

Romans 6:14-17

Sunday 11/2/2008

We have been in Romans chapter 6 for the last three or four weeks, and we have really been talking about how Romans chapters 6, 7, and 8 are the key chapters for your life and my life when it comes to having a victorious Christian life. The Book of Romans is so filled with great doctrines that it really explains what the church is, what we are supposed to follow, and what we are supposed to teach.

When it comes to my Bible and the way I have to work things out, I am kind of an index guy. I like to divide things up and put them into an index. If you look into my study Bible, I have probably 20 blank pages at the beginning and 20 blank pages at the back. Over the years, I have listed and put in everything there that really helped me figure out how the Bible was. So, what I had to do was create a little index both front and back. I did that so at a ready reference I could sort through that material if somebody asked me a question, and I would not have to basically think about it; I could just go to that index and find out where I was. I have always done things that way. To me, once I understand how something is, then I index it either mentally or somewhere written down so that for easy access I can get my hands on it and get it to work.

I have done the same thing with the Bible in the New Testament. To me, when I look at how Romans fits into the scheme of things, I kind of index my New Testament.

- If you want to find where the true church is, you are going to go to the book of Acts.
- If you want to find out where the true church is taught how to minister, then you are going to go to 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. In fact, 1 Corinthians teaches the true church how not to minister, and then 2 Corinthians teaches the true church how it is supposed to minister.
- If you want to find out what the church should guard against, you want to go to the book of Galatians.
- If you want to find out what the true church should have as far as its relationship with Christ, obviously that book would be the book of Ephesians.
- If you want to understand what the mission for the true church is, then you would go to Philippians.
- If you want to find out what the true church's worst enemy is, you would go to the book of Colossians.

I said all that to say this: where Acts teaches you who the true church is, where 1 and 2 Corinthians lays out how the true church should minister and how it should not, where Galatians lays out for you what the true church should guard against, Ephesians lays out what the true church's relationship with Christ should be, Philippians lays out what the true church's mission

is, and Colossians lays out what our worst enemy is, the book of Romans teaches what the true church should believe. It is the key book in the Bible that lays down the fundamental doctrines of why, as the true church of Jesus Christ found in the New Testament, we believe what we believe and why we stand on what we stand on.

You add to that what I call the models in the Bible.

- If you want to find the model church, that will be 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the church of Thessalonica.
- If you want to find the model pastor, that will be Timothy.
- If you want to find the model of stewardship, that will be Titus.
- If you want to find the model Christian, that will be Philemon.

When you put all of that together and you index your Bible, you now have a source. If you are interested in ministry and you want to really find out the true biblical way to ministry, now you have an index in 1 and 2 Corinthians. If you want to find out how to be a good steward of what God has called you and what God has given you, then you will go to the model steward, that will be Titus. Whatever issue you want to study in your life to put your life together.

I. The Importance of Indexing Your Bible

This is the problem so many times, and this is what I am trying to do in your life. So many times people get into the Bible, and the reason why they get so discouraged when they read the Bible is because they read it but they do not understand what they are looking for or what they are trying to find. You know what you need to do with your Bible? You need to index it. You need to begin in a very simple way to begin to understand how the New Testament indexes itself so you can find some things.

I have given a number of you a little book that is called "Promises." This little thing is called "The Bible Promise Book," and I give these out all the time. We have them in the bookstore, but do not buy them; just ask me for one, and I will sell you one really cheap. We have black market ones and we have real ones. This is one of the greatest little books for young Christians to ever have. You know why? Because you all struggle with issues in your life, and what happens is maybe a problem will come up, and you do not know where to go in the Bible to find that particular problem.

You know what this little book does? It talks about all the different problems that you and I can have: anger, unbelief, charity, comfort, contentment, correction, courage, your enemies, envy, eternal life, faith, all of the different aspects. What you do when you turn to the page that is on, it gives you five or six or seven verses that go along with a particular subject. You know what this does? This indexes your Bible to help you in a ready reference get what you need for whatever situation you are in.

If your car blows up, you do not have any money to fix it, there is a section on what to do when your car blows up and you have no money. It simply says, "Do not under any circumstances," it is called Bob Alexander in 81635. It gives you a ready index, it is a ready reference for what you want. We just ordered some in that Nicole found that are Bible promises for mothers, and it has to do with motherhood and all of those things, and we are going to get some of those in.

Indexing your Bible is the key, and when you start to realize that that book looks very complicated, but when you begin to break it down and index it so you know where to go in your Bible, just like you know where to go to get the verse you need. Now, in time, ladies and gentlemen, you do not need this book anymore, and you have got to pass it on to somebody else. You know why? Because this is just the beginning.

Who has their three by five cards with them today? Hold them up. You know what those are? Those are a basic concept of this. In other words, now Christina here is a recovering alcoholic. So her verses deal with alcoholism. My point is this: you will not need those cards forever, just like you will not need this book forever. You know why? Because in time, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." This is just the beginning, you see.

Now, this is going to be really tough what I am about to say next, and I may break down and cry in the process, but in time you are not going to need me anymore. You know why? Because in a sense, you will not need me because you will learn how to get the Bible down yourself, and it starts by indexing your Bible. When you start to come through that little basic index that I gave you this morning, it begins to show you how the Bible itself breaks down. What Renee has over there shows you how you can find subjects in the Bible to break down. What those little three by five cards are are your particular areas, maybe your children, or maybe your job, or maybe some area in your life that you want to get victory over. That is how you do it.

But if you want to break down your New Testament and you want to find the book that teaches what the true church should believe, it is the book of Romans. And that is where we are at today. You put that all together, and it will change your life.

II. Consistency in the Christian Life

I must tell you, I have never seen in all the years of my ministry, and I have been in the ministry for a few years, and it all just happens when God's timing is right. I have never seen anything like it that I am seeing right now with the people, the attitudes of God's people, of really trying to get into the Word of God. I really believe with all of my heart that the majority of you really want to have the victorious Christian life, not because of what you tell me, but the changes that I see in your lifestyle of what you are really trying to do.

Last week we talked about how the key word in that was the word consistency. We saw the key word in our victory over the flesh is one simple little word: being consistent.

- Being consistent with your Bible.
- Being consistent in your time coming to church and growing in the Word of God.
- Being consistent in what you do to study.

I talked to people all week long. In fact, I even talked to a person this morning that was telling me the struggle they are going through. This is true so many times, and sometimes it gets perplexing because you try to do what is right. I have had at least four people tell me this this week. You start reading your Bible, you start getting your three by five card, you start doing this, you start doing that, you start getting that consistency in your life. Here is what you think: you think that when you do that, things are automatically going to get better. That is not the way it works. It is not going to get better; it is going to get worse for a short period of time.

