hate your father."

Now I tried, I have got to tell you, I tried it. I tried it once. You know me, I only tried it once, gave it up. I think my problem was I got the wrong kind of music. I did it with country western, which can be just as raunchy as anything. But when I played it back, the guy got his truck back, got his dog back, got his wife back. I think I had the wrong kind. Should have done the other. I do not know. But everything in this world, hey, everything in this world, I have told you before, the devil wants to do everything in this world. Right now, you are like your kids watch home. You know what they do? And I am not saying this is wrong. I am just saying, I am not saying you should not do that. I am just saying you have got it. You watch on TV. You know what you have got now? You have got all these he-men characters. You notice that? And they are there. They are there. What are they going to hurt? I mean, come on. Everybody watches them, and you have got the he-man, Titanium Man, you know, Aluminum Man, you know, Tinfoil Man, all these things. I try to watch the end, all they honor, you have got the, you have got the. I watch that stuff, and your kids sit down and watch that stuff. You and I do not understand that the devil tries to take everything he can. There it is right down there, is the sons of God at a Genesis 6 coming right to your kids.

When I was a kid growing up, they never watched Saturday morning comics, not because I got some kind of, you know, I am not some kind of radical. But I knew that Leviticus 11, the unclean animals, that you realize that every child your kid watches on Sunday morning, or used to, was an unclean animal. Leviticus 11: porcupine, Donald Duck, Wile E. Coyote, Heckle and Jeckle, Bugs Bunny. They are unclean animals in Leviticus 11. How come there were no cartoons about lambs? Why is every cartoon that your kid begins to watch when they are little kids? And I am not saying your kid is going to die and go to hell because they watch Heckle and Jeckle. I am saying the devil looks for every opportunity, no matter how subtle, to plant that foundation in your kid's heart. It is just as simple as that. It is everywhere. It is everywhere. It is everywhere. Without a doubt, it is everywhere.

I am telling you, you have got to understand, we talked about it last week, we are going to get into the book of Leviticus. We are just about ready to finish up Exodus, and I showed you the book of Leviticus is the book of the priesthood. You are going to find that in the book of Leviticus, it talks about the word holiness 87 times. The word holy is 65 times. You know why? Because God wants you and I to know that there are still, God is our holy God, and there is holiness unto the Lord. As a child of God, there are clear things that you just need to stay away

from. They are in music. They are in booze. They are in drugs. It is in fornication. It is in cursing. It is in everything the world is out there. The lines are blurred today unless you get back into the Word of God, and that treasure becomes your heart.

He says in 1 Peter 1:15:

1 Peter 1:15

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

He says in Philippians 1:27:

Philippians 1:27

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

The thing that has destroyed single-handedly Christianity, as far as I am concerned, in the 20th, 21st century, outside of dumping the Word of God, is God and rendered God's people powerless and made Christianity a joke, is one thing. It is God's people who call Him Lord, Lord, and then simply do not do what He says. They talk it, but they do not walk it. That is what it takes. Trying to have the best of both worlds just will not make it.

Let me give you one last verse here. Turn over to Psalm 137. I will give you a great verse here. One of my favorite passages in the Bible. Psalm 137. What a great passage it is.

Psalms 137:1-4

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

Let me tell you about this verse. In 606 B.C., the nation of Israel got taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Babylon came down under Nebuchadnezzar, took the children of Israel away to Babylon. Many of them never got back to their homeland again. Many of them died as captives. I am sure, just like in every case, once they got actually kicked out of the promised land, once they realized what had happened, once the reality of their sin came home, once they began to process, and there is nothing like losing everything you have to make you sit down and process what you had and how what you do not have. Now that they are down by that river, now that they have lost the glory and the splendor of Jerusalem, now they, because they went after other gods, strange gods, violated God and His Word, and turned their back on the very God of Israel. Now they are down captive by a foreign nation, being told what to do. The glory of God has departed. If that was not enough, sitting there in the reality that they had

the hand of God on them, and everything that God had for them was good. Now they have lost it all, and they are down in the dumps with nothing.

The reality of losing what God had for you and now realizing you have lost it all will not come home to most of God's people's life until the judgment seat of Christ. You will trick yourself, lie to yourself, fool yourself, play case yourself, tell yourself everything yourself wants to hear. But there is coming a day when you will sit down at the river of Babylon and understand what He had for you and understand what you lost. Then if that was not enough, how many times the devil, after he has got you to do his bidding, after he has gotten you to forsake God and to stay in your lifestyle, and now your life is busted and broke, there is no comfort even that the devil comes over and rubs your nose in it. That is what he did. That is what the captives did. They are sitting down there broken, great despair, contemplating what they had and now what they have got. Somebody comes over and says, "Hey, why do not you sing us one of them great old Christian hymns? Come on, Christian. Why do not you sing that song, 'I have got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart?' Why do not you sing that song, 'Oh, what a Savior?' Why do not you sing me a couple of bars of 'My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine?'" You see the position you get in when you say, "Lord, Lord, Lord," and then do not do the things that He says. You know what their answer is? Classic answer. Oh, it is so true. "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

Let me tell you something. Your attitude of heart is your treasure, and where your treasure is, is where you are what you are going to say. That treasure is either going to be of the world or it is going to be of God, and you are going to either walk and talk the things of God or you are going to talk and walk the things of the world. It is one way or the other.

