

Romans 8

Sunday 5/17/2009

Romans 8

Let's turn back to Romans 8. A couple of weeks ago, this is where we were. Last week was Mother's Day, so we appropriately talked to the moms about their relationship to the Word of God and looked at a great example in the Old Testament. But I wanted to get back and finish this up today as we're moving through Romans 8.

You remember that we started to talk about the heresy and bad teaching of what we know as Calvinism, commonly known today in the 21st century and even in the latter part of the 20th century as Reformation Theology. As we've been coming through the book of Romans, I think it's important that Romans is such a doctrinal book and has such an impact on our lives as far as what it teaches us that is right. This is where you find the verses that come up against all the heretical teachings. So as we bump into them, we'll deal with them and look at them, and we'll see how they, one at a time, lay them out and show you the right context.

We got to Romans 8:29. Before reading it, the speaker offers a prayer: "Father, we thank You and praise You for the opportunity to come to Your Word today. We pray You'll continue to bless us in everything that we do and give us the things that we need to see today. Help these young Christians to grow and the older Christians to keep establishing themselves in the Word of God. And Lord, we just thank You and praise You for all You do for us now. In Jesus' name, for Your sake we ask it. Amen."

I. Understanding Heresy and Its Exposure

You remember I talked to you about 2 Corinthians 11:19 and the importance of heresy. Paul told the church at Corinth that heresy is not a bad thing in the sense that it's a bad teaching. But a true Bible-teaching church, a true church that stands on the Word of God and teaches the Word of God, much like this one does, never has to be worried about heresy. The truth always takes care of heresy, and when you stand for the truth, it exposes anyone involved in heresy. That's the key. That's why Paul said heresy approves; it shows you who is approved of God. In other words, it always shows you the truth because when error is up against truth, the truth will always win out.

I told you that the number one point you're dealing with when you're dealing with a person who holds this position is that they absolutely know nothing about the Bible. Last time I showed you some basic things, but today I want to base this on the principles you want to use in your life as you grow, work, and deal with people. You're going to come across all the different heresies sooner or later. You'll find that you need to know how to deal with them. It won't be long before you find someone who believes in the bad teaching or heresy of Calvinism, also known as predestination.

Let me just say this again for those who may be listening to this tape that didn't hear the first tape. The concept of Calvinism, sometimes called predestination or Reformation Theology, is simply this: what they teach is that somewhere way beyond Genesis 1:1, before the Bible was

even recorded, God looked down through time in His foreknowledge and chose some men and women to go to heaven and some men and women to go to hell. This is where the concept of predestination comes from—your destination was predetermined by God before anything ever happened. Of course, you're going to see today the absolute lunacy of that kind of reasoning.

I have never met a person who believed in Reformation Theology or Calvinism who knew anything about their Bible. I've never met anybody who could put anything together other than the basic little format that they believe. We talked about last time how important it is to understand the whole scope of the Bible. The very idea that someone would claim to have the eternal decrees of God of predestination, and yet, as I gave you last time when we ended, Ephesians 3:18, you couldn't open your Bible and explain to me the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth of God. Yet the Bible goes on to say in that verse that you can't even know the love of Christ or have the fullness of God so you can comprehend these things. And yet they want to pretend, they want you and me to believe, that they have this great eternal knowledge so deep in the Bible, and yet many of them think 'Epistle' is a possible husband and wife. They have no idea how the Bible lays itself out. It's a ridiculous position.

Calvinism, or Reformation Theology, for the most part, and I've dealt with it for years and years, is based upon the deeper life crowd. These are what I call 'wannabes'—people who want to know the Bible but don't want to invest the time, and so they get some truth. You find it in many situations. Charismatics are the same way; they'll get one little central thing out of the Bible, and that is what they work on, knowing nothing else about the Bible.

I asked a Calvinist one time, and this goes to show you how really—and I hate to use the word 'stupid.' I don't like that word. I've never called my kid stupid; I've never called anybody that. I don't like the word, but sometimes it is appropriate, especially when it comes to people with Bible heresy. This kind of shows you how stupid they really are.

When you're dealing with a Calvinist or any cult, you want to remember this: you've got one of two kinds of people you're dealing with. I gave you a couple of weeks ago, I think it was the last time we were together on this, the two places in Proverbs where it said one, 'answer a fool according to his folly,' and the other, 'answer not a fool according to his folly.' You've got one that you do answer, take to task, and drop in his tracks. The other is somebody who comes in with the right questions; they're just confused. People in heresy are one of two brands: they're either someone who is ignorant of the facts and the truth, someone you can sit down and help work through it, or you've got someone who is dishonest when it comes to the truth. It'll never be a third one; it'll be one or the other.

When you deal with somebody who is confused, who doesn't know anything about it, and when you show them the Bible, they gravitate that way, you want to deal with them on that level. You certainly don't want to come down hard on somebody like that; you really want to help them. But then you get the other crowd: the guy who, as the Bible says, is 'wise in his own conceit.' He's someone who puffs himself up as somebody who really knows the Bible when he absolutely knows nothing. The best thing you can do for him is take him down a couple of pegs. The more you humiliate him spiritually, the more the Holy Spirit of God can take it and deal with it. Their

problem is ego; it's all about credibility. That's why they want to talk with you about the Bible; they want to engage you in the Bible. Most people fall for that because the moment you engage them in the Bible, you give them credibility. If you will not deal with them on the Bible and say, 'I'm not even going to open a Bible with you because what you teach is so stupid it's not even worth the time to open it. I can defeat you and show you how you're dead wrong without even opening a Bible,' that's what you want. You deny them credibility and you put them into a no-win situation.

When you start to deal with cults, rule number one is: never lose control of the argument. The way you can do that is not only by knowing your Bible, but by knowing what they believe better than they do. That's where it takes you spending the time and learning your own Bible and getting it down.

II. The Historical Problem of Calvinism

I talked to you a couple of weeks ago about a 'back door.' When I deal with somebody, I deal with them not on the face-up value of the Bible, because that's a heresy, and I'm not going to give them any credibility. I will use things about the Bible. I think one of the most hilarious things that a Calvinist doesn't even know, and this shows you the level of stupidity they are in their life, is that they don't even know—and I told you this a couple of weeks ago—you have your King James Bible there, probably most of you have looked it up and marked it now. You'll find in the front of that Bible a dedicatory. That dedicatory was written by the translators to explain why they put out the King James Bible, so you would know where they were at, what they were up against, and the heresies they were struggling with. In their dedicatory, they mentioned that the King James Bible was written basically against two people groups: one of them is called 'the Pope's Person,' which is the Roman Catholic Church, and the other was 'Conceited Brethren,' which was the Calvinist of their day. Those were the two issues they were struggling with and knew were heresy. The absolute lunacy is that somebody who believes the King James Bible is the Word of God would get up and teach the heresy of Calvinism and not even know that the dedicatory of the Bible they're preaching from was written against what they believe. See the level of inconsistency?