What the devil wants to do is he knows in the past, he knows us, and he knows in the past that we have given up many, many times. When push came to shove, we would just quit. He thinks in his mind that this time is just like all the other times. So what happens is simply this: remember now, the overall concept here is God has something that He wants you to do in your life. God has reached down through your life, and you now are going to be the key for other people in one form or fashion, maybe your family, maybe this or maybe that. The moment you decide to do what is right, and you are going to commit yourself to doing what God wants you to do, do you really think the devil is going to walk up and say, "Well, you know what, I am sorry to lose you, but I want to wish you the best in life"?

I guarantee you, he knows he can never get your soul in hell if you are truly saved. But he also knows that if he cannot get you in hell, he will keep you from doing whatever God wants you to do, thereby in the long run, getting a lot of other people in hell that you would have impacted in your life. That is all it is. You know what my word is to you? You know what my word of encouragement to all of you is today? It is the word consistency. Stay with it.

What soldier, when he goes through basic training, what soldier, when he goes through AIT, what soldier, when he is trained for combat and finally he makes the first entry into combat in a foxhole in the middle of the night out there in no man's land, what good is all your training doing if at the first shot fired over your head, you get out of there and run for cover? You see, the training is to get you into the battle you are in, and what you are facing right now is the battle. It is all right. The devil will throw every cockeyed concept into your head.

You know what? When I am in doubt and I have struggles in my life and I am not sure about things, I follow a simple rule: go with what you know. O. M. El-Sebaka used to say it many, many times, and it is ingrained into my mind: "Never doubt in the darkness what God has given you in the light." You carry it through, and it will carry you through.

III. Knowing, Reckoning, and Yielding

Last week we saw the key word was consistency, and that word was built around three other words, and here again, my little indexing program. We talked about the word "knowing," the word "reckon," and the word "to yield."

- We talked about knowledge is power, and what my job is is to teach you knowledge, to show you what the Bible says, to teach you doctrine, to give you the principles of the Word of God.
- We talked about probably the greatest definition that you ever hear or I could ever give you on how to reckon yourself dead. How do you fix yourself on that horizon? How you fix

yourself on the judgment seat of Christ or the coming of Christ? Do not worry about what is going on around you. Do not worry about what is flying over the top of your head and what is coming down around you. Keep your focus on His return.

- Reckon yourselves to be dead and then to yield. To yield simply means you start doing something for Christ. You start allowing God to use you.

We put these in the proper context and saw how that each one of them helps us accomplish really the theme of Romans chapter 6, Romans chapter 7, and Romans chapter 8. How Christ's death on the cross through the baptism of Jesus' death, which we talked about a couple of weeks ago, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, how we talked about that a couple of weeks ago, how it affects us as a child of God in what we believe and sets our focus that we are dead to the things of this world but alive in Christ Jesus.

Well, today we are going to look at another section. Now we want to turn to Romans chapter 6, and let us begin reading in verse 14 and give you a little background of what we did last week. So if you are kind of a visitor here, it kind of puts it into some kind of context for you. It is always good to remember yourself because, you know, many times you get things going and you cannot remember, and sometimes you have to have it to put it all together.

Romans 6:14-18

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Now Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus, and we ask you to take this time today. We thank you for those that are here. We pray Father that we can stay focused now and we can just keep looking at what you have for us as we take a little bit of this every week and try to break it down. Help these folks, Lord, to look at the Bible as not a threat anymore, but look at the Bible as their best friend. Help them to look at the Bible and with the short little things that I give them, how they can actually index the Word of God that they can find things easier, and Lord, then put it into their own lives. Help us today. Thank you for each one here. Thank you for our visitors, and may they leave today with a blessing from your word, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Once again, we begin to find three, four, five verses that are just absolutely loaded. When you go through Romans, and I know this is true when I studied it, when you go through Romans, it is just so clogged with stuff that we need to know that you actually have to section it out in small verses and then go back and break those down. If you notice, that is how I am doing it. It does not do me any good or do you any good if I just take this thing and just throw it all at you and do

not help you break it down. That is not my style first of all, and that will not help you. But what we want to do is we want to look at this thing to get out of it what you and I need to know and what God wants us to know that we can have that consistent victorious Christian life.

IV. The Price of Learning is Repetition

All right, let us look at verse 14. Let us take that one first, and this is a great concept: "For sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under the law but under grace." Now, you know what we have done so far in our Romans, and I do not know if you have been paying attention. You have heard me say many, many times that the price of learning is repetition.

When I came through the Bible, you know, we studied the book of Acts in Institute last night, and probably, you know, those of you understand now, you know, Acts is probably beginning to open itself up. If last night was absolutely the key for you, if you did not figure it out from last night and have the tools now, you are not going to make it. But you saw how we took a very complicated book and broke that thing down last night in such a fashion that it gives you an understandable that you can walk out of here, and so many of you did last night. You said, "I got it. I finally got the key that I needed to put it all together." Well, that is good, and we did that in what, three months or three sessions in a month.

I told you last night when I went through the book of Acts to break it down, I probably threw the book of Acts 75 times. It literally probably took me eight or nine years of my life to really grasp the book of Acts. You know what I had to do? I had to keep going over it. The book of Acts and the book of Romans were a lot alike in one respect. I would get it down, I would go through it, I would break it down, and I think I would have it, and then I would start to read it and realize I did not have it, and I had to go back and do it again. I probably went through Romans or Acts probably someplace close to 75 times. I know I went through Hebrews at least a hundred times. I know when the issue of speaking in tongues, that was a hard concept because of all the different aspects and breaking down the different spiritual gifts. I probably took 200 times going through that to figure it all out. I know Matthew took me at least 40 or 50 times breaking that whole thing down, but in time I understood it because if you are going to learn anything about the Bible, you are going to have to go over it and over it and over it and over it and over it and over it.

All my life I have heard, you know, we have had a Bible study, and one of the things about the kind of Bible study that we have is that sometimes, you know, people come next month that were not here last month, they will ask the same question that somebody else did. I mean, if you are teaching it and you are in charge of what you ask, you can kind of control that. I never worried about the fact that somebody asked the same question twice. I even had it where it happened one week after the other week. Come to think of it, I have even had it where it happened twice in the same night because somebody came in late and asked the same question. You know what? I never worry about those things because I realize a great truth. That great truth is that you can go through something over and over again, and sometimes it takes that.

