

I. The Urgency of the Times and the Deception of Satan

It is really important for me, and I think it is important for you, if you are going to talk about this church, or what this church is about, or how we stand on issues in the world today, that not only you know what you believe, but why you believe it. Some of these messages in the next couple of weeks are going to be geared toward that, like this one is today.

You remember a couple of weeks ago when we were finishing up the child training, I told you that we are living in an age of spiritual deception. We are living in a time where the devil has literally deceived the whole world. The time that we are living in, I think, from a Bible standpoint, is unparalleled in its importance and in its significance of where we are at in respect to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a front row seat to all the events that are going to bring us right up to the Rapture. It is incredible, absolutely incredible. We are standing on the very edge, the very brim, where we can almost look out and see the coming events, not only from the Bible, but we are actually seeing them fulfilled around us if you know anything about the Word of God.

I think that is one of the great keys that the devil has been so successful in his deception. Once you take the Bible out of the people's hands, they have no way of knowing where they are at and what is going on in life. They have no way anymore to be able to discern the signs and the times. Jesus said something one time that I thought was very instructive over there in Matthew 16 when He was talking to the scribes and the Pharisees. He says, "You are able to discern the weather, you are able to discern the skies, but you cannot discern the times that you live in."

That is so true of us today. We can get weather satellites that can show us a hurricane two weeks before it is ever a hurricane. We can get early warnings on every tropical storm and everything in the world. We have satellites with cameras that can take pictures from 600 miles up that you can read a newspaper if you are holding it in your hand. We have weather satellites that can predict the weather around this world. You can get on the television tonight and you can find the weather around the world and what it is going to be for the next 20 or 30 days. But they cannot predict where this world is going and where it is at because they have rejected the Word of God. That is where this world is at.

This whole country is slipping beneath the waves of corruption and political unrest. I have never seen a time in the history of the world, certainly in my life anyhow, where every fabric of our society and our culture has been changed, refashioned after the deception of Satan. It is absolutely incredible.

II. Historical Parallels: Israel, America, and Apostasy

I do not know how much of a student you are of history. I do not know how much of a student you are of history in the Bible. I do not ever claim to be a Bible scholar. I am not a Bible scholar. I never have claimed to be one. I am a Bible student. I am a man who has understood that the

truth of the Word of God is everything in life. I have committed my life, some almost 35 years now, to studying the Bible, which led me to a study of history, which led me, as we talked about a couple of weeks ago on Thursday night, to a study of astronomy. It led me into the areas where I have found that if you really want to understand how this thing works, you have got to get to it.

It is an incredible concept to be able to see the parallels from history, the lessons of history that people never learned, and how our country so parallels the nation of Israel down through history. America, very frankly, ladies and gentlemen, is an insane asylum run by the inmates. It is absolutely the most unbelievable thing. If somebody would have told me in my early years of the 1960s that America would be what it is today, I would not have believed it.

There is no way we will get anything done in this country. This country is literally divided over the political system, and it is all about money and power. It is all about corruption. It is all about who is going to win and who is going to take this and who is going to take that. Let me just say this to you: I do not know if you understand this morning from a Bible standpoint, from a historical standpoint, the absolute importance of this 2008 election that is coming up next year. I do not know if you understand the biblical ramifications of this. I do not know how well you can apply where we are at today as we see the parallels of history.

I know this: I know that the nation of Israel was a nation that God chose to fulfill His plan in the Old Testament. Israel reneged on that plan, and Israel went into apostasy. Israel wound up going into captivity by two men who are two of the eighteen types of Antichrist in the Old Testament. I have told you many, many times about the parallels between the nation of Israel and the United States.

The United States, as far as I am concerned, after spending years studying church history and the development of how this thing works, in my mind, the United States was the one nation that God wanted to use to take the gospel around the world, and He did use it for a while. But America, just like the nation of Israel, fell for the same pitfalls and for the same snares. They both rejected God. They both rejected the Word of God. They both went into an apostasy that had a form of godliness, but denied any power thereof that had any association with God.

Now, this message may get a little rough today, not because of how I am going to preach, but because of what may come out of my mouth. So, I got me a towel up here because I am carrying about sixteen tons of fluid this morning. This is not a good day to be on the front row without a raincoat or an umbrella. You are going to have to bear with me. Hopefully, we will be all right today. What can I say? I was going to wear a mask, but then I thought they would say, "Yeah, he is a Baptist preacher. He is trying to hold us up, take all our money," so I did not do that.

In the Bible, there is a very strange passage. It is really a prophecy that was talked about in Isaiah and again in the book of Ecclesiastes. It is a prophecy that God gave the nation of Israel and told them when they were really getting into some problems and really, really just turning against God and the Word of God. At one point, God tells them, and it is a very incredible passage. We find in 2 Kings 21 where the women of Israel began to take the throne of Israel through their children. The Bible makes a prophecy that the children are going to run the nation of Israel. When you study those passages, Manasseh is the first one in 2 Kings 21. When he comes to the

throne, from this point on, you begin to find not only the children listed, but their mothers' names listed because the mothers, the women, are reigning and leading Jerusalem through those children. When this takes place, it is just a few short generations later that the nation of Israel, as God's nation, goes into the hands of a Gentile under complete apostasy.

I do not know what you know about the nation of Israel, and this is certainly not a study on it, but what I want to tell you is this: when you begin to understand how this thing all works, you find that Solomon is the last great king that Israel has. But Solomon goes into apostasy. He marries many strange women from many strange lands who bring in their many strange gods. After Solomon's 40-year reign, we begin to see how the nation of Israel gets fractured. Rehoboam, who is Solomon's son, takes part of the nation of Israel, and Jeroboam, who is one of his generals, takes the other half, and the nation of Israel is now split into the 10 northern tribes and the 2 southern tribes, which are called Judah. Israel now has its issues. This is where we begin to see the problems come in. This is where we begin to see all the events take place that begin to bring Israel on a downhill slide.