I think of the story of old Hank Williams Senior, who wrote the story, "I Saw the Light," great song. How many times, you know, we have heard that song, and people sing it, "I saw the light. I saw the light. No more darkness." Oh, it is a great song. Let me tell you something. Hank Williams died in the backseat of a taxi in 1955 in Steubenville, Ohio. He died of an overdose of drugs. He died a broken fornicator, drunk, drug addict. One time when they put him into the back of a cab, and the cab driver recognized who he was before he died, the cab driver said, "Well, Hank Williams, how are you doing? Why do not you sing me, why do not you sing me that little song, 'I Saw the Light?'" Old Hank Williams looked over that seat with a slur with his mouth, and he said, "There is no light." Thank you for that testimony, brother. There is no light. You know why? Because you cannot sing the Lord's song in a strange land. It is either His way or the devil's way.

If you are ever going to get to the point where you are one of the 30, if you are ever going to get to the point that God is going to use you, you are going to, it may take you a while. I am not saying you have got to make the change. No, I am not saying that you have got to just walk out of here different. I am saying you have got to walk out of here wanting to be different. Your conversation, the Bible says, "Pray without ceasing." The Bible says, "Praying always." You have to develop a conversation with the greatest conversationalist the world has ever seen.

An old dear black grandma one time years ago. She is a dear saint of God. Boy, she, she taught me more. Before she died, she, she, she was having trouble sleeping. One of her unsaved nephews or daughters came in. She always had something to say. She is having a tough time sleeping, and she did not want to take any medication, you know, to make her sleep because she just loved God, and she knew she, and she was dying, and she was like 90 some years old. Forget. Somebody said to her, "Well, Granny, why do not you, why do you have trouble sleeping?" One of the big old tough boys said, "Yeah, Granny," he says, "why do not you try counting sheep?" Granny looked up and said, "Son, I do not waste time counting sheep when I can talk to the Shepherd." You know that put big boy in his place.

One time there is an old evangelist. That old evangelist tearing a place up. Went into a town, every time he went in, brother, the Word of God, power of God, the Spirit of God just devastated the place. Well, they wanted to stop him. Every time he went into a town, the bars closed, the gambling closed, the filthy nightclubs closed. He made a clear difference in that town and what he preached. Everybody knew what sin was. There was not any gray areas like it was today. He walked into that place, that town, boy, and all the rough crowd saying, "We are going to get this guy. We are going to get him. Nobody can be that clean. Nobody can be that holy. We are going to get something on him. We are going to print it in the newspapers, and we are going to ruin him and run him out of town." They tried everything. Last resort, they bribed the bellhop, hid somebody in his room. Put him in the closet. Said, "Get something on this guy." Old preacher came in from preaching at night. Walked around, put his pajamas on. Sat over the desk and wrote some things. After about 20, 30 minutes, the guy in the closet sitting over there listening, straining to hear every word. Peeking out the hole, trying to see everything he could see to get something on this guy. The old boy sat down on the bed. Opened up his Bible. Read about 30 seconds. Closed his Bible and put it on a light stand and reached over and turned off the light. The guy in the closet said, "Got him. Some guy he is, some preacher he is. Does not even pray before he goes to bed." Just about that time, I heard the old man say, "Good night, Father. It has been good talking to You all day today."

What I am talking about conversation in heaven. That is what I am talking about. I am talking about developing a relationship with Him that all day long, you do not want anybody to interrupt that conversation you have with Him. Nothing you see will want, you will get to the point in your life that, and there are some wild things you can see in this world. Sometimes you cannot help it. You just drive down the street, they are on the billboards. Sometimes you just ride on the street, they are walking down the street. There are some crazy things. You know, the key is get yourself to the place where you love talking to Him so much that you do not want to be disrupted by anything or anybody. That is how you do it. That is how you do it. You know how you get there? You understand that the next thing that changed about you, your conversation, it is in heaven now. No longer down here. You are going to talk the talk, walk the walk. You cannot have one foot in the world, one foot with God. There comes a point in your life when you realize that you develop that thing that the old things of this world just do not mean anything anymore. That you do not want anything in your life to keep and disrupt your conversation that you have all day long with Him. You do not want nothing to interrupt your talk and your walk. That is why the prayer life starts with you and God building that relationship. That treasure being what God

has given you in the Word of God. The baseline that you use to listen to what is being said. Everything that goes along with it that we have talked about today to put your life in that position where your conversation is in heaven.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Father, we thank You and praise You today for the Lord Jesus. Lord, I love You.