

Romans 8:1-39

Sunday 12/14/2008

The Bible is the Word of God. I don't think that there's one period, one question mark, one exclamation mark. I don't believe there's anything in the Bible that isn't the Word of God. I believe it's absolutely, totally, and completely all important, found in the Word of God. But there are certain chapters in the Bible that stand out as great chapters. If you're going to study the Bible and get into the Bible to any great degree, you're going to see that as true. It's simply because there's so much information in those particular chapters.

You take places like Genesis 3. That's a loaded chapter. Genesis 4, another loaded chapter. You saw Thursday night, when Joe Christensen asked a question about 1 Corinthians 7, you got an idea what a loaded chapter that is. Incredible. 1 Corinthians 15 is a great, loaded chapter. Isaiah 14. I could go on and on and on. 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 5. But in the book of Romans, without a doubt, and I believe this is so true, the greatest chapter in the book of Romans is Romans 8.

As far as your life and my life, and what we're going to talk about today, and I know there are many aspects to our Christian life, but as far as you and I and our victory in Christ Jesus, and what God has done for this, it may well be the greatest chapter in all the Bible for you and me as a Christian. For in it contains a number of great concepts and great truths that a child of God has got to have if you're going to have what we've been talking about here as the victorious Christian life.

Let's face it, the book of Romans, as we talked about, even though it is the handbook of Christian doctrine, and even though it does explain for you and for me where Christ is at in all that He's accomplishing in the New Testament, without a doubt, it is the book. You should know this by now because of our times in the book of Romans. It is the book, without a doubt, that is the foundation if you're ever going to have in your life the victorious Christian life, a consistency in your life that is going to carry you through. Romans 8 is the summation of all the great doctrines that we have come through in this doctrinal section. Remember I told you that the doctrinal section was chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8. The next section we're going to get into will be the prophetic section, and that's 9, 10, and 11. Then we'll get into the practical section, which is the rest of the book.

I. The Doctrine of Eternal Security

I guess we know this because we have talked about this off and on on Thursday night and even many times on Sunday morning. The doctrine of eternal security, the fact that once you get saved, you're eternally secure in Christ Jesus. That is a doctrine today that many, many Christians have a tough time with. It's a doctrine today, a teaching today, that many of God's people just struggle with. There are denominations out there that actually take a stand and they build their whole premise on the fact that if you were saved, you can do things in your life and commit things in your life that God will take that salvation back. It's one of the most messed up issues in all of Bible Christianity today.

I hope now that you begin to see what we've looked at in Romans 6 and Romans 7, that the key, the absolute key to you understanding the doctrine of eternal security, is simply understanding how God saved you in the first place. I don't know how any man or any woman could look anybody in the face who understood the book of Romans, especially Romans 5, 6, 7, and 8, and then with a straight face tell them that you could lose your salvation.

The key to understanding that you can never lose the gift of salvation that God has imputed to you—and there's really the word—how you could never lose the salvation that God imputed to you, is not in running around the Bible and finding verses that prove that, though there are many verses that will do that, but that's not how you do it. No. You thoroughly understand what transpired in your body, in your soul, and in your spirit the day you got saved. When you understand what Romans 5, 6, 7 is talking about and get a thorough grasp on it, of what transpired in your physical body within your spiritual soul the day you got saved, you'll never have a problem with understanding the doctrine of eternal security. It isn't based on finding four or five pet verses; it's really based on understanding how you got saved in the first place. Once you understand how God saved you, it is ludicrous to think that you can lose what God has given you.

I guarantee you, the average person that talks about losing your salvation, you throw an open Bible in front of them and ask them to teach you and show you Romans 6, 7, and 8, and they'll look like you're a tree for owls. They'll never be able to get to it because they don't understand what happened. It's no wonder now that because of that, some of the greatest verses and the greatest concepts of your eternal security are found in Romans 8.

II. The "Half-Saved" Concept and Body Redemption

Most of all, and this is the thing I want you to remember, Romans 8 is the great chapter on our deliverance from the body of this flesh. You remember that Romans 5 compared Adam's death to Christ's death on the cross. You remember that Romans 6 dealt with Christ's death as it related to the spiritual death of you and I as a Christian. When we got out of Romans 7, we found that it shows the relationship of the law to the spiritual death that you and I have in Christ Jesus, that once we got saved. Now we come to Romans 8, which deals with the spiritual death of the Christian in relationship to future events, in other words, the redemption of your body.

Now I'm going to make a very bold statement here, and I don't really normally like to say things like this because you're going to have to listen very carefully. Most people only listen halfway and then they just hear this, or they take it and they misquote you and all of that. So you want to listen very carefully. But I think that the extremeness of this statement makes my point, and I want you to, in light of where we're at in Romans 8, I want you to be able to see this thing, how it works. So I'm going to go ahead and say this, and I probably wouldn't say this in a crowd of people that I didn't know or that I had somewhat influence in their life so I could, if somebody isn't listening. But this is a very bold statement, and it's a statement you've got to listen to.

Here's what it is: Right now as we sit here, and this is in light of what we're going to look at in Romans 8, sitting here this morning, if you're saved, the truth of the matter is, theologically as far

as the details of it is concerned, as far as the aspect of it, as far as understanding the workings of it, you and I, now listen to me, you're only half saved. If you're saved this morning, you're only half saved.

Now you see how dangerous that statement is to say. It puts some of you young Christians, if you weren't here, it puts you into a panic. Somebody goes out there and says, "Bob says you're only half saved." Well, that's only half of what Bob said when he said you're only half saved. What I mean by this is, if you're saved this morning, your soul is saved, your body is not. See, that's what I'm saying. Now don't get in a panic. There's nothing you can do right now to save your body. Nothing you can do that can save anything that has to do with your flesh, because we know from the Bible, again in Romans 6 and 7, that in your flesh, there's no good thing. That's the seed of all the problems that you and I have.

When you got saved, you should understand this now. What did God do? He came down and He separated your soul from your flesh. Your soul is now saved, your flesh now is not. But the problem is this, ladies and gentlemen, if you and I are going to have to go to heaven, we've got to get a new body. The body you've got, flesh and blood, the body I've got, flesh and blood, is not going to work for me. So we've got to get a new one. So when I make the statement that if you're sitting here this morning and you're saved, you're only half saved, I mean in the sense that your body has not been redeemed yet. Now your salvation is as good as it's ever going to get. When I say you're half saved, I don't mean there's any danger you won't be all saved.

The word predestination is a word that people use completely out of context today. We try to take the word predestination and we try to make that in the sense that God in the distant past looked down through eternity and chose some to go to heaven and some to go to hell. That teaching, because again, nobody knows the Bible today, is becoming very prevalent again in Baptist churches. I have two, three, four, five friends of mine that I count as pretty dear friends, and they are caught up in a concept of predestination. I say they're really good friends, but I wouldn't trust them any farther in teaching the Bible than I could throw a minivan. It just separates us.

But the word predestination in the Bible, as the Bible defines it, never had anything to do with your salvation. The Bible says, and we're going to get into this in Romans 8 because I'm going to deal with the error. There are so many things in Romans 8 that we're going to understand better when we get done. But the Bible says in Romans 8:29:

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

Now the Calvinist or the predestination person, they take that verse and want to put in there that God predestined us to be saved. But that's not what the verse says. It says, "For whom he did foreknow, them did he also predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." When I got saved, my body was not conformed to the image of His Son. My soul was. But my body is not yet conformed to that. Romans 8, ladies and gentlemen, is the great chapter that deals with the redemption of your body, not your soul.