Without a doubt, the catalyst that takes Israel into the apostasy from which she never returns, without a doubt, the catalyst, the person, the people who take Israel into the pit of abyss where they never come out, religiously, politically, and absolutely destroys them, is a husband and wife kingship. He is the wickedest king that Israel ever had. She is the most diabolical leader Israel ever has. She represents the religious side of it all; she is a prophetess. He represents the political side of it; he is the king of Israel. Their two names are Ahab and Jezebel. Those two people do more to destroy the nation of Israel. When they come to the throne, the handwriting is on the wall, and it is the time from which Israel never returns. From this point on, Israel is so involved in Baal worship. She so goes into idolatry, into Baal worship, into all the ungodly things that are going on, that just a few short generations later, God washes His hands and turns the nation of Israel over to Israel.

A man said one time, and you have heard me say it over and over and over again, and it is a true statement: the only thing that men never learn from history is the fact that men never learn anything from history. Let me just say to you, if you have to be a blind Bible student and not know anything about history, not to understand the parallels between Ahab and Jezebel and Hillary and Bill Clinton today, we are standing at an unprecedented time where a woman is probably going to get into the White House.

Now, ladies, do not get upset with me because you think I am against women. Let me tell you something: two of the greatest queens that England ever had were Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. I am not against a woman being the president of this country any more than I would be against England. But the difference between Hillary Clinton and Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria are as different as night and day. When the king of Pakistan one time asked Queen Victoria, and the British Empire was the greatest empire in the world, had the largest navy in the world, when he asked Queen Victoria what was the secret of England's success in her mighty nation and her mighty power, she pointed to a King James 1611, she says, "That book." Now that is the difference. You give me a woman like that in the White House and I will take her. But we do not have that.

If those two get back into office again, the modern-day Ahab and Jezebel, with all of their liberal concepts and all of the things that will destroy this country, you will see a landslide of events, hastening us as a nation into the reign of the Antichrist. Just as Jezebel led the nation of Israel into the deep apostasy and finished them off, you are going to see the handwriting on the wall for the United States of America.

III. The Christian's Political Stance

I have said this to you for your information. This is not a political statement. If you know anything about me, I am not political at all. I think the Democrats and the Republicans are both out of the pit of hell. I am not either one. I am not looking for a democracy. I am not looking for a monarchy. I am looking for a theocracy. I am looking for God to come back and set it.

As a Bible-believing Christian, we have a little advantage, or you should have a little advantage, over the average. There are a lot of pastors today that are involved in the political scene. Reverend Jerry Falwell got caught up in the Moral Majority, and pastors across this country, men of notoriety in the Christian faith, are vying in the election now. The very Christians who ought to be looking for the Rapture are more interested in getting their private agendas fixed in the next election. But I am a Bible believer. I do not make those kinds of mistakes. I make some mistakes, but I do not make those kinds.

I believe what I read in the Bible. The Bible is my model. I do not just get up and shoot my mouth off about it. The Bible is what I claim for it to be in my life. I understand what the Bible is and I understand what it says. I read in Genesis 49, before I went 40 or 50 chapters in Genesis, I found a statement in the Bible that is my political statement as a New Testament Christian. It is a very simple thing, but if you could ever get out of politics long enough and put two and two together, it would be a great deal.

Genesis 49:10

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

That is one of the great prophecies. It is saying that the scepter, meaning the kingdom of Israel, will never depart from the tribe of Judah until Shiloh comes. Shiloh is Christ. Shiloh means "peace giver." What it is saying is this: when David finally came to the throne, Solomon was not from Judah. He was Benjamin, which is another great key in your Bible. When David finally comes, he is from Judah. When the scepter finally comes, that scepter never leaves the tribe of Judah until Christ comes. Christ is also from the tribe of Judah. It runs from David to Judah.

That in your Bible, ladies and gentlemen, is the political kingship of Israel. When you go to Matthew 1, you will find the kingly line coming back all the way back to David, and that kingly line is the line of Judah. In your Bible, there are two lines. There is a political line, which is Judah, and there is a spiritual line, which is Levi. No king ever came from Levi, and no priest ever came from Judah. There are two separate lines. You and I, as the book of Hebrews states, are in the priestly line after the order of Melchizedek. You and I have no business in the political

arena. We are not from Judah. That is the kingly line. We are from Levi. We are a spiritual priest after the eternal order of Melchizedek.

Your job and my job is not to get involved in politics. Your job and my job is to preach the Word of God with fervor and passion and change this country from the pulpit, not from the ballot box. If every preacher in this country would get back in that pulpit and get back to the Bible and open up that Bible and start preaching God's Word the way it needs to be preached, and preached about corruption, preached about heaven, preached about hell, preached about what needed to be preached, this country would get back on the right track. But that is not going to happen.

You cannot be a politician. This is going to sound terrible. You cannot be a politician and not be a crook. I do not know what to tell you. If I am offending your political ties this morning, I am not intending to do that. But I am just telling you, when you take a political stand, you divide yourself from the opposition. In a spiritual sense, it would be tough for a hard-line Republican to ever win a hard-line Democrat to Christ. The political things would get in your way. My position is I do not care about either one of them. I do not have respect.

I know this to be true. I have been in this business long enough. I have seen it in churches when it gets into politics, let alone taking it into the country. You cannot be a Bible-believing Christian and be a politician. You cannot. Because the moment you take a biblical stand, and this is where I am going today, my message today is why we are never going to take "Baptist" off the name of our church. I want you to be informed because it is happening all over this city, happening all over the country. I want you to know so that when you have to deal with it, you understand. But I have got to start here to lay my foundation.