I had a Calvinist one time; I kind of baited him. He had explained the whole thing of Calvinism to me. I said, "Let me ask you a question. If what you're saying is true, and Calvinism is based on the eternal decrees of God before the foundation of the world, looking down and predestining some to go to heaven and some to go to hell, and we take your five points literally—remember I gave you the five points last time? One of those five points was Irresistible Grace, and the other was the total depravity of man, the fact that no man or woman, in any state, at any time, in any place, could ever get to God, and God had chosen the ones that were going to go to heaven and chose the ones that would go to hell—I'm going to show you how stupid the process is. What happens when a baby dies then?"

A Calvinist told me that when a baby dies, that baby goes to heaven or hell based on whether God chose him or not. I'd like to get up and preach that at a little baby's funeral. Do you think that would fly? They'd run you out of town on a rail before you got halfway through the sermon!

You see, that kind of goofiness goes totally against what we saw in Romans 7, Romans 5, and Deuteronomy, where I took you back and showed you how God covers little babies. Predestination is for a bunch of wannabes; it's absolutely ludicrous. I showed you last time how you only find predestination four times in the Bible: two times in Romans 8 and two times in Ephesians 1. None of the four times is it ever relating to anything remotely connected with salvation.

Today, getting past the recap, I'm going to show you how to deal with this heresy and again, how absolutely dysfunctional a Calvinist is when it comes to his Bible. Today we're going to see the second aspect of how he has no clue. I'm going to show you the 'back door' today. I'm going to show you how you want to deal with a Calvinist without opening up your Bible, but at the same time, destroying him and denying him not only credibility but putting him in a position where he has absolutely no answers.

There's the mistake that many Baptists make—and I just say Baptists because I'm more familiar with Baptists. It's the mistake that most Christians make. They think that when you're going to go up against a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon, or whatever the case, or somebody that's a Christian that's messed up like a Charismatic, they think the thing to do is, 'I'll give you my verses, and you give me your verses, and my verses will out-prove your verses.' It doesn't work that way. It would be nice if it did, but it doesn't work that way, unless you're finding somebody who is just dumb, stupid, and wonderful, and just wants to know the truth and falls into it when he finds it. Most of the time that does not happen. You've got to get them to a place where they have no answers. You've got to ask them a question.

Sandy, did you bring enough for everybody? No, but break it up in little pieces and pass it around your section over there. Next week, bring enough for everybody. Is that a pretzel you got there or carrots? Oh, I'm sorry, I said it was orange, I thought it was a carrot. I got some dip in here, I thought we could pass the whole thing around. In my pulpit that my first sergeant made me. Calvinists hate carrots. This is the thing that got me into this. You want to put them in a position where you ask them a question and they have no answer. You always want to keep control of any situation. You always want to put them in a position where they don't have an answer to what you're asking them. Why do you want to do that? You want to do that because when they have no answer, and they know they have no answer—even though their pride right now may not allow them to show you that—when they go home and they're all by themselves and the Holy Spirit of God starts kicking in on them, He's going to beat them six ways from Sunday for the fact that they don't have an answer. This is how you want to deal with any cult, and I'll show you how it all works here in just a few moments.

Here's a principle I use in dealing with a cult, dealing with a heresy. It is the fundamental foundation verse you want to use. This one verse will destroy every heresy, I don't care what it is: Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Seventh-day Adventists—it doesn't matter. Whatever the heresy is, whether it's in the body of Christ or outside the body of Christ—remember I told you they were both—this verse principle is what you want to start with. Maybe you don't give them this right out of the chute, but this is what you operate on. It's found in Psalms 127:1, and it's a great principle, absolutely a great principle. This is always in the forefront of my mind, and it's

always the thing that I'm going after. At some point, I'll give this to them, but it's what I base what I'm going to do on. It simply says this, and it's a simple little verse, absolutely profound:

Psalms 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:

Once you understand the impact of that passage, and you see how great this verse absolutely is, you were told in Matthew 16 exactly what the church is built on. Matthew 16:18, when the Lord is having His conversation with Peter, tells him exactly what His church is going to be built on when He builds it. Then, when you go to Ephesians 4, it shows you the five elements that are put into that church. I'm telling you that to tell you this: if the true church is the one that Christ built, and you want to find the true church that Christ built, that's where you start. Everything else that's out there that isn't part of the true church that Christ didn't build—give me the verse—'they labor in vain to build it.' The bottom line is this: if Christ didn't build the teaching that you're teaching, then it's worthless. It's that simple. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it."

III. The True Church and Its Historical Line

I gave you two landmarks last time in Proverbs 22 and 23. Those landmarks keep you on course coming down through history. One is in the Old Testament: the nation of Israel. Do you want to find out what God is doing? Do you want to find out what the true God and the true teaching is in the Old Testament? It's not much different from the Old Testament and the New Testament. You go into a secular college and take an ancient history course; you've got the Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Assyrians, you've got everybody, and they will teach it like they're all right, they're all good. You come into the New Testament, you've got the same thing: you've got the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Seventh-day Adventists, the Charismatics, you've got this, you've got that, you've got this teaching, you've got that teaching. Everybody says all these are okay. It's the same system. In both systems, Old Testament and New Testament, you've got to find out where the true God, the true people of God, and the true work of God are being done. Do you know how you do that? Two landmarks. Do you want to find the true God in the Old Testament, the true teaching in the Old Testament, and a true way to get to God? What's that landmark? Israel. "Well, I think it's the Babylonians." Shoot yourself! It's Israel. God fixed that thing with a landmark that if you're honest and sincere, you can find it. Do you know what it is in the New Testament? It's His church. It's the church that He built.

If you want to find out what the true church is and where the true church is, and how to trace that thing through the Bible so you don't get into the wrong church, you've got to know what the true church is. I told you last time we were together, you don't find the right church by looking for the right name. You find God's church not by what they call it, but by what they believed, and you trace it all the way through history. If you want to find the true church and what the true church believed, then you get the church that Christ built. That's the one you want to get. A Calvinist couldn't tell you what church Christ built if his life depended on it. You know why? Not only does he not know the Bible, but he has even less of a clue about church history. You cannot

separate the Bible and church history. The Bible provides the doctrine; church history provides the point of reference. That's why I am so big in pushing all of you in that direction, that you learn everything about it that you need to learn and try to get all that you can. That's why I want to start with you younger ones—of course, anybody can come, but you younger ones. I want to give you the Bible in a structure. That's where you're going to start. From that point on, it is so simple and so basic the way I've got it done that anybody on this planet can get it. It's just that easy. When you find the true church, then you follow that church down through history and you watch what God is doing with it and you find out what they believe.