So when you understand Romans 8, you understand that even though, as I used the play on words a few moments ago, if you're saved here this morning, you're only half saved, the Bible says that that may be true. Your soul is saved, your body is not. But as we stand here right now, in God's mind, you and I, we are predestined because we are saved to get the body like Christ had. That's predestination in the Bible. So when you understand what I'm saying here, you realize that technically speaking, your soul is saved, but your body is not. That's why Romans 8 is the greatest chapter in many ways for you and for me, because it helps us understand how the soul was saved the day you got saved and asked Christ to save you. God separated it. But now Romans 6 and 7 have told you and me that we're not—this is the key phrase—we're not stuck to a corpse anymore, we're now stuck with a corpse. Romans 8, here's the deliverance from that. Romans 8 is the day we put off this old godless flesh and put on the glory light of God's glory in a glorified body that is just going to be incredible. You think the rhinestone cowboy looked good?

III. Understanding the Bible's Structure

Today, what I've got to do is this: We've got to get a context so when we get into Romans 8, you have some kind of understanding of how the thing works. What we want to do is I want to get this thing so I can teach you some great truths in Romans 8, but there are some things that I want to make sure you understand because I'm not in a hurry of just disseminating a lot of information if you don't understand how to deal with it.

When you look at your Bible, the one you've got in your hands, that looks like a complicated book, doesn't it? There are 31,175 verses in a King James Bible. There are 1,189 chapters in that Bible that you have if you've got a King James Bible. I'll be the first to tell you that when you look at the Bible as a book, it's a very intimidating book. The reason why I believe so many people start to read the Bible, but then in the process of reading it, give it up and say it's overwhelming, "I can't understand it because I get into it and I'm reading it, but I really don't understand exactly what I'm dealing with here," and it just gets overwhelming to you.

Now you know here in this church that we find a way around that. We look at the Bible not as an intimidating book, but we look at the Bible like this: Certainly the Bible is a complicated book, but I've got to ask myself the question, I'm not a very complicated person. How in the world could God write such an extenuating book that appears to be so complicated? If you listen to most of the preachers and most of the scholars in the world today, they're going to tell you that basically you and I will never really figure it out, but they already have, so if you just kind of hang on their coattails, they'll really tell you what it means. My take on it is this: If you're in this church five, ten years and you really apply yourself and you don't know that Bible better than I do, there's something wrong with you. There won't be anything wrong with me, you know why? Because I'm going to make sure I give you all the keys that you can know it better than me. So it ain't going to be a mess up on my end, it's going to be a mess up on your end.

I'm telling you, the Bible's not a hard book. It looks complicated, but I found in my own life when I had to study it and learn it, that what God did with a very complicated book is He broke this book down into, I don't know, 14 main events. If I were you, and I'm going to help you with

this over this next year, but if I were you and I really wanted to learn the Bible, I'd start taking the Bible section by section by section by section. That's basically what we're doing for those of you that are involved in the Institute. But you stop and think about your Bible. That very complicated book right there you've got in your hand, there you've got laying on your seat, that very complicated book that looks so intimidating basically breaks down around 14 events.

I put the chart up, this is the chart that we've got back here, but I knew we couldn't see it back here. I put this chart up here yesterday, and yes, I know, I know, I know, I've already been told a thousand times that it's crooked. I already told that it's not straight, and people wanted to change it and I said no, not only is it a great object lesson of what I want to teach in the Bible, but it tells and reminds us that we're crooked and we're not always straight. So I thought I'd just leave it the way that it is. Yes, it is on an angle and it is going upward, and I thought to myself, you know what, that's very prophetic too because life is an uphill journey. I just love when I get things like that.

Look at this chart. That chart represents the whole Bible. When we got our church, I told you I didn't care what kind of color it was, didn't care what kind of chairs, we could all sit on the floor, cross-legged Indian style, be alright with me. There's only one thing I wanted. Only one thing I asked for. Only one thing I want. I don't have an office here, I don't want an office here. I'm not even sure the bathrooms work. I don't care. I only want one thing. I wanted that chart on that wall. Because that chart on that wall, you can look up here now, that chart right here which is over there, that chart on the wall right here represents everything you've got to learn about the Bible. Everything. That chart is the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. There's going to be a revolution, but it'll be when it comes back. But it's from Genesis to Revelation. That represents everything about your Bible.

Yet if you look on that chart, you'll find that if I'm going to teach you this chart and teach you the Bible, and I suggest that what we have, we have ones that are much smaller than that and they're black and white and we've passed them out many, many times, and I always try to keep two or three in my briefcase. If you want to learn the Bible, I suggest that you have to start with a structure and a framework, and I suggest that you get something like that. Many of you have bought those, and by the way, they normally sell for \$50. Since I got holes punched in this one, this will be on sale for \$40 today since it's used now. But if I sign it, then it goes up another \$100, so you can decide however you want to do it.

Have you ever stopped thinking about your Bible? 14 events.

1. Creation.
2. Adam and Eve.
3. Noah and the Flood.
4. The Tower of Babel.
5. The Exodus of Israel.
6. The establishment of the nation of Israel as God's kingdom (David, 1000 BC).
7. The Captivity (606 BC).
8. The Crucifixion (marked by three crosses).

9. The Church History / Church Age (the largest section).
10. The Rapture.
11. The Tribulation.
12. The Second Coming.
13. The Millennium.
14. Eternity.

Fourteen concepts. If you learn those fourteen concepts individually, and I'm going to do this once we get past the New Year and the Christmas time and everything that's going on. When we started our institute two years ago, or about a year and a half ago, when we started our institute, I took the brightest and the guys that have been around for a while that really wanted to commit themselves, and it's a commitment because they've got to be there, they've got to do their work, they've got to be there. It's not a thing that you can miss. It's something that they really have to be accountable to and all those things. So I took some guys and some gals that really had the ability, that had been here for a while, to teach, and I told them, I said, "I'm going to teach you the Bible the way I got the Bible, because my goal is to get you down the line, down the road, that when we do another institute class, and maybe the one after that, that frees me up that I can do what I do best and deal with people, and then you guys have the ability to teach the institute."

We have got a lot of young Christians that have come in in the last year, and you're all in the Bible and you're all trying to grasp the concepts. So I came up with the idea, through this next year, some things that I want to do. Once we get past the busyness of the time that we're at, and we get in March and February where it's pretty much dead, there's nothing going on and everything just kind of flattens out, I'm going to take—I'm going to do this a couple of times throughout the year—but I'm going to take a Saturday, and we'll get people to let you know what it's going to be, how it's going to work out. What I want to do is I want to put together a Bible symposium or a Bible seminar. I want to take four or five of the guys out of the institute who really have shown the ability to basically bring and teach you through some of these subjects. What we're going to do is this: We're going to take a Saturday, we're going to divide, if I get, let's say I get 40 people that want to do it, we'll have maybe four or five classes, let's say we have five classes. I'll evenly divide those four people into five classes, so maybe there'll be like six or seven in a class, whatever the case. Each class will be assigned a guy, each guy will be assigned a subject, and what we'll do is we'll take one day and we'll get done in one day what would take us maybe six months to get through if we did it the other way.