I am telling you, you cannot be a Bible-believing Christian. Mitt Romney wants to run for president. He is a Mormon, and I do not really care one thing about him or not, but I know this: you let me be in a forum where they have a debate or ask him questions, and I guarantee you I will show you how dishonest he is. Do you think Mitt Romney could last five seconds if anybody asks their questions about what Mormons really believe? Do you think when he stands up there in a forum before national public television with six million people, and I am down there and I get to ask the question, I am going to say to him, "Mr. Romney, are you a Mormon? Do you believe, are you going to stand up for biblical truth?" Because he is trying to bring in the conservatives. They are all trying to win the Bible base, which is not much of a Bible base.

He would get up there and he would say, "Well, yes, I want to, I would call myself a Christian." I would say, "Isn't it true the Mormon church teaches that the devil and Christ were brothers? Isn't it true that on a planet near the star Kolob right now, the devil is having spiritual children and Christ is having spiritual children, and the all priests of those spiritual children, children that Christ has, and Christ has many wives, his children he is having on that planet by the star Kolob are the white people on planet Earth, and the ones that the devil is having on that planet next to the star Kolob are the black people on planet Earth? Is that correct?" Now, do you think he is going to say, "Yeah, that is correct"? But that is what the Mormon church teaches. You are going to get up and say that in front of me. I guarantee you they are not going to say that. If you get upset with me before you get upset, just get a book called *The Seer*. You will find that on page

172. Get a book put out by the Mormons called The Pearl of Great Price. Get a book, Gospel Through the Ages, and look at it on page 15. That is what they teach. That is exactly what they teach.

You get somebody that says, "Well, I am a Christian." Really? Let me ask you a question. Who is the great whore in Revelation 17, 18, and 19? Tell me, Christian. Do you think he is going to tell you it is the Roman Catholic Church? Do you think he is going to get in front of the whole world and say, "Well, the Pope is the Antichrist"? You cannot be a politician and be a Bible-believing Christian without getting assassinated after your first press conference.

I have no real use for him. No use at all. That is why I will never be president. I have absolutely no use for it whatsoever. Let me tell you something. You cannot be. I want to see a president get up there and ask when he has his press conference and somebody says, "Mr. President, what do you think about Allah and the Muslim religion?" "Well, I think that it is out of the pit of hell. I believe that Muhammad is a false prophet. I believe that he came out around 1800. I believe that it is a false religion. I believe it is a cult. I believe the only true way to believe is Bible Christianity." Well, you would be out of office in 15 minutes. So, you know what you do? You have got to circumvent the issues. You have got to avoid the issues. That is what a politician does. That is what a Christian can never do. You cannot be a circumventing Christian. You have got to meet the issues head on. That is why I am not impressed with any of them. When I go to vote, I am going to write out, cross their names out, and write Jesus Christ in and put my mark on it. That is the only way it is going to get straightened out.

IV. The Enduring Identity of a Baptist Church

I am telling you something this morning, and you better understand. There are some things going on in this world that are affecting Christianity. It is going to try to affect you and this church. Churches have fallen into the same line of deception, just as the country has. I want you to better understand as a marquee for this church. If you are the sign of this church, and again, that was one of the greatest compliments anybody could ever pay you as a member of this church, if you are the marquee of this church, and when you go to work and where you go, people see you and they find out about us, then you need to be informed on some things. I want you to better understand why in a changing Christianity we will not change.

If you have been around a while at all, you know one thing about me, and that is generally true. I am not going to say in everything in my life, but in most things in my life, I do not do much without having a thousand reasons for doing it. I look at something that I am going to do for the Lord and I try to get the very best investment out of it I can for what I am going to put into it. If I do not get multi-dimensional things out of it, where it is good for everybody, I am just not into doing things just for the sake of saying we are doing it. If you have been around me a while, you know that I have a reason usually for everything that I do. It may seem like it is the easiest, dumbest thing in the world, but I promise you there is a method behind it that I have got some motive that I want to get into there to either touch somebody's life or to reach somebody or whatever. But I try to make the best investment for God I can, and I try to do that with people. I

think a Christian needs to work at being multi-dimensional. Single-dimensional Christians do not do much for God.

When we started our church, I on purpose went to Jeremiah 6:16.

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

All down through history, you are going to find that every group of people, whether it is in the Old Testament before the law, during the law, in the church age, wherever you are at, you are going to find God has a group of people, and some of those people stay with the truth, and some of those people go into apostasy. It is just that simple. It happens all the way through and in everything that transpires down through history.

When I started this church, I wanted to make sure that this church, anybody that asks, it is a question. The name of this church brings up question marks in people's minds. It is really your first opportunity when you say, it is always interesting, you will either say, "What is the name of your church?" And I will say, "Old Path Baptist Church," and they will say, "Oh yeah, Jeremiah 6." "Old, old, old, old, old, what?" It is your great time then to start to turn the light on and to shine. You will say, "Yeah, Old Paths, we felt like that our church needed to go back to the basic foundations of truth in the Bible. Christianity has become so changed and so out of control, we wanted to get back to the old way, the way God did it when it was being done the right way. So we call our church Old Path Baptist Church. We are going to stay on the Old Path."

We build our church on a book by God's principles. We do not have any big screen TVs. We do not have any gimmicks. We do not have any promotions. We do not have any giveaways. We do not have any worldly technology. Our sound system did not cost. I was talking to a guy one time and he said, "Yeah, we just spent," I do not know if he was bragging or complaining, "we just spent \$80,000 on a sound system in our church." I thought to myself, "What in the world do you need an \$80,000 sound system for? If you can hear me say, 'Hello,' that is all you need." I am telling you what, I guarantee you these two PV speakers did not cost \$80,000. I am not sure they cost \$8, but they work.

We are caught up in the "bigger, the better." A guy told me one time, "Well, if you want people to come, you have got to build it big and grand. People today really want it big and beautiful." And if you built, like the old movie, "If you build it, they will come." I lost my dog one time, years ago. I loved that dog. I wanted that dog to come back. So, I went down to the lumber company and I got some of the finest lumber with some of the finest stuff that you ever saw in your life. I built the most absolute grandest doghouse you ever saw in your life. I wanted my dog to come back. That doghouse had two levels on it, had a basement, had a two-car garage. He did not have a car. It had everything. It had a carpet. It had electricity in it. It had little heaters in there. It was the greatest doghouse you ever saw in your life. That dog never came back.