Most of this is very simple. I wish it was profound. Most of this is very simple, but when you start to deal with a Calvinist, who are so conceited anyway and so 'deep' into the Bible, or so they think, 'simple' is not a word in their vocabulary. But this is really pretty easy stuff. The first big hurdle a Calvinist or a Reformation Theologian has to get over is this, and it's really simple. I hate to be the master of the obvious, but the first thing they've got to get over that they don't have an answer to is: why is it called Calvinism? Why did they call the teaching Calvinism? I'll tell you why: because it's named after the founder of the religion, John Calvin.

I'm a simple, basic guy. Calvin was born sometime around 1509; he dies around 1546. Doesn't it bother you just a little bit that the guy who started what you believe wasn't born until 1500-plus years after Christ was here? Maybe it's just me, but that would bother me. That would bother me to the fact that when you go back and survey history, it's called Calvinism because it starts with John Calvin. This teaching shows up 1500 years after Christ, and it's unheard of up to that period of time. How do you explain that? How do you explain that you've got a gap in what you believe for 1500 years?

On top of that, remember when you got Christmas presents or wedding gifts and you got four toasters, six mixers? What do you do with that extra stuff? You repackage it and give it to the next wedding. If you take it back, you've got to ask for the receipt, and that's always embarrassing. Just hide it; give it to the next person who goes down a long green mile, so to speak. That's what you do. Do you know what heresies do? They do the same thing. It started out as Calvinism. It was Calvinism from 1500 to 1600 to 1700 to 1800. When they got into 1900, they had to repackage it and sell it again. This shows you how they did that for a group of people that I call RDCs. Does anybody know what an RDC is in Christianity? This is easy. What does RDC stand for? "Really Dumb Christian." Yes, "Really Dumb Christian." Very good, Zach. Sit up here with me. Sit here on my right hand while I make your enemies your footstool. That's good. I'm impressed. Wow. That's good. RDC: Really Dumb Christian. So they repackaged it and called it, the second time around, Reformation Theology.

Let me show you how stupid they are. It was called Calvinism because it started with John Calvin. They didn't like that, so somebody got the bright idea: 'Let's call it Reformation Theology.' Do you know what they did there? The Reformation took place in 1540. They just redated the same thing to the Reformation, showing you it was the theology that came out of the Reformation. Why? Because it wasn't around before. Well, it was. We'll see how that works in a minute. You've got a 1500-year gap. If I was talking to a Calvinist, I'd ask him this: 'Do you know what fills that 1500-year gap?' He wouldn't have a clue. Calvinists couldn't lay this thing

out. You put a gun to his head and cock it and say, 'I'm going to blow your brains out if you don't give me the right answer,' he'd just have to look at you and say, 'Shoot.' He has no answer. Do you know who fills that 1500-year gap? The true church fills it. You know how you know that? Because you can trace them not by their name, but by what they believe.

How come in the first, second, and third century, the real mainstay of Christianity—and I know that these names don't mean much to most of you, but in time, I hope they do—how come the Montanists, the Donatists, the Novatians, the Nestorians, how about guys like John of Antioch? That'll bring us up through the first, second, and third century. How come they didn't teach what you believe about Calvinism? Do you even know what they taught? Of course you don't. How come coming up in the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh century, guys like Henri de Lasse, Savonarola, William of Orange out of Holland, the Paulicians, Count Zinzendorf, August Spangenberg, the Moravians, Menno Simons? How come they didn't teach what you teach, and they are the ones that were absolutely holding the mainstay of Bible Christianity up in those time periods? How come up through the Dark Ages, the Paulicians, the Bogomiles, the Hussites, the Lombards, the Cathari, the Waldensians—the main groups that through the Dark Ages and up to the 1600s and 1700s were the mainline Bible-teaching, Bible-believing groups that God won the world of Christ with—how come they didn't teach it? How come they didn't teach it?

Let me ask you a question: if you're a Calvinist, was Calvin from the true church line? A Calvinist has such a minimal understanding of the history of the church and the Bible itself. He wouldn't know the true line of the church if it fell out of a tree and hit him on the head. He had never stopped and thought about what line of churches Calvin came from. He never stopped and asked himself about the landmarks back in the Book of Proverbs. He never stopped and asked himself, 'Wow, how come I believe what I believe today, but in the first, second, and third century, the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh century, and right up to the Reformation with John Calvin, nobody on planet Earth that was a Bible believer and part of the true line ever believed one thing that I believed?' He never asked himself that.

I'll tell you why it's called Calvinism and Reformation Theology: because absolutely nobody in the true line of churches believed that in any form or shape, anywhere down through history, until it started with John Calvin at the Reformation in 1540. That's why. But when you're a Calvinist and you don't know that, when you're a Calvinist and you're all into the 'deep things' of the Bible, but you just forgot where your roots came from, you couldn't trace the true church and what it believed from Antioch in Acts, and that's another reason.

Remember a couple of weeks ago I asked you a question? When we're talking about this, I asked, 'If you're a Calvinist, let me ask you a question: how come in the Old Testament, you have Genesis, which is the defining book of the Bible, and then after Genesis, you have Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, which are four historical books? In the Old Testament, you have a book that defines everything—Genesis is called the book of the beginning—and then you have the next four books that are historical books, making five total. When you come to the New Testament, you have the same process, but it's reversed. Now you have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are the historical books, and then you have the book of Acts, which is the book that lays it all out and is the definitive book. How come they're reversed? How come in the

Old Testament the definitive book is first, and then the four historical books are next, and when you come to the New Testament, the four historical books are first, and the definitive book is after that?' The answer to that question is something that a Calvinist will never be able to give you. The answer to that, in a short form, is that when you break that down and understand it, that's how you know what you're supposed to believe, and that's how you know that a Calvinist—listen to me, a Calvinist, if you listen on the tape—a Calvinist is a heretic. He's got a religion that started 1500 years ago by a man who was never part of the true line.