We'll start about nine o'clock in the morning, and here's what we'll do: We'll put one class over here, one class back here, we'll put a class over here, a class over there. We'll divide you up into five different classes. Those guys will have one hour by which they're going to bring you through a specific aspect, maybe the rapture, the second coming. We'll put them in an order that you can grasp the material, and as you go, and then at the end of the day, what you're going to have is five or six subjects that you now have a really good understanding of.

You know what I do when I learned the Bible? When I learned the Bible, and somebody told me this, this is nothing that I got on my own, I got those 14 areas down in my life. I thoroughly understood each one of them. I didn't try to eat the whole Bible at one time. It's like the guy that

ordered the pizza and a guy says, "How many slices do you have in your pizza?" And he said, "Well, we got 12." And the guy said, "Well, could you cut it in eight pieces?" And the guy said, "Yeah, why?" He said, "Because I don't think I can eat 12." That's the way the Bible is. You've got to be able to break the Bible down into slices, and you've got to be able to look at it one piece at a time. What I did is I took each subject and I got a thorough understanding of that subject. Then what I did is I began to bolt one subject to the next subject in the right order, and what it did was it gave me an understanding and an ability to be able to take the 14 things of the Bible and put them together. Then by studying each piece one at a time, the whole Bible came into picture for me. Once I had that concept, the rest of it was pretty easy. The rest of it was just filling it in.

Now we're not going to try to do it on a level we do in Institute because you're not ready for that yet, but we can set it up where at the end of a Saturday you have, and we'll have lunch here, we'll provide lunch, we'll take a lunch break, and then we'll get back in and we'll go from 9 o'clock till the time we get. You'll have five classes, you've got to go to five hours plus a lunch break. At the end of the day, you will have a thorough, or the material to be able to conceptually understand some of those major events in the Bible. Then we'll come back in three or four months and we'll do another symposium, another section where we put the rest of them together, and then I'll bring you all back together at some point and show you how to bolt all that stuff together. That's the key. I want to be putting that together here in the next couple of months and talking to some of the guys that have really done a great job in Institute and really have learned the material and stayed up with me and let me see where they're at and all of that.

IV. The Rapture: A Biblical Reality

The bottom line is this: Before we can get into Romans 8, we have to understand the concept of the rapture of the church. That is one thing that before we try to get into Romans 8, you've got to leave here today at least having an understanding. I know that some of you will go out of here with the material I give you, and some of you will dig it in deeper and get it down and you'll get it worked out. Some of you, you'll take what I give you, you'll learn from it, you'll not do a lot of investigating on it, but you'll walk out of here with a conceptual idea. Then obviously there'll be some people that don't do anything with it and you just have a general knowledge about it, and you can have what you want with it. But I think that it's absolutely crucial, and I thought about this all week, for me to try to get you into Romans 8 and show you the redemption of your body before you understand the process and how it all ties together. I would do it a great injustice, and I would do you a great injustice.

Yet there's another reason why I want to do this, and I think it needs to be done, and that is because whether you know it or not, we're living in a day and age today, we're living in a day and age today that most Baptist churches, many Baptist churches, and certainly all of the middle-of-the-line crowd, they do not teach nor do they believe anymore that there is going to be a rapture of the church. The more and more you deal with people, the more and more you're going to talk to people, the more you're going to find out that there's a teaching out there that the rapture is not a real event, that it was something that was concocted back in the last part of the middle part of

the 1800s. I have already seen on the History Channel two or three programs that basically debunk the rapture, as they would say it, "the rapture theory." So it's out there, and I talk to people all the time that do not believe that there is going to be a rapture of the church.

Around the 1900s, and maybe 20 years before that, the 1880s, if you go back in history and you look at Christianity as it's where it's at, you're going to find the rise of a mindset of theology we call it today, and you hear this term all the time, and many, many people hear the term, they don't understand the term, and I'm asked many, many times what does that term mean. It's the term Neo-Evangelical. The word "neo" means new. Evangelical is our word for evangelism. What it deals with, or what it really says, is "neo" means new, it means the new concept of evangelism. Neo-Evangelicalism starts up back around 1900, and here's how it came into being: We're coming out of the late, coming out of the Philadelphia Church Age, and the church is pretty much on fire, and the common man like you and me has a common Bible, the King James Bible. It has been a disaster to higher education because the most dangerous thing on this planet, the devil ever knew this, is a common man who believes a common Bible. What the devil wanted to do is to stop that. So Neo-Evangelicalism, as we know it, was a process that they were going to take back—and I'm oversimplifying it—they were going to take the Bible out of the common man's hand and put it back into the realm of scholarship. That concept of Neo-Evangelicalism was a concept to get the Bible out of your hand as a common man and then put it back into scholarship where these people thought it belonged. Of course, along with that comes the dumping of the King James Bible, and with the dumping of the King James Bible comes the darkness that you can't figure anything out, and that's why they lose sight of these great doctrines.

I guarantee you this: Every pastor, every scholar, everybody who teaches the Bible who will teach you or tell you there is no rapture of the church is somebody who does not believe that you have the complete, perfect Word of God in your hand. In other words, they will not accept the King James Bible as the Word of God. You're going to be told that the idea of the rapture, what you and I so believe in—and this is what Bob played this morning out of Genesis 24, the camel train came in, we talked about that before—you're going to be told that around the latter part of the 1800s, there was a man over in England whose name was Darby. No, he's not the one who made Darby's Rangers, that was a little bit later on. But Darby was a Bible teacher, and he is—when somebody wants to debunk the rapture, they're going to take it back to Darby and say that Darby was the one who concocted the idea of a rapture. You're going to find the rapture is then taught around 1900, 1910 by another Bible teacher by the name of Clarence Larkin, whose books we sell in the back. You're going to find that if you would have an old Scofield Bible—I don't know how anybody does here—but if you have an old Scofield Bible, that Scofield Bible is called a Scofield Bible because it's named after a man C.I. Scofield. C.I. Scofield was a Confederate Civil War general, and I think after that he was either the Attorney General or the governor of Kansas. I can't remember what he did, but he was in politics in Kansas or someplace.

Somewhere along the line, C.I. Scofield got saved. He became a great Bible teacher, and for years and years and years, one of the greatest study Bibles that you could get your hands on if you wanted to go that route was a Scofield Study Bible because in that it had all the notes that

Scotfield had put in. Scotfield was a great Bible teacher that taught the rapture of the church as we believe in it, as we teach it. You're told today that both Scotfield and Clarence Larkin and Pember and everybody else who was teaching it during that period of time got it from Darby, and you're told that Darby is the one who concocted it, and therefore these guys got it from the teaching of Darby, and therefore we have it today because it's been handed down through Scotfield and Larkin and Pember and Pentecost and all of these guys that wrote great things. Of course, that's simply not true, and we're going to talk about that because I want you to understand this concept today. It's not as preaching as much as an edification before we get into Romans 8, that you have to know these things.