Do you know how I got that dog back? I got that dog back because I put my coat on, walked down the street, and I yelled his name off to my lungs' hoarseness. I walked up and down every street. I called his name. I yelled for him. I said, "I got treats! I got a bone! I got this! I got that!" Finally, after two or three hours, I saw this straggly-tailed dog coming down. It looked like he had been in a catfight with six cats and four dogs and three lions and a gorilla. He was all beat up and all tore up. But I did not find him because I just built a great palatial palace. He decided to come home. I found him because I went out in the highways and byways and found him. That is how you do it. That is how you do it. That is how you do it. We have got to stay, and we will stay.

Pastors today are taking "Baptist" off their church names. This is what I want to talk to you about this morning. I want you to understand this. Pastors today are taking the name "Baptist" off their churches because it offends people. I misunderstood something when I was taught preaching. I thought that was the job. I am sorry. I did not know I was supposed to try to get along with everybody. I do not read two verses of my Bible before the Bible says, "And God divided the light from the darkness." I thought that was my job, was to divide. I read over in Hebrews 4 one time where it says the Word of God divides. I do not know where all this "getting together" comes from. Well, I do, but I am not going to tell you.

V. Defining a True Baptist: Doctrine and History

Now let me tell you why they are taking "Baptist" off their names. This is what you need to know. I have set the arena of the time that we are living in. I showed you that the world is going the same way. It is going to hell in a handbag, and Christianity is right behind it. Just as there is no right and wrong in the world anymore—well, there is, it is just that wrong is right and right is wrong now—Christianity is going the same way. There is no absolute truth. You cannot trust anything the government tells you. You cannot trust anything anybody tells you. The only thing you can trust is what God tells you. We are in a hurt in the world today, and Christianity is falling right into the track right behind it.

Now let me tell you why they are taking "Baptist" off their name. This is very important. These are things that you can learn because you are going to have to talk with people and it will come up. Baptists, real Baptists, have always had a number of doctrines from the first, second, and third century right up to where we are at today. That is the real issue. The real issue is because we are living in a world that is trying to get everybody together. The Bible is a book that splits everybody up. That is the basic problem. Baptists, real Baptists, are too dogmatic.

There have been about 10 Baptist things that Baptists from the early on up to where we are at have believed. I know somebody listening to this tape right now is going to say, "You are going to tell me that back in the first, second, and third century there were Baptists?" Let me just tell you something, that is your mentality, pal. A guy asked me one time, I was debating a Catholic, a Lutheran, and somebody else. There was a bunch of college kids there. We were talking about church history or where the church was or something like that. One of the Catholic priests, I was scorching his tail pretty good, and he got flustered. That is the worst thing you can do in a debate with me anyhow because I always exploit it. He got flustered and his face got real red and he

started to shake like this. He looks at me and he says, "Where was your church before the Reformation?" Like he said something. I never missed a lick. I said, "Where was your face before you washed it?" "What do you mean by that?" I said, "Where was your face before you washed it?" "I do not know." "It was behind the dirt. It was where your face was before you washed it." You know where your face was before you washed it? Behind the dirt. You know where my church was before the Reformation? Behind the dirt. He had no answer to that one. That is where my church was before the Reformation. It was behind the dirt that was going on all through what was called Christianity.

Now, for time and eternity, if you are a real Baptist—I am not talking about one of these blubber-bellied Baptists that you have out there today. I am not talking about the Southern Baptist or the GRB or the American Baptist or some goofy fundamental Baptist. I am talking about a Bible-believing Baptist. Here is what you believe because it has been believed all the way back to the Book of Acts:

1. The absolute final authority of Scripture. No question about it. The Bible is the book.
2. Salvation by grace and grace alone through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross.
3. Absolute eternal security of the believer once your Savior is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.
4. The absolute unquestionable deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. Two ordinances given to the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper.
7. Baptism by immersion by adults.
8. Separation of church and state. That is not anywhere remotely what it is heard talked about today. It simply means that we are against any state setting up a church as the official religion of that state, like was done in Europe.
9. The literal, visible, pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is what Baptists for time and eternity have believed all down through history. Now we will show you how you can trace them through here in just a moment.

Here is the biggest thing that most people do not know. If you do not get anything else out of what I am saying this morning, I want you to hear this. Do you know why it is important for us not to take "Baptist" off our name when everybody else is? Other than the fact that everybody is changing and we are not going to change, I will tell you why. The most important thing is that "Baptist" is not a denomination. Baptists are not a denomination. Baptists are a group of people. Brother, you better understand that. Being a Baptist is not a denomination. A Baptist, as you will see when I am done this morning, because you need to have this information, is a group of people. Most people do not understand that.

You have in the world today a lot of churches. You have what we call Protestant churches.

- Protestant churches will be your Presbyterian, your Lutheran, your Episcopalian, your Church of England, your Anglican, the Greek and the Russian Orthodox, the Methodist Church.

They are called Protestant churches because during the Reformation of about 1530, they split out of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther brought the Lutheran Church. Zwingli and Calvin brought the Presbyterian Church. The Church of England came out under Henry VIII. The Greek and Roman Orthodox Church came out around 1800 when two popes got fighting, called each other the Antichrist. The only time in history when both popes spoke infallibly, then they were going on and on and on. But the bottom line is this: those are Protestant churches. They protested against Rome. They came out of Rome in the Reformation. The Reformation was 1500 years after the New Testament was completed. You come to the first, second, and third century. You do not find any Presbyterians. You do not find any Lutherans. You do not find any Episcopalians. You do not find any Church of England. You do not find any Russian or Greek Orthodox. You do not find any Roman Catholic Church. We will show you how we get there in a little bit.