Not only does Calvinism have no links or roots to the true church in any way, shape, or form in the New Testament, but they have no history as far as their belief and teaching before 1560. This is why they want the credibility issue. This is why they want you to talk with them about the Bible. This is why they want you to come and talk with them and open up your Bible, and you give me your verses, I'll give you my verses, and this dialogue about it. They want to prove you wrong, and you want to prove them wrong, and so you go around in a nice big circle, waste three or four hours, and you have a nice time. Do you know what you do at the end? You wake up and you shake his hand and you say, 'Well, brother, I guess we're just going to have to agree to disagree.' That's not what you do with it. You drop him in his tracks like he's a 550-pound water buffalo that you just shot. You let him squander in the mud with a bullet right between his eyes. You send him on his way with his tail between his legs, thinking to himself when the Holy Spirit of God gets him alone, 'Yeah, why don't I have any history? I didn't let him know it, but that bothers me. That bugs me. How come I can't find anybody? How come the real mainstay? How come the greatest missionary guys in that period of time back then, how come they didn't believe what I believe? Wow, why is it called Calvinism? Why is it called Reformation Theology?' Let the Holy Spirit of God work on it. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it." I don't ever talk to them about the Bible, because what they desperately want is you giving them credibility. Before I'd ever deal with one of those, I'd simply ask them, 'Hey, look, show me where you're at in 200 AD. You know everybody in 200 AD that believed what I believe. Show me somebody that believed what you believe.' I'll give you 50 who believe what I believe; you just give me one who believes what you believe. 50 to 1. That's a good deal, isn't it? I'll give you 100 for every one you give me. That's a good deal. No, I'll give you a million for every one you say. You couldn't get that ready. I'd find the million before you'd find the one. Safe bet. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it." When a man admits that he's a Calvinist, you're dealing with an absolute idiot or somebody who was absolutely dishonest when it came to the Bible and Bible truth and church history. I say that with charity; I'm not mad about it. I'm just saying this is what you're dealing with. You don't find him in 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1400. Whoops! There they are. 1560.

IV. John Calvin: The Man and His Doctrines

That's not the only problem they have. But that's a big hurdle right there. Like the Bible says, this is just the beginning of sorrows. Let's talk about John Calvin the man, the founder of your Reformation Theology, or the founder of this, and how it lays itself out. Do you have any idea what the founder of your religion believed himself? What he taught? What his motive was for teaching it? A couple of weeks ago, I gave you the five bottom-line concepts of Calvinism, the

five points of Calvinism. Every Calvinist in the world will lay those out. But could you answer me? Could you give me a clue where these five points ever showed up in history? In 1536, Calvin writes his book. There isn't a Calvinist in the world that probably knows the name of that book, and I guarantee you if you find one that knows about the book, you'll never find one that read it. Do you know the name of the book he wrote? This is where he lays out his first five points. The five points of Calvinism were found absolutely no place in history, nowhere, until Calvin writes them in his book in 1536, which is called *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Do you know why he wrote that book? You'd think he probably wrote it because he wanted to help God's people out. I bet you probably thought he wrote it because he wanted to enlighten all of God's people. I'll tell you why he wrote it: because it was a defense on his part against the King of France, Francis I, because Calvin was persecuting French Protestants because they weren't buying into Calvinism. The king put a decree against him and held him up on charges, so he wrote the book—which every Calvinist in the world today got his teaching from—in defense of himself because he wanted to persecute Protestant Christians who wouldn't believe what he believed. There's your guy. Nice guy. There's your man.

I'll tell you something else. Calvin taught and believed all of his life the Heidelberg Confession and the Westminster Confession. Is there a Calvinist on this planet who can explain to me what the Heidelberg Confession was or the Westminster Confession? I'll tell you what some of it meant. Do you know what they taught? They taught that Jesus Christ was a begotten God before Genesis 1:1. That's exactly what the Jehovah's Witnesses believed: that sometime before Genesis 1:1, God begot Himself into another God. Heresy. Heresy. I taught you the five points of Calvinism last time: Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints. I went through each one of them.

Here are the five forgotten points of Calvinism. If you're a Calvinist, this is what your man believed.

1. Calvin was an amillennialist, meaning he did not believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ.
2. He allowed Bible believers to be persecuted or killed.
3. He called predestination God's eternal decree when it's found nowhere in the Bible.
4. Calvin believed that the sacraments and the Bible were the way a man received Christ.
5. He believed that infant baptism washed away sin.

Now, is that your man? Everybody wants to talk about the five points of Calvinism; nobody wants to talk about the five forgotten points of Calvinism. Is that the kind of guy God's going to bring the true line of truth through to the real body of Christ? Is there anybody who is absurd enough to believe that? That's where the problems lie. He couldn't find the true line if his life depended on it, neither could anybody that believes in Calvinism today.

I've got kids that are probably in the junior high department that could lay out the two lines better than a Calvinist could. From Genesis 3:15, you've got two seeds, two wines, two nations, two religions, two brides, two lines, two Bibles, two churches, two men, two comings in the Bible, all the way through the Word of God, and a Calvinist couldn't lay it out if his life depended on it. Some of you could. So Calvin is the true line, is he?

Do you have any idea where Calvin got his inspiration for what he believed and developed it into what we know today as Calvinism? I'll tell you where he got it. I made a statement a little while ago that Calvinism was not taught anywhere before John Calvin. That's a half-truth. That's not exactly true, but it's true in the sense of Bible believers. Calvin made it no secret that his mentor and favorite theologian was a man by the name of Augustine of Hippo. Those of you familiar with church history might remember Augustine. Augustine was a Roman Catholic philosopher; he lived around 400 AD. Augustine is the one who set up all the structure for the teaching for the Roman Catholic Church. It was Augustine who put forth the concept of the Mass. It was Augustine who put forth the concept and made it a doctrine of infant baptism. It was Augustine who brought all the philosophies and solidified them into doctrines in the early Roman Catholic Church. It was him that put forth the priesthood. It was him that put forth the idea of what we know as transubstantiation. That simply means that when you go to Mass and you kneel down before the priest, the priest has a cup of wine and a wafer in his hand. He has the power by God, through the concept put out by Augustine of transubstantiation, to transform a substance into something else. In other words, taking the wafer, making it magically and mystically the real body of Christ, and taking the wine and making it mystically, magically the real blood of Christ—the actual blood that was in Christ's veins. I'm not talking about a similar fluid, or 'kind of like' the blood; it changes magically. A priest has the magical power through God to change the wine into—not 'like'—into the literal blood of Christ that was spilled for you on the cross. That little wafer that the nuns make, they have the power to change that into the actual body of Christ. In fact, have you ever noticed in the Catholic Church when a guy goes in, he takes a thing, they put a golden thing under his neck? Do you know why they do that? So God won't fall on the floor. Do you know where they keep those little wafers once they get consecrated? They keep them in a little gold box up on the altar. That's where God lives. You former Catholics, you know I'm telling you the truth. If a priest were to make the mistake of dropping that wafer, and God falls on the floor, there's a six-hour progression that that priest has to go through to pick God up off the floor. You don't just pick God up like a piece of paper. That's transubstantiation. That's what Augustine forged into the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.