One of the arguments is the fact that the word "rapture" is not found in the Bible. Obviously, it's a weak argument. If you were a Catholic, if you were a Methodist, if you were a Presbyterian, if you were a Lutheran, or you were an Episcopalian, none of those ever taught that there was anything as a rapture. They have never believed that there was a rapture of the church. We'll talk about that why in a moment. But when the evangelicals come out, or the Neo-Evangelicals come out, and they will be your churches that you'll find, just so we identify them, if you're walking, driving down the street, you want to remember this: If you see a church and it says "Bible Church," if you see a church that says "Community Church," if you see a church that says "Church" or "The Chapel of the Uptight Hill" or some church that doesn't have a denominational name in it, that will be a Neo-Evangelical or what they call today an Evangelical church. Now, "evangelical" means evangelism. To me, it means no Bible whatsoever because you're going to find that the thing that has destroyed Bible Christianity is the fact that they don't understand what they believe.

One of the arguments, and a man said this to me a while back, he said, "Do you believe the rapture?" And I said, "Yes, I believe the Bible teaches the rapture of the church." He said, "Well, what do you do with the fact that you don't find the word 'rapture' in the Bible?" Like that was now supposed to shake me. "Oh, God, I didn't know that. Oh, what am I going to do? Oh, man, I don't know what I'll do." I said, "You believe the Bible is the Word of God?" "Absolutely." I said, "Show me the word 'Bible' in the Bible." You know what? It's 12 noon, and you walk out of the saloon, and you call out the sheriff, and you stand out in the middle, and the sheriff with your six-guns on, and you call me out to a shootout. I got one of them little belt buckles, I don't even pull my gun, that I lick my stomach and the gun comes out and blows you right between the eyes. I mean, the idea that it can't be true because it ain't found in the Bible. I said, "What church do you go to?" He says, "Well, I'm a Methodist." I said, "Show me 'Methodist' in the Bible." I said, "Now if you've got any friends or Presbyterians, show me the word 'Presbyterian' in the Bible." I said, "You've got some friends that are Catholics, show me the word 'Catholic' in the Bible. You've got some Episcopalians, show me the word 'Episcopalian' in the Bible." "Now," I said, "I don't mean to rain on your parade or give you a bad day or ruin your life, but I do know where the word 'Baptist' is in the Bible: John the Baptist. I'm Bob the Baptist, friend of John the Baptist. I'm in the Bible." Now, I'm not in the Bible that way, but he's so stupid he didn't know that. In other words, sometimes you know, it's like one time I was preaching down in El Salvador, and I had a bunch of Spanish people down there who would listen to me preach. About that time, some Church of Christ people—now Church of Christ people believe you've got to be

baptized to go to heaven, and they hate Baptists. I don't hate anybody, but if I did run over them with a bus, I'd back up, make sure I got both tires on them so they wouldn't do any more damage.

I'm the kind of guy, remember the time we had a discipleship thing in our church and the Jehovah's Witnesses came to the door? I had like 15 or 10 of you over there, and I had a disciple, and I looked out there, and it was just, "Thanks, you a doughnut would have really went nice with that too, good vodka." Anyway, we're sitting down there, and I go to the door, and the Jehovah's Witnesses show up, and they had their Watchtowers. They said, "We're Jehovah's Witnesses." I said, "Oh, we're having a Bible study." I said, "Do you have any material?" And they gave me one of the one cards. I said, "Can I have about 20 or 30 of them?" I said, "We're having a Bible study in here, and I'd like to give some of them your material." And they gave me 23, and I said, "I've got some friends," and she said, "We have some more in the car." Gave me another 20 or 30. Now I've got like 50 or 60 of them. I said, "Hey, thanks a lot. Thank you. Yeah, yeah, as they go with God, my child, God, nice to see you." Went in the house, said, "Anybody want any of these to study?" Gave one to each one, and then threw the rest of them in the trash. "Why'd you do that for?" "I just kept 50 people from getting those things." That's what you do.

I was preaching down in El Salvador one time, and I was preaching about getting saved, and I saw them when they came in. You can tell them, they dress a certain way, and they come in the back. I was in there preaching, and I don't speak Spanish. I mean, I know "banjo," that's bathroom, but that's about all the further I go. So I'm up there preaching, and the guy in the back, they're standing like this, and all these people are listening to me, and right in the middle of the thing, I'm preaching on being saved, and the guy yelled in the back, "Yeah, what about Acts 2:38?" Well, who couldn't handle that? But you know how you're going to get in a gun battle with somebody in Acts 2:38, and then the other guy yelled, "Yeah, what do you do with Mark 16:16, brother?" Now, this is not the place. When they did that, every Spanish guy in that place looked back at them and then looked up at me like, "What are you going to say now?" I am not going to get into theological discussion about Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38 when I'm trying to get 100 people saved. But what am I going to do? You call me out, you've got your six-guns on. You know what I did? I said, "Well, let me ask you, brother, what about Isaiah 96:4? And I'll tell you something else, what about Habakkuk 29:26? And I'll tell you something else, what about 1 Chronicles 104:9? And I said, I'll give you something else, what about 2 Peter 65:4?" And all those guys were looking at me, turned back and looked at them. Now, none of those verses are in the Bible, and they just looked at me and walked away. But I won, I won, and I went on and preached, had 20, 30 people saved. I mean, as old Bob Jones Senior used to say, "Bring them around, let the old man talk to them." I mean, the word "Bible" is not found in the Bible. I'll tell you something else, the word "sacrament" is not found in the Bible. The word "Eucharist" is not found in the Bible. Infant baptism is not found in the Bible. The word "mass" is not found in the Bible. But "Baptist" is.

My goal today is not to go back through church history—we don't have the time and we don't really need to—and show you that there are true biblical people who lived long before Darby showed up who believed what you and I believe. Rather, I just want to show you the Bible itself. To me, and to anybody who knows the Bible, and this is why it's so important that you not only

learn the 12 things or 14 things that we talked about, this is why it's so important that you learn Romans 6, 7, and 8, how these things componently lay out for you, go together with everything that you need to know and understand, because the issue is fairly simple: If there's no rapture, if there's no rapture of the church, then you are left, ladies and gentlemen, with an impossible situation, absolutely impossible. If there is no rapture of the church, and you know what your problem is if you don't have a rapture? Your problem is, what do you do with Romans 8? How do you get your new body? How does that happen? How does this corruption put on incorruption? How does this mortality put on immortality if there's not a process to do it?

Now here's the key: A Catholic, Presbyterian, or Methodist, or Episcopalian, or any of those groups, along with the evangelicals, don't have a problem with that. You know why? Because none of them really believe that Jesus Christ is coming back anyhow. They're not pre-millennial like the Bible teaches you and I are. They are either amillennial or post-millennial. They don't even believe that Christ is coming back, so for them to accept a rapture when they don't even accept the coming of Christ to begin with, you see how it is easy for them to do that. In other words, the bottom line is this: You lose your Bible, you lose everything. When the Neo-Evangelicals, around the turn of the century, when they came up to take the Bible out of the common man and put it back into scholarship, that's exactly what they did. They took the Bible from the common man, and once you lose your Bible, you are done. God then closes the door of revelation. God then will not show you anything else out of that book because the key to getting anything out of the Bible is not buying a King James Bible from old pastor. It's not buying one or getting one with the notes in it, or as some of you do on Thursday night, and I see you, you sneak up and try to look at mine. Somebody said one time, "I wish I could have your Bible for just a week." Why, you wouldn't be able to understand it. You get in there and you're saying, "What is this? What is that? What does he got here? What does that mean?" You can't get spirituality off somebody else all the time. You have to grow up to be your own spiritual man and woman, and you have to grow up developing your own Bible system of putting the Bible together. I can give you some of the basics, but when you lose your Bible, it is the only book in the world that what you believe about it is the cause and effect of what you get out of it.