Then you have what we call the American cults. I am not talking about automobiles.

- We have the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists, the Charismatics, the Unity, Church of Christ, and the Christian Science.

Those are called American cults. They have absolutely no history whatsoever. They started around 1800. They all came in in the last 100 or 200 years of America's history, and they are born in America. They are not worth the powder to blow them up. Once you begin to understand that a real Baptist is not a denomination, a real Baptist is a man or a woman who believes something about the Bible, and the Bible becomes their final authority. Now, I am not going to say that Baptists have not become denominations today. I cannot speak for all the lily-livered, jelly-bellied preachers out there that cannot stand for the book. I am just telling you, this church will never be.

VI. The Persecuted Remnant: A Historical Lineage

Your Bible told you in 2 Timothy 4, and I told you that this whole thing was built on an issue of doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Paul told Timothy, and it is for your admonition too, that there was going to come a time when they would not endure sound doctrine. They would heap to themselves teaching and itching ears. Boy, if that is not where it is at today. Preaching has ceased and teaching has taken over. That is why this country has no steel in its backbone. That is why there are no strong Christians, because the only thing that makes somebody strong is preaching, not teaching. If you want to go get a good example of a good preacher, go to Parris Island, South Carolina, or Camp Lejeune, California. Go to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Go down there someplace where they have them in basic training in the Marine Corps or the 82nd Airborne, and you will hear some of the greatest preaching in your life. I have got to admit, you can never use the sermons outside the fort. You would have to clean them up and it would lose all the punch when you take the words out. But

brother, they know how to build what they are trying to build. They do not get them that way by talking nice and flowery and giving them a nice warm homey feeling. They build them that way by tearing them down and then building them back up. They are some of the greatest fundamental preachers that you have ever found in your life. They are just not preaching the Bible. Their handbook is the Marine Corps handbook or the Army Ranger manual. That is their Bible. That is unfortunate that most of the good preachers are there and dying and going to hell, but that is the way it is. You have got to come to a Baptist church to get the soft soap stuff.

This is what sets a Baptist, a real Baptist, apart from a phony Baptist and really sets him apart to take a doctrinal stand. A real Baptist did not get their name from the Reformation. They got it from a group of people who hated them because of their doctrinal stand and their uncompromising attitude. If you would go back to Acts 11, let us think about it now. This is a message you can just listen to today. You do not have to flip back and forth. If you really want to study it out, I suggest you either get the tape or just come over my house sometime and sit down and we will have a lot of fun. Because I am just giving you the icing and the strawberries today, the cake is still underneath there.

If you go back to Acts 11, you will find that this is where, really for you and for me, the New Testament church really gets identified.

Acts 11:26

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

The key here is this is the first time you find the word "Christian" in your Bible. The word "Christian" was not a good term. Most of us do not know that today. The early Christians, the early believers, they were struggling under the dominance of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire hated the New Testament teachings of Christ. They had crucified Christ. They had butchered many, many, many believers. The reason why they rejected it is because they thought it to be a poor man's religion. The Roman Empire at this time boasted about 800 gods. They had a god for everything. They had gods for the horses, the dogs. They had over 800 gods. They had a god for every event, every day, every week, every hour, everything. Here is a bunch of people running around that only worshiped one God. You can imagine if you are big and powerful and you are political, and you have 800 gods, and here is a little pipsqueak who has nothing that says he has just one God and that God is more powerful than all your 800 gods, you know that is going to start to rub the system the wrong way pretty quickly.

Not only that, but they were also claiming that their God lived inside them. The Roman gods were in statues. They were around their neck. They did not appreciate somebody coming up with just one God, but then in that God's name was Christ, and then that they were also saying, "Well, my Christ, my God lives inside me." So hence the Romans began to call them Christians. The word "Christian" means "little Christ." It was a derogatory term given to the early believers because of the fact that they claimed to have one God versus many gods and claimed to have that God living inside them. So their adversaries who hated them called them "little Christ" or

"Christians." If you claim to be a Baptist this morning, and you are going to see how this process moves through the Bible, if you claim to be a Baptist this morning, then you understand that you got your name because of the doctrinal stand by which was taken, and it was a derogatory term. We will talk about that as we come through here, the doctrines that we held.

Let us just get a brief overview. Let us go back for a minute here and let us kind of walk you through. Let us talk about the first, second, and third century here. Let us just go back to at the end of the book of Acts and bring it on through. As Bible Christianity began to spread and Bible Christianity began to develop, we began to find that churches began to be formed. They were churches much like this. They did not have buildings like this. They met in homes or wherever they could. But they were people who believed the Bible as their final authority.

As time began to go on, we see the first deviation. In fact, Paul makes a mention of it that even in his time, the Word of God is being corrupted. We began to see issues like the deity of Christ be called into question. The resurrection of Christ becomes an issue. Pastors began to elevate themselves above the people in the second and third century. They started to talk about the fact that Christ is really not coming back, that it is going to be a spiritual thing. We began to see a form of teaching that begins to lead exactly away from the Bible. We also began to see some men who are pastors of churches, much like myself, who pastor people just like you. They take a stand against these bad teachings just like we do today.

One man was a man by the name of Montanus. He faced the deity of Christ issue. He simply said to his people, "We are not going with that crowd, folks. We are staying and we know who Christ was." Well, he got persecuted. They got laughed at because the new modern way of thinking with things was different now. So they were ridiculed as heretics and they called his people Montanists. It is probably the first place in your Bible where you find Bobites and Alexanderites and Rachmanites, Norahites. You had another man by the name of Novatius. He dealt the same thing and he held the line and his people were called Novatians. A man by the name of Dante held the line. His people were called Donatists. A man by the name of Nestorius held the line and his people were called Nestorians. The Nestorians took the gospel into China long before Marco Polo ever got there. It is incredible. But they are heretics. If you go back in a Bible dictionary put out by Christians, these are cults today. These are heretics today. You had the guys that these men who simply would not begin to baptize babies, would not accept baptism for salvation as the heresy began to grow and the churches began to get on board just like we are facing today. I bet you there are not 20 churches in this city that believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. I am being gracious in saying 20. If they claim to believe it, I bet you they do not preach it. It was just like today, just like today.