The absolute absurdity is that God would take a man like Augustine, who forged Satan's church and put the whole heresy together, who was responsible for more Bible believers being murdered and killed down through history than any other regime on the face of this planet. The idea that God would bring His truth to the true church through that organization, through a guy from Augustine to Calvin to you and me. Let me tell you something: if you're a Calvinist and you're listening to this, you ought to get on your knees and be thankful today. What ought you to be thankful for? You ought to be thankful that stupidity is not a crime, because if it was, you'd be doing 25 years to life.

Augustine wrote a book. Do you know what it was? Of course you don't. *City of God* was the name of the book. Ever read it? Of course you haven't. In this book, here's where we find the first clue in 400 AD of what predestination is and where it's at, long before Calvin shows up. We find it with Augustine in his book, *City of God*. When Augustine wrote *City of God*, do you know what he was talking about? Let me tell you what he was talking about in short form. He was talking about that God had a city. We all think that city is Jerusalem, don't we? Not in

Augustine's mind. Augustine was teaching and formulating the structure for the Roman Catholic Church. Augustine had come to the conclusion by his studies in the Scriptures that Rome had replaced the city of Jerusalem, and that's where God dwelled. Don't you know that Rome today is where God lives on this planet? Don't you know the Pope is God incarnate, the Vicar of Christ, God incarnate? Don't you know that they teach and believe that he is Christ on this earth, incarnate in a man right now? Augustine taught in the book **City of God** that God had predestined—ah, here it comes—God had predestined Rome to take over being the city of God from Jerusalem, and the Roman Catholics to become the true Christians over the 'Christ killers' and the Jews.

Do you realize it was just in Vatican II, about 1978 or somewhere in there, that one of the popes just vindicated the Jews for killing Christ? Nice of him, wasn't it? Do you realize that before that time they looked at the Jews as Christ killers? Do you know why when Adolf Hitler came into power in 1933, do you know who got him into power? The ones that got him in a crowd with the German Catholic League and the Businessman League in Germany. Do you realize when the SS guys like Klaus Barbie and Eichmann, and all those guys that were the SS death camp guys that killed all the Jews, do you know how they got to South America? There was an article in the Kansas City Star about four or five years ago that laid the whole thing out. Do you know how those Nazi war criminals got down into South America, Central America, and Bolivia? They got smuggled in through a Roman Catholic monastery in Germany that snuck them in and snuck them out as Roman Catholic priests with forged papers from the Vatican and got them in there. Where do you find that? It's a conspiracy, folks; they hide that stuff in books. That's your man, is it? That's the guy God was using, huh?

Predestination was around before Calvin, just in the Roman Catholic Church. Calvin worshiped the ground Augustine walked on. Calvin embraced philosophy to such a great degree; it's unbelievable in his writings. In fact, his contemporaries, the guys around during the Reformation, called him 'the Aristotle of the Reformation.' How would you like to have that title as a pastor or a theologian? The Aristotle of the Reformation. Do you know who Aristotle was? The Greek philosopher? Socrates, Aristotle, Plato. There was another one, the name was Esophagus; his stuff was kind of tough to swallow. Really? That's your man, is it? The great Aristotle of the Reformation? I guess you never read Colossians 2:8, did you? There are two warnings in your Bible that every Christian is given. The first one is in Colossians 2:8. The second warning, a Calvinist wouldn't know either one of them, is over there in Timothy about 'science falsely so-called.' Do you know what your first warning is in the Bible in Colossians 2:8? That you, as the true church, are told to stay away from 100% of the time. Don't let it in; don't have anything to do with it. Here's what it says:

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Let me jump just ahead here a minute. Reformation Theology, or Calvinism, or predestination, is based on this: two philosophers, one unsaved, one—well, I'll have to see, I'm not sure. I'll tell

you what: if Calvin believed what he really wrote, if Calvin—I don't know his heart, I wasn't living back then, but all I have is what he writes—but if Calvin believed what he really wrote and held to his beliefs that he really wrote and he really believed that, Calvin is in the lake of fire, or in hell this morning. If he believed what he wrote—I don't know if he did or didn't—but if he believed what he wrote about salvation coming to a man through the Mass and in the Bible and water baptism, if he really believed that stuff that he wrote about, you tell me how he got to heaven, and that's your man, that's what your basis is on.

Have you ever read his testimony? His testimony is one of the shakiest conversions. It's like a lot of yours; they bother me. If somebody comes in and says, 'Well, I was saved when I was three years old. I remember today, that's Christ, I was three years old.' I actually had a person tell me that one day, 'I was saved when I was three years old.' Wow. That's about as close to immaculate conception as you can get. I worry about things like that. I worry about people that say, 'Oh yeah, I was saved.' 'Well, how were you saved?' 'Oh, I don't know, I just, one day I got saved.' That bothers me. There ought to be a time and a place in your life when you got on your knees and you asked Christ to come into your heart and save you. There ought to be a time in your life when you know that you asked Christ to come in and save you. Maybe you were on your knees, maybe you were walking, maybe you were driving, whatever. But brother, it's a time when God came down and you and Him did business. Calvin said, 'I had an experience.' That's what he said. 'I had a converting experience,' and he would not talk about it publicly to anybody the rest of his life. Is that what a Christian is supposed to do? If you go to work tomorrow and somebody says, 'Are you a Christian?' 'Yes, I am.' 'Could you, I'm thinking about, how did you get saved?' 'I don't want to talk about it.' Man, if you're saved, you want to tell everybody about it. I've always stepped to people and I say, 'Are you saved?' 'Yes, I am, but that's my own business.' 'Oh, okay, sorry. Well, let's talk about something else. My, you've gained a lot of weight.' It's crazy.

You've got a man now who was based on philosophy. We already know his vain deceit; they're called 'conceited brethren' in the dedicatory. Under the traditions of men and the rudiments of the world, five things not found in the Bible and not after Christ. There's your Calvinism.