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

It's real simple: You don't believe it, it doesn't work in you. It's the only book in the world that you have to believe something specifically about it to get something out of it. If there is no rapture, my friend, or no process, then you and I are left with an impossible situation. You might as well just cut Romans 8 out of your Bible. What we need to do today basically is get a basic definition of the rapture so we can better understand the events of our Bible and put it into perspective as we get into Romans 8.

With that in mind, there are a couple of passages that I want to look at today, but before we do that, I told you to go to Romans 7. Go back to Romans 7 and let's look at something here. We want to get in the end of chapter 7 that really is the catalyst, and I told you when we studied it and broke down Romans 7, that it is the bridge to Romans 8. Look at Romans 7:24.

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Now that's a question. The answer is in verse 25.

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

There's the answer. In other words, we're going to get delivered someday. We're going to get delivered from the law of this flesh and all of its damnable stuff that just gives us problems. "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God"—there's your soul, the real you, the part that's saved—"but with the flesh the law of sin." You're only half saved. Your body's not saved yet. Now you're as good as in heaven with the door shut, and you're seated in heavenly places, but technically speaking, your body has not been redeemed yet. Now Romans 8 and the subject is the redemption of your body and the deliverance that we're looking for that we talked about in Romans 7:24-25.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You, asking our Father to take our time today, help us to put it together, to learn from it, to grow through it, and to be stronger for You. Help every man and woman that wants to learn about God, who wants to learn this Bible, to get it all into perspective in every aspect of their lives. We'll thank You and praise in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask. Amen.

V. Biblical Proof of the Rapture

All right, take your Bible and turn over to 1 Corinthians 15. Now these are great companion passages. These are passages that show you very clearly—we don't have to go back to church history, though we could—these passages very clearly, once you understand or basically grasp a concept that you have to get a glorified body, and that's what Romans 8 is, and Romans 8 fits into Romans 6 and 7, then these are great companion passages or great support passages that show you there's a process that God's going to do that.

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now this passage clearly shows us that we're going to be changed. You didn't get that from Darby. You didn't get that from Bob Alexander. You didn't get that from C.I. Scofield. Just because they knew it and understood it because they believed a book that revealed it, and you believe it, don't believe a book that doesn't, doesn't change the fact. Once we obviously have a problem, once we clearly define the fact that we are going to be changed, then there has to be a process for that transformation, doesn't there?

All right, let's look at another one, 1 Thessalonians 4. Pick it up in verse 13.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Now I want you to see verse 15. It didn't say, "For this we say by Darby's teachings." You see that? It says, it didn't say, "For this we say unto you by the fact that C.I. Scofield had a note on it in his old Scofield Reference Bible." You see what it's saying here? It says, "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord," that there isn't any man or his writings connected with what you're about to read. It is the Word of the Lord. "That we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." Now here it comes: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." There's the trumpet that we just saw back in 1 Corinthians 15. "And the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together"—caught up, caught up, caught up where? Caught up, up, up—"caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

In 1 Corinthians 15, we saw that we will be changed. You should now have that established. You want to put that note in your Bible. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, it shows how we're changed. There's a catching away, verse 17. The concept of the rapture is based on the Word of the Lord, verse 15, and the believers are caught up.

Let me talk to you a minute about the word "rapture," and I will address the issue when a guy says to you, as a guy said to me—and I'm a great one, and I wouldn't do it to any of you because you're all trying to learn—but you give me somebody that wants to pick a fight with me on the Bible, and he would say to me, which they have, he'll say to me, "Well, you know what, what do you do with the fact that the word 'rapture' is not in the Bible?" And I'll ask him, "For the word 'rapture' not being in the Bible, but where did the word 'rapture' come from? I know where it came from. Tell me where the word 'rapture' came from. I'll tell you something else, tell me what the word 'rapture' means right now. Right now, tell me what it means. Tell me where it came from based on what it means." He's not going to have a clue. I'm very suspect of people that tell me something can't be when they don't even understand what it is or what it isn't to begin with. You think if somebody's going to stand up there and tell me this isn't right, you'd have it figured out. That's why you came to the conclusion it wasn't right. Please don't tell me it isn't right because you don't like it. I can give you 100,000 things in that book that I don't like, but they're right. When you come to me saying, "Well, here, you're wrong and this is the way it is." Really? Show me. Come on, show me where it's at. There's the book. Show me what you're talking about. Show me where "rapture" came from. Show me how it got circulated. You don't find the word in the Bible, but run it back and show me what it means and then associate it with one book in the Bible where it would fit. You don't have a clue.

You know what the word "rapture" means? It means transported by passion. By passion. It means transported by passion, by great joy, transported by passion to be ravaged. It means transported

by extreme joy and delight and pleasure. Now I'm going to teach you on New Year's Eve. I'm not going to destroy what I've got for you by giving you any lead-ins on the thing, but when I started to put together the teaching of the Song of Solomon, a great fact struck me. Most of you have come out of other churches, some of you out of Baptist churches, some of you out of other churches. You know what struck me when I began to put the stuff together for the Song of Solomon? It struck me the fact that I don't think in all the churches that I've been in in all my life, at all the places that I've listened to the tapes and in the ministries that I've seen of men and women, I don't think I've ever heard a pastor in my life ever teach on or preach out of the book of Song of Solomon other than my own. That struck me. Why is that? Because I understand that the book of Song of Solomon, if you're ever going to have a relationship with Christ the way it needs to be, you're going to have to get the book of Song of Solomon down.

I've got to tell you, on New Year's Eve, I'm not coming through this thing from a doctrinal perspective and showing you this and showing the tribulation. I'm not even going there. When you and I don't have a lot of time to do it, but when you leave here on New Year's Eve, when you start your new year, if you so desire, and that is where you're headed and what you're looking for in life, you are going to have the book of Song of Solomon broken down for you in a system that from this point on—and I'm going to give you some guidelines—that when we get that night, you're going to understand every aspect of how He looks at you and how you're supposed to look at Him, and you're going to have in your toolbox everything that you need in the most intimate book in the Bible. I guarantee you, if you understood the book of Song of Solomon as many of the old-time Christians did, and you recognized it as the most intimate, most beautiful, most perfect book in the Bible as to your relationship and attitude toward Christ, there is only one word in the human language which means transported by passion, transported by love, transported by extreme joy. There's only one word, and we don't use the word anymore, but the word is the word "rapture." The word is to be taken off, being caught up, caught up in a love affair with your Savior, that the transportation from planet Earth because you understand Romans 6, Romans 7, and the great Romans 8, the redemption of your body, not just the redemption of your soul, but you understand the price that was paid, how He views you, what your job is, and you enter into that. I'm going to show you in the Song of Solomon there is a secret garden, a secret garden, a secret garden that if you're not in on a daily basis and you don't understand the secret garden, no wonder we've got the struggles we have. Your wife does not go in this garden. Your husband does not go in this garden. Your children do not go in this garden. It is a secret garden for you and Christ, and what is in that garden is where the word "rapture" came from by a human expression of someone that was overwhelmed with understanding what God has gotten for them.