When we move into the 500s to 1200s, we get into the Dark Ages. We find that the Bible-believing groups have gotten to a greater, they are everywhere. The opposition is greater. The Roman Catholic Church is now in full bloom and she is persecuting these people. We have a group called Paulicians. Do you know why they are called Paulicians? Because the Roman Catholic Church was teaching that Peter was the first pope. They were teaching that Peter had the keys of death and hell. They were teaching that Peter was the true teaching. These guys were saying, "You are out of your mind. Paul is the apostle of the church," and they split over it. They

said, "Oh, you are a bunch of Paulicians," because they followed Paul. Do you know what this church is? This church is a Paulician church. That is what we believe. That is what we teach.

They are called Vaudois in Italy. They are called Santa Lata in North Italy. They are called Hussites in Czechoslovakia after John Huss. There was a time during this period up to the 1500s when the whole country of Czechoslovakia followed John Huss. Czechoslovakia does not even exist anymore as a nation. You have got to learn these things. You have got to understand these things. They were called the Lollards in Italy. Great preaching group. It is during this time around 500 to 800 that the Greek Orthodox and the Russian Orthodox split from the Roman Catholic Church. We find the rise of Roman Catholicism and we find a continued deviation from the Word of God. As churches corrupted themselves and sold out the book, these men here that I just read and many, many, many hundreds of thousands of people held the line and paid the price in their own blood for you and I to have a Bible today.

We talk about having a church and voting on a church building and being a church, and you hear me talk about being a Baptist, and I will tell you right up front, and I cannot fully develop this the way that I would like to or we would be here all day long, but I want to tell you this: part of the reason behind it is because the blood that was shed by the men and women who believe what this church believes, they paid the price. They held the line. They gave everything that they had. They sacrificed beyond belief that they would carry on the progeny, that the Word of God would go forth, that you and I would have it today in our hands, that we could read the living Word of the living God. It is incredible. They paid the price for you to have a Bible.

By the time we get to the 13th and the 14th and the 15th century, here is what has happened. When it was early in the second and third century, they were called after the man they followed because they were limited groups. As it moved into the 500s, 1000s, up to this point, they are called by the geographical locations from where they are now living. The Lombards were in Italy. You are going to find that the Cathari were in France. The Huguenots were in France. You are going to find that the Lombards were in North Italy. They have gotten so big and there are so many of them that they cannot tag one guy with the title anymore. When it was just Novatius and Montanist and the Manichaeans, they had one guy they could blame. Now they are everywhere. They are like ants at a picnic. They are everywhere. They are preaching on the street. They are just putting the Word of God everywhere. They are preaching on the street corner. They are passing out tracts. They are doing this. They are winning people to Christ everywhere. Rome tries to wipe them out. She tries to kill them. She enlists whole armies to try to wipe them out. She declares war on them, but she never gets them. It is an incredible study to take down through history.

You have these people that as they grow up, they started with a man. When they got so big, they began to call them by the geographical location. In Bulgaria, they were called Bogomiles. Now let me show you a little piece of history here. Bulgaria, Romania, we know it today as Transylvania. We all know the story of Count Dracula. Let me tell you the real story of Count Dracula. This is what you get when you get the Bible. I am going to tell you right now, all history, everything you read in history, everything you read in the book, it is not just out and out fiction, and much of that has a line of truth, but everything has a line of truth back.

In the 1300s and 1400s, there was a man by the name called Vlad. This man was a very rich Roman Catholic noble. As a rich noble, the battle was going on in Bulgaria, Romania, Transylvania. The battle was going on between the Hussites and the Roman Catholic Church. This man, Vlad, became a member of a Roman Catholic group called the Order of the Dragon. As Order of the Dragon, he persecuted Bible-believing Christians. His favorite way of dealing with them was impaling them on sharp stakes. Of course, it was over the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. Well, he has a son. His son, as every good son, follows in his father's footsteps. Of course, Vlad is killed in a battle with the Hussites or some group, and his son takes over. His dad had named his son Dracula. Dracula means "son of the dragon." So we have now all the pieces in place where the story comes down later on about Count Dracula in Transylvania. You understand how this thing all works. His name, Count Dracula, was given to him by his father. It means "son of the dragon." He carried on his father's legacy, and he carried out war against the Bible-believing Christians.

Do you know why they tried to kill them all? It is because, here it comes, it is because they would not accept the Roman Catholic teaching of the Mass, which is called transubstantiation, which means they would not drink blood. In other words, in the Roman Catholic Church, when you go to Mass, the priest takes the wine. He takes the bread. He has the magical power from God to change the bread into the literal body of Christ. He has the power to change the wine into the literal blood of Christ. So when you take communion, and this is why when you are dealing with a Roman Catholic, and you ask the Roman Catholic, "Have you ever been saved?" or "Have you ever trusted Christ?" or "Have you ever received Christ?" he is going to say yes. Do you know why? Because his church teaches him that that wafer is the literal body of Christ, and that cup is the literal blood of Christ. So when he eats that wafer and drinks that blood, in his mind, he has received Christ. You have got to get past that.

When you go to Mass, you kneel down, and you say, he will come down there, and he will put a golden chalice under his neck. He will open your mouth, open your mouth, put your tongue up. He will take that wafer, and he will bless that wafer and put it on his tongue. Do you know why the chalice is under there? Because that is to keep God from falling on the floor. If that wafer, after it has been changed to the body of Christ, falls on the floor, there is an eight-hour procession by which the priest has to clean up the blood of Christ and the body that he just dropped on the floor. They believe it.