Let me ask you a question: what was the motive behind what Calvin wanted to do? First of all, it was to set up his own religious system. It wasn't possible up to this point because the Roman Catholic Church had everything under control. But where Augustine wrote **City of God** and brought Jerusalem as the city of God to Rome, what Calvin wanted to do was take it from Rome and take it to Geneva, Switzerland. He wanted to set himself up as the Protestant Pope, with his own radical system of theology, which we know as Calvinism, predestination, Reformation Theology. He wanted to be in the Protestant world what the Roman Catholic Pope was in the Roman Catholic world. So he sets up his own system. When he did this, he developed his five points. The Roman Catholic Church had five points, which you can't find in the Bible, and I gave them to you a couple of weeks ago. So he came up with five points. Do you know what church Calvin produced? I don't know why people can't see that. I look at it and I explain it, and I think to myself, this is so simple. I don't understand why somebody can't see it, but when you want to believe what you believe and you have an axe to grind against truth, then I guess that's how it works. But do you ever stop and look at the church that Calvin produced? Do you know what

church he produced? He produced the most boring, dry, dead, ecclesiastically screwed-up hellhole that this world has ever seen outside of Rome. He produced the Presbyterian Church. Do you know the Presbyterian Church? The one who leads the fight today for gay and lesbian pastors in the church? The one who wants all the homosexuals to come in and be part of everything, and they want them to take over everything? That's that church. The ones that lead the fight against everything that is against the Bible today. Is that the true church? Is that the church that Jesus Christ built? Is that the church Jesus Christ and God decided to bring the truth through? The Presbyterian Church doesn't start until the Reformation either. When it comes to the Bible and history and God's true line, Calvinists just don't have an IQ much above sub-plant life. It's tough.

Here's what you've got: a teaching that starts with an unsaved man, Calvin, 1500 years after Christ, who got his theology from a demon-possessed church father, Augustine, who was in Satan's church, the Roman Catholic Church. He was a pagan philosopher, had not one bit of truth, and he certainly died in hell, Augustine. He builds and borrows five points from them that are not found anywhere in the Bible. He has a gap of 1500 years of nobody believing what he believes outside the Roman Catholic Church, and then produces his own satanic church system that has sent more people to hell down through history probably than any other situation other than the Roman Catholic Church. Do you realize that the Presbyterian Church always believed in infant baptism? They have their brand of sacraments just like the Roman Catholic Church has sacraments. Have you ever seen their guys? They wear black long robes, just like other denominations wear white robes. They wear robes just like the Roman Catholic Church does. They have sacraments just like they do. They have their little things and all the little things that they say and their confessions, just like the Roman Catholic Church does. It's all the same system. This man, and the church that he produces, believes salvation is by water baptism. Gays and lesbians are okay. No Bible, amillennial, no rapture, and they still teach predestination to this day. Good job. That's a good system to bring it through. Is there anybody who even knows a little bit about the Bible that would think there isn't something wrong with that teaching? That teaching somehow God, who has absolutely annihilated and put Himself so far from those kinds of churches and teachings, and they have never been part of the true line. They have never been a true church. They never will be the true church. They're on the other side, and they never were part of what God was doing. Why in the world would God suddenly bring it through that system but then not give you anything else?

Of course, here's the answer they'll give you. I get this all the time. The answer they'll give you is not much of an answer. In fact, it's a very lame answer. It has nothing to do with answering where they're at for 1500 years. It has nothing to do with anything about God or the Bible. It just has to do with what they know and what they see. Here's what they'll tell you. A guy told me one time when I laid some of this stuff out, he said, 'Well, how do you explain all of the great Christians down through history who believed Calvinism?' I said, 'Well, let me think about that for just a second. How do I explain that? How about there were dumb people back then just like there are now? Does that work for you? Works for me. Why did stupidity just come in with you? I realize that if you had an original thought about the Bible or church history, you would die of boredom in 30 seconds, but did it start with you?' No. There were dumb people back then just

like there are people today who buy into anything. Do you find Baptists from 1600 on who believe in Calvinism? Absolutely. Do you find some of the church fathers that you'll read back there in church history who were great preachers that believed in Calvinism? Sure. What does that prove? I know people today who are good preachers and good people, and they're so messed up that they have bad doctrine in their life. What does that prove?

V. The Importance of Biblical Doctrine

Let me tell you the key difference. Here are some of the people that they brought up. We have in our book stock a book by a guy by the name of A.W. Pink. We call him Arthur Pink. Arthur Pink was a Calvinist. In fact, we have some of his books back there, and in one of his early books on Genesis, you're reading the preface, and right in the middle of it is the eternal decree and the sovereignty of God stuck right in the middle of it. I want to tell you something: Arthur W. Pink and his books, for the most part, are some of the greatest devotional material you'll ever get in your life. If you want to sit down and see the personal application to some of the scriptures in your life, his books are absolutely phenomenal. Arthur Pink couldn't lay out for you the millennial reign of Christ if his life depended on it. He never wrote one book about any doctrinal things in the Bible. It's all milk stuff; it's stuff that's good, but he couldn't lay out for you the millennial reign of Christ or eternity or Genesis 1:1 or Genesis 6. He couldn't lay that stuff out if his life depended on it. Do you know why? This is why I'm on you all the time: because the key to not getting messed up is knowing doctrine. Calvinists know no doctrine.

Spurgeon was another one. Spurgeon, Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle in England. Spurgeon goes down in the history books as one of the greatest preachers and people who ever lived. I never heard him preach. He got a lot of people saved. They have a series out called the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle series of all his sermons. Preachers die to get that series. That thing probably costs \$600, and it's all of his sermons. He was a saved man; he's in heaven. Let me tell you something: I have been in guys' offices where they had those books up there, and I would look through their books, and I'd pick one of his off, and the guy would say, 'Greatest set, son, greatest set of books, preaching material you'll ever get in your life.' Really? I think they're stupid. I've heard some of you do a devotion at base softball or volleyball ten times better than his sermon notes. Maybe he was a great preacher, but I'll tell you one thing about his sermons: absolutely milk. I don't think he ever preached on the Second Coming of Christ one day in his life. I don't think he ever preached on the Rapture of the church one day of his life. I don't think he ever preached on the Judgment Seat of Christ one day. It's soul-winning stuff; it's winning people to Christ, but there's no depth to it. Let me tell you something: you've got to have some stability. Do you know why those guys get messed up on Calvinism? Because they had no basic foundation of doctrine in their lives. You give me somebody who knows the Bible. You give me somebody who knows doctrine. I'll show you somebody who will never, never get caught up in those heresies. This is why I spend the time with you that I do. This is why I bug you to death about learning the Bible. This is why I'm always finding creative little ways to get the Bible to you. This is why I created the Bible Institute. This is why I want to do this with you young Christians. If you don't learn doctrine, you're not going to have the stability in your life to be and do what God wants you to do. It takes doctrine to get that foundation laid in your life so you

don't get caught up in these things. You've got to have it. If you don't have it, you don't have any roots. You don't have any foundation. When you're dealing with a Calvinist, you're dealing with a non-biblical system that has absolutely no Bible doctrine associated with it in any way, shape, or form.