One of the criticisms I do not hear it very often, but I call it the first step to getting out of fellowship. Somebody will say, "Well, you know, I do not come to Thursday night Bible study

because they just keep talking about the same old stuff." My answer to that is this: "Yes, and you still do not understand it," because the price of learning is repetition. You have got to go over it and over it. To me, if you really wanted to learn a truth, you know how I do it? If you really want to get a truth, you know how I do it? I take one subject Sunday morning, we schedule another class on Sunday night, and then we take Thursday night, and then we take Saturday morning, and I just teach you the same thing for about two months straight. At the end of that time, we probably would have it. That is what it takes. If you think you can just sit down at one helping and get it and understand it.

The mark of a good Bible teacher, the mark of a—I talk about preaching when I teach these guys how to preach. There is an art to preaching, and the art of preaching, and this is where young men make a lot of mistakes a lot of times, and they do it because they are young and they have not got it figured out how to put it all together yet. The thing that you do not want to do, and it happens many, many times, is they try to jam too much material into it. I have sat down and listened to guys preaching, and it is just like they know a lot of material, and they are laying out so much stuff that you cannot really focus on one thing. The art of preaching is simply this: the art of communication and God's word and God's truth is simply this, and we find it with Paul here. That art is simply to take one concept and one theme that you want to get across and then find how to say the same thing about nine different ways and keep coming at it from a different angle. That is what he is doing.

How many times now have we heard that you and I can live above sin? How many times has he recanted that? How many times has he said that over and over and over, and here again in this section of verse 14, he said, "For sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under the law but under grace." He said that over and over and over and over. I have preached it over and over and over, and yet some of us still do not have a handle on it and still do not understand how it works, and that is the mark of the Bible. It keeps going over and over and over again because that is what it takes. I did not coin that phrase, "the price of learning is repetition," but it is so true, and if you are ever going to learn the Bible, you are going to have to buckle yourself in and realize that there are some things that you are going to have to spend a lot of time going over and over before you get it, and Romans and the great concepts of Romans is another one. You are going to find it throughout the whole section. He is going to keep coming back and saying, "Do not let sin reign over you."

Martin Luther was a great preacher. He was not very much on theology, but he was a great preacher. His strength is not in doctrine, and of course, if you know anything about Martin Luther, you know he was the man that broke from the Roman Catholic Church and the Reformation and started a Lutheran Church, and his strong point was not his doctrine, but his strong point rather was his preaching, and when he found the truth, he preached that truth, and he is one of the great heroes of the faith simply based on that. He used to say this: "You may not be able to stop the birds from flying over your head, but he says you can keep them from making a nest in your hair." That is true about sin.

Notice I do not have either problem. I mean, you are not responsible for the sin that is out there. You are not. You can walk out to the mall, and it is before you everywhere you go. You can turn

on a television, and you can see it right there. Thursday night somebody asked the question about music and how the Christian worldly music or music in general, and we talked about how that music speaks to your spirit and that where all the other areas maybe will speak to your flesh. Music has one design, and it communicates with your spirit, and your spirit is key into what you do because the spirit you and I have is like the rudder of a ship, and wherever we yield that spirit is where we direct us, and you are going to find in your life and my life that sin does not have to have any reign over you and I, and you have the ability because of your soul being sealed and the spirit that you have leaning at the God spirit or some other spirit, and it directs you to where you want to go.

Yes, you are not responsible for some of the things that are out there that you have to deal with. Some of your friends will bring things into your life that you know that you do not want to have anything to do with. Some of your relationships at work are driving down the road and simply looking at a billboard or listening to the radio or listening to music or watching something on TV. You do not really have any control over what is on there, but you do have the control to change the channel.

I always tell young men in the aspect of lusting because young men, well, maybe not young men, men have a problem with lusting, and I always tell them, "The first look is free." It is. If you walk down the street and some gal walks out got half no clothes on, that is not your fault. They do not make GPS's yet that show you where naked women are so you can steer clear of them. You go to Worlds of Fun, you go to the mall, you go wherever you go, it is there, and I always tell them when they ask me about it, "The first look is free. It is the second one that kills you." It is the second one that kills you, and those are the things that you have to get control over. Those are things that you have to discipline yourself that there are some things that align, and I am not going to allow some things to cross over that line. That is where it has to be, and Paul over and over and over again drives home that great truth. When you and I got saved, God fixed it so you and I do not have to let sin run us any longer unless we want to. Great concept.

V. Law Versus Grace

Look at the last part of verse 14: "For ye are not under the law but under grace." Now I want to talk about that for a moment. In time, as you grow spiritually, you do not have to necessarily worry about it right now if you are just a young Christian, it will come in time, but in time, if you keep coming on Thursday night and you know you keep growing and at some point, you know, get in and you start really getting into the Bible, you are going to need a deeper level of understanding of the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. You may not need to worry about it right now, but in time, if you are ever going to put the Bible together, you are going to have to begin to understand that there is a significant difference between what went on in the Old Testament, which we call the time of the law, and what takes place in the New Testament, which will be called the time of grace.

Basically, just to give you kind of an introduction to it, the Old Testament, when it was under the law, it was under a strict system of commandments. Now, in your Bible sometime, and this is where it gets a little confusing, you will find the word "law" when he talks about the law.

Sometimes where you find it, it will be a reference to the 10 commandments because those 10 were 10 laws that God gave the nation of Israel by which all the rest of the law is then built on. When you get into the Exodus and Leviticus and some of those places where it really gets into the letter of the law, you will find there was a whole bunch of laws that they were given. The Old Testament was very strict, the Old Testament was very unforgiving, and in the Old Testament, if a Jew broke one of those laws, then he had to give a sacrifice himself. In the Old Testament, there are five different sacrifices that he could bring depending on what he did.

- You had the burnt offering.
- You had the meat offering.
- You had one called the peace offering.
- You had one called the sin offering.
- You had one called the trespass offering.

You do not need to understand how they all intertwine or how they are different right now. You just simply need to understand that the Old Testament was under the law, and this is what he is saying here: he is saying, "For you and I are not under the law, but we are under grace," and you need to basically understand the difference that in the Old Testament when they did something wrong, when they broke a law, and some of those laws had to do with transgressions against man, your fellow neighbor, some of them had to do with sin against God. The law, the 10 commandments, is broken down in that two-way: some of them are toward God, some of them are toward man. The law in the Old Testament in Leviticus and Exodus was the same way. Some of them, the trespass offering, was against man, what you trespassed against your neighbor. The sin offering was against God, what you did that violated some principle between you and God. It was a very strict and a very unforgiving set of rules that they were required to keep.