I'm telling you, ladies and gentlemen, you know why they don't believe in the rapture anymore? You know why they don't like the word "rapture" anymore? I'll tell you why: Because you throw an open book in the Song of Solomon in front of these bozos, and they wouldn't be able to be like a blind bat trying to back in backwards figuring it out. They couldn't get anything out of that book. You know why? Because when you reject the book, God closes the book, and there's no more revelations. For you and for me at Old Path Baptist Church, we either are going to be or we are going to be not. We are not going to be in the middle. We either are going to learn how to

have the relationship, and it's going to work for you the way God intended it to be, or we're just going to piddle paddle around and do what Christians mostly do. The word "rapture" is based on somebody understanding the great book of the Song of Solomon, which you will at the end of New Year's Eve.

Now there's another reason that people have lost track of the rapture. You remember back in 1 Corinthians 15:51, he says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery." You're going to find in your Bible that there are seven mysteries listed, and yet you're told in 1 Corinthians 4:1 that as we as Christians, especially me as a pastor, I'm to be a steward of those mysteries. In other words, I ought to be teaching the mysteries to you on a regular basis or reminding you of them. Of course, one of the first things we did when we started our church was come through the mysteries in the Bible. You'd get them online. You ask one of these guys, bottom line is, you ask one of these guys to tell them what the seven mysteries are in the Bible, they couldn't do it if you put a pistol to their head and told them that if you didn't give them to you in an hour, you were going to blow their brains out. You'd be at the end of an hour, you'd have a lot of mess on your hands.

Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:13: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren." There are seven things in the Bible—six by Paul, one by Peter—seven things in your Bible, excuse me, that the child of God is told not to be ignorant of. Yet I find in dealing with common people, common Christians, and pastors and teachers of the Bible, they are the most ignorant of these seven things you've ever found in your life. It's within these things that you're told not to be ignorant of. It's within these seven mysteries that we are told to be stewards of that you find preserved for you the concept of the catching up, the rapture. It's a mystery, and God is not going to reveal His mysteries to anybody who does not believe this book.

I think probably, and I want you to turn back to the book of Revelation. I don't think I can use my chart on this. Turn back to the book of Revelation. I want to show you why I believe the Bible teaches there's a rapture after I gave you the two verses. When I was growing up and the old boys were teaching me, they would tell me this: They would say, "You can never just teach a doctrine from a type in the Bible alone." They would say, "You never can get up and say, 'Well, here's a type, this type proves the doctrine.'" What they would say is, "But you always let the type show you the doctrine as an illustration of what the Word of God has clearly laid out someplace else." Maybe some of you can't grasp that, but it's a great concept.

Now you look at the book of Revelation. You're going to need both hands for this. Get Revelation 4 in one hand, and get Revelation 19 in another hand. Remember I told you when we started coming through here that some of the major events in your Bible were the rapture of the church, the tribulation period, the second coming of Christ, and the millennial reign of Christ and eternity. All right, now the book of Revelation is basically your capstone of the Bible. Get Revelation 4 in one hand, Revelation 19 in the other. I don't know if you want to take this home or you want to come over and help me work this out. The book of Revelation, you're told many, many times, is one of the hardest books in the Bible. It's not. It's probably the easiest book in the Bible. Let me show you how this outline works.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Look at that thing, a trumpet. And what does that trumpet say? "Come up hither." And I will show thee things which must be hereafter. Look at verse 2: "And immediately"—you mean like in a twinkling of an eye—"immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne." See that? Now keep your finger there.

Come back to Revelation 19. Look at verse 11 and 14.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

You know what you've got in Revelation 4 right here? Somebody goes up. Revelation 19:11 right here. See the army? That's me. I'm right there. Somebody comes down. You know what I've got in my Bible and book of Revelation? I've got a book, by the way, it's broken down that shows you exactly that there is a rapture. Now watch how this thing works. You don't have time to do it right now, but if you get the tape, you can go back through it. Read through Revelation 1, 2, and 3. When you read through Revelation 1, 2, and 3, you're going to find the church, the word "church," like our church, you're going to find the word "church" at least 19 times. You're going to find it in chapter 1, chapter 2, and chapter 3. You're going to find in three little chapters the word "church, church, church" at least 19 times. In Revelation 4, the Bible says a door goes up in heaven. And a voice like a trumpet, 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4 says, "Come up hither," caught up, caught up, caught up. And after Revelation 4, you never find the word "church" anywhere in the Bible again. You know why? Raptured up.

Here's what you've got: Revelation 4 is the rapture of the church. Revelation 19 is the second coming of Christ. Let's see if the order of the book of the Revelation lines up with my chart up here. Church, church, church, church. What was this period, ladies and gentlemen? Church age. Church, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. You'll find the same seven churches in Revelation 1, 2, and 3 by name. That's the church age, Revelation 1, 2, and 3. Revelation 4, door open in heaven, voice like a trumpet, "Come up hither," and you never find the word "church" again. But you know what you do find? Revelation 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. You know what you find? Tribulation period. Tribulation runs from chapter 5 up to chapter 18. Then in chapter 19, heaven opens up again. This time somebody comes back. Now, what's after Revelation 19? Revelation 20. What's after the second coming of Christ on our chart? 1000 years reign of Christ. You know what Revelation 20 is? The millennial reign of Christ. You know what's after chapter 20? Chapter 21. You know what chapter 21 is? New heavens and a new earth and a new Jerusalem. You know what Revelation 21 is? New

heavens, new Jerusalem. You know what Revelation 22 is? Eternity. You know what you've got after this? Eternity. That book of Revelation breaks itself down, shows you the church age, chapter 1, 2, and 3. Door opens up in heaven. Somebody goes up. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, up to 18, all tribulation. 19, somebody comes down. 20's the millennium. 21's new heaven and earth. 22's eternity. It shows you that heaven opens up two times. One of them somebody goes up, and one of them somebody comes down. There is a rapture. There is a rapture. There is a rapture. If you're an evangelical, you may not have a rapture. You probably got a rapture. But there is a rapture. Romans 8 is the great key chapter of us being delivered from the body of this flesh. Right now, your soul is saved. But there's coming a time, your flesh is not yet, but there's coming a time when your body of this flesh is going to be changed into His glorified body. 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4, the book of Revelation, and that is covered for you and detailed out for you when the process is laid out in Romans 8. You don't have a rapture. You've got no logical conclusion for Romans 8 even being in your Bible.

VI. Consistency of God's Plan: First and Second Comings

Now I'm going to show you something else. Oh, you're going to like this. I told you the greatest key in your life as a Christian is your ability to be consistent. Inconsistency will kill you. The key to the Christian life is consistency. It's no strange wonder then, ladies and gentlemen, that the key to learning the Bible or the Bible revealing itself to you is the same word: consistency. Once the Bible says something, defines something, lays something out, it will stay in line with that right through the whole Bible, and you can always bank on it, and that's how you learn.

For instance, have you ever taken the first coming of Christ when it came the first time, right here, and compared what took place back there with what is going to take place when it comes back the second time? Have you ever, for a moment of time, just sat down on some rainy afternoon and compared the consistencies between what happened at the first coming and what is going to happen at the second coming? There's an old adage that we say at any time, and it's not original to me, but it's this: The only thing men never learn from history is the fact that men never learn anything from history. History repeats itself, and that's especially true when it comes to the Bible and the Word of God. You're going to find that there are some incredible, absolutely incredible. You want to find out what it's going to be like there, what the time we're living in now, what you can know, what you need to worry about, what you need to look out for, what you need to be aware of. Go back and study what it was here, because consistency is not only true in your individual life, it's also true in the Bible.