It's a system that was started by an unsaved man, propagated by a demonic church, a system with a 1500-year gap that no New Testament foundation or structure was ever connected with it in any way, shape, or form. It started wrong, and it's wrong today. It's a system that you cannot trace to the true church, the true line, and what they believe. You see, you've got an argument if you think that a Baptist church is the true church, because then you can say, 'Well, I know so-and-so. He's a Baptist and he's a Calvinist, so therefore, based on the fact that he's a Baptist and he's a Calvinist, it must be okay.' Again, the true church is never defined by a name. The true church is defined by what the true church believes. That is the true line from Antioch, where they're first called Christians, and you run right through that thing. That's why the books are reversed. That's why Genesis is first, and then you've got Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—the four historical books. That's first, and that's the way it works because history is going on, and you've got a recorded history from Genesis in your Bible all the way up. But when you get to the New Testament, when Christ shows up, when He goes back after Matthew, who recorded after that? How come nobody's walking around recording our history for the next part of the Bible? How come in 200 AD, 300 AD, nobody was running around writing the Bible in the New Testament like they were doing in the Old Testament? That's why it's reversed. Genesis is the book of the beginning; it defines everything that you need to know and then gives you a historical timeline: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, right down the line until Christ shows up. When Christ shows up, there is no timeline going on from there. So He had to give you something that would get you through New Testament history when there was no written revelation of it like there was in the Old Testament. Do you know what He did? He reversed the books. He put Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the historical books, first. Then He put the book of Acts next because the book of Acts is what defines everything you and I are to look for in the New Testament. If you knew the book of Acts this morning—which some of you do because we went through it in Institute—if you knew the book of Acts this morning, you'd know why Calvinism is worthless. You'd know what the true church believed because it's defined in the book of Acts. That's the system that a Calvinist could never get. Why? Because he doesn't know his Bible. He doesn't know church history. He's got a couple of little things out of the Bible that aren't even really in the Bible. That's what he's dealing with. Do you know why Calvinism won't work? "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it." God didn't build that house. Calvin built that house. Augustine laid the foundation, and John Calvin put up the walls and put on the roof. Everybody else today thinks, 'Wow, look at this. This is really nice,' and they have no idea that it's not in the Bible. If they understood where it really came from, the church that it came through, and the church that fostered the idea, and the man that started it, and the church he produced was never part of the New Testament line. Therefore, the teaching has never been part of the New Testament church. You can't separate Bible principles from Bible history.

VI. Practical Application: Dealing with Cults and Heresies

The greatest thing you've got, and there are several things in here, but one of the greatest things you've got is the concept of the two landmarks. We take that 'back door' approach to the Calvinist, but that thing where "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it," it works in every cult on the planet. Next time the Jehovah's Witnesses come to your door, simply ask them where they were before 1850. There isn't anybody on the face of this planet that believes what the Jehovah's Witnesses believe until Rutherford and Russell show up and concoct it together in 1850. Nobody. They don't have an answer for you for that because they're not geared for it. If you want to watch them squabble and squirm sometime, ask them that question. Do you know how they want to pin you down when they come to your door? You watch them try to get away, and then you just pin them down. I walked one all the way down the street one time. He came to my door and he said, 'Hi, I'm a Jehovah's Witness.' I said, 'Well, that's great. I'm a Jehovah's Witness too.' There were two of them, a little guy and a big guy. The little guy said, 'You're a Jehovah's Witness?' I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Well, we didn't know the Jehovah's Witnesses were around here. We know all of them.' I said, 'Oh, yeah.' Then the big guy said, 'Well, when did you become a Jehovah's Witness?' I said, 'Oh, about 1971 when I asked Jesus Christ, Jehovah God, to come into my heart and save me from a literal burning fire and eternal damnation. The Bible says in Acts 1 that once we're saved, we're to be witnesses unto Him. Therefore, I'm a Jehovah's Witness.' The little guy looked at the big guy and said, 'Well, that's not the kind we are.' I said, 'That's the only kind there is. You guys must be phonies.' He said, 'Well, let me ask you a question.' I said, 'No, let me ask you a question. I've been thinking about changing churches, and I think I'd like to be a Jehovah's Witness. I like the idea you always wear ties and your hair is neat, and you're walking around. I guess you probably go to eat a lot after you do these door-to-door things. That appeals to me too.' I said, 'Well, I've got one question. You answer me this question, and I'll leave right now. I'll go down to Kingdom Hall, I'll get baptized, and I'll become the best convert you ever had.' He said, 'Well, what's that?' I said, 'You believe you guys have the truth, is that correct?' 'Yeah, that's right.' 'You believe that all of the religions are dying and going to hell, and you're the only true one?' 'Yeah, that's true.' I said, 'Let's just be honest now, because I really want this.' He said, 'Yeah, absolutely. You have the only truth in the world.' I said, 'Yes.' I said, 'Okay, here's the only question I have: name me one Jehovah's Witness in 1700.' He was squirming. 'Can you say something with it? 1700. One. Just give me one.' 'Well, no, no, no, one.' 'Well, I can see you're argumentative. Just give me one.' 'Well, thank you for your time.' He started to walk away. 'No, you ain't getting away that early.' I walked down. 'Just one. Give me one. I'll tell you what. 1600. Can I have one of 1600? Just give me one.' 'Well, no, we're just, please walk.' 'I want to be a Jehovah's Witness. I just want to know where were your roots? You're the one true church. Jesus Christ is Jehovah God. You're Jehovah God, and you want all that. I'm with you. I want to be one. I want to walk the streets like you, I want to wear a little name tag.' 'Well, they're Mormons. I'm a Mormon. They're not the same group.' 'And I want to do all the things that you do. I want to be a JW. Just answer that one question.' They didn't have any answers. Do you know why they have any answers? There are no answers. Do you know how they survive? Do you know how the Mormons survive? Mormons: 1830. Joseph Smith, right around here someplace, digging in his backyard, got one of them new metal detectors, found the golden tablets. Pulls those up there, looks up, and there's a big 600-foot angel there called Moroni. Moroni says, 'You got it, son, right there. You got what you need.'