But on the other side, there was an upside to it. It was very strict, and it was very hard, but here is the good news: if you kept the law and you did what was right, as strict as it was, and you obeyed it, there was a trade-off because God would make a man rich and give him great material possessions if he kept the law. Kind of like, "You do this, and I know it is tough, I will give you this, and as long as you use this within the confines of this, you can really have a happy life."

Remember the story of Job? When you read Job chapter 1, the Bible says that Job had great possessions. He is kind of like Ben Cartwright and the Ponderosa. He had everything: he had land, he had wealth, he had sheep, he had oxen, he had the whole thing. What happened? The Bible says that he loved God, he eschewed evil. That is an old English that he stayed away from evil. The Bible says that long before the law was ever laid down, and Job lived down around Abraham's time, long before the law, you know what Job was doing? He was offering sacrifices. What he was not required to. Job is a guy who is not only giving what he needs to give, he is going way beyond that, and because he was willing to do what God required of him and to give over and above, that is why he has got all the wealth and all the riches that he has.

What happened? The devil came in, and the devil took it all away from him. You know what happened next? His three friends show up, and what do his three friends do? They sit down in the midst with Job and they begin to accuse him of some kind of sin in his life. They begin to probe

and to prod and to get into his world and irritate Job. I mean, the guy has already lost everything. He lost his kids, his kids were all killed. He lost his house. He lost his material possessions, and then on top of that, he got some kind of terrible painful disease. He is sitting on an ash heap with a piece of broken plate scraping the pus off of the boils of his body, and then Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine show up. They sit down and they accuse Job of being in sin when he was not in sin. What was the basis by which they made their deduction? You know what they thought? They are operating under what the Old Testament standard is. They thought the moment Job lost all his riches, he had to have some kind of sin in his life, and God took it away from him.

Remember over in Matthew around chapter 19, remember over in Matthew when Jesus made the statement that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to go to heaven? What did his disciples say? They looked at each other and said, "Well, who then can be saved?" You know why? Because in their day, under the law, riches, material possessions, having everything that you had, was a sign of your relationship with God being on the plus side. So there was a trade-off to it. There was a trade-off to it.

Now, the real downside to it is this: that in the Old Testament, you did not have any eternal security. Right now, if you are saved, we know the operation made with God without hands that set away your flesh. To them, they did not have that. They were sealed under the day of redemption. They did not have that. We are. They did not have that. No, no, no. Whatever state they died in is the state they were in, and whatever state they died in is determined where they went, to heaven or to hell. That is probably the biggest downside to the whole thing. No Holy Spirit, no cross, no redemption, nothing like we have in the New Testament.

Let me show you, let me give you one of the greatest examples in the Bible. Back in Ezekiel, you want to look at this, and you want to mark this. This is one of the greatest examples in the Bible that shows you that people in the Old Testament under the law are not the same as you and I when it comes to their relationship with God. You can also add to your list Ezekiel chapter 3, verse 20, though we will not look at that one.

Ezekiel 18:24

24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

See that thing? There is a difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. This is what the book of Romans is trying to get across. The book of Romans is showing you what the church, the true church, is now to believe based on the coming of the New Testament after the crucifixion of Christ. It is showing you and I that sin does not have the ability to reign over us anymore because we now have the power of God to live above the circumstances.

Let me show you something. What I am about to show you, some of this will go over some of your head, bless your heart, hang on, you will get it in time. I want to show you one of the greatest things in the Bible, and when I tell you that the hand behind this King James Bible is so

unique and so absolutely incredible that when you grasp it, it will change your life, and you realize that this book is different than any other book that you are ever going to see, and it is worthy of you investing the rest of your life. I have talked about going through the things of the Word of God. I have been through this book around 75 times cover to cover. The last time I came through it, I finished up was about two months ago. I am taking a break from it now. Yes, that is right, Bob Alexander is not reading his Bible at this particular point in his life. You are right, I have got other things I have got to get done. But you know what? I make a list of everything God shows me. The last time I came through this book, I got a list of 275 things that I got the 75th time that I never saw the 74th time. You have got to keep coming through it, and this is why what Romans does for you. Romans shows you the magnitude of the difference between what happened in the Old Testament and what happened now.

What I am about to show you is why I say what I say about this book. What I am about to show you is worth 150 million dollars in gold bullion as far as the hand and the fingerprints on this book that God wrote it the way he wanted it to be written. I know that will shoot some of you, you will not get this, and do not get discouraged if you do not. Now I want to get you, I want you to get two passages here. The first passage I want you to get is in Habakkuk. That is in the Old Testament. Habakkuk is after Ezekiel, and do not be embarrassed if it takes you a while to find him. I am looking through mine just as slow as you are. You come through your Old Testament back there, and it is come back here to Micah and then Nahum, and then after Nahum is Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2:4

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

What word did he leave out in the New Testament? "His." That is not what was said. Somebody says, "Oh, I found a mistake in the Bible." No, you are the mistake. The Bible is okay. The one verse says, "The just shall live by his faith," because in the Old Testament, it was your faith that you had to live by in the law. In the New Testament, in Romans, "The just shall live by faith." "His" is taken out for the faith I got in Him up there and the book He wrote me. Now do you see that? You see the mind behind that Bible? That one place in the Old Testament, when they are under the law and it is on your back to keep the law, it says, "The just shall live by his faith," and in Romans chapter 1, verse 17, in the New Testament, where your works have absolutely nothing to do with it, "The just shall live by faith." That is my Bible, brother.

Here is the deal: the Old Testament, and this is the basic difference, and if you just get what I am about to tell you right now, I am satisfied. The Old Testament law demanded righteousness from the person who had to keep it, but in the Old Testament, the law did not give them any power to produce that righteousness. They had to do it in their own faith. Grace, on the other hand, New Testament, you and me, not only gives you God's righteousness when you got saved freely at

salvation, but then through the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, dwelling inside you, gives you the power then to live the righteousness which they did not have in the Old Testament. Shall it work? That is it. You need to know that, and you may not understand all the great ramifications of it at this time, but if you just get those last two statements, put them in your Bible, and get that concept down, you are way ahead of most people when they come to the Bible. There is a difference between the Old Testament under the law and the New Testament under grace, and this is why he says that you and I are not to let sin reign over us because "for we are not under the law but under grace." There is a difference. There is a difference.