When Christ came the first time back here, Israel was captive by a type of the antichrist. His name was Herod. When Christ comes the second time, Israel will be held captive by the antichrist. When Christ came the first time, Rome was in power. Christ comes the second time, Rome will be in power. Christ came the first time, the Jews were in the homeland. Christ comes the second time, the Jews are in the homeland. When Christ came the first time, the nation of Israel was in total deep apostasy. When Christ comes the second time, the nation of Israel is in total corrupt deep apostasy. When Christ came the first time, John the Baptist was the forerunner. When Christ comes the second time, Elijah will be the forerunner, and you're told in Matthew

17:12 that John the Baptist came in the person and the spirit of Elijah. When Christ came the first time, there was one universal language, it was Greek. When Christ is going to come the second time, there's going to be one universal language, it's going to be English. When Christ came the first time, the whole world was under a military dictatorship. Christ comes the second time, the whole world is going to be under a military dictatorship.

You know, there's a thing out today that a lot of people have a lot of problems with. Sometimes you'll hear about it, and if you haven't heard it, you'll hear it sooner or later. It's what they call advanced revelation. The argument that they have, and again, it's by people who don't believe the Bible. Their thinking basically is this, and I don't know how to simplify it, so I'll just make it simple. They think that if God didn't show it to them, He can't show it to you. Let me say something to you. There are lots of things that God has shown this church that He never showed Clarence Larkin. There are lots of things that some of you know that C.I. Scofield never knew. You know why that is? Because the events of his day, many times of the political events, the social events, you may read something in the Bible, but you're not put it into a relative perspective until the event in your life coincides with the event in your own life. Now that's called advanced revelation, or God, as history goes on, that God through His Bible keeps revealing things as things in this world become apparent that we didn't see it, and now it's revealed for what it is because we're living in a time period when it actually happens. Clarence Larkin had no idea that in 1948, the nation of Israel was going to become a nation. So you know why? He read in Isaiah, read in Jeremiah, read in Ezekiel, those places where it says that God's going to take them back to the land. That was just a future event that he had no concept or no portal in time on. But you see, it happened in 1948, didn't it? Once it happened, I could go back and see how that thing came into perspective. You know what that's called? That's called advanced revelation. God keeps revealing things through His book as the time element of earth and planet earth and the life on it keeps revolving itself, and these Bible things come into play. That's what it means.

When Christ came the first time, there was a global economy with a world tax. Turn to Luke 2. Now, ladies and gentlemen, this is your last chance to buckle up. For those of you, I do suggest that you put your tray tables up in an upright position. I'd hate for the person in back of you to bust their head when they pass out.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Revelation 12:9 says this, talking about the antichrist in the person of the great red dragon, that old serpent, the devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Ezekiel 31:5-6, one of the greatest references in all of the Bible on the devil as the antichrist, says this:

Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

This is talking about the devil now being like a tree. The fowls here would be demonic spirits. "Made their nest in his boughs and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations." When the antichrist comes into being, he's going to pull together the world into a one-world concept. He's going to pull together all the nations. He's going to pull together by deceiving everybody on planet earth that is left. They are going to come in, just like at the first coming of Christ, to an absolute global economy. You already see it in Europe. They have a Euro. The Euro is the common money, denominator money for every consolidated nation over in Europe.

You know why there are no borders on Mexico and we can't get any up? You know why they won't put any up on the northern borders of Canada? You can squawk and squawk and squawk, and no president will do it. You know why? Because right now as we speak, they're talking about the same thing over here as it was over there: the globalization of North America, Central America, South America into the Americas for economic purposes and for stability. Do you know how that would end the problem we have with the economy if there wasn't a stock market here and a stock market there, that it was all in one central thing? Don't you know when you have 28 kids that you're in charge of and you're trying to find out where all those 28 kids are? Don't you know it's much easier just to watch one kid? Or if you have 28, put them in a pen. Corralled. Does it not make any sense that a global economy where we have one, China's got one, Japan's got one, Europe's got one, Australia's got one, wouldn't it be much better just to control it and to fix all the problems if it was all just one?

Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

What I'm saying is this: When I said verse 20 with the antichrist in preparation for the antichrist, look at this. The antichrist himself is in verse 21. "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries." Somebody before the antichrist, somebody before the antichrist in the world system is going to set the thing up where there is a one-world setup, a one-world economy that the whole world, just like at the first coming of Christ, is going to raise the taxes on the whole world at the second coming of Christ. You're not going to beat the book. That

would have never made any sense any time in history till in the last two or three years in this country, maybe four or five years with the epic downturn, that there's something that has to be done. There's something that has to be done. No one person, no country is going to fix it. The bailouts aren't going to fix it. Nothing is going to fix it. It's going to take one man or the idea of men who come up with a globalization of understanding that it's better to watch one kid in a room than 28 kids with a room, and a kid representing the economies. Just like at the first coming of Christ when Caesar, a Roman type of antichrist, had a world tax and demanded everybody to pay, at the second coming of Christ, it's being set up right now that when a man comes on the scene and he takes over the estate through flatteries and through a peaceable means, the thing he's going to do is raise world taxes. Why in the world is that phrase about, who cares that the antichrist or somebody connected, is going to be a raiser of taxes if it didn't fit back into the first coming of Christ?

Now we haven't got to the best part yet. Those are the consistencies that show you one or the other, and I've given them to you. Christ came the first time, Israel was captive. Christ second time, they're captive. Christ came the first time, Rome's in power, second time Rome's in power. First time, Jesus is using it in the homeland, second time, all through those things. Now, you want to see the great harvest of God? You want to see the rapture of God? Nothing like the book, ladies and gentlemen. Remember the consistency now, first coming, second coming. At the first coming of Christ, when Jesus showed up the first time, He came privately to His family first, and in a period of time later, He revealed Himself at the start of His public ministry to the whole world. At the second coming of Christ, He's going to reveal Himself privately to His family first. That's a rapture of the church. And then at the end of the tribulation, to the whole world at the second coming of Christ. That's the book. There is a rapture. It doesn't matter if Darby ever figured it out or he didn't figure it out. It doesn't matter if C.I. Scofield ever had a note on it at all. The Bible's very clear that when you understand Romans 8, there has to be a process to get Romans 8 into our lives.

VII. Enoch: A Type of the Rapture

One of the greatest stories in the Bible is the story of Enoch. Enoch's the only man in the Bible that never died. Ask that to the guy that tells you there is no rapture. Ask him why Enoch's the only man in the Bible that never died, and he's going to come back to you, "Well, that's not true. Elijah didn't die." My answer back to him is, I put a bullet right between his eyes. Yeah, that may be true, but he's coming back and dying in the tribulation period. Revelation 11, Zechariah 14. Only man in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, only man in the Bible from there to there, only man in the Bible from there to there who never dies is Enoch, unless you're still alive when it comes right here.

You ever see the life of Enoch? The Bible says in Genesis 5:18-24, there are only nine verses in the whole Bible on him.

And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:

And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.