So the issue of Dracula, in about 1898, 1897, Bram Stoker wrote the great classical work, Dracula. So he writes about a man, Count Dracula, who is in Romania, Transylvania, who drinks blood. He just forgets to tell you that it is the blood of Christ in a Roman Catholic church, and the people he is killing it because they will not drink blood or Bible-believing Christians, but he does get some things right.

10. Dracula is dead and trespasses.
11. He likes darkness and can only come out at night.
12. He gets fried when the sun comes up.

You will not beat the book. You will not beat the book. I am telling you, you will not beat the book. He carries out war against the Bible, even by impaling them on sharp stakes. Their crime? Rejecting the Mass, not drinking blood. I will tell you what, that is just the beginning of it. Sometime you want to have some fun. You want to get over and steal my Bible if you think you can. Go over to Acts 19 and get my notes on blood sucking, drinking vampires from planet Jupiter. It will amaze you. But that is how that all works.

Up through the 1300s to 1600s, they are called Cathari. We have Petrobruissians. We have Albigensians. We have Huguenots. Then we have the Waldensians. By the time we get to the 1530s, the 1540s, the Reformation takes place. These Bible-believing groups and all of these people that I have named, they believe in the same thing that you and I are believing. They hold to those 10 things that I gave you and they stayed with it. By the 1530s, the Roman Catholic Church has so many problems internally, externally, it literally explodes. From that come the Protestants.

Right before the Reformation, Henry VIII got his nose out of joint with the Pope, and he quit the church over a divorce and started his own church so he could give his own divorce. The Greek and Russian Orthodox got mad about 800 and they bailed out and they started their own deal. But in the Reformation, everything explodes and off it goes. It becomes one big mess. But even in the Reformation, you do not find any Church of God, you do not find any Church of Christ, you do not find any Charismatic Movement, you do not find any Mormons, you do not find any Jehovah's Witnesses, you do not find any Unity. They are nowhere. What you have with the Reformation are three groups:

- You have the Roman Catholic Church.
- You have Protestant groups.
- You have a group that are now called Anabaptists. To make it true, it is called Anna Pedro Baptist.

Here is the way it works. These people, when they were first starting out in the first, second, third century, they were called by the man that they followed: Novatians, Montanists, Manichaeans. When it got moving through history and they got thousands of them, millions of them, they could not call them by the guy they were following anymore. They now called them by the geographical location: Lombards, Cathari, Huguenots. That is a geographical location, a position on a map in Europe. But by the time we get to the 1500s, they are everywhere. So they cannot call them by the man that they followed anymore. They can no longer call them by the geographical location where they live. So now they call them by the doctrine that they took a stand against: Anna Pedro Baptist, against infant baptism. A little bit later on, they dropped the "Anna," they dropped the "Pedro," and they are called Baptist. It is just that simple.

You have a heritage. We are not a Baptist because we are a denomination. We are a Baptist because we are a group of people who believe what the Bible says. We were a Baptist before they were called Baptist. We will be Baptist all down through eternity in the sense of the fact that we will stand for what the truth was in the Word of God in that sense.

In 1611, a group of Dutch Anabaptists went from Amsterdam, Holland, to England and started the first Baptist church there in London. I am not talking about like the First Baptist Church of Raytown. They did not get the little fountain hooked up in time. In 1620, the Pilgrim Fathers came over on the Mayflower. When they got to New England, they found Plymouth. I had a guy tell me one time in school where I was talking to a Christian school, I said, "How many of you tell me what the Pilgrim did?" The kid raised their hand and said, "Yeah, they took a big truck with Mayflower and moved over here from England and then they found a Plymouth and then they went on to see the Indians." That is good. That is not true. They came over on a Mayflower, landed at Plymouth Rock, and on that Plymouth Mayflower, which we are going to celebrate Thanksgiving here in a couple of weeks, those same Dutch Baptists came over to escape the persecution of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1621, in Newport, Rhode Island, you have the first Baptist church in America, started by a man by the name of John Clark. John Clark was a Waldensian. You have a heritage.

From 1800 to 2007, where we are at, we have seen the demise of the Baptist concept through the corruption and the politics, just like in the first, second, and third century. We are revisiting history again. We really are. We have come full circle. The reason why I know the Rapture is at hand, and this thing is almost at an end, is because we have come full circle. We now, as Christians, are right back where we were in the first, second, and third century. We are a remnant of men and women who believe the Bible, being severely persecuted against everything in the political world, in the real world, and the religious world. The pressure to conform and change today is just like it was in the second and third century. What we need today is some modern-day Montanists, some modern-day Novatians, some modern-day Manichaeans. We need some Paulicians. We need some Cathari. We need some men that will stand up and say, "I do not care what the whole world does. We are not going to change from the Bible. We are going to stay with the truth of the Word of God."

VII. The Modern-Day Remnant and Uncompromising Truth

One of the greatest truths all the way down through the Word of God, and it is a great study in itself, is the fact that nowhere you go in the Bible, no matter where you go in history, God has always had His faithful remnant. All the way back, when it was back in Genesis 6 and the whole world was religious but in apostasy, God had one man. It was Noah. When you come through all the way to the book of Judges, you will find that Gideon starts out with 32,000 people, but he winds up with only 300 because the rest just cannot get the job done. Everywhere you go in the Bible, in the book of Acts, they had all the world was against the first Christians in Antioch. Back in the Old Testament with Elisha, 1 Kings 19, the Bible says there are about 20 million people in Israel, and they have all gone after Baal worship, and God says, "No, I still got 7,000 that have not bowed the knee to Baal or kissed him." I do not care where you go. It is one of the greatest teachings anywhere in the Bible and all through history, wherever you go. God always has little guys, men and women, just like you, just like me, that will stand up, take it on the chin, and say, "I am going to stand for the truth." That is what makes Christianity what it is.