VI. Eternal Security and the Judgment Seat of Christ

Now look at verse 15, and I know where some of you are going right now, and I am coming here to meet you. Look at verse 15 in light of what I just said. Here comes another great concept. Paul had it covered. "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?" You see what he is saying?

Now I am going to tell you something, I am a Baptist. I am not—I hate telling people that. I am not ashamed to be a Baptist, but there are so many idiot Baptists out there, I do not want to be associated with them. I had a friend of mine one time that was a soul winner, and he was out winning people to Christ, and he ran into a Church of Christ guy, and the Church of Christ are real big on their name, and he says he got talking to him, and the guy says, "Who are you?" And he says, "Well, I am a Baptist." He says, "Well, I do not read anything about a Baptist being in the Bible," which is true. I know a little bit of church history. And then my buddy said, "Well, what church do you go to?" He said, "Well, the only church I know in the Bible is the Church of Christ," which is true because if you are saved here this morning, you are in the true Church of Christ just by being saved. Do you understand that?

Well, this heresy church, the Church of Christ, stole the name but do not have the doctrine. So he is getting on my buddy because my buddy was calling himself a Baptist, which you do not find in the Bible, and most of you probably understand why. But at the same time, he was saying, "Well, what he was saying was, 'Well, you ought to be, if you are really the true church, you should call yourself the Church of Christ.'" And he said to my guy, "I do not read anything about a Baptist church in that Bible. The only thing I read about is a Church of Christ. Why do not you call yourself the Church of Christ?" And he said my buddy came back, started his attack, he says, "Well, we really are the Church of Christ, but we do not call ourselves that because there is a bunch of people running around with a heresy, a baptism regeneration, or call them the Church of Christ, that was him, and we do not want anybody to think we are them."

You are the true Church of Christ this morning if you are saved. You are the true Church of Christ. Now, in the Bible, in the New Testament, there are two concepts of that. There is the true church, which is the body of believers, and then there is the place where they meet and were commanded to meet, which is called under the New Testament the local church. In the New Testament, God said the true church is to meet together for fellowship, strengthening, have a pastor, have a government, have a structure, all in on the New Testament, and when they get there, they are there to strengthen, to edify, and to do a work together. When I lead people

through the Holy Spirit of God to come to a local New Testament church, then I put him in there for a reason. I orchestrate their lives to get them there. My job, the pastor's job, is to take those people, teach you, mold you, make you, get you through whatever tough times you have got in life, and realize that this building is a building called Old Paths Baptist Church, but the real Old Paths Baptist Church is sitting in those chairs right now. If you are saved, that is the church. That is the church.

As a Baptist, I believe in a doctrine of eternal security. Now, the number one thing you are going to get hit with when you start dealing with people, and we are going to teach you how to win people to Christ here in a couple of weeks, we are going to walk you through because I have never seen a time, I have never seen a time in my life that we have so many people getting saved right now. I mean, it is every other day either somebody is coming over getting saved or somebody getting saved here. It is just incredible of what God is doing, and we are right on the tip of exploding this thing, and I need people who understand how to open a Bible and show somebody how to get saved. But I do not need—I do not need machines. I mean, if we wanted to, we would just go out and buy four or five laptops, program them in, and when a person wanted to get saved, go push button one, and a little screen would come up and lead you through the process. I do not—I can do that. I do not want that. I want men and women who understand not just the verses but understand what is going on behind the scenes that you have got to have in your head when you show somebody how to get saved. That is what we need, and that is what we are going to get.

But this is what you are going to get hit with, and if you have done any kind of personal work at all and you witness to people at all, you have been a—I have been a Baptist, and when I say that, I—and I do not—I do not—I do not like to call myself a Baptist because a lot of idiot Baptists out there, so I always tell them, "What are you?" And I say, "Well, I am a Baptist with an explanation," and I give them the explanation of what kind of Baptist I am. There is a great notoriety and a great heritage of being a Baptist, but unfortunately, I mean, when you go to the grocery store and you look at all those beautiful apples on the cart there, and they look so good to eat, you know what? You start going through those apples, you are going to find some that do not look as good, and some of them are just downright rotten. Well, Baptists are the same way. My goal in life is to keep you all to be good eating apples. That is why we are here at the apple center.

But here is what you are going to hear. You are going to hear this from Nazarenes, you are going to hear it from the Holiness crowd, you are going to hear it from Charismatics. They are going to say that, "Oh, you are a Baptist, you believe in eternal security, do not you?" "Yes, I do." "Oh, well, you believe you can live your life anywhere you want to and still go to heaven?" You are going to hear that over and over and over and over and over and over again. "Well, you believe, you Baptists believe, and you can get saved and you can sin all you want and you are still going to go to heaven."

Now, the answer to that is found in this verse, if they could, but when could you ever get a charismatic to read the Bible? The answer to that, after Paul just told you there is a difference between law and grace, then he comes back and he answers his own question because he knows

where human nature is going to go, and so he answers it. He says, "Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid." He says, "Now, no child of God who gets saved, who really gets saved, is going to look at it, 'Wow, now I can go out and do whatever I want to do.'" My life with God and putting out the things of the world is not just because of the fact that I have got a book that says, "Thou shalt not." It is because I understand the price that He paid for me on Calvary's cross. Maybe you do not. I realized that He died for me for a reason. Maybe you do not. I realized that when He hung on that cross, my name was on His lips. Maybe you have not figured out that yours was.

When I understand and recognize what He did for me, and then I realized how He wants me to give a little bit of my life back to Him, how in the world, if I am sincere, when I know He is holy and He wants me to live a holy life, and that is what pleases Him, why would I get a good life? Why would I get saved just to go out and do whatever I wanted to do and then hope I am going to heaven? The true mark of salvation is that when you were truly saved, you become—you hate sin. You learn to love the things that God loves, and you learn to hate the things that God hates. A true saved person, when he lets God down, it breaks his heart. You weep, you get so mad at yourself, you kick yourself, you go find the meanest dog in the yard and you let him bite you, you slap yourself, you kick yourself, you hate yourself because deep down inside the Holy Spirit of God is grieved, and you realize what He did for you, what He gave up for you, the price that was paid for you, and you realize you just let Him down. You do not get saved and walk around and say, "Oh boy, I am saved and going to heaven, I am going to do whatever I want to do." If that is your attitude, you did not get saved.