And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Enoch got raptured. Heard an old preacher say one time, "Enoch walked with God for 365 years. They had a great day. Had always had a great time. One day God came down and said, 'Hey, Enoch, what do you want to do today?' And Enoch said, 'I don't know, man, we're 365 years. We've been having a great time. I'll tell you what, we'll do whatever You want to do.' We realized it last week. 'You, Lord, let's do what You want to do.' And He said, 'Why, I'm kind of thinking, you know, Enoch, why don't you come up and, you know, I've been coming down here and spending time with you every day. Why don't you come up and spend a day with Me up in heaven?' Enoch said, 'Whoa, that sounded like a pretty good deal to me.' He said, 'Yeah, come on up and spend a day in heaven.' So he went up and spent a day in heaven and found out there was no night and been there ever since." He got raptured. He got raptured. He got raptured.

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Enoch went out. One day God translated him and raptured him right off planet Earth, and he went up to heaven. The old boys used to say, "You can't teach a type. You can't teach a doctrine by a type. But the type will always support the doctrine when you have the verses." I showed you there in 1 Corinthians 15. I showed you there in 1 Thessalonians 4. And I showed you there in Romans 8. You're going to get a glorified body. No question about it. Then I showed you the process. We're going to be caught up.

If you ever look at the circumstances around Enoch, Enoch lived right here. You know what happened right here? The flood. You know what the flood was? The flood was God's judgment on this earth. You know you go back in the book of Isaiah and the book of Ezekiel. You know what the flood is likened to? It's likened to the tribulation period. You know what the Bible says in Matthew 24, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." You know what you've got back there? You've got a man named Enoch representing you and me, who's walking through fellowship with God by faith like you and I should be. And right before God's judgment comes down and destroys the world, you know what God does? He comes down and takes him out. You know what God's going to do with you and me right before His judgment falls in a great tribulation period? He'll take us out. He'll take us out. He'll take us out.

VIII. The "Souped-Up" Christian Life

Now this is why you need to know Romans 8. This is why Romans 8 will make more sense to you now, understanding what I've given you today. You go home, come over to see me, whatever you've got to do. Grasp the concept of the rapture. I'm going to put together with some of my boys out of Institute, I'm going to put together a forum here down the road where you can come in and we're going to give you every piece of that puzzle you need. Get you ready for where you're at. Then a couple of years down the road or a year down the road when you're ready for Institute, I'll come in and take—it'd be like taking a, what we're going to do right now is, Mike, what we're going to do with these people right now is what you do. Mike builds race car engines. But they don't make race car blocks. They make engine blocks. I was over at a shop yesterday. You've got to see a shop. He makes engines out front and AK-47s and guns out the back, it's great. I love it. He blew up, I don't know how many things yesterday. I hope the neighbor wasn't mad we killed his chickens.

You know what he does? He takes a block out of an engine. Standard block. Which you take out of your car. You go buy a car from Ford or a car from Chevy or whatever the case, because I guess nobody's buying cars anywhere now. But if you would go buy one, you take that engine out, that's what he starts with. He just gets a block. You know what he does? I saw him and I walked in there, yes. You know what he's doing? He had a camshaft, and I love this kind of talk. He had a camshaft on a lathe, and he had this big thing, and he's polishing, big old strap, polishing the things that had camshaft. When they put them together at Ford and Chevy, at the factory plant, they just throw them in there. You know what they're all saying is, you don't want to get a car put together on early Monday morning or last car put together on Friday afternoon. They just put them in there. Pistons, crankshaft, put it on the car. And it runs really well. Runs really well. But those engines won't work for you, will they? No, but a standard engine in a regular car, what, 200 horse, maybe 180 horse, you put 600 horses out of his. He drills out the cylinder walls. Takes little pistons. I'm not sure what a little piston looks like, but takes little pistons and drills them out and puts big pistons in them. Some of those pistons are domed. Some are flat. He takes the crankshaft and polishes it so there's nothing that that crankshaft just spins in there. Then he puts, then they take the exhaust off and they put headers on them, and they put all these things, and they bore it out, and they put big carburetors on them with big jets of gas. Look like garden hoses. I'll tell you what, they put that engine down in that car, and that engine fires up, boy, and that guy will get out in front of that race, and he'll hold that line, and he'll just run that car, run that car, run that car, and it just, it goes. Why? Because he took something that was standard and ordinary and souped it up and hopped it up and did all the right thing, turned all the right buttons, did all the right balancing of the engine, and put things out 600 horsepower versus 180 horsepower.

That's what I want to do with you. You're all standard engines right now. You're all standard engines. You all come factory model crankshaft. You all come with a bank of matter pistons. You all come with little heads on them. You all come with a list. You all come with that. You all come with all the little things that's just standard as you get them at the factory. You know what I want to do? I want to take you apart. I want to bore you out with big pistons in it. I want to get a camshaft all balanced out. I want to turn you from an engine of 128 horsepower, 200 horsepower, to a son of a horsepower screaming, flaming demonic angel who will run down the runway

fastening everything else in this world. You don't do it by going to the factory. You do it by getting into the shop. You get in there where the work gets really done. You get in there where it's real. I don't think you've got to clean your shop up. I like it. It's like that movie with Tom Cruise or with Robert Duvall played the guy in there, and he walked into his barn there, and they're building race cars. There it is, old barn, more rickety barn in there with stuff hanging on, no painting walls, everything. Boy, he's saying that, "Baby, I'm going to give you a low oil pan that's going to give you 58 more horsepower. I'm going to trim you like a bullet that you're going to get five or six horsepower." He knows what he's talking about. I look at you, I look at you, I look at you, I look at you, and I look at you, and I want to say the same thing. I'm going to give you an oil pan to go six inches deeper. I want to get you some headers on your ears. I want to get you this, I'm going to get you that. I'm going to take you and transfer you into this. I'm going to give you, I'm going to shape you like a bullet, and I'm going to, what it needs to be. That's why, but you know they're not. That's why Paul says we're in a race. Standard engines won't work. You've got guys all over the country to come by his engine. You know why? He knows what he's doing. Now I can't fix an engine. My car stops, I'm ready to sell it. Guy says to me one time, he says, "Well, you've got a short circuit." And I said, "Well, how much is it going to cost to make it longer?" But I know this. And I know how to take you, fine tune you, make you a running, screaming animal for the cause of Christ. It starts just like he has to break an engine down piece by piece and work on every piece. It starts with breaking that book down piece by piece and fine tuning, balancing every piece, and then putting it back together. You'll run your life out for Christ. That's where it starts, where we're at, what we're going to do. Now when we get into Romans 8 next week, you'll have a better understanding of how this thing works.

Father, we thank You and praise You for all You do. We love You. Thank You, Father, for all You've given us and all that You've done for us. Lord, thank You for our church and for the men and women that are here that love You and want to learn Your Word. Lord, we just do love You so much and thank You for all that You've done for us. Lord, help these people to see themselves today. Help them to grasp what we talked about today, and I know that some of it was weedy, but Lord, they can get there. If they'll just let us take them and make them and mold them and break the Bible down and give them what they need. If they'll just get their focus and their attention back on the things of God and out of the things of this world and just become what God wants them to be, they'll have everything they need. Lord, we love You. Bless throughout this week, bless New Year's Eve, Lord. I'm praying every day, almost every hour, and every hour of that night. Lord, help us to just always be there and get everything done that we need to do to help these people build that relationship. Bless all the events today. Bless the Young Marriage Time at Jamin' Dannels and bless the Lord Bible study this week and take care of the ones that are sick and bring us all back next week that we can get into Romans 8. Lord, we'll thank You and praise You now in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless, you're dismissed. Go ahead and sign up back there.