It is not the big churches with their shiny chandeliers. It is the light bulbs on the back porch that shine out through all the darkness of this world. It is not the big preachers in \$500 suits driving \$30,000 cars. It is the men and women who labor in the church, they leave every day and take their gospel light to the world where they work, and everybody sees what they have, and they come like a beggar, just tell another beggar where to go to get bread. When they go and somebody says, "Whoa, I saw your life and it was such a wreck, look at it now, what happened?" And you say, "Come, let me show you where you can get your light put back on track."

In the first, second, and third century, it was the Nestorians, the Manichaeans, the Novatians. In the seventh, eighth, and ninth, it was the Paulicians, the Bogomiles, and the Lollards. In the tenth, twelfth, and fifteenth, it was the Huguenots and the Lombards and the Waldensians and the Albigensians and the Anabaptists. Today, it is you and me. I cannot speak for you or any other church, but I want to tell you, Old Path will never take "Baptist" off its name as long as I am alive. God help the day it ever does. I do not care who likes it. I do not care who does not like it. Somebody says, "Well, I am not going to your church because you have 'Baptist' on it." Well, then go to hell. I do not know where else you can go. If that is what you are set at all and you do not want to hear the gospel, then head on where you are going. That is fine with me.

We are not here to please people. We are not here to make you feel good. We are not here so you can go out with a nice warm fuzzy feeling. We are here to challenge your heart in these last days to stand, to build some steel in your backbone, to get some strength, to be a strong tool, an instrument for God that He can use in these last days. That is what we are here for. I do not preach my sermons in a condescending way. I do not ever belittle anybody or point you out or make fun of you. We are all in the same boat, but the truth is the truth.

We can talk about building a building and getting a nice place that is around all we want, but let me tell you something. The commitment is not to what you sign on a piece of paper. It is not about, "Well, yeah, it is going to be great," or "I am going to lay sheetrock," or "I am going to lay carpet," or "I am going to do that." The real commitment comes in here that you are saying, "Yes, we are a New Testament church and we are going to stand and we are going to preach." That is just a springboard to reaching more people in these last days and calling out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is what it is. Same book, same doctrine, same message.

My favorite story in the Bible, and I have got a lot of them, but my favorite story in the Bible, found in 1 Kings 22:14. It is my life verse. You look at this Bible right here. You want to buy one on eBay, sweetheart? This is the one you want to get. I have got 400 sermons in this Bible. I have preached out of this Bible for 30 years. You can see the scars, the marks. This thing has been around the world three or four thousand times. It has been beat up, kicked on, spit on, shot at. It has been everything you could ever want it to be.

Years ago, when I was reading my Bible, I understood Ahab and Jezebel, our modern-day Bill and Hillary. I understood the parallels and what was going on back in Israel. I saw the handwriting on the wall long before Bill and Hillary ever showed up. But I am telling you, back there in that time, the wicked king Ahab, the most wicked king Israel ever had, and Jezebel, tried to shut down everybody who was doing God's work. That is exactly what they will do when they

get in. They brought in every godless piece of trash, every piece of political maneuver, every religious thing. Their one goal of Ahab and Jezebel was to totally corrupt the nation of Israel, bring them to their knees, and bring in a false god with a false Antichrist that was going to rip the kingdom from Israel's hand. That is exactly what they will do if they get in office today. You could take it to the bank.

But my buddy Micaiah, Micaiah, the prophet of God, 1 Kings 22:14, he is out there preaching against Ahab and Jezebel. He is out there standing alone. He is out there putting it out. He is out there in a world where everybody is against him. He and his own nation Israel are against him. Everybody is against him. He is standing by himself preaching the message from God to the people of God when nobody wants to hear it. Somebody came to Micaiah and he said, "Micaiah, my God, man, do you not know what is wrong? Do you not know Ahab is going to kill you? Do you not know Jezebel wants to cut your head off? Do you not know everybody is against you? What in the world are you doing?"

1 Kings 22:14

And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

Years ago, I put that on the front of my Bible. 1 Kings 22:14, it has been there for 35 years because I have preached in some tough crowds in some tough places. I have faced a lot of opposition. There were a lot of times when the crowd was not with me, a lot of times that I wanted to compromise. I wanted to quit. A lot of times I wanted to give up and not do the job and run and hide some place. But I have got to face a guy like Micaiah someday. I have got to face Huguenots and Waldensians and Cathari. Someday we are going to spend an eternity with them. I do not want to have to look one of them, not one of them, in the eye and say that we ever compromised as a church. That we ever backed up one inch. That we ever paid for the same ground twice. That we stood on the line. We held the line. We did exactly what God wanted us to do.

That is what it is about in building the church. It has nothing to do with the building. We can do it in the barnyard. It just makes it more convenient and more easy. But do not you ever think if God gives us that down there and you decide to take it, that that is the answer to anything. It is not the answer to nothing. The answer is what lives in this building right here. You, every one of you. Your commitment. Your challenge. Your commitment to not quit growing spiritually. To let me help you through the rough spots. To get everything you need to get. The commitment to be everything God wants you to be. That is what will make this church. Look at that thing. It is just a grandiose doghouse. But nobody is going to come just because we have nice carpet or the paint smells fresh. We have nuts and rubes and nice Sunday school classes. That will not be the cause. It will be because you, you are the living sign of Old Path Baptist Church. That is where it is at, folks.

Now here is what I want you to do. I am giving you five minutes to go down and get your kids. Come back up here with them because I want the nursery worker to hear that. This is not going to take long. We are still way ahead of schedule. Let me say this. If you are somebody here and you are not a member of this church, you are welcome to stay. I want you to know how we do

things. It is important that I think this is just as vital as anything else that we do. You are welcome to stay. I want you to stay. If you do not want to stay, that is up to you. You are more than welcome to stay and see how this thing works. But you go ahead and pick your kids quickly down and back up. Guys, expedite it all and let us get it done.