That's the truth. You're up, man. You're in.' That's how it started. Church of Christ: Alexander Campbell. What, 1840? Used to be a Baptist, got mad and split the church and started his own religion. Some of the most demonic people you ever meet in your life. It works for any of them. Charismatic movement: you can really have some fun with them because they're dumber than anybody. They walk around speaking in tongues. I had, honestly, this is the honest-to-goodness truth. I was sitting someplace two or three weeks ago, I forget where I was, and somebody was talking to me, and I know where it was. I was out at a buddy's church, and we had an astronomy meeting out there, and there's a charismatic lady that comes out there. She's a nice lady, but she's typical. She came up to me. She knows I'm a Baptist, and she knows she'd like to give me a little jab sometime. So she's telling me. She says, 'You know what? The most believable thing, Brother Bob, happened at our church last weekend.' I said, 'What was that?' She said, 'There was a man that had one leg shorter than the other.' She said, 'He came forward, and they touched it, and his leg grew right on the spot.' I said, 'That's amazing. It really happened?' 'Oh, it really happened.' I said, 'Tell you what, do you have his phone number? Because I've got two friends that are dying of cancer; they need his help. When we're done with that, we're going to go to Children's Mercy Hospital.' Maybe they won't believe us right out of the chute because you walk into the hospital and say, 'Hey, I'm here to heal everybody.' We'll try to get past the water test where you walk on it. I'll tell you this story. Years ago, I was at a church that didn't like me very well. I used to do all the baptisms, and their baptismal was deep and then went up the steps and was up behind the choir. I always had to wear a white robe, which I hated. You wear waders underneath, but a white robe. So I baptized people, and I walked down there, and it was boring, and I'd be splashing water in the choir. So one time, I really got in trouble for this, but it was hilarious; the place cracked up. I took a two-by-six and made it from step to step. They couldn't see the two-by-six. This is a true story. I got so much trouble over this. So I'm standing there, and I know when the cue is for baptism. This is a true story. I've got so much trouble over this. So I got this white robe on. I've got to tell you, in a white robe, I look pretty heavenly. So this two-by-six is across the top steps, just right above the water. The choir's done; they all sit down, and the music starts playing for baptism. So I start walking across like this, and I get out of it. I say, 'Man, I hate when this happens.' They don't have any answers. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain to build it." I don't care what cult you're dealing with: a Methodist, a Presbyterian, an Episcopalian, a Greek and Roman Orthodox. They're called Protestant. Do you know what they're called? Protestants. They're not the true line. Do you know why they're called Protestant? Because they protested. They came out of the Reformation. They're not part of the true church. A true church has never been defined by what it's called. A true church is defined by what it believes. That's why you've got Baptists that are heretics, just like you've got Baptists that are Bible believers. That's all there is to it. Just because you're stupid, don't think that you're the only stupid person in the world. There were stupid people all through the world; you just happen to be stupid today. You can't get around the landmarks. This is why.

VII. The Church's Foundation and Future Training

My job is to get you to the point where you understand doctrine. It's really the only purpose I have in teaching you the Bible. If I just gave you the 'milk toast' stuff that gets you through—and

I'm not saying the practical is not important, but there has to be a balance in it—you have to know who you are in Christ. You have to know why you believe what you believe, and you have to know how to go to the Bible to show what you believe. You have to know in time what everybody else believes and how to go to the Bible and history. Because "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain" and they don't. That's one of the greatest principles you'll ever get in your life. Calvinism is a heresy. When you're dealing with a Calvinist, you're dealing with some very nice people, some of the finest people in the world. They're just absolutely off the wall when it comes to the Bible. I wouldn't let them teach Daily Vacation Bible School to the three-year-olds back there. I wouldn't trust them that far with the Bible. They know nothing about the Bible. If they knew the Bible, they wouldn't be a Calvinist. Just like if you knew the Bible, you wouldn't be a Jehovah's Witness. If you knew the Bible, you wouldn't be a Catholic. If you knew the Bible, you wouldn't be anything but a Bible-believing Christian. Calvin was not a Bible-believing Christian. I'm not even sure he was a Christian, but he certainly came to the point where he believed nothing that the true line, the true church, believed. This church, I try to keep it as close to the New Testament as possible. I know we're called a Baptist church, but I still believe that that Baptist distinctive name is a very good name when it's explained. When somebody asks, 'What kind of church do you have?' I say, 'I'm a Baptist with an explanation.' I like to explain my position. There are too many goofy Baptists out there, like everybody else. The bottom line is simply this: we believe the Bible. What we ought to call ourselves is the 'Bible Believing Church' and just leave it at that. But then that would look weird too. So I took a name that was as close as I could get it out of Jeremiah 6:16. I picked that name for a reason. It's a tell-tale name because the name says Old Path Baptist Church, because Jeremiah 6:16 says Jeremiah tells the nation of Israel to get back to the old paths because they've strayed into the new paths, and there's nothing there, and God's on the old path. I thought that was a good name. I wanted the name to say more. I wanted to state where we're at. I wanted everybody to know, it's good for me because I can tell in a heartbeat who knows their Bible and who doesn't. I'll talk to Christians and say, 'What's the name of your church?' 'Old Path Baptist Church.' 'Well, where'd you get that at?' 'Out of the Bible? Jeremiah?' 'Yeah.' 'You know, he had an aunt, Aunt Jeremiah.' 'Jeremiah 6.' 'Oh, oh, oh, yeah. You know Jeremiah's book in the Old Testament?' It says something because I think we live in a day and age where everything we do ought to say something. It says something about where we're at with the Bible because the Bible is everything. Bible doctrine is the key, and in a world that's fast fading and masquerading as God's people, in the messed-up world that we're in, this church needs to stand. It needs to stand for the doctrinal truth, and it needs to talk to you guys. That's why I want to do this thing with you younger Christians, to bring you up to speed as far as getting that thing. I'm going to try to have it set up for next week where I have a sign-up. I've got to see my schedule to see what time in June we can, but we'll do one Saturday in June, one Saturday in July, one Saturday in August, and you'll have work to do in between the two. It'll be something that if you give me that time and you're serious about putting the Bible together, you will gain about six years in three months. I guarantee you, if you do what I ask you to do and do what I tell you to do. I'm going to say it again: don't be like you were with Scott and Barb and the people that did their deal where you sign up, I'll get excited, you sign up, and then two weeks later after you started, you bail out. Don't worry about it, because you will not get anything out of this if you do that. It's going to be

designed so you get everything, and the tapes will not help you because it's going to be stuff that we're going to do right there on the spot that you're going to do with me. You have to be there to do it. You will never get it on the tape. Pray about it, think about it, and that's where we'll go.

We're dismissed. Just make sure if you haven't already, you get your softball application in. Please sign up for the Memorial Day picnic. Get that taken care of and pick up your T-Bone tickets back there if you've got them paid for or pay for them, pick them up, whichever.