No child of God has an excuse to sin after salvation or to live an ungodly life, but if he does, it does not mean that he is not going to heaven. It means he has got some issues in his life that he better work on. Somebody said, "Well, I am a Christian, will my particular sin keep me out of heaven?" "No, just the opposite. That particular sin, along with some of the other ones, will probably get you there quicker." A guy said one time, "Will drinking a beer send me to hell?" "No, but it will probably get you there quicker."

Loving God the right way, learning who God is, understanding the great principles of Isaiah 55:8-9 that "my ways are not God's ways, my thoughts are not his thoughts," brings me to the point that when you get into the Bible, when you build your relationship, you find out what He wants, you find out what He did for you, and then when you let Him down, it grieves you in your heart. When He becomes the best friend you ever had, the one who has never let you down, never failed you, never not been there, and even after we fail Him, He still abides faithful to me. Boy, I have got to get you. How do you do that? Somebody says, "Well, I gave it a verse last week that was a key verse, Ephesians 4:23, 'And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.'" We do what is right because we want to please God after we understand all that He did for us.

You will not go to hell. I will tell you, to me, what is worse than going to hell? You see, I already know I deserve to go to hell. I am not afraid of going to hell because I know I deserve that. If God would come down today and said, "Bob, I have just pulled your ticket, and by the way, I made a mistake, and you are going to hell," I would look at Him after knowing me and knowing Him and knowing that book, and as hard as I did not want to, I would have to look Him in the

eye, knowing what I know, and say, "Well, you are absolutely right. I do not want to do it. I do not want to go. I wish there was another way out, but I know you are right." I do not have a problem going to hell, even though I cannot. I have a problem letting Him down.

You know what the Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be? And now we do not like to think about it. I know we do not like to think about it, but you know what the Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be? I have heard pictures saying when you go to the Judgment Seat of Christ, God is going to whip you, going to beat you, going to chase you around with a big stick. No, He will do that down here. No, the Judgment Seat of Christ will not be about any of that. The Judgment Seat of Christ will simply be this: see, right now, right now, you have the mind of Christ in your hand. Right now, you have everything that was ever in God's mind in your hand in that Bible, and right now you are told to put that book in your mind, to let it be your mind, and start to look at things the way God does, and change who you are to get more like Christ every day of your life.

God has a plan for each one of you. That plan is different than my plan. He has a will for you. The will is the same: we become more like Christ every day of our lives. When we get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, you know what it is going to be? It is going to be then what it ought to be now, and it is not in that day, it is going to be what it ought to be now because then you are going to have the mind not in the book, but it is going to be in here. You are going to be Him. You are Him now, you just do not want to reckon yourself as you are. And right then, when you get there for the first time, when you stand before Him and you see those eyes and you have the mind of Christ and you realize everything that He did for you and me, we cannot at that day, we will not brush it under the thing with something else we want to do. In that day, it will be you and Him. The great model of it is over there with Christ with Peter after he denied Him. Great model.

You are going to stand there with no distractions, no football game to go to, no fishing events, no this, no that, no sports, no football, no baseball game, no hockey game, no nothing. It is going to be nothing to distract you right between your eyes to His eyes, and you are going to realize in that split instant everything that He did for you, every pain, every agony, every grieving, everything, and you are going to see the whole plan and what God had for you, and that thought is going to come right through your mind: "You gave Him absolutely nothing back." That is the Judgment Seat of Christ. That is what it will be. Thankless Christians, selfish Christians, baby Christians, Christians all about me, finally coming to the place where all the victim status is gone, all the excuses are stripped away, all the stuff that we hide behind is taken out of the way, and it is simply, "You had a book that would let you do everything for me because it told you everything I did for you. What do you say? What do I say? What do I say in that day? I was too busy." Look at this 15-point buck. Look at the big fish. Look who won the World Series. See how it puts it into perspective? It is an incredible, incredible.

No, I am not saying you either go out and shave your hands, get a robe, and be a monk. It would not hurt a few of you. I am saying you better figure out why you are here. You better figure out the fact that if you are really growing and you are really doing what God wants you to do, you do not glory in the fact that you can go out and do whatever you want to do. That is not a child of God. Paul himself hit the subject before every charismatic ever got it out of his mouth. He says,

"Shall we, because we are not under the law but under grace, do whatever you want to do? God forbid." Because Paul knew that the premise of doing right is not because I am under grace and I am going to get whacked. It is because I love Him because of what He gave up for me, what He did for me. When I understand it, God, you can have everything I am and everything I have got. Tell me what you want me to do. That is the difference.

VII. Yielding to Righteousness

Look at verse 16. Boy, this is a real clear verse: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" One of my favorite verses in the Bible, and I am going to teach you this verse and show you how it applies when we go through the soul winning classes. But one of my favorite passages in the Bible, to me, I like passages that leave nothing to the imagination. I like passages that when you are dealing with a young man or a young lady and they may not know a lot about the Bible, that you do not have to wade through. My rule of thumb is if I have got to explain it to you, we are probably in trouble. I do not want to have—I want to keep it simple. I want to keep it basic.

When I deal with a man or a woman on their soul, and maybe they are of another religion, or maybe they have been tied up in a different church, or maybe they have been this or that or whatever, where I always take them is an undeniable verse that puts it right on the table, face off every card, and there is nowhere you can go with it except one place or the other, and it is found in 1 John chapter 5, and it is in verse 12. What I am about to give you is the clearest book in the verse in the Bible that says either you are saved or you are not.

1 John 5:12

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Now, the most amazing about that, it is all one syllable words. That verse simply says, sitting here this morning, do not tell me about your baptism, do not tell me about your church membership, do not tell me this, do not tell me that. It is sitting here this morning, either you have Him or you do not. "He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." You either have Him today or you do not have Him today. There is no middle ground.

Now let me show you the greatest verse for you and me as a Christian. I use that for an unsaved person. Now let me show you what I use for a saved person. Back to verse 16, Romans chapter 6: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Same thing, no middle ground. We as Christians, we like to play this game that I am not really out of fellowship with God, but I am not really in fellowship with God. We like this little scenario in our minds. Let me tell you, just in the same tone, you are either in fellowship with Him this morning or you are out of fellowship with Him this morning. There is no middle ground.

The reason why we will never build a large church, and I have told you before that the ideal church in the Bible probably right around 400 based on the Old Testament, lay it out a couple

types back there. I am never, never worried about ever hitting 400. I am not really worried about hitting 250, and the reason why I am not is because of my style of preaching, because the people do not like my style of preaching. You guys are all insane. Why would you come every week and listen to a guy who every time he gets up here leaves you no place to hide? Why would you do that if you are not nuts? I bet we come home and I go down to your basement, you probably have chains hanging down there with them big black things you hang around your neck and pull yourself up and you whip yourself and all that stuff. You have got to be—you have got to be that way to come here every week. Why in the world would you put up with this?

A guy said to me one time, he says, "Man," he says, "you know what?" He says, "I like your preaching, but I do not like your preaching." He says, "I really like what you say, but man," he says, "I do not like what you say." And I said, "You have got it easy. You only have to hear it once. I start on Monday and work on it Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. I have got to go through it six times before I give it to you. You only have to hear it once." That is why I am the way I am. Why would you come here? I would not. Why is you down to the first chirp of the soap sun someplace where it is all love and it is all peace and you are good and you are good and I am good, we are all good? Why would you come week after week after week and expose yourself to somebody's preaching who is like a—what am I like? I am indescribable. I am like a drug sniffing dog at the airport. I am sniffing everything. Why would you do that? What is wrong with you? Why would you consistently come to a place where when you leave inside of you, you get yourself beat up? I know every week I do not do that, and I give you a lot of good help things and a lot of things throughout the week and all those things, but the bottom line is this: any preacher worth his salt, if you feel absolutely 100% good about yourself when you walk out the door, did not do his job.

Now I am not on any crusade to give you some kind of complex, but I am on a crusade for the truth, and I do realize that we all, me included, we like to have that twilight zone. Only Rod Serling lives there. You know the Twilight Zone? It is not dark and it is not light, somewhere in between. That is where most Christians want to live. My style of ministry has never allowed them to live there. Never. Jesus was the same way. Not that I am any example of Him, but in Matthew chapter 12, verse 30, when He was up against it and the scribes and the Pharisees and everybody was kind of choosing up sides, you know what He said? He simply said this: "If you are not with me, you are against me." No middle ground there. None at all. He said in Matthew chapter 6, "No man can serve two masters. You either serve the one or the other." No middle ground there. That is why this church will never get to that point. That is why some people when they come, they say, "You know what, that is not what I am looking for." I understand that. I am not mad ever.

You know what? A guy said to me, he said, "Well, brother, I want you to know I came to church and and and and you are just not what I am looking for." I said, "I understand. After meeting you, you are not what I am looking for." Now he got mad. Why is it you can say to me, "You are not what I am looking for," but if I say to you, "You are not what I am looking for either"? I mean, if he had said, "Bob, you are ugly," and I just said, "Well, that makes two of us, you are ugly too." What is the deal? Why can you be honest with me, but I cannot be honest with you? There will

never be any middle ground because the day we do, we will become like everybody else. I can get more done with 50 of you plugged in than 200 of you with half of you not plugged in. I do not know what to tell you. Say, where do you find that out? It is called a Bible. It is a black book and kind of guild edges around here. God's faithful view has always been a minority. Gideon started out with 31,000, wound up with 300. There were four or five billion people on planet Earth in Genesis chapter 6, eight got on the ark. The nation of Israel out of the whole nation of what, hundred millions, billion people, 144,000. But you know your Bible.

But let us be real clear on the issue this morning: you are either saved or you are lost, and if you are saved, you are either in fellowship or out of fellowship. Now we have been through the process of how to get back in fellowship. There is no big deal. "I shall confess I am out," you know, and ask God to forgive you.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That is your ticket. That is your ticket.

VIII. The Form of Doctrine

All right, look at verse 17, and we are going to close here before we are going to get out early today. I better write another page here before we get down here. I am not going to let that happen to you. Okay, verse 17: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin." Yes, we were, were not we? Remember those days? Remember those days? "But ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

Now, when I take you in a couple of weeks, we start to work with you and how to win somebody to Christ. Remember those 12 doctrines I gave you a while back? We got into Romans, the doctrines of salvation found in the book of Romans. You know what? You know what he says there? He says, "The form of doctrine was delivered unto you that spoke to your heart is how you and I got saved." You see, winning people to Christ is more than just having the Romans Road to Matthew Turnpike or the James Highway. It has to do with understanding behind the scenes what you are trying to accomplish. There are some things that a person has to know to be saved. There are some things that you have to know about a person, what they need to know to win them to Christ. Winning people to Christ is not—everybody thinks, "Well, you know what, how do you do it?" It is not about how you do it. It is about, "Do you understand why you are doing what you are doing?" See, I want people that are not just robots. I want people who understand the concept. You do not have to be a theologian to figure it out, but you need to understand what we are talking about. Go back and lay it out, study it, get it together.

The key phrase here: "form of doctrine." The book of Romans forms the doctrine for the New Testament church. I told you when we started, the book of Acts tells you where the true church is at. The book of Romans tells you what the true church is supposed to believe. In a couple of weeks, we are going to teach you how to win somebody to Christ. We are going to take some of

you ladies starting next Sunday or Saturday, and we are going to show you how to build the foundation to be a better woman for Christ, a better mother, a better wife, whatever, whatever you are at in your life, how to get you to the place where you stabilize yourself, where you learn the number one thing I think a person after they get saved needs to know. It will help you once we get through the soul winning. I am going to do the same thing for the guys.

I have got to get people ready. I am going to comb this church for every inkling of leadership if I can. Even if I even see you push the button on a water fountain correctly, I am going to watch you. I am going to comb this church for every man and for every woman that shows an inkling of being able to lead and work in ministry and work with people. I am not interested in—it is the consistency I am looking for, and I—there is a—God will never give us any more than we are willing to take care of. At this stage of my life, I am booked up to my eyeballs. I have got other people that are working, we are booked up to their eyeballs. We need to spread this thing out to the place, but the bottom line is this: bottom line is this, we are not doing it your way. It is not happening your way. It has to be done God's way. Priorities have to be in the right place. You have to keep and reckon yourself built on the day you are going to look into those eyes, and you are going to really understand what life for you was all about on planet Earth with a heartbeat. You are going to see what God really had for you and how you got everything else all in the way of it simply because you refuse to get out of the Twilight Zone. You refuse to play this game in your mind that you are in the middle someplace when there is no middle to be in. There is no middle to be in.

My goal is that I told you when we started this year, you are going to be the year of the Bible. I had no idea where all this was going, but I know this: we have some people in this very room today that have the ability to be something for God and be used of God if you will just get yourself out of the way. These doctrines that he talks about here, "But God be thanked, that ye were servants of sin." Yes, we were. "But ye have obeyed from the heart the day you got to say what you obey that form of doctrine which was delivered to you." Now you take that doctrine, you learn that doctrine, you put that doctrine in your life, you let it change you, you let it work in your life, you let it work on your attitude, you work on this, you work on that. You do not get focused on what the devil is trying to do to shake you, and I guarantee you, kids, I am telling you, once you commit to do what is right with God, once you commit to do what is right with that book, once you commit to give it to God, once you commit to turn it over to Him, you are going to get it in the neck.

Do me this favor: call me tomorrow morning if you are struggling right now between 8 and 8:15 and call me on my cell phone, and when I see the number, I am not going to say hello, I am not going to say, "Hey, how are you?" I am going to give you the verse for today. I am going to start my own personal verse for the day, and it is going to be this: "This is the day the Lord hath made," and you are going to get it in the neck. You are going to get it. You are going to get beat six ways from Sunday. You are going to get run over. You are going to get thrown under the bus, on top of the bus, in front of the bus, behind the bus, and it is going to back up and run over you again. You are going to find everything in this world going to come crashing down.

The bottom line is when a soldier goes through his training, when a soldier gets out of basic, when he gets out of AIT, he is ready for combat, and when you put him in combat, yes, it is a— it is a scary world. Yes, the first time you are in it, second time you are in it, probably the hundredth time you are in it, you are scared to death, but the bottom line is you have faith in how you have been trained, and you just simply say, "Here it is."

I was reading a book last week. I love books on World War II, and especially my interest has always been the airborne units, and somebody gave me a book a while back. It was on the history of the 82nd Airborne, and you know, airborne guys were always kind of cocky anyhow. They thought they were better than everybody else, and they were. They got a little extra money every month because they had jump status. On the front of this thing, it is a great—on the front of this thing, it shows this big picture of this, you know, an 82nd Airborne, and underneath of it is a little caption, and it says, "During the Battle of the Bulge, he says, 'Private, I forget his name, was digging a foxhole and a defense on the perimeter of Bastogne when a tank commander coming to the road into Bastogne stopped and says, "Is this the front lines, Private?" He got up and he says, "Yes, sir, it is." He said, "By the way, sir, are you looking for a safe place?" He says, "I certainly am." He says, "Then park behind me because I am the 82nd Airborne, and them blankety blanks ain't coming any farther in here."'" That is what I am talking about. That is the attitude you have got to have. You dig in, you hold the line. Sure, it is going to come over your head. Sure, you are going to have problems in your family.

You think the devil is going to say, "Well, thank you for getting saved, and I am just so glad. Thank you for getting saved. Oh, we are all going to—you are going to church now. Well, I am sorry to lose you. I am not sure I lost you. Are not you going to come around and see me every once in a while? I am so, so sorry to hear we are not going to have a relationship anymore. I am so sorry you are not going to be back. You will be back. They are so sorry that you are not going to be around. You know what? I am going to miss you, but I want you to know, let us let bygones be bygones. Go to church. We had some great time together, did not we? Remember that? Remember when he was chasing around a Woodstock back there, you know, and you were both smoking dope? Remember that? Remember how it was when you came across a valley board with George Washington on the prow? Remember how it was? Boy, I am—you know what? I am going to miss you guys. Joe, I am going to miss you all right. Boy, we had some great time together. Whoa, you changed your hair. I like it. You know what? I am going to miss you. I am going to miss—I am going to miss you guys. Thanks for all the great times we had, but you know what? Oh, c'est la guerre, c'est la guerre, c'est la guerre." I do not know what that means, but it sounds French. "You know what? I am sorry. We had some great time together. Go to church. Go to Old Paths. Get the new look from the old book. You know what? There are always more people to damn out there. Go to hell. We had our time together. I am sorry I lost you. Go do it."

You think he is going to do that? He is not going to do that. He knows this: he may never get your soul in hell if you are saved and you are redeemed and you are under the blood of the Lamb, you are under grace. He knows the moment you got saved, you are sealed unto the day of redemption. But he also knows this: he can wreak havoc in your life, get you to get back into the

world, get you to get him—make an attempt, and then things start to shake around you, things start to happen, you start to get discouraged. That is how he is going to play it. Do not give in. "Is this the front line, Private?" "Yes, sir. Pull in behind me. I am the 82nd. Those blankety blanks ain't getting any farther than here." That is the attitude you have got to have. Reckon yourself dead. I am a child of God. I am digging in here. You want to say, "Spot, get on my back. Nobody is coming past this point." What it takes. What it takes. That is the victorious Christian life. It is consistent.

You are going to tell me that those boys in World War II were not scared to death when they were in combat? Sure they were. Sure they were. They were scared to the point where sometimes they—they—they messed their own pants up with their own bodily fluids. They were scared to death. Scared to death. But you know what? They held the line. I am not saying do not be scared. I am not saying you will not duck. I am not saying somebody will not knock you down. I am saying get up, hold that line. You do not see right now what God sees right over your horizon. You may have a great—God may be using you and have somebody in your life that He wants to put in there, and right now the very thing whether you break and whether you fold or whether you stand is a determining factor where this thing goes. Reckon, fix yourself on that Judgment Seat of Christ. Do not let nothing, anything, not a thing, not a thing, do not let a thing ever deter you from the fact that He is coming, and when He is coming, I am going to face Him. No shame, no this, no that, no excuses, no, no, no blaming it on somebody else. Me and Him with a book in the middle.

I am telling you, kids, we are at the crossroads of something really great that is going to take every man, that is going to take every woman. God gave us this, and His timing in the right place gave us what we have. I say it all the time, and I know I say it because you do not believe it. I know you do not believe it. I know it is hard to believe. I am not saying you do not believe it because you are a bad person. I just say it is hard to believe, but I am telling you the truth: you are in this church for a reason. You are not here because you went down, you got mad at some other buddy, and you were driving down the street, said, "Oh, I think I will try that one." We do not get any people like that. In fact, if we ever do put up a sign, it is going to say, "Old Paths Baptist Church, No Vacancy, Full Up, Got All the Friends We Need Right Now, Thank You." You know what? If you are here, you are here because by God's design, He got you here. Do not you see it? Do not you understand it? Do not you realize the Spirit of God? Can not you look back in your life and your—and how the Holy Spirit of God worked His way through, brought the right person at your life at the right time to say the right thing in the right time in the right struggle and the right this to give you what you needed to get you here because He has got something He wants you to do. Come on. And yes, yes, I am sorry, there is a price tag for that, but it is not nothing the price tag that He paid for you and for me. Let us go to work. Now we had boundary, we are closed.